

ST. JOHN'S WAY



Maybe **CHRISTMAS**,
he thought,
doesn't come
FROM A STORE.
Maybe **CHRISTMAS**,
perhaps, **means**
A LITTLE BIT MORE.
~ The Grinch ~

THE ST. JOHN'S PRAYER

Almighty and ever living God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for St. John's, broad creek. strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, restore the penitent, draw the seekers, and increase our numbers. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy church; through Jesus Christ our lord.
Amen

VISION STATEMENT

St. John's will continue to grow as a positive source of comfort and love in the lives of our diverse parish family. the surrounding community will come to know us as a welcoming, inclusive shelter in a world of uncertainty, and a source of help in crisis.

MISSION STATEMENT

St. John's church is an inclusive community of faithful believers and earnest seekers, where worship is the foundation of our common life, and where the holy spirit moves us to gather and thrive as a loving extended family while reaching out to serve our neighbors with the Good news of God's love.

DECEMBER 2020

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FROM THE PULPIT



Christ Still Comes



The Rev. Sarah Dodds Oldersol

I have grown weary of the phrase “during this unprecedented time.” I do not want to be reminded that “business as usual” no longer applies. I am ready for a “new normal.”

I imagine that Thanksgiving was different for most of us...and we survived. I am learning (and daily relearning) that different is not bad. Christmas will be “unprecedented” as well. A friend and I were speaking recently (on the phone, of course) and he lamented, “Does Christmas even come if you don’t sing Christmas carols at church on Christmas Eve?”

Because we are living in “unprecedented times”, I am hearing scripture with seemingly fresh ears. The assigned texts seem so relevant to our situation, like I am hearing the same old lectionary readings for the very first time. On the First Sunday of Advent, we heard some prophetic poetry from the Book of Isaiah. Isaiah pleads with God, “O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence...”

Isaiah wanted God to reveal God’s-self just as God had done in Israel’s history. How do we know you are with us God if the ground isn’t shaking? Isaiah was so focused on convincing God to make the earthquake, that he was blind to God’s presence all around him.

Christmas is something humankind invented. Christmas comes because we make it happen. What we are celebrating at Christmas is an entirely different matter. We created Christmas to celebrate that God does tear open the heavens to come among us. Guess what!? The earth did not shake! God did something totally unexpected and came as a vulnerable baby.

Christmas will not be business as usual this year. But that will not stop God from coming among us. Actually, nothing can stop God from being present to us. No matter where (or if) you sing Christmas carols this Christmas, God will be with you. **Christ still comes.**





OUR DIGITAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

One of the highlights of Christmas Eves past has been the “gathered pageant” at the early Christmas Eve service. In our “come one, come all” format, absolutely everyone in the church is welcome to participate. Because we are in our Digital Church, the pageant will look a little different this year. But we are planning something just as participatory, and “come one, come all” still applies! This year’s pageant is divided into scenes, and we are looking for different families and individuals to volunteer to make a video of one of the scenes. Depending on how big your family is, we’ve got a scene that can work for you. Each scene is only between one and ten lines long. And even if you’re an individual who wants to participate, there are things that you can do! There’s no need to get fancy about costumes. A bathrobe, a sheet or blanket, or an old Halloween costume could be just the pieces you need to be a perfect shepherd or angel. And if you don’t have those, just a nametag will do. And there is no need to memorize lines – carrying your script is just fine. More than anything, we want to invite YOU, in whatever way you are able to show up, to be a part of this special pageant tradition here at St. John’s. Please contact Libby at lwiebel@stjohnsbroadcreek.org to get information on how to participate.



A VIRTUAL CHOIR ADVENTURE

One of the hardest things for me to swallow with COVID-19 is the fact that singing in groups is a “super-spreader” activity. I’ve been a part of choirs since I was 7 years old, and to suddenly have that not a part of our church lives is very difficult. I know that I’m not alone in my feelings!

Many of you have seen videos of virtual choirs. These range from the very fancy, large and involved to much simpler versions with only a few voices. Some of you have asked me if this is something that we can do at St. John’s. I spent some time this fall learning how to put together such a video, and we’re finally going to give it a try.

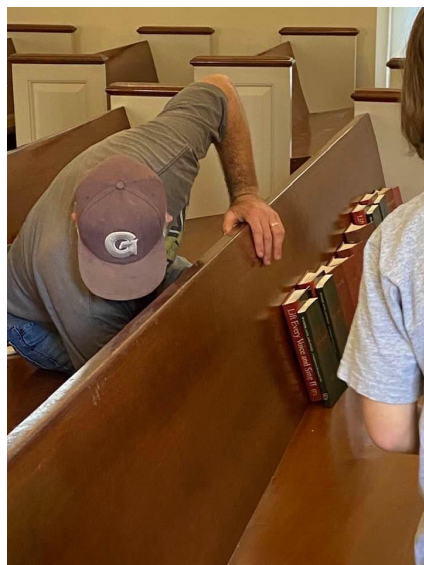
Each person who wants to participate needs to be able to film themselves singing their vocal part while listening to a reference video with headphones. Since everyone will be singing from the comfort of their own homes, this is a very safe way to make music “together.”

I’ll be explaining how to do this and providing detailed instructions at a Zoom meeting on Thursday, December 3 at 7 p.m. I’ll be recording that meeting, too, for anyone who is unable to attend. Please contact me at lwiebel@stjohnsbroadcreek.org to get a Zoom invitation to the Thursday evening meeting.





They rolled up their sleeves and made St. John's shine



Some of us worked on cleaning up the graveyard while others spent their time wiping mold off the pews in the church. A great day to be socially-distanced together at St. John's!



Episcopal Diocese
of Washington



Dióceses Episcopal
de Washington



John 3.16 and Matthew 25 Christians

When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.

Matthew 25:31-46

In my experience, Christians tend to gravitate toward one of two poles, and I don't mean liberal or conservative, evangelical or progressive, Democrat or Republican. Rather, some of us are what a friend once described as "John 3.16 Christians," while others see ourselves more as "Matthew 25 Christians."

John 3.16, perhaps the most quoted passage in the New Testament, is a succinct declarative statement:

For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that all who believe in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Jesus is speaking these words to Nicodemus, the Pharisee who came to Jesus by night. Jesus tells Nicodemus that no one can see the Kingdom of God without being born "from above," or "of water and Spirit." The focus of their exchange is the importance of believing in Jesus. Those who believe in Him will enjoy eternal life. In subsequent verses Jesus states that those who do not believe are condemned.



In contrast, Matthew 25:31-46 is a parable of final judgment in which belief doesn't factor at all. The Son of Man will come, Jesus says, and separate people as a shepherd separates sheep from goats. Those he will welcome into the Kingdom of God lived lives of compassion and mercy.

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." . . . "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

As in John 3.16, there is condemnation in Matthew 25 for those who do not offer compassion to others. They will be turned away at the end of the age and sent to eternal punishment.

Most Episcopalians, though certainly not all, gravitate toward the Matthew 25 end of the Christian spectrum. In general, we're more comfortable focusing on actions rather than on belief. There's much to be commended about our focus on deeds and our willingness to be held accountable to such high standards of compassion. Yet there can be a hollowness to faith that isn't grounded in a living relationship with Christ, and a tendency for harsh judgments of those who don't see faith in Christ as we do. There's a similar harshness in judgment among some Christians whose focus is on correct belief. Indeed, no one is harder on one type of Christians than other Christians on the opposite side of the John 3.16--Matthew 25 continuum.

This week I've been thinking about my own judgment day, what awaits on the other side of this life. This is I know: if my eternal salvation, whatever that means, depends upon either the purity of my belief or the depth of my compassion, I am lost.

Whenever I come across passages of Scripture that divide people into two groups, I see myself in both. A part of me believes in Jesus with all my heart. Another part echoes the cry of a desperate parent who came to Jesus seeking healing for his child: "Help my unbelief!" I can identify times when I have offered food to the hungry, clothes for the naked, and when I cared for the sick and those in prison. But I know all too well I am also that person who has turned away in indifference and fatigue.

Thus I am both a John 3.16 and a Matthew 25 Christian, trusting in Jesus more than I trust in myself. For that reason, I cannot judge others for their faith or lack of it; for their compassion or lack of it. In truth, as a sinner, sometimes I do judge, but then I am reminded of Jesus' words: "Why do you see the speck in your neighbor's eye but do not notice the log in your own eye?" (Matt. 7:3)

But what I can do is urge you, as I urge myself, to draw closer to Christ. Draw closer to Him in faith, on the edges of your day, in prayer and reflection on Scripture. Draw closer to Him by loving other people, and in particular, those in need of mercy and kindness. Some may be in prison, or hospital, or in a refugee camp. They may be your next door neighbor, or a member of your family.

As Christians we need not feel compelled to choose between belief and mercy, but rather see them as part of the same call--to know Jesus and his love for us, and then to share that love as best we can. Thankfully, we can leave matters of final judgement in God's hands.

Author: [The Rt. Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde](#)

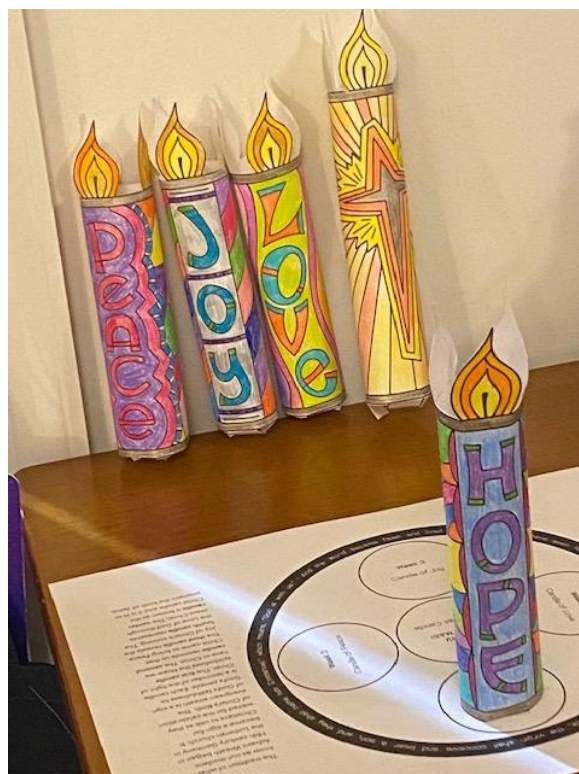
Category: [Blog](#)



CONGRATULATIONS DEACONS



ADVENT



AND THE ZOOM GOES ON ...





SERVING OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS ...





THE ST. JOHN'S
BROAD CREEK
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH

We are here for you

VESTRY

LOOKING FOR NEWSLETTER DESIGNER/EDITOR

St. John's needs you!

Let Pastor Sarah know
if you are interest.

This is a great way
to show off your creativity.

HOW TO DONATE ONLINE! NEW INSTRUCTIONS!

1. If you have a Realm account, sign into realm. If not, skip this step...or better yet, email Betsy Winters (betsywinters@gmail.com) to get your signed up!
2. Go to www.stjohnsbroadcreek.org/give - you can also get there via the St. John's Homepage by clicking "Donate Online" at the top right menu.
3. Fill out the form to submit your one-time or regular donation! Some options on the form:
 - A) **Recurring donations:** You can set it to give once per week, once every two weeks, once per month, or once per quarter!
 - B) **Funds:** Right now we have everything going to General Funds with this new system, but feel free to write details on the MEMO line if you'd like to designate monies for other funds or just to write details.
4. Click "Continue" and complete the steps to process your payment! You will have a couple more options:
 - A) ACH or Credit Card: ACH Bank Transfer is now available – the exact same thing as writing a check, and less fees.
 - B) You will also have the option to offset the fees for the online banking service, which St. John's would greatly appreciate!

Then you're done! Hooray!

If you've logged into Realm, this donation will be automatically entered into your account. If not, we'll post the donation to your account as quickly as possible.

How to Donate via Text!

St. Johns is excited to introduce giving via text! Text **StJohnsBroadCreek \$50** to 73256 and replace the \$\$ amount with the amount of your choosing! Then follow the instructions when you receive a text back.

Then you're done! Easy as pie!

Note: Standard text message rates apply

PLEA FOR HELP

Dear Friends,

I am at Stage V kidney failure from PKD (polycystic kidney disease). This means, my kidney function is at 9% and falling; on the bright side, I'm a perfect candidate to receive one. I have been on "The List" for close to 3 years. Live donors give the recipient a much higher rate of success and lasts much longer. Over 20 friends and family members have been tested. One incredibly generous parishioner has offered and has been qualified to *donate* a kidney; sadly, I am not a match. Although we are waiting to see if we can do a chain-donation (as in daisy chain), no luck yet in finding a pair. Time is running low for me.

Please give me a chance to see Roberto graduate from high school. Consider helping our tiny family by getting tested. If you are not able to, please share this post to help me find a match?

Just call UMD nurse Kayla 410.328.6838; or Nurse Helene 410.328.4333 and fill out this form:

<https://www.umms.org/ummc/campaigns/livingdonorkidney>.

Thank you so much for your support. **Love,**
Sandra



UPCOMING EVENTS

Dates and times are subject to change, please check with the office at 301. 248.4290 or online at www.stjohnsbroadcreek.org.

Join us for Online Worship on Sundays at 10 a.m!

Please join us in Sunday Worship! You will find the link on our [YouTube Channel](#), on our [Facebook Page](#), and on the [Virtual Worship Videos](#) section of the website, where you can also find all previous Sunday worship videos! Due to the outbreak of COVID-19, all in-person worship services are suspended until further notice.

ANNUAL GIVING APPEAL

By now you should have received your 2021 Annual Giving letter and Pledge Form. Every year we ask that you prayerfully consider making a financial commitment to St. John's Broad Creek. This year's Annual Giving theme, Doing What Love Requires, reminds us that our financial support, in the form of a pledge to the Operating Budget of St. John's Broad Creek, is an essential component of our ability to carry out the work of the church. Our budget is made up almost exclusively of financial gifts from people just like you. Now more than ever, we are grateful for your continued support for St. John's! If you did not receive, an Annual Giving package, please let Libby know at lwibel@stjohnsbroadcreek.org and we will make sure that one is sent to you. Please pledge your support online or return your enclosed pledge as soon as possible so that we can complete the budgeting process for 2021.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT NEWS!

Just because we're in the Digital Church doesn't mean we're skipping on the Christmas Pageant! We need families and individuals of all ages to help us with our virtual pageant. Please contact Libby, lwibel@stjohnsbroadcreek.org, if you are interested in participating.

VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS CHOIR

Any singers among us, near and far, any age, choir members or not, are invited to participate in a virtual choir for Christmas.

Please contact Libby (lwibel@stjohnsbroadcreek.org) if you are interested in being a part of this. Libby will hold a short Zoom meeting in the near future to discuss what participation entails.

RING THAT BELL!

Send us a short (5-10 rings) video of you and/or family members ringing the church bell and we will use it to open worship in St. John's Digital Church (SJDC)! If you don't have anyone to record you ringing the bell, please let Libby know and we will make arrangements to record you. Libby can be contacted at lwibel@stjohnsbroadcreek.org

EXTENDED PRAYER LIST

Those for whom prayer needs are not immediate, but for whom continuing prayers are requested: Faith Chisholm, Diane, Sigismund, Benji, Larry, Sheyla, Reuben and Rose, Ron Weiss, Connie, Noriko, Anna, Kelly, Millicent, Dawn, Debbie, all those who live in community facilities, and all those whose work places them at risk for contracting COVID19.

ONLINE GIVING TUTORIAL VIDEO

Thank you, John and Kristen Slattery for producing this How-To Video
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Smho3aZ0Wq8>

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

if you would like to submit information to be considered for inclusion in the "St. John's Way" newsletter, email your information DIRECTLY to bsbrevard@yahoo.com at least one week in advance* of the newsletter's distribution date (which is usually on the first day of the next month). Inclusion in the newsletter is **NOT** guaranteed.

ABOUT YOUR SUBMISSION(S)

- Articles which are selected for publication will be proofread for content, spelling, and grammatical errors.
- Articles should be submitted in Word format and discuss subjects relevant to the St. John's community.
- Articles should include section headings.
- Illustrations, tables, sidebars are encouraged to illustrate and emphasize the message.

STRUCTURE OF YOUR ARTICLE(S)

- News items and announcements - short, topical, news oriented
- Major Articles
 - in depth discussions of topics of interest

Email your information DIRECTLY to bsbrevard@yahoo.com at least two weeks in advance of possible placement. Please remember, submitting your article does not guarantee placement.

* Deadlines for submissions can also be found on the last page of the newsletter



DECEMBER

Geneva Bubes, Mikayla Chapman
Kathleen Davis, Jeannie Eisenbrey
Dasha Fletcher, Carletta Jackson
Michael Lacy, Sr., Kathy Mierke

DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS

| | |
|-------------|----------------------------------|
| December 1 | Eat a Red Apple Day |
| | World Aids Awareness Day |
| December 4 | Santa's List Day |
| | Wear Brown Shoes Day |
| December 6 | St. Nicholas Day |
| | Mitten Tree Day |
| December 7 | International Civil Aviation Day |
| | Letter Writing Day |
| | Pearl Harbor Day |
| December 9 | Christmas Card Day |
| | National Pastry Day |
| December 10 | Human Rights Day |
| | Nobel Prize Day |
| December 12 | Poinsettia Day |
| December 13 | Ice Cream Day |
| | International Children's Day |
| December 15 | Bill of Rights Day |
| December 17 | National Maple Syrup Day |
| December 21 | Forefather's Day |
| | Winter Solstice |
| December 24 | National Chocolate Day |
| | National Egg Nog Day |
| December 25 | Christmas Day |
| | National Pumpkin Pie Day |
| December 28 | Boxing Day - date can vary |
| December 31 | New Year's Eve |

WORSHIP AND STUDY SCHEDULE ALL WORSHIP LINKS & INVITATIONS WILL BE SENT BY EMAIL!

WEDNESDAY WORSHIP AND BIBLE STUDY
9:30 a.m. - In Zoom

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY
7 p.m. - In Zoom.

WINTER BREAK & CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS
PGCPS SCHOOLS & OFFICES CLOSED
Wednesday, December 23, 2020 through
Monday, January 4, 2021

CHRISTMAS EVE
Thursday, December 24

CHRISTMAS
Friday, December 25

NEW YEAR'S EVE
Thursday, December 31

NEW YEAR'S DAY
Friday, January 1, 2021

SALES **PERSONALIZED BRICKS**
Please see Karen Chapman for details.
ST. JOHN'S SHIRTS = \$20 EACH
Call Karen Herbert at 301.440.4294

CONNECT WITH ST. JOHN'S BROAD CREEK
Send your contact information to info@stjohnsbroadcreek.org or leave a message at 301.248.4290.

Prince George's County Public Schools

2019-2020 School Calendar – Revised 6/1/20

| 2019 | |
|-------------------------|--|
| July 4-5 | Independence Day Holidays – Schools and Offices Closed |
| August 11 | Eid al-Adha* |
| August 19-21 | Professional Duty Days for New Teachers |
| August 22-30 | Professional Duty Days for All Teachers |
| August 28 | Professional Development |
| August 29 | Orientation Day for Pre-K and Kindergarten Students |
| August 30 | Orientation Day for New Gr. 6&7 Middle Schoolers & New 9 th Graders |
| September 2 | Labor Day Holiday – Schools and Offices Closed |
| September 3 | First Day of School for All Students |
| September 27 | Professional Development – Schools Closed for Students |
| September 30 -October 1 | Rosh Hashanah* |
| October 9 | Yom Kippur* |
| October 11 | First Quarter Progress Reports Released |
| October 18 | Professional Development – Schools Closed for Students |
| October 27 | Diwali* |
| November 5 | End of First Quarter (44 days) |
| November 6 | Professional Day for Teachers – 3-Hr. Early Dismissal for Students |
| November 11 | Veterans Day & Parent-Teacher Conferences – Schools Closed for Students |
| November 19 | First Quarter Report Cards Released |
| November 27-29 | Thanksgiving Holidays – Schools and Offices Closed |
| December 20 | Second Quarter Progress Reports Released |
| December 23-31 | Winter Break & Christmas Holidays – Schools and Offices Closed |
| 2020 | |
| January 1 | Winter Break & New Year's Holiday – Schools and Offices Closed |
| January 20 | Martin L. King Jr. Day Holiday – Schools and Offices Closed |
| January 24 | End of Second Quarter (45 days) |
| January 27 | Professional Day for Teachers – 3-Hr. Early Dismissal for Students |
| February 7 | Second Quarter Report Cards Released |
| February 17 | Presidents' Day Holiday – Schools and Offices Closed |
| March 9 | Third Quarter Progress Reports Released |
| March 30 | End of Third Quarter (40 days) |
| April 9-16 | Passover |
| April 9, 10 & 13 | Easter Holidays – Schools and Offices Closed |
| TBD | Third Quarter Report Cards Released |
| April 24 | First Day of Ramadan |
| TBD | Fourth Quarter Progress Reports Released |
| May 23 | Last Day of Ramadan |
| May 24 | Eid al-Fitr* |
| May 25 | Memorial Day Holiday – Schools and Offices Closed |
| June 2 | Primary Election Day – Instructional Day for Students* |
| June 15 | Last Day for Students ¹ and End of Fourth Quarter (51 days) |
| June 17 | Last Day for Teachers ¹ |
| July 1 | Fourth Quarter Report Cards Mailed |

*PGCPS received a waiver from the state to convert this mandated holiday to an instructional day.

¹**NOTES ON LAST DAYS** – The last days for students and teachers have been adjusted to include five make-up days. The state granted a waiver for 5 of the 10 days schools were closed by Governor Hogan from March 16-27. The statewide closure from March 30 through the end of the school year will count as student learning days. Last days for 10- and 11-month employees will be determined at a later date.

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS - Major religious holidays are noted for planning purposes only. Jewish and Muslim holidays begin the day before at sunset. To avoid excluding students, families and staff from important meetings or activities, PGCPS prohibits scheduling these events on major holidays noted with an asterisk (*) on this calendar. This restriction does not apply to state or regional events.



ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

A PLACE IN TIME CONTINUED...

With St. John's "A Place in Time" Brick Project, we are looking forward to adding your personalized brick "in memory of", "in thanksgiving for", you or your family member's baptism, an anniversary or a message of encouragement.

St. John's bricks are \$50 each for a 4x8 brick. You may purchase as many as you wish. Engraving is included. If you wish to add a symbol to your brick, please add \$10 to your order. Symbols can be email upon request or seen in the binder in the back of the church.

Yes, I would like to reserve a permanent brick(s). Please engrave my brick as follows:

Note: A PERIOD, COMMA, COLON, DASH, etc. IS CONSIDERED ONE SPACE

ALL TEXT IS CENTERED UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

EXAMPLE

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4 X 8 BRICK (\$50.00)

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Brick 1

4 X 8 BRICK (\$50.00)

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Brick 2

Symbol (Brick 1): _____ Symbol (Brick 2): _____

(please write in what symbol you would like.)

*** A symbol takes up one (1) line leaving you three (3) lines for your text ***

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM AND YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO:

St. John's Church (MEMO: Brick Project) - 9801 Livingston Road – Fort Washington, MD 20744

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

Amount Paid: _____ Total # of Bricks: _____ Check #: _____ If Cash check here ☐

If you have any questions, call Karen Chapman at (240) 515-0707 or Church Office at (301) 248-4290

You may email your form to kconnects01@gmail.com



LET'S HEAR FROM YOU!

**Deadline for January 2021 issue of
"St. John's Way" is Monday, December 28.**

Submissions may only be mailed or emailed.

The preferred way to receive your submissions is as a
Microsoft Word document, via email. More info on
"Upcoming Events" page.

Please email your letters, ideas, articles, comments,
information, questions to bsbrevard@yahoo.com.

NOTE: dates, times, locations mentioned in this
newsletter are subject to change. All information has
been edited to the best of our abilities.
Be kind and understanding. PEACE!

REMEMBER the December 28 deadline.



A publication for members and
friends of St. John's Episcopal
Church, Broad Creek:
**"All are welcome - all inclusive
- no judgment!"**

RECTOR: The Rev. Sarah Odderstol
pastorsarah@stjohnsbroadcreek.org

MINISTER OF MUSIC: Libby Wiebel
lwiebel@stjohnsbroadcreek.org

OFFICE STAFF: Libby Wiebel
lwiebel@stjohnsbroadcreek.org

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday through Friday
10 a.m. through 5 p.m.

WEBMASTER: John Slattery
jandkslattery@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER EDITOR & DESIGNER: Birgitt S. Brevard
bsbrevard@yahoo.com

ST. JOHN'S BROAD CREEK EPISCOPAL CHURCH
9801 Livingston Road, Fort Washington, Maryland 20744
Office Phone: 301.248.4290, Office Fax: 301.248.7838
www.stjohnsbroadcreek.org



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9801 Livingston Road
Fort Washington, Maryland 20744