

*September 2023*

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

## UPCOMING SERVICES /EVENTS



### **SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 17<sup>th</sup>**

Sign up your child/children for Sunday school for children in grades Pre-K through 6<sup>th</sup>. Sunday school is for all children from both churches. Details inside.

### **ST. MARK/ST. JAMES PARTNERSHIP FORUM**

There will be a joint service on Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup> at St. James Episcopal church at 9:30 am. Afterwards, there will be a forum held for members of both St. Mark & St. James. We will hear a brief six-month report on the state of the partnership from the Steering Committee, and then have an open conversation about the possibilities of co-locating at St. Mark or St. James. Please plan to attend this very important session in the life of our churches.

### **FALL CHURCH SCHEDULE**

We were blessed to have the opportunity to worship with St. James Episcopal from the first week of July through September 17<sup>th</sup>, but now we must return to the normal schedule. On Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, St. Mark members will worship at their church at **9:00 AM** and St. James members will worship at their church offering two services at **8:00 AM and 10:30 AM.**

**Please mark your calendar so you won't be late!**



### **REFORMATION SUNDAY**



On Reformation Sunday, October 29 there will be **no** 8:00 AM service at St. James. There will be a combined service for St. Mark/St. James members at St. Mark. at **9:30 AM.** (Please note the time change).

Choir members from both churches will be singing along with a trumpeter.

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

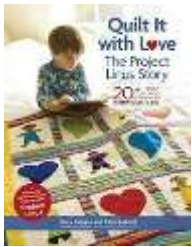
**JOIN THE CHOIRS!**

**St. James Choir** ~ We have begun our fall rehearsals and welcome newcomers and/or returnees. With a few exceptions, rehearsals will be held in the choir room on Thursdays at 2 pm and 45 minutes before the start of worship on Sundays. Many of the faithful came throughout the summer months so we have begun working well-ahead on familiar and new anthems. A certain tall musician has informed me that new music for Reformation Sunday has been ordered so we will stay busy. Come raise your voice in song with us! Shirley Ayers



**St. Mark Choir** ~ Like to sing, choir practice is on Sundays after the service. If anyone is interested in joining please speak with Bill Spont. Currently we only have one person in the choir. New members are needed and most welcome.

**QUILTING GROUP**



We have been meeting for a few years now, and we are anxious to begin again this fall. Primarily, we make smaller quilts, Linus Quilts, to gift to youngsters who are suffering medical issues. No special talents are necessary, and all fabric is supplied. If you enjoy sewing, color- matching, etc. or just visiting with other folks, come and see. We will continue our schedule of meeting on the first and third Tuesdays of each month from 10 - 12 in the St. Mark Narthex on September 19.

**ST. JAMES FALL CLEAN-UP**

St. James needs a little TLC, and many hands can make it light work. Help us get St. James sparkling again Saturday, September 16 from 9-noon or after church on Sunday September 17.

The more the merrier!



## Pastor's Message

Dear friends,

Autumn is my favorite time of year. After the heat of summer (although this summer has been particularly mild), I really appreciate cool fall breezes, and I love the warm burst of color that autumn leaves provide, painting the landscape here in the northeast before winter sets in.

Spring is often the time that Christians reflect on God's creation, and especially the new creation of Jesus' resurrection, as plants spring to life after a wintry slumber. I think about the glory of God's creation more in autumn, when we have these few days of splendor before the leaves fall. Not only is the world that God has made beautiful (and it is beautiful in all seasons, even if I especially love the fall) but beauty belongs to God as well: God is beautiful. Psalm 27 records a prayer for one great thing: to dwell in the house of the Lord all of our days "to behold the fair beauty of the Lord."

The beauty of nature spurs us to look through the loveliness of creation to see the beauty of its Creator. The scriptures say that God is invisible, but also that Jesus is the visible image of the invisible God (Colossians 1:15). God's beauty is not only reflected in nature, but directly visible to us in the life of Jesus, through whom all things were made, as we say in the Nicene Creed. The loveliness of the earth is tied together by the loveliness of Christ. As we enjoy the end of summer and turn toward this beautiful autumn, may our hearts and minds lean toward the house of God in such a way that we delight in the even greater beauty of Christ our God.

Grace and peace,  
Peter

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

In a few weeks we will again celebrate Reformation and get ready for a new Advent. It has been another active quarter: Bob Marcil and Matt Larson have refinished the Chi Rho using memorial funds, the parsonage roof is to be redone in fall using combined gifts and capital funds; Jim McKamy, Jane Peach, and Jan Peterson have kept our finances balanced even with increased pastoral compensation; Caitlyn McCann, Judy and Ted Helm, and Matt Larson have, with Pastor Tierney's help, steered our Christian Education Committee through activities at the end of Spring; Peggy Qvicklund has chaired the Service of the Lord Committee for both St. Mark and St. James, encouraging service hours at the Kitchen Ministry, the Coat of Many Colors, and the Food Bank, heading a successful annual outdoor service and picnic in July, organizing the God's Work Our Hands activity and engaging participants in the Shelter Walk in September;



*Article continued on the next page*

## THE CHI-RHO NEWS

Pam Marcil and the Worship Committee have helped us try some liturgical variations with the use of a hybrid Lutheran/Episcopalian service in June and the use of Setting Nine in the Lutheran Hymnal for our joint services in August and September.

We met with Rev. Maria Hammons, NE ELCA Synod Office of Holy Closures and Transitions, in late June and learned of our options during discernment. Finally, on August 27 at St. Mark we held the first of two forums covering progress since the Annual Meeting; this report was required by an amendment to our covenant with St. James adopted at the Annual Meeting. At that forum, which will be extended at a joint meeting at St. James on September 24, we learned of the realistic options we must soon exercise for St. Mark and St. James to continue operations. We also asked members to think about what would need to happen for St. Mark and St. James to co-locate. What would we need to move to St. Mark if we located here? What would have to change at St. Mark for St. James to feel at home here? What would we need to move to St. James if we located there? What would have to change at St. James for St. Mark to feel at home?

We must answer three basic questions very soon and we seek feedback and discussion on them: 1) Do we continue together with St. James? 2) If so, where do we co-locate? 3) How do we make our co-location work?

Our joint Prayer Committee is providing materials and writings to help with the prayerful considerations needed. Other answers and facts will also help us make decisions: Can our membership populate required leadership and operational offices? We have 71 members and employees; 30 (42%) hold 3-6 positions or committees each; 6 of 8 Council Members need re-election in January, 1 is term limited and cannot be re-elected, we need a new Accountant or Treasurer as Jane Peach had to resign. Are our available facilities and finances adequate? St. Mark and St. James each have features that make them attractive as a co-location site, St. Mark has lower operational expenses but lacks disability access and parking. If the budgets of St. Mark and St. James are combined and compared with expenses if operations are at St. Mark or at St. James, there is little difference in the financial balance; within a 5% error there is no advantage in either direction.

We are preparing for a discernment decision vote this fall. That will not occur on September 24. The Council and Vestry hope to choose a date and process for the vote in October.

May the Lord Bless and Keep Us through our Faith Journey,

Kenneth L. (Ken) Campbell  
St. Mark Church Council President



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Rally Day for 'Sunday School' classes has been set for Sunday, September 17 immediately following our 9:30 am worship service. Please register your child(ren) for Sunday school and/or Confirmation. While you are completing the form we will have activities and a Bible story for all of the children.



Judy and Caitlyn are looking forward to another years journey into Jesus' teaching and other Bible stories with the children in grades PreK - 6th. Classes will be held two times each month as we have done for the past few years beginning October 1st. Father Peter will be leading confirmation classes for adolescents in grades 7 and beyond.



Confirmation classes will resume on Thursday, October 5th. We will meet at St. Mark at 5:30 pm to review the schedule for the remainder of 2023 and resume our review of Luther's Small Catechism. Confirmation preparation is open to members of both St. Mark and St. James — if anyone would like to join the class at this point, please be in touch with the Rev. Peter Tierney to make arrangements.

ST. MARK FINANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE



With the fall season right around the corner, the finance committee is keeping close track on St. Mark's finances. The first half of the year results follow:

Our first half of this year: (50% of year) update on pledges, income, and expenses are as follows:

PLEDGES:	Budget 50%	Actual 59.6%
TOTAL INCOME:	Budget 50%	Actual 50.0%
TOTAL EXPENSES:	Budget 50%	Actual 49.1%

**Congregation is doing a Great job on keeping pledges ahead of the budget!** We continue to receive some yearly pledges and some generous special member gifts! Expenses are under our anticipated 50% of the year at the end of June. We continue to handle our church's financials during a very challenging year. Special note: the above numbers exclude both the expense and income for painting the Chi Rho as the Memorial Committee voted to pay for this expense (\$3850). **Thank you for all your gifts and your generosity!** The finance committee joins all of our St. Mark congregation in praising God for allowing us continue our ministries and to be able to spread God's word to our community!

We have also received notice of intentions to send one time gifts to St. Mark. Thank you again for your gifts to St. Mark!

Article continued on the next page

On a sad note, Jane Peach, who has been serving as our accountant, had resigned. She has been outstanding keeping our records and accounts accurate for the past year. We all thank her for all her efforts and help! This means we are actively looking for someone who would like to fill this important position. If you or someone you know has the qualifications and the desire to become the Treasurer/accountant, please speak to Ken Campbell, Jim McKamy, or any member of the finance committee. In the interim, Jim McKamy will fill the position.

Members: Arline Gilpin, Jan Peterson, Miriam Campbell, Jane Peach, Jim McKamy

## SERVICE OF THE LORD COMMITTEE



On Sunday August 6 the sun was shining, the air was clear — in other words a beautiful summer day. The combined efforts of the Worship Committee and this committee provided first an outdoor service complete with piano accompaniment and maracas, children's bulletins, and an almost too delicious communion bread baked by Miriam Campbell. After the service we moved our chairs to the shade of the side yard and opened our picnic lunch. The kids and those young at heart played Connect Four and Bible Bingo and generally enjoyed a relaxed social hour.

On God's Work Our Hands Sunday Sept 10, our joint congregations met in Luther Hall and packaged basic kitchenware to be distributed to clients of Kitchen Ministry and the Coat of Many Colors. And of course coffee and goodies were served!

Saturday September 30 sees the return of the Shelter Walk sponsored by Community Care Alliance. Do you want to "get your steps in"? Join our St. Mark/St. James walking team! The route is one mile, so please consider it. Meet at 10:00 am for the kickoff. We will walk from 800 Clinton Street to 245 Main Street and back. This route passes several important service providers for the Woonsocket community. If you have a Shelter Walk T-shirt, wear it! If you would like to donate on behalf of our team, see the instructions below.

[communitycareri.org](http://communitycareri.org)

1. Click on "events", then Shelter Walk. (If you are using a phone, click on the gray box top right corner then click on "event.")
2. Next scroll down and find "options to fundraise here"
3. On the next screen, skip the "Donate" button and scroll down to find our team on the right side: St Mark/St James. (You will see Peggy Q listed but ignore that!)
4. Click on our team.
5. Next screen, on the left side, is "Donate". You do not have to register or join in order to give. You will need to fill in your contact info and will receive a receipt. And thanks!

Several members from St Mark are active at the various ministries at St James. If you have questions, see Peggy Q or Sandy S. There is a sign up calendar on the bulletin board, it's nice to see it filled out!

If you would like to zoom in on our next Service of the Lord meeting let Peggy Quicklund, Sandy Slack or Pastor know. The meeting will be held on October 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 pm.

**OUTREACH**

**ST. JAMES FOOD BANK**

The Food Bank has been busy all summer, posting some of our highest numbers ever. In August alone we supplied food for 244 people. If you recall my last article, you may remember that we were switching from the pre-bagged method of distribution to client choice. We made the physical transition over Memorial Day weekend and opened in June following the new format. The clients seem to really enjoy it and our volunteers have adapted well. We are busier than ever and thank all who have contributed items for our clients. As of this writing we need tomato soup, a staple we have never been without but are now, as well as canned fruit. They were both regulars on the Rhode Island Community Food Banks's pick list but have not been there for many months now. Mixed fruit seems to be a popular favorite but pretty soon we will be offering the last of it. Any donations would be much appreciated and will be quickly distributed.



Thank you!  
S. Ayers

**HAMLET RESOURCE HUB**

Partner programs of the Hamlet Resource Hub (the St. James Food Bank, Coat of Many Colors, St. Mark Kitchen Ministry, We're Just People, Community Care Alliance, New Beginnings) have been busy this summer. "Thank you!" to members of both St. James and St. Mark who volunteered at our community outreach event Funday Monday held in the church parking lot in July. A new addition to the service array is the United Way 211 Van, which visits on the 4th Monday of the month from noon-3pm to provide information and referral. Their first visit was a great success, with many persons visiting the van.

Partner agencies are reporting an increase in utilization. The Coat had a record breaking month in terms of numbers served. New Beginnings has served over 100 per day. This situation, of course, means the individual programs need replenishment of resources. The Food Bank needs packaged soap; the Coat needs all kinds of new and gently used clothes, especially clothes for children. New Beginnings has a wish list posted on its Facebook page. Winter is coming, so the need is expected to increase.



**OUTREACH (CONT.)**

**KITCHEN MINISTRY**

The Kitchen Ministry has been able to provide assistance to an increasing number of clients through CCA, Safe Haven and Crossroads. There are specific items often requested. If you have clean and usable plastic food storage containers, plastic cups, bowls or plates to donate, they would be welcomed. We are also accepting clean and functioning toaster ovens, coffee makers or countertop microwaves. Other useful items are fry pans and pots with lids. You can leave your items in the narthex and mark them "For Kitchen Ministry"

The Woonsocket community thanks you!



**SARAH M. WALES SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE  
ANNOUNCES SCHOLARSHIPS**

The Sarah M. Wales Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce the awarding of \$20,000 in scholarships to seven local college-bound students, four of whom have connections to St. James or St. Mark.

Receiving scholarships are Abbygail M. of Bellingham who will attend Endicott College; Patrick R. of Lincoln who will attend the University of Pittsburgh; Emily C. of Blackstone who is attending Framingham State University; Audrey R. of Woonsocket who will be attending the Community College of Rhode Island; Victor A. of Central Falls who will be attending the Community College of Rhode Island; Charlotte L. of Woonsocket who will be attending the University of New Hampshire; and Rylie F. of Woonsocket who will be attending Rhode Island College.

The Scholarship Committee, Jeanne Larder, Irene Nebiker, Don Peach, and Sandy Slack, was pleased with the quality and number of applicants this year. The Sarah M. Wales Scholarship, originally funded to assist aspiring public-school teachers, has broadened its focus by acknowledging that there are teaching components in all types of careers.

The Sarah M. Wales Scholarship is renewable for undergraduates provided they remain students in good standing. The application for the scholarship can be found on the St. James website.

The Sarah Wales Scholarship was established at St. James by a gift honoring the life and work of Sarah M. Wales, an elementary school teacher for over 40 years. Although the scholarship can be awarded to any deserving applicant, special consideration is given to those affiliated with St. James or St. Mark.



NEWS AND NOTES

**PICTURE OF THE 211 VAN IN PARKING LOT OF ST. JAMES**

The 211 van is a free, confidential resource for assistance with housing, food, childcare, and more which visits St. James on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month from noon-3pm.



**HOME BLESSING AND PASTOR'S VISIT**

As we head into the fall, the Rev. Peter Tierney would like to take some time to reconnect with members of St. James and St. Mark, especially those who have not been able to attend worship in-person since the outset of the pandemic. If you would like him to visit you for a blessing in your home and/or to share Holy Communion, please contact Pam at St. Mark (401-769-8320) or Maggie at St. James (401-762-2222) to schedule a time for him to come to you.



**CHANGE OF SEASON CHANGE OF CLOTHES**

The changing of season is soon approaching which means that it will soon be time to clean your closet. If you have any clothes that you wish to get rid of, please remember that we have Big Brother Big Sister clothing bins at both churches. This is an important fundraiser for the Kitchen Ministry as well as our operating budgets. Please bring in your unwanted clothes and deposit them in the bin.



NEWS AND NOTES

**AN INVITATION FOR ALL**



Woonsocket Chapter #3, Order of the Eastern Star will hold its annual Installation of Officers on Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup> at 2 pm. at St. James Church. A number of St. James members and friends of the church will be participating and would love to see you there. A collation will follow the ceremony. This is one of the few meetings open the public and provides an overview of the Order's structure, aims, and ritual. This is a world-wide organization dedicated to charity, truth, and loving kindness. We would love to share the afternoon with you.

S. Ayers

**CONGRATULATIONS TO IRENE NEBIKER ON HER CHAMPION EWE AT THE 2023 WOODSTOCK FAIR!**

It is pretty amazing that Irene can maintain her work caring for and showing sheep and sharing wool.



## 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, 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>Financial Secretary</i>	<i>Janice Peterson</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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**St. James Church Cleanup ~ Saturday, September 16 at 9:00 a.m. and  
Sunday, September 17 after 9:30 a.m. Worship**  
**Sunday school Kickoff ~ Sunday, September 17 after 9:30 a.m. Worship**  
**Quilting Group ~ Tuesday, September 19 at 10:00 a.m.**  
**St. Mark/St. James Partnership Forum ~ Sunday, Sept. 24 after 9:30 am Service at St. James**  
**Shelter Walk ~ Saturday, September 30 at 10:00 a.m., 800 Clinton St., Woonsocket**  
**Time Change ~ Sunday, October 1 at 9:00 a.m. at St. Mark  
and 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m, at St. James**  
**Confirmation Class ~ Thursday, October 5 at 5:00 p.m.**  
**Reformation Sunday ~ Sunday, October 29 at 9:30 at St. Mark**

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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)*

