



THE ST. MARK'S MESSAGE

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, New Britain

THE LION'S PAUSE with
BARBARA A. CAMPBELL, Ph.D.

VOLUME XCVII
ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2021
ISSUE

Go Read!
by Barbara A. Campbell, Ph.D.

In these Covid-charged days and days of trying to get an appointment for the vaccine, we need safe ways to escape, to calm ourselves down and let our minds refocus. I suggest slowly reading (because you want it to last) Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer, a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation who lives in Syracuse, N. Y., is a SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor of Environmental Biology and director of the Center for Native Peoples and the Environment.

She writes of two young boys having no luck fishing but then they see pecans are ripe, have fallen to the ground and they count as food to bring home. They throw down at their mother's feet "with grins of triumph, two pair of worn-out pants, tied shut with twine at the ankles and bulging with nuts." Pecans don't make a crop each year. As the history of Indian Removal policies is followed west, groves of pecan trees, even today, mark that trail.

The author sees herself raised by strawberries in upstate New York. The small white berries were sour but kids "ate them anyway, impatient for the real thing...you could smell ripe strawberries before you saw them...It was the smell of June, the last day of school...I'd lie on my stomach in my favorite patches, watching berries grow sweeter and bigger under the leaves...From that vantage point I could pick only the reddest of the red, leaving the pink ones for tomorrow.

She introduced her daughters to maple sugaring and the need for warm days and freezing nights. They watched the calendar and the thermometer and then asked, "How do the trees know it's time if they can't see the thermometer?" And in answer, maples have hundreds of photosensors in every single bud that take the measure of light everyday. It is said that {Native Americans} learned to make sugar from squirrels. Squirrels gnawed the branches of sugar maples, sap exuded, and the squirrels drank it. The next morning the squirrels licked up the sugar crystals that formed on the bark overnight. – rock candy to tide them over through the hungriest time of year.

Less peaceful is the story of Onondaga Lake, its assets, what is left and what has been destroyed. Swimming was banned in 1940 and fishing in 1970. It's more than time to question what Genesis 1:28 means when it


Special points of interest:

- *The Lion's Pause by Barbara A. Campbell, Ph.D*
- *Ash Wednesday Zoom Service*
- *Zoom Services and Meetings*
- *Annual Parish Meeting - February 7, 2021*
- *A Word From Fr. Shaw*
- *Stewardship*
- *Parish Clerk's Corner*
- *Proposed By-Law Amendments to St. Mark's By-Laws*
- *Parish Office Hours and Food Pantry Days and hours*
- *February Calendar*
- *Save The Date*



says, “Let us make humankind in our image...and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over birds of the air and over every living thing that creeps upon the earth.” It is notable that our baptismal service has been changed to include “care of creation”. As Kimmerer asks, “What would it be like to be raised on gratitude, to speak to the natural world as a member of the democracy of species, to raise a pledge on interdependence? Can we agree to be grateful for all that is given?”

And I ask, “Could we respond, “Now our minds are one.”



ASH WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 17, 2021

ZOOM SERVICE AT 7:00 P.M.
Zoom ID—946-5241-6646



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 not 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

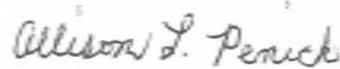
St. Mark's Annual Parish Meeting
will be held on:

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

Zoom ID: 500 865 037

Zoom phone number 1-646-558-8656

A WORD FROM FR. SHAW MUDGE

February.

Which date comes first comes to mind for you as you think of February?

Would it be Valentines Day, February 14th (and Julie and I find that Korean romantic comedies on Netflix go a long way to keep the flame alive all year long).

Would it be Ash Wednesday on February 17th (Zoom service at 7 pm)? We live a sacramental lifestyle, and the annual focus on repentance as a spiritual gift is important in our lives.

Would it be St. Mark's Annual Meeting on February 7th (Zoom service at 9:30)? This is an important date to "get out the vote" to ensure a quorum, a necessary step in parish life with an eye towards what God would have St. Mark's do across 2021 and into 2022, prayerfully, with a vision in mind.

Is it someone's birthday or anniversary? Then, may their/your next year be blessed.

And for everyone, whatever your favorite day or favorite days: May God bless you, take care, and may God's Holy Spirit guide you in wisdom and peace, that all may be done in your life in God's way, in God's time, and to God's glory, in Jesus' Name. Amen.

STEWARDSHIP

Pledge envelopes have been mailed. Please contact the parish office if you did not receive your envelopes or if you would like to request envelopes. Thank you.

Many thanks to all of you who read your Pledge Statement at the beginning of December and who did what it reminded you to do! We appreciate the Pledges that were completed. Pledge Statements for the end of December were also printed.

If you are being audited or wish to see the end of December Statement, please call the church office, (860-225-7684) and we will scan and email you that Statement.

Annual Reports have been mailed or emailed. Copies will also be available in the office.

Allison's Parish Clerk News Corner

January 2021

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.

In the News:

1. Community Ministry: There are a couple of "Winter Drives" being held in New Britain to collect personal care items as well as hats, gloves, mittens and socks. One benefits Pastor Dana's ministry and the new Crisis Center at 57 Arch St. Another benefits the Friendship Center and the North-end Elementary School students and parents. Please call the church office to find out drop-off locations and times.
2. Sales status 147 West Main St. property: Progress has not been made. Our committee will decide on another price reduction.
3. ANNUAL MEETING FEBRUARY 7TH! Please come! The meeting will be held by Zoom/Skype/Phone beginning with worship at 9:30 a.m. followed by the election of officers, vestry members and delegates to the ECCT Convention. Nominations are open for all positions. *We will be considering several amendments to St. Mark's 2018 By-Laws so it is extremely important to participate if at all possible.* More information is on its way so check your mail and e-mail. The proposed changes relate to the definition of quorum and rector/priest-in-charge as well as the ability to hold remote meetings and distribute communications electronically. The changes align with changes made to our Diocesan Canons at the October 2020 Convention. They will facilitate new and flexible ways of worshiping, conducting church business and pursuing God's Mission especially in our current pandemic environment where so much is done remotely. This is one of the few positive results from the pandemic. The wonders of technology have allowed us to continue worshiping and doing ministry and have even brought us in contact with fellow disciples across the nation.
4. Technology, worship and music: Many thanks to Ben Gryk and Stephen Hard (and many others!) who have worked to make our worship services run smoothly. In addition to playing the piano, Ben selects hymns and navigates the complicated copyright laws governing music, lyrics and arrangements. Stephen creates wonderful digital images for our worship bulletins and helps to operate the Zoom details.

God Bless you as we move toward the season of Lent.

Peace, Justice and Safety,

Allison Penick

Vestry Clerk



ST. MARK'S PARISH ANNUAL MEETING
FEBRUARY 7, 2021
PROPOSED BY-LAW AMENDMENTS
TO ST. MARK'S 2-4-18 BY-LAWS

Amendment #1 Quorum Definition

In Article III, delete the sentence, "The number that will constitute a quorum will be established by doubling the number of voting members of the Vestry and adding five." Replace with "The quorum for all parish meetings shall be voting members present."

Amendment #2 Priest-in-Charge/Rector

All references to "Rector" shall be understood to refer to "Priest-in-Charge" also.

Amendment #3 Meetings Held Remotely

All Parish and Vestry meetings may be conducted in person *or* by any means of audio or visual systems by which all participants may simultaneously communicate with each other during the meeting. As such, all participants shall be deemed present at the meeting.

Amendment #4 Distribution of Meeting Notices and Related Business



All meeting notices, reports and related business shall be distributed in advance of the meeting either by USPS mail or by e-mail.

Amendments moved by: Barbara Campbell

Second: Allison Penick

Explanation: These amendments coincide with changes made to the ECCT Diocesan Canons at the October 2020 Convention. They facilitate new and flexible ways of worshiping, conducting parish business and pursuing God's Mission. They are especially important during the Co-vid Pandemic as we social-distance and operate remotely to stay safe.

FEBRUARY 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 9:30 a.m. Zoom Staff Meeting	3 5:45 p.m. Executive Com. Meeting 7:00 p.m. Finance	4 9:00 - 12:00 Food Pantry	5	6
7 Annual Meeting 9:00 a.m. Zoom Room opens at 9:30 a.m.	8 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry	9 9:30 a.m. Staff 6:30 p.m. Vestry Dwelling in the Word 6:45 p.m. Vestry	10	11 9:00 - 12:00 Food Pantry	12	13 Zoom Vestry Retreat 9 am to 11 am.
14 9:30 a.m. Zoom “Coffee Hour” Ante-Communion 10:00 On Zoom	15  Office Closed	16 9:30 a.m. Zoom Staff Meeting	17 	18 9:00 - 12:00 Food Pantry	19	20
21 9:30 a.m. Zoom “Coffee Hour” Ante-Communion 10:00 On Zoom	22 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry	23 9:30 a.m. Zoom Staff Meeting	24 Message Mailed	25 9:00 - 12:00 Food Pantry	26	27
28 9:30 a.m. Zoom “Coffee Hour” Ante-Communion 10:00 On Zoom						

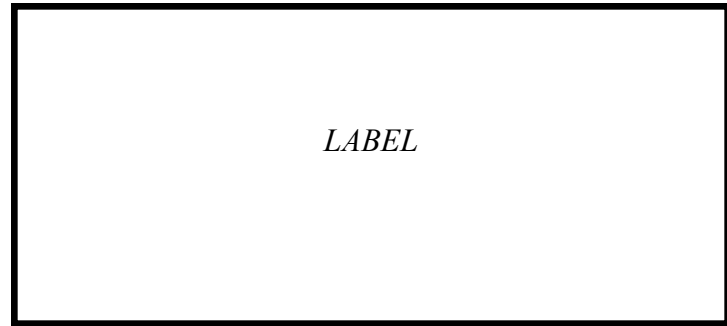
**St. Mark's Episcopal
Church, New Britain**

**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
March Issue of the St. Mark's Message is
February 17, 2021**

**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**



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.

SAVE THE DATE

- SUNDAY, February 7, 2021 -**
St. Mark's Annual Meeting on Zoom at 9:30 a.m. Zoom "doors open at 9:00 am
- Saturday, February 13th -**
Vestry Zoom Retreat 9 am to 11 am
- Wednesday, February 17th -**
Ash Wednesday Zoom Service 7:00 pm