



THE ST. MARK'S MESSAGE

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, New Britain

THE LION'S PAUSE
STEPHEN HARD, Senior Warden

VOLUME XCIX
ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2024
ISSUE

Dear St. Mark's Faithful,

As we enter another year of Our Lord, we have so much for which to be grateful and even greater blessings to anticipate. I am reminded of words of Maria from *The Sound of Music*: "When the Lord closes a door somewhere he opens a window." The "window" for us is St. James Church in Farmington.

On January 18 there is a joint Vestry meeting with St. James. At this meeting our committees will be reporting their progress on the work of our merger. Our Mission Committee is reviewing the work of our parishes and will be making recommendations for integrating this work into the new parish. Our Bylaws/Canons Committee is developing the important legal documents that will structure our life together. The Finance Committee has embarked on deciphering the ways of money in each of our parishes and determining the practices and procedures we will adopt for the new parish. Finally, the work of the Property Committee is well advanced since St. Mark's did so much work in this regard as we sold our historic property and moved to South.

This is both an exciting time and a profound opportunity. We do not need to just do things as we always have, but as we merge, we can examine past practices and make improvements. This is a great deal of work. I hope as many of you as possible will join in the effort! All committee meetings are open to all members of both parishes and we will be diving into the thorny issue of what to name our new parish soon. Please mark your calendars for Sunday, February 4. This will be our final Annual Meeting as St. Mark's. We will meet in Cooper Hall following our regular 10:00 a.m. Eucharist. Vestry has set the date for our final regular service in the Erwin Chapel for Pentecost Sunday, May 31, 2024. After that day we will be worshiping with St. James. Until then, please keep abreast of our worship schedule and stay tuned for more information on a

Special points of interest:

- *The Lion's Pause - Stephen Hard, Senior Warden*
- *Annual Reports Due*
- *Sunday Services at St. James, Farmington*
- *In-Person and Hybrid Services - Broadcast Instructions*
- *Contemporary Collects and prayers*
- *A Season for All Things - Ecclesiastes 3:1-15*
- *Clerk's Corner - Allison Penick*
- *Holiday Greeting*
- *Worship Schedule for January 2024*
- *Save The Date*
- *Annual Parish Meeting Notice - February 4*
- *January Calendar*
- *Food Pantry Statistics*

variety of things in the months to come. Our merger, God willing, will officially take place at Diocesan Convention on Saturday, October 26, 2024.

Blessings in the New Year,

Stephen Hard
Senior Warden



2023 Annual Reports Due

It's that time of year again! If you are writing a report for the Annual Meeting, please email it to Cheryl in the Parish Office no later than January 18, 2024. Thank you!

Sunday Services at St. James, Farmington

There are two services. Rite 1 is celebrated at 8:00 am, Rite 2 (normally with choir) is celebrated at 10:15 am. This is livestreamed via FACEBOOK LIVE. Livestream connection is by clicking the "F" icon at the top of the St. James Webpage. 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.

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.

Contemporary Collects and Prayers

January 1 - Holy Name - Eternal Father, you gave to your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be the sign of our salvation: Plant in every heart, we pray, the love of him who is the Savior of the world, our Lord Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

January 7 - Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

January 14 - Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

January 15 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart [and especially the hearts of the people of this land], that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

January 21- Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

January 28- Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

A Season for all Things - *Ecclesiastes 3:1-15*

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
a time to tear, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.

What gain have the workers from their toil? I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with. He has made everything suitable for its time; moreover, he has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live; moreover, it is God's gift that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil. I know that whatever God does endures for ever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it; God has done this, so that all should stand in awe before him. That which is, already has been; that which is to be, already is; and God seeks out what has gone by.

Clerk's Corner - By Allison Penick
January 2024

Happy New Year!

This year will be an exciting one. We will be working hard to unite St. Mark's and St. James parishes. Stephen has all you need to know in his *Lion's Pause*.

Before the merger is official, we are still St. Mark's and must have an Annual Meeting on Sunday February 4th and elect vestry officers and members. Any voting member is eligible to join the vestry so don't be shy! Vestry service gives you the hands-on experience of envisioning our future.

St. Mark's has been my friend for years. I'm afraid I may take it for granted. I want to take this opportunity to thank one and all for your faith, hard work and dedication to spreading God's love to everyone.

"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

**THE VESTRY AND
STAFF (CHERYL) OF
ST. MARK'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
WISH EVERYONE A JOYOUS
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

Worship Schedule for St. Mark's

**Below is a listing of our Sunday worship schedule for January 2024.
Please note that this list may be subject to change at any time.
Any changes will be noted in our weekly bulletin.**

Date	Time	Place	Celebrant
January 7, 2024	10:00 a.m.	Erwin Chapel	Rev. Joan Phelps Celebrant
January 14	10:00 a.m.	Erwin Chapel	Rev. Joseph Pace Celebrant
January 21	10:00 a.m.	Erwin Chapel	Rev. Joan Phelps Celebrant
January 28	10:00 a.m.	Erwin Chapel	Rev. Joseph Pace Celebrant

Please watch the bulletin and our website for any changes: www.stmarksnewbritain.org

SAVE THE DATE

Monday, January 1, 2024	New Year's Day	Parish Office Closed
Tuesday, January 2	5:45 p.m.	Executive Committee Meeting
Wednesday, January 3	7:00 p.m.	Finance Committee Meeting
Sunday, January 7	10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist Service - Erwin Chapel
Tuesday, January 9	6:45 p.m.	Vestry Meeting – Cooper Hall
Wednesday, January 10	6:30 p.m.	Canonical Committee Meeting - Cooper Hall
Tuesday, January 18	7:00 p.m.	Combined Vestry Meeting - St. James, Farmington
Sunday, January 14	10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist Service - Erwin Chapel
Monday, January 15		Martin Luther King Day Parish Office Closed
Sunday, January 21	10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist Service - Erwin Chapel
Sunday, January 28	10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist Service - Erwin Chapel
Sunday, February 4	10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist Service - Erwin Chapel and St. Mark's Annual Meeting

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

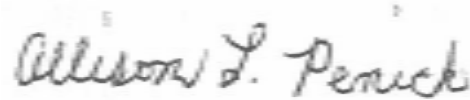
St. Mark's Annual Parish Meeting
will be held on:

Sunday, February 4, 2024

[Blizzard date: February 11, 2024]

**Location: Cooper Hall Following the 10 a.m. Service in
Erwin Chapel - **Zoom will be available.**

The annual meeting is called for Election of
Officers and Vestry and any other business as
designated by the Vestry.



Allison L. Penick
Parish Clerk

**We will have the Zoom room used for our Sunday worship service open to allow remote participation at the Annual Meeting. This works out OK for those who might just want to listen. It's not very good for those who might want to offer input. Everyone is encouraged to attend the Annual Meeting in person if you are able, especially as we move forward with our plans to merge with St. James in Farmington.

JANUARY 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Parish Office Closed	2	3 5:45 p.m. Exec. Committee Mtg 7:00 p.m. Finance Committee Mtg	4 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry 7:00 p.m. Thursday Night	5	6
						
7 In-Person/Hybrid Service 10:00 a.m. Erwin Chapel	8 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry	9	10 6:30 p.m. Canonical Committee Cooper Hall	11 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry 7:00 p.m. Thursday Night	12	13
14 In-Person/Hybrid Service 10:00 a.m. Erwin Chapel	 15 Office Closed	16	17	18 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry 7:00 p.m. Combined Vestry Meeting at St. James, Farmington	19	20
21 In-Person/Hybrid Service 10:00 a.m. Erwin Chapel	22 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry	23	24	25 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry 7:00 p.m. Thursday Night	26	27
28 In-Person/Hybrid Service 10:00 a.m. Erwin Chapel	29 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry	30	31			

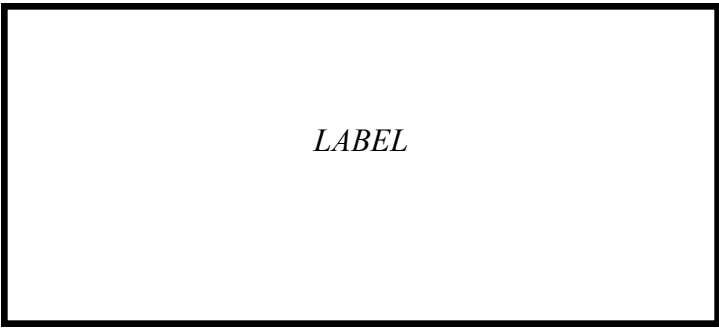
**St. Mark's Episcopal
Church, New Britain**

**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 February 2024
Issue of the St. Mark's Message is January 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. unless otherwise stated.
Please check the St. Mark's Calendar for our monthly schedule.**

St. Mark's Food Pantry

Monthly Statistics: November 2023
! Unduplicated households - 231
! Total Unduplicated people - 729
! Total food donated to St. Mark's - 755 lbs.
! Total food from Food Share - 5,442.8 lbs.
! Year to date food donations - 8,519 lbs.
! Year to date from Food Share - 36,477.3 lbs.

Connecticut residents may
receive food from our Food
Pantry once every 30 days.
Please bring your own bag,
if possible, to receive food.