

St. John's Good News



From Rev. John...

The Epiphany
By Frederick Buechner
January 6th

The gifts that three Wise Men, or Kings, or Magi, brought to the manger in Bethlehem cost them plenty but seem hardly appropriate to the occasion. Maybe they were all they could think of for the child who had everything. In any case, they set them down on the straw the gold, the frankincense, the myrrh, worshiped briefly, and then returned to the East where they had come from. It gives you pause to consider how, for all their great wisdom, they overlooked the one gift that the child would have been genuinely pleased to have someday, and that was the gift of themselves and their love. The foolishness of the wise is perhaps nowhere better illustrated than by the way the three Magi went to Herod the Great, King of the Jews, to find out the whereabouts of the holy child who had just been born King of the Jews to supplant him. It did not even strike them as suspicious when Herod asked them to be sure to let him know when they found him so he could hurry on down to pay his respects. Luckily for the holy child, after the three Magi had followed their star to the manger and left him their presents, they were tipped off in a dream to avoid Herod like the plague on their way home. Herod was fit to be tied when he realized he'd been had and ordered the murder of every male child two years old and under in the district. For all his enormous power, he knew there was somebody in diapers more powerful still. The wisdom of the foolish is perhaps nowhere better illustrated.

~ originally published in Peculiar Treasures and Listening to Your Life

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Tuesday Evening Book Study  
By The Rev. John Beach

In late January, I will be leading a book study through the Saugus Public Library on the book *The Second Mountain*, by the New York Times journalist, David Brooks.

Contd.

## January 2021

**Sunday at 10am,  
online through Zoom**

All are welcome to participate ~ please contact us for more information about online worship.

Phone: 781-233-1242

Twitter:  
[@StJohnsSaugus](#)

Facebook: St. John's Episcopal Church Saugus

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The Second Mountain  
By David Brooks

Every so often, you meet people who radiate joy—who seem to know why they were put on this earth, who glow with a kind of inner light. Life, for these people, has often followed what we might think of as a two-mountain shape. They get out of school, they start a career, and they begin climbing the mountain they thought they were meant to climb. Their goals on this first mountain are the ones our culture endorses: to be a success, to make your mark, to experience personal happiness. But when they get to the top of that mountain, something happens. They look around and find the view . . . unsatisfying. They realize: This wasn't my mountain after all. There's another, bigger mountain out there that is actually *my* mountain.

And so they embark on a new journey. On the second mountain, life moves from self-centered to other-centered. They want the things that are truly worth wanting, not the things other people tell them to want. They embrace a life of interdependence, not independence. They surrender to a life of commitment.

In *The Second Mountain*, David Brooks explores the four commitments that define a life of meaning and purpose: to a spouse and family, to a vocation, to a philosophy or faith, and to a community. Our personal fulfillment depends on how well we choose and execute these commitments. Brooks looks at a range of people who have lived joyous, committed lives, and who have embraced the necessity and beauty of dependence. He gathers their wisdom on how to choose a partner, how to pick a vocation, how to live out a philosophy, and how we can begin to integrate our commitments into one overriding purpose.

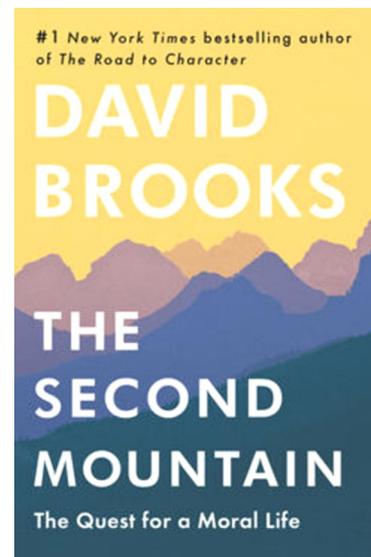
In short, this book is meant to help us all lead more meaningful lives. But it's also a provocative social commentary. We live in a society, Brooks argues, that celebrates freedom, that tells us to be true to ourselves, at the expense of surrendering to a cause, rooting ourselves in a neighborhood, binding ourselves to others by social solidarity and love. We have taken individualism to the extreme—and in the process we have torn the social fabric in a thousand different ways. The path to repair is through making deeper commitments. In *The Second Mountain*, Brooks shows what can happen when we put commitment-making at the center of our lives.

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Church Lighting Update

Caring supporters of St. John's have contributed nearly \$22,000 toward lighting restorations in the sanctuary. At this time, another \$4,385 is needed to complete the project; those wanting to donate may forward gifts to the church office, along with a note kindly designating your offering to the 'lighting fund'.

We all look forward to the return of in-person worship for many reasons, including realizing the benefit of this significant lighting improvement. St. John's is deeply appreciative and continues to be blessed by your remarkable generosity.



From the Senior Warden...

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year!

With 2020 in the rearview mirror I hope you have all had a healthy and peaceful Christmas and New Year. Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic in 2020, we at St. John's continued to move forward and, though we may be physically separated, we have found ways to stay connected as a community.

With the message of the Christmas season being the light of Christ entering the world, St. John's has also brought light to the community thanks to the great efforts of all in raising funds for the sanctuary lights, as well as our new illuminated outdoor sign, which has been installed and looks wonderful.

We now enter a new year full of hope that this year will bring an end to the pandemic and bring us back to in-person activities at St. John's where we can again enjoy worshipping together and gathering for coffee and events.

I wish you all a wonderful, safe and healthy New Year.

T.J. Martin
Senior Warden

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**Stewardship Ministry Update**

As we go to print, St. John's has received 54 pledges in the amount of \$86,022.00, and the Finance Committee has surpassed their goal of \$86,000. Last year we received 60 pledges. Reminder notes have been sent out in case paperwork was misplaced. If you are able, and haven't already done so, please return your pledge as soon as possible so the finance team can finalize our 2021 budget.

We appreciate everyone's support of St. John's ministry for 2021 during these difficult times. Thank you!

The Stewardship Ministry Team  
Julia Aston, Dibby LeBlanc, Kristina Palazzo and Rev. John Beach, Priest-in-Charge.

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Annual Meeting

St. John's Annual Meeting convenes online **Sunday, February 7th** (exact time to be announced). We will nominate and elect new officers (including a new senior warden), review 2020 financials and accomplishments, and discuss plans for the New Year.

We look forward to everyone's participation - kindly mark your calendars!

Every Child Deserves to Smile



During the month of January, we will be collecting toiletries for the families to be part of our Heart-to-Heart project in February: child and adult soap, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes, fluoride rinse, floss, deodorants, combs, brushes, shaving cream, and razors are among the needed items.



We continue to collect non-perishable food items and everyday needs (paper plates, napkins, plastic utensils, baggies, etc.) If you would like to make a donation or have any questions, please contact Jeanne Seaboyer at 781*662*4342 or [jmseaboyer\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:jmseaboyer(at)gmail.com)

Community Outreach

Thank you to all who donated to the Saugus Fire Department's annual appeal to help make Christmas more enjoyable for families in need. The spirit of giving is certainly alive at St. John's! Your generosity has wrapped up this negatively remarkable year with a very positive twist! On December 4th, I turned over a total of \$940 in gift certificates to the Ret. Capt. Bill & Carol O'Malley who spear-head this annual event. Thank you one and all!



100 Hats--As this year closes, I realize all I have to be grateful for, and how I can dig deeper to find ways to give to those less fortunate. The onset of snow and Christmas, along with recent contact with the Bread of Life, brought home the realization that there is a real, constant need in our local area for food and warm items of clothing. For 2021 I have set a goal to donate 100 hats to shelters in the area, including the Bread of Life and those assisted with our Every Child Deserves to Smile ministry. Yes, this is an ambitious goal; I welcome the help of others who are like minded! I have yarn, if there are any knitters or crocheters who would like to join me and are in need of yarn.

For questions, to make a donation, or for further information, please contact Jeanne Seaboyer at 781*662*4342 or email [jmseaboyer\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:jmseaboyer(at)gmail.com)

Poinsettia Plant and Wreath Sale - As a first-time event in a chaotic time, this sale was a great success! We realized a profit of \$452. Thank you to all who volunteered their time on Friday, December 4th, to those who worked behind the scenes organizing, and to everyone who supported the sale with a purchase!

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### Prayer Books

If parishioners would like a *Book of Common Prayer*, we have extra copies available. Please email or call the church office if you are interested in receiving one.

WORD SEARCH

J F W I K V O Y A E P I P H A N Y  
 U E F Q E O R D T H T O A S T Y K  
 A L I T U R G Y Q T G V F A V R K  
 Q S Z Q N Q R Y S S A U C D A C P  
 J B W C K A T I E L S M B L O H M  
 D R J B P S R O C F I N O V T H A  
 Z U J T U A H A F E D P U A P D H  
 V S P G H S L U I A D J O C X N T  
 J Q F C W A M P I N E C O N E S H  
 C U U O B R T T P B R O D L E Q E  
 F E N S A H Z W K E U V Y I G E R  
 T S Z E I X T Z V Z X L T O O P M  
 R G L U J I F O S G L S K N I L A  
 V L G L A C I E R A O H J P V M L  
 H O C K E Y P Z U R L L Y S R Q S  
 L G Z N X B C Q F U G C O C O A Q  
 R O J S J N S R U X L M L E H V D

Balaclava ~ Brusque ~ Cocoa ~ Earmuffs ~ Epiphany ~ Eucharist  
 Frostiest ~ Glacier ~ Gusty ~ Hockey ~ Overcoat ~ Liturgy  
 Pinecones ~ Polar ~ Snowshoes ~ Squally ~ Toasty ~ Thermal

*We wish you a healthy, happy, and very blessed New Year!*

**Officers:** The Rev. John T. Beach, Priest-in-Charge ~ T. J. Martin, Sr. Warden ~ Daniel Casey, Jr. Warden ~ Phil Littlehale, Treasurer ~ Paul Felci, Asst. Treasurer ~ Brenda Caggiano, Clerk of the Vestry

**Vestry:** Dale Coogan (2021) ~ Rose Holt (2022) ~ Samantha Martin (2023) ~ Kristina Palazzo (2023) ~ Sandy St. Clair (2022) ~ William St. Clair (2021) ~ Kenneth Webber (2023) ~ Diana White (2021)