

# the Spirit of St. James



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

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## Sunday Schedule

### Worship

8 and 10:45 a.m.

### Coffee Fellowship

9 a.m.

### Adult Education Classes

9:30 a.m.

### Children's Music

9:30 a.m.

### Children's Church

10:45 a.m.

### Communion Weekly

*\*Lenten Worship Schedule found on  
page 4.*



## **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](http://www.stjamespottstown.org)

## **STAFF**

### **Ministers**

Each and Every Member of St. James

### **Pastor**

The Rev. Peter Hutchinson  
e-mail: [pastorh@stjamespottstown.org](mailto:pastorh@stjamespottstown.org)  
home 610-718-0313

### **Director of Discipleship**

Suzanne Rigg  
e-mail: [srigg@thehill.org](mailto:srigg@thehill.org)  
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### **Secretary**

Pam Lloyd  
e-mail: [plloyd@stjamespottstown.org](mailto:plloyd@stjamespottstown.org)

### **Director of Music Ministries**

Sharon MacCabe  
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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](mailto:newsletterstj@wi.rr.com)

## **OFFICE NOTES**

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### **Master Calendar / Room Scheduling**

All room reservations, including committee meetings and private gatherings, should be made with Pam 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 Edition: February 15, 2007**

Article submissions can be sent by e-mail to [newsletterstj@stjamespottstown.org](mailto: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**

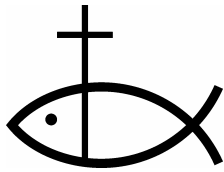
Please watch for an announcement on WFMZ Channel 69 or by checking their website at [wfmz.com](http://wfmz.com) (look for St. James ELC), listen to WPAZ radio (AM 1370), call the church for a message regarding cancellations or changes in the Sunday morning schedule due to inclement weather.

### **Weekly Bulletin Announcements the Website**

Weekly bulletin announcements can be found on St. James' website under the section called News. This section will be updated weekly with new information available from week to week. Check it out for yourself at [www.stjamespottstown.org](http://www.stjamespottstown.org).

# A Note From Pastor Hutchinson

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## What kind of God...?

A few months ago, I read in the newspaper that a recent Gallop poll asked people what kind of God they believed in. One option was an "Authoritarian God" who helped people make decisions, was responsible for global events, and could be angry and capable of meting out punishment to those unfaithful or ungodly. Another option was the "Benevolent God" who also was active in people's lives, but was much less prone to be angry or wrathful and was mostly a force of positive influence in the world and with individuals.

Those of you who participated in the "The Lutheran Course" Sunday adult study class might understand that you could not have participated in this questionnaire. That is because good theology, that is, accurate talk about God, knows that both answers are simultaneously correct. The God revealed to us in Jesus Christ, is a kind and loving and caring God. The God who forgives through Jesus we call "the gospel" or good news. The baby born in a manger is God's fullest revelation and manifestation of his love for humanity.

But at the same time, the God revealed in the ministry of Jesus expressed dissatisfaction and even anger when God's law and ways were not observed. This was, ironically, often expressed in Jesus wrath-filled statements towards those who thought they were being most religious and observing the law diligently. They were the legalists who did not live in the spirit of God's desire for us, but only by the letter of the law.

That is why we take part in the coming Lenten season which invites us to being humble about our failure to observe God's law of love and to seek the forgiveness that Jesus says we most certainly need.

So to Mr. Gallop, the correct answer would be not to choose one or the other, but to say "Yes" to both ideas of God. Realizing that putting God in a category limits God and tries to simplify who He is and that too much emphasis on the one idea of God versus the other makes for interesting polling data, but fails to tell the truth of the God who comes to us in the Epiphany and who also summons us to turn to Him during Lent.

## Mid-Week Bible Study

The bible says an awful lot about money. Jesus too, in particular, mentions it often and uses it in many of his parables. At the same time, it's the one thing that makes us feel uncomfortable to talk about in church.

But as Christians, shouldn't we feel comfortable about our understanding of how God wants us to see and use the possessions that we have? Shouldn't we feel confident that we are living in accordance with God's will and desire? At the same time we might want to ask; "Please, isn't there any grace here?" Aren't there circumstances that God understands so that we aren't made to feel constricted by having to follow rules about money and how we use it?

At our next bible study we will explore these and other questions to hopefully help give us all a better understanding of this whole matter of money and possessions as children of God. So please come and bring a friend. We will be meeting at St. James on Tuesday nights at 7 PM, starting on February 20 (the night before Ash Wednesday) and at Sanatoga Village on Thursday mornings at 10 AM, starting on February 22 (the day after Ash Wednesday). The seven week study will conclude during Holy Week, April 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>.

# WORSHIP NOTES

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## Wednesday LENTEN Worship

**The season of Lent begins on  
Ash Wednesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>**

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 Ash  
Wednesday;**

**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 from February 28 – March 28. Worship begins at 7 p.m. with a soup supper preceding worship at 6 p.m. (*see next column*)

## Mid-week Lenten Suppers



During the season of Lent, **beginning February 28<sup>th</sup>**, 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 March 14<sup>th</sup> 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.

## St. James Devotional Booklets For Lent

On **Sunday, February 18<sup>th</sup>** a Lenten devotional booklet will be available for all to use during the season of Lent. This devotional booklet is based on readings from the Gospel of Luke.

**Members and friends of the congregation wrote the devotions.** Thank you to everyone who contributed. The booklets 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.

## Every Church Needs Good Leaders

Part 2 in the series.

Strong leaders are **proactive** instead of **reactive**. What do we mean by that? Persons are more likely to be **reactive** if they attribute their feelings to what others do and to their surroundings. So when we say things like *"That's just the way I am" ...or..."I can't help it, my mother/father are the same way" ...or..."I can't do that, I don't have the time" ...or..."My boss/spouse/children make me so mad"*, then we are allowing people and events outside of us to control our lives and how we act. Being reactive means doing things based upon how we react to our emotions and feelings. So then, if we are in a bad mood, that it is reflected in how we act. On the other hand, being a **proactive** person means realizing that God has given us the capacity to choose and control our reaction to things. One of the things that separates us from the animal world is our human ability to be self-aware, or in other words, understanding how things around us might be affecting us. Persons who don't blame circumstances, conditions, or others for their behavior, but act in accordance with the values that are important to them, are better positioned to assume leadership and help move things along in the right direction. Proactive people accept *responsibility* for their actions and understand that we all have a respond-ability, ...that is, the *ability* to determine how we will *respond* to things.

Within a church, those important values are the teachings and ministry of Jesus, who acted and responded to others, not based on feelings or what was happening around him, but based on what he knew to be most important to God the Father. He exhibited as aspect of leadership that compelled others to follow him on The Way of; service and love, regardless of whether it made them feel good or bad.

A man once told a counselor that he was concerned his marriage was going bad because he and his wife no longer had loving feelings for each other. The advice to him was *"Just go and love her"*. But you don't understand, he said, *"The feeling just isn't there anymore"*. Again, he was told *"Just go and love her"*. Once more he said *"I told you, the feeling of love is not there! How do you love when you don't love?"*. The answer to him was *"Love is a verb more than a noun. The feeling you desire is the fruit of the action of loving. Decide for yourself to go to your wife and listen to her, empathize with her, appreciate her, serve her, sacrifice for her. That is how to save your marriage"*.

Strong leadership in a church involves a willingness to choose to act in Christ-like way, and not be controlled or discouraged by whatever feelings we are having or what's happening to us at the time. Maybe you have more leadership abilities than you think.



## Third Sunday Offering February Recipient

Seminary Sunday - February 18, 2007

This month's Third Sunday Offering will go to The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia (LTSP). On February 18<sup>th</sup> we will have with us Senior Seminarian Susan (Sue) Sosnin who 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. In addition to preparing professional leaders for the church, LTSP is now working with congregations and synods in equipping all the baptized people of God. LTSP is a seminary that is innovative in areas such as lay theological education, theological education with youth, multi-cultural concentrations, urban studies, music and liturgy and much more. 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 to the LTSP and their mission of providing leaders for the Church.

## Third Sunday Offering Schedule

MARCH - Cluster Outreach Center  
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



What a great evening we had 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, Earl and Jim for their help in leading worship. The evening affirmed the wonderful work of God's people that goes on at St. James.

With the start of a new year, an offering goal has been set. In 2007 we will try to purchase a heifer cow through Heifer International. The cost of a heifer cow is \$500. Last year we were able to purchase two goats, a flock of geese, ducks and chickens and several trios of rabbits. Our goal this year is an ambitious one, but one that we hope to meet.

**The next Rejoicing Spirits worship will be February 14<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.** when we will be celebrating God's love on Valentine's Day. Please remember that even though Rejoicing Spirits is dedicated to sharing God's Word and spreading his love to our brothers and sisters with developmental disabilities it is also open to everyone in the community. If you have not had a chance to come and worship with us, give it a try and see for yourself the love and joy that is shared among all who attend.

# DISCIPLESHIP and FELLOWSHIP and SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

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## Cluster Outreach Center

Current Volunteer Needs:

Clothing Sorters - Volunteers needed to unpack, sort, tag and rack donations of adult clothing, shoes and household items.

Food Pantry - There is a lot of food to sort at the Outreach Center. If you can read, you can sort.

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

Pantry Needs:

Juice, powdered milk, canned pasta, macaroni and cheese.

Clothing & Household Needs:

Children's socks, girl's size 14 & 16 winter clothes, can openers, coffee makers, queen and king size sheets.

Baby Needs:

Similac Advance w/iron formula, size 5 & 6 diapers and stage 1 & 3 baby food.

Always needed:

Brown paper grocery bags, quart and gallon size Ziploc plastic bags (freezer and 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.**

## Salvation Army Community Lunch Second Wednesday of Month

Each second Wednesday of the month a group of dedicated volunteers from St. James prepares and serves the community lunch at the Salvation Army providing for the needs of those in our community. Volunteers are needed at different times between 8:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to help with cooking, serving and clean up. For info please contact Jean Drauschak at 610-323-1792.

## Relay for Life News & Update

Thanks to everyone who supported our Christmas fundraiser. We raised \$1600 during the 5 week sale. The tables have been taken down, but we still have dishcloths and potholders in our inventory, so if you would like to buy some, contact Pat Baer or Olga Christman.

The St. James Relay team is now in the planning stages for the actual Relay - which is **June 2 and 3**. This is the 10<sup>th</sup> year for the Pottstown Relay and the goal is to raise \$1 million dollars! The theme for this year's Relay is **"Moments In Time, Ten Years of Hope..and Counting"**.

If any of you are saving dimes for the **"Dimes Make A Difference"**, you can bring them to church and give them to Pat Baer or Sara Jane Silver. The dimes are being counted at the monthly Team Captains meetings at Emmanuel Lutheran Church.

## WELCA News

Come to our WELCA meeting in Horn Hall at 7 p.m., February 19<sup>th</sup> when Gladys McGrath presents "Wood!" Also, plan now to attend our meeting on May 21<sup>st</sup> when the Snyder Family will present an inspirational ChalkTalk centered around Lighthouses, Faith, and Music. Save the date!

If you're cleaning during this sudden cold snap, remember the Spring Red Door Boutique a/k/a "Rummage Sale Time" is June 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. Clean items are appreciated! If you have new items with tags attached, please remember to keep them on and indicate "new" so we can pass those items on to the local Church In-Gathering.

### Women of the ELCA Upper Montgomery Conference Bible Study

The next WELCA Upper Montgomery Conference Bible Study will be at Augustus Lutheran Church, Trappe led by Janet Luyben on **Tuesday, February 6, 2007** at 10 a.m. with coffee at 9:30 a.m.

The **March Bible Study will be at St. James**, Limerick led by Ann Seislove on Tuesday, March 6, 2007. 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.

## SEPA 2007 Mission Fair

**March 24, 2007  
LTSP Crossman Center**

Join Bishop Claire Burkat and Brian McLaren, author of *A New Kind of Christian*, *A Generous Orthodoxy* and *More Ready than you Realize*, for a day of learning and conversation about how discipleship in the Lutheran tradition can energize your congregation to make a difference in the mission field around you. Choose from workshops addressing inspiring worship, passionate spirituality, relational evangelism, the future of the church, intro to natural church development, enabling mission, and reaching youth/young adult culture.

Everyone is invited to attend. We will carpool to and from the fair. For more information concerning the workshops and registration, please contact Suzanne Rigg or Pastor Hutchinson at 610-326-2810. **Living in God's amazing grace: Making a difference in the mission field.**

### Altar Flowers, Eternal Light Bulletin Sponsorships

The cost of each sponsorship is \$15 for eternal light, \$40 for altar flowers, and \$15 for bulletins. **Sign up sheets are posted in Horn Hall** for anyone interested. Envelopes are available in Horn Hall on the resource table. Cash or check payment can be placed in offering or turned in to the office.

**Just a reminder that we do not put flowers on the altar during Lent (Sundays of February 25 - April 1).** Please feel free to sponsor the eternal light or the bulletins during that time.

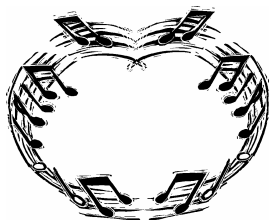
## From the Director of Music Ministry

*“Music is the Universal Language of Mankind”* -Longfellow

As I write this article the beautiful Christmas sounds are still echoing in my mind. However the calendar still marches on and pushes me to look to the future. We have so much to look forward to as the season of Epiphany unfolds its light before us. The revealing of the journey of Lent, Holy Week and Easter is soon to be a subtle glow on our horizon.

There will be opportunities to walk the Lenten path through music. You can be a part of the **Holy Week Festival Choir** which will present the story of the Passion on Palm Sunday and finally will celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord with music for **Brass and Choir on Easter Sunday**. You are welcome to **come to rehearsals on Thursday evenings at 8 p.m. starting March 1**. If you would like to be a part of this musical opportunity please e-mail me at [sharonbmaccabe@comcast.net](mailto:sharonbmaccabe@comcast.net) or phone me at 484-431-3287 so that I can prepare a book for you.

At Wednesday Evening Lenten Services there will be special music to create a mood of reflection. Those services begin at 7 on February 28. Music can mirror the mood of the time. I hope that Lenten Season Music this year will aid you in your journey toward the brilliant light of the Resurrection.



## Inaugural Concert St. James Concert Series

On **Sunday February 18, 2007 at 4p.m.** Sharon McCabe along with her valued colleague, Kevin Rosenberry will perform the first concert in our newly established concert series at St. James. They will perform from the High Baroque period which will include music from Bach, Buxtehude, Handel and Vivaldi for organ and trumpet. Please put this date on your calendar and also watch for more information.

### Children's Musical Program

Every Sunday children are invited to participate in the music program offered in the room adjacent to the choir room. The program includes the ringing of hand chimes, singing, and a bit of music education. This program is available to children of all ages.

### 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. With every purchase, Scrip earns revenue for the hunger programs we support through these efforts.

SCRIP is available every Sunday from the end of the first service to the beginning of the second. Let's continue last year's course and support this program, helping hungry people to be fed.

## Scholarship Fund Applications Available

A \$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 the office and **must be submitted completed no later that March 15, 2007.**

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 15<sup>th</sup> deadline.**



## Health News Bulletin Board

Check out the Health News bulletin board located in Horn Hall to find an article on the vaccinations that children need along with other helpful information.

## Blood Pressure Checks

Do you know what your Blood Pressure is? Stop by in **Horn Hall on February 4<sup>th</sup>** and let your arm be given a healthy squeeze. Checks are held following the 8 a.m. worship service and again prior to the 10:45 a.m. service.

## Blood Drive

The Blood Drive on January 8<sup>th</sup> was very successful. Many thanks to everyone! The next blood drive is Monday, April 9<sup>th</sup> from 2 - 7:30 p.m.

## Bus Trip To Sight and Sound Theatre

April 26, 2007  
"In The Beginning"

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 **April 26, 2007 to the Sight and Sound Millennium Theatre** for the presentation of "In The Beginning." We will depart from Kmart at 8:00 a.m. and enjoy a breakfast buffet in the William Penn Room at Willow Valley Resort at 9:30 a.m., see the show at 12:00 Noon, and return to Kmart at about 4:30 p.m. The complete cost including taxes and tips is \$74.50/person. Payment for tickets is due by March 26, 2007. Please see Helen and Earl for tickets and more information.

## **FAITH PRACTICES What They Are and Do – Part 2**

Followers of Jesus are inspired to develop practices and patterns for living that characterize a life that is devoted to daily discipleship. Seven common practices have been identified as key to model and nurture: prayer, study, worship, invite, encourage, serve and give.

### **Faith Practices Reflect and Define Relationships**

Christianity is not primarily about accepting certain doctrines or living up to certain obligations - though those are a part of one's faith life. Christianity is primarily about being in a relationship. All the rest follows.

Our relationship to "God" is not a private hotline to the sacred. It shapes all other relationships. The Great Commandment says: "You shall love the Lord with all your heart and soul and mind and strength, and you shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:38-39). The command depicts a threefold relationship made up of love that embraces God, self, and community. When one leg of the triangle is shaky, the whole pyramid collapses.

**The triad** - God, self, and community - defines our religious practices. If the relationship to God is left out, practices become mere group activities. These actions that leave God out lose their purpose and simply work to create the sacred in human form. If the loving relationship to self is erased, practices become exercises in false humility and homemade martyrdom. Self-sacrifice, a key virtue in many religious traditions, works only when there is a valued and valuable "self" to freely offer. If the community evaporates, practices become experiments in private spiritual wandering. The presence of a community is absolutely essential to discern the spirits, to test the practices, and to expand our spiritual vision, lest that vision become shortsighted or cloudy.

*Taken from A Lutheran Perspective on Faith Practice By Dr. Martha E. Stortz, Professor, Historical Theology and Ethics, Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, Berkeley, California*

## **Sunday Morning Adult Education**

### **What We Really Want?**

A study on material blessings and our lives.

Do we consume so much because we are materialistic? Or to satisfy hopes and longings? We know that people in the U.S. enjoy an abundance of material blessings, but how does our money contribute to our overall well-being and health? And when it comes to our spiritual lives, can too much money actually get in the way? These will be just some of the questions we explore in the new adult study being offered **in Lent on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in the Blue Room.**

To help find the answers to these questions and others we will spend time:

1. Studying the bible;
2. Viewing and discussing advertisements from prime-time television;
3. Understanding the baptismal promise of renouncing the devil's empty promises;
4. Examining our own personal spending on wants and needs;
5. Exploring a shopping 'Sabbath;'
6. Looking at the 'The Global Rich List' to see how rich we really are.

**The class begins February 25 and lasts for five weeks**

### **Seasons of the Spirit**

Seasons of the Spirit is a **lectionary-based Bible study** that shapes and transforms lives. Each week the class takes an in-depth look at the Bible readings heard in worship while discovering and learning to share God's Word. The class meets weekly in the Adult Study classroom at 9:30 a.m. Individuals can join this class anytime throughout the year.

# MEMBER NEWS

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## 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

## Change of Address

Mary Littlefield  
The Hawthorne  
1501 Mineral Springs Rd.  
Reading, PA 19602

## Memorial Contributions

in memory of *Genevieve Boden*:  
from Linda Muschlitz, Mr. and Mrs. Richard  
Mayk, Mayer Pollock II

in memory of *Amy Swanson Lentowski*:  
from Kathryn Geist

## Thank you notes

Thank you to Pastor Hutchinson for his visits and prayers. Thank you to the congregation for all the cards and the flowers that were sent to me during the Christmas holiday. Also thank you to WELCA for the fruit basket and the Christmas Carolers that came to my house. I am really thankful to be part of the St. James family.

Genevieve Clouser

Dear St. James Members,  
Thanks you for the beautiful floral arrangement brought to my home. It brightens my day when I look at it. I appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Sincerely,  
Ruth Neiffer

Happy Holidays to everyone at St. James and thank you to the Ladies of the church for the Ideals Christmas book!

Kathy Geiger

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

Dear Friends at St. James,  
Thank you so much for your gift in January and for all your support and love over the past 23 years we have been in Nepal. We hope to see you again this summer when we are in the U.S.A.

Love,  
Becky and Stephen Thorson

## Treasurer's Report

|               | <u>Dec 2006</u>  | <u>Year to Date</u> |
|---------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Income        | \$ 45,709.76     | \$ 303,930.14       |
| Expenses      | <u>34,121.11</u> | <u>323,892.57</u>   |
| Net<br>Income | \$11,588.65      | (\$19,962.43)       |

### Regular Envelopes

|                 |                  |                   |
|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Received        | \$22,111.97      | \$220,140.46      |
| Needed*         | <u>20,034.76</u> | <u>240,417.08</u> |
| Over<br>(Under) | \$2,077.21       | (\$20,276.62)     |

### Third Sunday Offering

|             |                   |
|-------------|-------------------|
| Collected   | \$537.00          |
| Beneficiary | ELCA World Hunger |

\*Each month includes \$14,653 actual pledged and \$5,382 needed growth to balance the budget.

## 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

## New Fiscal Controls

After discussion and input from Council, the Executive Committee and Pastor, Council has adopted certain “fiscal controls”. It is the intention of Council that these controls will enhance the current structure so that we can monitor our budget more closely. Items which are specific to certain positions or responsibilities will be communicated to those parties directly; however, the following information applies to all members of the congregation. As always, members of the congregation are invited to provide feedback to the Council on this matter.

- The Finance Committee is being “reinstated” to help with the oversight of these policy items and to work with the Treasurer, Executive Committee and Council in matters relating to finances and the budget.
- The Finance Committee will distribute budget forms by the end of August and proposed budgets from committees, ministries and staff will be due back to the Finance Committee by the middle of September. This will give the Treasurer and the Finance Committee time to develop a draft budget for presentation to Council in October with final adoption slated for November.
- The Treasurer will provide notification to committees/ministries/staff when 50 and 75 percent of budget/line item amounts have been spent during the year. This should help keep everyone aware of amounts which are remaining to be spent.
- Financial Vouchers are available in the church office. These forms **must** be used by committees, members of the congregation and staff for all expenditures other than utilities and payroll. Sign off on the form by the committee chair or staff person responsible for this area of the budget will be necessary. This will provide a paper trail for the Treasurer and Secretary so that expenditures can be charged against the proper items within the budget.
- Mailing. We will look for ways to reduce the amount of first-class mail that we distribute. The Finance Committee will be asking members their “mail preference” (i.e., placing items in mailbox, e-mail or first-class mail).
- Council encourages everyone in the congregation and staff to think of ways to save costs either in the way things are done or through the use of cost-saving devices or processes.
- As a congregation we will look for ways to reduce the amount paid for all supplies and services. This will be done on an ongoing basis so that we can ensure we are doing the best that we can.
- We should all be aware of the good stewardship of resources through recycling, energy conservation, etc. As part of this, we are exploring ways of developing more streamlined bulletins which still contain the liturgy, but which can be reused from week to week at various times of the year.