

the Spirit of St. James



St. James Lutheran Church, 1101 High Street, Pottstown, Pennsylvania, 19464 • (610) 326-2810 • FEBRUARY 2008

OUR MISSION FOR ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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Worship
8 and 10:45 a.m.

Coffee Fellowship
9 a.m.

Children's Church
10:45 a.m.

Adult Education Classes
9:30 a.m.

Holy Communion Weekly

***See Lenten Worship Schedule on
page 4***

***See Holy Week Schedule
On page 5***



OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday
8 a.m. – noon and 1 – 2:30 p.m.

Friday
8 a.m. – noon

TELEPHONE

610-326-2810

Fax: 610-326-1025

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
e-mail: srigg@thehill.org
office 610-326-2810
home 610-970-4865

Secretary

Darlene Jackson
e-mail:
secretary@stjamespottstown.org

Director of Music Ministries

Sharon MacCabe
Email: sharonbmaccabe@comcast.net
Office: 610-326-2810

Custodian

Larry Kehler
home: 610-327-2238

Missionaries

Dr. Stephen & Becky Thorson
Kathmandu, Nepal

Newsletter Editor

Dawn Detweiler
newsletterstj@wi.rr.com

OFFICE NOTES

Master Calendar / Room Scheduling

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

Newsletter Deadline for March '08 Edition: February 15, 2007

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.

Snow Cancellations

Please watch for an announcement on WFMZ Channel 69 or by checking their website at wfmz.com (look for St. James ELC), listen to WPAZ radio (AM 1370), check St. James's website or call the church for a message regarding cancellations or changes in the Sunday morning schedule due to inclement weather.

Newsletter On-line

If you ever lose or misplace your newsletter you can read it on-line at our website: www.stjamespottstown.org. The newsletter is located under News. The assisting ministers' schedule can also be found on our website under Worship/Servants.

Altar Flowers, Eternal Light and Bulletin Sponsorships

Just a reminder that we do not put flowers on the altar during Lent (Sundays of February 10 – March 16). Please feel free to sponsor the eternal light or the bulletins during that time. Sign up sheets are posted in Horn Hall for anyone interested. Remember that **no one is automatically reserved a date from the previous year**. You must request the date each year that you want to sponsor.



A Note From Pastor Hutchinson

“*Are you happy?*”



OK, maybe the question is better put “*Do you wish you were happier than you are?*” Well, the truth is, we all do. So how about we work on being happier!

“*Now wait just a minute!*” you might say. “*Aren’t we about to enter the somber and solemn season of Lent? Is this a time to talk about being happy?*” And the answer to that is simply: “Yes.” Lent is a time when we are called to practice disciplines of self-denial, but we engage in those kinds of things to help us grow in faith, hope and love. Most important of all, we take part in Lenten practices so that we might grow closer to Jesus Christ and therefore closer to God.

But let’s not think of Lent as a time when we are to be particularly unhappy. If my happiness depends on whether or not I eat sweets and desserts, then I am a pretty shallow person, not to mention, weak in my faith. On the contrary, by participating in various Lenten practices we can grow closer to the Lord. The natural result of that will then be happier people.

The truth is, the main source of our unhappiness is not broken relationships, failing health, money problems, job worries or the like. The main reason for being unhappy lies in our distance from God and failure to allow our faith to mitigate our problems. When we are walking more closely with him, we find joy in our lives even in the midst of the troubles.

This Lenten season we are going to try to help you to help yourself to be happier through a commitment to practice some of the significant marks of being a disciple (that is, a ‘follower’) of Jesus. They include,

worship; prayer; learning; encouraging; serving; and giving. And as we see how these disciplines will help us to grow in our walk with the Lord, our commitment to them will end up making each of us a happier person.

So as we begin Lent, smile. God loves you and wants you to love him back.

PASTOR

Bible Study with Pastor Starting February 5th and 7th

Lent is a season for personal self-reflection with a desire to grow closer to God through faith. One of the greatest gifts that Jesus gave to us to help us to become more spiritually healthy are The Beatitudes. We may have all heard about “*Blessed are the meek...*”, yet what do all those things really mean? During the season of Lent we will have a study on the Beatitudes, to help us better understand what Jesus meant by these sayings and what they mean for us today.

Our sessions will run, as always, on **Tuesday nights in the Adult Classroom** next to the church office and on **Thursday mornings at Sanatoga Retirement Village**. **Tuesday gatherings will be at 7 p.m.** starting on the night before Ash Wednesday (Feb. 5) and **Thursday gatherings will be at 10 a.m.** (with coffee and doughnuts provided!) starting the day after Ash Wednesday (Feb. 7). The class will run up thru Holy Week, ending on March 18/20. All are welcomed and invited!

WORSHIP NOTES

Ash Wednesday LENTEN Worship

The season of Lent begins on
Ash Wednesday, February 6th

For the Christian Church this penitential season 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 services will be held on February 6th
Early afternoon service – 2 p.m.
Evening service – 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 throughout the season of Lent.



Midweek Lenten Worship

Midweek Lenten worship will be on the following five **Wednesdays in Lent at 7 p.m.:**
February 13, 20, 27, March 5 and 12.

During our mid-week Lenten worship we will learn about different faith practices or marks of discipleship, which include: worship, prayer, learning, encouraging, serving and giving. So please come and enjoy the delicious soups and salads at 6 p.m., but most especially come and learn and **grow in your faith** as we make the Lenten journey to the Cross, and then to the Resurrection.

Pre-Lent Dessert and Coffee Monday, February 4th 7 p.m.

Come out for a night of **fellowship and food** when each of us will have the **opportunity to learn about Lutheran Prayer Beads**, a tool one can use for prayer during the season of Lent. All present will have the chance to make their own prayer beads and will receive a copy of *Praying the Small Catechism with Beads* to use with as devotions for Lent. **Please sign up in Horn Hall** if you plan to attend so that beads can be provided for all.

Lenten Soup Suppers

During the season of Lent, **beginning February 13th**, we will again hold our traditional mid-week **Lenten soup and salad suppers, followed by worship services**. We will be inviting the Rejoicing Spirit folks to the meal and worship service on February 13th and March 12th as well.

Meals are served at 6 p.m. and services begin at 7 p.m. each Wednesday up until Holy Week. Each year we enjoy a delicious variety of soups, along with wonderfully fresh and creative salads and good breads. In keeping with the spirit of self-denial of earthly pleasures during Lent, there will be no desserts provided at the suppers, but the meals themselves are wonderful enough and nobody will be disappointed! Visitors are welcomed, so bring with you anyone who would like to come.

**New Adult Study Beginning
February 10
Growing Disciples – Discipleship in the
New Testament**

“What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus?” This study will seek to base an answer on the way Jesus interacted with the first disciples. To help us grow in our discipleship, we will look at both the way the disciples first came to follow and how they grew in their relationship with Jesus.

The six sessions of study invite you to a deeper walk with Jesus through an examination of six key components of discipleship – Followers, Learners, Ministers, Living Examples, and Leaders.

Through this course and by the power of the Holy Spirit you will:

- Engage the Word as it reveals how Jesus’ followers moved from being new partners to becoming more mature disciples
- Hear and respond to Jesus’ invitation to follow and to move into a commitment of growth in discipleship.



Holy Week Worship Schedule

Palm/Passion Sunday

March 16th at 8 and 10:45 a.m.

Seder Meal/Maundy Thursday Worship

March 20th at 6 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Good Friday Worship

March 21st at 7 p.m.



What a great evening at our last Rejoicing Spirits worship. There were new faces, participation by many of the Rejoicers and the overwhelming sense of the Holy Spirit's presence. Thanks to Jaci, Justin, Adam, Bryan, Patrick, and also to Rob, Dave and Jeff for their help in leading worship. The evening affirmed the wonderful work of God's people going on in this place.

With the start of a new year, a new goal has been set for the offering. In 2008 we will try to purchase five sheep through Heifer International. The cost of each sheep is \$500. Last year we were able to purchase a heifer, a trio of rabbits and a flock of chicks.

February's and March's Rejoicing Spirits will be incorporated into our regular Wednesday night Lenten worship services. We hope that many of the regular Rejoicers will join all us for worship in these two months.

Worship at Parkview

On Sunday, March 9th at 2:30 p.m., folks from St. James are once again invited to come and lead the worship service at the Parkhouse Nursing home in Royersford.

If you would be interested in helping out with this (reading a lesson, helping distribute communion or just to pass out bulletins and help sing hymns) please let Pastor know. We'll meet at the church parking lot around 1:30 p.m. and car pool there and be home by around 3:30 that afternoon.

First Communion Instruction

Pastor wishes to inform any parents who believe that their child is interested in receiving Holy Communion that he will offer instruction during the season of Lent, so that the children may **receive their first Holy Communion on Easter Sunday** morning. Instruction is generally done after 10:45 worship with the children (and hopefully parents present also) for about **15 – 20 minutes for three Sundays**. Pastor will work with the schedules of parents in order to accommodate any special needs.



If you and your child are interested, please advise Pastor or our Diaconal Minister, Suzanne Rigg.



- All interior work to the Nave/Sanctuary is completed.
- The work to the roof has begun.
- Still waiting to hear when the elevator work will begin.
- Total amount given to date is approximately \$135, 000.

Third Sunday Offering

FEBRUARY Recipient:
Seminary Sunday - February 17, 2008

This month's Third Sunday Offering will go to The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia (LTSP). On February 17th our seminarian Jerry Lutz will be preaching and bringing us information on the seminary.

The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia is a learning and worshipping community of teachers and students centered in the Gospel of the crucified and risen Christ, firmly committed to Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, with an intentional openness to enrichment from other traditions. Their mission is as follows:

The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia,
a school of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,
is committed to preparing ordained and lay ministers of the Word
as leaders for the mission of the Church in the world.

The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia is committed to developing and nurturing leaders solidly rooted in Scripture, formed by prayer, imbued with missionary zeal, and able to mobilize the people of God to tackle the difficult task of renewing the church in our day.

This month please consider giving to LTSP and their mission of providing leaders for the Church.

Third Sunday Offering Schedule

MARCH - Cluster Outreach Center
APRIL - Visiting Nurse Association
MAY – Volunteer Home Care

DISCIPLESHIP and FELLOWSHIP and SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Community Meal

This month, **volunteers are needed February 28th** to provide desserts, cook, set up and clean up. Please call Susan Cameron at 610-718-9926 for more information.

Salvation Army Community Lunch 2nd Wednesday of Month

Volunteers are needed at different times between 8:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to help with cooking, serving and cleanup. Please consider helping those in need. For additional information please contact Jean Drauschak at 610-323-1792.

Women of the ELCA Upper Montgomery Conference Bible Study



The next WELCA Upper Montgomery Conference Bible Study will be held at Augustus Lutheran Church, Trappe on **February 5th at 10 a.m. with coffee at 9:30**. The leader will be Janet Luyben presenting *Mercy Made Real- Disciples as Forgiven Forgivers*.

The March Bible Study will be held at on March 4th at St. James Lutheran Church, Limerick, with Ann Seislove presenting *Pure in Heart, Rich in Vision*.

All women are invited to participate in these Bible Studies based on the theme Blessed to follow: The Beatitudes as a Compass for Discipleship.

This is the 23rd year of meeting and sharing together. Bring your friends. We welcome interdenominational viewpoints. If you would like to attend, please contact Grace Schafer or Mary Arnt for carpooling.



Thanks to everyone who helped and supported our recent fundraiser. We sold 275 nut-rolls and have heard from many people how much they enjoyed them. One of our members confessed they she ate a whole one all by herself!

The St. James ornaments were a big hit. We still have an inventory, so please remember that they make great gifts for baptisms, weddings, anniversaries, etc. Margaret & Willard Bickel sent one to Ray Yocom in Massachusetts. He called them to say how much he liked it and has it sitting out where he can see it all the time. They cost \$15 each.

This year's Relay is on **May 31- June 1**. We are just beginning to get our team organized. If you would like to be part of the St. James team, please contact me, Pat Baer, or Tracie Rheel, Bob Rheel, or Olga Christman.

The Relay for Life benefits the American Cancer Society. The Pottstown Relay is **# 5** in the **WORLD** in fund raising dollars. The St. James team is **# 10** in fund raising out of 125 teams. I would like to give credit to **Olga Christman**, because without her creativity, time, and energy, we would not have raised over **\$16,000** this year. Thank you to Olga and to all 42 members of the 2007 team.

Scholarship Fund Applications Available

A \$1000 a year scholarship is available to be given to youth as monies for college or post high school education. Allocation of the scholarship money will be dependent on the number of approved candidates as determined by the Scholarship Committee. Applications are available from the office and **must be submitted completed no later that March 15, 2008.**

The following criteria will be considered when granting these scholarships:

- * Applicant must be an active member of St. James for a minimum of one year.
- * Applicant must be active in St. James' ministries.
- * Applicant must be a graduating Senior of their high school and are eligible to receive scholarship monies up to five years from their high school graduation date.
- * Applicant must graduate with a minimum 2.5 GPA or its equivalent.
- * Applicant must be accepted into or participating in a recognized program of studies (ex. college, junior college, community college, nursing school, trade school, etc.)
- * Applicant must have a satisfactory record of school citizenship and attendance.
- * Applicant may apply more than once for this scholarship if they met the above criterion.

If you have any questions about this exciting program, please contact the office for further details. **Don't forget to make the March 15th deadline.**

Bus Trip To Sight and Sound Theatre February 20, 2008 "Daniel and the Lion's Den"

Earl and Helen Moyer wish to extend an invitation to the members and friends of St. James Church to join them on a bus trip on February 20 to the Sight and Sound Millennium Theatre for the presentation of "Daniel and the Lion's Den." The group will depart from Kmart, 2200 East High Street at 8:30 a.m. and from Boyertown Plaza at 9:00 a.m. Lunch will be at the Willow Valley Resort at 11:15 a.m., followed by the show at 1:00 p.m. at the Strausburg location.

The bus should arrive back in Pottstown by 5 p.m. The complete cost including taxes and tips is \$74.50/person. For reservations please call 610-970-5450.



Blood Pressure Checks

Stay well! Blood Pressure checks will be **February 3rd** after the 8 a.m. worship and again prior to the 10:45 a.m. service.

Thank You Notes

Dear Friends,
On behalf of the Pottstown Cluster of Religious Communities I wish to thank you for the December contribution of \$1000 for the General Fund and for the \$349 for the Clothe-A-Child program. I would also like to thank you for 1,107 lbs. of food, 8 bags/boxes of clothing and the 40 bags/items of household good. Your contributions have been put to good use in the community and we look forward to your continued support.

Very truly yours,
Sandford J. Christophel
Treasurer



Dear Friends in Christ,
We want to sincerely thank you for your generous gift of \$286. Your gift helps us in our mission of "Doing the Most Good" for the needy of the Pottstown area. God bless you.

Sincerely, Major Ruth Stoneburner

St. James Lutheran Church,
Thank you for your gift of \$495 to support Stephen Thorson. We give thanks for your partnership in this ministry.

Your servant for Christ's sake,
Pastor Charles Lindquist
General Director of the World Mission Prayer League

Thank you to all who helped with the moving of furniture, hymnals, etc. to give us space to worship in Horn Hall and to allow the work to continue in the sanctuary/nave.

Just as we tend to overlook and take for granted little and regular blessings from God in our daily life,...I do not want to make that mistake with so many of our blessings here at St. James. One thing that I am always so grateful and thankful for is the consistently reliable presence of bread with which to celebrate Holy Communion every Sunday morning. And so this is just a short note to say 'thanks so much' to Anna and Gail Neiffer, who faithfully see to it that we are provided with that as a means by which God provides us with an even greater gift: the gift of his Son in the bread and the wine. Many thanks again.

Pastor

Thank you to the congregation from the staff for the gift cards. We appreciate your thoughtfulness and generosity.

Thank you to the St. James members who came to our home to sing Christmas carols. We appreciate being included on your tour that rainy day.

Barry and Jane Trate

Thank you to all who fill in on Sunday mornings last minute. Your assistance is much appreciated.

I would like to say thank you to the Members of St. James Lutheran church for the cards and gifts received during the holidays. I would especially like to thank the congregation for the generous gift. It has been a pleasure serving you and getting to know some of you. I truly feel God has blessed me with letting me be a part of this congregation.

Darlene Jackson, Church Secretary

MEMBER NEWS

Births

Congratulations to Sherry and Don Clancy upon the birth of their daughter **Eden Elisabeth Clancy** born on January 8, 2008.

Congratulations to April Taylor upon the birth of her son **Ryan David Taylor**.



Baptisms

We welcome to the Lord's family:
Olivia Elizabeth Civera, daughter of Aimee and Mario Civera.

February Birthdays

2 – Heather Levan, Mildred Miller;
3 – Karen Hall, Kay Kalbach, Justin Strichik;
5 – Jaclyn Bealer, Shirley Reidnauer;
6 – Jim Geiger; 7 – Donald Bergstresser, 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 – Betty Johnson; 25 - David Brewer, Virginia Reber;
26 - Don Detweiler, Andrew O'Connell, Nelda Reynier, Nancy Schultz; 28 – Kevin Eshbach, Fay Saylor; 29 – Emily Jerdon, Wendy Cocci

Address Changes

Thomas and Jessica Mitchell, 229 Hopewell St., Birdsboro, PA 19508

Karen, Gary and Ryan Hall, 664 Gatsby Glen Drive, Verona, WI 53593

Dot Nagy, Manor Care, 724 N. Charlotte St., Pottstown, PA 19464

“Have you invited anyone to church lately?”

Deepest Sympathies

To family and friends of Dorothy Deloplaine

Memorial Contributions

Given for Dorothy Deloplaine
from Doris Sayers, Mary Kimmage, Donald Ellis, Louis Weiner & Family, Patricia Mullen, Mike and Darlene Medvetz, Barbara Thornton, Terry & Jean Duputy, Gladys Evans, Judith Kelly, Northeast Building Systems

CHURCH COUNCIL INFO

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.

Ron Schafer - President 610-326-4814
Email: ronslibrary@aol.com

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

Vickie Kirsten - Secretary 484-300-4915
Email: vkirsten@comcast.net

Sherry Clancy - Treasurer 610-323-5977
Email: srclancy@comcast.net

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

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

Jeff Leiby 610-327-9454
Email: jefnrobn@yahoo.com

Jim Irwin 323-1511
Email: jei1013hotmail.com

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

Mary Arnt 610-323-6176

David Hartzman 610-909-5806
Email: Crittersdad1949@aol.com

Tracie Rheel 610-323-7051
Email: trheel@comcast.net

Chipper Meadowcroft 610-327-0458
Email: meadow1135@hotmail.com

Jessica Mitchell 610-970-4250
Email: jrabbit23@comcast.net

TREASURER'S REPORT

	<u>Dec-2007</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income	\$ 64,107.03	\$ 312,319.70
Expenses	<u>54,390.42</u>	<u>304,659.01</u>
Net Income	\$9,716.61	\$7,660.69

Regular Envelopes

Received	\$22,127.50	\$218,150.75
Needed*	<u>19,780.31</u>	<u>237,363.76</u>
Over (Under)	\$2,347.19	(\$19,213.01)

Third Sunday Offering

Collected	\$231.00
Beneficiary	ELCA World Hunger Appeal

*Each month includes \$14,729 actual pledged and an additional \$5,051 needed to balance the budget.

Meet our 2008 Church Council Members!

PRESIDENT OF THE CONGREGATION, **RON SCHAFFER** was born and raised in Lehighton where he was graduated from Lehighton High School. He majored in library science and English at Kutztown State Teachers College (now Kutztown University) and did graduate work at Temple University. After serving for 37 years as a teacher of English and as librarian at Pottsgrove High School, Ron retired in 1995. Ron and Grace are the parents of three sons and are grandparents to two granddaughters and a grandson. Ron's pastimes include reading, walking, and traveling. At St. James, he is a member of the Christian Education Committee and serves as a lector, courier and a counter.

VICE-PRESIDENT, **PAT BAER** is a life-long member of St. James. She worked for GE/Lockhead 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 nine work mission trips. They share their home with their pets Coco, Tillie and Jake. Her hobbies include reading, photography and sewing.

SECRETARY, **VICKIE KIRSTEN** was born and raised in Baltimore Md. She received a Bachelor's in Science Degree in Nursing from Widener University, where she also met Justin and were married after graduation. Vickie received a Master's Degree in Science from Rutgers University and is currently practicing in Havertown, Pa as a certified nurse practitioner. She is an adjunct professor at Temple University and Thomas Jefferson University. Vickie has two sons, Kyle 10 and Evan 7. She enjoys scrapbooking, card making, gardening and swimming. She also enjoys being an active member of St. James Lutheran Church and is honored to serve as secretary.

TREASURER, **SHERRY ROHN CLANCY** is a Lehigh Valley native and lifelong Lutheran. Sherry graduated from Wilson Area HS in Easton. She earned degrees in chemistry from Moravian College and Lehigh University. After ten years with Occidental Chemical, she is now a stay-at-home mom with two daughters, Dana and Eden, three dogs, and three cats. Since joining in 1999, her best memories at St. James were Dana's 2006 baptism, her 2001 wedding, and the 2000 Haiti Mission Trip. She and husband Don serve together on the Endowment Committee. Sherry also serves on the Stewardship and Finance Committees, and oversees the Audit Committee. Her other activities include reading, gardening, and genealogy.

MARY ARNT was born and raised on a ranch in Oklahoma. She graduated from Blackwood Davis College. She married Gib Arnt and they have three children. After moving to Pennsylvania Mary took courses in English Literature, Ancient History, Spanish and other classes at Ursinus College as well as Real Estate Law and other classes at Penn State. At St. James she has served as a council member, lay reader, counter, greeter, president of WELCA. She has also served as coordinator for the Upper Montgomery Cluster of Churches. Her hobbies are traveling, reading, gardening and horseback riding.

DAVID HARTZMAN was born and raised in Norristown and served four years in the U.S. Air Force. He has been a member of St. James for more than ten years. He is the father of five; Dana, Matthew, Noelle, Chelsea and Alyssa. He works for Westover Builders in the maintenance department in King of Prussia. At St. James he is the chairperson of the Evangelism Committee and is active with the Rejoicing Spirits ministry. He serves on the national executive committee for Rejoicing Spirits. He has been on several work mission trips, including the trip to Haiti and has stayed involved with The Haiti Mission Society that is building an orphanage in Port a Prince.

JIM IRWIN grew up in Hatfield and Boothwyn PA. Jim graduated from Salesianum High School in Wilmington, DE. He's married to Pam and they have one son, Joshua. They have been members at St. James since 2006. He serves as an usher, lector and counter at St. James. Jim is currently working as a milkman for TLC Distributors out of Hatfield. When not working he enjoys reading and also likes to do scouting activities with Josh.

JEFF LEIBY grew up in Berks County over the hill from Virgenville and graduated from Penn State, Kutztown State, and Lehigh University. He's married to Robin; their children Gwen and Dylan reside in Kalamazoo, Michigan where they grew up while Jeff worked for The Upjohn Company. He's presently working as a chemist to discover new drugs with GlaxoSmithKline near Collegeville. Jeff appreciates nature while doing yard work, or on an occasional hike, or sometimes while camping. He likes to read, and relaxes by playing electronic games. He sings in choir, helps with the property committee, and joins in Bible Study and Sunday School.

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 two of the St. James mission trips. Mike enjoys reading, outdoor activities and traveling.

CHIPPER (RICHARD) MEADOWCROFT grew up in Kennett Square/Avondale Pa. He graduated from Avon Grove High School in 1969. He received his Associate Degree in Accounting and now works for Wachovia Bank. He moved to the Pottstown area when he married his wife Sandy. He has one daughter, Tracy. At St. James he is an usher and chalice bearer.

JESSICA MITCHELL was born in Chicago and moved here to Pottstown when she was 5. Jessica is currently a senior at Pottsgrove High School. She is hoping to graduate as valedictorian this year and pursue a career in veterinary medicine and journalism. In school, she serves as president of Key Club, secretary of National Honor Society, treasurer of Spanish Club, and managing editor for the literary magazine, Maximi. She also has a part-time job at the Coventry Cafe where she is a waitress. She enjoys traveling, photography, softball, horseback riding, and reading. In the community, she volunteers to work summer hours in her school office, serves as team captain of the Key Club Relay for Life team, and partakes in the Polar Bear Plunge to raise money for the Special Olympics.

TRACIE RHEEL was born and raised in Pottstown (at St. James) and graduated from Pottsgrove High School in 1990. She has a B.A. in Mathematics and Environmental Studies from Bucknell University. She recently changed jobs and now works closer to home at the Pottstown Mercury, after commuting to FedEx Kinko's in King of Prussia & Exton for nearly 12 years. Tracie returned to St. James in 2003, and she currently serves on the stewardship committee, the Relay for Life team, a counting team & supports Rejoicing Spirits the 2nd Wednesday of every month! Her hobbies are 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. He lives in Upper Pottsgrove with his wife Kim and their two sons Nathan (4) and Justin (2). They are expecting a third child in June. Scott enjoys reading history books, 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.

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. 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.