



**MEETINGS/EVENTS FOR JANUARY**

<b>DEACON BARRY'S LAST DAY</b>	<b>JAN 1</b>	
<b>NO Raintree Service this month</b>		
VESTRY	JAN 11	6:30 PM
PARTY FOR BARRY	JAN 15	4:30 PM
DOK	JAN 18	12:00 PM
BOOK STUDY	JAN 22	NOON
BOOK STUDY	JAN 29	NOON
ANNUAL MTG	FEB 5	

**EPIPHANY JANUARY 6**

There is an Epiphany bonfire at 6 PM at the First Christian Church next door. It is open to the public. You can take your old Christmas trees to the property anytime before the 6<sup>th</sup>. This is an old English tradition of burning the greens at the end of the 12 days of Christmas.



**FAREWELL PARTY FOR DEACON BARRY**  
Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup>

Deacon Barry will be honored with a dinner party on January 15<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 pm at St. James. It will be catered so is not a pitch in. Please come and celebrate his 9 years of ministry with us at St. James and the Diocese of Indianapolis.

**THANK YOU**

I want to thank all of you for the generous Christmas gift. It made me aware--once again--of the love and caring that flow through St. James. I wish you all a Happy New Year, with many blessings. Thanks again. --Deacon Barry

Taken on October 26, 2013 at Deacon Barry's ordination at convention. He started his ministry with St. James immediately.



On January 6, when I reach the mandatory retirement age for service in the Episcopal Church (72), I will be concluding my Diaconal ministry at St. James. I have been serving since Advent of 2013, and those nine years seem to have gone by so quickly. My ministry as a deacon has been fulfilling and has brought me a lot of joy. I consider it a privilege to have been called to this ministry of deacon, and to have served at St. James.

I view my time at St. James as falling into three periods of roughly similar length. It began with a joint appointment serving both here and at St. Paul's, Richmond, alongside The Rev. Susan Bennett during her three years at both parishes. After that I served collaboratively with The Rev. Whitney Smith, who also served St. James for three years.

The last three years are not so readily described. They involved working with the Senior Warden, at least three supply priests, and negotiating the wilderness of Covid-19. Notably, the supply priests were no strangers: The Rev. Kate Wilson was involved in my ministry formation process, The Rev. Jeff Bessler was my partner/spouse, and The Rev. Brown Mujete was a colleague from St. Paul's, Richmond. Serving over the last year and more with Father Brown as your continuing supply priest has brought a welcomed sense of regularity. (It is memorable, too, that Jeff and I were married here at St. James by Fr. Whitney, on the 30th anniversary of our original commitment ceremony.)

I remember fondly the reception I received from parishioners as I began my service, and many of the social events over the years. I felt the losses of members by death or moving away, and the optimism of new members joining us and bringing their new life and energy. I took joy in seeing how readily members find ways of serving in the church and in the community.

I leave with mixed feelings. Nine years is a long stretch, and I will appreciate the opportunity to sit back for a while without the responsibilities of a formal ministry. At the same time I will miss the friendships formed, opportunities for providing a bit of leadership, and witnessing first-hand the growth that I hope and pray is coming. I want to encourage you in your loving acts of service that have been so much demonstrated over these years. May peace be with you all.

Yours in Christian Service,  
Deacon Barry Cramer

### **PROPERTY SALE UPDATE**

There isn't anything new to report. The Diocese is in conversation with the school corporation on the legal contract and sales agreement.

**School Superintendent Matt Shoemaker will be at St. James after the service on January 15 or 29 to tell us about the plans they have for the property and to answer any questions you may have.**

### **SAFE CHURCH**

Several people attended group meetings to complete this requirement. I am available to schedule more group classes if you need help getting started. If you did not find your invitation to Praesidium in your email, let me know and I will resend it.

Thank you, Pat Carter

### **EPISCOPAL 101 CLASS**

As a part of our grant request, we purchased books called "A People called Episcopalian" to hand out to visitors. We encourage you to read this book and join our discussions on January 22 and 29, after coffee hour. We will discuss 3 chapters each week. We need to have a good understanding of our own denomination to help us answer the questions newcomers may have. You can borrow the book from the library. Please join us!

### **NEW LIBRARIAN POSITION**

Clemens Wiltsch has accepted the position of church librarian. He will be organizing our current books and adding some and encouraging us to read more. Thank you, Clemens!

### **CHRISTMAS BAZAAR A SUCCESS**

Thank you to all that helped with the bazaar and bake sale. We had an initial mini crisis in that only 3 of our 9 vendors showed up so we had to scramble and pulled out our leftovers from last year and set up a couple more booths. We added \$1100 profit to our general fund. Thank you to Dee Madden for chairing the event.

### **FOOD MINISTRIES**

Thanks to all that made our Thanksgiving and Christmas basket giveaway successful. We helped 10 families each time. Thanks to Karen Shields for organizing us. ALSO, remember that we have the food pantry in the breezeway to keep restocked. The most popular items have been Mac and Cheese and Spaghetti and Sauce.

### **ANNUAL MEETING**

The annual meeting will be held on February 5<sup>th</sup> after church, followed by a pitch in lunch. Please have all reports turned in by January 29<sup>th</sup>.

## MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY UPDATE

Brown & Petra's new address is:  
1339 Woodland Trail Drive,  
Richmond, IN 47374

Carriebeth Pottinger's new email is:  
[cb6407@oulook.com](mailto:cb6407@oulook.com)

new entry:

Peggy Jent & Tim Cherry  
1104 Radio Lane, New Castle, IN 47362  
scubadog54@bellsouth.net  
Phone number 305-304-9745  
Birthday - Peggy April 24  
Tim July

## LOST AND FOUND

Carolyn Shupert is missing her copy of the **St. James Cookbook**. This is an old and cherished memory of the work and time when the Ladies Guild was very active . If you know where it has gone please let her know. Thank you.

## SAVE THE DATE

The annual Shrove Tuesday pancake supper is February 21<sup>st</sup>. Sonny Carter needs all men to help with this. We will be making a public invitation.

## CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Thanks to Dan and Cindy Bullard for adding outside Christmas lights to the bushes and trees for Christmas Eve. They were paid for by the Ladies Guild.

