



THE ST. MARK'S MESSAGE

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, New Britain

**THE LION'S PAUSE with
BARBARA CAMPBELL, TREASURER**

VOLUME XCVII
ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2021
ISSUE

How did you get to be in need?
by Barbara A. Campbell, Ph.D.
Treasurer

Humor a retired English teacher with no papers to grade – think about a larger meaning of the first person plural pronoun, “WE”. I know you are muttering, “This is why I hated English!”

How have WE changed? Not just St. Mark’s people but people in downtown New Britain and in the state.

Most of us learned what the circumstances of a recipient should be when there is assistance offered to someone in need. We learned about those circumstances before we were hit by Covid. Hear how “in need” has changed.

One of the Valley newspapers is thrown in my driveway every Wednesday. It is their way of getting the Stop & Shop, Big Y, Ocean State sales and coupons to me. In that newspaper, they said, “In Connecticut, more than 600 restaurants have closed.” Let that sink in – “In Connecticut, more than 600 restaurants have closed.” That’s not just cooks and waitresses and bus boys out of work. It’s the cleaning crew that comes in at night. It’s the drivers of the delivery trucks that brought the chicken, the veggies, the coffee, tea bags, fortune cookies. It’s the people who loaded those trucks, the college student earning a little money after class, the mother or father holding 3 jobs trying to support a family... It’s not a simple matter of stopping work at Restaurant A to going to work next door at Restaurant B.

Or think about it another way. I use one credit card for travel and restaurants. For months now, the bill for that card has been coming to my home saying I owe a zero balance – haven’t been any place and haven’t eaten out. I’m contributing to the change in circumstances that the “600 restaurants closed” reality creates. I imagine you are, too.

Or one more marker, my friends, all retired teachers, used to meet every Friday night for supper at Nordstrom’s and then go downstairs in Westfarms Mall to use one of their tables to play Rummikub. Once we realized we could be infecting each other with something lethal, we stopped going. One news report recently said the last nail in the coffin of malls could be Covid.

All of which is to say the ways of thinking when it’s appropriate for a

Special points of interest:

- *The Lion's Pause by Barbara Campbell*
- *Stewardship*
- *Zoom Services and Meetings*
- *Annual Parish Meeting - February 7, 2021*
- *A Word From Fr. Shaw*
- *Parish Clerk's Corner*
- *Give Back Community Bag Program*
- *January Calendar*
- *Parish Office Hours and Food Pantry Days and hours*
- *Staff Holiday Greeting*



person to ask for assistance have changed. People's circumstances will be more dire than 10 months ago. The working world is radically different and that needs to be acknowledged. Buildings, maybe like 147, might have made good offices. With working from home for those who can, are as many offices needed?

In considering the larger meaning of that first person plural pronoun _____ (you can fill in the blank now, I know you can!) old ways are not still in place, people get trapped out of jobs differently. We speak of people being bi-vocational. Learning to negotiate the working world today might require being tri-vocational or more! But that presses your knowledge of Latin. I took it but it wasn't one of my certs so I won't go there!

STEWARSHIP

Pledge Cards

have settled into
alphabetical order,
all nestled in nicely
as they get ready to work.

The banner has been raised again –
41 people pledged \$49,945.88
and others are welcome to land.

Come, make yourself comfortable!
There's ministry to do – together!



ZOOM SERVICES

**Zoom coffee hour 9:30 am; Zoom service 10 am;
Zoom coffee hour after the service.**

Zoom Meeting ID 500-865-037

or enter via the parish Web link at <http://www.stmarksnewbritain.org>.

There will be 1 service on Sundays: Zoom coffee hour 9:30 am; Zoom service 10 am; Zoom coffee hour after the service.

Zoom Meeting ID 500-865-037

Enter via the parish Web link at <http://www.stmarksnewbritain.org>.

**There is also a telephone number you could call on your phone to join the Zoom service:
1-646-558-8656 (phone charges may apply for the telephone call if you don't have
unlimited calling).**

Fr. Shaw will call the Skype members 15 minutes prior to the service.

If you would like the bulletin mailed to you for this service, please let Cheryl in the parish office know.

Please remember to turn your phone volume down slightly – this may help with the feedback sound. Please contact Cheryl in the Parish Office if you have any questions.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

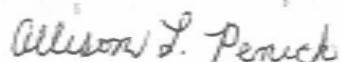
St. Mark's Annual Parish Meeting
will be held on:

Sunday, February 7, 2021

On Zoom beginning 9:30 a.m.

Coffee hour opens at 9:00 a.m.

The annual meeting is called for Election of Officers and Vestry and
any other business as designated by the Vestry.



Allison L. Penick
Parish Clerk

You may enter the Zoom Service through our website:

www.saintmarksnewbritain.org

A WORD FROM FR. SHAW MUDGE

Dear friends,

In the midst of preparing for Christmas services and everything else, Cheryl gently reminded me of an opportunity to write an article for the Message.

At first, I thought, "how could I do this? I don't have time." I even responded that way.

Yet, as I prayed about it, I thought, "what better time than now? Later, could be more challenging."

As we look to 2021, God may be prompting us all to engage in something that at first may appear to be inconvenient, and yet may be important. This is COVID life. This is also life without COVID.

There is a faint wisp of optimism in the air at the moment, because the first vaccines have been injected. Six weeks yet to go until the full effect takes place for these folks, yet the beginning of the conquest of the virus is upon us. Over the next nine months, the schedule will more fully unfold, all things being the same.

And throughout that time, the people of St. Mark's will have opportunities to connect online, through the mail, over the phone, at the food pantry, and in other ways.

And as we look to 2021, with its own unique characteristics yet to unfold, we might take a moment, to make a New Year's Prayer for ourselves, for your neighbor, for guidance just how to connect, with whom to connect, what to do, what vision to follow, and when. With this in mind perhaps it may be by divine intention that we live in a state named CONNECT-icut.

I find New Year's prayers to have longer staying power than New Year's resolutions, unless God is in the New Year's resolution, as well. New Year's prayers connect us to God. Unless divine inspiration is in a New Year's resolution, the resolution might not have quite the same staying power, so to speak.

As we move from Christmas Season, to Epiphany Season, as we are on the cusp to move into our annual election at the service on February 7 at 9:30 am online, and as we subsequently move ahead with the Vestry for 2021, perhaps you might consider a New Year's prayer and take a moment and pause, to pray a prayer like this: "Heavenly Father, we offer 2021 into your care, and during 2021, we ask that your Holy Spirit would inspire and guide the people associated with St. Mark's on your paths ahead, in wisdom, peace, love, thought, word, deed, and sacramentally in all areas of life, that all would be done in your way, in your time, and to your glory. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.

God bless you, take care, and Merry Christmas season!

Fr. Shaw
Priest-in-Charge

Allison's Parish Clerk News Corner

December 2020

December 2020

The Covid-19 pandemic continues at an increasingly fast pace, but there is hope as vaccines are approved and distribution begins. Our outlook is to continue remotely with worship and mission at least until June of 2021.

St. Mark's Agenda:

1. Our Annual Meeting will be by 2/7/21 (Zoom/Skype/Phone) beginning at 9:30 a.m. with worship and continuing as needed for the election of Vestry and other business.
2. Nominations are sought for all vestry positions. Please consider joining.
3. At the ECCT Annual Convention in October, diocesan canons were updated to allow for virtual meetings and votes. St. Mark's By-Laws do not specifically prohibit virtual meetings so we may go forward with our Annual Meeting plans. We do have a formula to set a specific quorum. We may want to update our by-laws to allow "members present". No change has been made at this point.
4. Our stewardship pledge campaign for 2021 has raised \$49,235.88 (37 pledges). If you have not pledged, please consider joining our mission as you are able.
5. The New Britain Stop & Shop Community Bag Program will be held this year for the benefit of the St. Mark's Food Pantry. For every "Give Back" bag purchased, \$1 will be given to our pantry.
6. St. Mark's has made progress toward becoming a "parish in good standing" since we have not made large withdrawals from our endowment. We still have financial concerns since we have spent most of the rectory sale proceeds and our 147 West Main St. building has not been sold (2 interested parties but no firm offers).

God Bless Everyone in this season of Advent.

Peace, Justice and Safety,

Allison Penick

Vestry Clerk

Please visit the New Britain Stop and Shop.
For every bag purchased, St. Mark's Food
Pantry will receive \$1.00.



WHEN YOU BUY THIS BAG,
WE WILL RECEIVE A
\$1 DONATION!

COMMUNITY BAG
PROGRAM



GIVE BACK TO
YOUR COMMUNITY

ANNUAL REPORTS

Please send your Annual Report to the parish office no later than
January 15, 2021.

All reports should be a short synopsis of your group's activity,
or lack thereof in 2020.

Thank you

JANUARY 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 9:30 a.m. Zoom “Coffee Hour” Ante-Communion 10:00 On Zoom	4 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry	5	6 5:45 p.m. Executive Com. Meeting 7:00 p.m. Finance	7 9:00 - 12:00 Food Pantry	8	9
10 9:30 a.m. Zoom “Coffee Hour” Ante-Communion 10:00 On Zoom	11 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry	12 6:30 p.m. Vestry Dwelling in the Word 6:45 p.m. Vestry	13	14 9:00 - 12:00 Food Pantry	15	16
17 9:30 a.m. Zoom “Coffee Hour” Ante-Communion 10:00 On Zoom	18  MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. Office Closed	19	20 February Message articles due	21 9:00 - 12:00 Food Pantry	22	23
24 9:30 a.m. Zoom “Coffee Hour” Ante-Communion 10:00 On Zoom	25 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry	26	27	28 9:00 - 12:00 Food Pantry	29	30
31 9:30 a.m. Zoom “Coffee Hour” Ante-Communion 10:00 On Zoom						



**St. Mark's Episcopal
Church, New Britain**

**PO Box 1538
90 Main Street
New Britain, CT 06051
The Rev. Dr. Shaw Mudge,
Priest In Charge**

**Phone: 860-225-7634
Email: parishoffice@stmarksnewbritain.org
Website: www.stmarksnewbritain.org**

**PRAYER CHAIN: to activate the chain call
Barbara Campbell 860-673-7607,
Campbellba24@gmail.com**

**If you or someone you know is hospitalized,
please inform the clergy or call the parish
office.**

Open to God's Love - Serving Our Neighbor

**Due date for all articles for the
February Issue of the St. Mark's Message is
January 20th**



**Weekly Parish Services:
During the COVID-19 crisis, services will be held on Zoom (Go to page 3 or our website—www.saintmarksnewbritain.org for information on joining the service.)**

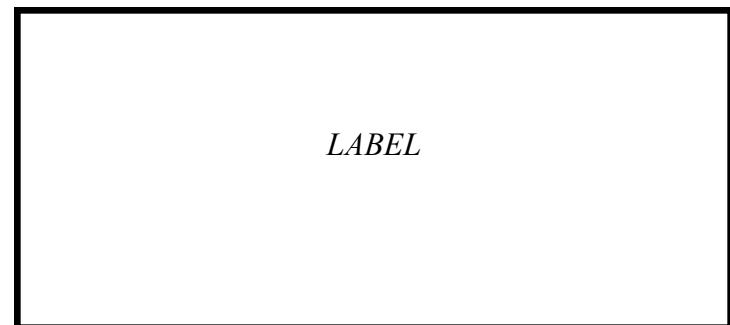
Pledges and Offerings

Please remember to keep sending in your pledges and offerings to the parish. Mail in our P.O. Box is picked up several times a week. Your pledge payments are compiled at least once a month and deposited.

The parish ministries to the community and worship services adapt and continue, even in these most challenging times.

Mailing address: St. Mark's Episcopal Church PO Box 1538 New Britain, CT 06050-1538 or to electronically send checks to the Church via your bank.

St. Marks keeps going in God's way, God's time, and to God's glory.



LABEL

Parish Office Hours.

Monday through Friday
from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Food Pantry

Monday: 9 - 12 & 12:30 - 2
Thursday: 9 - 12

***THE CLERGY AND
STAFF OF
ST. MARK'S WISH
EVERYONE A BLESSED,
HEALTHY AND
HAPPY NEW
YEAR!***

