



# THE ST. MARK'S MESSAGE

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, New Britain

## THE LION'S PAUSE with STEPHEN HARD, JUNIOR WARDEN

VOLUME XCVIV  
ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2023  
ISSUE

Dear St. Mark's Parishioners:

What a year! We've seen the slow winding down of the global pandemic, the election and installation of Bishop Mello (masked, but in person), and, in general, the continuation of our life in Christ sans regular clergy. We also restarted serious exploration of merging with another Episcopal congregation after being waylaid by COVID-19. Through all the vicissitudes, I have tried to make my thinking clear. As followers of Jesus and stewards of our Savior's Church, we do not look solely to our own comfort, but we try to understand how both individually, and as a community of believers, we can best serve Our Lord and the mission of the Church. That, of course, means being forward looking. Christians are focused on the future, what is to come. Christmas illustrates this perfectly. We commemorate with great joy the birth of Our Savior in a stable in Bethlehem while we anticipate and prepare for the promised second coming.

So where do we go from here? Some individuals have voted with their feet (and wallets!). We who remain need to prayerfully discern what is best for us, and for the mission of Christ. I have made no secret that I see a merger with a stronger Episcopal congregation as the best and most responsible way for us to see that our human and financial assets can continue to serve the mission of Jesus in New Britain and beyond. All members of the parish are being invited to complete a survey to discern their thinking about merger

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### Special points of interest:

- *The Lion's Pause - Stephen Hard, junior Warden*
- *Contemporary Collects and prayers*
- *Save The Date*
- *Merger Survey*
- *In-Person and Hybrid Services - Broadcast Instructions*
- *Annual Parish Meeting Notice*
- *The Work of Christmas Begins*
- *Happy New Year Greeting*
- *Parish Clerk's Corner*
- *January Calendar*
- *Pledge Card Information*
- *Food Pantry Statistics*

possibilities at this time. Please give your careful and prayerful consideration to this question. Feel free to reach out to your Vestry if you would like more information, but, please, make your voice heard as we discern next steps. The survey asks only two questions, but the comments section is explicitly intended for a more extensive expression of your thinking. Cheryl is compiling all comments and the results of the survey will be made known after the January 15 deadline and in advance of our Annual Meeting February 5.

Sincerely in Christ,

Stephen Hard  
Junior Warden

### Contemporary Collects and Prayers

**January 1** - Holy Name Sunday - Eternal Father, you gave to your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be the sign of our salvation: Plant in every heart, we pray, the love of him who is the Savior of the world, our Lord Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

**January 6** - Epiphany - O God, who by the leading of a star manifested your only Son to the Peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

**January 8** - Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

**January 15** - Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

**January 22** - Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

**January 29** - Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

**SAVE THE DATE**

**January 1, 2023 - 10:00 a.m.**

**Service in the Erwin Chapel with the Rev. Joan Phelps**

Monday, January 2

Parish Office Closed - New Year's Day Observed

Tuesday, January 3 - 5:45 p.m.

Executive Committee Meeting - Zoom

Wednesday, January 4 - 7:00 p.m.

Finance Committee Meeting - Zoom

**Sunday, January 8 - 10:00 a.m.**

**Service in the Erwin Chapel with the Rev. Joan Phelps**

**Sunday, January 15 - 10:00 a.m.**

**Service in the Erwin Chapel with the Rev. Joan Phelps**

Monday, January 16

Martin Luther King Day - Parish Office Closed

**Tuesday, January 17 - 6:45 p.m.**

**Vestry Meeting**

**Sunday, January 22 - 10:00 a.m.**

**Service in the Erwin Chapel with the Rev. Joan Phelps**

**Sunday, January 29 - 10:00 a.m.**

**Service in the Erwin Chapel with Stephen Hard,  
Worship Leader**

**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**



**MERGER SURVEY**

The Merger Questionnaire was emailed (and regular mailed) to parishioners on December 14, 2022. If you have not completed the survey and returned it to the parish office, please do so by January 15, 2023.

If you need a copy of the survey sent to you, please contact Cheryl in the office and she will send one to you.

Thank you.

Parish Office contact information:

Email: parishoffice@stmarksnewbritain.org

Phone: 860-225-7634



**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.

# ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

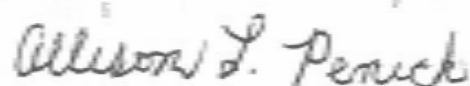
St. Mark's Annual Parish Meeting  
will be held on:

Sunday, February 5, 2023

[Blizzard date: February 12, 2023]

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

The annual meeting is called for Election of  
Officers and Vestry and any other business as  
designated by the Vestry.



Allison L. Penick  
Parish Clerk

## The Work of Christmas Begins

When the carols have been stilled,  
When the star-topped tree is taken down,  
When family and friends are gone home,  
When we are back to our schedules

The work of Christmas begins:

- To welcome the refugee,
- To heal a broken planet,
- To feed the hungry,
- To build bridges of trust, not walls of fear,
- To share our gifts,
- To seek justice and peace for all people,
- To bring Christ's light to the world.

- by Michael Dougherty, a variation on [Howard Thurman's](#) 'When the Song of the Angels is Stilled'

Happy  
New  
Year

THE VESTRY AND STAFF OF  
ST. MARK'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
WISH EVERYONE A BLESSED  
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

## Allison's Parish Clerk News Corner

January 2023

Merry Christmas! Happy New Year! Advent began a new church year. Likewise, we have turned the page into a new calendar year, 2023. I'm placing bets on how many times I write the wrong date!

St. Mark's is also turning a corner in its path into the future. We have completed our 5 visits to nearby episcopal parishes. A survey has been sent out asking for parish input on next steps. Should we merge? Which parish? Are there other options? Our last parish vote favored a merger. Vestry is moving forward on that assumption (but still welcomes comments). Pending survey results, we will inform our bishops of our merger choice, and they will inform that parish. And the long process begins leading to parish votes and eventual approval at a future CT Diocesan convention. Please respond to the survey by Jan 15<sup>th</sup>!

Our Annual meeting is February 5<sup>th</sup> in Cooper Hall after our 10:00 a.m. service in Erwin Chapel. Zoom will be available for those who can't attend in person. The agenda includes vestry elections and possibly merger discussions and post-pandemic pastoral care without a priest. Thanks to our nominating committee, we have vestry candidates for 2 years, but there are still openings. Please consider joining the St. Mark's team!

St. Mark's has approved more Smith Fund expenditures. The latest is \$10K to Coram Deo Recovery which operates several recovery houses in New Britain. Their mission is to support women recovering from abuse and addiction. Our largest donations have been to the Friendship Service Center to help build the new Hope Connection Center on Arch Street. December 21<sup>st</sup> is the grand opening and ribbon cutting. (*The opening was postponed to February 2023*) It will be a centralized place for the homeless to obtain access to multiple services to help them rebuild their lives.

***"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

## JANUARY 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> In-Person/Hybrid Service 10:00 a.m. Erwin Chapel <b>HAPPY NEW YEAR!</b>	<b>2</b> Parish Office Closed New Years Day Holiday	<b>3</b> 5:45 p.m. Exec. Committee Mtg	<b>4</b> 7:00 p.m. Finance Committee Mtg	<b>5</b> 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry 7:00 p.m. Thursday Night Group - Zoom mtg	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> In-Person/Hybrid Service 10:00 a.m. Erwin Chapel	<b>9</b> 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry 7:00 p.m. Thursday Night Group - Zoom mtg	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> In-Person/Hybrid Service 10:00 a.m. Erwin Chapel <b>Parish Survey Due</b>	<b>16</b> Martin Luther King Day Office Closed	<b>17</b> 6:45 p.m. Vestry Meeting	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry 7:00 p.m. Thursday Night Group - Zoom mtg	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> In-Person/Hybrid Service 10:00 a.m. Erwin Chapel	<b>23</b> 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry 7:00 p.m. Thursday Night Group - Zoom mtg	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> In-Person/Hybrid Service 10:00 a.m. Erwin Chapel	<b>30</b> 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry	<b>31</b>				



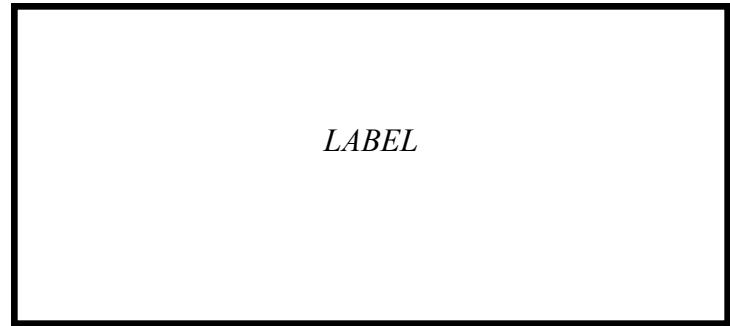
**St. Mark's Episcopal  
Church, New Britain**

**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 February  
Issue of the St. Mark's Message is January 18.**

**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.**


**2023 Stewardship  
Pledge Cards**

Letters with pledge cards have been mailed. If you did not receive a pledge card, please contact Cheryl in the Parish Office and she will send one to you.

Please return your completed pledge card as soon as you can.  
Pledge envelopes will be available to be picked up on Sunday, January 1, 2023  
Thank you.

**St. Mark's Food Pantry**

Monthly Statistics: November 2022  
Unduplicated households - 232  
Total Unduplicated people - 508  
Total food donated to St. Mark's - 1200lbs.  
Total food from Food Share - 1,030 lbs.  
Year to date food donations - 8,100  
Year to date from Food Share - 30,372

 **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!**