



# THE ST. MARK'S MESSAGE

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, New Britain

## THE LION'S PAUSE with ALLISON PENICK, VESTRY CLERK

VOLUME XCIX  
ISSUE 5

MAY 2024  
ISSUE

### Merging into New Life 2024

"Post-it Notes", those infamous 3-inch pads of sticky notes demonized by our vestry members because of their constant use in our brain storming sessions, were once again a part of our joint St. Mark's/St. James vestry retreat on April 6<sup>th</sup>. As luck would have it, that very date in 1977 was when this invention was introduced by 3M. Who knew??!

Aside from that piece of trivia, our retreat was wonderful. We deepened our friendships by sharing personal stories and those in our respective church histories from the early 1800's to present-day. Times have changed and so has the role of the Church in our lives.

My most important take-away from the day was our discussion of perceptions of values and community connections. What are our values? How are they perceived in our minds? Do our actions match our values? We found that St. Mark's and St. James are very much alike. We both value helping the needy (food pantry, connections to the Friendship Center, space for AA group meetings). We both value worship and faith education. This is certainly an advantage as we approach our merger date!

Yet, I am struck by another question. Are we truly living into our values? Are we too task-oriented and not seeing what the community really needs? How does the community perceive us? Are we a group of people just like the common "everyman" willing to lend a helping hand? Or, are we perceived as an elite group with exclusive membership rules?

Perhaps this might be a goal of our new parish---to go out into our community and ask others how they perceive us and how we might do better.

Here is one final observation from our retreat leader, The Rev. Rebekah Hatch. We spent 6 hours together and not once in our lists of values,

### Special points of interest:

- *The Lion's Pause - Allison Penick, Vestry Clerk*
- *Sunday Services at St. James, Farmington*
- *In-Person and Hybrid Services - Broadcast Instructions*
- *Pentecost Service with The Rt. Rev. Jeffrey Mello*
- *Graduation Time!*
- *Contemporary Collects and prayers*
- *A Two Point Game - by Barbara Campbell*
- *Special Parish Meeting*
- *Information for Special Parish Meeting*
- *Clerk's Corner*
- *Save The Date*
- *Worship Schedule for May & June 2024*
- *May 2024 Calendar*
- *Food Pantry Statistics*

activities and community relationships did we mention “Jesus” by name. Our faith seemed hidden and assumed. Raised an Episcopalian, I have always felt very reserved about openly discussing faith. I wonder, is this something I should change?

Therefore, shall I end with one of my favorite parts of our weekly worship services?

*“Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires are known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.”*

Allison  
Parish Clerk

### **Sunday Services at St. James, Farmington**

There are two services. Rite 1 is celebrated at 8:00 am, Rite 2 (normally with choir) is celebrated at 10:15 am. This is livestreamed via FACEBOOK LIVE. Livestream connection is by clicking the "F" icon at the top of the St. James Webpage. Only the 10:15 am service is livestreamed.

A parking tip: When approaching the church turn right just in front of the entrance. Parking to the left (behind the church) is difficult and limited. Across the street from the front door of the church there is ample parking available on Sunday mornings.

### **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.

## **PENTECOST**

**Sunday, May 19, 2024**

**Join us for our service at 10:00 a.m. in the Erwin Chapel. The Rt. Rev. Jeffrey Mello will be our Celebrant and Preacher.**

### **GRADUATION TIME!**



If you have someone in your family that is graduating from college, high school, middle school or even pre-school - let the parish office know.

We will list the names of the graduate in future bulletins.

## Contemporary Collects and Prayers

**May 5** - O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

**May 9 - Ascension Day (Thursday)** - Almighty God, whose blessed Son our Savior Jesus Christ ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things: Mercifully give us faith to perceive that, according to his promise, he abides with his Church on earth, even to the end of the ages; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

**May 12** - O God, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

**May 19 - Pentecost** - Almighty God, on this day you opened the way of eternal life to every race and nation by the promised gift of your Holy Spirit: Shed abroad this gift throughout the world by the preaching of the Gospel, that it may reach to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

**May 26** - Almighty and everlasting God, you have given to us your servants grace, by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity, and in the power of your divine Majesty to worship the Unity: Keep us steadfast in this faith and worship, and bring us at last to see you in your one and eternal glory, O Father; who with the Son and the Holy Spirit live and reign, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

### A TWO POINT GAME

(Or a short reflection on change which we seem to be majoring in!)

By Barbara A. Campbell, Ph.D.

UCONN versus Iowa was the second game to be played in the Final Four so it wouldn't start until 9:30 p.m. I wasn't feeling well but it was the UCONN women playing. After all, I had played basketball at UCONN - so I ate supper, napped, and at 9:30 gathered my snacks. I nibbled happily through 3 quarters and then came the 4th.

When I played basketball, the rules only allowed me to take a 2 step dribble - no glorious full length run of the court. My distance from the basket didn't matter - no 3 point line, no "extra" point then at all.

But I did say I played at UCONN, not for UCONN and no one came to Hawley Armory where there were no bleachers for people to sit while watching the freshmen girls' gym classes!

The full court runs are full of team work. You can see the pattern from your \$2,000 seat or your recliner. The 3 points allow for play to be coached coordinated with the quarter, the score, and seconds remaining.

Just these two changes have made today's game so much more than my freshman sport of suiting up and shooting baskets. They center on team work and coaching.

In your mornings after the Final Four, and after Easter, how do you experience team work and coaching in church? How is the Spirit of Easter being spread and welcomed through that team work and coaching?

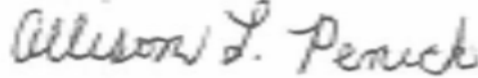
Some Easter thinking for you to do...

# \*SPECIAL PARISH MEETING

Sunday, May 5, 2024

Location: Cooper Hall Following the 10a.m.  
Service in Erwin Chapel (Zoom will be available.)

This meeting is called for our official vote to approve the merger of St. Mark's and St. James Episcopal Churches



Allison L. Penick  
Parish Clerk

## **\*For Special Parish Meeting on May 5**

Please note, this vote does not bring about the merger. That will be brought about by a vote of the Convention of the ECCT on October 26, 2024. The ECCT requires that both parishes vote in favor of the merger for the merger request to be brought before the Convention for its vote.

## Allison's Parish Clerk News Corner

May 2024

Happy Easter! Pentecost is just around the corner. St. Mark's Church is bustling with activity as we move closer to our official merger with St. James Parish. Here are the highlights of our accomplishments.

- At our respective special parish meetings on April 14<sup>th</sup>, we selected a name for our merged church, "St. James Parish, dba 'St. James Episcopal Church, Farmington, with St. Mark's Ministries, New Britain'."
- On April 6<sup>th</sup>, both vestries enjoyed a retreat at St. James led by The Rev. Rebekah Hatch. We fostered new friendships, learned about our church history and envisioned what we felt was important in serving God's mission in the community.
- Stephen and Lenny met with Bishop Jeff Mello on April 18<sup>th</sup>. He will visit St. Mark's on May 19<sup>th</sup> and join the vestry for a light brunch and discussion following the service.
- Father George and Stephen met with Bishop Laura on April 19<sup>th</sup> for a merger progress report. We are doing well. We must file all our required reports by May 15<sup>th</sup> in order to be on the ECCT Standing Committee's agenda in June and ready for September's motions for the October Convention agenda.
- **Mark your calendars! May 5<sup>th</sup>** is our special parish meeting for our official **merger vote!** Come in person to Cooper Hall or connect on Zoom.
- June 2<sup>nd</sup> will be our last service as St. Mark's in Erwin Chapel with Mother Pat Hames presiding. We will have a potluck meal and a festive celebration.
- Despite all our internal negotiations, we have continued to serve our community with St. Mark's Food Pantry as well as grants to New Britain organizations. The latest was a house-warming gift of \$1600 to New Life II for the purchase of 2 large aquariums and a barbeque grill for their new respite house for men in recovery/transition.

Thank you to all for their hard work and prayers.

***"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

## **SAVE THE DATE**


<b>Sunday, May 5</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Erwin Chapel - Rev. Cathi Bencken Special Parish Meeting - Following 10:00 a.m. service.</b>
Tuesday, May 7	5:45 p.m.	Executive Committee Meeting
Wednesday, May 8	7:00 p.m.	Finance Committee Meeting
<b>Sunday, May 12</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Erwin Chapel - Rev. Joseph Pace</b>
Tuesday, May 14	6:45 p.m.	Vestry Meeting - Cooper Hall
<b>Sunday, May 19</b>	<b>Pentecost</b>	<b>Erwin Chapel - The Rt Rev. Jeffrey W. Mello</b>
	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	Coffee Hour to follow in the Parlor
<b>Sunday, May 26</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Erwin Chapel - Morning Prayer - Stephen Hard</b>
<b>Sunday, June 2</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Erwin Chapel - Final Service at 90 Main St. Rev. Patricia Hames, Celebrant</b>
<b>Sunday, June 9</b>	<b>10:15 a.m.</b>	<b>St. James, Farmington</b>

### May 2024 Worship Schedule for St. Mark's

Below is a listing of our Sunday worship schedule for March 2024.  
Please note that this list may be subject to change at any time.  
Any changes will be noted in our weekly bulletin and on our website:  
[www.stmarksnewbritain.org](http://www.stmarksnewbritain.org).

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Celebrant</b>
May 5	10:00 a.m.	Erwin Chapel	Rev. Cathi Bencken
May 12	10:00 a.m.	Erwin Chapel	Rev. Joseph Pace
May 19	10:00 a.m.	Erwin Chapel	The Rt. Rev. Jeffrey W. Mello
May 26	10:15 a.m.	Erwin Chapel - Morning Prayer	Stephen Hard, Worship Leader
June 2	10:00 a.m.	Erwin Chapel	Rev. Patricia Hames
		Final Service at 90 Main St.	
June 9	10:15 a.m.	St. James, Farmington	Rev. George Roberts with Stephen Hard as Preacher

# MAY 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry 7:00 p.m. Thursday Night	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> In-Person/Hybrid Service 10:00 a.m. Erwin Chapel Parish Meeting to follow	<b>6</b> 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry 7:00 p.m. Thursday Night	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> In-Person/Hybrid Service 10:00 a.m. Erwin Chapel	<b>13</b> 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry	<b>14</b> 6:45 p.m. Vestry Meeting	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry 7:00 p.m. Thursday Night	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> In-Person/Hybrid Service 10:00 a.m. Erwin Chapel with The Rt Rev. Jeffrey Mello Pentecost	<b>20</b> 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry 7:00 p.m. Thursday Night	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> In-Person/Hybrid Service 10:00 a.m. Erwin Chapel Morning Prayer	<b>27</b> Office Closed 	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry 7:00 p.m. Thursday Night	<b>31</b>	

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

**PO Box 1538  
90 Main Street  
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.**



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

**Due date for all articles for the June 2024  
Issue of the St. Mark's Message is May 22nd.**

**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. unless otherwise stated.  
Please check the St. Mark's Calendar for our monthly schedule.**

**St. Mark's Food Pantry**

- Monthly Statistics: March 2024**
- ! Unduplicated households - 241
  - ! Total Unduplicated people - 671
  - ! Total food donated to St. Mark's - 975 lbs.
  - ! Total food from Food Share - 1,561 lbs.
  - ! Year to date food donations - 2,336 lbs.
  - ! Year to date from Food Share - 7,975 lbs.

Connecticut residents may  
receive food from our Food  
Pantry once every 30 days.  
Please bring your own bag,  
if possible, to receive food.