

DECEMBER

2022

NEWSLETTER

ST. MARK'S AND ST. JOHN'S

AN E.D.E.N COMMUNITY



BE REAL.
BE HEALED.
BE LOVE.

UPDATES

We need your help!

We are currently
\$20,000 short of our
2023 pledge goal.

Please help us reach
our goal. Pledge today.

Nominations for Vestry
positions are open! We
are in need of
individuals to fill one
Warden position, and
two, 3 year term
positions.

Thanks to all those who
supported Empty
Bowls! Over \$3,200
was raised to support
Food Shelf

RECTOR'S NOTE

Over a decade ago, the Rev. Mike Finn came to SMSJ to serve as our Deacon. He has been a wonderful colleague, so when he came to me a few weeks ago to let me know of his decision to retire, I fought the desire to convince him to stay in that capacity. What I know that he may not know is that my ability to do my work as a priest has benefited immeasurably from his wisdom, faithfulness, sense of humor, commitment to serving those who have needed it most, and level-headed approach to any situation. I cannot think of a change over the last decade that Mike did not embrace and many times champion. When we started to have conversations about reimagining the sanctuary, Mike drew a circle on some newsprint we had on a table in the Narthex, boldly suggesting that our sanctuary become more welcoming and better represent the openness and equality we were embodying in our missional work. Deacon Mike's final service as our deacon will be Christmas Eve - a fitting end to the incarnational ministry he has shared with us for many years. We love you, Mike and Jane. We are grateful for your years of service and your abiding commitment to walk the walk and talk the talk. And we are grateful that you will continue to be parishioners here at SMSJ. Blessings to you and your family.

(To make a financial gift to the Finns in celebration of Mike's retirement, there are special envelopes at the church entrance. Please make checks out to St. Mark's & St. John's by 12/18, so we can present him with a single check.)

EMPTY BOWLS 2022

We are so grateful for everyone that supported Empty Bowls this year! After a hiatus from events, it was wonderful to gather together for a good cause. Thanks to everyone's generosity, the event was sold out and we were able to raise over \$3,200 for Food Shelf to help feed our neighbors!



A special thank you to all of our volunteers on the Event Committee, volunteers from Webster Thomas High School, all those who made soup and desserts, those who donated raffle prizes, and our local potters for their work to donate such beautiful handmade pottery pieces!



NOVEMBER FOOD SHELF

We were able to serve over 250 households this month by providing bagged food and Thanksgiving boxes to our neighbors.

FAMILY FUN DAYS

Our last Family Fun Day for 2022 will be combined with our Mission & Ministry Celebration on December 18th.

Would you like to lead a Family Fun Day in 2023? Reach out to Maria!

ADVENT HANDBELLS

Looking for a fun way to make some music this Advent? Thanks to our friends at St. Thomas', we have a set of handbells to do some joyful ringing! Join us to practice at 8:15 am on Sunday mornings 12/4, 12/11, and 12/18. No experience is necessary, just a smile and willingness to learn!

SUNDAY ADVENT SERIES

What is the meaning behind the season of Advent? What are we waiting for? How do we escape the "Christmas Culture" that starts in November and enrich our spiritual lives? Join us for three conversations that will enrich your understanding of one of the most profound seasons of the Church Year.

Speaker: The Very Rev. William Petersen, Ph.D. The Emeritus Dean and Professor of Bexley Hall Seminary and is recognized internationally for his work on Anglican Liturgy and Ecumenical projects.

There's still time to join us on 12/4 and 12/11 after Worship!



MISSION & MINISTRY CELEBRATION

We have a lot to celebrate at St. Mark's and St. John's this season, particularly those who have committed so much holy dedication, time, and work towards our ministry and mission. Join us after Worship on **Sunday, December 18** as we honor the service of members of the SMSJ community that are completing various roles of service in our congregation:

Deacon Mike Finn, retiring on December 24
Terri Censak, Vestry Warden
Paula Valeri, Vestry Member
Tom Flood, Vestry Member

We would love to also honor **all** of our volunteers that have donated their time to SMSJ over the past year. Please join us if you are able!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, 12/4 - 10:30 am
"What Are We Waiting For?" Advent series

Sunday, 12/11 - 10:30 am
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Sunday, 12/18 - 10:30 am
Mission & Ministry Celebration

Monday, 12/19 - 6:30 pm
Vestry Meeting

Wednesday, 12/21 - 12 pm
Blue Christmas Healing Service
Online during Weekly Centering Time

Saturday, 12/24 - 7:30 pm
Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, 12/25 - 10 am
Christmas Day Service

Monday, 12/26-Monday, 1/2
SMSJ Office Closed for Christmas Break

PRAY WITH US

Sunday Worship
9:15 AM

The laying on of hands and anointing with holy oil will be available during worship the second Sunday of the month.

Weekly Centering Time
12 pm
Facebook and YouTube

CONNECT WITH US!



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(585) 654-9229



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Website:
stmarksandstjohns.org

A NOTE ABOUT MISSION & TRANSITION

As we head into 2023 with staffing, volunteer, and process changes, we want to let you know that we are still committing ourselves wholeheartedly to all programs central to the heart of our mission. Food Shelf will continue, without interruption, and we will be seeking neighborhood and congregation feedback about moving forward. We thank you for your prayers in this process!

