



The MESSENGER

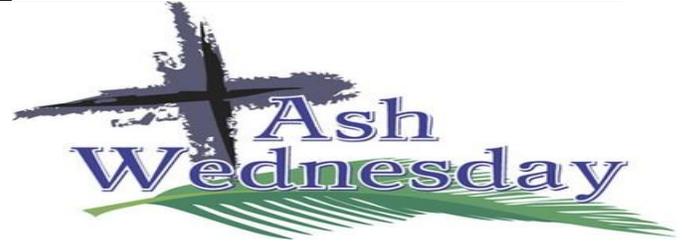
ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2018

BISHOP'S COMMITTEE MEETING

February 13th at 1:00 PM *** time change

DOK February 21st at noon/ 12:30



Service time

February 14th at 5:00 PM



LENTEN QUIET DAY

St. James and St. Clare Chapter of the Daughters of the King will host a LENTEN QUIET DAY, on Saturday, February 24th. It will begin at 10:00 a.m. with a teaching and guidelines: then quiet time, the Eucharist, lunch and sharing. Depending on the sharing of your story, we should be finished by 2:00p.m.

The focus will be on writing your own Faith Story. Who has been instrumental in your journey? What events strengthened or challenged your faith journey? Did you become a Christian at an early age or later in life?

Please consider joining us as part of your Lenten disciple. Everyone is welcome. RSVP to Carolyn Shupert for the lunch count. 524 0867

cbshupert@aol.com

ANNUAL MEETING FEBRUARY 4

Our annual meeting will be held after church on Feb. 4th. We will be electing 2 new members to the Bishop's Committee and approving the 2018 budget.

It will be followed by a pitch in lunch.



SHROVE TUESDAY

ANNUAL PANCAKE SUPPER

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH from 5-7 PM

All men that can help should be there by 4 to start preparing and cooking.

Local Elementary School Project

A big thank you to all who donated items to give to local children here in New Castle. They were delivered to Wilbur Wright Elementary School January 26. They were very appreciative of our donation. We will choose another school next year. They are having winter things on sale right now so it might be a good time to start putting away some items. Perhaps we could add some winter coats as well. Below is a list of what we gave Wilbur Wright Elementary.

40 pairs of gloves
49 hats
5 scarves
57 pair of underwear
1 pair of shoes
97 pairs of socks



SOCIAL OPPORTUNITY

First Christian Church has invited all women to join them for "Coffee Talk" every Thursday evening from 6 to 7:30ish. Discussion topics vary and it will be a time of fellowship with other women.

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church has started "Table Talk" where they gather over food and /or drink at Primo and spend time in conversation on matters of Faith, life, and current events. It is the first Thursday of each month at Primo 7 PM. All are welcome to join

AFFAIRS OF THE HEART

It's time for this annual event for women called "Affairs of the Heart". It is on Thursday, Feb. 22 at First Baptist Church. The doors open at 4 PM to visit all the vendors and the program will start at 6:30 PM. Many door prizes will be given.

MARTIN LUTHER KING EVENT

An estimated 80 people gathered on Sunday evening Jan. 14 to observe the life and legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr., the civil rights leader and Peace Nobelist who was slain 50 years ago this year.

The Rev. Samuel Johnson, retired Disciples of Christ pastor from Indianapolis, challenged us to love our enemies and to practice forgiveness and reconciliation. His speech was based on Dr. King's book, *The Strength to Love*.

Buchanan Unity family singers opened and closed the observance with songs that roused the diverse gathering. Flutist Kay Rogers and Pastor Matt Masko, as pianist, of Holy Trinity Lutheran, provided a musical offering in which our own Stacey Torres presented a beautiful liturgical dance.

St. James was the host in 2017 of a luncheon and panel discussion that planted a seed for this year's observance. Deacon Barry Cramer was the convener of the planning group that worked on the details of this year's observance and that is presently looking at a similar event next year.

Submitted by Deacon Barry Cramer





WORDS FROM WHITNEY

Praying the Psalms in Lent

In the Western church, Lent is the season extending from Ash Wednesday (which falls on February 14 this year) through Holy Saturday (which falls on March 31). In recent years, Lent has regained its ancient significance as a time of final preparation for adult candidates for baptism. *The Book of Common Prayer* reminds us that, with baptismal candidates, all Christians are invited “to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God’s holy Word.”

As Lent approaches this year, I find myself focusing on the Psalms, which are among my favorite prayer texts. There are one hundred fifty Psalms in the Bible between Job and Proverbs. At St. James, New Castle, we typically chant musical tones to the Psalm verses appointed for a Sunday with Holy Eucharist. In some parishes, the Psalms are spoken, whether for Morning Prayer or Eucharist. At home, I’ve been known to pray a Psalm early in the day as part of the Daily Office, or several during Compline at night.

Lent presents another great opportunity to deepen our relationship with God through Psalm study. In his book “Praying the Psalms,” Thomas Merton, the 20th century Catholic monk and theologian, referred to the Psalms as “the songs of men who knew who God was.” Merton wrote, “If we are to pray well, we too must discover the Lord to whom we speak, and if we use the Psalms in our prayer we will stand a better chance of sharing in the discovery which lies hidden in their words for all generations.”

If you choose to pray Psalms during Lent, try setting aside some quiet time. Maybe you have a favorite Psalm. If not, feel free to use one or more of these texts I plan to use from the Psalms appointed for the five Sundays of Lent, from Year B in our lectionary:

- **Lent I**, Psalm 25:3-4 -- “Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.”
- **Lent II**, Psalm 22:23 -- “For he does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither does he hide his face from them; but when they cry to him he hears them.”
- **Lent III**, Psalm 19:14 -- “Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.”
- **Lent IV**, Psalm 107: 21 “Let them give thanks to the LORD for his mercy and the wonders he does for his children.
- **Lent V**, Psalm 51:11-13 “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence and take not your holy Spirit from me.”

A Blessed Lent to all -- *Whitney+*