



St. John's  
Episcopal  
Church

## The Red Door

WHERE ALL ARE WELCOME

Monthly newsletter of the people and ministries of  
St. John's Episcopal Church



June 2025 - Volume 1, Issue 3



Fr. Mitch Yudasz

## June is Here and Things are Happening at St. John's!

It seems like May has gone by real quick. We were just getting over Holy Week and Easter and now as I write this, it's Memorial Day weekend. After a busy Lent and Easter, it seems like things were able to calm down a little bit and we got a bit of a breather. A break can be good now and then, but as with anything, down time doesn't last long. It's soon to change!

For those in the know in Westland, and this is my first year so I wasn't in the know, there's this event called the "All American Cruise" that happens in the middle of June. Thanks to Mary's knowledge and network with the organizers of this event, we will be a part of their route! St. John's has been listed in their program as a "stop" on the cruise route. This will be a chance for others to show their vehicles off and socialize a bit with folks. We'll have food and pop for sale, free water, and "drive in blessings" of cars and motorcycles by yours truly. (*More details on page two.*) Please help out with this event if you can. It's all part of showing the outside world the hospitality and love that we all have here at 555 S. Wayne Rd. I can pretty much guarantee that this will be fun. A **Volunteer Sign Up** sheet will be circulated on June 1, so watch for it and please sign up!

Spring has finally sprung. Although with all the hours that I've worked at my job the past few weeks, outside chores await me at home - and I will start chipping away at those this weekend. Our parish home is in need of the same attention! Don and Ken do an outstanding job at keeping things up outside, but more hands are always welcome and needed! Please talk to Don, Ken, or me if you would like to help with some of the outside work. **Saturday, June 7 is our Spring Clean Up day** and a chance for you to help with the grounds. First impressions and presentation go a long way toward telling a story of what we're all about!

We're still in need of some volunteers to sign up for coordinating coffee hours after service on the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Sundays of the month. Coffee hour is an important time, and not just because Episcopalians love coffee and assorted coffee-type pastries. Coming together not only as a community, but inviting those who are new to our church offers hospitality and a chance to further solidify community. Some of our newer members have commented that the "community" and all of us doing what we do was the appeal to continue to become part of the family. Plus we seem to have a good time being together! Speak with Vi or myself if you are interested in doing this or sign up via the sheet on the bulletin board near the kitchen.

In a discussion at the Vestry meeting last week, we had a conversation about bread, namely our choice of communion bread. It was decided that we will be using hosts or wafers for periods during ordinary time, which is a good chunk of the year. During special periods such as Christmas, Easter, and some of the principal feast days, home-made bread and a change in wine may be made. Regardless of the type of bread that we use, the end result is the same. It is consecrated and becomes the body of Christ. And that, my friends, is the most important thing about the Eucharist!

Enjoy this beautiful, albeit cool, spring weather!

-Fr. Mitch +

*Worship With Us - All are Invited*



### Sunday Services

- |                |                |  |
|----------------|----------------|--|
| <b>June 1</b>  | <b>9:30 am</b> | <b>Holy Eucharist</b><br><i>Celebrant &amp; Preacher:</i><br><i>Fr. Mitch Yudasz</i>   |
| <b>June 8</b>  | <b>9:30 am</b> | <b>Holy Eucharist</b><br><i>Celebrant &amp; Preacher:</i><br><i>Fr. Mitch Yudasz</i>   |
| <b>June 15</b> | <b>9:30 am</b> | <b>Holy Eucharist</b><br><i>Celebrant &amp; Preacher:</i><br><i>Fr. Mitch Yudasz</i>   |
| <b>June 22</b> | <b>9:30 am</b> | <b>Morning Prayer</b><br><i>Officiant: Jim Godbout</i><br><i>Reader: Sande Godbout</i> |
| <b>June 29</b> | <b>9:30 am</b> | <b>Morning Prayer</b><br><i>Officiant: John Buehner</i><br><i>Reader: Jim Godbout</i>  |



## Join us on Saturday, June 14 for a Wayne Road Cruise Celebration!

It's been years since we joined in the festivities so we're looking forward to resurrecting this cool event. Fr. Mitch will do a drive up blessing of the cars and bikes for cruisers. Those who choose to park on our front lawn to show off their cars and watch the cruise will get a free hot dog lunch (hot dog, chips & drink). We'll be handing out water to anyone who stops by and will have food and drinks for sale. All are invited to attend.

**Event hours: 9 am - 5 pm. Lunch served from 11 am - 4 pm.** We need volunteers to help! A sign up sheet will be circulating starting on Sunday, June 1 so please sign up. If you can't help, at least stop by for a while and enjoy some fellowship with parish members.

## Why are the Doors of Most Episcopal Churches Painted Red?

Turns out, there is no definitive answer, and the question has been posed many times. The tradition is centuries old and has several meanings associated with it. No matter the meaning, many older Protestant churches have distinctive red doors. When you're visiting a new city, like Gatlinburg, you can readily identify the Episcopal Church because it's the one with the red doors.

Looking around and doing some research, there really isn't one single answer, although much curiosity from folks exists as to the answer. This has been going on for centuries, and there are several meanings behind it. While not all Episcopal churches have red doors (some newer construction and all-glass doors prevent it from being painted) there are many that still keep this tradition. There are a few Protestant churches that will do red doors, but it's almost a sure bet if you see a red door on a church, it's an Episcopal church.

This tradition originated during the middle ages in England and it was a sign of *sanctuary*. If you were being pursued by someone, if you made it to the church door, you were safe. Back then, churches were respected and violence would not be committed on the church proper. Those reaching the doors knew that it meant sanctuary, refuge, and safety. Reaching this point, the person could then state their case to the priest and seek justice to be served.

The red doors also represented protection from spiritual evil as well, as red was the color signifying the blood of Christ, with doors painted on all compass points of the building (north, east, south, west.) - think the sign of the cross! This is also a symbol of the sacrificial blood of Christ and our entry into salvation. There were other meanings for red doors along the way. Red is looked as as a reminder of the lambs blood on the door jams during Passover, recalling the covenant of God with the Israelites.

It is also indicative of the presence of the Holy Spirit. Wittenberg Cathedral is believed to have had red doors, the church where Martin Luther posted his 95 theses, so red may symbolize a church of the Reformation. Other stories go that if church doors were painted red, it meant their mortgage was paid off.

Today many Episcopal churches, as well as Lutheran, Methodist, Roman Catholic and others, paint their doors red to symbolize that they are a haven for emotional and spiritual healing and a place for forgiveness and reconciliation. In other words, their red doors are an invitation to visitors to enter a space filled with the Holy Spirit. Bright red doors shine with welcoming warmth. They gleam like fire and show the way to the Holy Spirit to all who walk through them.

Fr. Mitch's goal is to have all the doors to the building painted red - bright red - think fire engine red! We do have our main door red right now. It needs a re-do and the color will be the brightest red that we can get! The goal is to get that done this summer. Then our doors will signify welcome, sanctuary, safety, and most importantly that the blood of Christ and the Holy Spirit are here for all in the world and ready to help us in our journey from this world into eternal life! Plus red doors are pretty cool looking! So many pluses!

Baby steps.....

## *The Continuing Saga of Our Unwanted House (Steeple) Guest!*

During an incredible Easter Sunday service, we discovered that amidst the celebration, there was something that was unusually quiet. Our bell/carillon system was under the weather and not functioning as it should be. After several calls to the vendor and trying different remedies, we were unsuccessful. Apparently a similar thing happened in the past as a result of some unwelcomed tenants up in the steeple that chewed the wires to the 4 large speakers that are the voice of the St. John's Bells.

The vendor notified us that they will help us try to keep the system that we have functioning, but warned me that this system is very obsolete and there are no parts available for it anymore. So in short, if any component of the system fails, the probable result is no more bells. I will have more about this in the near future.

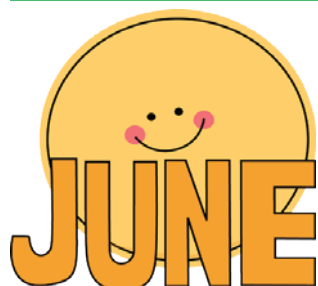
So Eric Homier, a newer member and your dutiful priest decided to try to get to the bottom of this. We embarked on a unique journey on Memorial Day weekend. We climbed up the hatch by the back door, and faced challenge after challenge getting from that back door into the steeple. To say that an adventure awaited us is an understatement. It was an experience to behold.

To get from the hatch in the ceiling up to the attic requires some clever acrobatics. I didn't realize how well my job prepared me for this task and I discovered just what good shape I am in! As no ladder is available up there it requires one to pull themselves up amid beams and steel electrical conduit in order to get up to the attic level. Once up there, one has to go on hands and knees across beams, carefully balancing to avoid falling through the ceiling into the church. But then there's the reward for all the effort: a cat walk and being able to actually stand and walk the entire length of the church!

As Eric was not able to navigate up the beams to the attic level, I went solo on that part of the route. Across the attic, pulling cords on lightbulbs as I walked along, and through the door (yes, for some reason there is a door up there - it's divided into two "rooms") and to the front of the church behind the little round window above the doors. There, a ladder goes up on an angle to a hatch door that you push up and slide off. The destination at last!

So up the ladder, I pushed up the hatch. I saw the inside of the steeple, and you can see all the way up to the top of the point. There are louvers on the sides and 4 very large speakers - one for each side of the steeple.

Now keep in mind, all of what I just described from opening that trap and seeing the inside of the steeple lasted no more than 10 seconds. Then I heard a very familiar squawk and very quickly closed the hatch back up. Yes my friends, we have a tenant in our steeple. We have a squirrel! And while I didn't get to see if the speakers were still connected or if wires were chewed, I'm 99% sure that is why the bells are not ringing properly. At this point we're looking at how best to evict our unwanted tenant. I'm hoping that it doesn't have a nest full of babies up there which would complicate matters. I didn't go any further than the hatch for fear of looking like I went into combat with a cheese grater, but we are going to have to do something about this. More to come on this ongoing saga....



### **Birthdays:**

2	John Erickson	11	Ken Kowalski
3	Yvonne Williams	12	John Harmon
4	Grant Brown	16	Nicholas Hamblin
9	Joshua McGowan	17	Michael Montgomery
		26	Heather Kellog

### **Happy Anniversary to:**

Cheryl & Michael Montgomery- June 18

*Our apologies if your name should have appeared here! Please help us update our list. Send your special day to: [minutemgr@gmail.com](mailto:minutemgr@gmail.com)*





Sande Godbout, our hardworking Senior Warden, celebrated a "monumental" birthday on May 11. Here she is (always serving others!), cutting her birthday cake at a recent Coffee Hour.

Thank you for all you do for us Sande!



A special thank you to our Music Director, Dan Dillingham for his organ and piano talents during our Holy Eucharist services!

*Our Daughters of the King play a vital role at St. John's. If you are interested in learning more about them, just ask one of the members shown below!*



We're grateful for the service of our Daughters of the King! From left to right: Sande Godbout, Julie Jones, Violet Streeter, Priscilla Hardison and Joan Harmon.

We were treated to a delicious buffet, (shown at right) at the May 18 Coffee Hour, sponsored by the Daughters of the King.



## St. John's Episcopal Church

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Office: (734) 721-5023

Parish office hours: Mon. & Thur. 10 am-2pm

[www.stjohnswestland.com](http://www.stjohnswestland.com)

[stjohnschurchwestland@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnschurchwestland@gmail.com)

We're on Facebook!

St. John's Church Westland

Live-streamed every Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

<https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsepiscopalwestland>

## This Month's Altar Guild Schedule

June 1	Wendy C., Violet S.
June 8	Joan S., Sande G., Pricilla H.
June 15	Sande G., Julie J.
June 22	Wendy C., Violet S.
June 29	Joan S., Sande G., Pricilla H.



## FOOD PANTRY OPEN

Thursday, June 12,

3:30 pm - 5 pm

On the last Sunday of the month collection plate donations go to our Food Pantry Ministry.



## MAY EVENTS CALENDAR

### Sundays:

Sun. June 1	Daughters of the King, <i>after service</i>
Sat. June 7	Spring Clean Up, 9 am >
Sat. June 14	Wayne Road Cruise Celebration & Blessing of Bikes & Autos

Sun. June 15 Vestry Meeting, *after service*

Join us for Coffee Hour *after our 9:30 service. Enjoy coffee, tea, light refreshments and camaraderie!*

## St. John's Episcopal Church

### STAFF

Rev. Mitch Yudas, Rector

[frmitchy@gmail.com](mailto:frmitchy@gmail.com)

Janet Swanson, Parish Secretary

[stjohnschurchwestland@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnschurchwestland@gmail.com)

Dan Dillingham, Music Director/Organist

[mcclungave@comcast.net](mailto:mcclungave@comcast.net)

### 2025 OFFICERS

Sande Godbout, Senior Warden

Ken Coyne Junior Warden

Jeannie Coyne, Clerk

Erin Downey-Tarnowski, Treasurer

### 2025 VESTRY MEMBERS

John Buehnor, Nick Hamblin, Julie Jones, Mary Vellardita