



THE ST. MARK'S MESSAGE

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, New Britain

THE LION'S PAUSE with LENNY NELSON, SENIOR WARDEN

VOLUME XCVIII
ISSUE 4

APRIL 2022
ISSUE

As the Easter Season approaches, I am being brought back in time by 2 recent events. In November, we received an e-mail from a parishioner from 1949-1965 bemoaning the sale of our church. Steven Johnson detailed his remembrances of his youth growing up in St. Mark's. Shortly thereafter, we were moving articles that we felt were worth preserving, into our storage space at 147 West Main St. One of those items was the Bishop's Chair.

When I was in the Men and Boys Choir in the 1950's, one of the traditions on Easter Sunday was for the shortest boy in the Choir to sit in the Bishop's Chair during the services. We sang at the 7:00 and 11:00 services on Easter, the Girls Choir sang at the 9:00 service. (St. Mark's also had a Chancel Choir which was made up of young women). One of the other remembrances detailed by Steven was that on Easter, during the processional, the Choir would stop at a kneeler located at the center aisle and sing the canticle "Christ Our Passover Was Sacrificed Us" and then continue singing the Processional Hymn as we proceeded to our seats. The morning services did not end Easter Sunday, with the afternoon children's services where we presented our Mite Boxes, brought cut flowers to decorate a wooden cross with many holes, and received a small potted flower as we left.

Curtis Searle reminded me in Church one day that during major Feast Days or when a Bishop is present that between 10 and 13 acolytes could be used in a service – 2 (3) Crucifers, 4 (6) Candle Bearers, a Flag Bearer, Banner Bearer and 2 Servers.

When subbing at the Food Pantry, I found 2 pictures in one of the storage rooms of St. Mark's Sunday School from 1953-54 and 1954-55 - 9:30 session with well over 100 young people and their teachers. See if you can find Bob, Maxine, Page, Rae and others?

As much as things change, they stay the same. As my daughter graduated with a degree in Vocal Performance, she and her boyfriend located to Washington, D.C. to begin their careers. They went to the National Episcopal Cathedral to interview for a choir position. He was successful since they had a Men & Boys Choir. This turned out to be an opportunity for my daughter as she interviewed with the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception where she became a chorister and soloist which provided numerous opportunities. Among those was to sing and solo in

Special points of interest:

- *The Lion's Pause - Lenny Nelson, Senior Warden*
- *Contemporary Collects for April*
- *In-Person and Hybrid Services - Broadcast Instructions*
- *Mailing List Information*
- *Easter Memorial Flower Form*
- *Lent Madness*
- *Save The Date*
- *Election of New Bishop Diocesan of CT Dates*
- *Parish Clerk's Corner*
- *April Calendar*
- *Food Pantry Statistics*



Sacred Music, a trip to the Vatican to sing for the Pope and to sing and solo on a Christmas CD sponsored and performed on NPR (National Public Radio). Her solo was Cesar Franck's "Panis Angelicus". A Middle School Music Teacher in New York City, she currently sings with C4 (Choral Composer/Conductor Collective).

This reminds me that as one door closes another one opens. Two roads diverged...and I took the one less traveled...and that has made all the difference.

Contemporary Collects

Fifth Sunday in Lent, April 3: O Almighty God, who alone canst order the unruly wills and affections of sinful men: Grant unto thy people that they may love the thing which thou commandest, and desire that which thou dost promise; that so, among the sundry and manifold changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Palm Sunday, April 10: Almighty and everlasting God, who, of thy tender love towards mankind, hast sent thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our flesh, and to suffer death upon the cross, that all mankind should follow the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may both follow the example of his patience, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Maundy Thursday, April 14: Almighty Father, whose dear Son, on the night before he suffered, did institute the Sacrament of his Body and Blood: Mercifully grant that we may thankfully receive the same in remembrance of him who in these holy mysteries giveth us a pledge of life eternal, the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who now liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit ever, one God, world without end. Amen.

Good Friday, April 15: Almighty God, we beseech thee graciously to behold this thy family, for which our Lord Jesus Christ was contented to be betrayed, and given up into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross; who now liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost ever, one God, world without end. Amen.

Easter Day, April 17: O God, who for our redemption didst give thine only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection hast delivered us from the power of our enemy: Grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his resurrection; through the same thy Son Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Second Sunday of Easter, April 24: Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery hast established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



ZOOM & IN-PERSON SERVICE INFORMATION

Our services 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>. The bulletin is also available on our website. Please either print or have the bulletin open on a separate browser tab to participate fully in the service.

If New Britain is red on the weekly Thursday (about 3 p.m.) update on the Connecticut COVID-19 Data Tracker map, the Sunday service will be on Zoom only.

For the map, please go to: <https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/COVID-19-Data-Tracker>.

An e-mail will be sent out to the parish every Friday to let you know if the service will be in-person or on **Zoom only**.

For in-person services at 90 Main St., everyone is required to wear a mask and maintain a safe distance inside the buildings of South Church. We will have masks available if you need one. Thank you.

Broadcast Instructions

You can enter the Zoom service via the parish Web link at <http://www.stmarksnewbritain.org>.

There is also a telephone number that can be used to join the Zoom service:

1-646-558-8656

(phone charges may apply for the telephone call if you do not have unlimited calling).

If you are using a telephone to dial into the service: dial the zoom phone number, and then wait to be prompted by the voice to enter the meeting number. Then, enter the meeting number, and as part of the meeting number, please add the "pound" sign (#) at the end of the meeting number (as the verbal instructions direct).

The Zoom broadcast opens at 9:45 am when remote participants can be admitted and will be greeted by the e-verger.

Remote participants are encouraged to stay connected after the service and greet and be greeted during the coffee hour.

Issues that have come to our attention:

Issue: "my screen goes back and forth between speakers."

Response: you may be in "speaker" view. If so, change to "gallery view".

Please contact Cheryl in the Parish Office if you have any questions.

The St. Mark's Message Mailing List

If, at any time, you would like to receive the Message by email instead of USPS mail, please contact Cheryl in the parish office.

By phone: 860-225-7634

By email: parishoffice@stmarksnewbritain.org

Thank you.





EASTER
ALTAR FLOWERS

This Easter we will welcome The Rt. Rev. Laura Ahrens as our Celebrant and Preacher. We would like to have as many flowers in the church as possible to celebrate Easter.

If you would like to donate flowers for Easter in the memory of loved ones, please fill out and return the form below to the church office.

A donation of at least \$25 would be appreciated. Please make checks payable to: **St. Mark's Altar Guild.**

Please include the name of the people to be remembered with the flowers and by whom they are donated.

Please feel free to call Cheryl Rusczyk in the Parish Office 860-225-7634 if you have any questions.

✂-----

ALTAR FLOWER FUND (Please print information)

Donated by: _____

1. Easter Memorial 2022 Names:

Donations included: \$ _____

For **Easter** Flower Donations: Please complete and return to St. Mark's Church Office **NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, April 10, 2022.**

Additional copies of this form may be obtained by calling the church office at 860-225-7634.

Easter and Holy Week Schedule



Sunday, April 3 - 5th Sunday in Lent
10:00 a.m. in Cooper Hall and on Zoom



Sunday, April 10 - Palm Sunday - with Rev. Diana Rogers
10:00 a.m. in Cooper Hall and on Zoom

St. Mark's will gather for the Blessings of the Palms in Cooper Hall at 9:45 a.m. At 10 a.m. South Church will join us in Cooper Hall and we will process with the palms together. St. Mark's will return to Cooper Hall for our celebration of the Passion Sunday Eucharist.



Thursday, April 14 - Maundy Thursday -
St. Mark's will not hold a Maundy Thursday service.
Please feel free to attend another parish's service.



Friday, April 15 - Good Friday -
7:00 p.m. in Cooper Hall



Sunday, April 17 - 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel and on Zoom
Easter Sunday - with The Rt Rev. Laura Ahrens
There will be a coffee hour following the service in Hart Hall.

Dates of Relevance to the Election of a new Bishop Diocesan of Connecticut

April 4	Candidates Announced
May 9 - 14	Meet and Greet Week for the Candidates to tour the Diocese of CT
May 21	Election of the Bishop Diocesan of Connecticut
June through September	Consent period for other diocese in the Episcopal Church, nationally and internationally, to consent to our election
October 15	Consecration of the new Bishop Diocesan of Connecticut

Allison's Parish Clerk News Corner

April 2022

Is there anything new to report from the Parish Life Committee? This was the question asked at our last vestry meeting. It caught me off guard. For 2 years, we have been hiding behind masks, checking the Covid positivity rate and reluctantly saying "no, we shouldn't gather in person." Yet, parish life has faithfully continued with Zoom Sunday worship and Zoom TNG Thursday night group discussions. Dare I say it? Our outlook is much more promising. Coffee hour anyone?

- ◆ Sunday worship has returned to in-person in Cooper Hall. Thanks to the talents of Stephen Hard, we are able to continue the Zoom presentation so everyone can gather.
- ◆ Father Shaw has moved on, but Barbara Campbell has found clergy willing to celebrate with us on Palm Sunday (The Rev. Diana Rogers) and on Easter (Bishop Laura Ahrens). She continues to search for supply priests. She and Stephen will be our worship leaders when priests aren't available. Sue Holland has ordered palms and Easter flowers will decorate our altar. Stephen continues to select hymns from online audio-files.
- ◆ Community Ministries Committee: This group of caring people administers St. Mark's Smith Fund which has accumulated \$170K and receives income annually to be used to help those in need in New Britain. It has supported our food pantry and donated to aid the establishment of a New Life Ministries recovery house. Currently the Friendship Center (FC) is expanding its reach from New Britain to include Berlin, Plainville, Bristol and Southington by establishing a Day Center on Arch Street. The City of New Britain has funded the building's renovation, and the FC is looking for \$10K from faith-based organizations in these towns to provide one-on-one staffing for clients. Services will include street outreach, a community kitchen, transportation assistance, individual case management, healthcare referral, basic needs assessment, job training/workforce development, a short-cut to 211, light meals, showers and laundry. St. Mark's has already committed a portion of the \$10K and is seeking more information about other ways we might assist in this valuable ministry. *Please contact Barbara or Cheryl to offer ideas for our committee to consider.*
- ◆ St. Mark's is at a cross-road as we emerge from pandemic restrictions and transition to our "new normal" without a priest and declining membership. *Your vestry wants to hear from you!* All options are on the table including staying as we are at 90 Main St, merging with another episcopal parish (such as St. James, Farmington?) or closure (not a serious option now). Personally, my choice is a merger that would expand membership (young people!), allow weekly Eucharistic services with a priest and let us continue to serve our community of New Britain.

St. Mark's is "Open to God's Love, Serving Our Neighbor".

A prayer for guidance, faith, peace and hope....
Allison

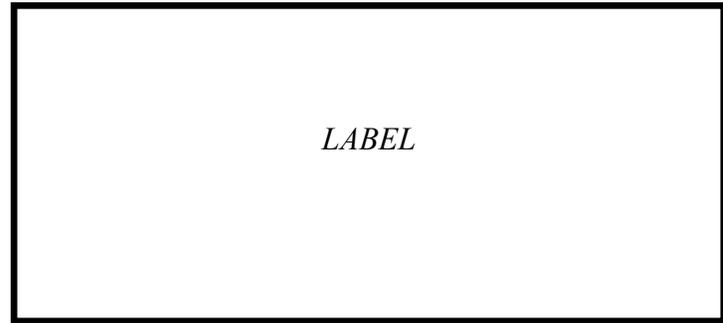
**St. Mark's Episcopal
Church, New Britain**

**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 May Issue
of the St. Mark's Message is April 20, 2022**

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



Weekly Parish Services:

**While New Britain is in a Red Zone, we will
only have Zoom Services. We will hold in
person services along with Zoom once we are
no longer in a red zone. . To attend on Zoom,
go to our website—
www.saintmarksnewbritain.org for
information on joining the service.**

Pledges and Offerings

Please remember to keep sending in your
pledges and offerings to the parish. Mail in our P.O.
Box is picked up several times a week. Your pledge
payments are compiled at least once a month and
deposited.

The parish ministries to the community and worship
services adapt and continue, even in these most
challenging times.

Mailing address: St. Mark's Episcopal Church
PO Box 1538 New Britain, CT 06050-1538 or to
electronically send checks to the Church via your
bank.

St. Marks keeps going in God's way, God's time, and
to God's glory.

St. Mark's Food Pantry

Monthly Statistics: February 2022
Unduplicated households - 137
Children - 142
Adults - 146
Seniors - 52
Total Food Donated to St. Mark's - 485 lbs.
Total food from Food Share - 3028 lbs.

**Please give Cheryl a call in the parish
office if you can help us a few hours a
week.**