



# THE ST. MARK'S MESSAGE

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, New Britain

VOLUME XCVIII  
ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2022  
ISSUE

## THE LION'S PAUSE with The Reverend Dr. Shaw Mudge

Dear friends,

February continues the season of Epiphany, culminating with the Last Sunday of Epiphany season on February 27, with a Gospel reading of the Transfiguration. Some Episcopalians earmark that Sunday with a focus on world mission.

And then, after February 27, what next? Well, the Episcopal Church launches into Lent, and meanwhile, St. Mark's and I go our separate ways. And then, what?

That's good question. Looking back and looking where we are, I would say that God put us together for a specific season, not a day more nor a day less. And, now the time has come for the next season. What might the next season be like?

As I write this, I don't know what God has in mind, yet. I may find out in a few days, yet I do not know, now. It may be quite an adventure. And, God's Holy Spirit had never let me down.

My prayer for this occasion, therefore, is:

Heavenly Father, we ask that your Holy Spirit would guide both St. Mark's and myself, in wisdom, joy, love, and peace, for everyone involved in these decisions ahead, and that all would be done in your way, your time, and to your glory. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.

God bless you, peace, take care, and best wishes,

Fr. Shaw

### Special points of interest:

- *The Lion's Pause - The Reverend Dr. Shaw Mudge*
- *What's New? - Barbara Campbell, Ph.D.*
- *Contemporary Collects for February*
- *Save The Date*
- *Message Mailing List Purge*
- *Annual Meeting Notice*
- *In-Person and Hybrid Services - Broadcast Instructions*
- *Parish Clerk's Corner*
- *February Calendar*
- *Food Pantry Statistics*



## What's New?

By **Barbara A. Campbell, Ph.D. Treasurer**

Well, Lots! I know my parents, both bankers, were laughing their heads off at me once again putting on a mask and entering a bank - to transfer the 147 sale money to D&B. Now there even have to be new ways of doing what used to be done illegally by masked people!

But to get to be more churchy about this, we Zoomed into a Listening session on "Transition is the New Normal". That the title of a booklet guiding, in my dated vocabulary, "Personnel Policies" for the Episcopal Church in Connecticut. It is significant that it is "central office" raising the question of "How is it going with the "Transition"?"

We were asked our greatest challenge and one parish said this summer the ground floor of their church and all the rooms down there were flooded.

Another parish said their building is very big and old and they had arranged for an outside agency to manage the building.

Another older women said she was retired and the only "non-working" person in the parish, therefore most of transition within the parish fell to her.

Location, location, location was an opportunity as at least one parish had more than half of the congregation under 40 and most were college students - church is walking distance for many Yalies.

This Zoom session was for clergy serving less than 1/2 time and parishioners - a session of listening to learn, to lead to action. Next steps were welcome. There were 38 people present, not all clergy.

One parish had had a Supply Priest, not a Priest in Charge, for more than a year (possible when a PIC position is open and posted.) Supply Priest are arranged sor Sunday by Sunday. On the most recent list, which is constantly changing, there are 23 names. Most of them have put travel limitations on the jobs they will travel to foro 58 and a half cents per mile. I especially liked "will Supply Litchfield County 6/1 - 9/1". Most do not retire to the Hartford area.

A parish that had had a 1/4 PIC who retired said they were looking for a new PIC - maybe.

A church that I watched being build has had a 1/4 PIC for 9 years. And that raises a real issue as 1/4 PICs are usually also holding down secular jobs. In accordance with "Transition" policies, a part-time PIC is not allowed to be paid for funerals. To officiate at the funeral meant taking time off from the secular job. "Transition" policies on that are now being looked at.

Also raised were the new roles that are being filled by lay people, in particular Worship Leader and Preacher. Some parishes are very used to this, having done so for a number of years and resources will continue to be offered to laity new to preaching.

As the church and our culture both continue to change primarily due to Covid, different connections between and among people are being made, new policies will develop, even a process for filing a grievance - which to me sounds more like the school district! There will be another meeting, between April and June as we live further into these new worlds.

Election of the new Bishop Diocesan is on May 21, 20

## Contemporary Collects

### February 2 - Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord Jesus Christ (Candlemas Day)

Almighty and everliving God, we humbly pray that, as your only-begotten Son was this day presented in the temple, so we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts by Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

### February 6 - St. Mark's Annual Meeting: For a Church Convention or Meeting

Almighty and everliving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with those who take counsel for the renewal and mission of your Church. Teach us in all things to seek first your honor and glory. Guide us to perceive what is right, and grant us both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### February 27 - The Last Sunday after the Epiphany

Last Sunday after the Epiphany This Proper is always used on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday. O God, who before the passion of thy only-begotten Son didst reveal his glory upon the holy mount: Grant unto us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

## SAVE THE DATE

Wednesday, February 2 - 5:45 p.m. - Executive Committee Zoom Meeting

Wednesday, February 2 - 7:00 p.m. - Finance Committee Meeting

Sunday, February 6 - 10:00 a.m. - Annual Parish Meeting - Zoom

Saturday - February 12 - 9 to 11 a.m. - Vestry Zoom Retreat

Monday, February 21 - Presidents Day - Parish Office Closed

Sunday, February 27 - Fr. Shaw's Final Sunday with us. Join us for an extended Coffee Hour following the service to say Good-bye to Fr. Shaw.

## ANNUAL REPORTS

The 2022 Annual Reports are available to be picked up or emailed to you beginning on January 31, 2022.

Please contact Cheryl in the Parish Office if you would like a copy.

860-225-7634 or [parishoffice@stmarksnewbritain.org](mailto:parishoffice@stmarksnewbritain.org)



# ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

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

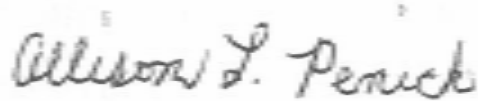
Sunday, February 6, 2022

Beginning at 9:00 a.m.

On Zoom

Zoom ID # 500 865 037

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

## **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.

### **The St. Mark's Message Mailing List Purge**

**We have completed the mail list purge. If, at any time, you would like to receive the Message by email instead of USPS mail, please contact Cheryl in the parish office.**

**By phone: 860-225-7634**

**By email: [parishoffice@stmarksnewbritain.org](mailto:parishoffice@stmarksnewbritain.org)**

**Thank you.**

**Allison's Parish Clerk News Corner**

**January 2022**

Welcome to February! The days are lengthening by a smidgeon. I, personally, will be happy to put away my friendly snowman and look for a daffodil in my frozen garden. I confess that I suffer from winter doldrums, so I want to switch my outlook to our many blessings.

First, I want to thank the vestry and especially our Finance team (Barbara Campbell, Norm Holland, Bob Kissel, John Pilla and Stephen Hard and more) for navigating a difficult couple of years selling our beloved church building and balancing our books. Our sale proceeds are now invested in our Donations & Bequests endowment. We are beginning 2022 in the black but the road ahead continues to be difficult.

I want to thank Father Shaw for his dedication, attention to detail and organization, his knowledge of theology, his caring and his ability to turn on a dime when changes are needed. We will miss you. We wish you the best in your next adventure!

Our Annual meeting is February 6<sup>th</sup>. The nominations are in. Thankfully, your vestry is willing to continue (attend at 10 a.m. and vote!). We would love nominations from the floor too. Your vestry has started its to-do list so we may continue our worship and ministry with supply priests and lay leadership.

Our star ministry, the Food Pantry, received a \$15,000 donation from New Britain Transportation.

As you read this, several people will have attended an ECCT Faithful Futures Zoom presentation, "Transition is the New Normal". St. Mark's is a prime example! Let's hope we hear good advice.

On January 31<sup>st</sup>, the Friendship Care Center is holding a Zoom meeting to discuss plans for a Day Center that would serve Berlin, New Britain, Plainville, Bristol and Southington. This might be a wonderful opportunity for St. Mark's to expand its use of the Smith Fund for the care of the poor and needy in our community.


St. Mark's budget is slim and the shape of our future is uncertain, but we continue to live by our mission. "Open to God's Love, Serving Our Neighbor"

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

# February 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>In person services will be held as long as New Britain's positivity rate is NOT red.</b>					
	<b>We have listed the services as Antecommunion/Zoom and will change it as warranted.</b>	<b>1</b> 9:30 a.m. Zoom Staff Meeting	<b>2</b> 5:45 p.m. Exec. Committee Mtg 7:00 p.m. Finance Committee Mtg	<b>3</b> 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry 7:00 p.m. Thursday Night Group - Zoom mtg	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> ANNUAL MEETING Antecommunion/ Zoom Service 10 a.m.	<b>7</b> 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry	<b>8</b> 9:30 a.m. Zoom Staff Meeting 6:45 p.m. Vestry Zoom Meeting	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry 7:00 p.m. Thursday Night Group - Zoom mtg	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Vestry Retreat on Zoom 9 - 11 a.m.
<b>13</b> Antecommunion/ Zoom Service 10 a.m.	<b>14</b> 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry	<b>15</b> 9:30 a.m. Zoom Staff Meeting	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry 7:00 p.m. Thursday Night Group - Zoom mtg	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> Antecommunion/ Zoom Service 10 a.m.	<b>21</b>  <b>Presidents Day</b> Office Closed	<b>22</b> 9:30 a.m. Zoom Staff Meeting	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry 7:00 p.m. Thursday Night Group - Zoom mtg	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> Antecommunion/ Zoom Service 10 a.m.	<b>28</b> 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry					

**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**

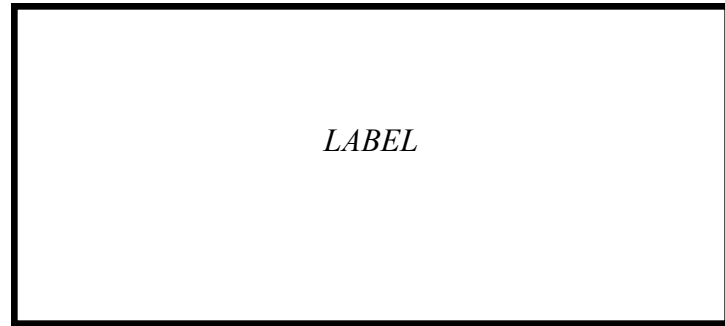
**PRAYER CHAIN: to activate the chain call  
Barbara Campbell 860-673-7607,  
Campbellba24@gmail.com**

**If you or someone you know is hospitalized,  
please inform the clergy or call the parish  
office.**

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***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](http://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: December 2021  
Unduplicated households - 121  
Children - 106  
Adults - 128  
Seniors - 44  
Total Food Donated to St. Mark's - 1,035 lbs.  
Total food from Food Share - No food received  
from Food Share in December.  
**Please give Cheryl a call in the parish  
office if you can help us a few hours a  
week.**