

the Spirit of St. James



St. James Lutheran Church, 1101 High Street, Pottstown, Pennsylvania, 19464 • (610) 326-2810 • MAY 2007

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	<i>Page 3</i>
Worship Notes	<i>Pages 4 & 5</i>
Discipleship, Fellowship, Service	<i>Pages 6 - 9</i>
Member News	<i>Page 10</i>
Council Member List	<i>Page 11</i>
Treasurer's Report	<i>Page 11</i>
Welcoming A Stranger Update	<i>Page 12</i>

Sunday Schedule

Worship

8 and 10:45 a.m.

Coffee Fellowship

9 a.m.

Adult Education Classes

9:30 a.m.

Children's Church

10:45 a.m.

Communion Weekly

Summer Worship

Begins **June 3** with **one service**
at 9 a.m. including Children's Church



OFFICE HOURS

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

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 June Edition: May 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.

Thank you to the following people

for volunteering their help in the office during the time we had no secretary: Robin Leiby, Sara Jane Silver, Marge Fegley, Kim Nimmerichter, Sandy Meadowcroft, Barb and John Ungerman, Maggie Hutchinson, Vickie Kirsten and Sherry Clancy.

A Note From Pastor Hutchinson



Giving to God

Capital Campaign. Have you heard about that yet? If you haven't, here's the scoop.

The church building is in great need of repair. We have much to do to preserve our beautiful church.

The roof needs to be repaired (it leaks all the time). The stone walls outside need to be sealed to stop the constant absorption of moisture. The mortar between the stones is rotted and needs to be replaced. A major stained glass window is cracking because its wood frame is rotting.

In addition, we need to improve many things. The oil tanks in the ground are a potential environmental hazard and if that happens, we'll have an even greater expense later. Also, for many, entrance to our church is a challenge, so we will be installing a user-friendly elevator in one of the back entrances. The congregation agreed to improve our Chancel area to enhance our worship setting. And there's more than this even.

This all will take a significant offering of resources from members of St. James.

I just completed a bible study on

(continued next column)

money and possessions and this is what we discovered from God's word:

- 1. All that we have is not ours alone. It is given in trust to us by our Creator, who expects us to use it to further His will and glory in the world, not merely our own.*
- 2. We are frightened and insecure people, who cling to our money and possessions to make us feel secure.*
- 3. We put more faith and trust in material things, thereby neglecting to risk giving what we have to God who can bring us grace in other intangible ways.*
- 4. We actually love money and possessions for what they can do for us, instead of loving God and seeing what we can do for Him.*
- 5. Tithing is a good guide for offering to God, but a true lover of God gives themselves to God and the corresponding giving of resources follows that love.*
- 6. Giving to God is part of the Christian walk. This idea is foreign to babes in the faith, but improves as faith matures over time.*
- 7. If we trust that we have been given an eternal reward by God through Christ, why then do we cling to so much in this life?*

I look forward to speaking with you more about how you can help our church continue to hear and answer the call of God and walk in the light of his Son, Jesus.

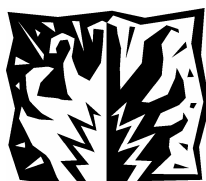
PASTOR

WORSHIP NOTES

Bible Study Book of Romans

Pastor's Bible Study will resume in May and run for seven weeks. Our study this time will be on the book of Romans. No book of the bible was more influential to Martin Luther and the Protestant Reformers than Romans. It speaks to our living in the world to come, but also of how we live in the world here today. Consider bringing a friend and come to listen (talk, if you wish) and to learn.

- **Begins Thursday, May 3rd** –
Sanatoga Retirement Village
10 a.m.
- There will be **no Tuesday night** Bible Study due to the time demands of the Capital Campaign.



The Day of Pentecost May 27, 2007

The Day of Pentecost will be celebrated on Sunday, May 27, 2007 as **we rejoice in the giving of the Holy Spirit to the Church**. The Holy Spirit is the resurrected Jesus in our midst, claiming us in baptism, feeding us at the Eucharist, and sending us into the world as bearers of the Gospel.

- **Wear red** to mark the occasion and to liven the celebration.

Summer Worship

Summer worship begins
June 3rd
with one service at 9
a.m. including
Children's Church.

Chancel Renovation Update

As part of our improvements, long time member and expert wood craftsman, **Howard Snyder**, has agreed to build us **a new Altar**.

In addition, part of the wood being used for that Altar is coming from a **donation from Barbara Thornton**. Her late husband, Bill, had been saving some very good oak wood to be **used for something special**. It seems that God has found a way for that to happen.

Thanks be to God, and to Howard and to Barb and Bill!

**Third Sunday Offering
May Recipient
Manatawny Manor**

A long-time member of the Pottstown community, Manatawny Manor is a part of Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries and offers a range of retirement services such as assisted living, and skilled nursing and rehabilitative care. Manatawny Manor also cares for residents with dementia-related illnesses in two secure settings-The Horizons Community in the Assisted Living Center and The Milestones Community in the Nursing Care Center. Finally, Manatawny Manor offers Adult Day Services

St. James connections to Manatawny Manor are varied. We have members who currently are residents there. We also have members who volunteer their time to assist and connect with the residents or in the operating of Manatawny Manor, and at least one of our members is employed there.

Your gift will help Manatawny Manor to provide the extras that make life more enjoyable and fulfilling for their residents.

Third Sunday Offering Schedule

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



Rejoicing Spirits has been given a great honor from the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. We were asked to lead the Synod's Annual Assembly in worship during the gathering on **Saturday morning, May 5, 9:30 to 10:15 a.m.**

The event is held at Franconia Mennonite Church in Telford (on Rte 113 between Harleysville and Souderton). The theme for the session is Living in God's Amazing Grace.

We're thrilled to be given this opportunity to promote full spiritual inclusion of all God's children. Other RS host churches are joining us in this worship service. Contact Suzanne Rigg at 610-326-2810 to **let us know if you will attend.** We will get back to you with more information closer to the time.

**Next Rejoicing Spirits worship
at St. James**

**Wednesday, May 9, 2007
7 p.m.
All are welcome!**

DISCIPLESHIP and FELLOWSHIP and SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Cluster Outreach Center

Current Volunteer Needs:

The Cluster is in need of someone to pick up donations from Giant on Thursdays and Fridays. These donations are usually picked up around 9:30 a.m. The cluster is also in need of people for intake paper work, serving, etc. as back up for vacations and call ins. They are also looking for help at the front desk on the Saturdays they are open.

If you would like to volunteer, contact Regina or Dianna at the Outreach Center at 610-970-5995.

Pantry Needs:

Juice, cereal, canned pasta, macaroni and cheese and tuna, plus no/low sugar and no/low salt items.

Clothing & Household Needs:

Children's socks, can openers, coffee makers, king and queen size sheets.

Baby Needs:

diapers 4,5,6 and newborn, stage 1 and 3 baby food.

Always needed:

Brown paper grocery bags, quart and gallon size Ziploc plastic bags (freezer or regular), empty water bottles with lids.

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. The Cluster is located at 137 Walnut Street.

Salvation Army Community Lunch

Each second Wednesday of the month St. James volunteers prepare and serve the community lunch at the Salvation Army. Help is needed at different times between 8:30 a.m. and 1:30. Contact Jean Drauschak at 610-323-1792.

Community Meal

This month, **volunteers are needed May 24th** to provide desserts, cook, set up and clean up. For more information, please call Susan Cameron at 610-718-9926.

Relay For Life News

Saturday, May 12th
4 p.m. at St. James

The Relay Team is proud to sponsor a **play called *Thirteen Things About Ed Carpolotti* presented by local talent Nancy J. Dolan.** It promises to be an exciting event! Refreshments will be served. Tickets are **\$15** donation to benefit the Pottstown Relay. See Olga Christman or any Relay member for tickets or information.

Saturday, June 2nd, THE MAIN EVENT, 10th Annual Pottstown Relay For Life
at Pottsgrove High School



Thank you, members of St. James, for your continued support to benefit the American Cancer Society.

SCRIP

When you purchase Scrip, you're purchasing **negotiable gift certificates that are used just like cash**. Scrip is issued by national and local retailers who want to support non-profit organizations. **With every purchase, Scrip earns revenue for the hunger programs we support through these efforts.**

Women of the ELCA Upper Montgomery Conference Bible Study

The next WELCA UMC Bible Study will be at St. James Lutheran Church, Limerick led by Bobbie Hoffman on **Tuesday, May 1, 2007 at 10 a.m. with coffee at 9:30 a.m.**

All women are invited to participate in these Bible Studies found in the Lutheran Woman Today Magazine. If you would like to attend, please contact Grace Schafer or Mary Arnt for carpooling arrangements.

WELCA News

WELCA's May meeting will be **May 19th** at 7 p.m. in Horn Hall.

Spring Rummage Sale June 4th and 5

Please have your CLEAN, ready-to-use items packed to bring to the church Sunday, June 3. Place them in Horn Hall, in the marked area, and plan to shop!!

- Shopping for St. James members
Monday from 4-6 p.m.
- Public sale
Tuesday from 9-noon and
12:30-1:30 p.m.

Spring Work Day Party

Everyone is invited (parents, bring your kids) to help with this year's mulching project:

Saturday, May 12th

9 a.m. - Noon.

Come and give what time you can. Coffee and donuts will be provided.

Second Annual Reading Phillies Baseball Game June 10, 2007

Enjoy the fun and fellowship and plan to attend the Reading Phillies' baseball game on June 10.

Game time is 1 p.m.

Tickets are \$7 and go on sale on May 6th after worship in Horn Hall. Please see Vickie Kirsten for tickets or more information.



Vacation Bible School 2007 July 23-27th 9:30 a.m. - Noon

Guess what is swimming up ahead? **Great Bible Reef VBS!** At the Great Bible Reef you will hear stories about Jesus, make cool crafts, learn catchy reef tunes, play super fun games, and make lots of new friends! Each day offers a new Bible story to explore through loads of fun activities. **Registration begins in June.**

Income Opportunities for Seniors

Family Services of Montgomery County is proud to present the Senior Companion Program to Montgomery County seniors. If you are a low-income senior (60 or older) who is compassionate and caring and who likes to help other seniors, you may very well qualify to become a Senior Companion.

Volunteers work at least 15 hours per week, serving as companions to other seniors who are more frail, helping them to remain independent in their homes. In return, you receive a modest tax-free stipend (which will not affect any of your subsidies), paid vacation and sick time, paid holidays, and transportation reimbursement. In addition, **you will have a new purpose in your life with people who need you and look forward to your visits.** The Senior Companion Program provides paid training and monthly meetings for continuing education. Interested? Call Deb Keller, Director, at 215-368-0985, ext. 15.

If you are a senior who is interested in an income opportunity like the one mentioned above, and would like to work with children in schools, **call 610-630-0201 to find out more information about Family Services' Foster Grandparent Program.**



Companion Service for Seniors

Are you a senior citizen in Montgomery County who **needs some extra assistance in order to remain independent in your home**? Are you **perhaps lonely** during the day and would appreciate a friendly visitor to talk to, share stories with, or play games? Do you need help with your mail or meal preparation?

Family Services of Montgomery County is the sponsor of the Senior Companion Program which **enables trained senior volunteers to visit folks** like you for approximately 4 hours to provide assistance with important daily tasks, encouragement to remain active, help with your medication, help with meal preparation, and a friendship that can last a lifetime.

Do you take care of a senior and need some relief you're your responsibilities as a caregiver? Senior Companions can also provide 4 hours of respite to caregivers, giving them the peace of mind that their loved one is being looked after. The visits will occur on a weekly schedule to suit your needs. Senior Companions are not housekeepers, nor do they perform personal care (toileting, bathing).

This is a free service! If you are interested in learning more about the program, **call Deb Keller, Program Director, at 215-368-0985.**



Aloe Stops Arthritis Pain

From an article submitted by Earl Moyer

Aloe Vera, a miracle plant known for thousands of years, can banish arthritis pain - even cases described as hopeless by doctors!

"Until recently, there were few studies documenting the amazingly curative powers of properly processed aloe products on arthritis, AIDS, some cancers, ulcers, diabetes, sickle-cell anemia and other illnesses, stresses Hedendal, a graduate of Harvard College, New York Chiropractic College and American Holistic College of Nutrition. " For arthritis patients aloe has proven to be very nutritional, antiseptic and anti-inflammatory. Comparative studies now show that aloe with sitosterol is as effective as the anti-inflammatory drugs prednisalone and indomethacin, yet lacks their long term toxicity."

Hedendal's center recommends only Lametco, Forever Living, Carrington and Coates brands of whole-leaf cold-pressed aloe products containing active polysaccharides and acemannan. He advises use of aloe cream on arthritic joints to lessen pain and inflammation and improve range of motion. That should be combined with drinking 1 to 2 ounces of aloe concentrate daily to boost the immune system and improve digestion.

But, Hedendal warns: "The majority of commercial aloe products are ineffective because they are heat-processed, which destroys their active ingredients, or are bogus - no better than water!

(continued on next column)

Speak with Earl Moyer, for information on **other remarkable aloe breakthroughs** in cases of AIDS, Feline Leukemia, ulcers, diabetes, sickle-cell anemia.

*Our creator made sure that we could get all the nutrients we need to be healthy from plant food, vegetables, fruits and grains. **We are told in the Bible, Genesis 1:29, "And God said Behold, I have given you every bearing seed which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit.***

Charitable giving: Where head and heart meet.

Share your good fortune and experience personal and financial benefits. Learn about:

- Charitable remainder trusts, charitable lead trusts and wealth replacement trusts.
- How to take a substantial donation and still provide an inheritance for your heirs.
- How you can receive financial benefits from helping others.

You're invited to attend this free informational seminar, hosted by your Thrivent Financial representative, John A. Ungerman.

Event Details

Sunday, May 6, 2007,
at 9:30am

St James Lutheran Church

Please call 610-970-4740, or send an e-mail to john.uungerman@thrivent.com to reserve a place for yourself and a guest.

MEMBER NEWS

May Birthdays

1 – Julia Jackson; **3** – Ashley Hoffman, Barbara Shollenberger, Kit Weller; **4** – Tracy Lapreziosa; **5** – Chelsea Hartzman; **7** – Carol Keller; **9** - Mike Mace, Kim Strichik, Leah Willow; **10** – Aimee Civera; **13** – Audrey Stine; **16** – Helen Moyer; **17** – Mabel Meloy; **18** – Nancy Garner; **21** – Tom Drauschak, Grace Schafer; **23** – Ellen Jameson; **24** – Del Mauger; **25** – Mae Erb, Justin Kirsten, Judy Swanson, Teri Widmann; **27** - Jack Drauschak; **28** – Laura Bierman

Change of Address

Gladys Schott
Manatawny Manor
Pottstown, PA 19465

Audrey Maurer
13316 Shannondale Dr.
Audobon, PA 19403

Garnet Nye Jr.
C/o Veteran Affairs Medical Denter
1400 Blackhorse Hill Rd.
Bldg 58-A
Coateville, PA 19320-2096

Change of telephone number

Vickie and Justin Kirsten - 484-300-4915

Change of e-mail

Tracie Rheel - trheel@comcast.net

Congratulations

to Nicole Bealer recipient of the 2007 St. James Scholarship.

Thank you notes

Thank you to Pastor Hutchinson for your home and hospital visits. Also a thank you to all the members of St. James for your cards, calls, and visits, and a special thanks for all your prayers.
Mike Lunn

Thank you to all who contributed food for the Seder Meal and to the many who set up, served and cleaned up. Your involvement makes it all possible.

Thank you to the Christian Education Committee for organizing the Easter Potluck Breakfast and Egg Hunt. It was nice to have a special fellowship time on this very important day.

Thank you to all who provided food for the Easter Potluck breakfast. It was delicious!

Deepest Sympathies

to the family and friends of Roy Silcox.

to the family and friends of Kathryn Lutz.

to the family and friends of Donald Weller.



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.

Ron Schafer 610-326-4814
President, Represents Christian Ed. Comm.
Email: ronslibrary@aol.com

Vickie Kirsten 610-326-2410
Vice-President, Represents Fellowship Comm.
Email: vjkirsten@comcast.net

John Ungerman 610-718-9368
Secretary, Represents Property Comm.
Email: john.ungerman@thrivent.com

Mike Lunn 610-367-8762
Email: sklunny@aol.com

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

Alison O'Donnell 610-779-1119
Email: Alison.C.O'Donnell@GSK.com
papodonnell@comcast.net

Dottie Smith 610-323-8226
Represents Personnel Comm.
Email: dsmith@whcgpa.com

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

Mary Arnt 610-323-6176

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

Tracie Rheel 610-323-7051
Represents Stewardship Comm.
Email: tar403@yahoo.com

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

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

TREASURER REPORT

	<u>March 2007</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income	\$ 29,762.03	\$ 71,162.84
Expenses	<u>29,734.95</u>	<u>742,028.59</u>
Net Income	\$27.08	(\$865.75)
<i><u>Regular Envelopes</u></i>		
Received	\$23,333.00	\$53,910.00
Needed*	<u>19,780.31</u>	<u>59,340.94</u>
Over (Under)	\$3,552.69	(\$5,430.94)
<i><u>Third Sunday Offering</u></i>		
Collected	\$367.00	
Beneficiary	Pottstown Cluster	

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

WELCOMING THE STRANGER

Refugee Resettlement Ministry

"I was a stranger and you welcomed me" - Matthew 25:35

Our first refugees have arrived from Liberia. **Ike Kallon, age 28, arrived April 19 and his sister, Delvin Wolleh, age 26 arrived April 24.** Ike speaks English and has Technical/Vocation Training. He lists his occupation as an auto mechanic. He does have a health problem that needs to be checked out, that being a rapid heart beat. His sister Delvin also speaks English and has a high school diploma and was employed as a beautician doing hair plaiting and nails. She has some health problems associated being a victim of torture.

Ike and Delvin are one of five individuals of an extended family that we will be resettling. Grace Lutheran in Royersford is resettling five members of this same extended family who also arrived on April 24. At this point we do not know when the rest of the family will arrive.

With Ike's and Delvin's arrival there are several ways one can help:

- 1. Provide transportation** - Ike and Delvin will initially need some help to get to places such as doctor appointments, grocery shopping, work, etc. Individuals will be needed to provide transportation from time to time. If you can help with this there is a **sign up sheet in Horn Hall asking what days and times are best for you and the number of passengers that you can accommodate.**
- 2. Visitations** - We are looking for someone who can visit Ike and Delvin for 15 - 30 minutes at a time to check in on them and for companionship. Visitations would be scheduled according to an individual's availability. **If you would like to be a visitor, please sign up in Horn Hall with the days and times that are best for you.**
- 3. Help find employment** - Ike and Delvin both will need to find employment. His previous occupation has been an auto mechanic and hers was a beautician, but other employment is possible. **Please contact Suzanne Rigg if you know of any openings for jobs that fit these skill levels or have time to search the paper for positions appropriate to these skills or what might be other suitable employment.**
- 4. Donate clothing** - Check the bulletin board in Horn Hall for what clothing may be needed.
- 5. Pray** - Pray for Ike and Delvin and the rest of their family. Pray about your role in this ministry. Pray for the guidance and resources to accomplish this ministry. Pray for all who will be helping with this ministry.