

Celebrations

Our Praise in the Park and the subsequent Picnic on the Lawn two weeks later were successes. The Park service might have drawn more attendance if it had not been at the same time as the Pow Wow.

A big thank you to Beginnings and to the Grille Team.

New organist named. We will be welcoming Wendy Stokes-Earl as our new Organist & Music Director in September.

Happenings

Happenings around the parish.

- **Parish Council Meetings** – Aug. 20th and Sept. 17th.
- **Keenagers** – 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, every month at 10 to 11 a.m. – Civitan Hall.
- **Pray K7A** – Aug. 31st @ 7:00 p.m., St. Johns Anglican Church
- **Community Games Night** – September 5th, Food @ 5:30, Games start 6:30.
- **Fall Bazaar** – October 18th, Details forthcoming.

If you have any events you would like to have posted here you can drop us a line at:

stjohns.smithsfalls@gmail.com

"Events" in the title.



Enlightened by A Guest

On Sunday, June 8th, St. John's was graced with the insights from a guest speaker. Dr. Kirstin Jeffrey Johnson was her name.

After being introduced by Thomas, Dr. Johnson reiterated that two Ontario kids studied at the same time in Scotland, obtaining a degree from the same institution and have eventually met while living in Lanark County! The Lord weaves the tapestry of our lives!

Dr. Johnson began her address speaking about Passover being an annual celebration when many Jews returned to Jerusalem to join in the celebration. However, the last official Passover involved the arrest, trial and crucifixion of our Lord Jesus. Then the wonderful resurrection on the third morning when Jesus appeared first to a woman. For the next forty days Jesus appeared many times to His followers and there was much joyful knowledge that the Messiah was ALIVE again!

But then His Ascension and He was GONE!

[\(continue on Pg. 2 – Pentecostal Enlightenment\)](#)

This Issue

Guest Enlightening & Finances [P.1](#)

Parish Hall, Picnic & Park [P.2](#)

Numbers & Podcasts [P.3](#)

Navigating Gospel Life & Upcoming [P.4](#)

Mid-Year Finances

Each year the budget is established for the Parish at Vestry in February. This year was no exception. Our budget was proposed and ratified at the Annual Vestry 2025.

As always, the 2025 budget is a conservative budget. It strives to keep costs under control and plan for continued success with the parish finances. It is a deficit financed budget. It is a deficit in that our normal income from offerings and donations alone will not meet our planned obligations to the community, our parish and our diocese.

While it is a deficit budget, it also included a plan to achieve a balanced operational budget. While these statements appear to be at odds with each other. They are not.

The parish has been blessed with several endowments and other such donations which have allowed us to establish an investment trust fund. This fund is professionally and ethically managed for low risk and slow growth. Historically, the earnings (interest and dividends) from this fund have been re-invested back into the fund, accelerating its growth.

[\(continue on Pg. 3 – Financial Performance\)](#)

Parish Hall – Vestry Has Spoken

In July 2024, extensive mold was discovered in the lower hall, necessitating a major decision with far reaching impact on the future of St John's. A period of investigation and information gathering ensued in an effort to consider all possibilities and contingencies.

After an extensive data collection effort by the Parish Hall research committee, consulting with the experts on buildings, mechanicals, and materials handling, three viable paths forward were mapped out for the congregation.

In late May and early June, the three options were presented for consideration at a special vestry for consideration by the church family at St John's. They were:

- Raze existing hall – renovate Link – construct a new Annex building (2000 sq ft)
- Gut the lower hall and refurbish upper and lower hall
- Gut the lower hall and refurbish upper hall

A report was available with the details on the research and the options as of both services on May 18 2025. The information-sharing Town Hall meeting was held May 25 2025, after the 10 AM service. Allowing two weeks for further consideration, prayer, and discernment, a vote to choose the path forward for the parish hall was held June 8th, after the 10 AM service.

Both meetings were well attended. The votes taken in-person and in a controlled online manner established our direction forward. The congregation has opted to gut the lower hall and refurbish only the upper hall. (L. Arkell, D. Willis)



Ready to Feed the
Flock and Praise
the Lord

This intrepid road
crew got us going
for Praise in the
Park

Pentecostal Enlightenment

[\(continued from page 1 – Enlightened\)](#)

The disciples were emotionally, mentally, physically exhausted from these events. But they were being obedient to Jesus, who told them to stay in Jerusalem till they received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Jesus had breathed on them before He left for them to receive the Holy Spirit. But they were to wait for the promise of the gift and then were commissioned to share the good news of the gospel.

Now, it was another festival on the Hebrew calendar, that of Shavuot, and again many had come to Jerusalem for the celebration of the giving of the ten commandments on Mt. Sinai

to Moses.

Suddenly a violent wind blew, but this was not a destructive wind. It was so loud that many heard it and came to see what was going on! They saw what appeared to be tongues of fire separating and resting on each believer! Probably the disciples could not have imagined this was what they were waiting for.

How would we react? Being petrified? With laughter? This was power beyond what they could comprehend. And strangely every disciple was speaking in the languages of the many countries represented at the gathering.

[\(Continue on Pg. 4 – Navigating Life\)](#)

Praise in The Park

On June 15, 2025, St. John's went on the road with our 10 a.m. worship. We held a combination, praise in the park service, Sunday School year end, and Father's Day BBQ all wrapped up in one event. The event was held at Centennial Park, down near the waterfront.

Beginnings provided the main tunes.

As can be seen in the photos below, a mix of laughter and tears were on tap for the day.



The songs, worship, and fellowship were enjoyed by all. The BBQ picnic that followed was also a hit. The only sadness was

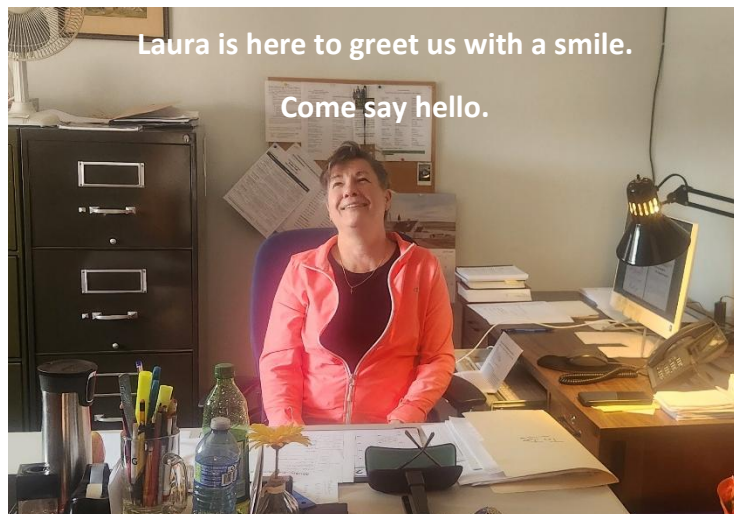


for the end of the Sunday School year and Emily's retirement. She will be missed.

(Photos–L. Porter, Story–D. Willis)

Laura is here to greet us with a smile.

Come say hello.



2025 Financials - First Half Year 2025 - Budget - 2024

Data -B. Mulrooney,



	2025 to Date	Budget	2024
Total Income	\$170,845.95	\$168,346.00	\$106,817.94
Total Expenses	\$196,401.62	\$198,740.00	\$169,509.05
Surplus/Deficit	-\$25,555.67	-\$30,394.00	-\$62,691.11

Total Income Total Expenses Surplus/Deficit

(continued from pg 1 – Finances)

To achieve a balanced budget plan, this year, it was proposed that instead of re-investing the gains in the managed trust fund we would withdraw the gains and add them to the parish revenue. This proposal was deemed to be sound and was accepted by Vestry.

On a quarterly basis, as our gains are made available through the managed trust, we opt to receive payment and the funds are added to our operational funds bank account. In this manner, it is expected we will maintain our operational budget

without going into debt.

Here we are at mid-year. How are we performing against this budget? The short answer is we are on track and on budget.

The longer answer is our income is slightly higher than expected to date and our expenses are slightly lower, to date.

**... we are on track
and on budget!!**

As can be seen in the chart above, our current deficit is lower than expected by nearly \$5,000. The deficit amount showing will be balanced by gains from the managed trust.

When compared to the same interval for the previous year we seem to be doing much better. This is misleading. In fact, we are tracking fairly closely to last year, as per plan. The difference in the numbers is in the gains against our managed trust which were re-invested last year. This year we are using them to stay on target.

While it is good to stay balanced. It should be noted it is at the cost of the slowing of the growth of our invested trust.

Note these numbers do not reflect expected Parish Hall and Organ expenses coming in the near future. (B. Mulrooney, D. Willis)

Welcome Our New Administrative Assistant

This month we welcome a new member in our Administrative team. Please welcome Laura Savage as our new Administrative Assistant.

Laura will be responsible for keeping us on track. She will help us stay organized and keep us informed and connected in our daily parish life. This may be challenging as we evolve the parish hall. But Laura is up to the task.



Liturgy of the Ordinary:

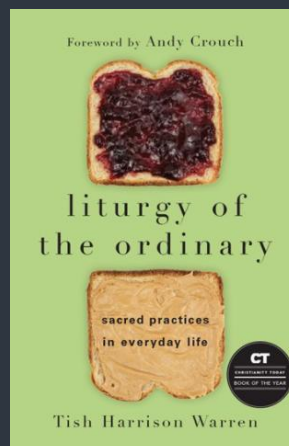
Sacred practices in Everyday Life.

Tish Harrison Warren, (Foreword by Andy Crouch)

Framed around one ordinary day, this book explores daily life through the lens of liturgy, small practices, and habits that form us. Each chapter looks at something—making the bed, brushing her teeth, losing her keys—that the author does every day.

Find it at: [Amazon.ca](https://www.amazon.ca/) or [Indigo Books.ca](https://www.indigo.ca/)

(L Porter)



In this new role, a small shift in the hours of the parish office has been put into practice. The office in the parish hall is now open every weekday morning from 9 a.m. to noon, with the exception of Thursdays, when it is open from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m.

Be sure to drop by and say hello.

(D. Willis)

Navigating Life in the Gospel

(continued from pg. 2 – Enlightenment)

Dr. Johnson suggested that the tongues of flame were equivalent to tongues of praise and love. So the gospel of loving God, and our neighbour as ourselves could be preached.

God's powerful Spirit was available to ALL people. In Genesis at the tower of Babel God dispersed the people. Now the dispersed people are gathered back under the language of God's love.

Dr Johnson wondered if pride and determination has become a tower in our lives today? Which separates us from others who are not like ourselves?

How do we navigate life and the situations of the world we currently live in?

We are in the same on-going story, we too have a dramatic beginning when we believe in Jesus as our Saviour and have the same commandment to Love God and our neighbour as ourself. Love those beside us, no need to change or agree with them but share the language of the Love of Christ.

We can face pain, exhaustion, grief and uncertainty together because the Holy Spirit is still ever present, ever fresh and our guide to declare the wonders of God's love to everyone!

(C. Kerfoot)

Upcoming Events

- **Parish Council Meetings.**
Next council meeting is Wednesday, August 20th at 7 p.m. in the Parish Hall. In September, the meeting will be on Wednesday, September 17th at 7 p.m. in the Parish Hall.
- **Food Bank Baskets.**
Every third Sunday of the month, we will be collecting donations of non-perishable food items for the food bank. Please leave your contributions in the baskets at the base of the chancel steps.
- **Keenagers.**
Hosted by the First Baptist Church, this is a fellowship time of prayer, scripture reading, music and guest speakers for individuals 55+. The Smiths Falls Civitan Club. Every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month from 10 a.m.-11am. All are welcome. Anyone needing a ride may contact Eric Wills 613-283-7007.
- **Pray K7A.**
On the last Sunday of each month, the local Christian community gathers together for shared fellowship and prayers. It will be held on August 31st starting at 7 p.m. at St. Johns Anglican Church, 2 George St. S., Smiths Falls, Ontario.
- **Games Night.**
Games nights happen regularly each month, starting at 5:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. The next games night is on Friday, September 5th, starting with food at 5:30 and games at 6:30 p.m.
- **Upcoming Events – Fall Bazaar.**
Save the date: The Fall Bazaar is coming. October 18, 2025. As our storage space in the Hall is limited this year, please hold donations until September. Thank you.

Times of Worship:

Sundays:

- 8 a.m. spoken eucharist.
- 10 a.m. sung eucharist.

Wednesdays:

- 10:30 a.m. spoken eucharist.

Parish Office:

- 9 a.m. to noon, weekdays, excepting Thursdays. On Thursdays 1 to 3 p.m.
- (613)283-1261

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