



Happenings

Healing Prayer to Be Offered at Holy Eucharist Monthly

**By Fr. Shaw Mudge
Priest-in-Charge**

Beginning on Sunday, Oct. 2, at the 9 am Holy Eucharist and continuing at the first Holy Eucharist of each month, we plan to have a time for prayers for healing. This is a new practice, and we will see how it unfolds going forward.

We plan to use the format in the healing prayer cards for the Prayers of the People and the Confession of Sin on healing prayer days. The Confession of Sin will be followed by a time of healing prayer.

If you come to worship in person, please pick up a "prayers card" when you enter the church, and put the card on the designated table as you leave at the end of the service (we need to reuse them).

The refrain in the prayers, for online purposes, is "Hear and have mercy." The Prayers of the People may be augmented by the person leading the prayers.

Depending on the situation with various viruses and

circumstances each week, the format of actual praying may vary.

As you know, the service is being recorded, so you may not want to mention too loudly that, say, your bursitis is acting up again. Unless people request otherwise, we plan to be as discrete as possible.



If you are not present at the service in Manchester but are watching online, you may send me a text message (518.577.2578) just prior to the Prayers of the People to request healing prayer. Please include specific wording that you would like me to use for a spoken healing prayer. I plan to pray in a general way for all people watching online.

Your prayer request may be as general or as specific as you would like, for yourself or for another, and whatever

your comfort level.

Several parishioners have suggested incorporating healing prayer, and I hope this will be a meaningful—and comforting—experience for all.

We will consider the flow of the healing service as we move forward and may tweak our plans as necessary. Patience may be needed.

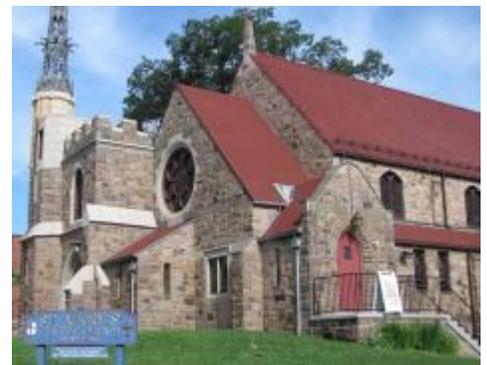
A prayer:

Heavenly Father, we ask that your Holy Spirit would direct and guide us in this healing prayer endeavor, that all would be done in your way, in your time, and to your glory. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.

If you have questions or suggestions about this plan, please call me at 518.577.2578 or email me at sunriso03@gmail.com.

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Moving Forward As a Faith Community

St. Mary's and St. John's vestries have voted to further explore the possibility of a merger. A joint parish meeting will be scheduled.



By Mary Covello, Junior Warden, and Joy Dorin, Senior Warden

On Saturday morning Sept. 10, the full vestries and the priests of St John's, Vernon, and St. Mary's, Manchester, met with Bishop Laura Ahrens over Zoom to discuss the merger process. We had an opportunity to learn about the merger process and to outline our next steps.

A few days after that meeting, each vestry voted unanimously to request permission from ECCT to explore a merger. Please remember that *this is not a vote on a merger itself* but rather a formal agreement to commit to the process of *exploring* a merger.

What makes a successful merger? Bishop Laura indicated that the most successful mergers take place after both churches have taken the time and made the effort to get to know one another. It's been described as moving from the dining room table to the kitchen table.

Bishop Laura also stressed that the emotional responses to this difficult work are extremely important and

should be addressed regularly. She invited each of us to express our feelings on this matter. We can report that there was a lot of excitement and positive energy in the room about the prospect of a merger. This merger can result in a larger "regional" church that can attract more members and do more of God's work. The members of St. John's vestry are looking forward to doing outreach work in Manchester and have already started to do so.

This is not a quick process, and it will involve work. There were many emotions expressed too: anxiety over the unknown and sadness and grief over the possible loss of the church building and the beloved memories that so many of us hold.

What are the next steps? Bishop Laura has scheduled a joint, full-parish meeting with both churches on Saturday, Oct. 22, to outline the work ahead. While the location has not been determined, the meeting time is approximately 9:30 to 2 with lunch. Please watch for further details. Four committees will be formed:

1. **Canonical.** This committee, led by Bishop Laura, will deal with issues involving by-laws, how the combination of vestries will occur, the selection of a priest and the name of the new parish.
2. **Missional.** This committee, led by Maggie Breen of ECCT, will explore how we continue to have a footprint in both communities.
3. **Financial.** This committee, led by ECCT's Rosanna Rosada, will assess both churches' finances and determine the financial plan for the new entity.

4. **Property.** This committee does the work of assessing property and any sale of property, including deciding how/if proceeds from any sale can be used in outreach in Manchester as a legacy gift. ECCT property manager Jon Heflin can help with the property review. Keep in mind that selling the building is *not* a foregone conclusion. We may discover creative ways to use it for the benefit of the Manchester community.

This is not just a vestry exercise. ALL members of both parishes are invited to serve on these committees. Please thoughtfully consider where God might be calling you in this process.

Again, a merger with St. John's is not guaranteed. We must remain open to all possibilities that may surface as we work through ECCT's process.

In the meantime, we all continue to be part of the faith community of St. Mary's, and we hope that you will continue to be an active, supportive member of your church as we move forward.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us. Joy Dorin, Senior Warden (joyeaux@cox.net); Mary Covello, Junior Warden (mary.covello@gmail.com)

October Vestry Meeting

This month's vestry meeting will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 18, at 7 pm in Anderson Hall. If you'd like to attend, call Joy Dorin at 860.614.8183.

Upcoming meetings are Nov. 15 and Dec. 20.

GHIAA: You Can Help Fulfill God's Mission

By Karen Fedorchak, Deacon

St. Mary's is a faith community whose tenets are "to love God, our neighbor and ourselves," and our church's commitment to GHIAA (Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance) is to serve without selfishness or bias to promote justice in our world.

I would like to request that at least three people join me and Andrea Burr to serve on the Core

Team of GHIAA so we may be a "voice," "support," and "loving neighbor" for those unable to gain power on their own. It is through other neighbors, legislation and God's love that this is done.

Please contact me at dn.k.fedorchak@gmail.com or 860.649.5659 to learn more or to say that you will be part of this vital effort.

The Rt. Rev. Michael Curry expressed these ideas powerfully in his homily given at the Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of Queen Elizabeth II at Washington National Cathedral on Sept. 21. I encourage you to read his remarks in their entirety by visiting: <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/publicaffairs/presiding-bishop-michael-currys-homily-at-queen-elizabeth-memorial-service/>

Financial Summary – August 2022

From Beth Bickley, Assistant Treasurer

	Previous Month	Current Month	YTD	2022	YTD % of
OPERATING STATEMENT	July	August	8 Months	Full Year	Budget
			67% of Year	Budget	
Pledge Income	11,602	14,705	126,888	175,130	72%
Total Operating INCOME (Non-recurring)	16,218	19,068	164,966	226,158	73%
Total EXPENSES	16,833	16,269	168,791	288,002	59%
NET SURPLUS (LOSS)	(615)	2,799	(20,094)	(61,844)	32%
(without transfer)					
Transfer for Short-fall	0	0	23,500		
ECCT 2021 Earnings	6,025		6,025		

OPERATING ACCOUNT

- **AUGUST OPERATING INCOME** of \$19,068 up from \$16,218 in July impacted mostly by the following:
 - ◊ Pledges – largely from pledges up \$3,103 from prior month
- **AUGUST OPERATING EXPENSES** of \$16,269 comparable to last month's expenses of \$16,833, impacted mostly by the following:
 - ◊ Office Expense – no August quarterly printer lease and no laptop repair but offset by \$1,650 alarm inspection and service
- As a result: We had a monthly operating surplus of \$2,799
- Actual YTD operating deficit (netting out non-recurring transfers) was decreased to **(\$20,094)**

NON-BUDGET/SPECIAL FUNDS ACCOUNT

- Receipts of note: There was \$146 in miscellaneous receipts
- Disbursements of note: \$3,581 largely from the transfer to Operating Account as reallocation of parishioner's prepaid pledge and reallocation of Seasonal Sharing Funds to School Supplies drive



St. Mary's Episcopal Church

41 Park Street
Manchester, CT 06040

Ph. 860.649.4583
Email: sandy@stmarysct.org
www.stmarysct.org

*Nurtured by Christ, Serving
Our Neighbors.*

Worship Schedule

Visit us on
Facebook!

Please watch your weekly emails (or postal mailings) for information about worship.

- 9 am, Holy Eucharist or Morning Prayer in St. Mary's sanctuary. See [below](#) for October schedule. Service livestreamed on our YouTube channel.
- 7:30 pm, Compline (via Zoom) on Mondays and Wednesdays.



St. Mary's parishioners Beth Lavalette, Jerry Robillard and Lenny Lavalette walked in the 5th Annual Fill the Freezer Walk to benefit MACC Charities. The walk, hosted by TriCounty Alliance of Realtors®, was held on Wednesday, Sept. 14, in downtown Manchester.

Blessing of the Animals on Zoom Oct. 2

On Oct. 2 at 2 pm, Fr. Shaw will lead a short service of Prayers for the Animals via Zoom from an as yet undisclosed U.S. location.

To participate, go to the parish Web page (www.stmarysct.org), and scroll down to "For parish meetings with Fr. Shaw: [CLICK HERE](#)." Click on that [CLICK HERE](#). Fr. Shaw will let attendees in from the waiting room when he arrives.

He plans to provide the service words on the Zoom screen, and you may present your pets in your Zoom space, as you desire. You may show your pet (pet willing) or a picture of your pet. You will be able to introduce your pet to us, and the plan is to pray for the pets and their owners.

You are welcome to attend even if you do not have a pet. You may invite other people to join us on Zoom from anywhere in the world. Farm animals and large animals are welcome as well.

Attendance is planned for a first-come basis.

St. Mary's Worship Schedule

October 2 — Holy Eucharist and Healing Prayer

October 9 — Holy Eucharist

October 16 — Morning Prayer

October 23 — Holy Eucharist

October 30 — Morning Prayer