



**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*

July 2025 - Volume 1, Issue 4



Fr. Mitch Yudasz

Keeping Our Christian Community in Prayer

So I was contemplating what I was going to write for this month's Red Door. Traditionally, the summer months, especially July 4th to Labor Day, are pretty quiet in most churches. With people going on vacations and having summer stuff to do, things get pretty quiet during that period.

And then last Sunday, June 22 happened. I'm sure that all of you heard what happened over at CrossPointe Church in Wayne. What went down there was the ultimate nightmare for a church, those in the congregation, and especially the leadership. In a strange but very fortunate chain of events, what could have been a very ugly and major casualty/fatality event turned out to be miraculously (and from the big picture) more of a minor event. But the intent was there and everything was in place to make it a horrific scene. Please pray for their recovery and return to normalcy after going through this.

The question of security in churches has been addressed by most congregations. In fact, the Vestry was discussing it just a couple months ago. While this is something that we shouldn't even have to think about, in today's world being complacent is not the way to approach things such as this.

We spoke of having a security system installed that is monitored by a central station 24/7. So if there is an incident (break-in, fire, etc.) Public safety is notified by the central station folks within minutes. The idea behind that was to make sure that any incident that occurred was not given time to escalate and become a major thing.

Having a background in public safety, I understand the importance of this. I would like to expand planning efforts and actions to include incidents like active shooters, a fire happening while our building is in use, and severe weather sheltering procedures. While we hope and pray that we never have to confront any of this, preparing for the worst and hoping for the best is the most prudent way to approach this.

On a lighter note, the Wayne Road Cruise was a great experience. There was a great turnout of folks from our Church to work, and the fellowship was great! While not having the numbers they anticipated because of conflicting classic car events around the area, we still spoke to a number of people, I blessed a few cars and a bicycle, and we were able to show that St. John's is a warm and welcoming place. I'm looking forward to other opportunities for us to show our church off to the world!

Our weather went from cooler to just plain hot quickly. Please enjoy everything that summer has to offer and take care during the heat waves.

-Fr. Mitch +



Worship With Us - All are Invited



Sunday Services

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| July 6 | 9:30 am Morning Prayer
<i>Officiant: Jim Godbout</i>
<i>Reader: Sande Godbout</i> |
| July 13 | 9:30 am Holy Eucharist
<i>Celebrant & Preacher:</i>
<i>Fr. Mitch Yudasz</i> |
| July 20 | 9:30 am Holy Eucharist
<i>Celebrant & Preacher:</i>
<i>Fr. Mitch Yudasz</i> |
| July 27 | 9:30 am Morning Prayer
<i>Officiant: Nick Hamblin</i>
<i>Reader: Sande Godbout</i> |

Social Media: Violet Streeter

Fund Drive to Get Carillon Bell System Working Again



If you have been around for the last couple months, you likely watched the drama unfold with the unwanted tenant that we have in the steeple. For those that didn't hear about it, in short, we discovered our bells weren't working correctly on Easter Sunday. Subsequent investigation to the cause came up with a likely reason: we have an unwanted tenant, a squirrel, living in the steeple. It made a fun treat of all the wiring for the carillon bell system, and totally took the system down. We're working right now to get things back in working order - and hopefully soon.

In the process, we learned from the vendor of our carillon system that it is very (as they said very, very) obsolete. It's based on technology from about 25-30 years ago. So in short, if one thing breaks in the system, we no longer have bells or hymns played on the chimes.

While this is not a necessary thing at a church, this carillon and bell system actually does quite a lot of outreach for us. First and foremost, it shows that we are alive and well here at the church. People hear the bells ring and the hymns play. Passersby have commented; we've received many compliments (and not one complaint - imagine that!) from the neighborhood, and have actually had neighbors come to church because of the bells (let's hope that they continue coming to church now that they've met us!). This coincides with many of the testimonials that are on Chime Master's website from churches throughout the country.

When we started having problems with the bells, I asked Chime Master to send us a couple quotes on upgrading our system to current solid state digital technology. That includes the obsolete system, amplifier, and speakers up in the steeple. The new system quote is extremely impressive. It's all digital so there are no "recordings" - each bell and each note is stored on a digital chip. technically it's "ringing" and giving us thousands of pounds of bell - without having to have a real bell or a recording of one. With Some 263 different bells stored in the system, we can ring away in almost any combination that we'd like. In addition, the new one comes with a keyboard - similar to the organ keyboards. Dan, or anyone with very basic piano/organ skills, can live-play the carillon out of the steeple and/or digitally store custom music to play at a later time. We can even offer "carillon concerts" in the summer as a gift to the community (you know - bring some food and drink and a chair and enjoy some pretty nice music).

"Digital" and hooked through the internet means automatic updates to the system, the ability to program and ring it quickly and easily from anywhere. This digital system also allows us to add "memorials". This means that those who donate for a memorial or a thanksgiving can select a song, and a date when the song will play (to commemorate the anniversary of a death for example), and that selection will play on that date from now until the system is no longer in use (which will surpass pretty much all of us that are here).

The plan I'm proposing for this upgrade is for it to be completely funded by donation - memorials, thanksgivings, etc.. The current system we have was funded in this way. I don't want funds from the church used for this project. The total system cost, including new infrastructure to support it, is around \$15,000. I am committing the first \$2,000. \$1,000 is in memory of several family members, and \$1,000 is in thanksgiving for my call to St. John's. Any donation amount is wonderful - and the amount you give will be confidential. We'll announce a running tally of how much we have to date and when we reach our goal.

Please let me know if you have any interest, questions, or suggestions!

-Fr. Mitch

Having Fun at the All American Wayne Road Cruise On Saturday, June 15 at St. John's!



Water Contributions Needed for Our Holy Water Project

It's summer and that means vacations and outside stuff! This season is a favorite for many. We get to have some fun, really enjoy the outdoors, and make some really great memories. Too bad summer goes by so quickly!

Fr. Mitch mentioned this idea a couple times, but we wanted to make sure that it got in the Red Door. When you go to places this summer, on vacation, to a family function, to a friends place, or even your own back yard, please bring water if you're near some! So if you are near a lake, a stream, a swimming pool, the ocean, please grab some water in a water bottle or two and bring it back with you. Be sure to mark where the water came from.

So knowing Mitch and his wild ideas, what's this one all about? The idea behind this is to bring water from out in the world - from all over - our world - God's world. That water will all be mixed together in a big pot in the kitchen, and boiled for about 10 minutes and bottled. That will become our baptismal water and general use holy water. That way, a part of the entire world is brought to use to use in those ways. Baptising using that water brings the world into baptism and blessings, showing that our work as Christians isn't restricted to just the four walls of the church.

Again, please be sure to mark where the water came from. You can leave it on the center table in the kitchen. Just be sure to tell us where it came from, including the city and state.



Thank you to all of our hard working volunteers who came out for Spring Clean Up on Saturday, June 7!



Birthdays:

5
8
19
20

Claudia Aston
Susan Russell
Abigail Clayton
Lucas Downey

21
21
28

Judith Gagnon
Jillian Downey
Grace Kowalski

Happy Anniversary to:

Sonya & Ken Kowalski - July 15

Brian & Melissa Clayton - July 14

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

We have a Guardian at our Church, a Red-tailed Hawk. Help us Name Him!

There are a lot of legends about these regal birds. Here's a few of them to give you some ideas.

The Symbolism of the Hawk:

From vision and focus to spiritual awareness and transformation, the hawk's presence offers powerful insights into your life and spiritual journey. Red-tailed hawks hold significant cultural and spiritual meaning for many Native American tribes, often revered as powerful protectors, spiritual messengers, and symbols of courage and strength.

Native American Lore, Protector and Messenger:

Many tribes view the red-tailed hawk as a protector spirit, and its presence is often seen as a message from the Great Spirit, sometimes a sign of impending change.

Intuition and Higher Vision:



Hawks are seen as animal guides that can enhance your spiritual awareness and help you make crucial decisions using intuition and higher vision.

Remembrance and Connection to Nature:

Red-tailed Hawks can remind you to be grounded in the present moment and to connect with the energy of the Earth plane.

Change and Transformation:

Some cultures believe that seeing a hawk can be a message of change or a sign that you are undergoing a self-metamorphosis.

Names submitted so far: Guardian, Beaky, Tawadi and Hawkeye. Send your suggestions to minutemgr@gmail.com or just tell Mary or Fr. Mitch!

This Month's Altar Guild Schedule

July 6	Sande G., Julie J.
July 13	Wendy C., Violet S.
July 20	Joan S., Sande G., Priscilla H.
July 27	Sande G., Julie J.



FOOD PANTRY OPEN

Thursday, July 10,

3:30 pm - 5 pm

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



JULY EVENTS CALENDAR

Sun. July 20 Vestry Meeting, *after service*

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

Note: Daughters of the King will not be meeting again until September but prayers are always taken!



We'll be announcing the date of this special event in next month's Red Door. Be sure to save the date and mark your calendar!

St. John's Episcopal Church

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

www.stjohnswestland.com

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>

St. John's Episcopal Church

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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