



# The Tower

## January 2024

Beloved,

One of the lesser utilized pieces of our tradition that I love is our practice of blessing homes. We have a few forms of doing this, a thorough service where we process from room to room and end with Eucharist in the living room, I am available any time of year to do these services and have to admit they are such a joy to lead and participate in. If you think you'd like to have your home blessed in this way please don't hesitate to ask. The other common blessing of homes we have only takes place this time of year. Following the Feast of the Epiphany, on January 6th, and includes the practice of chalking the door.

Chalking the door is a practice of the church where we bless chalk and then mark the door frame with: 20 + C + M + B + 24. The numbers on the ends make up the calendar year and the letters within them have two meanings. First, connecting it to the Feast of the Epiphany the traditional names of the magi are Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. They also, however, stand for the Latin phrase *Christus Mansionem Benedicat*, or in English: May Christ bless this home.

Since arriving back at St. John's as your Rector I've had the privilege of celebrating four blessings of homes, the fuller service culminating in sharing the Eucharist in the living room. I have been ordained for thirteen years as of this past month and these four are the only houses I have blessed in this way. This year some of our neighbors who live in Rev. Stone's old house asked me to come out and celebrate this with them, as always it was such a wonderful and moving service. We have not in my five years back at St. John's, however, had any of the Epiphany home blessings.

Beginning on Sunday, January 7th and going through the week beginning on Sunday, February 4th, as Lent begins with Ash Wednesday the following week on the 14th, I am available if you would like the Epiphany blessing for your home. The service is around ten minutes long and the chalking of the door is optional. These past few years have really stressed to us how important our homes are and I think this tradition sheds a little more light into this seemingly too often dark world. As our homes have become even more our sanctuaries from the vicissitudes of the world this practice of asking Christ to be present and bless our homes seems even more important.

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Steve Primiano, Jr. Warden  
John Cavanagh, Clerk/Secretary  
Susan Taylor, Treasurer  
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Anne Massa  
Carl Seadale  
Wendy Smith  
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[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 be closed during January and will  
reopen on February 1, 2024. Happy New Year!!



### ST. JOHN'S TOWER

Please consider writing for The Tower.  
Personal reflections, articles, poetry,  
essays and commentary are always welcome!

**Next Tower Deadline: January 17th.**  
**The February Tower will be mailed on**  
**January 30th**

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

Happy New Year! Our Church School will meet each Sunday in January at 10 am. Our schedule is:

January 7th

January 14th

January 21st

January 28th

Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed to our Holiday Potluck and sing-along. The food was delicious, and it was so nice to see so many of your faces.

Thank you to everyone who attended our Gingerbread decorating evening also. The house decorations were highly creative, and we had a wonderful time.



Please join us for our Epiphany Pageant at 6pm on January 6th. The Church School students are very excited to dress up and perform.



## COMMISSION ON MUSIC

From the Music Director's Desk

Happy New Year!

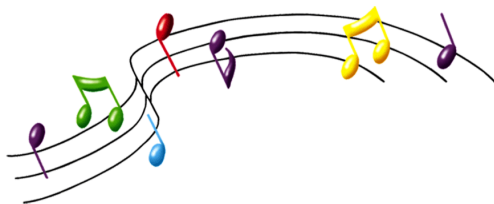
First, I want to thank you all for your continued support of the Music Programs here, at St. John's. Secondly, I want to thank everyone who is volunteering, participating and helping with these endeavors. You all are GREATLY appreciated.

I have several exciting things to report:

- As of September, we have started a Youth Choir, which is shaping up nicely....They are sounding quite good. I'm looking forward to this next season.
- The St. John's Adult Choir has several new members, however, we always have need of more singers, so if you are interested, please see me after service or email me: [jacob@stjohnsbarrington.org](mailto:jacob@stjohnsbarrington.org)  
The more, the merrier....
- The Chamber Orchestra of Barrington at St. John's is continuing here for ist 6th season. If you haven't heard them yet, please make an effort to do so, as they are excellent!
- I am pleased to report that we have an Ensemble in Residence, The VOX HUMANA Schola Cantorum, directed by Billy Petterson. This superb singing group will be performing several times during the course of the year. Parishioners are STILL raving about the Advent Lessons and Carols they sang on December 17th.
- Thank you all for your contributions to the Bach and Bread Project. It could not have happened without your generosity. There will be another installment in this concert series in the upcoming new year. I am very much looking forward to it.

With much gratitude and thanks,

Jacob T. Stott



## COMMISSION ON ADMINISTRATION

### **Epiphany Service**

On Saturday, January 6<sup>th</sup> we will gather together at 6pm to celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany with an Epiphany Pageant with Holy Eucharist led by our Church School Children. On this day we remember the Magi recognizing and responding to God's message to all of creation that God had become incarnate in Jesus Christ. Please come out and support our Church School kids as we celebrate this Principal Feast Day.

### **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, January 11<sup>th</sup> and will be baked ziti and a Caesar salad. If you would like to attend we ask you to RSVP to [patrick@stjohnsbarrington.org](mailto:patrick@stjohnsbarrington.org) by Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **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.

### **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, January 14<sup>th</sup> – Welcome to the Book of Common Prayer

Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup> – 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.

### **Monday Bible Study**

Our Monday Bible Study group will begin reading and discussing The Acts of the Apostles on December 4<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to join us we gather in the Living Room and Zoom.

## COMMISSION ON ADMINISTRATION

### **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, however, we will only have a regular meeting on January 21 st . In place of our meeting that would take place on January 7th we will be helping the Church School out with the Epiphany Pageant on Saturday, January 6th . If you would like to help out with the Pageant please let Fr. Patrick know. Our regular Sunday 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.

### **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/UCoC6LP37QI_ovQTMm9Qw9wQ): [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoC6LP37QI\\_ovQTMm9Qw9wQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoC6LP37QI_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.

# COMMISSION ON OUTREACH

## Our 2023 Giving Tree

November and December at St. John's had a lot of things happening, but in spite of all the demands our annual Giving Tree was a successful one.

When I arrived at Foster Forward I was immediately recognized and was warmly welcomed. The agency is extremely grateful for our continuing support for the teens in their care who so often get overlooked at this time of year. Our total donations for this year was \$2450.00 Your generosity was amazing.

This year our donation of gift cards for the Women's Resource Center did not meet our usual number. Fortunately, on December 1st we had a joint meeting at St. John's with managers from Encore and the Episcopal Church Women. After a discussion about the situation there was a Unanimous decision to supplement the gift cards with a monetary donation to insure the family's need could be met.

The Woman's Resource Center was deeply touched by St. John's thoughtfulness and generous donation to make their holiday drive a success.

As always, I am thankful for all who made this Christmas a much better one for those less fortunate than we are.

God bless you, stay safe and a very Happy and Healthy New Year!

Judy Tavares

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## Reverse Advent Calendar Food Drive

Thank you to everyone who took part in this year's Reverse Advent Calendar Food Drive for Tapin. Your incredible generosity allowed us to deliver over thirteen hundred pounds of food to support Tapin as they serve our neighbors in need.



### **This Old Church**

by David M. Murray

Sound familiar? Well, I'm no Bob Villa, and this isn't PBS. Nope. This is a new monthly addition to our great Tower newsletter, and we hope you enjoy it.

I was lucky to join the St. John's family back in 2016, as Head of Building & Grounds. Over the years, we've enjoyed some, behind-the-scenes adventures, a few disasters, and a lot of fun. Certain people (DW) asked me to share some of them with you all. This'll be fun, but it will also provide some insight into how we maintain your church and grounds each month.

We hope you enjoy "This Old Church", and don't be surprised if you recognize some of the folks in the spotlight.

### **This Old Church: Has Some Pretty Impressive Doors**

by David M. Murray

Please don't kick the kick plates!

Our bell tower is grand, and appropriately enough, towers over our town. It seems to watch over us like a mother hen. And that bell always reminds me that God is right behind me, sometimes He's leading. But the door! Our beautiful red door(s), lead to peace and serenity, a direct meeting with God. When we walk through those doors we have a dedicated line to forgiveness and happiness. There's a lot of history and mystery surrounding those doors.

Let's take a closer look.

They are "old" doors, and it would appear as though they have undergone some transformation. But the mystery lies in the bronze dedication plaque, given in memory of Susanna Parisette Jones, who died the same year I was born – 1949. That qualifies the doors as antique... me too, I guess. As I got working in and around the doors I started to think that perhaps they were not original to the church, then I began to suspect that they were the original doors – just cut down years ago. And, if they were cut down then they probably are the original doors, but why were they altered in the first place? Clear as mud, wouldn't you say... me too!

Today, I got a ladder and a flashlight and went to investigate. The Jones part of our history/mystery was pretty easy to discern, actually, all I had to do is read the plaque affixed to the door. Duh! But that was only part of it since the doors were cut down for some reason. Well, our doors were, in fact, cut down – significantly! The original closure hardware is still visible above the right door indicating that the doors were once tall, pointed Gothic arched doors, filling the solid red panel above.

So there is still some confusion. According to the verbiage on the dedication plaque "Given in memory of," might lead one to believe the "doors" were given. But perhaps it was the remodeled doors and doorway that was given back in forty-nine and we still have the original doors. That's my guess.

I went to our parish historian, Dale West (who, rumor has it, was here when the doors were originally built back in 1865! Psst, that's a joke.) Dale showed me a photo from 1942, clearly showing the pointed arched doors. (She tried to convince me that she didn't actually take the photo. That's

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## COMMISSION ON BUILDING & GROUNDS

another joke.) So, somewhere between 1942 and 1949, the pointed arches were cut off and the void above was covered with the red panel we see today.

Oooo, my head hurts. Let's move on.

A few weeks ago we set to the task of restoring the doors, and it seems we bit off more than we expected. You can tell a lot about antique furniture, old houses, and old doors... and our doors needed a whole lot more than just paint. They were rotting from the ground up!

With the assistance of our local painter from Waseca Avenue, let's call him Scott Balasco, we removed the big doors, it took three of us! I cut a small piece of rotted wood off the bottom of each, treated the remaining wood with a wood hardener and found a metal fabricator to make aluminum channel strips for the bottom of the doors to prevent water from continuing to wick up and into the doors. We then applied two coats of what we call "prayer book red" paint.

Next we installed rigid PVC kick plates, for those of you (like me) who can't wait for the door to open fast enough. We painted them to match the doors and then we all stood back and admired our work. We were happy for a job well-done. That is, of course, until I shot my mouth off and mentioned the ornate, wrought iron hinges I had seen on so many churches in the Celtic countries.

The color red has many meanings for churches: the sacrificial blood of Christ, lambs' blood on the door for protection, sanctuary, refuge, safety, and hospitality. In Scotland, it signifies that the mortgage on the house has been paid in full and in Ireland, a red door was thought to ward off evil spirits. Well, their ain't no evil spirits here at St. John's and as often as possible, Fr. Pat throws our red doors wide-open to welcome all passersby.

So, after a lengthy conversation about church doors and hinges, Fr. Pat gave me the green light to begin researching ornate, wrought iron, church door hinges. Our newly restored doors are the result of that research. I can't wait to hang Christmas wreaths on them!

We hope you like the new additions to our beautiful church.

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

**Transitions**

*January Anniversaries ~ Congratulations!*

Albert & Marion Colella ~ January 18, 1986 ~ 38 years

Mike & Nancy Morrissette ~ January 25, 1997 ~ 27 years



If you have any interest in having your home blessed in this season following the Epiphany please be in touch with me, you can call me at the office, 401-245-4065 or email me at [patrick@stjohnsbarrington.org](mailto:patrick@stjohnsbarrington.org).

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.*

**January 2024**

The Reverend Patrick Greene, Rector  
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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