



THE ST. MARK'S MESSAGE

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, New Britain

THE LION'S PAUSE with
STEPHEN HARD, JUNIOR WARDEN

VOLUME XCVII
ISSUE 5

MAY 2021
ISSUE

Spring has sprung! As I write, the forsythia and daffodils are ablaze, the trees are in full bud and soon we will be off! But to where? Spring and Summer in New England are predictable, but they always manage to surprise us. Somehow, we think that maybe, just maybe, this will be the year that winter just does not end. This bothers some folks so much they move to where they need not worry about winter ending—they move to where there is none! I prefer to live in hope. I like to be surprised, and because I am optimistic by nature, I expect that what the future holds will be better than anything I might imagine. In any case, our faith tells us that, ultimately, God is in charge and there is nothing to fear—not even death itself. There is an important lesson in God being in charge. We are not responsible for results, only effort.

This is very different from the calculations of business, politics, or even education. In those spheres results are *all* that matters. Positive, measurable, results are the reason for the existence of businesses, governments, and schools, and accountability for results is extraordinarily important. But in the realm of faith, the focus is, or is supposed to be, on faithfulness. Results are God's business. And consider what God pulled out of a crucifixion!

I do not know about you, but I feel as if I am treading water here at St. Mark's. Part of that is because the pandemic has divorced us from our weekly physical faith affirmation. Jesus gave us his body and blood to support and strengthen us because he knew we would need this. I never thought I would discover this the hard way. But it is not just the pandemic. Because our current circumstances are so surreal, I must remind myself that I am part of what is a dying parish. Before anyone gets upset at that last remark, I did not say we were dead. But even if we were, things coming back to life is a part of the Christian plan. How that will be manifest I have no clue, but I know that it will happen

Special points of interest:

- *The Lion's Pause* by Stephen Hard, Junior Warden
- *Safe Church Training Information*
- *NHSNB Service Center*
- *Zoom Services and Meetings*
- *Parish Clerk's Corner*
- *A Word From Fr. Shaw*
- *May Calendar*
- *Save The Date*



because nothing is wasted that is done in faithfulness to God.

There is news for me to share. In case you have not heard, we have a purchase and sale agreement with Embassy of United Chaplains for the purchase of our historic property on West Main Street. Some of you know Archbishop Evelyn DeLeon who, for many years, rented space in our buildings and loves them as we do and wants to bring new life to them. It is a tall order, one that Right Now Ministries could not take on, and Bishop and Brigette Brown will be leaving our facilities to make room for United Chaplains.

There are still many things to be worked out, and a purchase and sale agreement is only a first step, but there are lessons here for us as a faith community no matter what transpires. If we have been and continue to be faithful, what happens next may not be what we hoped for or planned, but we can know that God has the results in hand. Like spring after the winter there will be surprises yet.

Peace be with you,

Stephen



Stop & Shop New Britain - Blooming 4 Good Program!

Let's fight hunger together. One Bouquet at a Time.

Spring has sprung! For every Bloomin' 4 Good Bouquet purchased during the month of May (with a red circle sticker)

St. Mark's Food Pantry will receive \$1.00.

Bouquets must be purchased at the New Britain Stop & Shop for us to get the donation.



**The Connecticut Bishop the Rt. Rev. Ian T. Douglas, Ph.D.
Announces Retirement in 2022**

**A special announcement from the Rt. Rev. Ian T. Douglas, Ph.D.
Bishop Diocesan of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut**

**Go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YT3GkuTwdKo>
to view his message.**

Sleuthing Discussion Starting

Thursday Night Group will re-group via Zoom 958 0981 4572 at
7 pm. The text we will spring off from is
Sleuthing for Slavery and Supremacy with a Saint Called Mark.
You have seen it in the Sunday Bulletin.
Call or email Barbara and she will send you the completed publication.

Safe Church Training

If you need to re-certify or take the training for the first time, please go to:
www.episcopalct.org/Find-Resources/General-Parish-Operations/Safe-Church-Resources/

Training Dates:

Sunday afternoon, May 2, 2021, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday evening, May 12, 2021, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Saturday morning, May 22, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Monday evening, June 7, 2021, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Saturday morning, June 12, 2021, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

NHSNB's Free Resource Center

223 Broad Street, New Britain - 860-224-2433 X-121

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. - M, T, W

9 a.m. to 5 p.m. - Thursday and 9 a.m. to 12 noon on Friday

Have you been financially impacted by COVID-19? At the Resource Center you will find:

- A safe and spacious environment - Trained staff who will help you with your UniteCT application - Computer and internet access - Answers to your questions

COVID-19 Funeral Assistance available from FEMA

FEMA has begun accepting applications for its program to assist families with the financial expenses of funerals for COVID-19 related deaths. The program will reimburse individuals and households for COVID-19 related funeral expenses incurred after Jan. 20, 2020. Assistance is limited to a maximum of \$9,000 per funeral and a maximum of \$35,500 per application. While the applicant must be a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national, or qualified alien, the deceased does not. Learn more about eligibility and how to apply on [FEMA's COVID-19 Funeral Assistance page](#).

Episcopal Relief and Development has created a [fact sheet](#) for the program, as has [FEMA](#), both of which can be helpful in responding to questions and helping guide people through the application process.



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 is 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).

When dialing into services or meetings by telephone: Ben is in charge of muting everyone. To unmute: when pressing the "star" (*) and then "6", first press the star, then take your finger off the "star", and then press "6" to unmute and take your finger off the 6. You have to press both the "star" and the "6" in that order. If you have been muted along with the video people, you may not be aware that you have been muted, so to be heard, please press the "star" and then "6" to unmute.

**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.

Allison's Parish Clerk News Corner

April 2021

Happy Spring! Happy Easter!

I started last month's "corner" with the same greeting, but it is still true and even more so. The grass is green and growing and the flowering trees are blossoming. My bleeding heart plant joined my daffodils in my garden. God is smiling.

God is smiling for St. Mark's Church too.

- Stephen Hard has executed the Purchase and Sale Agreement for our 147 West Main St. property with the United Chaplains. The sales price is \$600K with independent financing. Bishop DeLeon's lender will require a thorough inspection within 90 days. If all goes well, the closing should be in June/July.
- St. Mark's neighbors surrounding South Church are active community members and show us opportunities for ministry.
 1. Stephen and Mark delivered 50 pounds of requested toiletries to the Cathedral for Hartford Community College students.
 2. A Sunni Mosque and the CCSU downtown New Britain campus are around the corner. How might we connect?
 3. The Friendship Center created a safer "friendship pod" by reducing the number of clients but allowing them to stay at the center 24/7 rather than requiring them to leave between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.
 4. A Triage Center at 57 Arch St. provided a warming shelter 6-10 p.m. daily from January 4th to March 31st. St. Mark's contributed \$500 to the project.
 5. The Friendship Center hired a dozen people to staff the warming center and help the homeless find shelter at The Red Roof Inn. Local restaurants provided continental breakfasts.
 6. South Church continues to make sack lunches, often with bread Mark provides. These are delivered to the Friendship Center.
 7. St. Mark's Food Pantry is an integral part of the community. It has received a \$500 grant from Food Share for supplies and equipment. This will help fund the purchase of another freezer so we can store larger quantities of frozen food from Food Share.
- Barbara has been researching St. Mark's Church's history and our relationships not only with blacks and slavery but also with Native Americans. She has graced us with weekly chapters in our Sunday bulletins. She and Cheryl have published a leaflet, "Sleuthing for Slavery and Supremacy", soon to be distributed. This will be a wonderful starting point for discussion as we strive for racial justice and reconciliation.

God Bless you. We are traveling the path of Jesus to do God's mission and be embraced in God's infinite love. Let's spread the Good News!

Allison Penick



A WORD FROM FR. SHAW

Dear friends in Christ,

April is giving way to May, and there are three things on my mind at the moment, of many that I could mention.

1) April showers bring May flowers. There is a special beauty of God's creation in the current flowers, as I look across our garden. My wife takes a focused interest in gardening. I continue to be impressed by her work. Praise God for gardeners, and for the flowers, God's handiwork.

2) Several people in the parish have been keeping in touch with other people via the phone, through cards, and in other ways. It is a really important ministry to each other. If you would like someone to contact you, please reach out to anyone, perhaps through Cheryl in the office who might be able to put you in touch with someone.

3) And liturgically, there is the ministry of the Church calendar for us as a way to keeping in touch with God, as the people of God, particularly:

a) Ascension Day on Thursday May 13th, reminding us when Jesus Christ Ascended up into heaven to be seated at the right hand of God, interceding for us,

b) The Day of Pentecost on Sunday May 23 (another day for wearing red), reminding us of when God poured his Holy Spirit down on the gathering in Jerusalem, a key step in salvation for connecting us with God's empowerment, and


c) Trinity Sunday on Sunday May 30, reminding us of our connection with our God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

A prayer: Heavenly Father, we ask that your Holy Spirit would empower us to do that which you have called us to do, and to be the people whom you have called us to be, that all would be done to your glory, in your way and in your time. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

God bless you, and take care,

Fr. Shaw

MAY 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:30 a.m. Zoom “Coffee Hour” Ante-Communion 10:00 On Zoom	3 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry	4 9:30 a.m. Zoom Staff Meeting	5 5:45 p.m. Exec. Committee Mtg 7:00 p.m. Finance Committee Mtg	6 9:00 - 12:00 Food Pantry	7	8
9 9:30 a.m. Zoom “Coffee Hour” Ante-Communion 10:00 On Zoom	10 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry	11 9:30 a.m. Zoom Staff Meeting 6:30 p.m. Vestry Zoom Meeting	12	13 9:00 - 12:00 Food Pantry	14	15
16 9:30 a.m. Zoom “Coffee Hour” Ante-Communion 10:00 On Zoom	17 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry	18	19 Articles for June Message due	20 9:00 - 12:00 Food Pantry	21	22
23 9:30 a.m. Zoom “Coffee Hour” Ante-Communion 10:00 On Zoom	24 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry	25 9:30 a.m. Zoom Staff Meeting	26 June Message Mailed	27 9:00 - 12:00 Food Pantry	28	29
30 9:30 a.m. Zoom “Coffee Hour” Ante-Communion 10:00 On Zoom	31 					

**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 May Issue of the
St. Mark's Message is
April 21, 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

Tuesday, May 11th – 6:45 p.m. –
Vestry Meeting on Zoom
Monday, May 31st – Memorial Day –
Parish office and Food Pantry Closed

Sunday Remembrances

If you would like to have a loved one remembered on any given Sunday, please give Cheryl in the parish office a call or email. Let her know the name of the person to be remembered and the date you would like them remembered on. There is no fee at this time.

Once we are back to “normal” the Altar Flowers will be given in remembrance of a loved one for a small fee to cover the cost of the flowers.