



THE ST. MARK'S MESSAGE

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, New Britain

THE LION'S PAUSE with
STEPHEN HARD, JUNIOR WARDEN

VOLUME XCVIII
ISSUE 7

JULY 2022
ISSUE

As everyone knows, at a meeting before the Pandemic, the parish decided to explore the possibility of merging with another Episcopal Parish. Individuals made some visits and then all Zoom let loose! Since being comfortable with the people of another parish and how they worship, socialize, and work together is more important than anything else, visits to buildings without people made no sense and we were stopped in our tracks. In direct response to our meetings with Amber Paige Gehr, Diocesan Transition Minister, and Bishop Ahrens, St. Mark's Vestry devised a new plan to begin seriously forwarding merger possibilities. There need be no concern about moving too fast. Before an application for a merger will even be considered by the ECCT, both parishes must have already decided to pursue this by votes of the respective parishes—and not just their vestries, but of the whole parish. After that will come the “Diocesan hoops,” and after that the merger must be approved by a vote of the Diocesan Convention, which, of course, only takes place once a year. Advice to “take it slow” is unnecessary. We don't have any choice.

This is a good time for us to be forwarding these plans while we are sans clergy. What Vestry decided is that on Sundays when we do not have a supply priest, we will plan to attend services at one of five parishes that seem to be “in the running.” Members of Vestry will be contacting the parishes in September to see if they are interested in our interest. We have a tentative schedule to go to St. James in Farmington on October 2, Grace Newington on October 23, St. Paul's in Southington on November 6, St. Gabriel's in East Berlin on November 20, and St. James's West Hartford on December 4. In addition to attending their services, we will be requesting there be an informal coffee hour afterwards so we can mingle. It's not a stretch to suggest this is like dating (with all the joys and pitfalls). First dates are important. It is not likely to know on the first encounter if one wants to tie the perpetual knot, but it's not unusual to know if one does NOT want to pursue a possibility further. That information is as useful as any other.

Your Vestry hopes that as many parishioners as possible will make

Special points of interest:

- *The Lion's Pause - Stephen Hard*
- *Contemporary Collects and prayers*
- *Save The Date*
- *ADA Celebration*
- *In-Person and Hybrid Services - Broadcast Instructions*
- *It's Summer by Barbara Campbell, Ph.D.*
- *Music in the Bulletin*
- *Bishops' Statement on Recent Supreme Court Rulings*
- *Summer Office Hour Updates*
- *Summer Prayer*
- *Parish Clerk's Corner*
- *July Calendar*
- *Food Pantry Statistics*
- *Happy 4th of July!*

the visits. For those who can't make it to one or another site, all services will be either on Zoom or live streamed. Just as important as the visits will be the opportunity at coffee hour the following Sunday for a discussion of what we experienced. We want to hear from everyone and hope that as many as possible will participate in the process.

Sincerely in Christ,

Stephen Hard
Junior Warden

Contemporary Collects and Prayers

July 4th - Lord God Almighty, in whose Name the founders of this country won liberty for themselves and for us, and lit the torch of freedom for nations then unborn: Grant, we pray, that we and all the peoples of this land may have grace to maintain these liberties in righteousness and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

July 25th - James the Apostle - O gracious God, we remember before you today your servant and apostle James, first among the Twelve to suffer martyrdom for the Name of Jesus Christ; and we pray that you will pour out upon the leaders of your Church that spirit of self-denying service by which alone they may have true authority among your people; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

July 29th - Mary, Martha and Lazarus - O God, heavenly Father, whose Son Jesus Christ enjoyed rest and refreshment in the home of Mary and Martha of Bethany: Give us the will to love you, open our hearts to hear you, and strengthen our hands to serve you in others for his sake; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, whose Son blessed by his presence the home of Lazarus and Mary and Martha in Bethany: grant that, like Martha, we may serve Christ faithfully in the person of our brothers and sisters; and that, like Mary, we may feed on his Word and grow in his love and grace; and that, like Lazarus, we may be brought forth from death to new life in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

SAVE THE DATE

Monday, July 4 -	Fourth of July - Parish Office and Food Pantry Closed
Wednesday, July 6 - 5:45 p.m. -	Executive Committee Meeting
Wednesday, July 6 - 7:00 p.m. -	Finance Committee Meeting
Wednesday, July 20 -	ADA Celebration - Summer Music Series - St. Mark's will provide ice cream sundaes!



ADA Celebration Walk & Roll Wednesday, July 20 - 5:00 p.m. Walnut Hill Park

Fun & Ice Cream are happening again this year. St. Mark's will have its iconic ice cream sundae/prayer request booth at New Britain's ADA Walk & Roll on July 20th, 5 p.m. in Walnut Hill Park.

ZOOM & IN-PERSON SERVICE INFORMATION

Broadcast Instructions

We are currently holding our services in-person. 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.

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.)

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

It's Summer!

by Barbara A. Campbell, Ph.D.

Let's just relax, get the sunglasses on our noses and only worry about what flavor ice cream we'll order.

This morning when I opened the back door, clinging to the screen was a 4 inch long dragonfly, its 4 wings spread out against the screen. I didn't touch the screen and spoke gently. I was afraid it might be caught in the screen but after staying all morning, it flew off. Lovely translucent wings.

I seem to be in the neighborhood of very insistent, loud voiced crows. All are in very good health, not one has a sore throat and I can make all kinds of presumptions about their conversations.

What I call "my field" (on Rt. 4, Farmington, one that I have absolutely no ownership of), varies its plantings from summer to summer. I was proudest to call it "my field" when most of it was planted to corn but the entire edge along Rt. 4 was sunflowers. Yes, I've seen while fields of sunflowers in France, but here, so close, on my route to everyplace, the sunflower border was just right. "My field" has been plowed. What will be planted, we'll soon find out.

I accept that weedwhackers prevail and I now have one who gently guided that machine around the budded lily under my mailbox. He then instructed his younger helper to whack between the hosts - it is possible to carefully and gently guide that weedwhacker I usually have impolite words for!

Within my house I have an ongoing conversation with a Peace lily. It tells me by its drooping leaves when it needs water and we seem to have our rhythms in sync. I exclaimed over its first blossom. There are now 4 blossoms. Maybe it's because it likes out the window and sees the wild rose I don't think I planted. It's as tall as I am in full bloom.

Slowing down, looking, listening, being connected to creation - we are given.

Receiving heals.

MUSIC IN THE BULLETINS

Beginning in July we will no longer have the music printed in the Sunday bulletins. There will only be a notation of which song is to be sung.

If you would like copies of the hymnals that are typically used on Sundays, please contact the Parish Office (call: 860-225-7634 or email: parishoffice@stmarksnewbritain.org) and we will make arrangements to get them to you. We have several people who are willing to deliver them to you.

Bishops' Statement on Recent Supreme Court Rulings
June 25, 2022

Dear Siblings in Christ,

Yesterday, in the case of Dobbs vs. Jackson Women's Health Organization, the Supreme Court overturned the constitutional right to abortion that was recognized in the formative 1973 case Roe v. Wade. On Thursday in the case of New York State Rifle & Pistol Association, Inc. v. Bruen, the Supreme Court struck down a New York gun law regulating concealed carry of firearms. These decisions are deeply distressing to us, and we believe them to be contrary to a nation that seeks to provide care and safety for its citizens.

We join with colleague members of Bishops United Against Gun Violence (BUAGV), in our joint statement acknowledging that the Supreme Court had previously held that the Second Amendment may be subject to regulations that protect "sensitive places." Houses of worship are such places, and over the last decade there have been numerous mass shootings in houses of worship including the killing of three of our own siblings in Christ a week ago at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Vestavia Hills, Alabama. Thursday's Supreme Court ruling, however, puts people of faith at even greater risk when we gather for prayer, worship, fellowship and service. At the same time, we thank our elected officials in Washington DC, especially Senators Murphy and Blumenthal and their key leadership, in passing a bipartisan gun bill signed into law by President Biden today.

The Episcopal Church affirms that all human life is sacred and that "abortion has a tragic dimension, calling for the concern and compassion of all the Christian community." The Episcopal Church has also stated "its unequivocal opposition to any legislative, executive or judicial action on the part of local, state or national governments that abridges the right of a woman to reach an informed decision about the termination of pregnancy or that would limit the access of a woman to safe means of acting on her decision." (General Convention Resolutions 1988-C047 & 1994-A054.) Yesterday's decision is not only contrary to our church's position, but will result in unequal access for women seeking healthcare across the United States, disproportionately harming poor women.

Several clergy and lay people throughout The Episcopal Church have graciously made available a Service of Lament and Healing regarding Roe. Vs. Wade which can be found here. On Tuesday, June 28 at 8 PM EST on Zoom, Bishops United Against Gun Violence will host "Doing Our Part: How Episcopalians Can Respond to Gun Violence in Our Communities and States." This event is for bishops and all Episcopalians who are concerned about gun safety to learn about what we can do in our states to limit the damage of the recent Supreme Court ruling; realize the promise of the proposed new federal law; and respond when gun violence happens in our communities and states. The link to register can be found here.

Siblings in Christ, the compounded news of the Supreme Court's decisions this week, and in weeks past, can take a detrimental toll on one's spirit and hope for our country. Please remember that faith is no delusion, and that hope can exist, even in the midst of fear. Real faith does not deny suffering and pain, the pain that Jesus knew on the cross, but is fueled by the belief that despite any discouragement and danger we may face, through God's love in the Resurrection we can find our persistence to prevail.

Faithfully,

The Rt. Rev. Ian T. Douglas, Bishop Diocesan
The Rt. Rev. Laura J. Ahrens, Bishop Suffragan



With more people beginning to go on vacation this year, please send the parish office a post card or email a photo of your favorite vacation spots!

I will have a page of our favorite spots in the September issue of *The Message*. (All post-cards or photos must be sent to the office by August 24th.)

The Parish Office will begin Summer Hours on July 1st. The office will be open Monday through Thursday, from 8:30 to 2:30. It will be closed on Fridays.

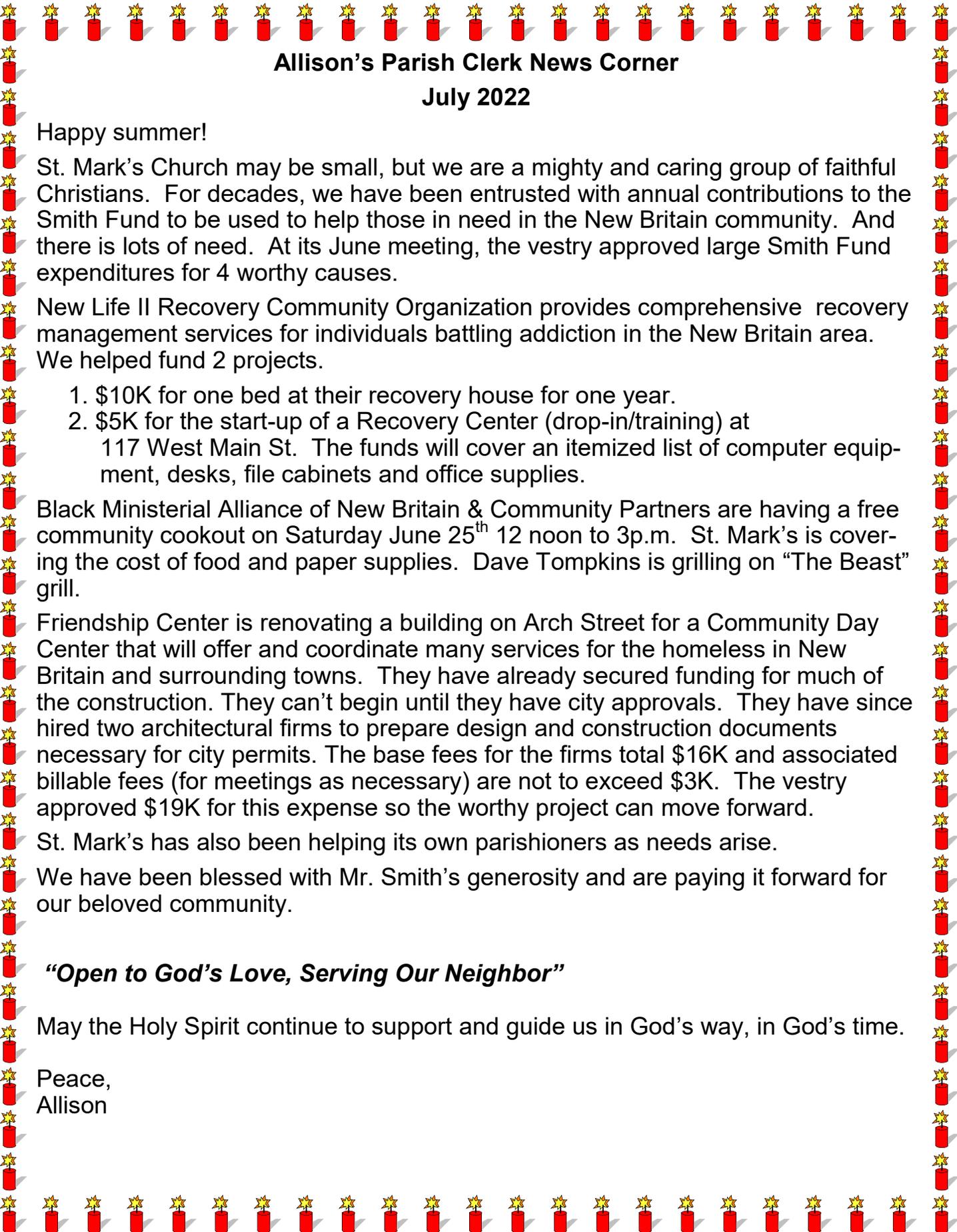


There is a time for everything, a season for every activity under heaven.

Summer is a time for ice cream cones, driveway basketball games, neighborhood swimming, and lazy afternoons.

May the joyous season of summer reflect God's loving care for our children.

Let us enjoy our times of sun, relaxation and leisure with our friends and family.



Allison's Parish Clerk News Corner

July 2022

Happy summer!

St. Mark's Church may be small, but we are a mighty and caring group of faithful Christians. For decades, we have been entrusted with annual contributions to the Smith Fund to be used to help those in need in the New Britain community. And there is lots of need. At its June meeting, the vestry approved large Smith Fund expenditures for 4 worthy causes.

New Life II Recovery Community Organization provides comprehensive recovery management services for individuals battling addiction in the New Britain area. We helped fund 2 projects.

1. \$10K for one bed at their recovery house for one year.
2. \$5K for the start-up of a Recovery Center (drop-in/training) at 117 West Main St. The funds will cover an itemized list of computer equipment, desks, file cabinets and office supplies.

Black Ministerial Alliance of New Britain & Community Partners are having a free community cookout on Saturday June 25th 12 noon to 3p.m. St. Mark's is covering the cost of food and paper supplies. Dave Tompkins is grilling on "The Beast" grill.

Friendship Center is renovating a building on Arch Street for a Community Day Center that will offer and coordinate many services for the homeless in New Britain and surrounding towns. They have already secured funding for much of the construction. They can't begin until they have city approvals. They have since hired two architectural firms to prepare design and construction documents necessary for city permits. The base fees for the firms total \$16K and associated billable fees (for meetings as necessary) are not to exceed \$3K. The vestry approved \$19K for this expense so the worthy project can move forward.

St. Mark's has also been helping its own parishioners as needs arise.

We have been blessed with Mr. Smith's generosity and are paying it forward for our beloved community.

"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

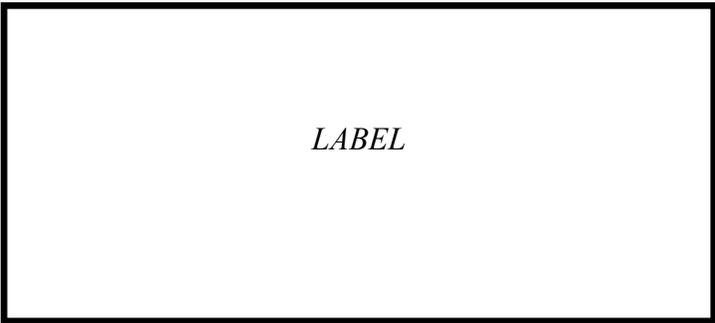
**St. Mark's Episcopal
Church, New Britain**

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

**PRAYER CHAIN: to activate the chain call
Barbara Campbell 860-875-7330,
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 August Issue
of the St. Mark's Message is July 20, 2022**

Regular Parish Office Hours.

July & August
Monday through Thursday
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.**



**St. Mark's Church Wishes Everyone
a Safe and Happy 4th of July!**

St. Mark's Food Pantry
Monthly Statistics: April 2022 / and May 2022
Unduplicated households - 189 / 194
Children - 150 / 155
Adults - 216 / 217
Seniors - 54 / 56
Total Food Donated to St. Mark's - 660 lbs. / 1235 lbs.
Total food from Food Share - 2693 lbs. / 2690 lbs.

 **We are currently receiving 2 deliveries a month from Food Share. On the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month. 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!**