

the Spirit of St. James



St. James Lutheran Church, 1101 High Street, Pottstown, Pennsylvania, 19464 • (610) 326-2810 • FEBRUARY 2010

OUR MISSION FOR ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH

“We welcome all to receive God’s love through Christ and to share it with the world.”

Pastor’s Message

There’s been an awful lot in the news these past months about “health care.” It’s a big issue partly because of the expense and the large part it plays in our national economy, but mostly because everyone (and I mean everyone) has a great deal of concern over their health and wellness.

And while there is nothing wrong with being concerned about your *physical* health, what about your *spiritual* health? Do we pay nearly as much attention to and are we even remotely as concerned about tending to that?

When we hurt or are disabled *physically*, we want a good doctor to run to in order to help make us well. We are more than ready to fill a prescription or practice therapies that will help us heal and get better in a *physical* way. And most of us probably take some kind (or a variety) of vitamins and supplements to help us maintain our *physical* health.

But do we do the daily things that can be like vitamins to help us maintain our *spiritual* health in our relationship with God? Are we as ready to practice disciplines and therapies that can help us to grow and become better in a *spiritual* way for ourselves and for the world around us? And when we become disabled *spiritually* by doubts and frustrations and sufferings, can we (do we) want to run just as fast to the great healer, Jesus Christ?

The season of Lent is a good time for us to do a personal inventory to see about and hopefully improve our *spiritual health care*. In fact, it’s been shown repeatedly in studies that people who are strong in their faith, also have even better physical health. And so just as your doctor has taken an oath and is charged with caring for your physical health, as your pastor, I have also taken an oath and been charged with seeing what I can do to help you either stay well or get well in your spiritual health.

I look forward to your upcoming office visit and check up with me during the Lenten season.

Blessings,

Pastor

Sunday Schedule

Worship

8 and 10:45 a.m.

Coffee Fellowship

9 a.m.

Youth Choir Rehearsal

10:10 a.m.

Children’s Church

10:45 a.m.

Holy Communion Weekly

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OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday

9 a.m. – noon

Friday
CLOSED

TELEPHONE

610-326-2810

www.stjamespottstown.org

STAFF

Ministers

Each and Every Member of St. James

Pastor

The Rev. Peter Hutchinson

e-mail: pastorh@stjamespottstown.org
home 610-718-0313

Director of Discipleship

Suzanne Rigg

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Secretary

Karen Orchard

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Director of Music Ministries

Sharon MacCabe

email: sharonbmaccabe@comcast.net
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Custodian

Glenn Yerger

contact: 610-326-2810

Missionaries

Dr. Stephen & Becky Thorson
Kathmandu, Nepal

Newsletter Editor

Dawn Detweiler

contact: newsletterstj@wi.rr.com

OFFICE NOTES

Newsletter Deadline for March 2010 Edition: February 15, 2010

Article submissions can be sent by e-mail to newsletterstj@stjamespottstown.org or placed in the "newsletter" mailbox the Sunday before the deadline. Also please note that articles may be edited for clarity and space conservation.

Master Calendar / Room Scheduling

All room reservations, including committee meetings and private gatherings, should be made with Suzanne by calling the office. Please indicate to her any need for room rearrangement, (extra chairs, tables) so proper preparations can be made.



Altar Flowers, Eternal Light Bulletin Sponsorships

The cost of each sponsorship is \$15 for eternal light, \$30 for altar flowers, and \$15 for bulletins. Envelopes are available in Horn Hall on the resource table. Cash or check payment can be placed in offering or turned in to the office.

Sign up sheets are posted in Horn Hall for anyone interested. You must sign up again in 2010 as no one is automatically reserved a date from the previous year.

Weather Cancellations

For cancellations or changes in the Sunday morning schedule due to inclement weather, please call the church for a message, watch for an announcement on WFMZ Channel 69 or check their website at wfmz.com (look for St. James ELC).

WORSHIP NOTES



Wednesday, February 10, 2010
7 p.m.
All are welcome!

Please remember that even though Rejoicing Spirits is dedicated to sharing God's Word and spreading his love to our brothers and sisters with developmental disabilities it is also open to everyone in the community. If you have not had a chance to come and worship with us, give it a try and see for yourself the love and joy that is shared among all who attend.



World Day of Prayer

World Day of Prayer will be celebrated on **Friday, March 5th at St. Paul's United Church of Christ, corner of Grace and Franklins Streets at 2 p.m.** sponsored by Pottstown Women United. The theme is "Let everything that had breath praise God." The women of Cameroon, West Africa invite us to their country through slides, worship and song. They remind us that with every breath we renew the gift of life, and for this we praise God. Everyone is welcome!

Bible Study Resumes

During the season of Lent, Pastor will resume his bible study class. Our study will be a six-week focus on the life of the apostle Peter as recorded in the New Testament. Issues such as: forgiveness, courage and boldness, loyalty and acceptance will be just some of the areas of Peter's relationship with Jesus Christ that we will be looking at with this study.

Class is offered two times: **every Tuesday evening, Feb. 16 – March 23 from 7 – 8 pm in the adult study class room downstairs in the church and Thursday mornings at Sanatoga Ridge Community from 10 – 11 pm beginning on Feb. 18 and concluding on March 25.**

Ash Wednesday LENTEN Worship



The season of Lent begins on **Ash Wednesday, February 17th**

For the Christian Church Lent is a penitential season and Ash Wednesday is our 'day of atonement' on which we most deliberately reflect upon our own sinfulness and our need for forgiveness, which we receive through Christ's sacrifice on the cross.

Two worship services will be held on February 17th

Early afternoon worship – 2 p.m.
Evening worship – 7 p.m.

As part of those services, we will offer the long held Christian tradition of **imposition of ashes**. Worshipers come forward to receive the ashes, and the words of our own mortality will be spoken by the pastor. There will also be **Holy Communion at both services**.

Worship continues on Wednesday nights through out the season of Lent



Soup Supper at 6 p.m.
and
Worship at 7 p.m.

See article on page 5 about joining the Lenten Hospitality Team.

Tanzanian Companion Congregation

We are in the early process of forming a relationship with a Tanzanian congregation of Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT). We are hoping to become a companion congregation to one of the congregations in the North-Eastern Diocese. To learn more about the North-Eastern Dioceses of the ELCT please see their website: www.elct-ned.org.

Currently we are working on our congregation's profile to help us be matched with a congregation from Tanzania. We are also looking for more individuals to serve on the team that will help facilitate and grow this relationship. We are looking for all kinds of people with a variety of interests and experiences. We would like to have all aspects of our congregation represented by the members who serve on this team.

If you would like more information about serving on the team or about what it means to be a companion congregation, please talk to any of the team members – Vickie Kirsten, Cyndi Krasley, Barbara Ungerman, Suzanne Rigg or Pastor Hutchinson.

Sunday Morning Adult Study Class

Seasons of the Spirit is a lectionary-based Bible study that shapes and transforms lives. Each week as a class the group will take an in-depth look at the Bible readings heard that week in worship while discovering and learning to share God's Word. The class teaches, inspires and involves its members in prayer and spiritual growth. **Individuals can join this class anytime.**

Sunday Morning Adult Education In the Blue Room

For three Sundays leading up to Lent (**Jan. 31, Feb. 7 & 14**) we will be **watching a video titled "Hashing It Out"**. Two prominent Christian writers and speakers, Tony Campolo and Steve Brown, sit down together at a diner and have a discussion (and agree to disagree) over some controversial subjects. Topics include: *'Is Capital Punishment Right?'*, *'Would Jesus Join the Environmental Movement?'*, *'Should a Christian Break the Law if Their Conscience Tells Them To?'*, *'Is Patriotism Idolatry?'*, *'Should Christians Support Gun Control?'*, and *'Do People Have a Right to Medical Care?'*

While both Campolo and Brown come to the table on these subjects from different political views, both approach the issues from a purely Christian perspective. After we hear their discussion, we'll have our own discussion about the same subjects, not from a political viewpoint, but from a Christian way of seeing things. Come and learn and enjoy!

For the Sundays during the Season of Lent (**Feb. 21- March 28**) we will **engage in a study and discussion of the Ten Commandments**. *"Been there, done that" you say? "Oh, I already know them", you're thinking? Not so fast.* While most of us think we know what they say and what they are all about, we often forget that Jesus said he came not to abolish the law but to fulfill it. What does that mean in conjunction with our understanding of the laws of God? How might these decrees of God, when looked at in the light of Christ, have more meaning in our life? Are they possible to keep and if not, why even bother with them? **"Come and see"** as the apostle Philip once said to a skeptic.

DISCIPLESHIP and FELLOWSHIP and SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Community Meal

This month, volunteers are **needed February 25th** to provide desserts, cook, set up and clean up. For more information, please call Susan Cameron at 610-718-9926. St. James will also be sponsoring the community meal in April, June, August and October.

Salvation Army Community Lunch

Each second Wednesday of the month a group of volunteers from St. James prepares and serves the community lunch at the Salvation Army. **This month it will be held February 10.** Help is needed at different times between 8:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Contact Jean Drauschak at 610-323-1792.

Please Consider Joining the Lenten Hospitality Team

Do you like making people feel at home? Or are you someone who likes to help behind the scene? If so, please consider joining the Lenten Hospitality Team. This team will **be responsible for the set up and clean up of our Lenten Soup Suppers. No special skills are required except for a willingness to help.**

A full description of the responsibilities of the team is available in Horn Hall next to the sign up sheet. If you are interested in serving on this team please sign up in Horn Hall or contact Suzanne at 610-326-2810 or srigg@thehill.org.



Blood Pressure Checks Second Sunday of the month

Stay well! Blood Pressure checks will be on **February 14th** after each service.

Women of the ELCA Upper Montgomery Conference Bible Study

The next WELCA Upper Montgomery Conference Bible Study will be held at Augustus Lutheran, Trappe, on **Tuesday, February 2, 2010, at 10 a.m. with coffee at 9:30.** The leader will be Janet Luyben presenting *Does God Keep Promises?*(Romans 11:29)

The March Bible Study will be held at St. John's Lutheran , Sumneytown, on **Tuesday, March 2 , 2010,** with Fran Ivarsen presenting *The Renewing of Our Minds* (Romans 12:1-2).

All women are invited to participate in these Bible Studies based on the theme *To God's Beloved: Paul's Letter to the Romans.* Study materials are found in Lutheran Women Today magazine. Subscriptions are available for \$12 per year. This is the 25th year of meeting and sharing together. Bring your friends. We welcome inter-denominational viewpoints. If you would like to attend, please contact Grace Schafer for carpooling.

Third Sunday Offering

February Recipient:
**ELCA Disaster Response
Haiti Earthquake Relief**

This month's Third Sunday Offering will go towards relief efforts in Haiti. On January 12 at 4:53 p.m., a magnitude 7.0 earthquake rocked the island country of Haiti, primarily impacting its capital of Port-au-Prince and its nearly two million residents. Over three million citizens of Haiti are affected. The epicenter of the quake was centered approximately 10 miles west of Port-au-Prince. Offices, hotels, houses and shops have collapsed. Over 30 aftershocks ranging from 4.2 to 6.0 have already been recorded.

The presidential palace is in ruins and many churches have been destroyed. Hospitals that were not directly impacted by the quake are overflowing and the search for survivors was intense. Already one of the poorest countries in the world, this catastrophe will exacerbate the suffering felt by many already living with hunger and poverty.

ELCA Disaster Response partners with The Lutheran World Federation and Lutheran World Relief in providing emergency food, water, shelter and medical supplies to those who have survived the quake.



Your help is needed to continue relief efforts and to give continued hope to our brothers and sisters in Haiti. About 3 million people - one-third of Haiti's population - were affected by this earthquake.

One hundred percent of your gift to this Third Sunday Offering will be matched by an anonymous donor from St. James allowing us to double our gift.

Please be generous and thank you for your support of this effort.

2010 Third Sunday Offering Schedule

FEBRUARY – ELCA Disaster Response (Haiti Earthquake Relief)
MARCH - Cluster Outreach Center
APRIL - Visiting Nurse Association
MAY – Volunteer Home Care
JUNE - Salvation Army
JULY – School supplies for children (Cluster Outreach Center)
AUGUST – Homeless Ministries of Pottstown
SEPTEMBER – Lutheran World Relief
OCTOBER – Cluster Outreach Center
NOVEMBER – Lutheran Theological Seminary (Seminary Sunday)
DECEMBER – ELCA World Hunger



Sunday, February 7, 2010

More than 20 years ago the Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group: A simple prayer: "Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat."

Since that day over \$60 million dollars have been raised for local charities across the country through the Souper Bowl of Caring. It has become a powerful movement that has transformed Super Bowl weekend into the nation's largest youth lead weekend of giving and serving as they work to collect food and money for food for the hungry and compassion to those in need.

Be a part of this movement that is sharing God's love to those in need by giving generously on **Souper Bowl Sunday, February 7. Every dollar donated or food item collected goes to the Cluster Outreach Center.** In addition, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans through their Care in Regions program will provide a supplement of \$1 for every \$3 raised up to \$250. So please bring your donations with you on Sunday, February 7 to support the efforts of our youth and to help the neediest in our community.



Free Monthly Forum on the Needs and Care of the Aging

Grace Lutheran Church in Royersford

continues to host a monthly meeting/forum for people to gather, receive access to information and to ask questions of professionals to help them with the challenges of providing care for themselves or others. Presenters will include social workers, visiting nurses, doctors, lawyers, and hospice workers.

All sessions are free and will be held at **Grace Lutheran Church (6th and Main Sts. Royersford)** on the third Monday of the month, **from 7- 8:30 p.m.** **Registration** is appreciated and **can be done by calling the church office at 610-948-3684.**

Below are the dates and session topics for the next two months:

February 15 – A biological/physiological look at the aging process – What's normal?
Presenter – Dr. Jane Brown

March 15 – Post hospital in-home services and outpatient therapy – VNA Services.
Presenter – Rob Gutmann

Employment Opportunities!

Beginning in March, the U.S. Census is looking for persons to help collect census data in the field as well as work in the office of their facilities in the coming months.

These positions are temporary and the duration can vary. Positions are available throughout Montgomery County, but most census takers work in or close to their local community. Work hours can be anywhere from 20 – 40 a week and to qualify is very simple. The rate of pay for census takers in the field is \$17.75 per hour, and for office help the range is from \$13.50 - \$19.25 per hour.

If you are interested you may contact the Norristown office at 484-681-7000 or speak to pastor or Suzanne for more information. There are also brochures in Horn Hall with relevant information

News from the Pottstown Cluster

Current needs for the food pantry include:
jelly, laundry and dish detergent, sizes 4-6 diapers, baby wipes, baby oil, baby rash cream, baby shampoo, all purpose cleaner, shampoo, Ensure and unopened diabetic test strips;

and for the clothing closet:
towels, washcloths, sheets (full size), ladies' socks, ladies' underwear (sizes 7-9), kids' socks, kids' winter pajamas/sleepers, boys' jeans (7-18), babies' winter jackets (newborn – 2T), girls' tops (24mo – 2T)

Donations for the Cluster can be brought to St. James and placed in the basket by the lower level mailboxes located at the bottom of the stairs closest to the parking lot. Donations can also be taken directly to the Cluster.

Pottstown Cluster of Religious Communities

137 Walnut Street Pottstown, PA 19464

(610) 970-5995

Hours of Operation: Monday - Friday,
9 AM-12 Noon

MEMBER NEWS



February Birthdays

1- Caleb Weaner; 2 – Heather Levan; 3 – Karen Hall, Kay Kalbach, Justin Strichik; 5 – Jaclyn Bealer, Virginia Reber, Shirley Reidnauer; 6 – Jim Geiger; 7 – Howard Snyder; 9 – Chipper Meadowcroft; 10 – Marian Rex, Lee Weil; 11 – Nancy Clements; 13 – Marge Fegley; 14 – Maggie Rothenberger, Emily Rose; 15 – Alexis Yashin; 18 – Kimberly Mittura; 19 – Dana Clancy, Debbie Fisher, Bret Neiman; 20 – Nicole Bealer, Brett Hoffman; 21 – Lyni Clements; Betty Johnson; 25 – Elena Giraldi, Dave Brewer; 26 - Don Detweiler, Andrew O’Connell, Nelda Reynier; 28 – Page Faith; Fay Saylor; 29 – Emily Jerdon, Wendy Cocci

Thank You Notes

THANK YOU, THANK YOU! Thanks to all who donated blood and also thanks to those who helped to set-up and conduct our blood drive. We had 39 people register and were able to give 36 units to Miller-Keystone for local use. IT WAS A GREAT BLOOD DRIVE!

Thanks and God bless,
Ellen Ibach

Dear Friends as St. James Lutheran Church,

You have honored us with a very generous gift in support of our charitable mission. We are delighted to receive the \$344 donation to the Visiting Nurse Association of Pottstown & Vicinity. It is received in the same caring spirit in which it was given. Your meaningful support is genuinely needed and appreciated. The funds will be utilized to serve the underinsured and non-insured who lack the resources to pay for care. This will mean a great deal to those we serve.

Sincerely,
Lucille D Gough, RN, MSN, MBA
President and CEO

More Thank You Notes

Thank you to Grace Schafer, Kathryn Geist and Pat Weber for organizing our kitchen pantry. It looks wonderful!

Thank you to the person or persons who cleaned up for me after the coffee fellowships on January 3. It was a pleasant surprise for me to find it was done. Suzanne Rigg

Suzanne,
I would like to express a warm and sincere thank you to you and St. James for assisting The Salvation Army of Pottstown with the Angel Tree program this year. We, at The Salvation Army, are indeed honored to have such kind and generous people like you participate in our program.

Many Blessings,
Major Mary Francis (Commanding Officer)
Frank Chesney
(Community Case Manager/Volunteer Food & Community Service Coordinator)

Dear friends,
As we prepare for another busy year, we are especially thankful for your gift of \$267.50 in support of the life-saving mission of Lutheran World Relief. On behalf of the staff of Lutheran World Relief, our partners, and those we serve, please accept my heartfelt thanks and may God continue to bless you in the coming year.

In Christ,
John A Nunes
President and CEO
Lutheran World Relief



Deepest Sympathies:

To the family and friends of Mabel Meloy

Memorial Contributions:

In memory of Robert Wien: Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Hutchison, Elizabeth Gille, Gail and Anna Neiffer, Barbara Thornton, Gladys Evans, Lani Goins, Shirly Joslin, Olga Christman, Annette Renn, Mr. & Mrs. Willard Bickel, Jane Trate, Mr. & Mrs. Alvah Lloyd, Ellen Jameson, Farrell Family, Mr. & Mrs. Mike Lengyel, Mr. & Mrs. Earl Moyer, Mr. & Mrs. Jon Fink, Baer Family

In memory of Mary Arnt: Mr. & Mrs. David Renn, Josephine O'Neill, Jane Trate, Ben & Anny Stapp, Jonathan Stapp, Patty Walker, Gayle Speizer, Mr. & Mrs. Schafer, Gail & Anna Neiffer, Mr. & Mrs. Earl Moyer, Mrs. & Mrs. William Mauger, Mr. & Mrs. Michael Lengyel, Bill, Terry & Vena Lee, Angeline Kratzer, Cheryl Issa, Ellen Gallagher, Mrs. & Mrs. Jon Fink, Barbara Delucchi, Elizabeth, Darocha, Olga Christman, Sheila Specht, Charles Arnt, Mrs. & Mrs. Paul Casner, Barbara Browning, Robert Rheel, Mr. & Mrs. Willard Bickel, Mr. & Mrs. Melvin Barlow, Mr. & Mrs. Ted Baer, Joan Ziegler, Patricia Donatelli, John Martignetti,

In memory of Alice Schindler: Virginia Ritner, Anthony Kostiner, M.D., James & Patricia Purnell, Mike & Phyllis Lengyel, Dorothy Bomberger

In memory of Leonard Wert: Mr. & Mrs. Larry Wert

In memory of Jean Davidheiser: Chipper and Sandy Meadowcroft

TREASURER'S REPORT

	Dec 2009	Year to Date
INCOME	\$41,013.23	\$293,235.55
EXPENSES	- 29,365.27	- 294,765.31
NET INCOME	11,647.96	(\$1533.76)

REGULAR ENVELOPES

Received	\$ 24,303.00	\$226,756.88
Needed*	19,739.69	236,876.64
Over (Under)	\$ 4,563.31	(\$10,119.76)

THIRD SUNDAY OFFERING

ELCA World Hunger Appeal		
Collected	\$ 372.00	

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

	Dec - 2009	Total Campaign
Income	\$ 8,159.00	\$413,339.75

*Amount required to balance the budget.

Council Member Contact

If at anytime you have a question, concern, or suggestion that might help the church, contact one of the following elected Council members.

Pat Baer - President 610-326-8598
Email: pattedbaer@verizon.net

Cyndi Krasley- Vice-President 484-945-0165
Email: nannahsdmb@gmail.com

Barbara Ungerman - Secretary 610-718-9368
Email: bungerman@comcast.net

Caleb Weaner 610-960-6705
Email: calebweaner@hotmail.com

Marge Fegley 610-323-3936
Email: fuz36121@aol.com

Mike Lunn 610-367-8762
Email: lunns2@dejazzd.com

Julie Hauck 215-378-1827
Email: jlynn65@ptd.net

Scott Strichik 610-327-3108
Email: sstrichik@verizon.net

Laurie O'Connell 610-323-5787
Email: rloconnelljr@concast.net

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Email: trheel@comcast.net

Candy Koons 610-326- 9448
Email: cjkoons@aol.com

Rose Wagner 610-327-4995
Email: rcrmwagner@comcast.net

Council Members' Bios on Next Page

Meet our 2010 Church Council Members

PRESIDENT OF THE CONGREGATION, **PAT BAER** is a life-long member of St. James. She worked for GE/Lockheed Martin for 31 years, retiring in 2002. She now spends her time volunteering at Pottstown Memorial Hospital and at St. James as the captain of the Relay for Life team, chair of the Personnel Committee, member of the Chancel Choir, Altar Guild and the Endowment Committee and as counter. She has previously served six years on church council and nine years on the Southeast Pennsylvania Synod's Candidacy Committee. Together with her husband Ted, she has been on ten work mission trips. They share their home with Duke, their dog, and their cats, Tillie and Jake. Her hobbies include reading, photography and sewing.

VICE-PRESIDENT, **CYNDI KRASLEY** her husband Rob reside in Stowe. She has two sons, David and Justin, and two stepchildren, Chelle' and Chris. She also has five wonderful grandchildren. Cyndi is a hair stylist and also works at the Philadelphia Premium Outlets Center. She enjoys being active at St. James and in her spare time enjoys walking, reading and knitting.

SECRETARY, **BARBARA UNGERMAN** grew up in Oreland (just outside of Philadelphia), graduated from Millersville and 10 days later married John. They have two married daughters and one grandson and one granddaughter. Barbara taught preschool prior to moving to Pottstown in 2000. She currently works one day a week for John and two days a week at Generations Quilt Shop. When not working, you can find her at her sewing machine, in the garden or traveling. At St. James she serves on the Altar Guild, is a worship assistant, and a member of the Relay for Life and Work Mission teams.

TREASURER, **DAVE GARNER**, as the newly-elected treasurer looks forward to working with long-time treasurer Sherry Clancy in her new position as Finance Administrator. Dave is a presently a member of the property and finance committees; he has previously served on the personnel, stewardship and search committees as well as Council for nine years. At St. James Dave assists as a Sunday school teacher, lector, usher, chalice bearer and communion assistant. He is pleased to be a part of the Work mission groups for 10 trips (and counting). In the community Dave has participated on various non-profit boards since 1988. An attorney for 26 years he is a sole practitioner with an office in Lower Pottsgrove. Dave enjoys walking, gardening, travelling and just spending time with his wife of 25 years, Nancy.

MARGE FEGLEY was born and raised in the Pottstown area. She is a graduate from Pottstown High school, Chestnut Hill Hospital as an RN, and Cedar Crest College with a BA in social work. She has also lived in Baltimore and New Jersey. She retired from Pottstown Memorial Hospital in 1996, at which time her husband, Leonard (Fuzzy) died. Marge and her husband joined St. James in 1990. She volunteers with children at the Pottstown Elementary Schools, represents St. James on Church Women United, and Manatawny Manor Committees. Marge enjoys being an active member of St. James. She has a son, Eric and a granddaughter Alisha, and lives with Maxi her cat.

JULIE HAUCK is a life long Lutheran and grew up in Levittown, PA. She is a graduate of West Chester University with a BA in social work. She is employed with Kencrest Services and works with adults with developmental disabilities. Her hobbies include motorcycling, traveling, reading and volunteering with the Cat Angel Network. Julie lives in Douglassville with her husband Chris and their three cats.

CANDY KOONS is a life-long member of St. James. She was born and raised in Pottstown. After graduating from Brandywine College with an Associate Degree in Accounting she resided in Wilmington, Delaware for two years before returning to Pottstown. Candy is employed as the comptroller at Gale Nurseries, Inc. in Gwynedd, PA. She has one daughter, Amy. At St. James she currently serves as a leader for Children's Church and delivers flowers to shut-ins. In her free time she enjoys reading, traveling, walking and sewing.

MIKE LUNN was born in Toledo, Ohio and raised in Pottstown. He is a graduate of Pottstown High School and received a B.S. and M.Ed. He holds degrees from West Chester University and completed additional graduate work and Penn State University. In 1960 he joined the U.S. Marine Corps. And served as a Communication and Artillery Officer, attaining the rank of Major. With his wife Janis they have three children and four grandchildren. Mike joined St. James in 1955 and serves on the Property and Personnel Committees. Retired from the Boyertown School Area School District, he has been on all but three of the St. James mission trips. Mike enjoys reading, outdoor activities and traveling.

LAURIE O'CONNELL has been a member of St. James since age 4. She graduated from Pottstown High School and received her paralegal degree from Widener University. She is currently working for a law firm in Lionville. She is married to Rob and they have two grown sons, Michael and Andrew. At St. James, she is a member of the Chancel Choir, Bell Choir, Altar Guild, Worship and Music team, Relay for Life team and serves as a lector and chalice bearer. She previously served three years on Church Council, was a member of the Christian Education Committee and a Sunday School teacher. She enjoys singing and reading and is a passionate Phillies, Eagles, Penn State and Villanova fan.

TRACIE RHEEL was born and raised in Pottstown, and was baptized and confirmed here at St. James. She is a graduate of Pottsgrove High School and Bucknell University. Tracie returned to St. James in 2003, and she currently serves on the Stewardship Committee, the Relay for Life team, captains a counting team & supports Rejoicing Spirits the 2nd Wednesday of every month! She has been part of the Work Mission Team for the last 5 years. Her hobbies include cooking and reading.

SCOTT STRICHK was born in Mount Pleasant, southeast of Pittsburgh. His family moved to Blue Bell when he was 8. He graduated from Wissahickon High School and earned his Bachelor's degree in Business Administration/Accounting from Delaware Valley College in Doylestown. Scott works at Roselon Industries in Quakertown where he recently became Controller. He lives in Upper Pottsgrove with his wife Kim and their two sons Nathan and Justin and his daughter Natalie. Scott enjoys reading history books, playing ice hockey, skiing, camping and cooking, especially when he has Nathan's help. At Saint James, Scott has been a soundboard technician, a counting team captain and serves on the Endowment committee.

ROSE WAGNER was born in Hanau, Germany and raised in Glenwood, Minnesota. She is a lifelong Lutheran and joined St. James eleven years ago with her husband, Bob. They have two sons, Jeremy and Troy and two dogs, Foster and Riley. Rose graduated from the University of Minnesota with degrees in Political Science and Broadcast Journalism. She moved to Pennsylvania in 1988 and worked in TV production and publishing for 15 years before taking a break to become a stay-at-home mom. She teaches Children's Church at St. James and previously worked on the church newsletter. Rose is also a Cub Scout leader and school volunteer. Her hobbies include reading, skiing, golf and travel.

CALEB WEANER was born in Parsons, West Virginia where he grew up on a sixty-acre farm. He moved to Pottstown December 26th, 2004 to work for a local timber framing company. He currently works as the purchaser for electronics manufacture in Coatesville. Caleb and his wife Kimberly have been attending Saint James since 2006 and were married there in 2007. Caleb is a passionate sports fan supporting the Phillies and Virginia Tech Hokies. Caleb enjoys fishing, hiking, reading and building things with his hands.

