



St. James Happenings

Nov.-Dec., 2020

A Publication of St. James Lutheran Church

❖ Pastor Paula Ponders

Greetings to One and All!



It's been a long time since we've produced a newsletter. I think because the most important part of the word "newsletter," is "news." And although we are

told the news never stops, somehow, it slowed down in a major way. In fact, it has slowed so much that we may want to call this an "Un-newsletter." In fact, the news in this letter is mostly about what isn't happening.

We have been back together for in-person worship as some folks are now calling it. Masks are required, signing in is required, seating yourself apart from each other in a pew that's not marked off is required. We're not singing, but we ARE listening to beautiful music played by our new pianist, Kiran Finley. Kiran is a senior at the Seventh Day Adventist Academy, and we appreciate her willingness to be here each Sunday, as much as we appreciate her willingness to stick with us even when we were not worshipping in person.

Continue to read through this issue. You may find something that is, indeed, newsworthy! My prayer is that someone will happen upon the miracle cure or vaccine or whatever it is that is needed to rid our world of this horrible virus. Remember that God is our refuge and strength! Our help in times of trouble!

Peace
Pastor Paula



❖ THANKS AND WELCOME, KIRAN FINLEY!

We recently welcomed our new pianist, Miss Kiran Finley! Kiran is a Senior Honor Student at Greeneville Adventist Academy, and she and her family attend Greeneville Seventh-Day Adventist Church. Her family includes Dad (Kevin), Mom (Kezia), and sister (Kayla), as well as three pet cats!!! They live on S. Old Kentucky Rd. here in Greeneville. Kiran was recommended to us by her piano teacher, Jeanette Hawk, and has been studying with Ms. Hawk for several years. Kiran has committed to play for us until she departs for college next summer to begin her studies at Southern Adventist University in Chattanooga. In the meantime, we are blessed and happy to have Kiran with us, enjoying her musical talent! Thank you, Kiran!!

❖ LOCAL BENEVOLENCE FUND

If you know of anyone who needs a little help with bills, food, etc., the church has a Local Benevolence Fund designed for this purpose. Frankie Bowers administers this fund. Our church has always prided ourselves in taking care of member needs and the needs of those in the community. Since many of our activities are not meeting right now (Jacob's Well, Young at Hearts, Sunday School), please advise Frankie or any member of the Council about specific needs.

❖ PASTOR APPRECIATION SUNDAY

October 11 was Pastor Appreciation Sunday and the congregation surprised Pastor Paula with fall decorating items. We thank you, Pastor Paula, for all your work at St. James!



❖ COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

This event will not be held this year. The pastors discussed how it's quite well-attended, and feared it could become a super spreader event. It's been put on hold until 2021.

❖ THANKSGIVING DAY SERVICE

This service, which is always held in the log church, will not be held this year. Families come in and gather on this special day, and it has the capabilities of spreading the virus from other cities, counties, and states. We will try again in 2021.



❖ APPALACHIAN HELPING HANDS

This ministry is currently open to those in need. On Thursdays, beginning October 29, the Christmas room only will be open from 9-12. Clothing will not be distributed on Thursdays. Only 1 person, wearing a mask, from each family will be served. This must be done to avoid spreading germs. Clothing will be distributed on Saturdays from 9-12 with the same guidelines.

❖ TIME AND TALENT SHEETS, ANNUAL REPORT

We are going to continue using the Time and Talent Sheets from 2020. If your name was not included on a committee or a specific job to enhance our worship together, please let Pastor Paula, Pat Barnett, or Priscilla Simpkins know and we will add you to the list for 2021. God's work, our hands!

If you are a committee chairperson, reports for the Annual Report booklet are due on Jan. 3. If anyone has corrections or additions to the Church Directory, please let Pat Barnett know by this date as well so we can get this report ready for our Annual Meeting in February.

❖ YOUNG AT HEART

The decision was made to wait until January and take another look at how safe it will be to meet. As of right now, carry-in meals served buffet style are still being frowned upon as a major health risk. We want to keep people as healthy as possible!

❖ COUNCIL NEWS

The Congregational Council has been hard at work even during our time of closure and several projects have been completed. Critters (squirrels) decided to move into the church attic while we were away but a wildlife removal company was able to seal all the entry points. The Fellowship Hall is now air conditioned and the air conditioning units for the main church area have been replaced. Both these projects were financed by an anonymous donor and a gift from the Oscar and Peggy Holt estate.

The garage at the Parsonage had rotting boards that have been replaced, a new dehumidifier was purchased for the basement, and Pastor Paula donated a new refrigerator. Thanks, Pastor Paula!

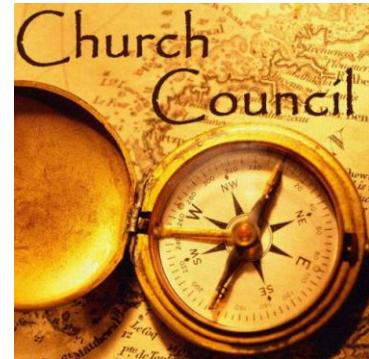
Upcoming projects include installing a new toilet in the bathroom at the church, repairing the front steps, and replacing the roof. Many thanks to Kendall Bowers, Roger Brown, and all the members of the Property Committee for their continuing hard work on these projects.

Council nominated Dan Barnett, Marty Dedrick, and Lynnice Strong to run for Church Council. The congregation nominated Ralph Hochhalter to also run for Council. Three Council members will be elected at the Congregational Meeting on Nov. 8. At this meeting the 2021 budget will also be approved and members of the congregation will be able to bring up any business they desire.

I would personally like to thank the Council and members of the congregation for their hard work to help us reopen church during the pandemic. We are following the protocols of the Synod as well as the CDC regarding hand sanitizing, wearing masks, and social distancing; we appreciate everyone working together to keep us all safe.

Yours in Christ,

Pat Barnett



❖ CHURCH ROOF REPAIRS

After 82 years, the church roof is in serious need of replacement. As discussed at our Congregational Meeting on October 25, what we thought was a slate roof now appears to be an asbestos roof. Roger Brown, Kendall Bowers, and George Brown along with other church volunteers have been talking to an engineer and various asbestos removal and roofing companies as to the best and most economical way to do this project. The roof will be very costly and we will need to do some creative fundraising to meet our goal. We will keep the congregation informed as the project moves along.

❖ ADVENT and CHRISTMAS



Advent will look a bit different this year, too. The Greeneville High School choir had been invited to sing for us, but singing spreads more than joy, it would seem. Our annual St. James Family Christmas Dinner has been put on hold until next year, as well. BUT, on Wednesday, December 9, at 7:00 p.m., Pastor Paula will present some Christmas music from the grand piano in the sanctuary. No singing, and you can social-distance and hopefully get a little of the

Christmas Spirit moving within you! No social time to follow for all the reasons mentioned before.

Candle light Christmas Eve will be held at 7:30 p.m. with safe Holy Communion.

❖ WELCA

WELCA has been meeting. We still meet on the third Sunday of each month. When the weather is nice, we, wearing our masks, bring lawn chairs and sit in the lawn outside the old log church. As the weather cools, we will space ourselves in a larger indoor space, still wearing our masks. WELCA does a lot for families in our community, so we need to continue to meet in order to continue the good work!

So far, we are still planning to meet for our annual Christmas breakfast on December 14, 9:00 a.m. at Cracker Barrel, but since everything is tentative, please keep an ear out for any changes.



❖ APPALACHIAN AUDITORIUM AT ST. JAMES

At this point, and the time of writing this newsletter, everything seems to be put on hold at the Appalachian Auditorium. This also goes for serving meals on the first and third Saturdays of each month at Jacob's Well. Healthwise, it's all just a bit too risky to start anything back up that serves large groups of people at one time. Obviously, we pray that 2021 will begin to give us some light at the end of the tunnel!

| November 2020 | | | | | | |
|---|---|-----------------------------|---|----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
| 1 Gracie Ottinger | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 Roger Brown |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 Frankie Bowers | 12 Ronald Neas | 13 | 14 |
| 15 WELCA | 16 Kathe Kahley Jaxon Winter Brenda Olafsen | 17 | 18 | 19 Jackie Bowers | 20 Pat Barnett | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 James Jarnigan | 25 Nick Neas Larry & Lisa Ottinger | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 Don Strong Isaac Ottinger Michael Ottinger | 30 Mitzi Neas Taylor Shuffler | | | | | |

| December 2020 | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|---|---|--|---------------------------|--|
| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
| | | 1 Betty Kilgore | 2 | 3 Morgan Ottinger | 4 | 5 Jeff Ottinger |
| 6 Paul Jarrett | 7 Kenan Wilhoit Lisa Ottinger | 8 Bob Winter Jesse Fearins | 9 Christmas Music from Pastor Paula, 7pm | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 WELCA Breakfast, 9am Cracker Barrel | 15 Walter & Carolyn Renner | 16 Ronald & Ora Lee Conard | 17 Lowell & Charlsie Nease | 18 Tommy Winter | 19 Irene Snipes |
| 20 | 21 | 22 Billy Ray & Lessie Winter | 23 | 24 Candlelight Christmas Eve, 7:30 pm | 25 | 26 David Darnell Jeff & Holly Coakley |
| 27 | 28 Mandi Brown | 29 | 30 Gaynelle Stowers | 31 | | |

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