



The Tower

November 2024

Beloved in Christ,

During the sermon on the last Sunday of October I shared a bit of Bishop Knisely's message from his address at Diocesan Convention the day before. In his address he talked about what the Gospel boils down to and what that calls out of us.

The Gospel, the good news of God in Christ, simply put, is that out of the unfathomable depths of God's love God has reunited us to Godself. Whether we talk about it terms of being saved, of being redeemed, or in any other way, it all boils down to God acting out of the depths of God's love in the person of Jesus Christ and doing for us what we are unable to do ourselves. To be clear this is all grace, this is all a free gift flowing out of God's love for us. It is not given because we have earned it or done anything to prove ourselves worthy or deserving of it, it is completely a free gift on God's part.

While it is freely given, with no question to our worthiness or if we deserve it, it does still call something out of us. That's an important distinction so I want to reiterate it. We do the things we do, we act the way we do, not to earn God's love and favor but in response to already have been given it. To say it another way, we do the things we do as Christians in thanksgiving for the love and grace we already know, not to earn that love and grace.

So what exactly does God's grace, God's love, call out of us? How do we show our thanksgiving for God's abundant, life-giving love? In his address at Diocesan Convention Bishop Knisely spoke about how what this calls out of us is simply to be kind. To be kind in every situation we find ourselves in. Again, just to be clear, we are not called to be kind in order to earn God's love and favor, but we do so in thanksgiving for it. If we mess it up real bad and are anything but kind we do not lose that love and favor, it has already been given to us. Being loved like that changes us though, and that's what I mean when I say that kindness is what is called out of us by the Gospel. My Systematic Theology professor in seminary used to say that no one can come to know the love of God in Jesus Christ and be left as they are. When we truly know God's love and grace we don't have to try so hard to be the kind people that the gospel calls out of us, because that very love and grace transforms us.

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www.stjohnsbarrington.org

STEP DOWN TO ENCORE

Hours

Tuesday & Thursday
10:00am—4:00pm

Saturday
1st & 3rd Saturday
of the month



Encore

Encore will open on the following
Saturday's:
November 2nd and 16th .
Please call 245-7380 to make an appointment
for consignments.



ST. JOHN'S TOWER

Please consider writing for The Tower.
Personal reflections, articles, poetry,
essays and commentary are always welcome!
Next Tower Deadline: November 14th.
The December Tower will be mailed on
November 22nd

Please send articles, announcements and
"Letters to the Tower" to dale@stjohnsbarrington.org

COMMISSION ON CHILDREN'S FORMATION

Children Ministries News

Our Church School will meet each Sunday this November, with the exception of November 24th which will be a family service. Our schedule is as follows:

November 3rd- 10am

November 10th - 10am

November 17th - 10am

November 24th - Family Service

FAMILY SERVICE- On the final Sunday of each month, our kids have been serving in different roles during the family services, including ushers, acolytes, lectors and intercessors. They have been doing a great job learning the different jobs, with the help of Judy Tavares and Wendy Foley. If you have a child who is interested in signing up for a role in the family service on November 24th , please email caitlin@stjohnsbarrington.org



Thank you to everyone who participated in our Halloween trick or treating, including our Flower Guild, Altar Guild, Encore, Vestry and Sunday Sextons. The kids had such a fun time!



COMMISSION ON MUSIC

COBSJ CONCERT

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2024, 3:00 PM

“An Afternoon of Masterworks and Hidden Gems for the Chamber Orchestra”

Guest Conductor, Luis Viquez

Theodore Mook, cello soloist

The program for COBSJ's November 17 concert is a very meaningful one. Johannes Brahms. Variations on a Theme by Haydn, op. 56 is a masterpiece from the orchestral literature, with revered variation and counterpoint techniques, and an exquisite treatment of melody. Gabriel Fauré's, Elogy, for Cello and Orchestra, op. 24, is also a staple in the literature for this instrument and will be performed by cello soloist, Theodore Mook, who has performed worldwide and resides in Rhode Island. Finally, Mayer's, Symphony No. 1 in C minor, written in 1847, is a true gem. Emilie Mayer, though she was an influential music figure in Berlin during the mid-19th century, remains unknown and this is a great opportunity for audiences in New England to experience a truly magnificent example of great orchestral writing from the Romantic era.

Please consider bringing a canned food item for St. John's Outreach Program.

FREE ADMISSION, patrons are encouraged to pay what you can.

COBSJ CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
of BARRINGTON at ST. JOHN'S

*Join Us for an Afternoon
of Wonderful Music!*

SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 17, 2024
3:00 p.m.



THEODORE MOOK, CELLO



DR. LUIS VIQUEZ, CONDUCTOR

Concert Program

Symphony No. 1 in C Minor

Elogy, for Cello and Orchestra, op. 24

Saint Anthony Variations, op. 56

Emilie Mayer

Gabriel Fauré

Johannes Brahms

Patrons are encouraged to please pay what you can.

*St. John's Episcopal Church
191 County Road
Barrington, Rhode Island*

COMMISSION ON ADMINISTRATION

St. John's Art Show

Please mark your calendars for Friday, November 15th from 5-7 for the opening of our Fall Art Show and Holiday Crafts Sale. Our guest artists are Suzi Ballenger, linen weaver, papermaker, artisan and Nick Jainschigg, RISD professor and artist. We also will have a wonderful array of crafts and a few surprise items—and of course wine and scrumptious hors d'oeuvres.

ECW Welcomes The Holiday Season

Let's gather together at St. John's to enjoy good cheer and a delicious ECW catered dinner on December 9th at 5:30. It promises to be a delightful opportunity to socialize while sampling some holiday treats. Send along a \$10 check (to Charlotte Tracy at 20 Monkey Wrench Lane, Bristol, RI, 02809) or drop off an envelope with \$10 cash (at the church office) by November 22nd to reserve a place at this joyful event.

ECW holds 4 meetings a year to celebrate Women Helping Women and all are always welcome. Stay tuned for our next gathering in March 2025 and please just come!



Silver Spoons

Silver Spoons is a monthly gathering with lunch for any of our parishioners over the age of sixty. Each month lunch will be prepared and served by Fr. Patrick. This month's lunch will take place on Thursday, November 14th and will be stuffed peppers. If you would like to attend we ask you to RSVP to patrick@stjohnsbarrington.org by Tuesday, November 12th.

Morning Prayer

Come start your day off with a little prayer, scripture and silence. Monday through Thursday we gather around the altar for Morning Prayer at 8:45, the service lasts around fifteen minutes.

Coffee Connections

You can find Fr. Patrick nearly every Wednesday at Starbucks from 11am-12:30pm, drop on by to chat with him. Every so often he may be running a little late or unable to make it, usually when this is happening our Facebook and Instagram pages are updated with that info.

COMMISSION ON ADMINISTRATION

Compline is Back on Zoom

We have put away the fire pit and marshmallows as Compline is moving back to Zoom until next summer. Join us Wednesday evenings on Zoom or Facebook Live at 8pm as we end our day together in prayer.

Ancient Practice Series

Over the coming months you are invited to join Fr. Patrick in reading and discussing the books from the Ancient Practice Series. Once a month we will gather on a Sunday evening at 6:30 for one hour to discuss that month's book. In September we will start with the introduction to the series, Finding Our Way Again written by Brian McLaren. This series looks at seven practices common to the major world religions and examines them in light of Christian faith and practice. We will meet according to the following schedule:

We will meet according to the following schedule:

Sunday, November 10th – Tithing: Test Me In This, Douglas Leblanc

Sunday, December 8th – The Liturgical Year: The Spiraling Adventure of the Spiritual Life, Joan Chittister

Sunday, January 12th – The Sacred Journey, Charles Foster

Sunday, February 9th – Sabbath, Dan B. Allender

Sunday, March 9th – Fasting, Scot McKnight

Sunday, April 13th – The Sacred Meal, Nora Gallagher

If anyone is interested in taking part in this please talk to Fr. Patrick. There are a few copies of each book available to borrow if needed.

Monday Bible Study

Throughout the fall our Noon Monday Bible Study will be transforming from a Bible Study into a theology discussion. Each week we will discuss a different theological topic to better understand our faith. If you would like to join us we meet from noon until 1pm in the Living Room and on Zoom. If you have any questions please speak with Fr. Patrick.

St. John's Youth Group

All High School and Middle School students are invited to join our Youth Group. We meet on the first and third Sundays of the month. Once a month we meet at the church from 6:30-7:30, these gatherings include time for a short discussion on issues of our faith and lives, time to hang out and have fun together and plenty of snacks. This month we meeting at Seekonk Grand Prix on November 3rd .

On November 17th we will be meet at the church. If you have any questions please be in touch with Fr. Patrick.

You Tube

Our Worship services can be found on our YouTube Channel. Make sure to subscribe to receive notifications when we are streaming. Our YouTube channel can be found here: [###https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoC6LP37Ql_ovQTMm9Qw9wQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoC6LP37Ql_ovQTMm9Qw9wQ)

COMMISSION ON ADMINISTRATION

This Old Church: Start Wigglin' and Jumpin' now!

by David M. Murray

Keeping a church, school, and offices clean is sometimes quite a task. Keeping up with the spider webs is another. There are daily tasks, weekly tasks, Monday tasks, bi-weekly... you get the picture. But what I wanna complain about is one of the seasonal tasks – that being vacuuming the seat cushions in our church. You know, there's seventy-two of them! This is not a task for the faint of heart. It takes a professionally trained technician to operate a vacuum cleaner properly!

Every time I face the task of vacuuming the cushions, one thought echoes in my head... "How much money am I gonna find this time!" You know, I'm quite thorough in my cleaning, vacuuming every button, corner, and backside. I must admit, I once sucked up one of the upholsters buttons. Fortunately, no one was looking, so nobody ever knew.

I naturally flip each cushion over, like my dear mother taught us kids, and it is at that moment that I come face to face with "treasure or no treasure." A few quarters, maybe. Dimes are thin, so I'm always on the lookout for them, nickels, and the odd penny...I hate them.

Now, dear parishioners, here's my complaint! I've been vacuuming these dreadful cushions (I hope I'm not sounding too bitter here) for over eight years and do you know how much money I got for that? Well, I'll tell you – NOT MUCH! But as surprising as it may come to you all, I have kept track of those meager rewards. I always report my findings to our parish administrator, you remember Dale. I begin my report with the line "Finder's keepers..." Most often there is absolutely no reward, not one thin dime, wheat penny, buffalo nickel – nothing! But on certain occasions, I might come into a bundle, like maybe six cents. I once found a quarter! I was so excited; I took the next day off to celebrate my ill-gotten gain.

So, after eight long years of vacuuming St. John's Church, Barrington, RI pew cushions, I have been rewarded with a whopping \$1.76, graciously donated to me by YOU. That's considerably lower than the national average as reported by the United Buildings & Grounds Workers Federation.

Now, while I wanna say thank you to all who have made those donations, I wanna also ask the rest of you to start wiggling and jumping up and down in the pews before each service. Please don't wait till I retire to show your gratitude for all those years of vacuumed cushions. Start wigglin' and jumpin' now!

Hey, it's all in a humorous day's work!

COMMISSION ON ADMINISTRATION



The Pumpkin Patch

A great big thank you to all who helped sell pumpkins this year! A special thank you to Tom Billups (who has selflessly done this for years!) and his sidekicks Mark Heffner and Pat Anderson who again helped us achieve a great year by helping us sell over \$28,000 in pumpkins!!

FROM THE VESTRY

It is hard to believe that I have almost completed my first year as your Senior Warden. As with all journeys, my time serving on the Vestry continues to be a learning experience. I am constantly amazed at how active our Parish is. It takes a great staff and many, many, volunteers to support our active worship schedule, Parish events and programs, and community outreach. In the spirit of the season, I want to thank all of you who make St. John's such an amazing place.

During the year the Vestry has spent a great deal of time discussing improvements to the Memorial Garden. Unfortunately we have not done a good job of maintaining this once beautiful space. It is our goal, and responsibility, to refresh and revive the Garden. We are working with a landscape architect who has presented us with two sets of plans. The Vestry has reviewed and commented on the plans. Now it is your turn, and we encourage your input. The plans will be on display in Field Hall on Sunday November 3rd, after both the 8 am and 10 am services. Steve Carter, who is leading this project, and the architect will be on hand to present their ideas, answer questions, and hear your feedback. I want to be clear that these plans are not final, and input from the Parish and Vestry will be considered in the final design.

I would be remiss if I did not mention that our annual pledge drive is upon us. During this season of giving thanks for our blessings, please consider sharing what you can to support the many missions of St. John's.

Steve Primiano
Senior Warden

COMMISSION ON ADMINISTRATION

As our national politics ramp up with the election this month I want to bring this message to mind again. As Christians we are called to be kind. This isn't just Bishop Knisely's message, St. Paul shared it with the church in Ephesus nearly two thousand years ago. In the fourth chapter of the Letter to the Ephesians at the culmination of a passage detailing what it looks like to follow Christ we read, "and be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you."

Politics are front and center this month, but there are all sorts of voices coming at us making it harder and harder to be kind and tender-hearted. It's too easy to see that listening to those voices doesn't work though. It leads to more pain and brokenness. Bishop Knisely's message was not just pointing out that we are transformed into kinder people by God's love, but stressing how much the world needs us to be those kind and tender-hearted people. We see the pain and brokenness of the world too clearly wherever we look, we know it all too well. When we open ourselves to the transformation of God's Spirit, when we allow ourselves to become more kind and tender-hearted, allow ourselves to become more Christlike ourselves, we join in making the world a little bit better, a little more bit like God intended it to be.

Those voices that make it harder to be kind and tender-hearted seem to get louder in these election cycles and that is why it is so important that we live into our calling to be those kind, tender-hearted people. Imagine how much better the world would be ordinarily if we all fully lived into that calling, now imagine how much more impactful that would be around this election.

This November, let us remember that as God's beloved children we are called to live lives worthy of the gift we've been given, we are called to be kind, and tender-hearted to everyone we meet, in everything we do.

Yours in Christ,



Patrick+

COMMISSION ON OUTREACH

Happy November!

Just a gentle reminder to watch your mail in the upcoming weeks.

Once again, I will be mailing out our annual Christmas Giving Tree letter with this year's donation requests.

Thank you for your ongoing support, making this ministry a part of the true spirit of the holiday season.

Judy Tavares

COMMISSION ON ADMINISTRATION

Transitions

November Anniversaries ~ Congratulations!

Scott & Kristen Oberacker ~ November 1, 2003 ~ 21 years

Herbert & Kathy Williams ~ November 4, 1972 ~ 52 years

Paul & Pixie Medeiros ~ November 5, 1993 ~ 31 years

Guy & Mary Comfort ~ November 6, 1965 ~ 59 years

Jamie & Jennifer Ouelette ~ November 7, 1998 ~ 26 years

Jon & Abogail Colombo ~ November 10, 2017 ~ 7 years

Rev. Patrick & Carmen Greene ~ November 24, 2012 ~ 12 years

Bob & Jan Malcolm ~ November 24, 1990 ~ 34 years

Ralph & Maureen Weaver ~ November 29, 1963 ~ 61 years

The Life Eternal

Fred Thompson ~ October 14, 2024

COMMISSION ON ADMINISTRATION

November 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Church - Red Living Room - Blue Choir Room - Purple Church School Wing - Green Field Hall - Brown Encore - Pink Off Site - Orange Outside - Turquoise Online - Aqua						
3 8:00am, 10:00am & 5:30pm Holy Eucharist 9:00am Adult Formation 10:00am Church School	4 8:45am Morning Prayer 12:00pm Zoom Book/Bible Study	5 8:45am Morning Prayer 9:00am Zoom Coffee Hour 10:00am Encore Open 10:30am Staff Meeting	6 8:45am Morning Prayer 9:30am Holy Eucharist 8:00pm Compline	7 8:45am Morning Prayer 10:00am Encore Open 1:00pm Knitting Group 5:00pm Zoom Happy Hour 7:00pm COBST Refreshal	8 7:00pm All Saints Holy Eucharist	9 8:30am Diocesan Learn & Lead
10 8:00am, 10:00am & 5:30pm Holy Eucharist 9:00am Adult Formation 10:00am Church School	11 Veterans Day Parish Office Closed 12:00pm Zoom Book/Bible Study	12 8:45am Morning Prayer 9:00am Zoom Coffee Hour 10:00am Encore Open 10:30am Staff Meeting	13 8:45am Morning Prayer 9:30am Holy Eucharist 8:00pm Compline	14 8:45am Morning Prayer 10:00am Encore Open 12:00pm Silver Spoons 1:00pm Knitting Group 5:00pm Zoom Happy Hour 7:00pm COBST Refreshal	15 5:00pm Art Gallery Opening	16 10:00am Encore Open 1:30pm COBST Refreshal
17 8:00am, 10:00am & 5:30pm Holy Eucharist 9:00am Adult Formation 10:00am Church School 3:00pm COBST Concert	18 8:45am Morning Prayer 12:00pm Zoom Book/Bible Study	19 8:45am Morning Prayer 9:00am Zoom Coffee Hour 10:00am Encore Open 10:30am Staff Meeting 7:00pm Vestry Meeting	20 8:45am Morning Prayer 9:30am Holy Eucharist 8:00pm Compline	21 8:45am Morning Prayer 10:00am Encore Open 1:00pm Knitting Group 5:00pm Zoom Happy Hour	22	23 8:30am John's Meals
24 8:00am, 10:00am & 5:30pm Holy Eucharist 9:00am Adult Formation 10:00am Family Service	25 8:45am Morning Prayer 12:00pm Zoom Book/Bible Study 6:00pm Property Meeting	26 8:45am Morning Prayer 9:00am Zoom Coffee Hour 10:00am Encore Open 10:30am Staff Meeting	27 8:45am Morning Prayer 9:30am Holy Eucharist 8:00pm Compline	28 Thanksgiving Parish Office Closed	29 Parish Office Closed	30 8:30am John's Meals
				MAIL TOWER		
TOWER DEADLINE						



*The mission of
St. John's Church
is to be a community of
Christians committed to
the care, nourishment and
spiritual growth of all.*

November 2024

The Reverend Patrick Greene, Rector
St. John's Episcopal Church
191 County Road, Barrington, RI 02806
Phone: 401-245-4065
Website: www.stjohnsbarrington.org

Parish September Office Hours
Monday – Thursday 8:00am - 4:00pm
Friday - 8:00am - Noon

Worship Services
Sunday ~ 8:00am Holy Eucharist
 10:00am Holy Eucharist
 5:30pm Holy Eucharist
Wednesday ~ 9:30am Holy Eucharist