



THE ST. MARK'S MESSAGE

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, New Britain

THE LION'S PAUSE with STEPHEN HARD, SENIOR WARDEN

VOLUME XCVIV
ISSUE 8

AUGUST 2023
ISSUE

Dear St. Mark's Parishioners,

The mission trip to De la Gracia Parish in Andreas, Dominican Republic was wonderful. I could write a book. Instead, I will limit myself to bathrooms and the Bible.

We went to build a bathroom, but the bathroom was not the point. The bathroom is part of a larger plan to have a permanent church, and other facilities, on the property to promote the mission of the Episcopal Church. But they do things a bit differently in the DR. Climate-wise, everything is not always "under one roof" and, of course, none of our extensive provisions for freezing temperatures matter at all. Culture-wise, the word that comes to mind is incrementalism. We tend to have a plan, raise the money or the financing, and then quickly implement the plan. That's akin to the "under one roof" approach, and it's not how they operate. They have a sense of what they want to achieve, and then take steps to bring about what they want in ways that seem disorganized and inefficient. Our way of doing things seems far superior, and lack of money is the only thing preventing Dominicans from doing things our (the right, better, superior) way. The trouble is that the solution (money/wealth) is also a problem.

Money provides many desirable things. It provides security. It provides independence, and it can insulate us from dealing with what is unpleasant. But it can also diminish experiencing and living many of the important values of our faith. Dominicans living in impoverished circumstances, and all poor people, do not have the luxury of focusing on the future as we do. You may have heard of Abraham Maslow's "Hierarchy of Needs." Maslow makes the very important point that human beings, for the most part, don't focus on higher-order needs (self-esteem, self-actualization) if lower order needs (physiological, safety, and relational needs) are not met. Dorothy Day put it succinctly: "Nobody wants to kiss when they are hungry."

What I discovered was that impoverished Dominicans demonstrate the presence of God in all of life and that their very poverty challenges us and the way we live our faith. Rather than propped at the top of the hierarchy of needs, God is there from top to bottom. And God is an incrementalist.

Special points of interest:

- *The Lion's Pause - Stephen Hard, Senior Warden*
- *In-Person and Hybrid Services - Broadcast Instructions*
- *Summer Sunday Services Info*
- *Contemporary Collects and prayers*
- *Save The Date*
- *August Calendar (insert)*
- *Summer Parish Office Hours*
- *Send in postcards or photos of your vacation*
- *Food Pantry Statistics*

Some thoughts:

- Living in the moment enables us to see ourselves and other people more clearly.
- Using what is commonly available is an expression of gratitude.
- Wealth thwarts gratitude.
- People are more important than things.
- Caring about and for others has nothing to do with how much money we have.

The other part of our participation was a week-long Vacation Bible School. There were about 50 to 60 children who came to the property for a two-hour session involving prayer, instruction, crafts, and, of course, snacks. The VBS program illustrated what Maslow articulated! My final bullet point:

- Joy is the sign of God's presence in every circumstance.

Sincerely in Christ,

Stephen Hard
Senior Warden

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.)

Summer Sunday Services

For a variety of reasons associated with our plans to merge with St. James in Farmington, it will not always be possible to offer Sunday Services in the Erwin Chapel. On these

Sundays, parishioners are encouraged to attend the Sunday Eucharist at St. James in Farmington to promote our getting to know one another and becoming more comfortable worshipping there. Through Labor Day, St. James' one service is at 9:30 a.m. This is livestreamed via FACEBOOK LIVE. Livestream connection is by clicking the "F" icon at the top of the St. James Webpage. After Labor Day there are two services.

Rite 1 is celebrated at 8:00 am, Rite 2 (normally with choir) is celebrated at 10:15 am. Only the 10:15 am service is livestreamed.

A parking tip: When approaching the church turn right just in front of the entrance. Parking to the left (behind the church) is difficult and limited. Across the street from the front door of the church there is ample parking available on Sunday mornings.

Parking at 90 Main St.

South Church has begun their Summer Service times. Their Sunday Service will begin at 9:25 a.m. in the Main Sanctuary. This will make parking very difficult. There will be a spots reserved for St. Mark's. They will be near the entrance at the "bottom" of the parking lot.

Look for the traffic cones with ST. MARK'S on them. However, if you are able, please park either on the street or in the parking garage next to the police station. Thank you.

Contemporary Collects and Prayers

August 6 - Feast of the Transfiguration - O God, who on the holy mount revealed to chosen witnesses your well-beloved Son, wonderfully transfigured, in raiment white and glistening: Mercifully grant that we, being delivered from the disquietude of this world, may by faith behold the King in his beauty; who with you, O Father, and you, O Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever.

August 13 - Grant to us, Lord, we pray, the spirit to think and do always those things that are right, that we, who cannot exist without you, may by you be enabled to live according to your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

August 20 - Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us a sacrifice for sin, and also an example of godly life: Give us grace to receive thankfully the fruits of his redeeming work, and to follow daily in the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

August 27 - Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

SAVE THE DATE

Wednesday, August 2	5:45 p.m.	Executive Committee Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Finance Committee Meeting
August 4		Parish Office Closed
Sunday, August 6	10:00 a.m.	Service in the Erwin Chapel - Stephen Hard, Worship Leader
Tuesday, August 8	6:45 p.m.	Vestry Meeting - Cooper Hall
August 11		Parish Office Closed
Sunday, August 13	10:00 a.m.	Service in the Erwin Chapel - Stephen Hard, Worship Leader
August 18		Parish Office Closed
Sunday, August 20	9:30 a.m.	Services at St. James, 3 Mountain Rd., Farmington
August 25		Parish Office Closed
Sunday, August 27	10:00 a.m.	Service in the Erwin Chapel - Stephen Hard, Worship Leader
September 1 & 4		Parish Office Closed for Labor Day Holliday

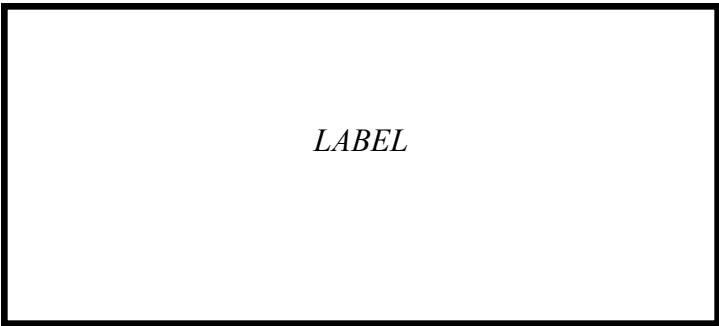
**St. Mark's Episcopal
Church, New Britain**

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**Phone: 860-225-7634
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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 September
Issue of the St. Mark's Message is August 23.**

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.**

Parish Office Summer Hours
The Parish Office will be closed on Fridays
during August

**Summer
time!**

**SUMMERTIME AND THE LIVING IS EASY!
While on vacation this year, please send us a postcard or
photo of your vacation. We will post it on our
bulletin board outside the parish office.
Have a great Summer!**

St. Mark's Food Pantry

- Monthly Statistics: June 2023**
- ! Unduplicated households - 231
- ! Total Unduplicated people - 644
- ! Total food donated to St. Mark's - 735 lbs.
- ! Total food from Food Share - 1,900 lbs.
- ! Year to date food donations - 3,850 lbs.
- ! Year to date from Food Share - 20,838.5 lbs.

The pantry was closed on July 17 due to flooding from the torrential rains the day before. We were lucky - no food items were damaged or destroyed.