



THE ST. MARK'S MESSAGE

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, New Britain

THE LION'S PAUSE with
ALLISON PENICK, VESTRY CLERK

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JUNE 2023
ISSUE

Merging into New Life

Welcome to June! We have celebrated Easter and Jesus' promise of new life and forgiveness. We are launching into the season of Pentecost. The Holy Spirit will descend and stir our faith into motion. I imagine an invisible force that is within every one of us, in the ground we walk on, in the air we breathe and in every living creature. God is everywhere and loves us always.

St. Mark's is no exception. We are moving forward in the parish merger process. Your vestry met with Bishop Laura, Renee (our merger consultant) and St. James' vestry and rector, Father George on May 2nd. It was a "get-to-know-each-other" meeting and definitely a positive experience. While St. Mark's members voiced feelings of grief, loss, and worry, St. James members voiced feelings of empathy and welcome. By the end of the meeting, I was filled with hope and gratitude. St. Mark's can live on, just in a new form. The Holy Spirit is moving among us!

At our May 9th vestry meeting we passed our resolution to formally request permission to merge with St. James, Farmington. I composed a letter with the same resolution which was sent to Bishop Mello and Bishop Laura. We have already received joyful responses from them with "prayers ascending". The bishops will present our request to the diocesan Standing Committee. Permission is assured. And then the next part of our journey begins. Hold onto your hats!

We will have a joint meeting once again to form working groups to handle the merging of our parishes in 4 main areas---

Special points of interest:

- *The Lion's Pause - Alison Penick, Vestry Clerk*
- *In-Person and Hybrid Services - Broadcast Instructions*
- *Save The Date*
- *North Central Region Pot Luck Dinner - 6 p.m. June 17*
- *Graduation Time*
- *ECCT Racial Healing, Justice & Reconciliation Ministry Network Gathering*
- *Contemporary Collects and prayers*
- *Palm Sunday Altar Photo*
- *Spaghetti Dinner Fund-raiser at St. James - June 23*
- *May Calendar*
- *Food Pantry Statistics*

Finances, Mission, Canons and Property. This is only the beginning, and, at any point, either parish can decide to withdraw. While the vestry is doing this work on behalf of the parish, the final decision to merge will be put to a parish vote. We hope to do this by next June so we can be formally recognized at the 2024 CT Annual Convention.

I feel a little overwhelmed. So much to do! Yet, I repeat. I am hopeful and grateful. St. Mark's has lots of assets such as an endowment and the administration of the Smith Fund. We have a strong core of leaders wanting to keep our mission and faith alive. What we lack is "people power". Joining St. James will allow us to merge into new life.

Prayerful thanks to Bishop Mello and Bishop Laura as well as Father George and St. James Vestry.

Blessings,

Allison

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.

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, June 4 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, June 6 5:45 p.m.

Wednesday, June 7 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 11 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, June 13 6:45 p.m.

Saturday, June 17 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 18 10:00 a.m.

Monday, June 19

Friday, June 23 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, June 25 10:00 a.m.

Service in the Erwin Chapel with Fr. Joseph Pace

Executive Meeting

Finance Committee Meeting

Service in the Erwin Chapel with Fr. Joseph Pace

Vestry Meeting

Pot Luck Dinner at Grace Church, Newington

Service in the Erwin Chapel with Fr. Joseph Pace

Parish Office & Food Pantry Closed -

Juneteenth Holiday

Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser @ St. James, Farmington

Service in the Erwin Chapel with Fr. Joseph Pace



North Central Region Pot Luck Dinner
June 17 - 6 p.m.
Grace Church, 124 Maple Hill Ave., Newington

The NC Region Leadership Team is cordially inviting you to attend a potluck dinner at Grace Church in Newington on Saturday the 17th of June at 6 p.m. All are welcome - bring your friends, bring your neighbors, bring yourselves! There is no need to sign up or RSVP - please simply bring YOUR favorite dish to share and join us for conversation and fellowship. This is not a facilitated evening of programming, it is a gathering of people across the NC Region so that we can get to know you better.

We do hope that you will join us, and if you have any questions please don't hesitate to reach out. I encourage you to share this invitation with your parishes and communities.

Maggie Breen

North Central and Northeast Region Missionary



GRADUATION TIME!



It's Graduation Time! Send in the names of your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews or anyone that you know who is or has graduated this year. Please tell us their name and school they are graduating from. We will post the names in the bulletin in June.



ECCT Racial Healing, Justice & Reconciliation Ministry Network Gathering

June 3rd
10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Social/Racial Justice Resources for young people

Church of the Holy Trinity
381 Main St.
Middletown
Parking available next to the church.

**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 July
Issue of the St. Mark's Message is June 21st**

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: April 2023

- Unduplicated households - 412
- Total Unduplicated people - 1013
- Total food donated to St. Mark's - 520 lbs.
- Total food from Food Share - 3,559 lbs.
- Year to date food donations - 2,340 lbs.
- Year to date from Food Share - 14,635.5 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!