

The MESSENGER

ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH



DECEMBER 2016



THE SEASON OF ADVENT

BISHOP'S COMMITTEE

The next meeting will be Tuesday, December 13th at 6:30 pm at Sonny and Pat Carter's. All members of the B.C. are invited to dinner starting at 5:30 PM

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR SATURDAY, DEC 3

9:00 AM TO 3 PM



Chicken pot pie/sloppy joes
Available in the lunchroom

Handmade items, large bake sale, flea market/white elephant items



CHURCH GREENING

We will be greening the church on Sunday, December 4th after church.

Soup and sandwiches prior to decorating.



Cindy Bullard got a group of women together to make homemade noodles for the bazaar.

BAZAAR SET UP THURSDAY, DEC 1, beginning AT 11 AM. Please plan to help set up and price all items. There are signup sheets for working in the lunchroom Saturday.





One of the first expressions I remember learning in French is: "Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose." Coined by Alphonse Carr, an editor of *Le Figaro* newspaper in Paris, it's usually translated, "The more things change, the more they stay the same." With the approach of the Christmas season, it seems that every year, I have experienced something for the first time, even as I've gravitated toward comforting annual traditions. And so it goes again this year: It's my privilege to be in the midst of my first Advent season with you, the blessed people of St. James, New Castle, Indiana, and I look forward to my first Christmas season with you, as well. This time last year, I was preparing to assist at St. Mary's, Martinsville, Indiana, and the year before that I was collaborating on worship with other seminarians at Bexley-Seabury's campus in Columbus, Ohio. However, for each of those years, I was glad for the stability of being able to sing certain favorite carols on Christmas Eve, and to end up in Cincinnati on Christmas morning with family including my brother, his two daughters, and the family's big, sweet Labradoodle.

This year at St. James, some of our seasonal worship services will be much the same, while others will be a bit different than in the past. Advent began with Morning Prayer on November 27, and this month, services will include Holy Eucharist at 10 a.m. December 4, Morning Prayer at 10 a.m. December 11 and Lessons and Carols at 10 a.m. December 18. Our Christmas Eve service will begin at 7 p.m. December 24 with instrumental music, followed by carol singing and Holy Eucharist. As in the recent past at St. James, there will be no service on Christmas Day, December 25. I hope to see all of you through Advent and the Christmas season, including those who haven't stopped by for a while. And it's always a good time to invite visitors to enjoy a warm welcome at St. James.

Finally, let me remind you of something that I hope will never change, and that is that Christmas is a season for giving. It's not about getting or giving the best present. It's about acknowledging the gift of Jesus, the Christ child -- yes, more than two thousand years ago, but also year after year in our hearts, minds and souls. It's in the spirit of giving that I leave you with these thoughts about charity, as expressed by the American poet John Greenleaf Whittier:

*Somehow not only for Christmas
But all the long year through,
The joy that you give to others
Is the joy that comes back to you.
And the more you spend in blessing
The poor and lonely and sad,
The more of your heart's possessing
Returns to make you glad.*

With every blessing of the season, Whitney+



CITY CHRISTMAS WALK

Downtown New Castle's annual Christmas walk is Thursday, Dec 1 from 5:30 – 9 PM. This is a very nice evening of live music, food, vendors, live animals, and Christmas spirit.

NEW MORNING PRAYER BOOKLETS

Cindy Bullard has created new booklets for our morning prayer services. It has expanded prayers to choose from and clearer directions for hymns and prayers. The cover was designed by Marilyn Witt. Thank you, Cindy!

COFFEE POT UPDATE

Our Bunn coffee maker was having problems and one of the AA members fixed it for us. AA, with the help of Elaine Farley have gifted us with a new coffee pot in appreciation of having our space for their meetings.

NEW YEARS EVE

The AA groups will be having their annual party at St. James on New Years Eve.



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24TH

MUSIC/CAROL SIN 7:00 PM

HOLY EUCHARIST 7:30 PM

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

NO SERVICE CHRISTMAS MORNING

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER

4th Eucharist with forum and lunch followed by greening of church.

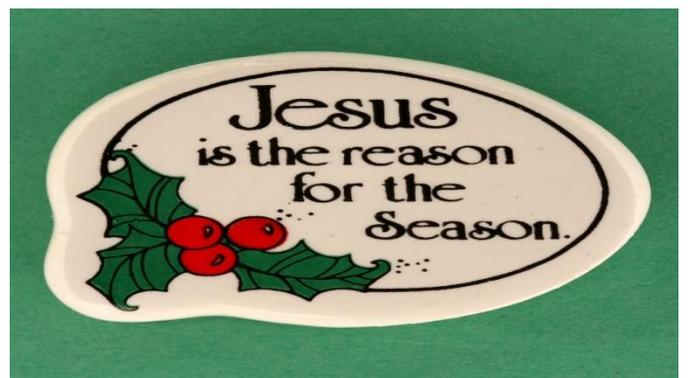
11th Morning Prayer

18th Eucharist with **SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS**

24th Eucharist **CHRISTMAS EVE**

No service on Christmas Day

1st Eucharist



FORUM is December 4 after church, “The 3rd mark of mission: to respond to human need by loving service”

NEEDS FOR LOVING SERVICE

THE GUEST HOUSE

The Guest House men’s shelter is busting at the seams. It normally hosts 15–20 men and now is at 30. There is a critical need for additional items to support these growing numbers.

Blankets, extra long twin sheets and mattress pads, pillows and cases, winter hats, gloves and men’s coats, heavy socks, towels and washcloths, city bus passes, food, money and a furnace and a contractor to install it.

ADOPT A FAMILY FOR CHRISTMAS

Vivian Simpson has a woman renter with 2 daughters, ages 9 and 15. She works full time but struggles to provide for her girls. We have helped them with food donations this fall and now would like to help her at Christmas. There is a wish list with sizes and wishes. If you would like to buy something please sign up so we don’t duplicate. Thanks!

CHRISTMAS BASKETS

Ron and Sharon Godsey are getting our annual Christmas baskets for 10 families organized through Westminster Center. Sign up if you can donate food.

PROPERTY NEWS

LOCKS

We have had the locksmith out to work on the outside locks. He has recommended that we replace the aging assemblies since we continue to have problems with them.

WORK DAY SCHEDULED FOR BACK HALL

Before the bathroom and records room can be painted, they must be deep cleaned. I know that December is busy for everyone but if you can spare a couple hours on Wednesday, December 14th at 1:00 PM, we will be getting those rooms ready to paint.

PLEDGE CARDS

If you have not turned in your pledge cards for 2017, please get it to us soon. There are extra copies at church. It’s time to prepare the budget for 2017. Thanks!

