



THE ST. MARK'S MESSAGE

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, New Britain

THE LION'S PAUSE with LENNY NELSON, SENIOR WARDEN

VOLUME XCVIII
ISSUE 5

MAY 2022
ISSUE

And a HAPPY EASTER it was, as we met in person on Easter for the first time in 3 years. We were fortunate to have our Bishop Suffragan, The Rt. Rev. Laura Ahrens as our Celebrant thanks to Barbara Campbell. We also had an organist for the first time since our Organist/Choir Director, Ben Gryk retired. Robert Fertitta provided the music thanks to an old friend, Mary-Rose DiGiovanna, our former Organist/Choir Director.

Finding an organist was about a month long project. Albert Tomasso, an outstanding organist, who performed on piano with his sister Lucy singing at our Christmas Eve ZOOM service, was my first attempt. After a week and a half of not receiving a return call to my multiple efforts to contact him, I decided to contact our retired organist Ben Gryk. After 50 years of playing church organ he was not interested and suggested that I call Lorraine Semnoski who you may recall was a substitute organist for many years at St. Mark's. As she was already committed for Easter she gave me 2 names to consider, one of which was Mary-Rose. As she is no longer performing, I was given 2 names and as it turned out both were available. However, on a Saturday evening when I e-mailed both parties, Robert Fertitta responded almost immediately. It turns out that he was Mary-Rose's professor at SUNY-Purchase. Long story, short, things worked out well. He has also photographed church windows, including St. Mark's and other ECCT churches, throughout the State and the disc will be available at the office.

Last month I wrote about Easter's past and am happy to talk about the present. One of the traits of our congregation is that aren't any children. Well that was solved for Easter with the presence of my son Paul, his wife Kristin and their 3 children, Lucy - 7, Max - 4 and Leo - 7 months. I was reminded of a time, I believe Christmas Eve,

Continued...

Special points of interest:

- *The Lion's Pause - Lenny Nelson, Senior Warden*
- *Contemporary Collects for May*
- *In-Person and Hybrid Services - Broadcast Instructions*
- *Mailing List Information*
- *Poor People's Campaign*
- *Save The Date*
- *Bishop Search Prayers*
- *Election of New Bishop Diocesan of CT Dates and Nominees*
- *Parish Clerk's Corner*
- *May Calendar*
- *Food Pantry Statistics*



when our former Rector, The Rev. Thomas Fletcher, when in the middle of his sermon to a packed church audience stopped to inform the parents of a wailing youngster that there was child care available downstairs if needed. We are an aging population at St. Mark's and looking at the possible merger with a younger populated congregation would mean the potential of children and all that they bring with them. How does that sound?

Contemporary Collects and Prayers

May 8 - Mother's Day - On this Mother's Day, we give thanks to God for the divine gift of motherhood in all its diverse forms. Let us pray for all the mothers among us today; for our own mothers, those living and those who have passed away; for the mothers who loved us and the mothers who fell short of loving us fully; for all who hope to be mothers someday and all whose hope to have children has been frustrated; for all mothers who have lost children; for all women and men who have mothered in any way – those who have been our substitute mothers and we who have done so for those in need; and for the earth that bore us and provides us with our sustenance. We pray this in the name of God, our great and loving Mother. Amen.

(The Rev. Leslie Nipps)

May 26 - Ascension Day - Grant, we pray, Almighty God, that as we believe your only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ to have ascended into heaven, so we may also in heart and mind there ascend, and with him continually dwell; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

May 30 - Memorial Day - O Judge of the nations, we remember before you with grateful hearts the men and women of our country who in the day of decision ventured much for the liberties we now enjoy. Grant that we may not rest until all the people of this land share in the benefits of true freedom and gladly accept its disciplines. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

May 31 - The Visitation of The Blessed Virgin Mary - Father in heaven, by whose grace the virgin mother of your incarnate Son was blessed in bearing him, but still more blessed in keeping your word: Grant us who honor the exaltation of her lowliness to follow the example of her devotion to your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.



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 continue to require that everyone wear a mask and maintain a safe distance inside the buildings of South Church. Masks will be available for those who need them. Thank you.

You can enter the Zoom service via the parish Web link at <http://www.stmarksnewbritain.org>.

There is also a telephone number that can be used to join the Zoom service:

1-646-558-8656

(phone charges may apply for the telephone call if you do not have unlimited calling).

If you are using a telephone to dial into the service: dial the zoom phone number, and then wait to be prompted by the voice to enter the meeting number. Then, enter the meeting number, and as part of the meeting number, please add the "pound" sign (#) at the end of the meeting number (as the verbal instructions direct).

The Zoom broadcast opens at 9:45 am when remote participants can be admitted and will be greeted by the e-verger.

Remote participants are encouraged to stay connected after the service and greet and be greeted during the coffee hour.

Issues that have come to our attention:

Issue: "my screen goes back and forth between speakers."

Response: you may be in "speaker" view. If so, change to "gallery view".

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

The St. Mark's Message Mailing List

If, at any time, you would like to receive the Message by email instead of USPS mail, please contact Cheryl in the parish office.

By phone: 860-225-7634

By email: parishoffice@stmarksnewbritain.org

Thank you.



Poor People's Campaign; 1968 and Today



Poor People's Campaign

A NATIONAL CALL for MORAL REVIVAL

On March 15, 1968, the year before his death, Martin Luther King, Jr. announced the Poor People's Campaign, "The Southern Christian Leadership Conference will lead waves of the nation's poor and

disinherited to Washington, D.C., next spring to demand redress of their grievances by the United States government and to secure at least jobs or income for all...This is a highly significant event, the beginning of a new co-operation, understanding, and a determination by poor people of all colors and backgrounds to assert and win their right to a decent life and respect for their culture and dignity"

The movement did not die with King. On June 19, 1968, led by King's successor Ralph Abernathy, an estimated 50,000 people joined the Poor People's Campaign in Washington, D.C.

The fight to pass anti-poverty legislation continues today. On June 18, the Poor People's Campaign will again march in D.C. Watch for more information coming soon about how you can be part of the movement and join the Connecticut contingent in D.C.

SAVE THE DATE

- Wednesday, May 4 - 5:45 p.m. - Executive Committee Zoom Meeting
- Wednesday, May 4 - 7:00 p.m. - Finance Committee Zoom Meeting
- Sunday, May 8 - Mother's Day
- Tuesday, May 10 - 6:45 p.m. - Vestry Zoom Meeting
- Saturday, May 21 - Election of the Bishop Diocesan of Connecticut

BISHOP SEARCH PRAYERS

God our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, without you nothing can be done. Send your Holy Spirit to guide the Episcopal Church in Connecticut, especially the Bishop Transition Committee, during this time of transition. Bless and continue the good work begun in your name. Open the committee's ears to the hurts and hopes expressed to them and broaden our vision to see where you lead. Enliven their hearts with honesty and compassion to do the work that lies ahead, within our church and beyond its walls. Grant us the gifts of wisdom, humility, and empathy. Guide the committee as they discern your will for a new shepherd, inspirational leader, and willing advocate as we further your work in the Episcopal Church in Connecticut. Bless and be with our bishop, Ian, as he transitions to a new life serving you. Bless our Candidates. Bestow them with the abilities to lead and serve. Let us learn from them and they from us, so we may live your word serving all. All this we pray through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God now and forever. Amen.

Grant the Bishop Transition Committee the gifts of wisdom, humility, and empathy as they discern your will for a new shepherd, inspirational leader, and willing advocate as we further your work in the Episcopal Church in Connecticut. Amen.

Dates of Relevance to the Election of a new Bishop Diocesan of Connecticut

Below are the dates of the Meet & Greets for the Bishop nominees. All are in person (registration required) or you may watch livestream on YouTube or Facebook. Go to <https://ctbishopsearch.org/meet-greets/> for more information or to register. You may also submit questions for the nominees on this page.

May 9 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. - St. Mark's, Mystic - 19 Pearl St., Mystic
May 10 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. - St. Luke's, Darien - 1864 Post Rd., Darien
May 11 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. - St. Luke's, New Haven - 111 Whalley Ave. New Haven
May 12 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. - Christ Church Cathedral - 45 Church St., Hartford
May 13 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. - St. John's, New Milford - 7 Whittlesey Ave, New Milford
May 14 10 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - St. John's, Vernon - 523 Hartford Turnpike, Vernon

May 21: Election of the Bishop Diocesan of Connecticut

June through
September: Consent period for other diocese in the Episcopal Church, nationally
and internationally, to consent to our election

October 15: Consecration of the new Bishop Diocesan of Connecticut

Slate of Nominees for the XVI Bishop Diocesan

The Bishop Transition Committee joyously announces, after prayerful discernment, the Committee Nominees for the XVI Bishop Diocesan of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut:

The Rev. Glenna Huber, Rector, Church of the Epiphany, Washington, DC

The Rev. Jeffrey Mello, Rector, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Brookline, MA

The Very Rev. Kate Moorehead, Dean, St. John's Episcopal Cathedral, Jacksonville, FL

The Rev. Canon Tanya Wallace, Rector, All Saints' Episcopal Church, South Hadley, MA

For more information on each nominee, please go to:
<https://ctbishopsearch.org/nominees/>

Allison's Parish Clerk News Corner
May 2022

HAPPY EASTER!

I want to give heart-felt thanks to our wonderful leadership team that organized a special 2022 Easter. After 2 years of a pandemic and not having our usual traditions in place, it was comforting and inspiring to be together again in Erwin Chapel. Barbara invited Bishop Laura. Lenny found a talented organist. Stephen selected hymns. Curtis handled the Zoom connection. Mark organized coffee hour. Bishop Laura expressed our faith eloquently. And we all joined in prayer and song! Thank you!

Our teamwork continues.

- Peace Ministries has changed to a later service time so we will be able to use Erwin Chapel again. Watch the bulletin for exact dates and time.
- Coffee hour will be allowed too as Covid restrictions are relaxed.
- Community Ministries Committee is meeting regularly and actively seeking ways to help the New Britain community as well as our own parishioners in need. St. Mark's Food Pantry, Prudence Crandall, Friendship Center and its new Day Center, help for refugees settling in New Britain, and Pastor Barger's barbecue truck are on the list. Stay tuned for ways to help.
- St. Mark's Food Pantry received 100 pounds of food from DiLoreto School's food drive and \$96 from Stop & Shop's flower bouquet sales.
- Our vestry had its first meeting with Amber Page Gehr on April 19th. The diocese has reviewed our parochial reports and financial records and declared St. Mark's "in good standing". We are just beginning to learn what our options are for the future and the process to get there. As we learn, we will pass on the news! I feel encouraged and hopeful. Amber said she was overwhelmed by what we have accomplished (selling our building and working with Father Shaw) and especially our willingness to consider change as part of ECCT's motto "Transition in the New Missional Age".

As always, St. Mark's is "Open to God's Love, Serving Our Neighbor".

A prayer for guidance, faith, peace and hope....

Allison

MAY 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 In-Person/Hybrid Service 10:00 a.m. Erwin Chapel	2 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry	3	4 5:45 p.m. Exec. Committee Mtg 7:00 p.m. Finance Committee Mtg	5 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry 7:00 p.m. Thursday Night Group - Zoom Meeting	6	7
3rd Sunday of Easter						
8 In-Person/Hybrid Service 10:00 a.m. Erwin Chapel Mother's Day 4th Sunday of Easter	9 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry	10 6:45 p.m. Vestry Zoom Meeting	11	12 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry 7:00 p.m. Thursday Night Group - Zoom Meeting	13	14
15 In-Person/Hybrid Service 10:00 a.m. Erwin Chapel 5th Sunday of Easter	16 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry	17	18	19 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry 7:00 p.m. Thursday Night Group - Zoom Meeting	20	21
22 In-Person/Hybrid Service 10:00 a.m. Erwin Chapel 6th Sunday of Easter	23 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry	24	25	26 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry 7:00 p.m. Thursday Night Group - Zoom Meeting Ascension Day	27	28
29 In-Person/Hybrid Service 10:00 a.m. Erwin Chapel 7th Sunday of Easter	30	31		In person services will be held as long as New Britain's positivity rate is NOT red.	We have listed the services as Antecommunion/ Zoom and will change it as warranted.	Zoom service will always be available.



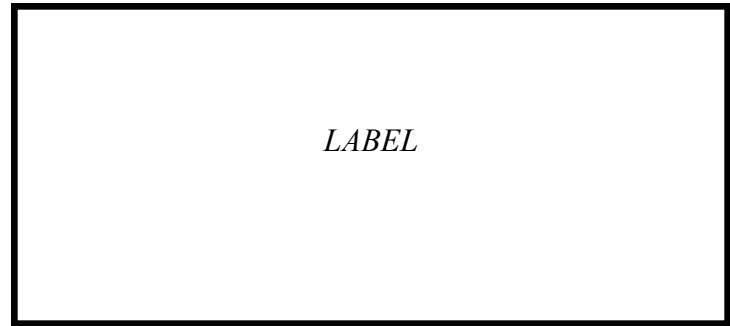
**St. Mark's Episcopal
Church, New Britain**

**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.**



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

**Due date for all articles for the June Issue
of the St. Mark's Message is May 18, 2022**

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.**

**To attend on Zoom, go to our website—
www.saintmarksnewbritain.org for the
bulletin and information on joining the service.**

Pledges and Offerings

Please remember to keep sending in your
pledges and offerings to the parish. Mail in our P.O.
Box is picked up several times a week. Your pledge
payments are compiled at least once a month and
deposited.

The parish ministries to the community and worship
services adapt and continue, even in these most
challenging times.

Mailing address: St. Mark's Episcopal Church
PO Box 1538 New Britain, CT 06050-1538 or to
electronically send checks to the Church via your
bank.

St. Marks keeps going in God's way, God's time, and
to God's glory.

St. Mark's Food Pantry

Monthly Statistics: March 2022
Unduplicated households - 172
Children - 200
Adults - 207
Seniors - 63
Total Food Donated to St. Mark's - 830 lbs.
Total food from Food Share - 2,649.5 lbs.

**Please give Cheryl a call in the parish
office if you can help us a few hours a
week.**