



THE ST. MARK'S MESSAGE

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, New Britain

THE LION'S PAUSE with LEONARD NELSON, SR. WARDEN

VOLUME XCVIII
ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2022
ISSUE

As I prepare for my final few months as Senior Warden, my thoughts are on the different path that these 3 years have taken. We have had one in person Vestry Meeting, March 2020, before the Covid-19 pandemic was upon us. St. Mark's has not had a Rector/Priest-In-Charge since February, meaning that Vestry Meetings are chaired by the Sr. Warden. The only other time that the Sr. Warden chaired Vestry Meetings was during the tenure of The Rev. Malcolm McDowell as Rector.

As the time approaches for nominees to the Vestry, I hearken back to a time when elections were held for candidates to 4 seats/year on the Vestry. These elections many times took multiple rounds, with low vote totals eliminated until 4 parishioners receive a majority vote. The 5th member was selected by the Vestry and seated without election. This allowed someone who may not be electable, but had some attributes that might serve the Vestry well. This was my first opportunity to serve on the Vestry, in the early 1970's, as a recent college graduate working in the Social/Human Service field. Later in the 1970's, I was elected to the Vestry on the second round.

One of the ways that the Vestry functioned was that the Junior Warden would succeed the Senior Warden when his/her term expired. William Attwood, George Wilcox, Bob Bromage, Nancy Judd (Jr. Warden Al Schmitz left the Church), Len Nelson, Ellie Pearson, Norm Holland, Bob Kissel, George Stevens, Archie Savage, Barbara Campbell...this has ceased to exist since the early 2000's.

Which brings me to the present, and the meeting of the Nominating Committee on November 15th consisting of outgoing Vestry members, Mark Giulietti, Norm and Sue Holland as well as 3 non-Vestry members Justina Baptiste, Bob Kissel and Molly Sherman. Wardens Stephen Hard and Len Nelson, Wardens served ex-officio. Nominees include: Stephen Hard-Senior Warden, Leonard Nelson-Junior Warden, Barbara Campbell-Treasurer, Allison Penick-Clerk and for 1-year Vestry term Betty Barden and Molly Sherman, and for 2-year Vestry term Mark Giulietti, Norm Holland, Sue Holland and Bob Kissel. Remaining on the Vestry until 2024 are Donna Griffen and Curtis Searle.

Special points of interest:

- *The Lion's Pause - Leonard Nelson, Senior Warden*
- *An Advent Blessing*
- *Contemporary Collects and prayers*
- *Save The Date*
- *In-Person and Hybrid Services - Broadcast Instructions*
- *Christmas Greeting*
- *My Home CT program overview*
- *Sunday Worship Final Visit Information*
- *In His Own Words, Once Again - Barbara A. Campbell, Ph.D.*
- *Parish Clerk's Corner*
- *December Calendar*
- *Stewardship Information*
- *Food Pantry Statistics*

I am personally very proud of the work of the Nominating Committee. However, there are seats available should anyone else be interested. Also, there can be nominees for the 4 Officer positions – Senior and Junior Warden, Treasurer and Clerk. If elected, this will be my first time as Junior Warden, and if elected, Stephen Hard will follow in the tradition of Junior Warden succeeding to Senior Warden.

An Advent Blessing



May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. Amen.

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast om faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. Amen.

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life Amen.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. Amen.

Contemporary Collects and Prayers

December 4 - Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

December 6 - Nicholas of Myra - Let your continual mercy, O Lord, enkindle in your church the never-failing gift of charity, that, following the example of your servant Nicholas of Myra, we may have grace to deal in generosity and love with children and with all who are poor and distressed, and to uphold the cause of those who have no helper; for the sake of him who gave his life for us, your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and ever. *Amen.*

December 11 - Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

December 18 - Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

December 25 - Christmas Day - O God, who make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

SAVE THE DATE

December 4 - 10:00 a.m. - St. James', West Hartford - Lessons and Carols with Holy Eucharist

December 6 - 5:45 p.m. - Executive Committee

December 7 - 7:00 p.m. - Finance Committee

December 11 - 10:00 a.m. - Service in the Erwin Chapel with the Rev. Joseph Pace

December 13 - 6:45 a.m. - Vestry Meeting - Library

December 18 - 10:00 a.m. - Service in the Erwin Chapel with the Rev. Joseph Pace

December 23 & 26 Parish Office Closed for Christmas Holiday

January 1, 2023 - 10:00 a.m. - Service in the Erwin Chapel with the Rev. Joan Phelps

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.



THE VESTRY AND STAFF
OF ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL
CHURCH

WISH EVERYONE A
BLESSED AND MERRY
CHRISTMAS.

Program Overview



MyHomeCT

Foundation for a Brighter Future

Connecticut has been awarded approximately \$123 million from the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Homeowner Assistance Fund ("HAF") program. The HAF Program in the State of CT is known as MyHomeCT and is being administered by the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (CHFA).

The goal of MyHomeCT is to provide assistance to eligible CT homeowners who have experienced a COVID-19 related financial hardship. The assistance is meant to cure and/or prevent mortgage and housing related delinquencies and foreclosure. Qualified expenses under this program include:

- ▶ Mortgage delinquencies/payment assistance
- ▶ Non-escrowed real estate taxes (not included in mortgage payment)
- ▶ Condominium and/or homeowners' association fees or special assessments
- ▶ Non-escrowed (not included in mortgage payment) homeowners' insurance and flood insurance
- ▶ Water and sewer liens
- ▶ Ground lease or lot payments
- ▶ Fees that were advanced by the loan servicer/lender on behalf of an applicant with a reverse mortgage

Assistance can be made in the form of a one-time reinstatement, ongoing forward payments, or a combination of both.

Homeowners may apply for up to \$50,000 in grant assistance

How to Apply:

Visit: www.chfa.org/MyHomeCT to learn more and to apply. You can also complete a short online questionnaire to see if you may be eligible.

If you need help with your application, you may call 877-894-4111 or visit one of the MyHomeCT Resource Centers for help with your application. The list of resource centers can be found on www.chfa.org/MyHomeCT.



Eligibility Requirements:

- ▶ Applicant must live in the state of Connecticut and occupy the property as their primary residence.
- ▶ Applicant/household member must have experienced a COVID-19 related financial hardship after January 21, 2020, or experienced a financial hardship before January 21, 2020, which was then exacerbated by the pandemic. Assistance for a delinquency prior to January 21, 2020, is capped to three months.
- ▶ Property must be an owner-occupied 1-to-4 unit house, condominium, townhouse, or manufactured home.
- ▶ Homeowners applying for mortgage assistance must have a mortgage that had a principal balance at or below the Federal Housing Finance Agency's conforming loan limits for Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac at time of origination.
- ▶ Household income must be equal to or less than 150% area median income (AMI), adjusted for household size.

The WorkPlace

1000 Lafayette Blvd, Suite 501,
Bridgeport, CT
Phone: (203) 610-8580
www.workplace.org

The WorkPlace
» Think it forward.



CONNECTICUT HOUSING FINANCE AUTHORITY 999 West Street, Rocky Hill, CT 06067 | (860) 721-9501 | www.chfa.org
The CT Department of Housing is the responsible entity for the program, and has designated the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (CHFA) to administer it on its behalf.
This project is being supported, in whole or in part, by federal award number HAFP-0206 awarded to Connecticut by the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

Sunday Worship Visits

The current schedule is:

Place	Date	Time	On-Line Access
St. James, 1018 Farmington Ave. West Hartford Parking is available in the parking lot and in the Santander Bank parking lot.	12/4/22	10:00 a.m.	Lessons and Carols with Holy Eucharist Go to: www.stjameswh.org to join the Live Stream service.

There **will not** be a service at 90 Main St. on December 4. We hope that many of you will be able to attend the selected parish in-person. For those who can't, connecting to Zoom or Facebook Live details will be in the Message and future bulletins as this information becomes available.

In His Own Words, Once Again Barbara A. Campbell, Ph.D.

As our new bishop gaveled open the 238th Diocesan Convention, we could be people who remember the documents hidden in the Charter Oak. Or we could be people who knew there was a Food Truck this past weekend in Hartford with supper for a dollar and free ice cream if we went to the Taize Evensong at the Cathedral (and we haven't sung Taize since Rebecca was our organist. It was lovely.) So how does Bishop Mello on the job 3 weeks get to know us, that ballroom full of clergy and lay Episcopalians?

"I'm listening" is how he started the Bishop's Address. He was not there to start implementing campaign promises. He had been to one or two parishes, and had been especially grateful on Wednesday morning when he watched the check for the Zoom 8:30 a.m. meeting as our names were connected with our faces for the first time for him.

He then said, "It's OK to be exactly where you are today." He wanted St. Mark's to know even though we are not in a position we might want to be - pews overflowing, choir in really good voice, children all over the place - that's OK. He knows "where" other churches are also. We've been hit by the pandemic and are looking for a new normal. Other parishes have aged also. It tends to happen routinely!

He charged us with "Be good to yourselves and to one another". Beating up on ourselves isn't going to resolve anything. Kindness works. Kindness can be continued in a number of different relationships - some of them called ministry.

Bishop Mello's first address to Diocesan Convention had him concluding with, "God loves you as you are." That's the 'us' he wants to be listening to - a real, noy hyped up, picture of the Connecticut church today. Together the agenda can be drawn up. And together implemented.

Allison's Parish Clerk News Corner December 2022

As I sit down to write my December news bites, I find they are much the same as those in previous months. In some ways, that is good. St. Mark's is marching along with strength in the face of uncertainty. Let us continue to do so and be willing to face change as necessary to fulfill God's mission.

1. Thanksgiving and the beginning of a new year of Stewardship fit nicely together. I am thankful for God's love. It is always there in the midst of turmoil and celebrations. God's love is within each one of us. Let us share it with each other and the world. Prayerfully consider your pledge for 2023.
2. Consider your many gifts of skills and time as well as treasure. St. Mark's nominating committee is looking for 2023 vestry candidates. All positions are open!
3. Our Community Ministries Committee recommended and vestry approved 2 \$5,000 donations to winter coat drives and \$4500 for Friendship Center overflow lunches.
4. Merger visits with our neighbors continue. Everyone is very welcoming. It is time to start thinking about next steps.

"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

DECEMBER 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry 7:00 p.m. Thursday Night Group - Zoom mtg	2	3
4 Visit to St. James', West Hartford 2 Advent	5 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry	6 5:45 p.m. Exec. Committee Mtg	7 7:00 p.m. Finance Committee Mtg	8 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry 7:00 p.m. Thursday Night Group - Zoom mtg	9	10
11 In-Person/Hybrid Service 10:00 a.m. Erwin Chapel 3 Advent	12 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry	13 6:45 p.m. Vestry Zoom Meeting	14	15 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry 7:00 p.m. Thursday Night Group - Zoom mtg	16 Parish Office Closed	17
18 In-Person/Hybrid Service 10:00 a.m. Erwin Chapel 4 Advent	19 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry	20	21	22 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry 7:00 p.m. Thursday Night Group - Zoom mtg	23 Parish Office Closed	24 Christmas Eve
25  Merry Christmas!	26 Office Closed	27	28	29 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry 7:00 p.m. Thursday Night Group - Zoom mtg	30	31 

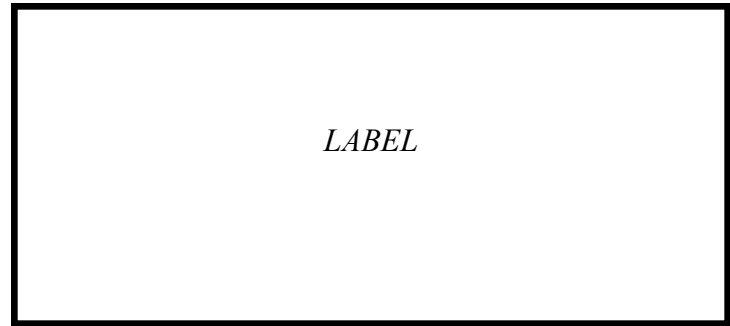
**St. Mark's Episcopal
Church, New Britain**

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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 November
Issue of the St. Mark's Message is October 19**

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.

Thank you.

St. Mark's Food Pantry

Monthly Statistics: October 2022

- ! Unduplicated households - 265
- ! Total Unduplicated people - 631
- ! Total food donated to St. Mark's - 545 lbs.
- ! Total food from Food Share - 3,534 lbs.
- ! Year to date food donations - 6,900
- ! Year to date from Food Share - 29,342

 **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!**