



**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*

August 2026 - Volume 2, Issue 7



Fr. Mitch Yudasz

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

Summer sure seems to be going by quickly - although it seems like it does every year. We've had our share of hot weather with service a bit shorter, windows and doors open, and shorter sermons. It just a few weeks, we'll be going into fall, which means things usually get a bit busier. Vacations and school breaks come to an end, and life goes back into non-summer mode. In the meantime, enjoy your break, enjoy summer, and make the most out of opportunities to take it easy and take a break!

This year is St. John's 125th anniversary. As best as we can discover, it is sometime in November. We couldn't find an exact date that it officially became a parish, although the incorporation of the Parish was on November 13, 1943, so we could just run with that date (or somewhere around there) as the anniversary. While incorporation occurred at that time, the parish existed long before that. With its humble beginnings as a mission in Wayne and occupying a small building in the center of the village, it quickly grew and had no room for expansion there. Land donated by Uht Funeral Home in Westland became the new home for the parish with the new church being built there after.

Milestone anniversaries such as this occur only one time. Therefore, it's important that we start some discussion on how to celebrate this momentous event. The Vestry and Outreach committee will certainly be discussing this soon, so stay tuned!

With the end of summer, we will be returning to services from the Book of Common Prayer. I'm sure you noticed that we've been doing both Eucharist and Morning Prayer from A New Zealand Prayerbook for the summer. It's good to have a bit of variety and change things up a bit from time to time, but it's always great to go back to the traditions so lovingly held through the service in the prayerbook.

If you signed up for any of the committees that were on the sheets in the hallway or the narthex, you should be hearing from Deacon Jenny in early fall. She will be establishing training and making those committees a reality. We're always in need of folks getting involved in various ministries such as ushers, Eucharistic ministers, readers, and altar guild. If you feel called to any of these, please see Deacon Jenny or myself. We would be delighted to have you serving and living out a call to ministry.

Now that my medical has concluded, I will be working slowly into getting back onto the motorcycle (it's been over a year since I've rode it.) So don't be surprised if you see my bike parked in the place where my blue pick-up truck usually is. Until then, enjoy the rest of summer!

Summer blessings,
-Fr. Mitch+

*Worship With Us -
All are Invited!*

Sunday Services



- | | | |
|----------------|----------------|---|
| Aug. 2 | 9:30 am | Holy Eucharist |
| | | <i>Celebrant & Preacher:</i>
<i>Fr. Mitch Yudasz</i> |
| Aug. 9 | 9:30 am | Holy Eucharist |
| | | <i>Celebrant & Preacher:</i>
<i>Fr. Mitch Yudasz</i> |
| Aug. 16 | 9:30 am | Holy Eucharist |
| | | <i>Celebrant & Preacher:</i>
<i>Fr. Mitch Yudasz</i> |
| Aug. 23 | 9:30 am | Morning Prayer |
| | | <i>Officiant: Wendy Clayton</i>
<i>Reader: Julie Jones</i> |
| Aug. 30 | 9:30 am | Morning Prayer |
| | | <i>Officiant: Jim Godbout</i>
<i>Reader: Joan Harmon</i> |

Liturgical Opportunities at St. John's

As mentioned in his article this month, Fr. Mitch explained that there are various ministries within the parish that allow one to serve within worship. All of these ministries rotate through those involved on a monthly basis on schedule called The Liturgical Rota.

These ministries include:

Ushers: are available to help people with seating, providing bulletins, and any other help that may be needed. They co-ordinate the collection plates, and keep communion orderly.

Readers: Readers rotate with other readers through a schedule called The Liturgical Rota. Every service has a lay reader that reads the Old Testament, leads the Psalm, reads the Epistle, and offers the Prayers of the People.

Eucharistic Ministers: Eucharistic Ministers assist the priest and deacon during the Eucharist rite, ring the Sanctus bell at the consecration of the bread and wine, and serve as the chalice bearer in the distribution of communion. In the absence of the readers with no substitute available, occasionally they may be asked to read the readings.

Lay Worship Leaders: Lead lay morning prayer service.

Altar Guild: Maintain the altar and assure that vestments, altar linens, Eucharistic vessels, and all things needed for worship are prepared and ready prior to services.

Obviously there is training for each of the ministries, which will be provided by Deacon Jenny. None of these are complicated, yet they are fulfilling and should be looked at more as a call, rather just work that needs to be done.

If you're interested, or would like additional information, please see Fr. Mitch or Deacon Jenny. We would love to have you serving with us!

What Are Those Cute Little Books?

Please take one and see!

We provide Forward Day by Day to parishioners as a simple and effective daily prayer practice. Each day features a Bible verse from the daily readings and a related reflection written by a different author each month, all in less than 200 words. It even includes the daily feast days, as well as prompts to take faithful action in your daily life.



Look Familiar? Read about the history of this Old Bell in our front yard on the page 3.



Ringing In our 125th Year in 2026!

Did you know... that the bell in our sign out in front of the church came from our original church building which was over in the village of Wayne? Interestingly enough, that building was built in 1863 and had various uses until it became home to our parish. It was used as a meeting house and subsequently used by multiple congregations as they grew (and outgrew) the building, ultimately moving on to their larger homes. This parish took occupancy of the building in 1904 and remained until our current church was built in 1956. Short of some things that are in the church (and still in use today,) unfortunately it is the last remaining artifact of showcasing that part of our history.

While it is unknown who cast the bell and when it was installed in that original humble space, we do know that the bell is made of solid cast iron! Yes - cast iron - that heavy stuff that made up pot belly and cooking stoves and iron skillet! Many many old church bells, school bells, fire station bells, Navy bells, and farm bells were also cast iron. This was done mostly because of cost and the available of materials.

Your priest, the bell geek, is trying to figure out more information about that bell. Unfortunately when it was pulled from the steeple of the old church, they only brought the bell bowl itself. There is no other component around that goes with it. In that bell we have a hefty hunk of metal. These bells were made to last out of a material that will continue to outlast generations as it did before. That bell could have very possibly been installed when the building was built making it potentially 163 years old. Even if the parish or one of the former congregations installed it, it is at least 122 years old. Quite a career of service to say the least. The bell hasn't rang since we moved out of the building in 1956 - that means it's been silent for 70 years!

Fr. Mitch is looking to see if he can find a clapper that can be rigged into that bell, and a rope tied to it. The idea is that around our possible anniversary in November, we can go outside after service, bless the bell, and have everybody take one pull and ring the bell. This will celebrate 125 years and usher in the next 125 years and hopefully much longer.

That bell has been in existence for a long time. It has called people to worship, celebrated weddings and happy times, and solemnly tolled for the sad times. It has endured brutal winters, sweltering summers, rain, snow, tornadoes, and everything an outside environment in Michigan can dish out. And in spite of all that, it's not much worse for the wear! May St. Johns, like that bell, continue to endure the good and bad events and seasons, and continue to be a thriving piece of God's kingdom!



Right: Our humble beginnings in our first church home in Wayne.



August Birthdays:

6	Mary Vellardita
7	Joan Harmon
25	Sharon Scott



Happy Anniversary To:

Aug. 2. Nick & Angela Hamblin	Aug. 12 Jim & Sande Godbout
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Our apologies if your name should have appeared here! Please help us update our list. Send your special day to: minutemgr@gmail.com

Our Independence Day Celebration (or what was left of it!)



After services on July fifth, Dan treated us to 3 patriotic songs that we enthusiastically sang along to! Then we were treated to coffee or tea and a patriotically themed goodie table. Do you attend our Coffee Hours? We need parishioners to participate and bring treats to share. There is a sign up sheet in the hallway across from the kitchen door. If you have any questions about Coffee Hours, please ask Mary Vellardita.

August Altar Guild Schedule

Aug 2	Sande, Priscilla
Aug 9	Sande, Julie
Aug 16	Wendy, Violet
Aug 23	Sande, Priscilla
Aug 30	Sande, Julie



FOOD PANTRY OPEN

Thursday, August 13,
11:00 am - 12:30 pm

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



AUGUST EVENTS CALENDAR

Aug. 2	No Daughters of the King Meeting
Aug. 16	Vestry Meeting

Join us for **Coffee Hour** after our 9:30 Eucharist
services, the first three Sundays of the month:

August 2, 9 and 16.

.Enjoy coffee, tea, light refreshments and fellowship.

St. John's Episcopal Church

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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

mcclungave@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