

-The MESSENGER

ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH
stjamesnewcastle.com
DECEMBER 2021



ADVENT SEASON
The four Sundays of Advent started last Sunday. We will be lighting the candles each week a little differently. Brown

invites families to volunteer to come up to light the candle for that week.



GREENING THE CHURCH

We will be "hanging the greens" and putting up the tree after church December 5th. We will be having lunch afterwards. Hoping you will all be able to stay and help get the church ready for the Advent and Christmas season.

ROSIE HUA'S RECITAL

The Christmas recital will be on Saturday, December 11th at 10:30 AM at St. James. Sam will be her accompanist. We are invited to attend this recital of her voice students.

RAINTREE SQUARE SERVICE

Our next Sunday afternoon service is December 5th at 2:00pm, after we green the church and have lunch. If you are interested in leading these worship services, please contact Cindy Bullard to be scheduled for 2022. Pat Carter will be leading with Marilyn Witt playing music. You are encouraged to attend and help with readings and singing.

CHRISTMAS SING ALONG SOCIAL

Please join us at Raintree Square on Friday, December 17th at 2 PM. Marilyn Witt will be playing for this Christmas sing along for the residents. We need to bring refreshments, ie cookies, candies, punch so please talk to Marilyn or Pat Carter if you can help.



*Sounds
of the
Season*

BISHOP'S COMMITTEE MEETING

The next meeting of the BC HAS BEEN CHANGED TO Wednesday, December 15th at 6:30 PM. Zoom is an option if you can't attend in person.

DOK MEETING

The next meeting will be on WEDNESDAY, December 15th at noon for lunch, 1230 for our meeting.

BROWN'S OFFICE HOURS

Remember that Brown is in New Castle on Thursdays from 11-3. If you would like to make an appointment, you may email him at mujetebg@gmail.com or call him at 765- 967-1174.

CHRISTMAS BASKETS

We will be giving away 10 baskets for Christmas. Karen Shields has provided the signup sheet for items. Please bring everything by Sunday, Dec. 19th.

For Thanksgiving we were able to provide more than the food on the list. They also got eggs, milk, bread, peanut butter.

PLEDGES DUE NOW

Pledges were due Dec.1.If you haven't turned it in, please do so as soon as possible. We will soon be working on the budget for 2022.

COVID GUIDELINES

Remember that these rules can change from week to week according to what happening in our community.

We are not requiring masks at this time. We are singing.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN A 6 FT SOCIAL DISTANCE INSIDE THE SANCTUARY AND AT COFFEE HOUR.

It is so easy to get comfortable and forget that we are still needing to protect each other. Be responsible for your own health and take a step back if you feel too close.

Wear a mask if you are NOT vaccinated. We dodged a bullet last month as Karen and I (both vaccinated) worked on baskets one day and the next day she came down with Covid.

My vaccine worked and I didn't expose all the ladies I had lunch with the next day.

Stay aware of your surroundings.



We have 14 vendors with a variety of products for sale. We have paid for advertising to assure they have a successful day at our new style bazaar. Our proceeds will come from our bake sale and lunch room.

THE BAZAAR IS THIS SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4TH, from 9-3

We need your baked goods by Friday afternoon or come early on Saturday for the bake sale table. Setup is 3:30 to 5:30 Friday for all the vendors. If you have anything you want to donate to our booth, please price it yourself, if possible. If you can help set up tables on Thursday, let Dee Madden or Pat Carter know. We switched to vendors this year so will only have one table for St. James.

We also will be having our Chicken Pie/ Sloppy Joe lunch and will need help serving.

Merry 
Christmas 

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

CAROLS 5:00 PM

EUCHARIST 5:30 PM



We'll gather together for singing of carols before the service on December 24th.

A reception will follow the service.
(bring goodies to share)



NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE

Father Brown will be leading a special service on New Year's Eve at 6:00 PM, Friday, December 31st. This is new for us so come and worship as we pray for 2022.

OUR SYMPATHY

We lost another dear friend as Sharon Godsey died at home on Tuesday, November 16th. She will be greatly missed. Please keep Ron Godsey and his family in your prayers.

THANK YOU

Rick and Terri Clark made a generous donation in memory of her mother, Vivian Simpson on the one year anniversary of her death. They requested this be used in the general fund.

We have new pens with the St. James name and new logo "where strangers become family". These were paid for by the Clarks and we have a good supply. Take them, lose them, give them to your friends as advertising.

NEW BEGINNINGS PROGRESS

We haven't had time to finish this process we started over a year ago. We've been busy with College projects and welcoming Father Brown to our parish. One of the NB projects is to utilize the church building in better ways. The Diocese has a program that we are being required to be involved in and we need a committee to work on this. A consultant will come and study our space and recommend ways to offer it for use. Talk to Marilyn Witt.

Sharing Thoughts from Marilyn:

With Christmas Eve and Christmas Day approaching, we are making plans to gather with family and friends to celebrate the birth of our Savior, sharing memories of Christmas past and creating new memories to cherish into the future. Our church family here at St. James will be doing the same.

This Christmas Eve, we will sit and await the Eucharist Service to begin. I know I will look around and remember family and friends who joined us long ago and have gone on to their heavenly reward. I remember where they sat and what they did by giving us the rewards of their special talents and just by being there. Precious Memories! I remember many young families with children seeing the church decorated with garlands with sparkling lights, candles, bows, and the creche by the altar and singing songs of joy! I remember the awe in my young children's eyes when we walked into the church around 11:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve. Those same eyes were usually closed and sound asleep on the way home.

It seems to me, lately, I have been thinking of and remembering so many of the people I have been blessed to have had in my life. Maybe that comes with age. Times change. In the last several years we have not had many children in our parish to add their joyous voices during our church services. We have lost several dear friends and family in the last year. How we miss them.

The clock keeps ticking. In the last few months, we once again are so blessed to hear the sound of several very young voices during our church services and our coffee hours. Our congregation seems energized and is thinking of renewal, both our spiritual renewal and the use of our building and grounds and our hands to help others. "Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established." Proverbs 16:3

As we celebrate Christmas once again, please think beyond this Christmas Eve service and all those fond memories. We need to keep that joy alive with the spiritual renewal that this season instills in us by attending our Sunday services once Christmas is over and 2022 has begun. Our spiritual commitment to our Lord does not stop after that last Christmas hymn is sung and gifts exchanged. We need to maintain that commitment as baptized Christians in Christ by our presence in church each Sunday. Experience the joy of Christmas with your family and friends at St. James. I look forward to sharing that spiritual commitment with all of you as we move forward into a New Year.

May you and your families have a blessed and joyous Christmas. Marilyn Witt, Senior Warden

