

The MESSENGER

ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH



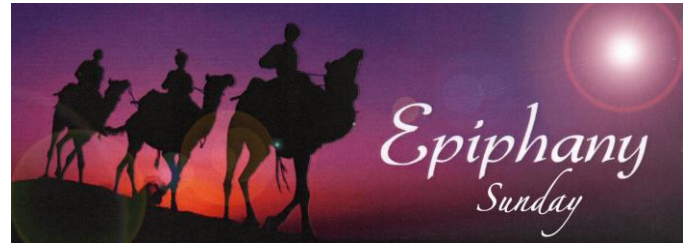
JANUARY 2021



As I write this newsletter, I changed the date at the top to 2021 and I felt relief and full of hope for the new year. This year was full of trouble but we have to look back and remember the good that God kept doing in our lives. That will be different things for everyone but I believe that if we focus on that GoOD instead of all the bad, we will be happier people. Make a list and give thanks to God for all these things as we move forward with the promise and hope of a vaccine ending the pandemic so that our lives can return to whatever our new normal will be. Praying that "new normal" is a "better normal" with more kindness and love and less selfishness, hatred and fear. Happy New Year!

Pat Carter, editor

JANUARY SCHEDULE



EUCCHARIST JAN. 3, 17, 31

Father Jeff Bessler

Deacon Barry Cramer JAN 3, 17

MORNING PRAYER

JAN. 10, Aimee C JAN. 24, Sonny C

BISHOP'S COMMITTEE MEETING

The next meeting of the BC will be on Wednesday, at 6:30 PM, January 13th. We will be meeting on Zoom. These are open meetings. I will send a link to everyone.

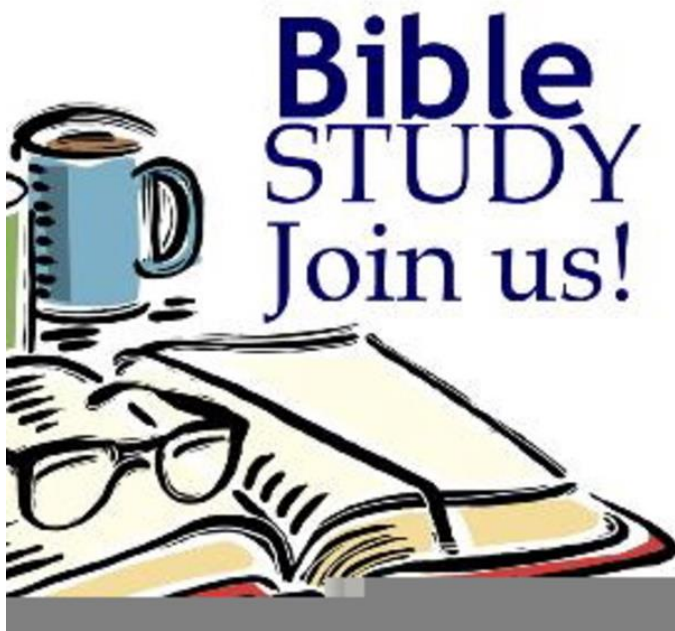
DOK MEETING

We will meet on January 20th on Zoom at 12 for lunch bunch and 1230 for the meeting.

EPIPHANY, JANUARY 6TH, 2021

WISE MEN
STILL SEEK
HIM





STUDY NEWS

Several of us have been participating in studies this fall but would love to include more of you. They have been on Zoom and that is a blessing to many because you don't have to leave your house. We are finishing up our advent study in 2 weeks. We will begin a new 5 week study called "How Jesus read his Bible" on Wednesday, January 27th. There are 5 half hour videos plus discussion, led by Deacon Barry. What's a good time? The current study is a 3pm. Let Marilyn know if you are interested.

ANNUAL MEETING

Since we can't meet in person right now, we will be holding the annual meeting on WEDNESDAY, February 3rd as a Zoom meeting. Please send your reports to Pat Carter by January 25th and I will email them out before the meeting.

LIVE ZOOM CHURCH

When we are on zoom only, our worship service works but when it's a live service, the sound has not worked well. I've been researching some fixes (which I apologize for not doing this sooner) and have ordered an external microphone that should pick up the sound better. The facebook live was much better so if you want to hear the music again or hear the sermon more clearly, I sent the link in an email.

THANK YOU

Thank you very much for your generosity with the Christmas baskets. Westminster donated all the hams and some other food to help fill the baskets. Everyone seemed very grateful. Sonny and Carolyn

I want to thank the parish for the generous Christmas gift. I appreciate your thoughtfulness and the sense of caring that it conveys about St. James. Deacon Barry

Thank you for the generous gift from the parish which I was not at all expecting since I am a visiting priest. So please accept my thanks for such generous appreciation. I hope your Christmas was blessed. Blessed Christmastide, Father Jeff

FIRE DESTROYS HOME

A fire destroyed the home of Father Christopher Beasley, Kent South and their son, Jacob on the Monday before Christmas. They were able to escape and save their pets from the early morning fire. Please keep them in your prayers.

ST. PAUL'S, RICHMOND NEWS

After a 4 year search, the people of St. Paul's have called the Rev. Dr. Barbara Anne Fisher to be their priest. She will begin her ministry with them in February. She is originally from New Castle and attended St. James a few times long ago. Some of you may know her.

FOLLOW UP NEWS

We had a lovely visit with the Bishop in December on Zoom. She asked us to dream about our future. What would we like to be and do? Who are we as a body of Christ?

Vivian Simpson's funeral was held at the church. It was a beautiful service, celebrating a life well lived. The church provided a catered dinner for the Clarks.

Dee Anderson was hospitalized with Covid. She has recovered and returned to her Raintree Square apartment after rehab.

Elaine Farley is in need of your prayers. She is in the hospital currently.

THANKS TO OUR WORSHIP CHAIR

Carolyn Shupert continues to send out the bulletins each month. She has sent emails to get volunteers for each service to create a schedule. She picks the music and coordinates everything with Father Jeff and Sam. It is very much appreciated.



New Years Reflection and Prayer

As the old year ends and a new one begins, take time.

Time to remember the struggles you faced,
And mistakes you might have made,
And maybe even loved ones you lost.

In every year, you experience heartache.
This one was no different.

And in remembering, find a seed of hope
hidden in yesterday.

Remember how you've been blessed.
Relive when you found unexpected strength.
Recall where you saw God's great Spirit at work.
And know his mercy kept you going all this time.

Recognize his mercy. Ask for his peace.

The peace that pours out every moment of every day
from the wounds of Christ.

Prepare us Lord for the New Year.
Lift us up and place in our hearts,
A renewed desire to know and worship you more.
Give us your abundant grace.
Shower us with your healing love.

May your eternal Kingdom reign in our hearts and our
lives. May the New Year show us once again your
eternal mercy and glory.

And let us sing your praises with great joy.

In Jesus name, Amen.