

the Spirit of St. James



St. James Lutheran Church, 1101 High Street, Pottstown, Pennsylvania, 19464 ? (610) 326-2810 ? MARCH 2006

OUR VISION FOR ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH

*“To Be, and to Become, a Worshiping, Caring, Teaching,
and Outreaching Congregation.”*

In This Edition Look for...

Pastor's Note

Page 3

Lenten & Holy Week Schedule

Pages 4-6

Stewardship

Page 7

Discipleship

Pages 8-11

Health News

Page 12

Member Announcements

Page 13

Thank yous & Council Contacts

Page 14

Treasurer's Report

Page 15

Council Member Bios

Page 16-17

Latino Church Update

Page 18



Sunday Schedule

Worship

8 and 10:45 a.m.

Coffee Fellowship

9 a.m.

Children's Education

10:45 a.m.

Adult Education Classes

9:30 a.m.

Holy Communion Weekly



OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday
8 a.m. - 2 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

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Secretary

Pam Lloyd

e-mail: plloyd@stjamespottstown.org

Organist and Choir Director

Lincoln Noecker

e-mail: lnoeck@comcast.net

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 Pam in the office. She will post the event on the master calendar, in the weekly bulletin when applicable, and will directly inform those who should be told about the event. Please indicate to her any need for room rearrangement, extra chairs or tables, etc.

Newsletter Deadline for November Edition: March 15, 2006

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.

Catching Up On Offerings

When you are unable to attend worship on any given Sunday, please make up that day's offering the next week. St. James' budget is based on members' weekly offering pledge times 52 Sundays. When you and your offering are absent, our ministry is diminished.

Snow Cancellations

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

Staff Resignation

With regret the congregation has received a letter of resignation from our Verger, Don Detweiler, with his resignation effective February 28, 2006. We thank Don for his work and years of service to our congregation.



Spring Cleaning

It seems ironic that the season of Lent comes around the springtime each year.

Spring has always been a time of pulling out the nice weather clothes and washing out that old mothball smell (at least years ago people used mothballs). For doing what has come to be called "Spring Cleaning". A cleansing and dusting off of things after the long dormant time of winter. Years ago, this was even more necessary than today when fireplaces and wood or coal stoves were used. And yet, while Spring Cleaning is not such a big deal today, the cleaning that Lent calls for is still important.

Maybe we should think of Lent as a time for having ourselves go through a sort of Spring Cleaning.

In Holy Baptism we have been initially washed of original sin, but the problem of our sinfulness still comes around and needs constant cleansing. We need to address that often, but especially in Lent. In addition to that, we can get that stale mothball odor about us as Christians when we have grown too comfortable with the way we are, refusing to consider changing anything about how we live, and think, and worship God. We can collect dust within the reaches of our souls where we have not allowed the Spirit of God (or anyone else) to have access.

The truth is we are not called to be children of God to stay the same, grow staid and stale and never change. Instead we are called to be dusted off by Jesus Christ each and every day. To discard the ways of being and thinking that conflict with God's ways and follow him into being new persons all the time!

Lent, therefore, is a time to do some very intentional Spring Cleaning within ourselves so that by the many devotions we can practice new and creative ways in which we can begin once again to be faithful to God. Lent is a time to consider what the apostle Paul called dying to ourselves and rising again in Christ. In other words.....to change. To push ourselves to allow God to dust us off, clean us up, and once again make us new and ready to be put into service.

So in this season of Lent, open the windows of your soul and let the fresh air of God's loving power blow through the hallways of your heart. Let his Spirit blow away the cobwebs of trouble from your back rooms, that we may wash off and put on the clothes again of Jesus our Lord. To more closely follow him and maybe even do so in a new way, always knowing and understanding that through his suffering on the cross, any filth (that is, sins) that may have tarnished us in the past, can be made clean.

WORSHIP NOTES

Lenten Worship

During our mid-week worship services of Lent we will be presenting a courtroom drama as Biblical characters testifying in front of the Grand Jury looking into the trial and execution of Jesus. Each week we will hear from a different witness as they take the witness stand explaining their thoughts and actions as they are related to Jesus' death. Judas, Caiaphas, Herod, Pilate, Mary Magdalene, and Peter will face intense questioning by a state's attorney. Come and learn what really motivated these individuals in the events surrounding Jesus' death

The witnesses for each week are:

March 8 - Judas
March 15 - Caiaphas
March 22 - Herod and Pontius Pilate
March 29- Mary Magdalene
April 5 - Peter

Meals are served at 6 p.m. and worship begins at 7 p.m. each Wednesday night until Holy Week. Visitors are welcome, so bring with you a friend.

Lent Soup/Salad Suppers



Beginning March 8 (the Wednesday after Ash Wednesday) and during the season of Lent, we will hold our traditional suppers, followed by worship. Sign up sheets are in Horn Hall. In addition the sheets have slots for people to sign up to bring soup, bread and salad, and to help clean-up/run the dishwasher. Please consider helping in some way during the 5 weeks that these suppers are served.

Lenten Devotional Booklets

A Lenten devotional booklet is available. This devotional booklet is based on readings from the Gospel of Mark. Members and friends of this congregation wrote the devotions. Thank you to everyone who made a contribution to the booklet. They will be available in Horn Hall or, if you cannot be present to attain one, you can request that one be sent to you by calling the church office at 610-326-2810

Ash Wednesday

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 1st. 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. As we did last year, **we will have two services on Ash Wednesday. First, an early afternoon service at 2:00 p.m. (without music), and our regular evening service at 7 p.m. (with music and Choir participation).**



Rejoicing Spirits worship this month will be done jointly with our regular mid-week Lenten worship. We have invited the Rejoicers to join us for **supper and then worship on Wednesday, March 8.** Rejoicers will be participating in the worship as Ronnie is reading the Bible scripture for that evening.

April's Rejoicing Spirits worship will be on the Third Wednesday of the month and not the second. The date for **our Easter Rejoicing Spirits worship will be Wednesday, April 19 at 7 p.m.** with fellowship time following worship. Please join us for both of these special evenings of worship.

Worship Service at Parkview Home

The Pastor will be going down to the Parkview Home (formerly MontCo Geriatric Center) on **Sunday, March 12th at 2:30 p.m.** to lead a worship service for the patients. St. James has several members who live there, and this would be a ministry to everyone who desires to hear the word of God. If you would like to assist with this service, please let Pastor know. We can even car pool from St. James. The service usually lasts around a half an hour and so we should be back home here by 3:45 that afternoon.

Passion/Palm Sunday April 9, 2006



Celebrate with a palm processional and Holy Communion at both the 8 and 10:45 a.m. worship services. Because of the palm procession, we will first gather for worship in the Narthex with overflow into Horn Hall. A dramatic reading of the Passion will also take place at both services.

Wednesday, April 12, 2006 Seder Meal at 6 p.m.

Come celebrate our Judeo-Christian roots at the Seder Meal. Passover is the oldest religious festival in Judaism, commemorating God's deliverance of the Hebrews from slavery in Egypt and his creation of the Israelite people. The focal point of Passover is a communal meal, called the Seder (which means "order," because of the fixed order of service), which is a time of rejoicing and celebration at the deliverance of the Hebrews that God accomplished in the exodus. The Seder ritual also has great meaning for Christians. It was the Seder Meal that Jesus was celebrating with His disciples when He instituted the Last Supper. **Please sign up in Horn Hall if you plan to attend. Also mark if you would like to contribute** foods, help with set up, serving or cleanup. A free-will offering will be taken at the meal.

HOLY WEEK

Monday, April 10, 2006

Viewing of the movie "**The Gospel of John**" at 6:30 p.m. A brief discussion will follow.

Tuesday, April 11, 2006

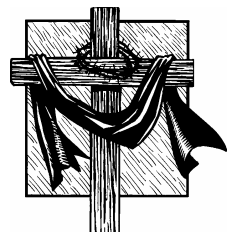
An hour and a half long **bible study on the Passion of Christ** as told in the Gospel of Mark (this year's lectionary gospel) at 7 p.m.

Wednesday, April 12, 2006

A **Seder Supper** at 6 p.m. will be held in which the traditional Jewish Passover meal will be held with on-going explanations and reading of bible passages to tell the story of the Israelite people and God's deliverance of them.

Thursday, April 13, 2006

Traditional **Maundy Thursday worship** service at 7 p.m., with laying on of hands for individual absolution announced and Holy Communion celebrated. At the end of the service, the Altar is stripped to symbolize the stripping and humiliation of Jesus at the cross.



Friday, April 14, 2006

Two brief **Good Friday** worship services will be held at 2 and 7 p.m. on the day that Jesus was crucified.



The Resurrection of Our Lord

April 16, 2006

Worship at 8 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. with Holy Communion and an Easter Breakfast sponsored by the men of the congregation at 9:15 a.m.

Wanted: A Few Good Men for the Easter Sunday Breakfast

On **Easter morning a breakfast will be served in between the 8 and 10:45 a.m.** worship services. The breakfast is being sponsored by the men of the congregation. If you would like to help with the organizing, cooking, serving or the clean up please contact Pastor Hutchinson or Suzanne Rigg at 610-326-2810.



Determining the Date of Easter from Year to Year

Have you wondered how the date for Easter (and all the other days of Lent starting with Ash Wednesday) is determined each year?

The calendar that we (and most of the world) use is the Gregorian calendar. The procedure for deciding Easter dates back to 325 AD when the Council at Nicaea was convened to consider this issue (more importantly, they also worked on developing the Nicene Creed). Over the years, a variety of ways of applying their formulas have been used and later changed. But today, the ecclesiastical rules are that **Easter falls on the first Sunday following the first full moon that occurs on or after the vernal equinox**, which is March 21st (the first day of spring). So Easter can never occur before March 22nd or after April 25. Note that the Eastern Orthodox churches use a different calendar and therefore have a different day for Easter.

Consequently, the church sets the season of Lent for 40 days prior to this, minus Sundays, which are days of the resurrection.

Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, is then marked as forty days (less Sundays) prior to Easter. The number 40 is often found in the bible, not to mention that Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness and the people of Israel spent 40 years in the wilderness. Lent is then to be a time of a sort of wilderness wandering or a sort of contemplation of our fallen nature and our need for a Savior. It's a time to be disciplined in facing the harsh realities of life and temptation, while being faithful to the God who is faithful to us.

BRRRR - H E L P

Have you noticed the high price of oil this year?? Do you wish for some help when it is time to pay for that full tank of oil being delivered? The church knows just how you feel, since the cost of utilities has increased substantially over the past two years. We encourage you to make a note this month to generously fill the March 12th HELP envelope. THANKS BE TO GOD,

The Stewardship Committee



Third Sunday Offering Schedule

APRIL - Visiting Nurse Association
MAY - Manatawny Manor
JUNE - Salvation Army
JULY - Missionaries
AUGUST - School supplies for children
SEPTEMBER - Lutheran World Relief
OCTOBER - Cluster Outreach Center
NOVEMBER - Prison Fellowship
DECEMBER - ELCA World Hunger

Third Sunday Offering - February

Pottstown Cluster of Religious Communities and the Feinstein Challenge

The Pottstown Cluster of Religious Communities (PCRC) has been providing various forms of assistance to people in need in the Greater Pottstown Area for over 30 years. Resources for the work of PCRC come from different sources including the United Way, the religious communities, individuals, civic organizations and businesses. All funds raised and all donations collected are greatly appreciated and enable this organization to fulfill its mission.

Raising funds can be a difficult task so PCRC looks for ways to maximize the donations received. That is why PCRC is again participating in the Feinstein Challenge. For a ninth straight year, Alan Shawn Feinstein will divide \$1,000,000 among hunger-fighting agencies nationwide using it to help them raise funds during March and April 2006.

For all money and food items received by the Cluster from March 1 through April 30, 2006, PCRC is permitted to count the financial contributions in dollars and food donations as \$1 per item. This information is then submitted to the Feinstein Foundation in early May and the Cluster receives a proportionate share of the \$1million posted by Mr. Feinstein based on the amounts raised by all agencies in the country participating in the Challenge by the end of June. Even though the Cluster does not receive a dollar-for-dollar match on the funds raised, the additional money still helps PCRC help others.

PCRC asks you to consider making a financial contribution and/or food donations during the months of March and April either through St. James' Third Sunday Offering in March or through our special food drive in April. Thank you.

DISCIPLESHIP and FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Committee Night

Note: There will be no Committee Night in March or April during Lent. Committees may choose to meet those months either after worship on March 1 or April 5 or to meet on a different night.

Reminder from Archive Committee

If you have any memorabilia (pictures, news clippings, etc.) from any church related events that can be shared, please see that the Archive Committee receives a copy. We are looking for both past & up coming events. Also, if possible, please try to identify the people in the pictures. Thanks!

The Archive Committee: Jon Fink, Jeanette Wert, Sara Jane Silver, Ginny Reber, Phyllis Lengyel, Jim Meloy



Fair Trade Coffee - March 19th

A reminder that the youth of St. James sponsor the sale of Fair Trade Coffee including decaf and flavored coffee, as well as tea on the third Sunday of each month.

SCRIP

Think of the **variety of places** you could use Scrip in your daily life! At the gas pump, at the grocer, at a variety of restaurants, at K-Mart, Sears, Home Depot, Lowes, Macy's, KBToys, ToysRUS, BabiesRUs....and more. Stop by the table in Horn Hall any **Sunday after the first service until the beginning of the second** for a participating retailer list.

Paul's Run Brunch

Paul's Run Retirement Community (a ministry of Liberty Lutheran Services) invites you to its **25th anniversary Brunch and Silent Auction on Saturday May 7, 2006** at the Knowlton Mansion, Rhawn and Verree Rd., Philadelphia, PA. Tours and silent auction will begin at 11:30 a.m. Brunch is served at 12:30 p.m. Please call Barbara Dorfman, Director of Marketing at 215-934-3021 for information and reservations.

2006 Work Mission Update

The 2006 Work Mission is now in the planning stage. Fourteen people have initially shown interest in participating in this year's work mission. Our destination is yet to be decided, but a return trip to another section of Florida is very possible. Florida received more damage last year than Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana combined, but did not get the press.

The date for the trip is April 1st thru 8th, 2006. Anyone interested in learning more about the trip should contact Ted Baer at 610-326-8598.



Spaghetti Dinner

March 24th 4:30 – 7 p.m.

To support this year's Work Mission trip, another spaghetti dinner has been planned for Friday, March 24, 2006. **The dinner will again be held in Horn Hall. Cost will be \$7 for adults and \$4 for children.**

For those not able to attend the dinner, contributions towards the trip would be another way to support the Work Mission. This dinner will also **qualify us for Matching Funds for Disaster Relief** by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, Montgomery County Chapter # 31014.

Tickets for the event will be available from any of the Mission trip members.

Let your light so shine . . . Get trained as an acolyte!

On **Sunday, March 26th** following the 10:45 a.m. worship, we will be training all young people (**1st grade or older**) interested in becoming acolytes. Those who have served as acolytes are welcome (and encouraged) to refresh their understanding and to encourage others. You will be fitted with an alb and given instruction sheets. Parents are welcome to sit in! **Please let Suzanne Rigg (610-362-2810) know if you plan to attend.**



Ideas Needed!

Are you involved in a volunteer organization that would benefit from financial support? Council needs ideas on how to spend 3-7% of the endowment as mandated in the Endowment Charter. A minimum of \$10,641 must be allocated this year!

We are looking for ways to fulfill our mission to "reach out to the community and the world". Why support organizations that St. James' members are involved in? To lift up your effort, increase the organization's exposure, and accomplish what we are so lovingly called to do.

Please communicate your ideas to a Council member today!

WELCA News

Next meeting to be held **March 20th at 7 p.m. in Horn Hall.** Easter and spring are coming. Join us for a night of gardening ideas with Gladys McGraith.

Plan ahead if you have cabin fever and are sorting items at home! **The Spring Rummage Sale will be held May 1 and 2, 2006.** Remember to leave any and all hanging tags on new items. These contributions are donated to the In-Gathering/Needlework Guild for the Pottstown Churches group. We had more than 170 items this year! Also, if you like to knit or crochet, we use newly knit or crocheted sweaters, caps, blankets, and slippers for this project.

UMC Bible Study

The next WELCA Upper Montgomery Conference Bible Study will be held at St. James Lutheran Church, Limerick, on **Tuesday, March 7, 2006, at 10:00 a.m.** with coffee at 9:30. The leader will be Ann Seislove.

The April Bible Study will be held **at St. James Lutheran Church, Pottstown, on Tuesday, April 4, 2006,** with Betty Darocha as leader. All women are invited to participate in these Bible Studies found in the Lutheran Woman Today Magazine. This is the 21st year of meeting and sharing together. If you would like to attend, please contact Grace Schafer or Mary Arnt for carpooling.

Cluster Outreach Center

CURRENT VOLUNTEER NEEDS:

Clothing Sorters – Volunteers needed to unpack, sort, tag and rack donations of adult clothing, shoes and household items. – Everyday during operating hours.

Food Pantry – There is a lot of food to sort at the Outreach Center. If you can read, you can sort. – Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings.

Food Pantry – Need volunteers to help with bagging fresh foods and stocking shelves. – Tuesday, Thursday and Friday Mornings and Wednesday afternoons.

If you would like to volunteer, contact the **Outreach Center at 610-970-5995**, or stop in at 137 Walnut Street, Pottstown.

Pantry Needs:

Peanut butter and jelly, cereal, and spaghetti sauce

Clothing & Household Needs:

Boys' and girls' size 6, 16 and 18 underwear, toddler-size socks, size 2 pull-ups and size 4 diapers, bath towels and washcloths and bathroom rugs.

Always needed:

Brown paper and plastic grocery bags, all sizes of Ziploc plastic bags, paper towels.

Clothing and food donations accepted Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 9-11 a.m. and Wednesday 3-5 p.m. Also from 9-11 a.m. on the first and third Saturday of the month.

Salvation Army Community Lunch Second Wednesday of Month

Volunteers are needed! Cooking and preparing the meal begins at 8:30 a.m. and is usually done by 11:30 a.m. Serving and cleaning up begins at 11:30 a.m. and volunteers are usually done by 1:30 p.m.

Please consider helping those in need. For additional information please contact Jean Drauschak at 610-323-1792.



Community Meal

In 2006, St. James is helping with the community meal on the following **Thursdays**: April 27, June 22, August 24 and October 26. **Volunteers are needed to provide desserts, to cook, set up and clean up. If you need more information, or would like to help, please call Susan Cameron at 610-718-9926.**

Choral Concert

Mark your calendar for **Sunday, April 30** at 3 p.m. when the Boyertown Area Choral Association will present a spring concert under the direction of Margueritte Lamb at St. James. Please tell your friends. More information to come.

Scholarship Fund Applications Available

\$1000 a year is available to be given to youth as scholarship 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 Pat Weber, Scholarship Committee Chair (610-326-5421)** and must be submitted completed no later that 4/14/06.

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 at least a Senior at 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 criteria.

If you have any questions about this exciting program, please contact Pat Weber for further details. **Don't forget to make the April 14th deadline.**



Health News

"Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own?"

1 Corinthians 6:19

GET HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE'S NUMBER

*From Update-Independence Blue Cross
Copied by Marge Fegley*

About three out of ten Americans have hypertension. How much do you know about this common cause of strokes and heart attacks?

1. Blood pressure tends to rise with age.

True False

2. High blood pressure makes the heart and arteries work harder.

True False

3. Medication is the only effective way to lower high blood pressure.

True False

4. Doctors only look at the low number in a blood pressure reading.

True False

5. High blood pressure is often called the "silent killer."

True False

1. **True.** If you are 80 or older you are more likely than younger people to have high blood pressure. Treatment helps lower high blood pressure and regular exams.

2. **True.** That is why high blood pressure can invite a heart attack, strokes or even kidney failure. High blood pressure makes the arteries more resistant.

3. **False.** The most effective way to tame high blood pressure is combining medication with exercise and a healthy diet. Exercise improves the blood vessels and allows them to become more relaxed. Reduce salt, control weight, say no to saturated fats, and limit alcohol. Discuss your appropriate plan with your physician

4. **False.** Both numbers matter. The higher number shows the pressure of blood against the artery walls when the heart contracts to pump blood. The lower number is the pressure when the heart relaxes between beats.

5. **True.** In many cases, a heart attack or stroke is the first warning sign of hypertension.



Blood pressure checks will be available on March 5 after the 8 a.m. service and before the 10:45 service. Keep your self well.

Miller-Keystone Blood Drive - April 24th from 2 p.m. till 7 p.m. Here at St. James please volunteer, so lives may be saved. Call Marge Fegley at 610-323-3936 to make an appointment that is best for you.

MEMBER NEWS

Birth Announcements

Congratulations to April and Robert Taylor upon the birth of their daughter **Avigal Olivia Taylor** born on January 28, 2006.

Congratulations to Scott and Kimberly Strichik upon the birth of their son **Justin Scott Stichik** born on February 3, 2006.

Congratulations to Don and Sherry Clancy upon the birth of their daughter **Dana Rhianne Clancy** born on February 19, 2006.



March Birthdays

2 – Marvin Kehler; **5** – Immy Moore;
7 – Rusty Bealer, Gen Clouser, Robert DuVal; **11** – Tracie Rheel; **12** – John Jacobs; **13** – Mya Detweiler, Adam Hoehne, Jennifer Yashin; **14** – Todd Reber;
18 – Katie Johnson; **20** – Cindy Kehler;
21 – Jennifer Mittura, Alison O'Donnell;
23 – Iva Trate; **24** – Krista Schmalbach;
25 – James Warner, Larry Wert;
27 - Beth Cocci, John Ungerman, Ray Yocom; **30** – Elsie Drauschak, Jon Fink, Sherrie Hedrick; **31** – Barbara Drauschak

Memorial Contributions Given

In memory of David Welsh: Jim and Mabel Meloy, Kathryn Geist, David and Barbara Updegrove and Marjorie McElroy, Doe Club, M. Eleanor Metzler, Ruth Grace

In memory of Elmer Saylor: Mr. and Mrs. Robert Reber, Rita Droege

Deepest Sympathies

On Sunday, Feb. 12, long time member of St. James, **Betty Bitting** died. Betty had been very active here for years and had recently moved to Texas to live near her daughter. Our prayers go out to her family and we entrust her in faith, to God's care.

Altar Flowers, Eternal Light and Bulletin Sponsorships

Sign up sheets are posted in Horn Hall for anyone who would like to sponsor the altar flowers, eternal light and/or bulletins. If you sponsored a particular week in 2005 you will need to sign up again for that week in 2006. No one automatically has the same week they had the previous year.

The cost of each sponsorship is \$15 for eternal light, \$40 for altar flowers, and \$15 for bulletins. Envelopes are available in Horn Hall on the resource table for the money or check. The envelopes may be placed in the offering plate or may be returned to the office.

Just a reminder that we do not put flowers on the altar during Lent (Sundays of March 5 – April 9). Please feel free to sponsor the eternal light or the bulletins during that time.

THANK YOU NOTES

Pastor wants to thank whoever left him four tins of shoe polish on his desk a few weeks ago. He had just polished his shoes a few days earlier, but someone must have seen how bad they looked before that. Thanks again for helping to keep the shine on him!

Thank you to Mary Jane Bealer and David Hartzman for being the adult chaperones for FLY (Fellowship of Lutheran Youth) and providing our youth here at St. James an opportunity to be with other young Lutherans there age.

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

Thank you to all who helped with the painting of the the nursery. What a change!! It looks great!!

We would like to thank the pastor for his very enjoyable visit. Also thanks to the congregation for all their prayers.

Bill and Barbara Thornton

Thank you!

Council Member Contact

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

Dave Garner 610-970-7560

Email: dggarner@comcast.net

Represents the Stewardship Committee

Jeff Leiby 610-327-9454

Email: jefnrobn@yahoo.com

Represents the Fellowship Committee

Sherry Clancy 610-323-5977

Email: srclancy@alumni.moravian.edu

Represents the Finance and Endowment Committee

John Ungerman 610-718-9368

Email: john.ungerman@thrivent.com

Represents the Property Committee

Alison O'Donnell 610-779-1119

Email: Alison.C.O'Donnell@GSK.com

papodonnell@comcast.net

Dottie Smith 610-323-8226

Represents the Personnel Committee

Pat Weber 610-326-5421

Mary Arnt 610-323-6176

David Hartzman 610-909-5806

Email: Crittersdad1949@aol.com

Represents the Evangelism Committee

Tracie Rheel 610-323-7051

Email: tar403@yahoo.com

Ron Schafer 610-326-4814

Email: ronslibrary@aol.com

Represents the Christian Education Committee

Chipper Meadowcroft 610-327-0458

Email: meadow1135@hotmail.com

Jessica Mitchell 610-970-4250

Email: jrabbit23@comcast.net

CHURCH COUNCIL

TREASURER'S REPORT

	<u>Jan 2006</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income	\$21,853.43	\$21,853.43
Expenses	<u>22,510.38</u>	<u>22,510.38</u>
Net Income	\$(656.95)	(\$ 656.95)

REGULAR ENVELOPES

Received	\$17,809.51	\$17,809.51
Needed*	<u>20,034.76</u>	<u>20,034.76</u>
Over (Under)	\$ (2225.25)	(\$2225.25)

THIRD SUNDAY OFFERING

Collected \$ 241.99

Beneficiary *Community Meal*

*Each month includes \$16,958 pledged and \$2,853 needed growth to balance the budget.

Council Highlights from the meeting held February 15, 2006

* Established liaisons to the different committees from council.

* Appointed the Nominating Committee comprised of Willard Bickel, Sara Jane Silver and Mary Vickerman.

* Approved the giving of the indemnification to the Moyers for their property.

* Received a report from Jessica Mitchell on the National Youth Leadership Conference.

* Approved the 2006 schedule for the Third Sunday Offerings.

* Approved giving Volunteer Home Care of Pottstown \$600 from the endowment funds.

* Appointed a Scholarship Committee to administer the scholarship fund.

* Looking into addressing biker and skateboarding problems.

Meet our 2006 Church Council Members:

PRESIDENT OF THE CONGREGATION, DAVID GARNER was born and raised in Pottstown (lifelong member of St. James). David graduated from Pottstown High School, The Hill School, Ursinus College and Dickinson School of Law. He served as an attorney in the Marine Corps for three years and currently is a sole practitioner with an office in Lower Pottsgrove. Husband to Nancy and father to Rue (his four-legged walking companion). He enjoys walking, gardening and cooking. At St. James David is chairman of the Stewardship Committee and serves on the Property Committee. He is also a communion assistant, lector, chalice bearer, usher and Sunday school teacher. In the community he has served on the board of the Pottstown Cluster of Religious Communities, Creative Health Services, the Regional Planning Committee of the TriCounty Area Chamber of Commerce and the Manatawny Manor Advisory Committee.

VICE-PRESIDENT, JEFF LEIBY grew up in Berks County over the hill from Virginville 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 and Fellowship committees, and Rejoices one Wednesday a month. Sometimes he joins in Bible Study or Sunday School.

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 a newborn child, four dogs, and three cats. Since joining in 1999, her best memories at St. James were the Haiti Mission Trip in 2000 and her wedding in 2001. She and husband Don serve together in the Chancel choir and Endowment Committee. Sherry also plays in the bell choir, and serves on the Stewardship, Finance, and oversees the Audit Committee. Her other activities include website maintenance for the Mid-Atlantic English Springer Spaniel Rescue, gardening, and genealogy.

SECRETARY, JOHN UNGERMAN is a native of Hatboro. He is married to Barbara and has 2 married daughters. He has worked for Thrivent Financial for Lutherans for the past 8 years, relocating to Pottstown in 2000. Since joining St James he has served as treasurer, council president and now secretary. John is also active in the adult education program and the property committee and is also a lay reader. Synod wide John serves on the boards of Manatawny Manor and Liberty Lutheran Social Services. He has most recently been a member of the steering committee guiding the process to elect a new bishop at the May convention. His hobbies are golf and model trains.

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 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 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.

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. He just became a member of Church Council as of January 1, 2006.

JESSICA MITCHELL was born in Chicago and moved and raised in Pottstown from when she was 5. Jessica is currently a sophomore at Pottsgrove High School. Right now, she is ranked first in her class and is interested in pursuing a career in the medical field sometime in the future. In school, she is involved in the History Club, Science Club, Key Club, and serves as a managing editor for Maximi, the school's literary magazine. She also has a part-time job at the Coventry Café where she buses tables. She enjoys playing softball, horseback riding, skiing, traveling and photography. In the community, she volunteers to work summer hours at her school in the office, participates in multiple Key Club volunteer activities, and partakes in the Polar Bear Plunge to raise money for the Special Olympics.

ALISON O'DONNELL was born in Johnstone, Renfrewshire, Scotland. She emigrated with her parents and two older sisters (Doreen and Jean) to the US in February of 1967. She school in the Perkiomen Valley school district from Kindergarten through high school graduation. Around the time Alison graduated High School, she worked in the Montgomery County Geriatric and Rehabilitation Center. She then went to work at SmithKline & French, then Pfizer Pharmaceuticals, and then back to SmithKline Beecham Pharmaceuticals, and is currently working as a Clinical Data Scientist. She is married to Pat and they have two daughters, (her step-daughter, Jennifer, 17 and her daughter, Morgan, 2 ½) and a dog, Pete. Her hobbies include enjoying Morgan, crocheting, stained glass, reading, painting, scrapbooking. St. James has become a real part her life. Although she moved to Exeter Twp over a year ago, and there are a couple of Lutheran churches within five miles of our home, she attends St. James because she feels that the members of the church are a part of her family.

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, and she has worked for Kinko's (now FedEx Kinko's) since 1994. Since returning to St. James in 2003, Tracie has served on the Fellowship Committee, counting team, Altar Guild and the Relay for Life Team. Her hobbies are cooking and reading.

RON SCHAFER 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. Among Ron's pastimes are reading, walking, and traveling. At St. James, he is a member of Church Council and the Education Committee and serves as a lector and a counter.

DOTTIE SMITH spent her childhood in creeks, climbing trees, playing in the woods and attending Schwenksville schools. She graduated from the Norristown Area Schools and completed Radiological Technology training in Philadelphia. She has her Bachelor of Science degree from Widener in allied health education. IN her career, Dottie has done routine x-rays, directed Radiology Technology program, CT scanning and DXA bone density scanning and education. She is divorced and has one daughter, Laurel. She enjoys teaching, reading, Bridge, herb and flower gardening and cooking. Dottie would like to some day para-sail in Hawaii and see icebergs in Alaska and fjords in Norway. She loves her extended church family.

PAT WEBER was born and raised in Latrobe, PA; graduate of Latrobe H.S. Employed as legal secretary for many years; now part-time receptionist at Manatawny Manor. She is married to Ted and has one son and a granddaughter. Pat has served or is currently serving as a chalice bearer, lector, usher, money-counter, greeter, member of the hand bell choir. She is also active in WELCA, Altar Guild and Evangelism Committee. She is a member of Daughters of the American Revolution and enjoys playing bridge, baking and reading.

Update on the Latino Church of God

I received some sad news the other day. Our brothers and sisters from the Latino Church of God who had been using our premises to gather and worship, will no longer be coming together at St. James. Because their church was a mission church, the challenges were great to begin with. But their pastor told me that he became frustrated at the lack of commitment by the people he was trying to build into a congregation able to stand on its own. He said that as much as he faithfully preached the word of God, too many of them saw the Christian life as nothing more than a one day a week exercise. He was frustrated that what they heard and spoke on Sunday did not carry over to their daily lives the rest of the week. That too many refused to be open to changing how they lived their lives, refused to make a commitment to come to worship regularly,... and refused to accept the responsibility of tithing in their offerings to the church.

In the end, he was supplementing the church out of his own pocket and he told me that he could not afford to continue that. And so that church no longer exists and Pastor Raymond is leading another group of Christians in the Allentown area nearer to his home. He thanked St. James church and the staff in particular, for being so welcoming and hospitable to them while they were here.

That it was not possible for Pastor Raymond to keep his small church going should not be a surprise. For one thing, a mission church is a challenge to begin with. What's more, it is not surprising that otherwise good people of the Christian faith can be so lukewarm in how they practice that faith. We have all seen it with others we know and even with ourselves because it is so hard for all of us to change and commit our lives more fully to Jesus Christ.

This is why God has given the gift of the Holy Spirit to us in our Baptism to help us do that. Still, having a small congregation to begin with makes it even harder and, despite the Spirit's help, this obstacle was apparently too much of a hindrance for their church to get off the ground.

Let us pray for the ministry of Pastor Raymond in his new congregation, for those Christians he ministered to in Pottstown, and for all people of faith who are challenged to follow the path and ways of Jesus Christ with even greater commitment.

PASTOR

