



# THE ST. MARK'S MESSAGE

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, New Britain

THE LION'S PAUSE with  
ALLISON PENICK, PARISH CLERK

VOLUME XCVIV  
ISSUE 3

MARCH 2023  
ISSUE

Dear People of St. Mark's,

It is my pleasure to announce the following results of the election held at the Parish Annual Meeting on February 6, 2022.

## Vestry Officers Term Expires 2023:

Senior Warden:	Stephen Hard
Junior Warden:	Leonard Nelson
Clerk:	Allison Penick
Treasurer:	Barbara Campbell

## Elected to the Vestry:

- Molly Sherman - Term expires 2024
- Betty Barden - Term expires 2024
- Mark Giulietti - Term expires 2025
- G. Norman Holland - Term expires 2025
- Susan Holland - Term expires 2025
- Robert Kissel - Term expires 2025

## Continuing Vestry Members:

### Term expires 2024

- Curtis Searle
- Donna Griffen

## Continuing Delegates to the ECCT Convention

### Term expires 2025

Delegate - Barbara Campbell  
Alternate - Stephen Hard

Congratulations to our newly elected member and to our returning officers, members and delegate!

Allison Penick  
Parish Clerk

## Special points of interest:

- *The Lion's Pause - Allison Penick, Parish Clerk*
- *In-Person and Hybrid Services - Broadcast Instructions*
- *Contemporary Collects and prayers*
- *Christ Church Cathedral - Helping Capital Community College*
- *Save The Date*
- *Prayers in time of disaster*
- *Daylight Savings Time - Spring Forward!*
- *St. Mark's Plaque at the Hope Connection Center*
- *Lent Madness*
- *Emergency Supply Bags*
- *Parish Clerk's Corner*
- *March Calendar*
- *Food Pantry Statistics*

## 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.

### **Contemporary Collects and Prayers**

**March 5** - O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

**March 12** - Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

**March 19** - Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

**March 26** - Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

### **Lenten Discipline - Helping Capital Community College Christ Church Cathedral is inviting you to join in a Lenten Discipline of loving and caring for our neighbors.**

Let us support our college students. Recent statistics are concerning. 40% of college students suffer from food insecurity. Many of the students are beneficiaries of SNAP Vouchers (formerly called Food Stamps), which do not allow for the purchase of personal hygiene products.

Therefore, we invite your faith community and it's members to **collect one personal care hygiene product for each week of Lent to benefit Capital Community College (CCC) Food Pantry.** The items in the greatest need at Capital Community Food Pantry are:

**Soap – Shampoo – Deodorant – Conditioner - Feminine hygiene products  
Items can be dropped off in box in the church office. Thank you!**

These items can be delivered to our Cathedral from Wednesday, April 12<sup>th</sup> to Friday, April 14<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 pm or Sunday April 16<sup>th</sup> from 12:pm to 1:00pm. Imagine what we as the North Central Region of ECCT can collectively accomplish for the students.

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Sunday, March 5 - 10:00 a.m. - 2 Lent -Service in the Erwin Chapel**

Tuesday, March 7 - 5:45 p.m. - Executive Committee Zoom meeting

Wednesday, March 8 - 7:00 p.m. Finance Committee Zoom meeting

**Sunday, March 12 - Daylight Savings Time begins -**

**Remember to turn your clocks 1 hour AHEAD**

**Sunday, March 12 - 10:00 a.m. - 3 Lent - Service in the Erwin Chapel**

Tuesday, March 14 - 6:45 p.m. Vestry Meeting

**Thursday, March 17 - Happy St. Patrick's Day**

**Sunday, March 18 - 10:00 a.m. - 4 Lent - Service in the Erwin Chapel**

**with the Rev. Joseph Pace**

**Sunday, March 26 - 10:00 a.m. - 5 lent - Service in the Erwin Chapel**

**with the Rev. Joseph Pace**



**Prayers in time of disaster.**

God, our times are in your hand. In the midst of uncertainty lead us by your never-failing grace as we seek to be agents of healing and hope. Walk with us through difficult times; watch over us in danger; and give to us a spirit of love and compassion for those who suffer and mourn. And finally remind us that you have promised never to leave us so that even in the valley of the shadow of death your love may be felt, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

– The Rev. Lyndon Harris, from the Episcopal Diocese of New York disaster preparedness plan

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. Amen.

– *Book of Common Prayer*, Evening Prayer II

**To support the people affected by the earthquake in Turkey and Syria,  
please go to Episcopal Relief and Development: [www. Episcopalrelief.org](http://www.Episcopalrelief.org)**



**Sunday, March 12th  
Remember to turn your clocks  
ahead 1 hour!**

**Allison's Parish Clerk News Corner**  
**March 2023**

No, it isn't a mistake! Here I am again, twice in one newsletter. I would like to begin with a huge thank you to those who prepared for and attended St. Mark's Annual Meeting on February 5<sup>th</sup>. Much was accomplished, and we are ready for a good year.

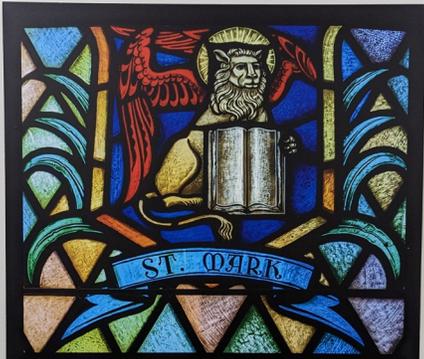
Highlights include:

1. An enthusiastic vestry was elected with 2 new members. (See my Lion's Pause)
2. We had a heartfelt parish merger discussion. (Again, thank you to those who submitted a survey).
  - a. Everyone was willing to pursue a merger (a couple are undecided pending more information).
  - b. Of the 5 churches we visited, St. James Farmington and St. Gabriel's East Berlin were favored. We created a white board comparison of pro's and con's for both.
  - c. St. James has a full-time priest, a choir/active music program, a younger demographic with children in Sunday School and many adult activities, and strong mission connections in New Britain (Friendship Service Center).
  - d. St. Gabriel's has a comfortable atmosphere (and some former St. Mark's members), a strong core of lay people (despite being without a priest), a talented organist, and does work with the Friendship Service Center. It has an older demographic like St. Mark's so growth and survival is in question over time.
3. After our discussion, Stephen Hard informally polled the group of 22 for their choice.  
St. James: 18    St. Gabriel's: 2    Undecided: 2
4. The vestry had a Zoom meeting with Bishop Laura and Canon Tim Hodapp on February 9<sup>th</sup>. Bishop Laura and Canon Tim were very eager to follow the path that St. Mark's chooses. At this point, they did not see an advantage to becoming an Intentional Episcopal Community. Our main focus was the merger choice and the steps to that end (beginning!). Our concern, in any merger, is to be able to continue our administration of our Smith Fund. If we are no longer "St. Mark's", we are no longer beneficiaries. Therefore, the vestry is finding a lawyer to help us know the exact terms and how to navigate a merger with them in mind. Could we have a satellite in New Britain with a weekly worship service in Erwin Chapel and operate our Food Pantry while being a part of St. James parish?
5. At this point, the vestry will be examining these ideas, consulting a lawyer, and soon making a merger choice. Once we send a letter to Bishop Laura with our choice, she will then communicate with that parish. Stay tuned!
6. In other news, the Friendship Service Center's new "Hope Connection Center" on Arch Street had its long-awaited ribbon cutting on February 1<sup>st</sup>. This location will provide all sorts of help for the homeless or those in danger of becoming homeless. St. Mark's (through the Smith Fund) made substantial contributions for the renovation and furnishing of the building. It is honored with a plaque by the kitchen (appropriate for our major Food Pantry ministry.)

***"Open to God's Love, Serving Our Neighbor"***

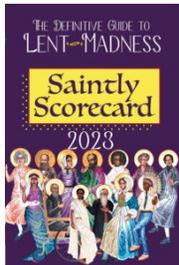
May the Holy Spirit continue to support and guide us in God's way, in God's time.

Peace,  
Allison



Thanks to their Smith Fund,  
*St. Mark's Episcopal Church*  
Joyfully supports  
The cooking, cleaning, and camaraderie  
Of the Hope Connection Center  
February 1, 2023

**Plaque next to the kitchen at  
the Hope Connection Center  
on Arch St.**



Want a different Lenten discipline?  
Try Lentmadness. You know the  
brackets of March Madness and the basketball teams.

This is choosing brackets of saints  
striving for a Golden Halo.

How to play?

Go to Lentmadness 2023. <http://www.lentmadness.org/>

Subscribe to the blog. Click on Bracket 2023 to get the names of saints  
pitted against each other. Everyday there will be a new matchup.

Read the bios on the saints and vote for your favorite.

See the grid posted on the bulletin board outside the parish office.



### Emergency Supply Bags

With Smith Fund support New Life II put together over 100  
emergency supply bags. Each one contains personal care  
items ranging from toothpaste to deodorant.

## **Timing!**

It's all in the timing – you know that! Just as St. Mark's is looking at other ways of being church, there is big news from Hartford International University for Religion and Peace (which you've always known as Hartford Seminary.) They have received a Lilly Endowment grant for \$5 million dollars to explore how congregations are changing, innovating and establishing new ministry practices as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Principal Investigator is Dr. Scott Thumma. Back in the days when Hartford Seminary had a really good bookstore, Scott brought those books and sold them at our Episcopal Diocesan Convention.

Hartford is one of the 9 cities involved in these congregational case studies. Different worship expressions are being looked at. Rural, suburban and urban contexts are being factored in as well as congregational size, length of existence, leadership gender, immigrant and BIPOC-led congregations; and variations in Covid-19 severity.

Two reports have already been made public with the intent to make those findings available to religious leaders as they and we go forward. The 3<sup>rd</sup> report will be released in April. There could be helpful ideas for New Britain uncovered in any of the 9 cities. We wouldn't have to draw just from Hartford. Sometimes the timing is simply perfect – this is one of them!

Barbara A. Campbell, Ph.D.

# March 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>**Daylight Savings Begins On March 12. Remember to turn your clocks ahead 1 hour</b></p>						
<b>5</b> In-Person/Hybrid Service 10:00 a.m. Erwin Chapel 2 Lent	<b>6</b> 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry	<b>7</b> 5:45 p.m. Exec. Committee Mtg	<b>8</b> 7:00 p.m. Finance Committee Mtg	<b>9</b> 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry 7:00 p.m. Thursday Night Group - Zoom mtg	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12**</b> In-Person/Hybrid Service 10:00 a.m. Erwin Chapel 3 Lent	<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 Group - Zoom mtg	<b>17</b> 	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> In-Person/Hybrid Service 10:00 a.m. Erwin Chapel 4 Lent	<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 Group - Zoom mtg	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> In-Person/Hybrid Service 10:00 a.m. Erwin Chapel 5 Lent	<b>27</b> 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry 7:00 p.m. Thursday Night Group - Zoom mtg	<b>31</b>	

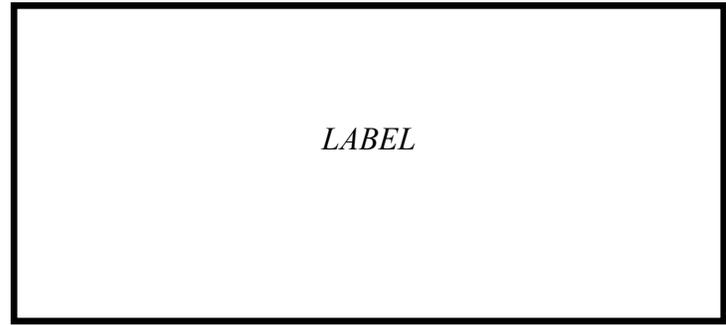
**St. Mark's Episcopal  
Church, New Britain**

**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 March  
Issue of the St. Mark's Message is February 15th.**

**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.**

**Pledge Envelopes for 2023  
Are Now Available!**

Pledge Envelopes are available for pick-up in the Parish Office during the week or on Sundays. If you would like envelopes, please contact Cheryl in the office and she will assign envelopes to you. If you have not yet returned your pledge card, please do so at your earliest opportunity. Thank you.

**St. Mark's Food Pantry**

Monthly Statistics: January 2023  
Unduplicated households - 306  
Total Unduplicated people - 818  
Total food donated to St. Mark's - 600 lbs.  
Total food from Food Share - 4,185 lbs.  
Year to date food donations - 600 lbs.  
Year to date from Food Share - 4,185 lbs.

 **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!**