



THE ST. MARK'S MESSAGE

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, New Britain

THE LION'S PAUSE with ALLISON PENICK, VESTRY CLERK

VOLUME XCVII
ISSUE 8

AUGUST 2021
ISSUE

An Uncommon Word Sparks Thought

Cudgel: A short, thick stick used as a weapon. This word is not a part of my everyday vocabulary, but I found it used twice this week.

The first time was in a Hartford Courant editorial (July 11th by Jonah Goldberg) about critical race theory (CRT). Mr. Goldberg's premise was that both defenders and critics are missing the point. "CRT is an academic tool invented to help explain why racial problems endure even when conscious racism is no longer pervasive. It has morphed into a **cudgel** to accuse people of racism if they don't agree with the proposed diagnosis or the cure." I feel our world is filled with catch phrases (DACA, voting rights, Obamacare) for ideas that spark strong feelings. The words start as an easy way of identifying a topic and turn into bludgeons. Such attacks put everyone on the defensive and we stop listening to each other. That is not a good way to reach a compromise.

The second time I heard the word was during Stephen Hard's wonderful sermon on July 18th. We had read Psalm 23: "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want." This psalm describes the comfort and protection we receive from our Lord Jesus. A shepherd carries a shepherd's hook which is essentially a long stick shaped with a curved hook at one end. A shepherd can use it as a "**cudgel**" to ward off anything endangering his flock. This is certainly an appropriate use when faced with an attacking wolf! However, is it appropriate to use words as cudgels when people have conflicting ideas?

My answer is "no". I prefer the other use of the shepherd's staff. Let's use the curved hook to draw people back to the fold, a place where we are all accepted as equals and can express difficult ideas without fear of reprisal. I believe Jesus would agree. His is "The Way of Love". If we must use catch phrases, let them be "Love" and "Peace" and "Empathy".

God Bless.

Allison Penick

Special points of interest:

- *The Lion's Pause - Allison Penick, Vestry Clerk*
- *In-Person Services - Broadcast Instructions*
- *Music Director, Ben Gryk Retired*
- *Episcopal Peace Fellowship*
- *Summer Time Information*
- *From the ECCT Archivist*
- *A Word From Fr. Shaw*
- *August Calendar*
- *Save The Date*
- *Food Pantry*



JOIN US FOR IN-PERSON SERVICES!

Join us to worship in person every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. in Cooper Hall.

Face masks must be worn inside the building.

Everyone is required to wear a mask inside the buildings of South Church. We will have masks available if you need one.

The only restroom that may be used is the handicap restroom. Thank you.

Broadcast Instructions

You can enter the Zoom service via the parish Web link at <http://www.stmarksnewbritain.org>.

There is also a telephone number that can be used to join the Zoom service:

1-646-558-8656

(phone charges may apply for the telephone call if you do not have unlimited calling).

If you are using a telephone to dial into the service: dial the zoom phone number, and then wait to be prompted by the voice to enter the meeting number. Then, enter the meeting number, and as part of the meeting number, please add the "pound" sign (#) at the end of the meeting number (as the verbal instructions direct).

The Zoom broadcast opens at 9:45 am when remote participants can be admitted and will be greeted by the e-verger.

Remote participants are encouraged to stay connected after the service and greet and be greeted during the coffee hour.

Issues that have come to our attention:

Issue: "my screen goes back and forth between speakers."

Response: you may be in "speaker" view. If so, change to "gallery view".

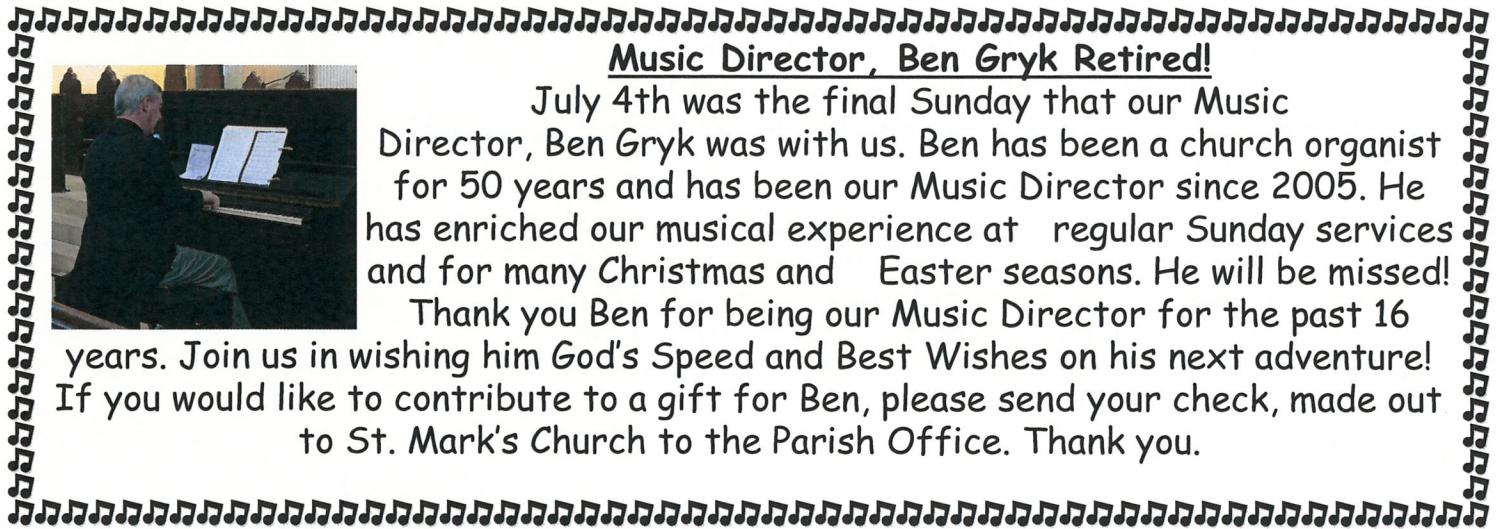
Please remember to turn your phone volume down slightly on the Skype call.

Please contact Cheryl in the Parish Office if you have any questions.

Music Director, Ben Gryk Retired!

July 4th was the final Sunday that our Music Director, Ben Gryk was with us. Ben has been a church organist for 50 years and has been our Music Director since 2005. He has enriched our musical experience at regular Sunday services and for many Christmas and Easter seasons. He will be missed!

Thank you Ben for being our Music Director for the past 16 years. Join us in wishing him God's Speed and Best Wishes on his next adventure! If you would like to contribute to a gift for Ben, please send your check, made out to St. Mark's Church to the Parish Office. Thank you.



A WORD FROM FR. SHAW

Dear friends,

Welcome to August!

10 am Sunday hybrid worship services have been getting underway, one step at a time.

In August, the Vestry plans to be looking ahead a bit, as much as it can.

And in the midst of all that goes on, around us, people of St. Mark's continue with ministries in the community, pastoral care, worship services, education, and more.

In the midst of it all, I find myself drawing more and more on God's strength, day by day, and that helps me in all kinds of endeavors.

From time to time, some people ask me how to draw upon God's strength. My answer has become a bit more focused than it used to be. Basically, this:

In prayer I ask God to interact in my life with God's Holy Spirit. And sometimes, that means waiting, and sometimes that means action, and sometimes that means a team effort, in all aspects of my life, not just my vocation.

With different people, the Holy Spirit's interaction may manifest differently, depending on what is on their plate.

An analogy might be: thinking of God being alongside you if you are walking, riding a bicycle, driving a car, or flying in an airplane. God is there, regardless of the mode of transportation or the rate of speed.

So, to apply this, think: what might God be calling you to do, or to be? In thought, word, or deed? What is your vision? What about your relationship with God and with others? What might you be doing that needs to be done, as a response to something you are experiencing, or have read about, or have witnessed? What's on your plate? When might you be doing this?

How might God's Holy Spirit come alongside and/or better equip you for the fulfillment of that desire, in light of your responses to those questions?

To this end, the following prayer may be helpful (and then, after praying it, perhaps note what happens over time):

Heavenly Father, Loving God, we ask that your Holy Spirit would interact with our lives this August, this week, today, that all would be done in your way, in your time, and to your glory. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

God bless you, peace, and take care,

Fr. Shaw

AUGUST 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Holy Eucharist/ Zoom Service 10 a.m. in Cooper Hall	2 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry	3 9:30 a.m. Zoom Staff Meeting	4 5:45 p.m. Exec. Committee Mtg 7:00 p.m. Finance Committee Mtg	5 9:00 - 12:00 Food Pantry 7:00 p.m. Thursday Night	6 Office Closed	7
8 Antecommunion/ Zoom Service 10 a.m. in Cooper Hall	9 Parish Office and Food Pantry Closed	10 9:30 a.m. Zoom Staff Meeting 6:45 p.m. Vestry	11	12 9:00 - 12:00 Food Pantry 7:00 p.m. Thursday Night	13 Office Closed	14
15 Holy Eucharist/ Zoom Service 10 a.m. in Cooper Hall	16 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry	17 9:30 a.m. Zoom Staff Meeting	18 Message articles for September due	19 9:00 - 12:00 Food Pantry 7:00 p.m. Thursday Night	20 Office Closed	21
22 Holy Eucharist/ Zoom Service 10 a.m. in Cooper Hall	23 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry	24 9:30 a.m. Zoom Staff Meeting	25 September Message Mailed	26 9:00 - 12:00 Food Pantry 7:00 p.m. Thursday Night	27 Office Closed	28
29 Holy Eucharist/ Zoom Service 10 a.m. in Cooper Hall+	30 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry	31 9:30 a.m. Zoom Staff Meeting				



Episcopal Peace Fellowship (EPF) Peacebuilding Online Project
First Sunday of the month beginning August 1

EPF will host a series of online 1-hr presentations the first Sunday of each month starting in August on different aspects of and approaches to peacebuilding, both with others and within ourselves. We will meet via Eventbrite/Zoom at 4 p.m. Eastern Time. Hear inspiring voices. Learn. Discover resources for going deeper.

First offering, Sunday, August 1: Being the Church in a Fearful Time.

Explore all the options through January 2022 online.
Go to: <https://epfnational.org/peacebuilding-online-project/> to learn more.



With people beginning to go on vacation this year, please send the parish office a post card or email a photo of your favorite vacation spots!

I will have a page of our favorite spots in the September issue of The Message. (All postcards or photos must be sent to the office by August 18th.)

**The Parish Office Summer Hours are:
Monday through Thursday, from 8:30 to 2:30.
It will be closed on Fridays.**



From the Archivist at The Commons:

Dear Barbara,

Thank you so much for sending me the materials that St. Mark's has been developing in it's work documenting historic complicity in racism. The "Sleuthing" booklet is fantastic! Would it be alright to share this with other parish organizers working in the same vein?...perhaps sharing your contact info, too?

Again, this is impressive and forward thinking work! I will be sure to add it to our archive holdings!

In faith,
Greg

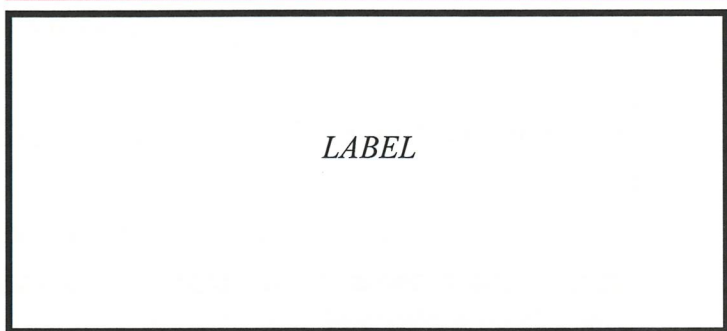
**St. Mark's Episcopal
Church, New Britain**

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.



LABEL

***Open to God's Love -
Serving Our Neighbor***

**Due date for all articles for the September
Issue of the St. Mark's Message is
August 18, 2021**

Parish Office Hours.
Monday through Thursday
from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Food Pantry
Monday: 9 - 12 & 12:30 - 2
Thursday: 9 - 12



Weekly Parish Services:
We are holding in person services along with
Zoom. To attend on Zoom, go to 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

Wednesday, August 4th - 5:45 p.m. - Executive
Committee Zoom Meeting
Tuesday, August 10th - 6:45 p.m. - Vestry Meeting

St. Mark's Food Pantry

Monthly Statistics:
June: Unduplicated households - 92
Children - 78
Adults - 104
Seniors - 25
Total Food Donated to St. Mark's - 1,270 lbs.
Total food from Food Share - 0 lbs.
(No order this month)
**Please give Cheryl a call in the parish of-
fice if you can help us a few hours a week.**