



# The Tower

## February 2024

Beloved,

Ash Wednesday this year falls on February 14th . Happy Valentine's Day and remember that to dust you shall return... this is actually a little fitting as St. Valentine was a martyr of the early church. It is believed that Chaucer is responsible for Valentine being the patron saint of lovers, nearly one thousand years after Valentine's martyrdom. So again, Happy Valentine's Day and remember that to dust you shall return. Ash Wednesday holds one of my favorite liturgical moments as a priest. Early in our service I get to offer the invitation to a holy Lent. This invitation ends with the following words:

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word.

While Lent may not be everyone's favorite part of our calendar there is something special about the intentionality and focus on repentance and drawing closer to our God. That is why this invitation to the observance of a holy Lent is one of my favorite liturgical moments of the whole year. In a recent sermon Deacon Michele mentioned that clergy stand as spiritual landscapers cultivating the space for you to grow in your faith (I may have heard that first as spiritual lightsabers and was very confused, but got it at the next service). That is what this invitation is all about, helping you to create the space to grow closer with our God. That is what is so special about Lent, there is a more explicit emphasis on making room for our faith and for our God.

This Ash Wednesday we will be adding to our regular schedule of Drive-Thru Ashes from 7-8:30 and traditional Ash Wednesday services at 9:30am and 7pm. Our addition this year will be a Family Ash Wednesday service at 5pm. Children and families are of course welcome at any service, but the new 5pm service will be geared toward them.

Throughout Lent we will once again be holding a Lenten Program on Wednesday evenings. We will gather for a service of Holy Eucharist at 5:30pm. Following this service we will have a light soup and salad supper, beginning around 6pm, and this will be followed by our program. This year we will be looking at a few different bible passages through the lens of TED talks. If you are unfamiliar

*Continued on page 12*

## DIRECTORY

### Clergy

The Reverend Patrick Greene

Rector

Patrick@stjohnsbarrington.org

Ext. 16

### Staff

Dale West

Parish Administrator

Dale@stjohnsbarrington.org

Ext. 11

Liz Curran

Business Manager

Liz@stjohnsbarrington.org

Ext. 13

Caitlin Bogert

Director of Children & Family

Ministries

Caitlin@stjohnsbarrington.org

Ext. 15

Jacob Stott

Director of Music Programs

Jacob@stjohnsbarrington.org

Ext. 19

David Murray

Head of Buildings and Grounds

David@stjohnsbarrington.org

Ext. 12

### Vestry

Steve Primiano, Warden

Wendy Smith, Warden

John Cavanagh, Clerk/Secretary

Susan Taylor, Treasurer

Dan Barlow

Matthew Heffner

Anne Massa

Pixie Medeiros

Carl Seadale

Judy Tavares

401-245-4065

[www.stjohnsbarrington.org](http://www.stjohnsbarrington.org)

## STEP DOWN TO ENCORE

### Hours

*Tuesday & Thursday*

*10:00am—4:00pm*

*Saturday*

*1st & 3rd Saturday*

*of the month*



### Encore

Encore will reopen on February 1, 2024 and will be open every Tuesday and Thursday in February. Encore will open on Saturday, February 13rd and 17th. If you have clothing you wish to consign please call 245-7380 to make an appointment.



### ST. JOHN'S TOWER

Please consider writing for The Tower.

Personal reflections, articles, poetry, essays and commentary are always welcome!

**Next Tower Deadline: February 15th.**  
**The March Tower will be mailed on**  
**February 28th**

Please send articles, announcements and "Letters to the Tower" to [dale@stjohnsbarrington.org](mailto:dale@stjohnsbarrington.org)

## COMMISSION ON CHILDREN'S FORMATION

### Children Ministries News

Church School will meet each Sunday in February at 10am. Our schedule is as follows:

February 4

February 11

February 18

February 25

Thank you to all who helped and participated in our Epiphany Pageant in January. The children did a wonderful job and it was a lot of fun.



Coming up in February we have a few events. First, we will be collecting non-perishable food items up until February 11th for our Souper Bowl of Caring. All proceeds will go to TAP-IN. The Church School will have a lesson on February 4th about what the Souper Bowl of Caring Is, along with reading the book, 'Last Stop on Market Street' about a boy and his Nana volunteering at a soup kitchen. We will then make connections to what we know about the Bible (helping others, don't judge people based on their appearances, etc.)



## COMMISSION ON CHILDREN'S FORMATION



On February 11th during coffee hour, the kids will be cooking King Cakes again for our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. The Pancake Supper will be Tuesday, February 13th at 6pm. It is open to the whole parish community. We hope you can join us!

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To quote the Book of Common Prayer: I invite you in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent. Join us on February 14th, Ash Wednesday, as we begin our observance of a holy Lent together. This year we will also have a Family Service geared toward younger children at 5:00pm.

# COMMISSION ON MUSIC

## From the Music Director's Desk

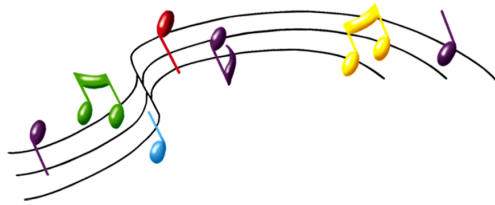
Hello Parishioners!

I hope you are all braving this fun snowy, icy, rainy weather....

The St. John's Choir is always looking for singers to help enhance and add much beauty to the services. Rehearsals are Thursdays from 7:00-8:30 pm, and Sundays an hour before service. If you are interested, please see me after service or email me at: [jacob@stjohnsbarrington.org](mailto:jacob@stjohnsbarrington.org)

Also, the St. John's Youth Choir is always looking for singers....Rehearsals are Thursdays from 6:15-6:45 pm. If your child is interested, please contact me after service or email me at the above email address.

My Best,  
Jacob Stott



## ***CONCERT: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2024, 3:00 PM***

The Chamber Orchestra of Barrington at St. John's, conducted by Music Director Edward Markward, will present a concert celebrating **Black History Month** on Sunday, February 18<sup>th</sup> at 3 pm at St. John's Episcopal Church, Barrington. The program opens with the "Overture to L'Amant Anonyme" (The Anonymous Lover) by Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de Saint Georges, a French violinist, conductor, composer and soldier. He was the first composer of African descent to achieve wide European acclaim. "Lyric for Strings," by George Walker, rivals Samuel Barbers "Adagio" for its sheer beauty and poignancy. Walker was the first African American to win the Pulitzer Prize for Music. Award-winning composer Florence Price, the first African American woman to have a work performed by a major American symphony Orchestra (Chicago Symphony Orchestra, 1933), is represented by two works: "Suite of Dances" and "Andante Moderato," arranged for strings by the composer from her First String Quartet. Rounding out the program will be Ludwig van Beethoven's Symphony No. 1 in C Major, sometimes called the composer's "farewell to the 18<sup>th</sup> century."

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

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

**FREE ADMISSION, DONATIONS WELCOME**

[www.cobsj.org](http://www.cobsj.org)

Facebook @cobsjri

## COMMISSION ON ADMINISTRATION

### **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, February 8th and will be sloppy joes with pasta salad. If you would like to attend we ask you to RSVP to [patrick@stjohnsbarrington.org](mailto:patrick@stjohnsbarrington.org) by Tuesday, February 6th.

### **Ash Wednesday**

To quote the Book of Common Prayer: I invite you in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent. Join us on February 14 th , Ash Wednesday, as we begin our observance of a holy Lent together. We will have our traditional Ash Wednesday services at 9:30am and 7pm. As we have done in the past few years we will also offer Drive Thru Ashes from 7am until 8:30am in the parking lot. This year we will also have a Family Service geared toward younger children at 5pm.

### **St. John's Youth Group**

All High School and Middle School students are invited to join our Youth Group. We normally meet on the first and third Sundays of the month from 6:30-7:30. This month will look very different from that however, in place of our regular meetings we are inviting our Youth Group Members to help out with the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner on February 13 th and looking to go bowling at the end of the month, more info about this will come out as the plans are finalized. If you would like more information or plan to attend either the Pancake Dinner or the bowling trip please be in touch with Fr. Patrick.

### **Lent Madness**

Lent Madness is a fun offering from Forward Movement, the publishers of the Day by Day devotionals, for us to learn about the saints of our church. Each year thirty two saints from our sanctoral calendar are pitted against each other in a bracket style competition to determine who will win the Golden Halo. During Lent you can go to [lentmadness.org](http://lentmadness.org) to learn about the saints and vote on each day's face off to determine who will advance to win the Golden Halo. Each year Fr. Patrick collects filled out brackets by Ash Wednesday and the best bracket from St. John's wins dinner with Fr. Patrick and Carmen. If you would like to take part this year we have empty brackets to fill out available, please talk to Fr. Patrick for more info.

### **Morning Prayer**

Join us on Mondays-Thursdays as we begin our day with Morning Prayer. This service includes scripture readings, short prayers and a brief period of silence, lasting around fifteen minutes total. We gather around the altar at 8:45am. We hope to see you there!

### **Coffee Connections**

Nearly every Wednesday you can find Fr. Patrick holding "office hours" at Starbucks from 11- 12:30. If you're around on a Wednesday stop by and say hello.

## COMMISSION ON ADMINISTRATION

### Monday Bible Study

Our Monday Bible Study group will continue to read and discuss The Acts of the Apostles. If you would like to join us we gather in the Living Room and Zoom.

### Want to Know More about St. John's and the Episcopal Church

Over the past few months a group of us have been reading and discussing a few of the books from the "Welcome To" series put out by Church Publishing. In the fall we read, Welcome to the Episcopal Church, and Welcome to Sunday. This month and next we will be reading, Welcome to the Book of Common Prayer, and Welcome to a Life of Faith in the Episcopal Church. We gather once a month on Sunday evening at 6:30 for one hour to discuss that month's book. If anyone is interested in being Confirmed or Received into the Episcopal Church when Bishop Knisely visits with us next year you are encouraged to take part in this. We will meet according to the following schedule:

Sunday, February 18 th – Welcome to a Life of Faith in the Episcopal Church

If anyone is interested in taking part in this please talk to Fr. Patrick. There are a handful of copies of each of the books available for anyone who might need one.

### Compline on Zoom

Every Wednesday you can find a group of us gathering on Zoom at 8pm to close our day together in prayer with a service of Compline. If you're unfamiliar with this service I cannot recommend it to you enough, it is one of the most beautiful services we offer.

### 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](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoC6LP37Ql_ovQTMm9Qw9wQ)

### Zoom Activities

Moving forward we will be using [this link](#) for all of our regular activities on Zoom. This includes our Tuesday Morning Coffee Hour at 9am and our Holy Happy Hour on Thursdays from 5-6.

### Transitions

*February Anniversaries ~ Congratulations!*

Terry & Kristin Chwalk ~ February 6, 1971 ~ 53 years

## COMMISSION ON BUILDING & GROUNDS

### Welcome to This Old Church

Aww, it ain't so old. I once had a grandmother, and if she were alive today she'd be a hundred and fifty-one years old. Humm, maybe our church is old! But it's in pretty good shape for being a hundred and sixty-six years old! And it's our job to keep it that way... okay, it's really my job.

Well, it might be my job (and I'm glad it is,) but it's OUR church, and we think it's important for you to be informed about how things are going, building and grounds wise. What's most concerning about maintaining our church is that every time we address a brick-and-mortar issue, it costs money... and it's not our money, it's yours! We work hard and prudently at maintaining the church and all that it takes to keep it the beautiful place to worship that it is – and we want you to know that.

There's a bronze plaque outside Dale's office commemorating Mr. Abram Stone, who came to work at St. John's in 1892 and left in 1977. That's a whopping sixty-two years of service to maintaining the church. Now I realize that I will never reach that milestone and get me a plaque like Abram Stone, but I do aim to be bronzed for the cleanest church in the diocese, and all of us are responsible for that. And for that, we thank you!

I hope you enjoy "This Old Church."

### This Old Church: This Old Church: It's All in a Day's Work?

by David M. Murray

Well, there's not so much of that these days!

Today I got up at 8:30, watched the morning news and then two episodes of The Andy Griffith Show. You know the one I like the best? The one where Barney dresses up like a lady to thwart a bank robbery. Cracks me up every time. Anyway, then I reread the Christmas cards that I retrieved from the recycling bin because Judy wants to keep them. I was gonna ask why, but then I remembered Gunsmoke was coming on.

"Okay Murray, why aren't you at church, doing church things?" you might ask. Well, truth is, I broke my foot right after Thanksgiving. (No cards please, I'm not nearly done reading the Christmas ones.) I saw the doctor this week and he suggested, well, he didn't really suggest, he sorta ordered me to remain in the boot (cast) for another four weeks. Well, well, well, seems like I got plenty of time for card reading now!

First of all, Happy New Year! I've got a feeling this one's gonna be better than the last few, it has to be. But before I leave the old year behind, I wanna share a very special encounter with you from 2023.

One morning, not too long ago, I was repairing our old picnic tables when an elderly gentleman approached, inquiring about our upcoming gallery opening. As I stood to respond I came face to face with my dear, sweet, deceased father. I kid you not! I couldn't collect my thoughts; seventy-three years went rushing through my head like a freight train – I was frozen.

*Continued on next page*



## COMMISSION ON BUILDING & GROUNDS

He asked about the opening again, and I finally answered. The man stood about my height, a big powerful looking man with a most gentle smile, and blue eyes, radiating out of a nicely worn, rosy complexion. It was my father, and he was standing only ten feet away!

My dad, William Robert Murray, has been gone for over twenty years, but there he was, standing, smiling, exactly like dad. Now I'm not talking about a guy that looked "like" my dad, I'm telling you, this guy was a twin, either that or I was actually looking at my father!

Well, we chatted for a few minutes, as I answered his questions about the gallery, but the whole time I stood in front of this man, all I could think of was how do I keep him talking? How do I keep him here? I didn't want him to leave. I wanted, so badly, to grab and hug him. I became so emotional that I had to explain my behavior. He smiled at me, as he took off his fedora (just like dad's), he stuck out his big old hand and I grabbed for it. I thanked him for his time and as he began to walk away, he turned back to me and said, "This meeting was not by accident."

I couldn't speak, I just stood there and stared, motionless. I can't even tell you "how" he left. I slowly went back to work repairing the picnic tables but made note of the greatest "God moment" I ever had.

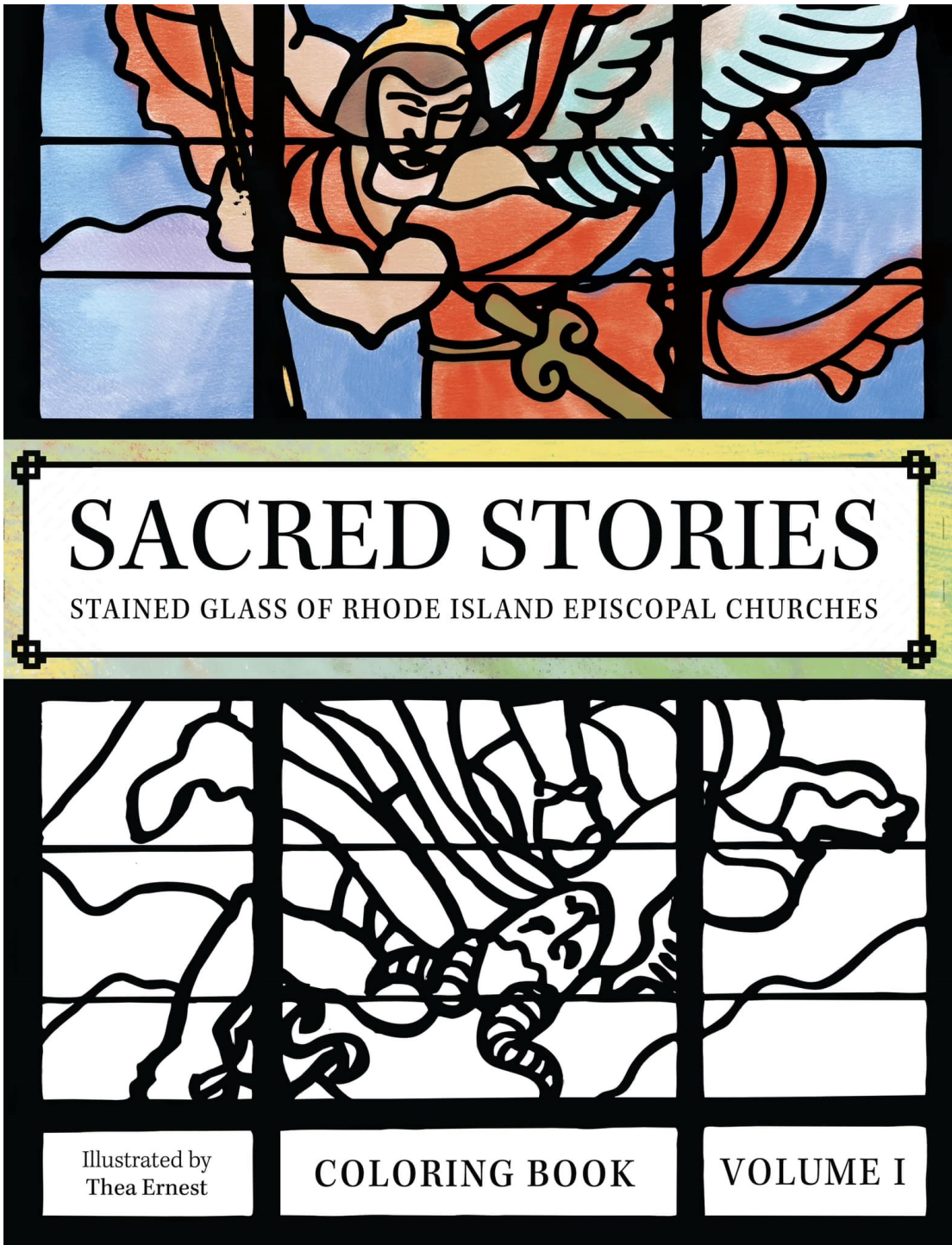
I hope you and your families have a wonderful new year. Watch for your "God moments" in 2024.

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

# COMMISSION ON OUTREACH

## Stained Glass of RI Episcopal Churches Coloring Book

The Sacred Stories Coloring Book contains 12 stained glass sketches created by local artist Thea Ernest from different Episcopal churches in the state of RI - travel from north to south of our state- create your own vision or visit the churches themselves. \$20.00 per book - all proceeds go towards Episcopal Charities! See Fr. Patrick for a copy.



# February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Church - Red</b> <b>Living Room - Blue</b> <b>Choir Room - Purple</b> <b>Church School Wing - Green</b> <b>Field Hall - Brown</b> <b>Encore - Pink</b> <b>Off Site - Orange</b> <b>Outside - Turquoise</b> <b>Online - Aqua</b>						
				<b>1</b> 8:45 Morning Prayer 10:00am Encore Open 1:00pm Knitting Group 5:00pm Zoom Happy Hour 6:15 Youth Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 10:00am Encore Open
<b>4</b> 8:00am, 10:00am & 5:30pm Holy Eucharist 10:00am Church School	<b>5</b> 8:45 Morning Prayer 12:00pm Zoom Book/Bible Study	<b>6</b> 8:45 Morning Prayer 9:00am Zoom Coffee Hour 10:00am Encore Open 10:30am Staff Meeting 5:00pm Flower Guild Meeting	<b>7</b> 8:45 Morning Prayer 9:30am Holy Eucharist 6:30pm STJ Book Club 8:00pm Compline	<b>8</b> 8:45 Morning Prayer 10:00am Encore Open 12:00pm Silver Spoons 1:00pm Knitting Group 5:00pm Zoom Happy Hour 6:15 Youth Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm COBSJ Rehearsal	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 8:30am Diocesan Meeting
<b>11</b> 8:00am, 10:00am & 5:30pm Holy Eucharist 10:00am Church School 6:30pm Adult Formation	<b>12</b> 8:45 Morning Prayer 12:00pm Zoom Book/Bible Study 6:00pm Finance Meeting	<b>13</b> Shrove Tuesday 8:45 Morning Prayer 9:00am Zoom Coffee Hour 10:00am Encore Open 10:30am Staff Meeting 6:00pm Pancake Supper	<b>14</b> Ash Wednesday 7:00am Ashes to Go 8:45 Morning Prayer 9:30am Holy Eucharist 5:00pm Family Ash Wednesday Service 7:00pm Holy Eucharist	<b>15</b> 8:45 Morning Prayer 10:00am Encore Open 1:00pm Knitting Group 5:00pm Zoom Happy Hour 6:15pm Youth Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm COBSJ Rehearsal 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 10:00am Encore Open 1:30pm COBSJ Rehearsal
<b>18</b> 8:00am, 10:00am & 5:30pm Holy Eucharist 10:00am Church School 3:00pm COBSJ Concert	<b>19</b> President's Day Parish Office Closed 7:00pm Vestry Meeting	<b>20</b> 8:45 Morning Prayer 9:00am Zoom Coffee Hour 10:00am Encore Open	<b>21</b> 8:45 Morning Prayer 9:30am Holy Eucharist 5:30 Lenten Program 8:00pm Compline	<b>22</b> 8:45 Morning Prayer 10:00am Encore Open 1:00pm Knitting Group 5:00pm Zoom Happy Hour 6:15 Youth Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 8:00am, 10:00am & 5:30pm Holy Eucharist 10:00am Church School	<b>26</b> 8:45 Morning Prayer 12:00pm Zoom Book/Bible Study 6:00pm Property Meeting	<b>27</b> 8:45 Morning Prayer 9:00am Zoom Coffee Hour 10:00am Encore Open 10:30am Staff Meeting	<b>28</b> 8:45 Morning Prayer 9:30am Holy Eucharist 5:30 Lenten Program 8:00pm Compline	<b>29</b> 8:45 Morning Prayer 10:00am Encore Open 1:00pm Knitting Group 5:00pm Zoom Happy Hour 6:15 Youth Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal		
MAIL TOWER						

with TED talks they are short, powerful talks originally based on Technology, Entertainment, and Design, but have grown to include many other topics. Each week we will watch a TED talk and read a corresponding passage of scripture and discuss them and what they mean for us as we seek to draw closer to our God.

Yours in Christ,



Patrick+



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

**February 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](http://www.stjohnsbarrington.org)

Parish Office Hours  
Monday – Thursday 8:00am - 4:00pm  
Friday - 8:00am - 12:00pm

Worship Services  
Sunday ~ 8:00am Holy Eucharist  
          10:00am Holy Eucharist  
          5:30pm Holy Eucharist  
Monday - Thursday ~ 8:45am Morning Prayer  
Wednesday ~ 9:30am Holy Eucharist