



THE ST. MARK'S MESSAGE

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, New Britain

THE LION'S PAUSE with STEPHEN HARD, JUNIOR WARDEN

VOLUME XCVIV
ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2023
ISSUE

Dear Faithful of St. Mark's,

Survey says! We are all familiar, I trust, with the TV game show *Family Feud*. Put it out of your mind. The purpose of our merger survey was NOT to embarrass or even to test anyone. It was an attempt to find out what parishioners are thinking, especially those from whom we may not have heard. My intention in promoting it was not that we would make any decisions simply based on it, but that we might forward our process, and, I think, some things are clearer.

Seventeen people responded to the survey, which is more people than we have in church on a Sunday morning. Of the 17, no one said we should not merge. Eleven said "yes" to a merger, 6 were undecided.

Regarding parishes, there was a clear preference for St. Gabriel's in East Berlin, and St. James in Farmington with each garnering 6 votes. Grace Newington received 3 votes as a second choice. It seems to me that we can narrow our merger discussion to St. Gabriel's and St. James Farmington. If others agree, that might facilitate our discussions at the Annual Meeting.

What struck me in the survey comments and in the split vote between the two parishes is that it seems different people are looking for different things in a merger. I see the differences as being geographic, demographic, and atmospheric. Some prioritize proximity, others seem more focused on the viability of the other parish, and then some consider where they will feel most comfortable. The last consideration relates to both the people in the pews, but also the conduct of the liturgy and the music program.

There is a lot to consider. I look forward to a robust discussion at the Annual Meeting that will NOT resemble the *Family Feud*. You will be happy to know that very soon after the Annual Meeting your Vestry will be meeting with Bishop Laura and Canon Tim Hodapp to discuss our next steps. Merger is on the top of the list, but we will also explore if other possibilities might make sense for St. Mark's.

Sincerely in Christ,
Stephen Hard
Junior Warden

Special points of interest:

- *The Lion's Pause - Stephen Hard, junior Warden*
- *In-Person and Hybrid Services - Broadcast Instructions*
- *Contemporary Collects and prayers*
- *Christ Church Cathedral - Helping Capital Community College*
- *Annual Parish Meeting Notice*
- *Snow Day Reading - Barbara A. Campbell, Ph.D.*
- *February Calendar*
- *Save The Date*
- *Parish Clerk's Corner*
- *Pledge Envelopes Information*
- *Food Pantry Statistics*

ZOOM & IN-PERSON SERVICE INFORMATION

Broadcast Instructions

Our service will always be available on Zoom with Meeting ID 500-865-037. You can enter via the parish Web link at <http://www.stmarksnewbritain.org>. Please either print or have the bulletin open on a separate browser tab to participate fully in the service. (For more information on the Zoom service, please go to the back page of the bulletin.)

If there is a significant negative change in the trajectory of the Covid-19 pandemic, we will switch to Zoom-only worship. An email will be sent out to the parish to alert everyone if the service is to be Zoom only.

In-person services at 90 Main Street **will no longer require** that everyone wear a mask and maintain a safe distance inside the buildings of South Church. Please use your best judgement concerning mask use if you have been exposed to someone who tested positive. Masks will be available for those who need them. Thank you.

Please contact Cheryl in the Parish Office if you have any questions.

Contemporary Collects and Prayers

February 5th - Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

February 12th - O God, the strength of all who put their trust in you: Mercifully accept our prayers; and because in our weakness we can do nothing good without you, give us the help of your grace, that in keeping your commandments we may please you both in will and deed; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

February 19th - O God, who before the passion of your only begotten Son revealed his glory upon the holy mountain: Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

February 26th - Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Lenten Discipline - Helping Capital Community College Christ Church Cathedral is inviting you to join in a Lenten Discipline of loving and caring for our neighbors.

Let us support our college students. Recent statistics are concerning. 40% of college students suffer from food insecurity. Many of the students are beneficiaries of SNAP Vouchers (formerly called Food Stamps), which do not allow for the purchase of personal hygiene products.

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Therefore, we invite your faith community and it's members to **collect one personal care hygiene product for each week of Lent to benefit Capital Community College (CCC) Food Pantry.** The items in the greatest need at Capital Community Food Pantry are:

Soap – Shampoo – Deodorant – Conditioner - Feminine hygiene products

These items can be delivered to our Cathedral from Wednesday, April 12th to Friday, April 14th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 pm or Sunday April 16th from 12:pm to 1:00pm. **Imagine what we as the North Central Region of ECCT can collectively accomplish for the students.**

SAVE THE DATE

- Sunday, February 5** - 10:00 a.m. Service in the Erwin Chapel with the Rev. Joseph Pace followed by the Annual Meeting in Cooper Hall
- Tuesday, February 7 – 5:45 p.m. Executive Committee Meeting
- Wednesday, February 8 – 7:00 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting
- Sunday, February 12** – 10:00 a.m. Service in the Erwin Chapel with the Rev. Joseph Pace
- Tuesday, February 14 – 6:45 p.m. Vestry Meeting
- Sunday, February 19** – 10:00 a.m. Service in the Erwin Chapel with the Rev. Joseph Pace
- Monday, February 20 – Presidents Day – Parish Office Closed
- Wednesday, February 22 – Ash Wednesday
- Sunday, February 26** – 10:00 a.m. – 1st Sunday in Lent – Service in the Erwin Chapel with the Rev. Joe Pace

**Allison’s Parish Clerk News Corner
February 2023**

Extra Extra!!!

The epic news this month is St. Mark’s Annual Meeting on February 5th following our 10a.m. church service. Our wardens promise to streamline the event to make it quick and painless. Please come. We have important decisions to make.

On the agenda:

Election of officers and vestry members

Presentation of our 2023 Operating Budget

Discussion of St. Mark’s future, specifically our merger options. We’ve made our first visits. It’s time to look further. Bring your surveys with you. **ALL** ideas are welcome.

“Open to God’s Love, Serving Our Neighbor”

May the Holy Spirit continue to support and guide us in God’s way, in God’s time.

Peace,

Allison

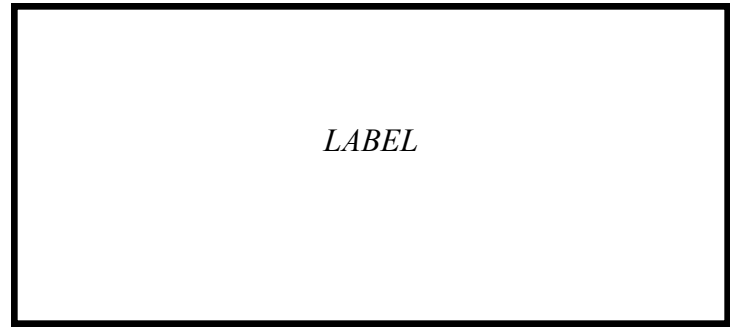
**St. Mark's Episcopal
Church, New Britain**

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New Britain, CT 06051**

**Phone: 860-225-7634
Email: parishoffice@stmarksnewbritain.org
Website: www.stmarksnewbritain.org**

**PRAYER CHAIN: to activate the chain call
Barbara Campbell 860-673-7607,
Campbellba24@gmail.com**

**If you or someone you know is hospitalized,
please inform the parish office.**



LABEL

***Open to God's Love -
Serving Our Neighbor***

**Due date for all articles for the March
Issue of the St. Mark's Message is February 15th.**

Regular Parish Office Hours.

Monday through Friday
from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Food Pantry

Monday: 9 - 12 & 12:30 - 2:00
Thursday: 9 - 12 & 12:30 - 2:00
(Closed for lunch from 12 - 12:30)




**Weekly Parish Services:
Sundays: In-Person and Zoom - 10:00 a.m. -
Erwin Chapel at 90 Main St.**

**Pledge Envelopes for 2023
Are Now Available!**

Pledge Envelopes are available for pick-up in the Parish Office during the week or on Sundays. If you would like envelopes, please contact Cheryl in the office and she will assign envelopes to you. If you have not yet returned your pledge card, please do so at your earliest opportunity. Thank you.

St. Mark's Food Pantry

Monthly Statistics: December 2022
Unduplicated households - 244
Total Unduplicated people - 533
Total food donated to St. Mark's - 975 lbs.
Total food from Food Share - 3,067 lbs.
Year to date food donations - 9, 075 lbs.
Year to date from Food Share - 33,439 lbs.

 **We are currently receiving 2 deliveries a month from Food Share. The deliveries are in the morning.**

If you can help us bring a delivery in, please call Cheryl in the parish office and she will let you know when to be here for the delivery. Thank you!