

**March 2023**

*Articles from St. Mark Lutheran & St. James Episcopal included.*

## UPCOMING SERVICES /EVENTS

### JOINT SERVICE

There will be a joint service on Sunday March 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM at St. James Episcopal Church, 24 Hamlet Ave., Woonsocket. A meeting will be held after the service. More information included in the Summary of Congregational Visits further on in the newsletter. There will be NO service at St. Mark on that Sunday.

### JOYOUS NEWS! MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



The Service of the Lord Committee will host the annual Palm Sunday Breakfast on Sunday April 2<sup>nd</sup> at St. Mark downstairs in the church hall. Breakfast will be served at 9:00 AM followed by a joyous commemoration of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, with both congregations worshipping together at St. Mark at 10:00 am.

The prices of tickets are: \$10.00 Adult and Teens, \$5.00 Children 5 -12, and children under 5 free.

Choices include: Cheese Omelet, Denver Omelet, French Toast Casserole, Pancakes, Bacon & Sausage. Fruit, Muffins and Beverages included.

There are two ways to purchase tickets:

- ❖ After church at either St. Mark or at St. James, March 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>.
- ❖ Call St. Mark at (401) 769-8320 with your choices and mail a check to St. Mark.

Please make the check out to St. Mark Lutheran Church and write "**Palm Sunday breakfast**" on the memo line of the check.

**No tickets will be sold at the door.**

***\*\*Please remember to bring your ticket with you at the breakfast.***

**\*\*Please consider helping out, contact Peggy Qvicklund or signup in the narthex. Help will be needed to set up, work in kitchen, waitress, and cleanup or bring in a cut-up fruit to make a fruit bowl.**



The Christian Education committee is inviting families from St. Mark and St. James to visit Roger Williams Park Zoo, 1000 Elmwood Ave., Providence on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. The first 10 families who register for this event will receive 2 free tickets for their children. Please contact Caitlyn McCann at [caitlynm01@yahoo.com](mailto:caitlynm01@yahoo.com) to sign up.

## HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE



St. James Episcopal and St. Mark Lutheran will be sharing Holy Week services this year! The full schedule of services for Holy Week beginning with Palm Sunday is as follows:

**Palm Sunday ~ April 2 ~** St. James will offer a service at 8:00 a.m. with blessings of palms and Passion Gospel. St. Mark's service will be at 10:00 a.m. following the Palm Sunday Breakfast. Come and participate in the procession with palms and hear the Passion story read during the service.

\*\*There are several parts in the Passion story (Narrator, Jesus, Peter, etc.). People from both churches will be needed to read those parts. The Narrator and Jesus parts will be read at the pulpit and lectern and all the other parts can be read at your seat. If interested, please email Pam at: stmarkwoon@gmail.com.

**Maundy Thursday – April 6 ~** There will be only one Maundy Thursday Service which will be at St. James Episcopal Church, 24 Hamlet Ave., Woonsocket. The service will begin at 7:00 p.m. with liturgy of the word, Holy Communion and stripping of the altar.

**Good Friday – April 7 ~** There will be only one Good Friday Service which will be a Tenebrae Service at St. Mark at 7:00 p.m.

**Holy Saturday – April 8 ~** 9:00 a.m. worship at St. James — a quiet and brief contemplative service to commemorate the day that Jesus lay in the tomb.

**Easter Sunday – April 9 ~** Easter services will follow the normal Sunday service schedule at both churches. Our festival service at St. Mark will be held at 9:00 am and 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 am at St. James. Please join us for this joyous celebration. Invite your family and friends!

**Decorate the church for Easter ~** The worship committee would like your help to decorate St. Mark for Easter on Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. Please join us! The more the merrier!



### EASTER PLANTS

Again, St. Mark will offer Easter plants for sale to adorn the sanctuary during the Easter service on April 9<sup>th</sup>. The cost is \$10.00 per plant. We are offering lilies and tulips this year. The order form has been emailed out and is also in the Sunday bulletin. Please fill out the form and put it in the offering plate along with your payment or you can mail it in to the church, (St. Mark Lutheran Church, 871 Harris Ave., Woonsocket, RI).



Envelopes are provided in the pews or on the table in the narthex. ***The deadline to order a plant will be Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup>. Please get your order in before the deadline.***

If you would like to donate money to the memorial fund for Easter instead of purchasing a plant, you can do so. There is a sheet located on the bulletin board.

## FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

### CREATE MAY BASKETS

Celebrate St. James's 100-year anniversary of the May breakfast. Join the fun and help create 100 May Baskets. Meet in St. James' atrium on Sunday March 19, from 1 PM-3 PM. All materials are provided.



### CRAFT GROUP AT ST. JAMES



Craft group is meeting at St. James each Saturday. We have a time change ... from now on, the time for meeting will be from 1:00 to 3:30 each Saturday. Please bring your talent and ideas as we have lots of things to make. The Craft group is looking for corks from wine bottles. If you enjoy wine, please save your corks for us and just leave them in a bag on the Craft room door. Any questions please call Sylvia Weston Harris 401-332-1437.

Sincerely yours in Christ, Sylvia Weston-Harris

### OUTSIDE CLEANUP AT ST. MARK

Outside spring cleanup at St. Mark will be held on **Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup>**. Work will begin at 9:00 am. Please bring rakes and gloves. Rain date is April 8<sup>th</sup>. Much help is needed. *The more the merrier!*



**LIKE TO SING?** - St. Mark Choir practice is on Sundays after the service. If anyone is interested in joining or just singing for Easter, please speak with Bill Spont or just show up at rehearsal. All are welcome!

**ST. JAMES CHOIR** - Ah, Lent. This is the season where choir membership has the additional joy of singing alleluias as we prepare for Easter and the congregation has to refrain from the word. Want to join? We are currently rehearsing on Thursdays at 2 P. M. in the choir room as well as at 9:30 A. M. on Sunday mornings. (Chances are very good we'll be having a few extra rehearsals as we prepare for Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter services; this organist-choir director is beginning to feel some panic setting in since starting on the music dropped off by Bill!) We look forward to our shared services at both churches and the Palm Sunday breakfast. Once again, the menu looks great and we know the fellowship will be, too.

Shirley Ayers



Dear friends in Christ,

Although Easter is still a few weeks away, and we still have many days of Lent ahead as you are reading this newsletter, I want to look forward to our celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus. Wherever we are, the risen Christ is also present and there for us, when we are open to having faith in his presence. The Resurrection of Jesus means that he is no longer bound by the limits of place and history that mark the beginning and ending of life for us—his life is endless and limitless. As the former Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams says in his Easter Sermon, “Risen Indeed,” Jesus “is no longer the prisoner of the past; he is not an historical memory, whose life is neatly tied up and put away. No, from now on he belongs to all people and all times, he is *available* to all. He is free.” Jesus Christ and the new life he brings with him is with us, always and everywhere, and available for us whenever we choose to call upon him—or more likely, whenever he chooses to call upon us.

Jesus Christ is free and alive—he is not bound in history or memory; he is not bound by the nails that attached him to the Cross of his death; he is not bound by the grave, or even by the Church that is his Body and confesses his name. In his freedom, he brings together every person who has been given into his care, bridging everything that tries to separate or divide us. As St. Paul writes, our lives are “hidden with Christ in God,” and “when Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory” (Colossians 3:3-4) We are all hidden and united in Christ, so wherever I am, and wherever you are, I am connected to you, and together we are connected to St. Peter, and St. Paul, and Mary Magdalene, and every other disciple of Jesus who has ever walked the earth. What is more, Jesus shares the freedom of his Resurrection with us, so that through the grace of faith we are able to overcome the things that falsely threaten to separate us from the love of God and each other.

It is the nature of the modern world for members of the church to be dispersed, even at Easter—many people travel away from their homes for the holidays. And yet, we are never separated, because we are one in Christ Jesus. Know that you are known and loved by our risen Lord, that you are in my prayers this Easter, and that the love of God in Jesus is alive and freely given to you and to the billions of souls—all our brothers and sisters in Christ—who have celebrated Easter through the ages.

Yours in Christ,  
Peter

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### **A MESSAGE FROM THE ST. MARK CHURCH COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

Already we are halfway through Lent. Crocus are blooming and shrubs and trees are in bud, Holy Week and Easter are soon upon us.

The Annual Meeting of St. Mark was held on Sunday, January 22, 2023, just after our regular church service. We elected a new Council. In February, Council reelected their officers: Ken Campbell, President; Matt Larson, Vice President; Kelly Mottram, Secretary; Jim McKamy, Treasurer. The Council extended the engagement of Jane Peach as Accountant and assistant to the Treasurer. The Annual Meeting also elected a new Nominating Committee (Caitlyn McCann, Jim McKamy, Jan Peterson, and Charlotte Campbell), as well as new delegates to the next New England Synod Assembly (Judy Helm, Jim McKamy), and suggested nominees to the Council for the new Audit Committee (Lars Qvicklund, Bob Marcil, Danielle Larson).

The congregation readopted a slightly revised version of the covenant with St. James Episcopal Church. The revised version was also adopted by the St. James Episcopal congregation at their annual meeting on January 29, 2023. The modification (below) changes the original joint steering committee, charged with the proposal and review process and with reporting to the congregations, from the pastor and an elected group of two members from each church to the Executive Committee of St. Mark Council (President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer) and their counterparts at St. James. The modification also directs this bridge committee and Council to report to the congregation at intervals not to exceed six months.

Upon adoption of this covenant, a joint steering committee consisting of the Executive Committee of the St. Mark Council and the equivalent committee from the St. James Vestry will bear the responsibility of monitoring the implementation of this covenant. The steering committee will make recommendations about existing and projected collaborative efforts between St. Mark and St. James to the governing boards, the ministerial committees, and to the congregations at intervals of no more than six months. The steering committee will be responsible for reporting, in writing, on the state of the partnership, as well as any proposed amendments or modifications to this covenant, to both congregations at their annual meetings and at any congregational meetings called to address partnership issues.

The Annual Meeting also adopted a balanced 2023 budget of \$112,659.26 (down from \$119,142.92 in 2022) that included a grant from Sue's Tithe of \$35,000 (down from \$44,000 in 2022) as well as seven resolutions of care, praise, witness, and thanks.

In addition to reinforcing planning for services and activities through May, the Council endorsed sending visitation committees to two New England Synod congregations that have moved beyond our current state of cooperation with St. James. While we originally invited visitors from both those congregations, they suggested that a group from our churches visit them instead. On February 26, a team of six people from St. Mark (Miriam and Ken Campbell, Diane and Jim McKamy, Peggy and Lars Qvicklund) and three people from St. James (Jane Peach, Nancy Paradee, John Koveny) visited

*President's article continued on the next page*



Good Shepherd Lutheran/St. James Episcopal, two congregations meeting in a single facility, now using joint services, in Laconia, NH. On March 5, the same St. Mark team and nine members of St. James, including Jane and Nancy, visited the Christ the King – Epiphany Church, a federated Lutheran and Episcopalian congregation that has integrated all its functions and activities and that uses a hybrid service, in Wilbraham, MA. A summary of those visits is an important part of this Newsletter. In addition, the Council and Vestry want to present and discuss these important observations at a joint meeting of St. Mark and St. James that is to take place after a joint service at 9:30 AM at St. James on March 26. **I encourage everyone who is able to attend this meeting to do so as the information will be important as we consider our situation in the coming months.**

Also pertinent to our thoughts and discernment this year, the Council is attempting to arrange visits by the Rev. Erik Karas of Christ Church in Sheffield, MA, who has overseen this process in two other congregations and Rev. Marybeth Morris, one of our prior pastors, who is engaged in similar activities in a congregation in Maine. We hope to arrange these visits in April or early May. When we listen to outside speakers, we should remember our own recent experiences, as well. **When the guest visits are finalized, please, please join us in the discussions.**

Beyond our discernment considerations, Bob Marcil (Facilities Committee) has been adjusting our thermostats and timers to keep our fuel costs down, overseeing checks on what proved a minor leak from pipes in our boiler room, scheduling of the preparation and painting of the Chi Rho, and, with Matt Larson, arranging for repairs on the parsonage roof. All these projects have been budgeted and approved by Council using existing designated funds or pledged donations.

May we all approach Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter with calm, solemn hope, and joy.

The Lord's Blessing on you all,  
Kenneth L. (Ken) Campbell  
St. Mark Church Council President

## MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

We have so much to look forward to! Easter week, May Breakfast, services designed to engage our grandchildren and children, and, of course, spring, will soon be upon us.

We have also accomplished much. A lengthy discernment process has increased understanding between the congregations of St. James and St. Mark – with open opportunities for our congregations to learn about each of our denominations and our finances. Our work together serving the Lord through ministries and exploring our future together has helped build relationships between us.

We have finally completed what seemed to be a last major hurdle to understanding not only where we have been, but where we could go. The visits to other churches engaged in collaboration and federation provided much insight and inspiration to those who attended. I highly recommend you read the summary of those visits elsewhere in this newsletter. Our visits showed us the paths these churches took and how joyful the outcomes have been.

*Senior Warden's article continued on the next page*

I hope you will have the opportunity to further explore the opportunities to understand and connect with our friends at St. Mark by volunteering for our joint activities – the Palm Sunday Breakfast, May Breakfast, the Coat of Many Colors, Kitchen Ministry, Food Bank, etc. My personal experience has been that volunteering is not only fun, but it is a way to feel part of a family of wonderful people.

Peace and blessings -- Nancy

## ANNUAL MEETING OF ST. JAMES

The Annual Meeting of St. James was held on January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The congregation thanked Sylvia Weston-Harris for her three years of vestry service, and Michelle Kaveny for six years as vestry clerk and a full vestry term prior to becoming clerk. John Kaveny, Sandy Slack, and Brenda MacDonald were elected to serve on the vestry. Jane & Don Peach were elected to serve as Diocesan Convention delegates for 2023. There was celebration of the partnership with New Beginnings making St. James their meal site and significant discussion of the strain on the unrestricted endowment caused by current annual operating expenses and the market downturn in 2022. The congregation renewed their covenant of partnership with St. Mark, adopting the same amendment to the covenant that had been approved at the St. Mark Annual Meeting the week prior, making the executive committees of the church boards the Joint Steering Committee overseeing the partnership, and requiring more frequent reporting to the congregations.



The Sunday school students are collecting baby clothes and other items for babies to create Baby Kits during the season of Lent. We would like the support from congregation members of St. Mark and St. James in collecting items. Items needed to complete a Baby Kit are on display at both churches along with tags that people can take with a required item written on it. We will be collecting items through April 9<sup>th</sup>. On April 30<sup>th</sup>, congregation members from both churches are welcome to help construct the Baby Kits. We will put the kits together in St. Mark Luther Hall at 11:30am, after

Sunday school. A light lunch will be served to all who are present.

For more information about how Baby Kits are helping to support families around the world, please visit <https://lwr.org/kits/baby-care-kits/instructions>

Christian Education committee meets the second Tuesday of the month at 5:30pm at St. Mark church. If you are interested in becoming involved, please reach out to Caitlyn McCann, or Judy and Ted Helm.

Caitlyn McCann

## ST. MARK FINANCE COMMITTEE



Greetings from the finance committee! We have been very busy right after developing a new 2023 budget for approval by the Church council and the congregation. Just to refresh, 2023 will be a very challenging year for St. Mark as the church matches the economic impacts of inflation and the limit of our resources to increase our methods to fund the expenses. The good news is our members are always very generous with their gifts and pledges. Thank you to all who donate and keep their pledges up to date!

This coming year, besides keeping up all the reports, we will be concentrating on 4 major areas:

- Communications with the Council, The St. Mark Congregation, and St. James
- Stewardship (coordinating with the Service of the Lord Committee)
- Management of Financial Investments
  - All Accounts
  - Compare notes with the St. James Investment Committee
- Have 'visibility' meetings with the St. James Finance and investment committees

Two areas of interest are our members now have the option of direct deposits to St. Mark. Please contact Jan Peterson or Jim McKamy. The second area is we are in the process of developing an endowment fund. The endowment fund is receiving donations to a holding account (JTH fund) until an acceptable level is reached to create the actual fund. Again, donations can be made to Jan Peterson, our financial secretary, and questions can be answered by Jim McKamy.

Lastly, the Financial Committee is developing two policies for presentation to the church council to consider. The policies are a gift acceptance policy and a policy for opening new church accounts. The policies will be approved by the church council prior to presentation for consideration by the congregation.

We welcome any suggestions and questions. Please see any of the members of the finance committee. Members: Arline Gilpin, Jan Peterson, Miriam Campbell, Jane Peach, Jim McKamy



## SERVICE OF THE LORD COMMITTEE

After a winter hiatus, as the crocus now tell us spring is coming, so has the Service of the Lord sprung into action.

Many of you may be aware of the various ministries occurring at St. James and St. Mark. But are you aware of the number of hours involved? This committee hopes to strengthen the St. James/St. Mark bond by giving our congregations opportunity to lend a hand. If you can give a couple of hours a month to pitch in at the Coat of Many Colors, the Food Pantry or the Kitchen Ministry, it would be much appreciated. Each week there are clothes to be sorted and hung, shelves of kitchen supplies to be arranged, and food supplies to be packaged.

There is a signup calendar on the respective bulletin boards, or reach out to Peggy Qvicklund [qvickan@comcast.net](mailto:qvickan@comcast.net) for more information.

*Service of the Lord Committee's article continued on the next page*



“ Marty and Katharine “ have found a new home this year with Mary Foley, and the Kitchen Ministry has new funds for small appliances thanks to all who played a square for the Super Bowl fundraiser! Thank you!

Do you have ideas you would like to share? Join in the Zoom committee meetings from the comfort of your own living room. Our next meeting will be Wednesday March 22 at 7 PM to finalize details for the Breakfast.

## OUTREACH

### HAMLET RESOURCE HUB

What's new? Four organizations with services at 24 Hamlet Avenue are now known as the Hamlet Resource Hub! New Beginnings, the St. James Food Bank and Coat of Many Colors, the St. Mark Kitchen Ministry, and Community Care Alliance have created a partnership designed to make services more accessible. By co-locating within the same building and adjusting open hours to coincide with each other, we have created a hub of resources in the 24 Hamlet Avenue facility. It is hoped that community members will come for lunch, meet with a CCA intake worker and be referred directly to the food bank, clothing bank or kitchen ministry, all in one visit. The Hub's member services no longer require vouchers, though we hope consumers will utilize CCA for the other services it provides and continue to obtain CCA vouchers which serve as a means of referral. By working together we hope to better meet community needs and seek funding that benefits all. Feel free to spread the word that the HUB makes things easier for folks in need of basic needs assistance!

### FORTY DAYS OF PURPOSE



During Lent please gather items to put into the labeled plastic bags provided at both churches. Your donations will benefit the COAT, the Kitchen Ministry, and the Food Bank. Suggestions are: new underwear and socks for children and women; unwanted clothing from your closet; toiletries; cleaning supplies; new washcloths and towels; plastic and regular silverware; pots and pans; coolers; bowls; small kitchen appliances; and non-perishable food items. Thank you for your generosity! God Bless!



## COAT OF MANY COLORS



*The Coat of Many Colors* provided free clothing to over 300 persons last year. Lee Ann Defaut coordinates this ministry, which offers clothes for adults and children large and small. The Coat is open Mondays and Wednesdays from 1-3 for those in need of clothing and those who wish to deliver donations.

Maintaining the Coat means sanitizing all donated items in the dryer, then hanging them in preparation for moving them to the racks in the “shopping” areas. As “customers” arrive, there is reporting paperwork to be completed and assistance provided to shoppers. Often customers share a piece of their story, so that we know how to help them – services may be different for a homeless person versus a low income family with children.

Now that there is a secondary site for the Kitchen Ministry next to the Coat, we can offer even more one stop shopping opportunities for our customers.

We need help to keep these programs running. ***If you can volunteer, call Lee Ann at 762-2222.*** Come for a visit if you want to see how it works.



Peggy visited recently to bring donated clothing to the Coat and microwaves to the Kitchen Ministry. Children love the big stuffed animals in the children’s clothing room.



## ST. JAMES FOOD BANK

Our food bank continues to serve all who come requesting food, whether they have a voucher from CCA or not. We continue to suggest that clients go to CCA for additional services and we are still requiring volunteers and clients to wear masks. Later this spring we anticipate a huge change in our setup as we transition to client choice as opposed to the pre-bagged method the bank has always used. Stay tuned!



As I survey the pick lists – which are still very limited – I realize we could use donations of hearty soups, granola bars, and other portable snacks. We are also in need of wrapped bar soap.

Then again, we are grateful for all donations. (Believe me, we have had some rather strange items come in but eventually a client comes in who can use them.). We can also use the plastic bags from your newspapers. Thank you to each person who can help in this appeal. (I'm happy to report a generous donation of soap from our local Eastern Star Chapter this month that is already being put to use.)

Many thanks to our volunteers at our deliveries and our open days. These times are proof of how well our parishes work together. Sometimes we are busy, sometimes we are waiting, but the conversations and conviviality never seem to wane.

## NIGHTINGALE FUND, INC.

Long ago a bequest was left to build a home for people in need and/or to provide relief in other ways; the building was never built but the money, well-invested, has provided and continues to provide relief for people “irrespective of their creed.” Presently, the trustees work with CCA as well as the Vicar to help applicants with a variety of issues, such as rent, utility bills, medical bills, furniture, and car repairs (to enable the owner to get to work!) to name a few.

Membership in the Corporation was limited to members in good standing of St. James. That was changed at the last Annual Meeting to include members in good standing in any church in covenant /partnership with St. James. This membership involves attending the Annual Meeting of the Nightingale Corporation; said meeting to take place after Easter and before the end of June. Members of the Corporation may nominate new members at the Annual Meeting, providing they have the nominee's approval. Unlike former times, the vote for membership will be taken at the same meeting and become effective immediately.

Members of the Board of Trustees are drawn from the membership of the Corporation and elected at the Annual Meeting for a term of three years, usually four per year to provide continuity and to maintain tradition set forth in the original By-Laws. Trustees meet to decide the cases (identified only by number) presented for monetary disbursements, usually on a monthly basis. They may also bring possible cases to the Vicar for consideration.

## FAMILY WORSHIP SERVICES

This spring and summer, St. Mark and St. James will be having three joint worship services with an emphasis on the participation of families and children. The first will be on Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at St. James, the second will be an outdoor service at St. Mark on Sunday, August 6<sup>th</sup> followed by a meal, and the third will be at St. Mark on Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup> to coincide with both Grandparents' Day and the service project for God's Work, Our Hands Sunday. Please mark your calendars with these dates and consider inviting members of your extended family or neighbors with children to attend. The liturgy for these services will be adapted to engage the children who attend. If you are interested in helping to plan these worship services and the accompanying activities, please speak to Pastor Peter Tierney, Peggy Qvicklund, or Nancy Paradee.



## 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MAY BREAKFAST



St. James will be hosting the 100<sup>th</sup> May Breakfast on Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup> from 8 am to noon. The menu is scrambled eggs, ham, sausage, baked beans, French toast, muffins, juice, milk, coffee, and bottled water (subject to change). Sale tables will include plants, crafts, books and attic treasures.

We are currently looking for members of St. James and St. Mark to help with the breakfast. Please contact Jane Peach at 401-487-6587 if you would like to be part of this historic event. A planning meeting will be scheduled shortly.

## SHORT SUMMARY OF CONGREGATIONAL VISITS FEBRUARY 26 AND MARCH 5, 2023

**Impressions of all visit team members and responses to all questions asked at both churches visited will be discussed at a joint meeting of the St. Mark and St. James congregations after a 9:30 AM service at St. James on Sunday, March 26, 2023. Please attend, if at all possible.**

February 26, 2023 a team of 6 members from St. Mark (Miriam & Ken Campbell, Diane & Jim McKamy, Peggy & Lars Qvicklund) and 3 members from St. James (John Kaveny, Nancy Paradee, Jane Peach) visited Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (603-528-4078) [www.goodshepherd.nh.org/](http://www.goodshepherd.nh.org/) St. James Episcopal Church (603-524-5800) [www.saintjameslaconia.org](http://www.saintjameslaconia.org), 2238 Parade Rd., Laconia, NH 03246, Rev. Dr. Janet Lombardo, who describe themselves as Sister Congregations Spreading the Good News Together.

The following were excerpts of my notes on answers to several of the roughly 40 questions the visitation team had collected prior to the church visits. They were taken during a prolonged coffee hour after services at the Laconia church. Miriam and I spoke with several people including a couple who had been with the Episcopal church, St. James, for over 20 years, a recently twice-Warden of St. James, and the Warden's spouse. A few comments also came from Rev. Lombardo. Other visitation team members spoke with other individuals in the congregations.

*summary continued on the next page*



Before the service in Laconia, Miriam and I listened to an active and joint rehearsal of the blended choir with a good mix of male and female voices. They had a pianist accompanist and an animated director. The congregations used a red/blue color scheme to denote Lutheran/Episcopal hymnal entries. The service bulletin (a copy has been posted on the bulletin board at St. Mark) shows the integration of the elements from both liturgies.

While this church is noted as home to sister congregations, they function about as closely to a federated church as possible. They probably would be federated except for constraints posed by NH laws on mergers of corporate entities.

- *Has the process changed the inter-congregational dynamics? If so, how?* Yes. Pastor (Episcopalian) sets the service order during the joint services. Joint outreach workers and some functions. Altar guild shared use of the church and activities needed. Readers, ushers, assistants alternate between churches (often half of each). Cash offerings are split 50/50, other donations designated.
- *How was it decided as to what denomination the pastor came from? Lutheran or Episcopal?* Overall pastor shortage and the location of the congregations (northern, rural, few opportunities for spousal employment) limited choices. The vicar had been called to St. James several years before the consolidation, but was called by Good Shepherd when their pastor retired. The call was apparently by mutual agreement to allow maintenance of the vicar's retirement accounts by the Diocese while providing pastoral coverage to Good Shepherd. If I heard correctly, funding of the pastor's salary is 2/3 from Good Shepherd and 1/3 from St. James.
- *If a new person shows up what determines if they become a member of St. James or Good Shepherd if they happen to be neither Lutheran nor Episcopalian? Or does it matter?* Interesting answer: new members may designate preference, but the preference is known only to the Pastor, new members join the total congregation without a label.

March 5, 2023 our visit to Christ the King-Epiphany Church (413-596-3045) [www.ctkephany.org](http://www.ctkephany.org), 758 Main Street Wilbraham, MA 01095, Reverend Martha Sipe, a federated Lutheran/Episcopal church in Wilbraham, MA, included the same 6 person team from St. Mark that visited Laconia plus 9 representatives from St. James including 2 who had also been at Laconia. We arrived well before the 10:00 AM service and interacted with their pastor and several members of the congregation as we waited for the choir (4 men, 6 women) to rehearse and final preparations to be made for the service. The liturgy was a hybrid but all hymns this week were Lutheran (they alternate Sundays on hymnals). The music was accompanied by a pipe organ that had been brought from the original Epiphany church and installed at Christ the King-Epiphany using a congregational gift. The seating in the CTK-E church is entirely chairs which made communion distribution a bit more protracted than in St. James or St. Mark.

We shared coffee hour conversations before a light lunch in a small room that only allowed us to sit and forced pastor Sipe and a couple of her associates to stand and answer questions. We adjourned to the church nave where we first listened to several of the leadership members provide of history of the churches and their federation process. We also received frank and informative answers to a whole series of questions we posed.

*summary continued on the next page*



It was clear that they have been among the front-runners in going through the Lutheran-Episcopalian federation process and that they have helped provide a path that may be emulated or adapted for use by a host of other partner churches. Miriam has transcribed the governing document they provided into Word format for possible use. I felt the visit was very cordial, warm, open, and informative.

- *How did you navigate blending church leadership?* Through about 3 years of discernment, they went from doing parallel leadership to committing to a federation, adopting a stance of “us” versus referring to segments of the community as Lutheran or Episcopalian. They used joint Council/Vestry meetings and retreats to build trust and finally decided to use a hybrid leadership, first termed Council/Vestry and later Parish Committee. They first shared financial information and gradually adopted a hybrid/merged budget and process. With the help of the Diocese and Synod, they have pioneered the legal and financial arrangements needed and have undertaken an interesting branding process that retains the logos of the broader churches (Diocese & NE Synod) but uses a hybrid name that does not invoke denomination, just Christ the King – Epiphany Church. The idea is to attract those who already know what the logo symbols mean as well as new comers who have no historical background in those churches, and to avoid dissuading former Lutherans and Episcopalians who want a church but would not join a church that retains segregation of the two source congregations.
- *How did you navigate blending church activity participation?* Joint activities, communication, communication. During their discernment, once the hybrid leadership had decided that the optimal way forward was to move toward federation, they held a series of cottage meetings; leaders invited small groups of 6 or 7 current members of the church to home gatherings where ideas and concerns were voiced. Comments, without authors, were passed to unified leadership and used to mold decisions. The congregations were kept abreast of the process and decisions and votes taken at the congregation level. Building of congregational trust and within leadership was a key to federation success. Used joint event planning committees and a space committee to work with consultants.
- *What pitfalls occurred during the association process? Which of these were major/minor?* Working with a lack of guidelines noted as the biggest pitfall. Lack of mutual historical background knowledge was a clear obstacle. Dealing with congregational traditions (often cloaked as faith traditions when they are not) was gradually accomplished; Lutheran music was a thorn for some Episcopalians, gradual molding of traditions, use of hybrid liturgies has gone relatively smoothly.
- *Has the process changed the way people see their faith(s)? Their denominations/churches?* To a degree, it seems to have changed how they see their role in the faith community, less as members of a sector (E vs L), still honoring the traditions but focusing on unity in Christ and unity of purpose within the community.

## INFORMATIONAL NEWS

*Newsletter Editor ~ Pam Marcil*

### ST. JAMES VESTRY AND STAFF

<i>Vicar</i>	<i>Rev. Peter Tierney</i>	<i>Senior Warden</i>	<i>Nancy Paradee</i>
<i>Church Secretary</i>	<i>Maggie Lange</i>	<i>Junior Warden</i>	<i>Jane Peach</i>
<i>Music Director</i>	<i>Shirley Ayers</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Kathryn Atkins</i>

*Vestry: Tom Dubois, Brenda MacDonald, Sue Markham, Sandy Slack, and John Kaveny*

### ST. MARK COUNCIL, OFFICE STAFF, AND FINANCE

<i>Pastor In-Charge</i>	<i>Rev. Peter Tierney</i>	<i>Council President</i>	<i>Ken Campbell</i>
<i>Church Secretary</i>	<i>Pam Marcil</i>	<i>Council Vice-President</i>	<i>Matt Larson</i>
<i>Music Director</i>	<i>Bill Spont</i>	<i>Council Secretary</i>	<i>Kelly Mottram</i>
<i>Church Accountant</i>	<i>Jane Peach</i>	<i>Council Treasurer</i>	<i>Jim McKamy</i>
<i>Financial Secretary</i>	<i>Janice Peterson</i>		

### PASTOR

Rev. Peter Tierney III

Rev. Tierney is in the office at St. James on  
Tuesday from 9 am to noon and at St. Mark on  
Wednesdays from 2-5 pm. or by appointment.  
cell phone # - (401) 556-0697

### ST. JAMES'S E-MAIL ADDRESS

[stjameswoon@outlook.com](mailto:stjameswoon@outlook.com)

Maggie is in the office on Mondays from  
Noon – 4pm, Tuesdays & Thursdays  
from 9am – 1 pm.

She can be reach at the church at:  
(401) 762-2222.

### ST. MARK'S E-MAIL ADDRESS

[stmarkwoon@gmail.com](mailto:stmarkwoon@gmail.com)

Pam is in the office on Wednesdays  
and Thursdays after 2:30 pm. E-mail  
will be checked then.

In case of an emergency, you may call  
Pam Marcil at (401) 744-0240 or leave  
a message on the church phone  
(401)769-8320.

### COMMUNICATIONS REMINDER FOR ST. JAMES PARISHIONERS

Do you have an email address? If you  
received this newsletter by mail but have an  
email address, let us know! Those who  
receive communications by email receive  
them more quickly – plus we don't have to pay  
postage! If you would like to receive your St.  
James news by email, contact Maggie at the  
church office – [stjameswoon@outlook.com](mailto:stjameswoon@outlook.com)  
Or you can leave a message stating your  
email address at 401-762-2222.

### NEWSLETTER ELECTRONICALLY

To save postage and paper, please consider  
receiving the newsletter electronically  
(via e-mail). If anyone would like to do this,  
please let Pam know by leaving a note along  
with your e-mail address on her desk or  
e-mail her at [stmarkwoon@gmail.com](mailto:stmarkwoon@gmail.com).

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Create May Baskets - Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at St. James  
Joint Church Council/Vestry – Tuesday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at St. Mark  
Joint Service at St. James – Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.  
Spring Cleanup at Str. Mark – Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 a.m. & April 8<sup>th</sup> (Rain Date)  
Palm Sunday Breakfast – April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9:00 a.m.  
Palm Sunday Service – April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00 a.m.  
Maundy Thursday Service, April 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at St. James  
Good Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 p.m. Tenebrae service at St. Mark  
Holy Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup> – 9:00 a.m. at St. James  
Easter Services – April 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. at St. Mark  
8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. at St. James

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**“Share God’s Word”**

**VISION STATEMENT**

To love and serve God and each other in our church and community!

**MISSION STATEMENT**

That every member would know Christ and Make Christ Known!

*St. James Episcopal Church*  
*24 Hamlet Avenue*  
*Woonsocket, RI 02895*  
*(401) 762-2222*  
*E-mail: [stjameswoon@outlook.com](mailto:stjameswoon@outlook.com)*  
*Website: [www.stjameswoonsocket.org](http://www.stjameswoonsocket.org)*

