

The MESSENGER

ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

stjamesnewcastle.com

AUGUST 2021



PULPIT EXCHANGE AUGUST 15TH

On Sunday, August 15th, Father Christopher Beasley from St. Peter's, Lebanon (formerly a member of our parish) will switch pulpits with Father Jeff Bessler, who served at St. Peter's for 3 years. Come and welcome Christopher, Kent and Jacob home!

RAINTREE SQUARE SERVICE

This Sunday, August 1st at 2 PM is our next service held at Raintree. Pat Carter will be leading but would like other readers to join in.

BISHOP'S COMMITTEE MEETING

The next meeting of the BC will be on Wednesday, August 11th at 6:30 PM.

DOK MEETING

The next meeting will be on **WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11TH AT 11 AM FOR LUNCH AT MANCINO'S**. All women of the church are invited to join us for our annual social.

++++NEW WORSHIP OPPORTUNITY++++

EVENING PRAYER SERVICES

Our worship team began holding weekly evening prayer services at 5 PM on Wednesdays. Please join us in person or on FB live or Zoom.

NEWEST COVID GUIDELINES

Per Bishop Jennifer's recent changes

Anyone NOT vaccinated is asked to wear a mask except when eating. You are always welcome to be here.

We can sing without masks if we are vaccinated and our county infections remain low.



MORE ZOOM LEARNING

Now that you are experienced with Zoom, I'm adding a new level for you. If you don't have a ZOOM link (I am human and may forget to send it) you can open the Zoom app and click JOIN A MEETING. In the drop down box you will see our ID 305-125-2961. Click on that and put in the password 5309 (our phone number). This will get you into any service or meeting that we have scheduled. Please remember to mute as you join. When you press the space bar you can temporarily unmute to speak if desired. Pat Carter

HOLY HIKE

We had 17 people and 2 dogs walking together for our Holy Hike. It was a hot July day but God provided a breeze.

Thanks to all that joined us.



DON'T FORGET!!

'THE COLLECTION' recipe book

Calling all St. James bakers and cooks and foodies! This year I would like to include a St. James Collection of Recipes in our food baskets that we give away for

Thanksgiving and Christmas Families.

Please send me your favorite recipes that use simple and economical ingredients. We need recipes for the use of holiday leftovers and make ahead recipes too. You can email me at kshields@eiwifi.com or give to me at church. Thanks for helping develop "The Collection" as part of our outreach committee. KAREN SHIELDS

SWEET CORN AND ZUCCHINI PIE

Serves 6-8. Spray 9 inch pie plate

4 TBS butter

Half of onion, diced

2 ears corn (1 cup)

2 large zucchini, sliced very thin (4 cups)

8 oz sliced fresh mushrooms (optional)

1 TBS dried basil

1 tsp dried oregano

½ tsp salt

12 oz shredded cheese (mozzarella and swiss)

4 eggs, beaten

PREHEAT oven 375

Heat butter in large skillet, add onions, zucchini and mushrooms. Saute till soft. Cool mixture a few minutes. Add seasonings, cheese and eggs. Add mixture to pie plate and top with extra cheese.

Cover with sprayed foil and bake 20 minutes.

Remove foil and bake 5 minutes to brown top. Let stand 10-15 minutes

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL IN INDY

Anyone tentatively interested in serving on a volunteer team for the annual Strawberry Festival at Christ Church Cathedral should contact me by August 11. The Cathedral Women, who have sponsored the event for well over 50 years, have chosen Thursday, September 2 for this year. The Cathedral Women fund thousands of dollars of projects from the proceeds through their semi-annual awarding of grants to ministries and agencies across central Indiana. St. James has sent teams of volunteers for several years--none last year inasmuch as the event was virtual due to Covid. The festival is typically the second Thursday of June.

LET BARRY KNOW IF YOU CAN GO HELP OUT.



COLLEGE CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Three vestry members and our Deacon have completed training in the area of congregational development. The intensive, six-day program was sponsored by and underwritten by the Diocese and was held at Waycross Camp and Conference Center. Senor Warden Marilyn Witt, Vestry members Cindy Bullard and Pat Carter, and Deacon Barry Cramer all had something to say about their experience at "CCD" – the College for Congregational Development.

What a wonderful way to learn and communicate and become energized! I felt a stronger connection with others across the Diocese of Indianapolis. I came away with the feeling that being small, and an older congregation doesn't mean you are at the end of your life, it means that this is an opportunity to do amazing things. MARILYN WITT

I learned a lot about facilitating meetings, data gathering, and conflict resolution. So much to take in. Loved meeting and getting to know all the people from around the diocese. CINDY BULLARD

I loved learning about facilitation skills and community building among ourselves and others in the Diocese. I was really interested in the Myers Briggs personality work we did. We all have wonderful gifts but some are more developed than others. It will be fun to explore that together. PAT CARTER

I was surprised by the intensity of the week. As another participant said, "I thought I was going to something like a retreat; instead I ended up in boot camp." The presentations were appropriate for anyone actively involved in the life of the church, and especially for us in church leadership. We were given concise presentations of numerous excellent ideas, models, and practices that can improve a congregation's vitality. I am thrilled that St. James is the beneficiary of all of this.

DEACON BARRY CRAMER



Year Two of the College for Congregational Development is scheduled for July 17-23, 2022. We are expected to go but if anyone else would like to join us, we encourage you to come.

OUR CCD PROJECT

As a part of our participation, we are to choose 2 projects to complete and report on. Our first project will be to enhance our worship experience with the addition of other sources of the liturgy to Morning Prayer and by the addition of intentional silence in both services. It is to be completed by Nov 1st. We began with a survey asking about your satisfaction with our current Eucharist Service and with our current Morning Prayer service. This survey will be left out to catch more input for another couple of weeks. Please add comments clarifying why you chose the number you did, if you want to.



“For God alone, my soul waits in silence”
Psalm 62:1

“A time to keep silence and a time to speak.” Ecclesiastes 3:7

“Let all the earth keep silence before him.”
Habakkuk 2:20

“There was silence in heaven for about half an hour.” Revelation 8:1

NEW BEGINNINGS REPORT

After our wonderful St. James Day celebrations, the New Beginnings training team presented the outcome of our house meetings. We wrote a **FUTURE STORY** for St. James, reflecting back from 5 years from now on all the things we decided to do to **REDEFINE OUR MISSION** around food and hospitality and **TO IMPROVE UTILIZATION OF OUR BUILDING** to further that mission and to survive in a space we are currently too small to support. We imagined things like restarting our community dinners and partnering with other churches or groups to provide them weekly. We will continue our other feeding ministries and explore other needs such as providing funeral dinners through partnerships with funeral homes. We can rent land to community garden groups. We will apply for a grant from the Diocese to be ready and able to open our building to other community groups for event space, etc. We are brainstorming ways to see this through and please add your likes, concerns and wishes to our easel at church. We are on the verge of something wonderful!

We invite you all to be a part of the next phase of planning as it unfolds.

BACK TO SCHOOL FESTIVAL

Thanks to all that donated toothbrushes to give away to the kids that came to this annual event and thanks to Pat Carter for handing them out at the St. James table.

Sonny Carter



HEALING SERVICES TO BEGIN SEPTEMBER

Plans are being made by the Worship Committee to have a designated Sunday for healing prayers and anointing monthly. More details to come.

PROPERTY UPDATE

We were without air conditioning in the front hall for TOO long. The Vestry apologizes for this and we were able to have Guffey's repair it for \$300. He is working on our best way forward as far as repairs or replacement of this 13 year old unit.

CHILI SUPPER

Hopefully, we can have our chili campfire again this year. I'm wondering which day is everyone's favorite to hold this. I'm thinking mid- October instead of the end. Let me know what you think. Pat Carter

DECISIONS ABOUT A BAZAAR

We need to come to a decision about the future of our bazaar. We lost 2 of our biggest contributors this year. We don't know what the winter will be like for Covid. If you want to hold it again, we can rent out table space and change our whole way of doing it. We can rent a booth at someone else's bazaar. Please talk to Deloris Madden or Pat Carter about your thoughts.

INVITE FROM FOURSQUARE

All Churches in Henry County!

Join us August 29th for our 2nd Annual Henry County 500. We will gather under the yellow sails at the 1400 Plaza in downtown New Castle for a time of Worship and Prayer.

This year our focus will be on coming together to break the bonds of addiction in our community. We have come a long way, just a decade ago Henry County was constantly in the top 5 counties in Indiana for overdoses per capita. Now we are 31st, but we still have a long way to go. The body of Christ is critical to overcoming the spiritual, emotional and practical problems connected to this issue. The people of God must unite to see the end of this destruction. It affects us all, but none of us can do it alone.

The Henry County 500 will be an encouraging time of worship and testimony. We will also be challenged with a call to action and prayer. Join hundreds of other believers as we unite to make addiction history in Henry County

CHONDA PIERCE IN PERSON!

Chonda Pierce is a Christian comedian and actress that has a great witness of faith. I did a study by her called "Laughing in the Dark" with the First Christian Church about grief 3-4 years ago. She will be in Anderson on September 23rd. There is a poster on the bulletin board with more info.

THANK YOU CARD

St. James Episcopal Church,
We appreciate the wonderful meal you provided on Thursday night at camp. The pizza was great (and right on time) and the salad and fruit was good too? Thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus and serving us in this way. May God bless each of you as you continue to serve him. In his love, Beth from Victory Lane Camp

THE GUEST HOUSE OPEN HOUSE INVITE

You're invited to join us for an open house on Thursday, September 16th from 5 to 8 PM at The Guest House. Stop by and take a tour of the building, talk to some residents and staff, enjoy some food, and shop the thrift shop. Donations would be appreciated.

THOUGHTS FROM YOUR SENIOR WARDEN:

I have discovered that I am an INFP. That is fine with me and I am not surprised. I am just very slightly Introverted, strong on Intuition, Feeling, and Perceiving. I discovered this by taking the Myers–Briggs Type Indicator assessment as a part of the College for Congregational Development. Taking the MBTI assessment and receiving feedback will help you identify your unique gifts. It will also help you appreciate people who are different from you. Understanding your type is self-affirming and encourages cooperation with others. I also know what Pat, Cindy, and Barry are, but you will have to discuss that with them.

It is amazing that August is upon us. It has been an extremely busy several months for the Search Committee, the Bishop's Committee, other committees and everyone at St. James. First, group meetings for our St. James profile, then New Beginnings with Leaders training, house meetings, and assessment report. All this has deepened my faith and given me a new appreciation for the **giftedness** of the people in our congregation. The time between rectors is important. It allows the congregation to put some time between the past and the future. Be prepared for God to do something new. Didn't we have a wonderful St. James Day? First a renewing morning worship and then delicious food and gathering. Everything is better when we do it together.

Thank you all for your good feedback about our future. We are all looking forward to writing the next chapter in the life and ministry of St. James. Summer is flying by. Please keep all our people in your prayers. Please keep current with your pledges, the church runs on your generosity. Check regularly on your friends, neighbors, and parishioners.

*For I know the plans I have for you:
Declares the Lord.*

*Plans to prosper you and not to harm
you. Plans to give you hope and a future.*

Jeremiah 29:11

MARILYN WITT



NEW BEGINNINGS RESULTS PHASE ONE

THIS IS AN IMAGINED STORY TOLD 5 YEARS FROM NOW LOOKING BACK TO THIS TIME AND THE DECISIONS WE MADE TO ENSURE OUR FUTURE. WE HOPE YOU FIND IT INTRIGUING.

About 5 years ago, the members of St. James faced the fact that we were not the right sized congregation to support our building and grounds and pay for a priest. Because we were an aging congregation, we knew we had more desire for ministry than we had energy. We had an interest in hospitality and feeding ministries and decided to redefine our mission around those things while also finding ways to utilize our extra space. The Diocese was offering grant money to strengthen our connections to civic groups to increase the use of our building. We applied for and received the grant and started finding partners to help us start a free weekly community meal in our church. We publicized heavily to those in need. Sally attended the Senior Center for lunch regularly. She saw our flyer for free dinners and came to our first one. She said later that she felt so welcomed by everyone here and looked forward to returning. She invited friends and family to join her. One evening she decided to stay for our weekly service and really liked it. She decided to come to a Sunday service and brought a friend with her. Before long, she found herself volunteering to help cook and serve a meal. Her family came to meet her new friends and joined her for church occasionally. Sally became an active member of St. James where she found purpose in her life. During a visit to St. James, Sally's daughter Jane learned we were offering space for the community to use our building. She decided to hold her yoga classes in our front hall and donated regularly for use of the space. One of her client's lost her husband in a car accident and she needed a church to hold the funeral. Because she had a relationship with St. James through her yoga class, she turned to our priest for help. The support she received from the priest and the parish really touched her heart. She wanted to be a part of our church family and started coming with her kids on Sunday mornings. We started having a Sunday School program for the children again. Her life was enriched by her connection to the people of St. James.

In the meantime, we subdivided our 6 acres of land. We had 3 acres of wooded land in the back of our property and after about 2 years we were able to sell off that land. We invested the money and used the monthly income to help pay for a priest. We also were able to supplement our income through donations from groups using the building for weddings, meetings, classes, etc. As we grew, the added income helped us become more independent financially. Most importantly we were able to continue our lives together at St. James and grow and thrive through our renewed ministries and touch other lives in the process.