



The MESSENGER

ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

DECEMBER 2017



FIRST SUNDAY OF *Advent*

GREENING OF THE CHURCH

We will be greening the church on the 1st day of Advent, December 3 after church. There will be a soup/sandwich lunch instead of coffee hour. Please stay to help as we begin preparing for the birth of the baby Jesus.

ADVENT VIDEO SERIES

Beginning on Monday, Dec 4 at 1:00 we will begin a 4 week video series from Max Lucado called "Because of Bethlehem". If you want a study guide they are \$10. The 4th week will be after Christmas.

PERSONAL ADVENT DEVOTIONS

I actually did this Advent practice last year and found it to be helpful in staying focused and preparing for the great feast of Christ's birth. The message for each day is short and can be read and pondered in five minutes.

FHS Carolyn Shupert

If you would like to receive #AdventWord this year we invite you to visit

www.adventword.org/sign-up.

#AdventWord the Anglican Communion's Global Advent Calendar - begins on Sunday, December 3, 2017, with images and meditations available via email, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. During the 23 days of Advent, a daily email featuring the #AdventWord of the day will go out at 5 a.m. each day, and respondents are encouraged to share their responses to the meditations and images to the aggregated prayer walls within the advent calendar.



CAROLS and Brass 6:30 PM

EUCCHARIST 7:00 PM

Reception to follow

CHRISTMAS FOOD MINISTRY

Ron and Sharon Godsey are collecting food for our 10 families from Westminster. The signup for donations is at church and all food will be distributed on Wednesday, December 20th.

NEW MINISTRY PROJECTS

Please bring your donations for the family we have adopted for Christmas. The lists of wants and needs is at the church.

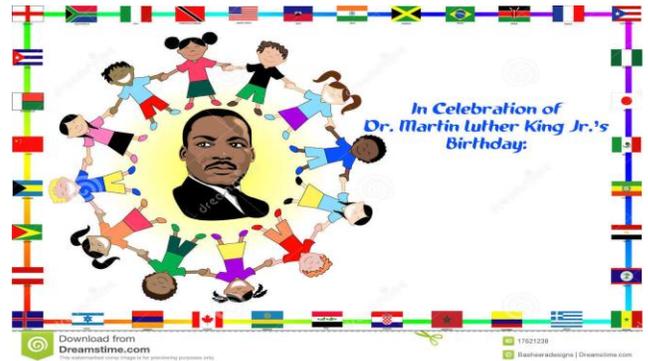
We are continuing to collect gloves and hats for elementary students until December 31st. Please buy a matched set of hat and gloves if possible.

THANKS TO ALL THAT MADE OUR BAZAAR A GREAT SUCCESS. We cleared over \$1200 and had a good day of fellowship.



SOCIAL MEDIA

You may have noticed that there are 2 facebook pages that things get posted on. One is a GROUP and it is more for the good of the parish. It has family posts, newsletters and schedules, reminders, etc. The other is a PAGE. It is a searchable page that anyone can see when they want to learn more about St. James. Many things are suitable for both pages but only the group allows for documents to be added. Please help keep them interesting by posting or sharing to the group.



MARTIN LUTHER KING OBSERVANCE SUNDAY, JANUARY 14TH

A Martin Luther King Day observance is being planned for Sunday evening January 14, 2018. Representatives of several New Castle and Henry County faith communities are planning a program for the eve of the federal and state holiday. Martin Luther King worked for civil rights, economic justice, and peacemaking. The program is planned for 6:00 pm and will be hosted at The Place, located at 205 S 21st St, New Castle. A common meal at 5:00 PM will precede the 6:00 o'clock program for those who wish to attend. Further details will be forthcoming. The invited speaker is Rev. Saint Samuel Johnson. He is an ordained minister in the Christian Church Disciples of Christ. He attended Christian Theological Seminary and was ordained in 2004. He is an Elder at Light of the World Christian Church of Indianapolis. Rev. Johnson retired from the Air Force after 21 years, coached basketball for four years at IUPUI and owned Sam's Hickory Smoked BBQ. He served as the chaplain at Robin Run Village for ten years. He and his wife, Beverly have two children, Shelley and Bruce. . A Martin Luther King Day event held earlier this year was hosted by St. James Episcopal Church and featured a panel discussion focusing on the continuing legacy of the Nobel Peace Prize winner. April 4, 2018, will mark the 50th anniversary of Dr. King's assassination.



WORDS FROM WHITNEY

Although the precise time when Advent began to be celebrated isn't known, its origins are ancient, dating perhaps to the 5th century after Christ's birth. The word Advent comes from the Latin *adventus*, meaning "coming." In contrast to the busy-ness of the shorter season that follows it, Advent invites us to dial it down -- to pray, meditate, reflect and give alms in the spirit of Christ's coming. Sunday, December 3rd marks the start of the four-week season, which in western churches begins the new liturgical year, commencing on the fourth Sunday before Christmas. At St. James, services during Advent will include:

- ❖ Holy Eucharist Rite II at 10 a.m. on Advent 1, Sunday December 3rd;
- ❖ Morning Prayer at 10 a.m. on Advent 2, Sunday, December 10th;
- ❖ Holy Eucharist Rite II at 10 a.m. on Advent 3, Sunday, December 17th; and
- ❖ Christmas Eve starting with carols and brass at 6:30 p.m., followed by the service at 7 p.m., December 24th.

By design, the liturgy, music and lighting of the Advent candles will be traditional and familiar to many Episcopalians, whether long-timers or relative newcomers. But be on the lookout for a few fresh touches at St. James. Carolyn Shupert will offer special weekly prayers for the lighting of the candles. The prayers will appear on the first two pages of our new seasonal bulletin for Advent. Pam Sloneker chose a traditional Bidding Prayer to begin Prayers of the People. The St. James Brass, this time featuring Isaiah Bullard on trombone and myself on baritone horn, will return with a setting of the Advent hymn "Sleepers Wake." And while you might recognize certain purple altar cloths or banners from years past, we also have some gorgeous, new-to-us hangings originally used by the former Trinity Episcopal Church, Connersville, Indiana, and then claimed by the new Church of the Good Samaritan, Brownsburg. A few items Good Samaritan couldn't use were graciously made available to various clergy by the Rev. Dr. Gray Lesesne at a recent conference in Indianapolis.

A blessed Advent to you all.

Father Whitney