



THE ST. MARK'S MESSAGE

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, New Britain

THE LION'S PAUSE with
BARBARA A. CAMPBELL, Ph.D. ST. MARK'S
TREASURER and DELEGATE to the ECCT CONVENTION

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237th Convention of ECCT October 23, 2021

Moments of beauty, moments of humor, moments of frustration, moments of identification with serious issues and 400 of us ended the Zoom Convention 6 minutes early!

Who was "there"? Roughly 200 clergy and 200 laity serving Connecticut churches, and interestingly, Connecticut people were Zooming in from Florida, California and Deer Isle, Maine. Connecticut Episcopalians don't stay home but do stay electronically connected!

We started with a tour of the renovated Cathedral in Hartford. There are new glass doors to allow Main St. walkers to see in, and the interior lightened with new white oak floors. There are Cathedral chairs in the nave, no longer the box pews that shunted those who couldn't afford them elsewhere. Air conditioning, beautiful white oak handicapped ramps, new restrooms by the entrances and "intelligent" lights. Yes, the old pew doors do form the north wall which hides storage of the Cathedral chairs and books as the nave space is reconfigured for the use of the day. No matter what the use, the baptismal font always remains out as this is a Christian space whether used by the congregation or the community.

How did we see it used? The nave was completely cleared for Morning Prayer. The service was read from the cathedra by Bp. Ian and 5 Convention leaders present. The psalm was danced in the nave by the Dance Troupe from Trinity Church, Middletown. And then, since Bp. Ian is retiring and this was his last Convention, the Cathedral had commissioned a piece of music entitled "Bridges". It was composed by Kevin Bishop and performed by 3 violins, 2 violas, a cello, guitar AND the Cathedral tower chimes. They positioned a camera over the head of the carillonneur so we saw her push the levers down and then saw the clappers hit the inside of the bells. (Yes, long ago I had climbed to the carillon but wasn't allowed to touch anything!) Dean Lina's notes in the Chat said the music was Anglican Chant modernized and made groovy. I suspect disc, tape, thumb drive will be available of it shortly.

Other encouraging and interesting things about worship were the Chat was left on during Morning Prayer and we, the people, were invited to put our own intercessory prayers in the Chat. I was impressed that prayers continued to be posted throughout all the verses of the following prayer and the Postlude. It seemed like we were hungry for prayer space. The contemporary form of the Lord's Prayer was used and after the Gospel reading, the priest said, "The Word of the Lord" but we responded with "Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people."

What was exciting was the approval of 2 new Intentional Episcopal

Special points of interest:

- *The Lion's Pause - Barbara Campbell, Ph.D. - Treasurer and Delegate to Convention*
- *Save The Date*
- *Happy Thanksgiving*
- *Episcopal Peace Fellowship update*
- *In-Person and Hybrid Services - Broadcast Instructions*
- *Contemporary Collects for November*
- *Stewardship Sunday*
- *Safe Church Training Dates*
- *Parish Clerk's Corner*
- *November Calendar*
- *Food Pantry Statistics*



Communities, one very similar to St. Mark's and a new possibility we need to look into. The Chapel of All Saints is an Episcopal congregation in Cornwall that was invited to become an IEC. They meet to worship in the North Cornwall Meeting house. They are a small and welcoming congregation that does outreach instead of caring for a church building. Their governance is less hierarchically structured than other Episcopal Churches. Free of building responsibilities, they support extensive outreach efforts, contributing to local food banks and international organizations. They contributed more than \$5,000 to the Sharon House Garden which grows food for local food banks. Last year the contribution was to the Cornwall Food Bank and the Community Soup Kitchen in Torrington. Outreach rather than care for a church building seems like a new and certainly a Christian perspective. If we were to want more information on the IEP in Canon 6 of ECCT Canons, (and I would suggest we should) we are to reach out to either bishop and the Rev. Marilyn Anderson.

Seabury Retirement Community in Bloomfield was also approved today as an Intentional Episcopal Community and The Episcopal Church at Yale was previously approved as IEP. No parishes were presented or approved for mergers today.

Other business of the 237th Convention:

- The balanced budget was approved.
- Minimum Clergy Compensation was set.

(and here's where the amendment to amend the amendment and I table the question" started raising Roberts Rules of Order for the Chancellor of the Diocese to rule on. But it also caused someone to voice a more venomous question in the Chat, "Did Roberts die of natural causes?")

The amended Resolution passed requiring parishes to pay Deacons (Vocational) \$25 a month further obligating the parish to an increase from the Church Pension Fund.

- Care for God's Creation and Creatures requiring an energy audit passed.
- Fostering Right Relationship: ECCT, Indigenous Episcopalians and Our Indigenous Neighbors passed.
- Sharing in the Work of Creating a Safe Church which is creating a way for parishes to collaborate in meeting the obligations of Model Policies for administrative oversight of parishes, passed.
- Evangelism of and by Young Adults passed.
- Addressing Racism within Title IV (Clergy Misconduct cases) passed.

Bp. Laura's sermon spoke about traumas we have not been able to grieve collectively and she gave us a quote from William Temple, "Church exists for those who are not members," which fits in with the new IEPs.

Bp. Ian's last address to Convention reviewed his 12 years as Bishop Diocesan and points out changes which still affect us all as we go forward now in Connecticut.

In 2011, there were 57,278 Connecticut Episcopalians in 171 parishes.

Now there are 43,373 Connecticut Episcopalians in 155 parishes.

Nationally in 2011 there were 2,096,389 Episcopalians.

Now there are nationally 1,736,282 Episcopalians.

In 2011 in Province 1 (New England) there were 189,187 Episcopalians.

Now there are 150,203 Episcopalians.

It's not just Episcopalians. The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Hartford in 2017 merged or closed 40% of their parishes – 212 down to 127.

As we at St. Mark's continue with a home in New Britain and Smith Fund monies for ministry here, how are we being led by the Holy Spirit? How will the sale of 147 West Main St. progress? Do we take William Temple seriously that "Church exists for those who are not members"? What is opening up for us? Are we hearing what the Spirit is saying to God's people?

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, November 7 - All Saints Day and Stewardship Sunday
Wednesday, November 3 - Executive Committee Zoom Meeting
Wednesday, November 3 - Finance Committee Zoom Meeting
Tuesday, November 9 - Vestry Zoom Meeting
Thursday, November 11 - Veterans Day - Parish Office is closed
Friday, November 12 - Parish Office is closed
Thursday and Friday - November 25 and 26 - Parish Office is closed for the Thanksgiving Holiday
Sunday, November 28 - First Sunday of Advent



The Clergy and Staff of
St. Mark's Episcopal Church
wish everyone a happy and
blessed Thanksgiving.

Safe Church Training

Training dates have been announced!

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/

Tuesday evening, Nov. 2, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Saturday morning, Nov. 13, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Saturday morning, Nov. 6, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Sunday afternoon, Nov. 14, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Monday evening, Nov. 8, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.



Episcopal Peace Fellowship (EPF) Peacebuilding Online Project

First Sunday of the month

We will meet via Eventbrite/Zoom at 4 p.m. Eastern Time. Hear inspiring voices. Learn. Discover resources for going deeper.

November 7, 2021 - 4:00 p.m. Non-violence and the Story of Human Nature

Explore all the options through January 2022 online.

Go to: <https://epfnational.org/peacebuilding-online-project/> to learn more.

JOIN US FOR IN-PERSON SERVICES!
ZOOM & IN-PERSON SERVICE INFORMATION



Our services will *always* be available on Zoom with Meeting ID 500-865-037. You can enter via the parish Web link at <http://www.stmarksnewbritain.org>. The bulletin is also available on our website. Please either print or have the bulletin open on a separate browser tab to participate fully in the service.

If New Britain is red on the weekly Thursday (about 3 p.m.) update on the Connecticut COVID-19 Data Tracker map, the Sunday service will be on Zoom only.

For the map, please go to: <https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/COVID-19-Data-Tracker>.

An e-mail will be sent out to the parish every Friday to let you know if the service will be in-person or on ***Zoom only***.

For in-person services at 90 Main St., everyone is required to wear a mask and maintain a safe distance inside the buildings of South Church. We will have masks available if you need one. 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 contact Cheryl in the Parish Office if you have any questions.



Contemporary Collects

For the Nation

Election Day - November 2

Lord God Almighty, you have made all the peoples of the earth for your glory, to serve you in freedom and in peace: Give to the people of our country a zeal for justice and the strength of forbearance, that we may use our liberty in accordance with your gracious will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

All Soul's Day

November 4

O God, the Maker and Redeemer of all believers: Grant to the faithful departed the unsearchable benefits of the passion of your Son; that on the day of his appearing they may be manifested as your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

All Saints' Day

November 7

Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: Give us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those ineffable joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

Thanksgiving Day

November 25

Almighty and gracious Father, we give you thanks for the fruits of the earth in their season and for the labors of those who harvest them. Make us, we pray, faithful stewards of your great bounty, for the provision of our necessities and the relief of all who are in need, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Stewardship Sunday Nov 7th

STEWARDSHIP



Time ♦ Talent ♦ Treasure

If we are in-person, bring your Pledge Card to church on Nov 7. Or mail your Pledge card to church in the addressed envelope included.

Serving Refugees in CT

Learn how you can create change for families in need.
Companions In Mission Ministry Network hosts an evening with:
IRIS and The Quiet Corner Refugee Resettlement Group.
Tuesday, November 16, 2021 - 7:00 p.m.
To register go to:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/serving-refugees-in-ct-tickets-195199335467>

Allison's Parish Clerk News Corner

October 2021

NEWS FLASH!

St. Mark's has received a letter from Canon Rosanna Rosado stating "Your parish will be among those recognized in the Mission Council Report to our Annual Convention as being in 'Good Standing'." It has been over 3 years since we have met the requirements financially and by submitting audits, etc. on time. We must thank our Finance Committee, Treasurer Barbara Campbell, Parish Administrator Cheryl Rusczyk and really all of us. We all contributed our time, talent and treasure faithfully. Our work is not done. Please read our recent stewardship letter and prayerfully complete your pledge card for Stewardship Sunday, November 7th.

Updates:

1. Father Shaw has arranged for Albert Tomasso (organist) and his sister, Lucy, (singer) to play for us on Christmas Eve.
2. We have a tentative closing date of Nov. 15th for the sale of our 147 West Main St. property to Deeper Life Bible Church. The new pastors are very appreciative of the building and its contents. They are being generous, allowing us a little time to sort and move our property stored in the safes, vault and choir room. Vestry has planned a work day, Sunday Oct. 24th at 1 p.m. at the St. Mark's choir room. Volunteers are welcome!
3. Our Community Ministry Committee continues to distribute funds from the Smith Fund to the New Britain community by way of our food pantry, plans to assist an Afghan family relocating here, and a \$500 donation to Pastor Dana Smith for warm winter coats.
4. Thursday Night Group continues to meet on Zoom 7-9 p.m. Barbara keeps us busy with current events affecting our community and our work for equality and justice. We've attended the Bishop Transition Committee's listening session and a panel discussion "The Children of Abraham-Sharing Stories". Please join us on Zoom via the St. Mark's website TNG link!
5. Our Nominating Committee will meet Oct. 31st after Sunday worship to seek willing candidates for next year's vestry. Please consider being part of the team!

Ultimately, God's enduring love is our constant. And that appears every day in our love for each other.

A prayer for guidance, faith, peace and hope.....

Allison Penick

NOVEMBER 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Daylight Savings Time ends on November 7. Remember to turn your clocks back 1 hour!</p>	<p>1 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry</p>	<p>2 9:30 a.m. Zoom Staff Meeting</p>	<p>3 5:45 p.m. Exec. Committee Mtg 7:00 p.m. Finance Committee Mtg</p>	<p>4 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry 7:00 p.m. Thursday Night Group - Zoom mtg</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>7 Worship Leader Sunday Antecommunion/ Zoom Service 10 a.m. Stewardship Sunday</p>	<p>8 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry</p>	<p>9 9:30 a.m. Zoom Staff Meeting 6:45 p.m. Vestry Zoom Meeting</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 Office and Food Pantry closed for Veterans Day </p>	<p>12 Parish Office Closed</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14 Antecommunion/ Zoom Service 10 a.m.</p>	<p>15 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry</p>	<p>16 9:30 a.m. Zoom Staff Meeting</p>	<p>17 Articles for December Message Due</p>	<p>18 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry 7:00 p.m. Thursday Night Group - Zoom mtg</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21 Antecommunion/ Zoom Service 10 a.m.</p>	<p>22 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry</p>	<p>23 9:30 a.m. Zoom Staff Meeting</p>	<p>24 December Message Mailed</p>	<p>25 </p>	<p>26 Office Closed</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28 Antecommunion/ Zoom Service 10 a.m. First Sunday of Advent</p>	<p>29 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry</p>	<p>30 9:30 a.m. Zoom Staff Meeting</p>			<p>In person services will be held as long as New Britain's positivity rate is NOT red.</p>	<p>We have listed the services as Antecommunion/Zoom and will change it as warranted.</p>

**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**

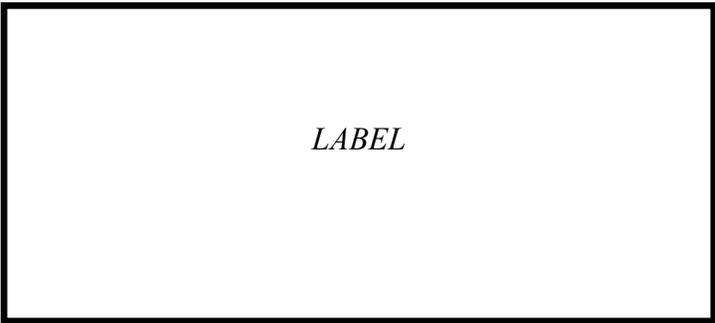
**Phone: 860-225-7634
Email: parishoffice@stmarksnewbritain.org
Website: www.stmarksnewbritain.org**

**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 December
Issue of the St. Mark's Message is
November 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 - 2:00
Thursday: 9 - 12 & 12:30 - 2:00

**The Food Pantry will be closed on October 11
for the Columbus Day Holiday.**



Weekly Parish Services:

**While New Britain is in a Red Zone, we will
only have Zoom Services. We will hold in
person services along with Zoom once we are
no longer in a red zone. . 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.

St. Mark's Food Pantry

Monthly Statistics: September
Unduplicated households - 116
Children - 94
Adults - 119
Seniors - 48
Total Food Donated to St. Mark's - 662 lbs.
Total food from Food Share - 1450 lbs.

**Please give Cheryl a call in the parish
office if you can help us a few hours a
week.**