



THE ST. MARK'S MESSAGE

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, New Britain

THE LION'S PAUSE with STEPHEN HARD, JUNIOR WARDEN

VOLUME XCVIII
ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2022
ISSUE

Some of you may know that I teach Positive Psychology at Central Connecticut State University. I will fill you in on one of the more interesting findings of the study of human feelings and behavioral outcomes. People who are depressed frequently have a more realistic appraisal of their circumstances than those who are not depressed, but those who keep a positive outlook in the face of life's trials have better outcomes.

So how are we supposed to be cheerful in the face of the loss of our beloved church buildings? I hasten to remind you that death is an integral part of the new life promised to each of us at our baptism. We are a Church founded on death. It is as incongruous for us to be cheerful and optimistic on the loss of our buildings and everything they represented to us, as it was for the disciples to have been cheerful when Jesus died on the cross, but eventually they were. The loss we have been living with for the last three years, and culminating in the passing of our property to Deeper Life Bible Church is the simple part. Figuring out what we do and where do we go from here is the challenge before us. With this death to what was before we have been liberated to chart a new course. It is not at all an exaggeration to say we have been reborn. The only thing that is certain going forward are the promises of Christ and those promises were never about anything material. They are promises related to faith, salvation, and most especially love. I have no firm answers, even if I have many ideas. Please take this time of death to what was, to consider the future optimistically. Even if it's not realistic, it will produce a better outcome.

Special points of interest:

- *The Lion's Pause - Stephen Hard, Junior Warden*
- *Parish Clerk's Corner*
- *In-Person and Hybrid Services - Broadcast Instructions*
- *Message Mailing List Purge*
- *January Calendar*
- *Contemporary Collects for December*
- *Save The Date*
- *Annual Reports Due*
- *Food Pantry Statistics*



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



Allison's Parish Clerk News Corner
December 2021

It is December 15th as I write. Ten days until Christmas. Sixteen days until the end of 2021. Most people are in a rush to finish what is needed before the "holiday". I just read an article that recommended respecting the expectant season of Advent (separating it from the secular December activities) and viewing Christmas Day as the beginning of the holiday (which it is on the liturgical calendar!) rather than the conclusion.

"Christ, Our Savior, is Born!"

Dare I draw a parallel to St. Mark's Church? The sale of our beloved church building was finalized on December 9th to Deeper Life Bible Church. It will continue as a home for our Christian faith. Thanks to the endless time and effort by Lenny Nelson, Stephen Hard, Norm and Sue Holland and many others, its contents were sorted and distributed appropriately. Two pianos and Lift Every Voice Hymn books found good homes. The music library has been moved to the Cathedral. The list goes on. In a sense, this is an "end". I prefer to view it as St. Mark's new beginning.

Barbara Campbell has been in contact with Amber Gehr, the diocesan transition minister. An extensive financial analysis will be done which will show us what our opportunities are. Father Shaw will be leaving at the end of February 2022, and we will continue with supply priests and our worship leaders until Amber provides guidance. We have met with St. James Farmington's leadership to see if we might share ministry and worship. Our own ministries—the food pantry and use of our Smith Fund to support the less-advantaged in New Britain will continue. Let's not forget, we are part of the South Church community—four other faiths and groups of neighbors to share activities and ministries.

So, let's celebrate - Christmas and Epiphany---2022---new adventures!

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



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.

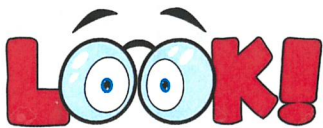
Remote participants are encouraged to stay connected after the service and greet and be greeted during the coffee hour.

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.



Message Mailing List Purge 2022

During the month of January we will be purging names off of the St. Mark's Message mailing list.

This will be **ONLY** for the issues that we mail to people, not the email list.

If you would like to continue to receive the Message by mail you **MUST** call (860-225-7634) or email the parish office (parishoffice@stmarksnewbirtian.org) no later than January 23, 2022.

If you would like to receive the Message by email only, please let Cheryl in the office know.

If you are a member of the St. Mark's Vestry or your name is on our Voting List, your name will remain on our mailing list and you do not need to contact us.

Thank you.

JANUARY 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
In person services will be held as long as New Britain's positivity rate is	We have listed the services as Antecommunion/Zoom and will change it as warranted.					8
2 Antecommunion/ Zoom Service 10 a.m. Nineth Day of Christmas	3 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry Tenth Day of Christmas	4 9:30 a.m. Zoom Staff Meeting Eleventh Day of Christmas	5 5:45 p.m. Exec. Committee Mtg 7:00 p.m. Finance Committee Mtg Twelfth Day of	6 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry 7:00 p.m. Thursday Night	7	
9 Antecommunion/ Zoom Service 10 a.m.	10 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry	11 9:30 a.m. Zoom Staff Meeting 6:45 p.m. Vestry	12	13 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry 7:00 p.m. Thursday Night	14 Annual Reports due to the office.	15
16 Antecommunion/ Zoom Service 10 a.m.	17 Martin Luther Kings, Jr. Day Office Closed	18 9:30 a.m. Zoom Staff Meeting	19	20 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry 7:00 p.m. Thursday Night	21	22
23 Antecommunion/ Zoom Service 10 a.m.	24 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry	25 9:30 a.m. Zoom Staff Meeting	26	27 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry 7:00 p.m. Thursday Night	28	29
30 Antecommunion/ Zoom Service 10 a.m.	31 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry					

Contemporary Collects

The Holy Name - January 1

Eternal Father, who didst give to thine incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be the sign of our salvation: Plant in every heart, we beseech thee, the love of him who is the Savior of the world, even our Lord Jesus Christ; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

Second Sunday after Christmas Day - January 2

O God, who didst wonderfully create, and yet more wonderfully restore, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, thy Son Jesus Christ; who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Epiphany - January 6

O God, who by the leading of a star didst manifest thy only begotten Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know thee now by faith, to thy presence, where we may behold thy glory face to face; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

First Sunday after the Epiphany: The Baptism of our Lord - January 9

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan didst proclaim him thy beloved Son and anoint him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with thee and the same Spirit liveth and reigneth, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, January 2, 2022 - Second Sunday After Christmas

Monday, January 3 - Parish Office Closed - New Year's Holiday Observed

Wednesday, January 5 - 5:45 p.m. Executive Committee Zoom meeting

Tuesday, January 11 - 6:45 p.m. - Vestry Meeting - Zoom

Monday, January 17 - Parish Office and Food Pantry Closed - MLK Day

ANNUAL REPORTS

Please send your Annual Report to the parish office no later than January 14, 2022.

All reports should be a short synopsis of your groups activity in 2021.

Thank you!



**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**

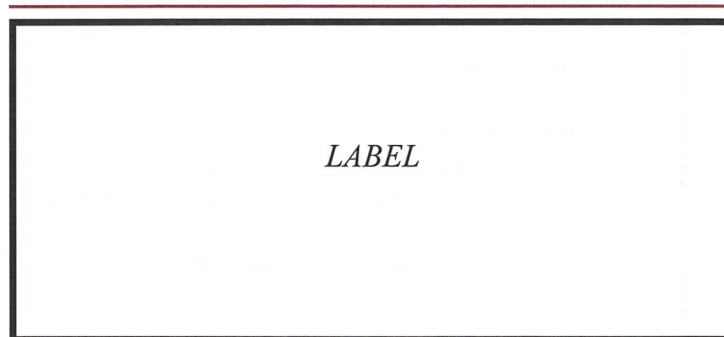
**Phone: 860-225-7634
Email: parishoffice@stmarksnewbritain.org
Website: www.stmarksnewbritain.org**

**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 19, 2022**



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 January 17
for the MLK 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: November 2021

Unduplicated households - 118

Children - 87

Adults - 126

Seniors - 44

Total Food Donated to St. Mark's - 1,195 lbs.

Total food from Food Share - 2,420 lbs.

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