

ST. JOHN'S JOURNEY



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A Note from Tom

In July, I travelled to Baltimore to participate in the Episcopal Church's General Convention. It was a great experience for me as I became aware of the Episcopal Church as a national entity, shaping policies and procedures that guide not only our lives as Episcopalians, but our American society altogether. Needless to say, it was an eye-opening experience for me, and I am thankful for the opportunity.

But the Episcopal Church is also part of an *international* entity, which is the Anglican Communion. Based in 165 countries and representing some 85 million Christians – the Anglican Communion is one of the world's largest Christian denominations. With such scale and reach, the Anglican Communion can have a significant influence in responding to world issues.

One of the ways in which the churches of the Anglican Communion unite is through an international conference of bishops called the **Lambeth Conference**. It is held every ten years and was first convened in 1867. Lambeth is the name of the London residence of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

This year, our Episcopal Bishops are troubled by the fact that the Lambeth Conference invited spouses of bishops, but then *uninvited* the spouses of LGBTQ+ bishops. In addition to being blatantly discriminatory, this action by the Lambeth Conference is just plain rude.

Furthermore, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, intends to ask bishops to vote on provisions that call on the bishops to reaffirm the 1998 Lambeth gathering's stance *against* same-sex marriage by stating that "it is the mind of the Anglican Communion as a whole that same-gender marriage is not permissible."

This stance, of course, runs contrary to the position of the Episcopal Church, as well as the churches of Canada, New Zealand, Scotland and Wales, who likewise favor marriage equality.

Why favor marriage equality? In my mind, the answer is simple; because denying LGBTQ+ individuals the right to marriage is a blatant act of discrimination. It is no different than the anti-miscegenation laws that prevented marriage between people of perceived differing races. Anti-miscegenation laws were enforced in certain U.S. states until 1967, in Nazi Germany (the Nuremberg Laws), and in South Africa during the Apartheid era.

I pray deeply for the bishops from around the world who are gathering to consider this question. I pray that they can open their hearts to our LGBTQ+ brothers and sisters and put an end to discrimination based on sexual identity.

I close now with the words of our presiding bishop, Bishop Michael Curry: "We have worked hard to become a church where, as the old African slaves used to sing, 'There is plenty good room, plenty good room,' for all of God's children. We are all The Episcopal Church, and we will not compromise who we are, our connections, or our love."

With every blessing... Tom+

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St. John's Journey is published monthly. We're looking for your photos and articles. Please email them to "stjohnschurchdryden@gmail.com" with the word "Newsletter" in the subject line. Deadline for September is August 26.



**Happy Birthday
Sherry Boyden**
**Happy Anniversary
Wes & Kathy Wagester**

Dear Friends,

We've had a relatively quiet, if rather warm, month. But that's not to say nothing is happening. We started a new approach to Morning Prayer (that we're calling Uncommon Prayer) that allows everyone a chance to read a prayer or scripture. It also encourages discussion of the day's readings to allow us to share insights from the Holy Spirit. So far, it looks like it's a keeper for part of the year at least. We also approved a slogan for St. John's. It won't replace our mission statement but it is a quick read that tries to show some of who we are to the world. You'll see it later in this issue.

There have been some moments of blessing and sadness. We recently had a Sunday to honor Jane Harlow complete with presents and cake. We wanted to be sure she knew how much we loved her. And she had a lovely afternoon with Rev. Barb and Mary Cameron that included a visit to her garden. They were joyous occasions. Little did we know that she would be called to Heaven so soon. Many of us gathered at the funeral home to pay our respects. And Tom co-officiated the funeral service. We continue to pray for her family. And we continue to sense Jane's

warm presence every Sunday.

Covid is showing up more often in our county. Jack Dodd tested positive but had very mild symptoms and is almost done with his confinement – Ida Lynn stayed negative through-out. Some of our congregation have family or friends recently infected. So, it's NOT GONE! Please continue to take reasonable precautions and if you are sick FOR ANY REASON, please stay home and see your doctor. We have masks and hand sanitizer at church – take advantage of both. If we use the tools available and practice the skills we've learned over the last two years, we'll be fine.



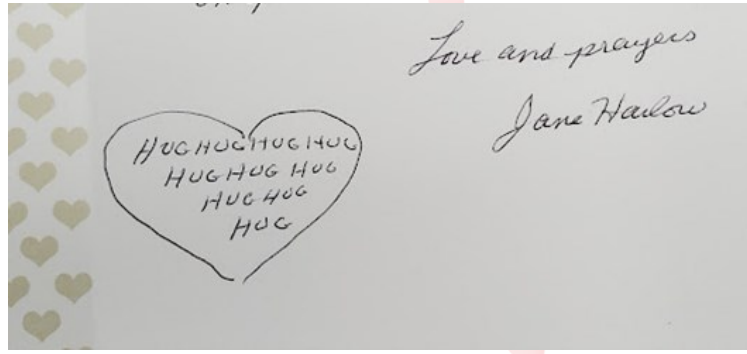
Our second annual Sunshine Service is coming up this month. And we've scheduled our next Concert Series event for September. Enjoy the rest of the summer. May the we see sun and rain as needed and praise God for them both.

Peace,
Becky



2nd Annual Sunshine Service Scheduled for August 21st!

Bring a lawn chair to the front of the church and enjoy a lovely outdoor service. There's plenty of shade and it's early in the day so heat shouldn't be a problem. If it's raining, we'll celebrate it indoors. AND we'll have a good potluck after service so bring a summer dish to pass. See you there!



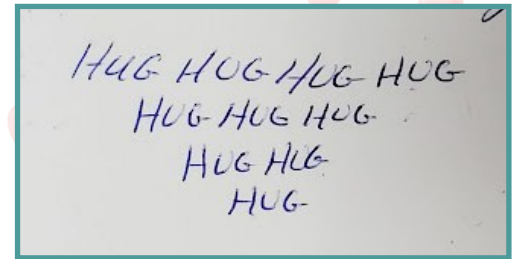
Hugs from Heaven

Our dear sister, Jane Harlow, passed away on Friday, July 15, 2022 at the age of 86. During her time with us at St. John’s, she was such a gentle, loving presence that everyone was touched by a love that surely came from God. Here’s some background from the obituary.

“Jane was truly an angel among us. She has touched so many people's lives, more than she will ever realize. She loved all and believed everyone deserved to be loved. There was no escaping her hugs. Jane loved her family and friends dearly. She was a huge animal lover and could never turn away from helping an animal in need. She wore her heart on her sleeve for all to see and had the most beautiful soul. She will never truly be gone, for she believed that if you reached your finger out you would be able to feel her love shield. That would mean she would always be with you.

Jane was born on December 30, 1935 in Connecticut to Charles and Jane Bancroft. Jane moved to Lansing, MI to attend Michigan State University where she met the love of her life, Robert Harry Harlow. They met because she accidentally spilt coffee on him and he was smitten from then on out. They married on September 8th, 1956. They went on to have five children and two bonus children, as they referred to them, that they raised, their grandchildren. Jane had a 15 grandchildren and 23 great grandchildren.”

Please keep her family in your prayers. And maybe send a note with lots of hugs!



Financial Report for the Month of June, 2022

	June Actual	June Budget	Above/Below Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Above/Below Budget
Total In- come	\$3,701.45	\$5,270.00	-\$1,568.55	\$34,735.86	\$31,620.00	\$3,115.86
Total Ex- pense	\$3,605.26	\$5,179.24	-\$1,573.98	\$29,744.07	\$31,075.44	-\$1,331.37
Net In- come	\$96.19	\$90.76	\$5.43	\$4,991.79	\$544.56	\$4,447.23

June income was down considerably from earlier this year. Total Income was actually down by \$1,568.55 from budget. This, unfortunately, continues the downward trend of the last two years. One could say that it is summer and parishioners are away. However, income is still ahead of YTD budget by \$3,115.86. This downward trend needs to be closely watched as the current performance over budget can be erased in just a few months if income does not increase. Also, this summer trend could be reduced or eliminated if more parishioners would sign up to use Tithe.ly automatic monthly payment system. This allows continued monthly or weekly payments even if you are on holiday. Expenses continue to be well controlled with June’s Total Expense being \$1,573.98 below budget. YTD expenses also continue to be below budget by \$1,331.37. This is good expense control.

Actual YTD income vs. Budget is \$4,447.23. This is more due to expense control than income, but it does give a cushion against the current trend of reduced monthly income.



Ministry Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Eucharistic Minister</u>	<u>Worship Leader</u>	<u>Videographer</u>	<u>Counting Member 1</u>	<u>Counting Member 2</u>
Aug 7	Wes	Mary	Rev Manney	Ina Dockham	Wes	Ina
Aug 14			Neil	Mary Cameron	Jack	Becky
Aug 21	Jack	Neil	Rev Manney	Becky Foster	Ina	Neil
Aug 28			Becky	Sherry	Becky	Wes
Sep 4	Neil	Tammy	Rev Manney	Wes Wagester	Neil	Jack
Sep 11	Ina		Kitty	Ina Dockham	Wes	Ina
Sep 18	Margaret	Jack	Rev Manney	Ida Lynn Dodd	Jack	Becky
Sep 25	Tammy		Neil	Mary Cameron	Ina	Neil



It's that time of year again! We are collecting supplies for Susan McNary's 1st grade class AND for Dryden High students. Put your donations in the box labeled "1st Grade Supplies" or the Outreach Teen Relief box for the Highschool supplies. And thank you for supporting our teachers and students!

1st Grade Supplies

Susan wrote, "Everyone at St. John's was so generous last year, that I still have a good bit left. But if people would like to donate, these are the things I could use:

Play-doh. I give one can to each student 4x a year. We use it for both math and literacy (we roll it out and use golf tees to write our spelling words, it's so fun). And it's good for their fine-motor development.

Wide-ruled **spiral notebooks.**

Glue sticks

Tissues

Clorox wipes

I could use a **new checkers game** for indoor recess, or **other board games for ages 6-8.**

Here are some ideas for back-to-school supplies for Outreach Teen Relief

High School Supplies

#2 Pencils

Colored Pencils

Pencil Sharpener

Pens: Red, Blue, Black

Highlighters

Markers

12 inch Ruler

Pocket Folders

Single-Subject Spiral Notebooks

Sticky Notes

Sticky Flags

College Ruled Loose Leaf 3 Hole Paper

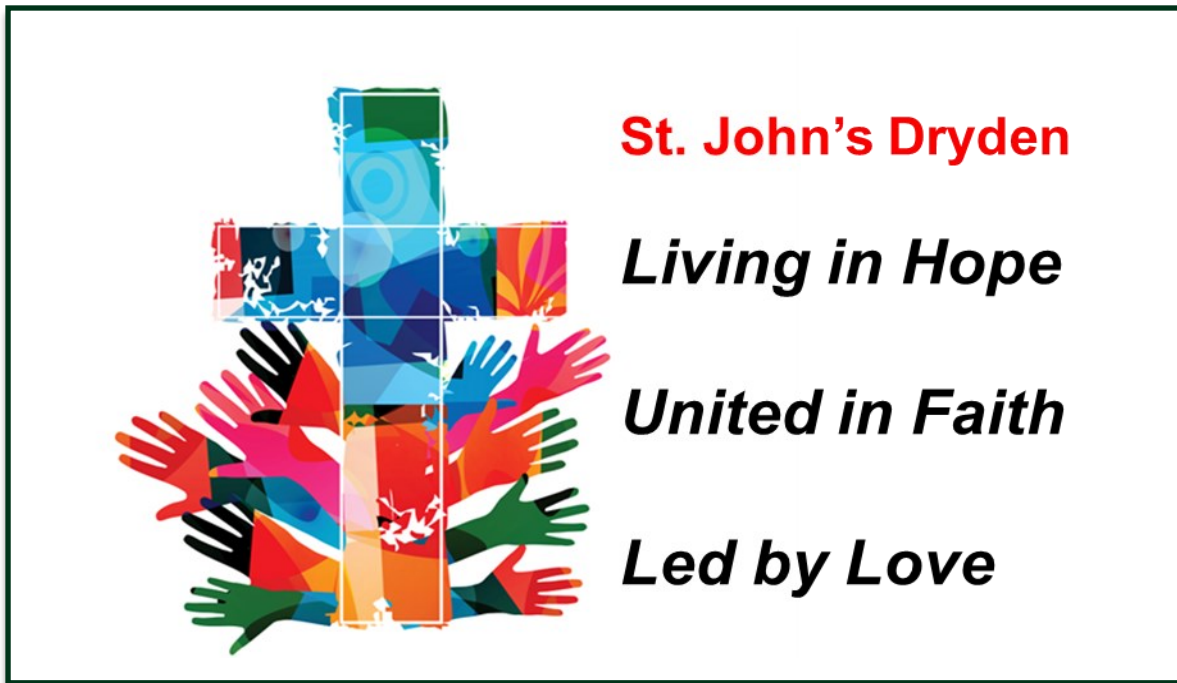
Computer Paper

Tabbed Dividers

3-Ring Binder

USB Flash Drives





Our new slogan based on your votes. We will use this in all our communications including our newsletter and Facebook. If the Holy Spirit inspires someone with a new idea, we're open to revisit the process. This editor thinks that, for a homegrown effort, this isn't at all shabby.



Past Lions District Governor Don Spinks, right, presents a note of Congressional Record from Rep. Lisa McClain to longtime Almont Lions Club member Wes Wagester, left.

Wes Wagester in the Headlines!

On July 5th, Wes received a uniquely prestigious award from the U.S. House of Representatives. Congresswoman, Lisa McClain, wrote a letter informing Wes that his accomplishments would be entered into the U.S. Congressional Record. Her letter included these passages,

“For over 30 years, Wes has served his community with honor and selflessness. He has served as a member of the Almont Township Parks and Recreation Board, and since October 1991, has been a dedicated member of the Almont Michigan Lions Club.” She also included that Wes was a member of the U.S. Navy. “I applaud Wes for the service he has given his beloved community. He has been a pillar and has set an example for

others that will be hard to follow”.

Wes's comments during the presentation were totally in character. “I feel very honored and privileged to be acknowledged. I've always been proud to be a Lion. But there a lots of other Lions and regular citizens who help make a community what it is.”

St. John's members congratulate Wes (and Kathy) on this well-earned recognition. We could have added paragraphs about his support of our beloved community. We are all blessed to know him and happy others feel the same way.

Corinne & Jim have Kittens!

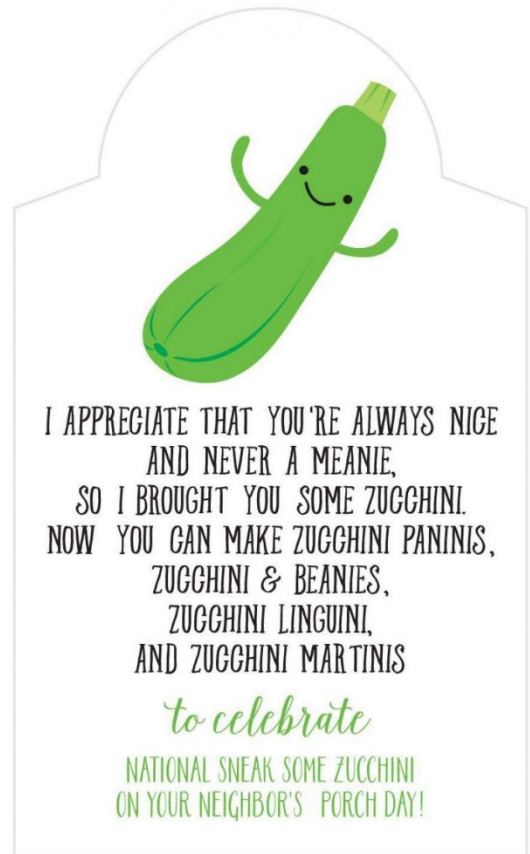
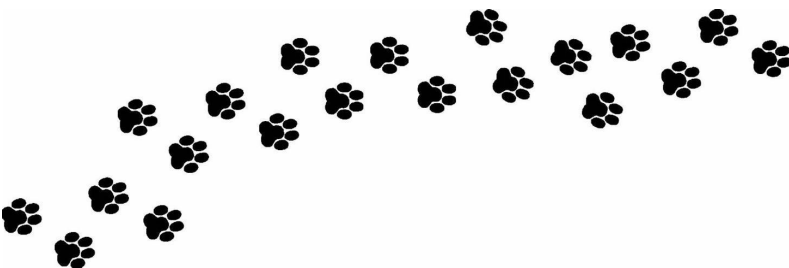
Well, sorta. A feral cat decided to have her kittens in their yard. Corinne saw the lawn service was about to start mowing and wanted to protect the kittens (mom had departed for a moment). So Corinne found a box but that spooked mom for a bit. Then it started to rain and Corinne found an umbrella to shelter the box – that's when mom decided to rejoin her family. Good work, Corinne (and Jim). And congratulations on the new additions to your family.



Kittens in the box



A nice dry spot during the rain –



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