

# The MESSENGER

## ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

stjamesnewcastle.com  
AUGUST 2022



*Where strangers become family*

### ABOUT YOUR NEWSLETTER

I have been writing this newsletter since Father David and Henrietta left 25 years ago, at his suggestion that everyone needed to stay informed. I know that not everyone reads it. I try to include everything that is going on but of course, I miss things. Please feel free to help by sending articles about things you want to let everyone know about. Pat Carter

### MEETINGS FOR AUGUST

RAINTREE SQUARE	AUG 7	2:00 PM
VESTRY	AUG 10	6:30 PM
DOK	TBD	

**BUILDING RESERVED SEPT 17<sup>TH</sup>**

### MARKETING 101-NEW TAG LINE?

When we ordered our St. James pens, they came with the tagline, "Where strangers become family". Do you like it? Do you feel we live into that statement? You will be seeing it more often as we improve our marketing of our parish. All Facebook posts are to show people what we are like—how we worship and serve and what life as the family of God looks like here. Our website is for people to get more info. We have 227 FB page followers and growing every time we post. Take pictures and send to me to post. Pat Carter

### PLAN FOR GRANT REQUEST

Now that we have been to the CCD, St. James is welcomed to apply for grants for congregational development. **DO I REMEMBER SOMEONE VOLUNTEERING TO HELP WITH GRANT WRITING?** August 30 is the deadline to apply, so work must begin soon. The plan is to develop the "Gather" of the Gather/Transform/Send model. This will involve 4 elements: Inviting, greeting, orienting, and incorporating into the family of St. James Church. As a part of that, we will be requesting money for a new church sign and other signage. We will be asking for input from newer members as to your experience when you first came to church. If you want to work on this project, talk to Pat Carter.

### BACK TO SCHOOL FESTIVAL

Thanks to all that donated toothbrushes for this annual event. CB Pottinger and Pat Carter handed them out to the biggest turnout ever and we ran out before the event ended. If you run across any good sales on toothbrushes over the next year, we can start collecting early. We only had 244 with 550 kids there. Sonny Carter

## **SAWS MINISTRY**

Sonny Carter and Dan Bullard worked on a 3<sup>rd</sup> ramp. Through Facebook, they got connected to Gene Sewell, the new director of Habitat for Humanity and he helped with the last one.

This partnership/ministry developed out of the collaborative ministry committee work done by Sonny, Marilyn, Barry and Deloris.

Also, because of this work, the New Castle School Corporation has expressed interest in buying our woods, which backs up to their new tennis courts. They have had it surveyed and appraised by 2 companies and the committee is waiting to hear back from them. You will be kept informed.



## **PEACE WALK**

Mark your calendars for September 21<sup>st</sup>. Plans are underway with Concerned Citizens for Diversity, First Friends and St. James. We will be combining it as a Peace Walk/Holy Hike. Talk to Barry if you want to help.

## **MYSTERY CLOTHING??**

Does anyone know about the bags of clothing just inside the front door?

## **FALL WOMEN'S RETREAT @ WAYCROSS**

**September 23-25**

The Reverend Krista Cameron will lead us through stories, scripture, sacred poetry, and embodiment prayers with familiar liturgy to honor and celebrate with our whole selves; heart, soul, mind, and body. The Early Bird Special Registration Deadline is September 3, 2021. Cost is \$200.

- After September 3, the cost is \$240.

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE**

## **THANK YOU!**

The property looks very nice. Thanks to our mowing team– Sonny, John, Dan, and Rick. Carolyn puts in many hours working on flower beds and has mulched everything. The Ladies Guild bought the mulch. Our sexton crew of Joyce, Ruth and Cory do a great job on the inside. I'm sorry if I've missed someone that is working behind the scenes. You are appreciated!

## MONTHLY DEVOTIONS Rev. Brown Mujete

### Bigger Than It Seems

*John 6:5-9 [NIV] When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" 6 He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do. 7 Philip answered, "It would take more than half a year's wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!" 8 Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, 9 "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?"*

In this story, Jesus is teaching His disciples about the need to deepen their faith (John 6:6). Jesus had been preaching and teaching for a while, and the time had come for the crowd to return home. It was getting dark, but he also knew that they had not eaten. So, he comes up to Philip and says *Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?* Listen to what Philip says in response; *"It would take more than half a year's wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!"* Notice the difference; Jesus is talking about the **place** (where) Philip is worried about resources (**money**).

Andrew: another disciple of Jesus, standing by and listening to this discussion, shares his suggestion but casts considerable doubt on his own proposal. He says; *Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?"* Rather than start with an appeal to money or charity, Jesus teaches the disciples to begin by simply bringing all we have to God (John 6:11).

See, there are things in life that seem so simple; there are missions in life that can look so trivial that it would be easy to despise. When the boy's mother packed that lunch, it was just a simple meal for a boy to share with his friends (or maybe not). It was so insignificant that Andrew would comment and say, *"how far would that go among all those people?"* But who is God? The boy's lunch ends up in the hands of Jesus, and it feeds the entire crowd that including five thousand men.

Often, like Andrew, we ask, how far can that go? Or what do I even know? Who cares about me? What do I bring to the table? Can God heal me? Why am I in pain? Listen, your life is more significant than it seems; your mission in this walk of life is more significant than where you are now. You can tell that by looking at how far you have come.

The invitation is to come as we are. God isn't looking for **perfect people**; he calls us to himself with our weaknesses and brokenness and expects us to trust him even when we have no reason to. We are reminded not to think about what we don't have; instead, we thank God for what we've got and trust him to do abundantly and exceedingly more than we can ever imagine.

**Child of God, come as you are!**



CBPottinger and Pat Carter at the Back to School festival giving out toothbrushes.

Cynthia Bullard, Marilyn Witt, Bishop Jennifer Baskerville–Burrows, Pat Carter and Deacon Barry Cramer graduating from the College for Congregation Development (CCD)



Recent baby shower for Clemens and Sara Sorrell–Wiltsche and sweet Sophia as they await the birth of their newest daughter, Magdalena

