

Who is "Somebody?"

*To give, and give, and give again,
What God hath given thee;
To spend thyself nor count the cost;
To serve right gloriously,
The God who gave all worlds that are,
And all that are to be.*

Hymn 156, "Morning Song", Geoffrey Anketell Studdert-Kennedy, 1921



Years ago, my former neighbor, we'll just call her Karen, would call me up several times a week. I dreaded picking up the phone, because she always called when I was working on my weekly newspaper column. She knew that, and she called me anyway. Karen would wax on, starting with the grievous state of the world, segueing on to the awful problems in the town we lived in, and ending with her usual complaint over the annoying neighbors next door. I really liked Karen, but her regular recitals on the ills of civilization sounded like a broken record. One day, exasperated, I interrupted her to ask, "Karen, what do you think is the solution to all these problems?" "Well," she answered, "I think somebody ought to do something."

I've pondered that statement over the years: somebody ought to do something. And I've wondered: just who is that somebody, and how do we label any of God's children with such a vague reference? Don't we each have a unique place in this world? It sounded so offhanded to me, assigning the term "somebody" to an individual out there in the atmosphere. Except that, whoever that somebody was, my friend thought he or she ought to be busy resolving the problems of this world.

My neighbor Karen left California some time ago. She moved to Alabama where, she decided, life would somehow turn out better. I hope, for her sake, that it has.

But then, there was, and is, a somebody, an unnamed person, whose one action has been recounted throughout the ages. We recall the account of the poor, unnamed widow, and her sacrificial offering, as described in Mark 12:41-44. In this narrative, Jesus sat down and watched the crowd put their money into the temple treasury. There were the rich, who, as expected, tossed large amounts of their money into the temple treasury. But then, something else happened. One can visualize it: a poor widow, perhaps no one knew who she was. She waited until the rest had tossed in their offerings and quietly came to the coffer and put in two small copper coins, worth perhaps a few cents. Jesus called his disciples and said to them, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on."

To the outward eye, this appears as a most humble act. But when we look more *Continued on page 2*

Somebody, Continued from page 1 closely, we see that what the others gave came out of their surplus. The widow gave out of her innate sense of generosity. It wasn't the size or the proportion of what she gave, nor was it a percentage of what she had, it was in total, all she had to give. It was the depth of her faith, and not the amount of her money.

We don't know whether anyone saw the poor widow put her coins into the offering. The lesson here is one of giving in faith, especially when no one is watching.

Thus, the poor widow, whose account only takes up a few sentences in the Gospel of Mark, became such a great example for all generations that followed.

She was truly a somebody, and she really did do something.



Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee

When Bernard (c.1090-1153), a sickly youth in Dijon, France, was unable to fulfill military service, he became a monk. So successful was he that he eventually founded the famous monastery in nearby Clairvaux; in time almost 170 other monasteries sprang from Bernard's leadership. He became the most powerful preacher of his era, and is remembered as a pious man, a deeply contemplative mystic, the "honey-tongued doctor." Martin Luther called Bernard "the best monk that ever lived, whom I admire beyond all the rest put together."

He wasn't a perfect man, as seen in his support for the Second Crusade to liberate the Holy Land from Muslim control. But for 800 years, his words have been read and sung, and his good work has continued.

If you've never read Bernard, here are some excerpts from his writings and sermons:

- How do we know that Christ has really overcome death? Precisely in that he, who did not deserve it, underwent it. But what kind of justice is this, you may say, that the innocent should die for the guilty? It is not justice, but mercy.
- I was made a sinner by deriving my being from Adam; I am made righteous by being washed in the blood of Christ.
- You will never have real mercy for the failings of another until you know and realize that you have the same failings in your soul.
- Thank you, Lord Jesus, for your kindness in uniting us to the church you so dearly love, not merely that we may be endowed with the gift of faith, but that, like the bride, we may be one with you... beholding with unveiled faces that glory which is yours in union with the Father and the Holy Spirit forever and ever. Amen.
- You wish me to tell you why and how God should be loved. My answer is that God Himself is the reason He is to be loved.

Several well-known hymns are attributed to St. Bernard. "Jesus the Very Thought of Thee," "O Sacred Head Now Wounded," and a lesser-known hymn entitled "Open Wide are Thy hands," the second verse of which says:

*Lord, I am sad and poor, but boundless is Thy grace;
Give me the soul transforming joy for which I seek Thy face.*

From: "The Sings My Soul," by Robert J. Morgan, Thomas Nelson, Publishers, 2003

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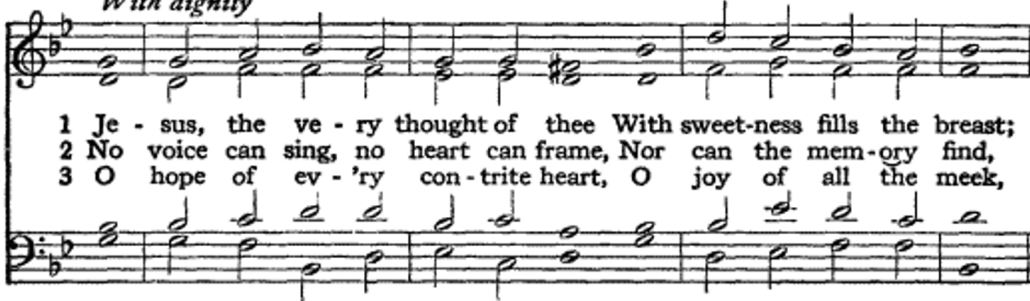
462 *First Tune*

General Hymns
C. M.

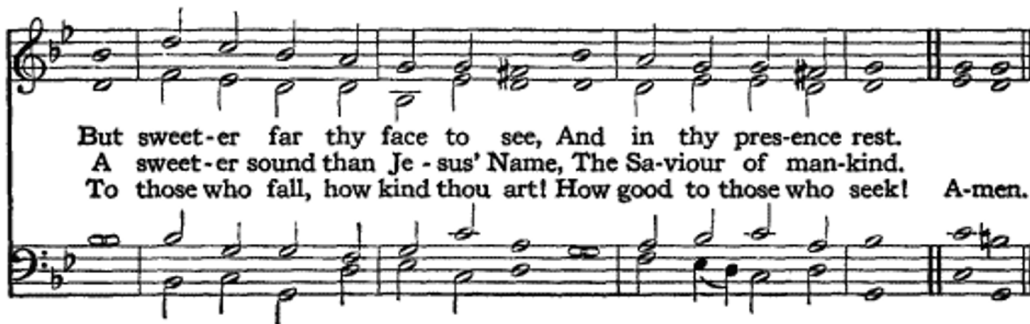
WINDSOR

M. WILLIAM DAMON'S
Booke of Musicke, 1591

With dignity



1 Je - sus, the ve - ry thought of thee With sweet-ness fills the breast;
2 No voice can sing, no heart can frame, Nor can the mem-ory find,
3 O hope of ev - 'ry con - trite heart, O joy of all the meek,



But sweet-er far thy face to see, And in thy pres-ence rest.
A sweet-er sound than Je - sus' Name, The Sa-viour of man-kind.
To those who fall, how kind thou art! How good to those who seek! A-men.

462 *Second Tune*

C. M.

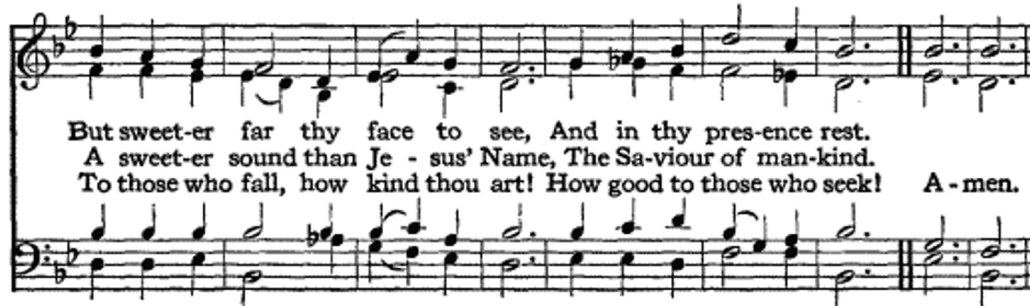
SAWLEY

JAMES WALCH, 1860

In moderate time



1 Je - sus, the ve - ry thought of thee With sweet-ness fills the breast;
2 No voice can sing, no heart can frame, Nor can the mem-ory find,
3 O hope of ev - 'ry con - trite heart, O joy of all the meek,



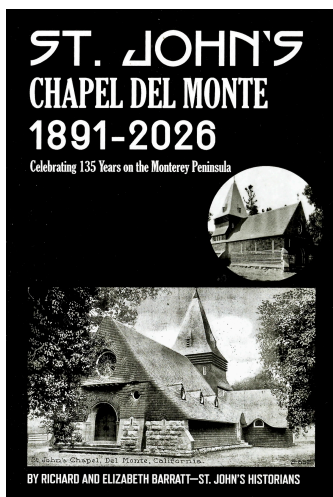
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The Business News

ST. JOHN'S CHAPEL CURRENT FINANCIAL ENCAPSULATION September 2026

Available Funds in Checking	\$ 44,179.35
August Expenses	\$ 16,782.48
Bottom Line (+/-)	\$ 27,396.87



It's here! The history of our beloved chapel, which has taken Dick and Elizabeth Barratt the past four years to research and complete (Elizabeth wrote the text, Dick organized and set up the illustrations) is now available for purchase. You may buy your copy after the Sunday service during the upcoming weeks. Book cost: \$30.



THE BENEFIT SHOP ACCEPTS

Clean, gently used clothing
Clean, working small appliances
Clean Kitchen items
Chinaware, Glassware
CDs and DVDs
Knick knacks and bric-a-brac
Small furniture items in good condition
Art and Art objects
Holiday items
Jewelry

WE CAN NOT ACCEPT

ELECTRONICS: such as MEDICAL EQUIPMENT, PRINTERS, COPIERS, LAPTOPS, CELL PHONES, TELEVISIONS, OR COMPUTERS.
Soiled or worn-out clothing or shoes
Cassettes or VHS videos
Non-working small appliances
Broken, chipped, or cracked items
Worn kitchen ware
Broken jewelry or watches

Please Note: We do not have the woman-power to dispose of unsaleable items. Please do not leave items at the gate, it is unlawful.

Altar Flowers: The Flower Chart is in its usual place in the Parish Hall. Reserve those important dates now. Costs are \$40.00 for regular seasonal flowers, greenery and candles, OR \$50.00 for roses.

**St. John's Chapel, Del Monte
September 2026 Schedule**

Date	Activity	Notes
SEPTEMBER 6 Trinity 14	10:00 AM - Holy Communion 11:00 AM – Reception & Potluck	Fr. Richard Miles Presiding Honoring Mary Clare Martin
SEPTEMBER 7	Labor Day	
SEPTEMBER 11	Patriot's Day	
SEPTEMBER 13 Trinity 15	10:00 AM – Morning Prayer	Team Barratt Licensed Lay Readers Conducting
SEPTEMBER 15	2:00 PM – Vestry Meeting	Centennial Hall
SEPTEMBER 20 Trinity 16	10:00 AM - Holy Communion	Fr. Richard Miles Presiding
SEPTEMBER 27 Trinity 17	10:00 AM – Morning Prayer	Carl Patience Licensed Lay Reader Conducting

NOTE BENE: Schedule subject to change by Front Office

St. John's Chapel, Del Monte & Our Military Connection



David Jones, longtime member of our congregation, is undertaking the daunting task of chronicling the members of St. John's who have served in the military. Our connection to the military goes back even before the US Navy acquired the Del Monte Hotel. David is asking everyone in the congregation to search their memories and provide him with names, photographs in uniform (or partial thereof), any military memorabilia, and any history you might have. Any uniform (Dress, Class A, Battle Dress Nomex Flight suit, Scrubs - any uniform). Photos can be portraits, personnel photos (even ID photos that usually look like police mug shots) or candid photos. David can be reached at davediane1@comcast.net, or you're welcome to chat with him during "coffee hour" after service on Sundays.

REMEMBER SEPTEMBER 11, 2001
PATRIOT DAY

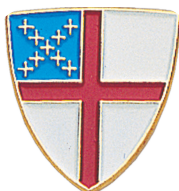
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