



**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 2026 - Volume 2, Issue 6



Fr. Mitch Yudasz

It's a Sizzling Summer at St. John's!

Well the summer months are finally upon us. In spite of our unstable, erratic weather, we are now smack dab in the summer heat. Traditionally at church things slow down to a much slower, laid back period. Many folks take well deserved vacations, and do "summer" stuff that we eagerly wait for all winter long.

While services still go on, you can expect a shorter kind of service. More relaxed, clergy generally do not vest and just wear their stole (it gets really hot in the church!). Sermons are shorter as well. The service is different from our usual. We have been using services for both Holy Eucharist and morning prayer from the New Zealand prayer book. It was a good opportunity to do something different, which adds some variety into our worship. Our traditional prayer book services will resume after Labor Day.

Well it's hot, and things are a little bit more relaxed, but we continue to do things that need to be done around the church. Vi and Don Streeter generously paid to have the floors stripped and waxed in the parish hall. Most of us have seen the end result and it is absolutely spectacular. Erin contributed in a major way, and spent many hours touching up all the molding in the hall that had been scratched and scuffed as a result of the floor is being redone. Her painting process resulted in something that looked incredible. We also had a recent new member, Janette Farrugia, who put a lot of effort in not only to repaint the front door bright red, but also did a good amount of weeding and weed whacking in order to beautify the exterior of our church. Her and her husband, Frank have committed to helping us in any way that they can. These are all great examples of taking part in maintaining our spiritual home.

The data sheets that were passed out to configure the new Flocknote texting and emailing system, for the most part, have been entered into the system. Thanks to Jim Godbout for his help with this. Mary has experimented a little bit sending out several emails and texts, and will be sending out the bulletin concurrently with the old email list for the next few weeks. We will then transition everything through Flocknote. If you have not returned your purple data sheet, please do so at your earliest convenience so that we have an accurate database for contact and notification purposes.

The carillon project is moving right along. As of this time, we have \$7236 in the fund. We need \$14,200 in order to purchase the system. We are more than halfway there! Please be as generous as you can, and consider offering in memorial, Thanksgiving, or just to be a part of making this system a reality. It has already proven to us that our current carillon and bell system, even with its limitations, is a very powerful tool. Not only do we enjoy the system, but we consider this a gift to the community, who also treasure hearing the bells of St. John's.

There are still signing sheets in the north, and in the hallway in the back to sign up for the various committees that are being formed. Please consider a ministry in one or more of these committees. If you have any questions, ask either Deacon Jenny, or myself.

Please remember that we do have extended office hours, including office hours on Saturday. Mary is doing a fantastic job in the office, and I only expect that things will get better. If you have anything St. John's related that you need to take care of, please get a hold of our groovy parish administrator!

Take care, and enjoy your July. And remember when you are out in your travels, bring us a bottle of water from any body of water, including somebody's pool, to make a part of our baptism water. Just be sure to label where it came from.

Summer blessings,

*Worship With Us -
All are Invited!*



Sunday Services

July 5 9:30 am Holy Eucharist
Celebrant & Preacher:
Fr. Mitch Yudasz

July 12 9:30 am Holy Eucharist
Celebrant & Preacher:
Fr. Mitch Yudasz

July 19 9:30 am Holy Eucharist
Celebrant & Preacher:
Fr. Mitch Yudasz

July 26 9:30 am Morning Prayer
Officiant: Nick Hamblin
Reader: Julie Jones

Who Are the Daughters of the King? - Part Two

This article is part two of the "Who Are the Daughters of the King?" series we featured in the May Red Door. Thanks to Jacquie Ritter for compiling this information.



DOK The Rule of Prayer

In our Rule of Life, Prayer always comes first. It is the first priority for Daughters, and our Service and Evangelism depend upon it. Each Daughter's Rule of Prayer should be carefully considered and guarded. It should be prayerfully chosen, reviewed regularly and revised periodically. Our vows do not specify particular prayers, length of prayers, or times of prayer, just that we pray daily for our sisters, our church, and our clergy.

Part of every Daughter's Rule of Prayer is to pray daily:

- For the unity of Christ's church
- For the spread of Christ's Kingdom, especially among women and girls
- For God's blessing upon the members of The Order
- For the spiritual growth of the parish and for the clergy of the parish to which the chapter owes allegiance

Even minimal daily prayer increases our ability to see God at work around us. We grow in faith to pray not only for our own needs but also for those of others. As we practice listening for God's voice, we learn to recognize and act on half-whispered responses to our frequent question: "Lord, what will you have me do?" Over time, daily prayer creates in our hearts a flowing spring of praise and thanksgiving to our awesome God.

The Prayer of The Order

O Eternal Father, you have sent us your Son to teach us things pertaining to your heavenly Kingdom. Give your blessing to our Order wherever it may be throughout the world. Grant that we, your Daughters, ever may discern your truth and bear the cross through the battles of our earthly life. Give us strength to overcome temptation and the grace to work to spread your Kingdom and to gather your scattered sheep within your fold. Pour out upon us the sevenfold gift of the Holy Spirit that we may always remember it is your work we are called to do, that all we think, do or say may be pleasing in your sight. We ask it all For His Sake, our King and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen

The Rule of Service

Through her Rule of Service, a Daughter daily seeks to do the will of God where she is, remembering Jesus' words, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these...you did it for Me." Matthew 25:40 (NIV). The Rule of Service is the application and extension of our baptismal vows.

As part of her Rule of Service, each Daughter promises:

- To be Christ's faithful servant in the extension of His Kingdom.
- To regularly take part in the worship, study and work of the Church.
- To render at all times aid to the clergy as deemed necessary for the spiritual up-building of the parish.

The Rule of Service does not designate when, where, or how a Daughter or chapter should serve. Through prayer and discernment Daughters are led to areas of need in our churches and communities. The Rule is simple because we can serve through any word or deed that is said or done with the sincere purpose of bringing a soul nearer to Christ.

There are always more "needs" than we have time and energy for, so we ask the Holy Spirit to lead us to those who will be blessed by who we are and what we have to give. In carrying out our service, we are mindful that our spiritual roots need to be deep enough to balance our activities. Our Rule of Service is always supported by our Rule of Prayer, although neither is complete without the other.

"Prayer without work is empty words, Service without prayer is labor lost."

Why We Are Painting Our Doors Red

You have heard Fr. Mitch harping on for a while now, about the need for the doors of the church to turn red. Bright red. This is not to be different, this is not because Fr. Mitch likes the color red, and it's not meant to change the way things always were and turn the place upside down.

The tradition of painting, church doors bright red started in the Anglican church, and subsequently when the Anglican church came to the colonies and became the Episcopal Church. There were multiple meanings behind doing this. The main thing, was visibility, and something that would get one's attention. Bright red, certainly gets one's attention, but there is significance to doing this in the first place.

Back in the day, the church was considered a "Safe" space. If one were in trouble, they could seek refuge in the church, and they would see the bright red doors and know right where to go. Of course, now, there are not people running to hide in the Church, but there are people who have been hurt by their churches, and while they miss church a great deal, may be untrusting and suspicious because of past experiences.

Bright red doors, signify, safety, sanctuary, and most importantly, that the Holy Spirit and the blood of Christ is present for anybody who walks through those doors. Within those doors is a safe space for anybody to be who they are, without judgment, valued not by who they are or what they are, but for the gifts that were given by the Holy Spirit to them to share. Every one of us has a set of those gifts, and they are all unique to us. We contribute and share our gifts for the betterment of God's kingdom here on earth.

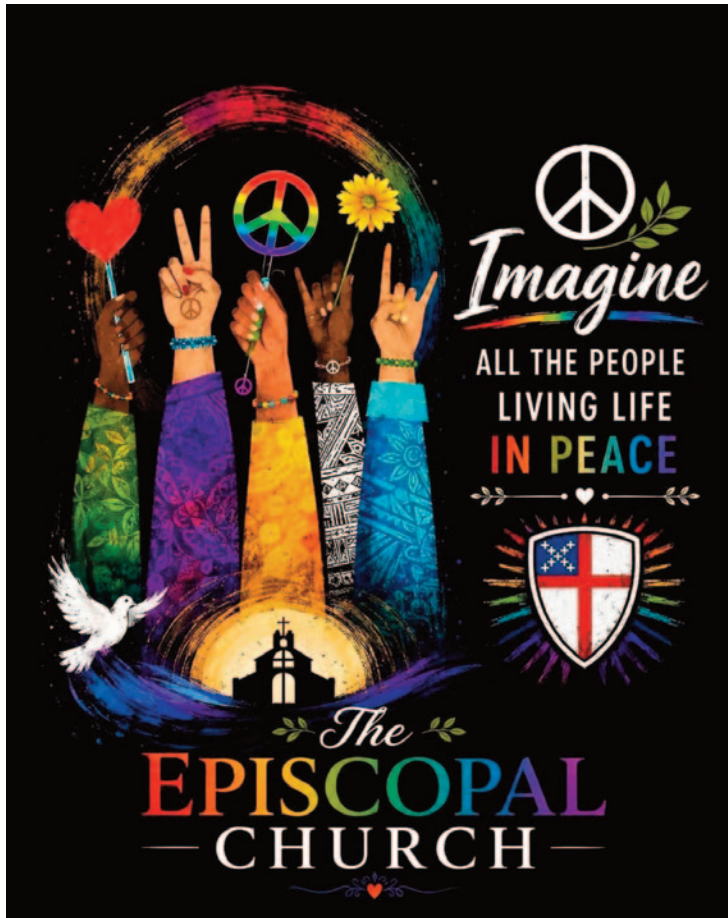
And on an interesting note, in some circles, bright red doors on each church meant that the mortgage was paid. I really don't think that we have to worry about that although it is kind of interesting to know.

The doors to the entrances of the church will be bright red, and it will be well noted and publicized with the significance and tradition behind it. Simply put, we paint the doors red to welcome all.

The Episcopal Church in general counts itself as being welcoming and inclusive to anybody who walks through the doors. In general, we hear at St. John's have committed to being that welcome and inclusive place, where people can feel safe to be a part of a community and offer glory to God through worship and fellowship. These red doors will be the outward symbol of the good things that are inside.



Our beautiful, freshly painted bright red front door, beckoning all to enter!



July Birthdays:



5	Claudia Aston	21	Judith Gagnon
8	Susan Russell	21	Jillian Downey
19	Abigail Clayton	28	Grace Kowalski
20	Lucas Downey		

Happy Anniversary To:

July 5 Sonya & Ken Kowalski July 14 Brian & Melissa Clayton



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

St. John's Was a Featured Stop on the June 6 Wayne Road Cruise Route!



Fun, food, fellowship with old and new friends, and cool cars. It was a great way to kick off summer!!

July Altar Guild Schedule

July 5	Wendy, Violet
July 12	Sande, Priscilla
July 19	Sande, Julie
July 26	Wendy, Violet



FOOD PANTRY OPEN

Thursday, July 9,
11:00 am - 12:30 pm
On the last Sunday of the month
collection plate donations go to our
Food Pantry Ministry.



JULY EVENTS CALENDAR

No June Daughters of the King Meeting
No June Vestry Meeting

*Join us for **Coffee Hour** after our 9:30 Eucharist services, the first three Sundays of the month. Enjoy coffee, tea, light refreshments and fellowship.*

St. John's Episcopal Church

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Office: (734) 721-5023

Parish office hours: Mon., Thur., Sat. 11 a.m.- 4 p.m

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 CLERGY & STAFF

Rev. Mitch Yudasz, Priest-in-Charge

frmitchy@gmail.com

Rev. Jenny Ritter, Deacon

jjritter@comcast.net

Mary Vellardita, Parish Administrator

stjohnschurchwestland@gmail.com

Dan Dillingham, Music Director/Organist

mclungave@comcast.net

2026 OFFICERS

Sande Godbout, Senior Warden

Don Streeter & Nick Hamblin, Junior Co-Wardens

Mary Vellardita, Clerk

Erin Downey-Tarnowski, Treasurer

2026 VESTRY MEMBERS

Amelia Hamblin, Nick Hamblin, Julie Jones, Susan Mallard