



THE ST. MARK'S MESSAGE

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, New Britain

**THE LION'S PAUSE with
MARK GIULIETTI, VESTRY MEMBER**

VOLUME XCVIV
ISSUE 5

MAY 2023
ISSUE

We have come to that time of the year in our country, the second Sunday of May, when most pause to honor their mothers and mother figures. Through the efforts of Anna Jarvis, Mother's Day began in 1907. Anna wanted to honor her own mother, Ann Jarvis, who had died on May 9, 1905, and tirelessly pursued the cause of making Mother's Day a national holiday. She succeeded when Congress passed a law in 1914 designating the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day. Seeds of hope for this holiday had first been planted in the nineteenth century to honor those mothers who had lost sons to war or who were at risk of losing their sons to war. As time passed the thought behind such a day was broadened as Ann Jarvis wanted to include all mothers. Carnations and church have become associated with the day because Ann Jarvis delivered 500 white carnations (her mother's favorite) to the first official Mother's Day celebration at St. Andrews Methodists Episcopal Church in Grafton, West Virginia in 1908. Ann was not prepared for the onslaught of commercialism that would associate with the holiday within nine years of the first official day. As we know, card companies, florists, jewelers, and restaurants are especially grateful for her efforts. She spent the rest of her life and her inheritance protesting against the commercialization of Mother's Day which she saw as an abuse of the celebration.

In spite of the commercialism associated with the holiday, most of us sincerely wish to honor our mothers, and those we hold dear as mother figures, with some show of love and devotion. We consider them a blessing in our lives and are grateful for the love, guidance, support, and inspiration they have given us, most times tirelessly, over the years. As we move through life and spend our days in routine and business, it is often easy to take such love for granted. With that in mind, I have always been grateful for the commercial aspect of Mother's Day because it is a wake-up call for me to be mindful. There is a very public reminder for me to honor any women, my mother or someone else who I hold dear. Does that mean that I buy into the commercialism? No, it helps me ask myself when I last

Special points of interest:

- *The Lion's Pause - Mark Giuliotti*
- *In-Person and Hybrid Services - Broadcast Instructions*
- *Evensong at St. James', Farmington*
- *Save The Date*
- *Parish Clerk's Corner*
- *Contemporary Collects and prayers*
- *Walk Against Hunger - Support St. Mark's Food Pantry*
- *May Calendar*
- *Food Pantry Statistics*

expressed my love and gratitude and how now to proceed thoughtfully. Mother's Day is what we make of it. I wish every woman who has been an an important figure in my life..... A HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY. May Mother's Day for you be a matter of the heart whether in giving or receiving.

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.

Evensong at St. James'

3 Mountain Rd., Farmington
for the Ascension of our Lord
Saturday - May 13th at 6:00 p.m.

Guest Musicians and singers will compliment their wonderful choir with amazing music, as we read the Ascension readings, songs and canticles. Please join us.

A reception will follow.

SAVE THE DATE

**Tuesday, May 2 - 6:30 p.m. - Meeting between St. James', Farmington and St. Mark's,
New Britain's Vestries - At 90 Main St. - Cooper Hall**

Sunday, May 7 - 10:00 a.m. Service in the Erwin Chapel

Tuesday, May 9 - 6:45 p.m. - Vestry Meeting - in person and Zoom

Sunday, May 14 - 10:00 a.m. - Service in the Erwin Chapel

Sunday, May 21 - 10:00 a.m. Service in the Erwin Chapel

Sunday, May 28 - 10:00 a.m. - Service in the Erwin Chapel

Monday, May 29 - Memorial Day - Parish office and Food Pantry Closed

Allison's Parish Clerk News Corner
May 2023

HAPPY EASTER!

Here is my chance to say how grateful I am to have had Bishop Laura celebrate Easter with us for 2 years in a row. Her light shines in everything she does, and her faith is catching. Her sermon was thought-provoking. On that first Easter, what would I have done as one of Jesus' followers? Would I have had the courage to roll back the stone and enter the tomb? Seeing an empty tomb with only clothing remains, would I have thought Jesus had been taken, or would I have truly believed he had risen as our Savior? My courage and faith are weak. I am grateful for Jesus, his courageous followers and for my St. Mark's friends who are there when I stumble. Alleluia!

Your vestry has taken another brave step in the merger process. On May 2nd at 6:30 p.m. in Cooper Hall, we will meet with Bishop Laura, St. James Farmington vestry, and vestry of the recently merged St. John the Evangelist, Yalesville and Grace & St. Peter's, Hamden. This will be a "get to know each other" meeting. I'm looking forward to working with others with God's mission in mind.

In the meantime, St. Mark's continues to provide for the needy in New Britain thanks to our dedicated Food Pantry volunteers. The number of people served has tripled during the first months of this year.

I have a homework assignment! Please be thinking of what you would like to see in a merger partner. Let vestry know your thoughts.

"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

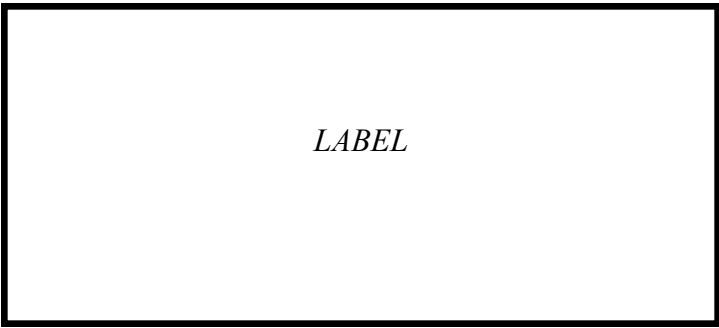
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Church, New Britain**

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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 24th**

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.**

St. Mark's Food Pantry

Monthly Statistics: March 2023

- Unduplicated households - 426
- Total Unduplicated people - 998
- Total food donated to St. Mark's - 580 lbs.
- Total food from Food Share - 3,619.5 lbs.
- Year to date food donations - 1,820 lbs.
- Year to date from Food Share - 11,076.5 lbs.

 We are currently receiving 2 deliveries a month from Food Share. The deliveries usually arrive at 10:30 a.m.

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!