



THE  
LION'S TALE

*The Seasonal Magazine of St. Mark's, Mystic*



ADVENT/CHRISTMAS/EPIPHANY  
2022-23



# CAPITAL CAMPAIGN BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE

*By Pastor Adam*

The year 2022 has been a time of big strides forward in our capital campaign building projects, and also one of some treading water. First, the biggest of strides: we turned on our 130-panel solar plant in January, and as of the week before Thanksgiving, we have generated over 52 megawatt/hours of electricity this year. Wow! Every morning when I walk out of my kitchen door, I smile at the solar array, knowing that we have leveraged the flat roof of the education wing in such a wonderful way. I am overjoyed that we at St. Mark's are caring for God's creation by producing A LOT of energy in such a sustainable way.

The exterior refurbishment of the apartment has come a long way this year, as well. In 2021, all the work was done to re-grade the ground, plant grass, and build a new retaining wall. This year we made progress on the actual building. We took the old porch off the memorial garden side and cut a place on the back of the building for a new set of double doors. New cedar shakes are going up as of this writing, which will then be painted to look like the rest of the church. But the big news is that the original doors of the church are now hanging on the facade of the apartment as a sort of art installation and piece of historical preservation. When seen from the memorial garden, the doors give the impression of the front entrance to the church. The whole project is making the garden more inviting and more solemn for the important work we do there.

Lastly, the energy conversion and air conditioning project in the church has gone through multiple design revisions over the last year, and we are getting closer to a final idea as to how to deliver the new heating and cooling system to the church building. The biggest issue we have had to contend with this year is air exchange regulations that we will be subject to once we change anything about the current system. This has caused some levels of complexity that we were not prepared for when we began the project. The team is working through it gamely.

And speaking of the team, I cannot say enough good things about our building team. Rob Christian, Lee Watrous, Kurt Cramer, Doug Barrett, and Bill Loweth continue to shepherd our projects. Jeff Cloutier helps when he's back in town. Ken Sigel has stepped back from the team after ably leading the planning stages of the energy conversion since 2020. Eric McDermott has advised us on many things having do with electricity, and Susan Kietzman is working on grants to help pay for the projects. I feel blessed to be surrounded by such a dedicated and knowledgeable team.



2022

# CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE



## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18TH

10:00am – Christmas Pageant (during service)

## CHRISTMAS EVE

4:30pm – Family Service

8:30pm – Musical Prelude

9:00pm – Festive Service

## CHRISTMAS DAY

9:00am – Christmas Day Service

## DECEMBER 23RD – DECEMBER 31ST

Office Closed

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 1ST

8:00am and 10:00am – Feast of the Holy  
Name/Regular Services  
(no education this Sunday)

# A THANKSGIVING MESSAGE



Dear St. Mark's Parishioners,

The Thanksgiving meal delivery event could not have happened without your support. Thank you. With this being my first year organizing the event, I found myself a bit nervous. However, as the parish came together by donating more food and more time than I could ever imagine, the jitters dissipated. After being part of the delivery team in 2021, Maura and I could see how important these meals were to the community, and therefore, important to us. Little did I know how many members of St. Mark's shared that feeling with us. And not just those in our church, but the many people from the community that poured in to help. I was truly awestruck. I was unable to say thank you in person to each of you that donated food or time so hopefully this message reaches you. I look forward to being a part of this event with you all again next year!



Happy Holidays!  
Bryan Sardo



# ADVENT WORD

The good folks at Forward Movement explain the Advent Word this way: "We choose a single word from the Sunday Lectionary readings for each day of the season of Advent. Shared in English and Spanish, we provide a daily meditation and visual image inspired by this word and invite your personal reflections via social media. The daily meditations are posted on AdventWord.org, emailed to participants, and shared on our Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter accounts.

Around the world, prayers ascend in response to the daily meditations. People share their own reflections and visual art on their social media profiles, tagging #AdventWord to share with the wider community."

**Sign up to receive the daily email meditation during Advent at [adventword.org](http://adventword.org).**

A graphic for the Advent Word 2022 calendar. The background is a dark, textured purple with a faint image of a winter landscape. The text is white and arranged in a clean, modern font. The title 'AdventWord' is at the top in a large, bold font. Below it, the dates 'NOVEMBER 27 - DECEMBER 25' and the year '2022' are displayed. The calendar words are listed in two columns, with the day number on the left and the word in the center. The words are: 27 WALK, 28 TOGETHER, 29 TEACH, 30 MOUNTAINS, 1 MAKE, 2 READY, 3 UNITY, 4 DELIGHT, 5 RAIN, 6 WELCOME, 7 WINNOWING, 8 BREATHE, 9 FIRE, 10 FLOURISH, 11 MESSENGER, 12 WILDERNESS, 13 STRANGER, 14 BELOVED, 15 THIRSTY, 16 TRAVELER, 17 MAJESTY, 18 PURIFY, 19 SIGN, 20 HEAR, 21 OBEDIENCE, 22 CHOOSE, 23 RESTORE, 24 BIRTH, 25 EMMANUEL. At the bottom, the website 'adventword.org' and the Forward Movement logo are visible.

**AdventWord**  
NOVEMBER 27 - DECEMBER 25  
**2022**

27	WALK	12	WILDERNESS
28	TOGETHER	13	STRANGER
29	TEACH	14	BELOVED
30	MOUNTAINS	15	THIRSTY
1	MAKE	16	TRAVELER
2	READY	17	MAJESTY
3	UNITY	18	PURIFY
4	DELIGHT	19	SIGN
5	RAIN	20	HEAR
6	WELCOME	21	OBEDIENCE
7	WINNOWING	22	CHOOSE
8	BREATHE	23	RESTORE
9	FIRE	24	BIRTH
10	FLOURISH	25	EMMANUEL
11	MESSENGER		

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

# EPIPHANY

It might have been just someone else's story,  
Some chosen people get a special king.  
We leave them to their own peculiar glory,  
We don't belong, it doesn't mean a thing.  
But when these three arrive they bring us with them,  
Gentiles like us, their wisdom might be ours;  
A steady step that finds an inner rhythm,  
A pilgrim's eye that sees beyond the stars.  
They did not know his name but still they sought him,  
They came from elsewhere but still they found;  
In temples they found those who sold and bought him,  
But in the filthy stable, hallowed ground.  
Their courage gives our questing hearts a voice  
To seek, to find, to worship, to rejoice.

-Written by Malcom Guite,  
from his book "Souding the Seasons"



## The Work of Christmas

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and the princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with their flock,  
The work of Christmas begins:  
To find the lost,  
To heal the broken,  
To feed the hungry,  
To release the prisoner,  
To rebuild the nations,  
To bring peace among brothers,  
To make music in the heart.

+ Howard Thurman



# ADVENT by KIDS!

The promise of Advent is that the desert places will bloom, and water will break forth in the wilderness. Draw a picture of your city, town, or neighborhood blooming with God's love!



*If you'd like to share your picture, have your parents email a photo of it to [communications@stmarksmystic.org](mailto:communications@stmarksmystic.org) and we'll share it in the eTale and/or online!*

# THE LION'S TALE

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

15 Pearl Street

Mystic, CT 06355

*Return Service Requested*

First Class Mail

## **VESTRY**

Lynn Batcho

Christian Cloutier

Maura D'Agostino

Mon Dickinson

Arlene Johnson

Bill Merrill

Teresa Norris

Celina Ortiz

Brae Rafferty

Katy Roberts

Jackie Stoltz

Fred Ziegler

## **MINISTERS**

All members of the congregation

The Rev. Adam Thomas, Rector

David Tubbs, Music Director

Faithe Emerich, Communications

Bev Olsen, Senior Warden

Rob Christian, Junior Warden

Eric Bookmiller, Clerk

Dave Cruthers, Treasurer



**SAINT MARK'S**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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