

The Servitor

1104 NE Vivion Rd • Kansas City, MO 64118 • (816) 452-1018 • sec@stjameskc.org

MAY 2007

**PASTORS ELIZABETH
& JOHN BACKUS**

(816) 531-6078

Internet: <http://www.stjameskc.org>
E-mail: pe@stjameskc.org,
pj@stjameskc.org

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CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AND POTLUCK ON MAY 6TH!

St James meets twice each year.

At our December meeting, our primary business is the annual budget.

In May, (First Sunday–May 6th) we elect council members for the coming year. This year, there will also be information and decisions about the St James Pre-School, as well as an update and perhaps a motion on the purchase of a Grand Piano for use in the sanctuary.

Such great deliberations should not take place on an empty stomach! Potluck will begin immediately after the 11:00 worship service with the meeting to follow. You will find “bios” on our council and Endowment Committee candidates inside this issue.

Candidates for council (four positions open) are:

Virginia Benner	Richard Wilson	Jerry Ramos	Betty Hill
Jason Scott	Bud Stracker	Sarah Cline	Gary Snyder

Candidates for the endowment committee (two positions open) are:

Mark Unterreiner	Mary Meyer
Chad Kerns	Need 1 more volunteer

BILL STANCIl RETURNS TO ADULT ED!

THE PARADOXES OF CHRISTIANITY ADULTS EXPLORE

Dr. Bill Stancil, Professor of Theology at Rockhurst University, is coming back to help the Adult Education group unpack four of the puzzles that touch our daily life. Jesus said we are to love God with our heart, soul, and mind (Matthew 22:7). We generally do a good job of loving God with the heart and soul. But what about the mind? Come and explore some “delightful dilemmas” of the faith during four Adult Education sessions between the Sunday morning services.

April 29	The Decisions of Life: Free or Determined?
May 6	The Human Condition: Nature or Grace?
May 13	Ethics: Absolute or Relative?
May 20	The Christian Lifestyle in the World: Engagement or Retreat?

A paradox is a statement that is seemingly opposed to common sense and yet is perhaps true. Can we be authentic Christians/Lutherans in this decade. Come and learn! Last August, Dr. Stancil helped us unpack the convolution of the creeds, and a year ago he explained some major turning points of Christianity.

And we end the month with:

May 27 Fellowship and Coffee

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

Natural Church Development News

The NCD Team has distributed 31 surveys to active members of our congregation. The results will be tabulated by the NCD office and we look toward receiving our first set of data and suggestions during the summer.

Outside the Box

At our May Meeting, Outside the Box discussion group will concentrate on how we can do something *this summer* to make our life of faith and our “regular life” seem more like one another. It's time to get concrete! Come and join us for lively discussion and cookies and coffee. Everyone is invited to learn about Outside the Box!



NOTES FROM THE PASTOR'S

Synod Assembly

We need 1 woman delegate for the Overland Park, Kansas, **Synod Assembly** to be held June 1-3. If you are interested, please see Hank Guggenmos.

Our current delegates are Marvin & Candace McNabb & Michael Cook.

Graduation's coming

We would like to list, in the June Servitor, those family members who will be **graduating** this Spring. Please call or e-mail the information to the church office by **May 15**.

BELOVED BIBLES

The **Arts in Ministry Bible Exhibit** will remain open each Sunday through May 20. The exhibit is located in the lounge across the hall from the choir room. Our schedule is 8:00 - 8:30, 9:30 - 11:00, and 4:30 - 5:00 or by request.

Adult Education— Meeting and request for members!

There will be an **Adult Education meeting** May 21 at 6 pm. We would like to have some *new members* to assist in deciding what

new topics will be discussed in the future.

ALL PRO DAD EVENT

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, along with the Kansas City Chiefs presents **ALL PRO DAD!** On May 5, from 9am until 12 noon, fathers and their children will gather at Arrowhead Stadium. Join Head Coach Herm Edwards for this fun filled morning!!! The dads will rotate through stations with their kids and also learn tips about parenting. The children will also interact with games and activities. Last year's event was

a sell out! You can register at ww.AllProDad.com. The cost is \$10. Please see the bulletin board for further information or ask Marvin Nuernberger, Louise Ahrens or Pastor Liz.

AUTISM AWARENESS WALK

The Autism Awareness Walk was a success! Our team raised \$1,390! Thank you so much for your donations. The money raised will help families affected by Autism Spectrum Disorders in the Kansas City community.

HOLLIS RENEWAL CENTER NEWS

Hollis is offering two weeks of Day Camp (June 11 - 15 and June 18 - 22) for area churches this year. Camp is for elementary students (completed K - 5 by June), and will be led by the camp staff of Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Ministries. Pastors have details about this week. Cost is \$65 per person before June 1, \$75 after that. Call the Hollis office with any questions (913) 441-0451 or visit us on-line at www.holliscenter.org.

Also, join Hollis for its 3RD Annual Family Art Fair Sunday, August 26, 12:00 to 5:00 PM. This is a great day for you and your family to experience

the Hollis environment, learn about nature and participate in a creative art project. The fair will include artists from local churches and the community, food, a kid's art shelter, and performing artist shelter. There is no cost to attend though some of the activities have a small charge. Food is available via concession. We are currently seeking artists that would offer hands-on-experiences, youth bands that would like to perform, storytellers, church groups that would like to offer food options ... use your imagination. Please call for more details.

Amber Matheny has recently been

AMBER CHEERS!

very successful in her cheerleading. On March 16th she took first place in her individual cheer at Americheer International Cheer Competition held in Orlando FL. On April 1st, she competed at Mardi Gras National held in Collinsville, IL, she again took first place in her individual cheer, and her team also took 1st place. Then on April 14th she competed in her last competition of the year at Mid West Classic national, where she again took first place for her individual cheer, her team again took 1st place, and her stunt group took 1st place.

EDUCATION NOTES

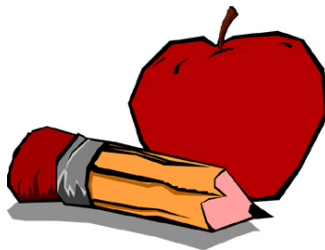
Summer Fun/VBS feedback needed

The Parish Education committee would like your opinion about our summer activity. The past several years we have sponsored Summer Fun Nights each Wednesday in July with a potluck meal, fun activity, and children's crafts. We are considering switching the activity to a multi-generational Bible School

program for three consecutive evenings (likely Tues-Thurs) during one week in July. Please call Lori Harvey at 734-5507 with your thoughts on this activity versus Summer Fun nights.

If you have a different

idea, or would like to help, we'd also like to hear from you! Please provide feedback by 5/13 so we can discuss during our next committee meeting.



Teacher Thanks!

Thanks very much to the teachers and helpers for our

Sunday School program this year. The staff included: Amy Todd, Marvin McNabb, Marie Summers, Dorothy Ramos, Renee Knopf, Chris Cline, Kevin Acton, Rachel McNabb, Julie Sherbo, Glenda Collins, Tim Verner, Mark Unterreiner, Tracey Johnson, Mary Verner, and Lori Harvey. We appreciate your efforts!



NEWS IN BRIEF

"Lutheran" Habitat Build Looking for Volunteers

This year's Habitat house is well underway. Despite rain and freezing temperatures, we are only a few days behind schedule. Workdays are scheduled for every Saturday in May and June, from 8am-4pm with lunch provided. This year we are especially in need of St. James members as well as volunteers from other Lutheran churches in the metro area as Thrivent Lutheran is paying for 70% of the cost of the house and one condition is that over 50% of the person-hours of work have to be done by Lutherans. You need no experience to participate in the build but you must be at least 16 years old. Please check your calendars and consider signing up for one of the Saturday workdays in May and June. If you have any questions contact Boyd Ahrens (453-8406) or Norb Stracker (674-9105). We look forward to seeing you on the job site at 3609 Highland soon!!!



Lutherans. You need no experience to participate in the build but you must be at least 16 years old. Please check your calendars and consider signing up for one of the Saturday workdays in May and June. If you have any questions contact Boyd Ahrens (453-8406) or Norb Stracker (674-9105). We look forward to seeing you on the job site at 3609 Highland soon!!!

St. James Book Club

The Book Club List for 2007 is available in the narthex.

The book for the May 21st meeting is

INTO THIN AIR by Jan Krakauer.

Everyone is welcome to join the book club anytime. If you have any questions, please contact Barb Buehrer at 816-734-7192.



Senior Games

The next date will be **Monday, May 14, at 1:00 p.m.** Anyone is welcome to come and join in on the fun! Please bring a snack to share!

Northland Assistance Center

The Northland Assistance Center is in need of **blankets, sleeping bags, hats, and gloves** for the homeless. Your donations should be marked for the Northland Assistance Center and placed in the office.

Employment Assistance

The Employment Assistance Support Group meets on the **1st & 3rd Tuesdays of each month from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.** at St. James. In May that is the 1st and the 15th. Anyone is welcome to attend!

Annual Garden Party in June

The eleventh annual **St James Garden Party** is now being planned. The St James Garden Party was begun in 1996 by interested St James Gardeners who thought it would be nice to visit other member's gardens and to glean some helpful information from them for their own gardens. A later benefit to this plan was that starters of plants were made available to take home to enrich the gardens of the visitors. This also was a way to thin out those gardens that were overgrown.

Lawrence & Alta Darrah had the first garden of interest. Their vegetable garden was beyond "Home and Garden" quality. From there the party just snowballed into a great event. As many as 20 gardens have been on our routes. Our pastor's Liz and John have always been the final tour home since they have continually offered the congregation a respite from the tour and also because they have a home that is a great place for the pot-luck dinner. They supply the best Minnesota brats that can be found in Missouri.

If you would like to have folks come to your home to see your garden (flowers or vegetable), just call Glenn Bray at 454-8919 or register on the sign up sheet found in the church narthex beginning in May. The party will be on June 17th this year, aka Father's Day.

No garden is too small or incomplete to put on display. If you have no interest in gardens, you can always just do a pot-luck meal and bring it to the Pastor's home at the end of the tour. That way you can have a great time, have a chance to see the latest colors of paint available from the local hardware store found on one or other wall and you may even be offered a piece of pottery from the LB collection.

Transitions:

Our sympathy is extended to the following:

Ken Wrede in the death of his cousin, **Jerry Wolfe**.

Jim Moberg, in the death of his father, **James E. Moberg**

Rick Lister, in the death of his father, **John C. Lister**.

We pray for God's comfort.

God be with **Robert Thomas Bagby**, son of Susan & Robert Bagby, as he grows in our church of faith. He was baptized on Easter, April 8th.

God be with **Cali Ann Carter**, granddaughter of Christi Carter and great-granddaughter of George & Judy Huckins. She was born March 20th.

Rejoice with **Liz and Bob Dever** in the birth of granddaughter **Linnea Barbara Dever**, born April 17th.

Congratulations to **Susan Barrett and Harland Hockett** on their St. James wedding April 16. May their lives together be blessed.

DIRECTORY CHANGES

Windy Greathouse

e-mail: windy731@aol.com

Rob Bergin

1501 NW 64th Ter
Kansas City, MO 64118-2980

Taryn Meyer

3917 Willshire Dr
Lawrence, KS 66049-3674
816-896-4570

Natalie Blom

e-mail: nblom@kc.rr.com

Karen & Frank Verduco

Ricky Greene
816-415-4757

Ed & LaVonne Kothe

22893 County Road 292B
Nathrop, CO 81236-9746

Norma Rutledge

816-863-0106
Email: norma.rutledge@gmail.com
(Norma continues to live in ___ but has a KC cell phone number)

FAMILY MATTERS

CONFIRMATION 2006-2007

WELL,

We had our pizza party, we played hide-and-go seek / tag one more time, and we brought the Confirmation year to a screeching halt.

It was another great year! Sam only accumulated a few decades of extra Confirmation years. Cam wasn't any more annoying this year than last. Austin learned more than about anybody else, and Emily—well by golly—Emily showed

up!

Special thanks go this year to our Mentors: Jerry Ramos, Tim and Mary Verner, Nichelle and Mark Unterriener. The service these folks give to our faith is immense.

Junior Mentors who have fulfilled their year of service to St. James are Hannah Proctor, Kasey Quinlain, and Clare Temperelli. They assisted in class and during time with mentors.

Be watching this space long about August for the initial details on Confirmation beginning in the fall. We'll be starting in September, and all students in 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th grades are part of the Confirmation classes.

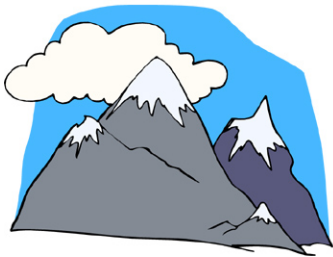
Sophomores—you will meet with Pastor John in August to begin preparation for your final Confirmation work!

⇒ Summer plans this month's feature

⇒ Looking back over a year in Confirmation Class

SKY RANCH—JUNE 9–16

The following **Adults** are scheduled to lead our Confirmation students on their trip to Sky Ranch: Tim Verner, Tracey Johnson, Rachel McNabb, Karen Verduusco, Pastor John.



(pronounced Wall-foo-gee). WLAAFJ's spend their time Working Like An Animal For Je-

The following **High School students** will serve the role of WLAAFJ:

sus: Nyssa Brockhoff, Caryn Boomgarden, Clare Temperelli, Hannah Proctor, Danielle Wheeler.

The following **Students** are registered and raring to go!

Libby Hill, Libby Verner, Becky Verner, Micah Proctor, Jessica Lee, Sam Bruncker, Andrew Matheney, Laura Boomgarden, Emily Jennings, Andrea Johnson, Kathryn Cross, Amanda Odle, Kyla Odle, Taylor Wheeler, Ryan Mason, Megan Unterreiner, Loryn Eaton, Ricky Greene.



EASTER EGG HUNT

Helpers gather down at the "big old bear" in the Sunday School wing for the annual St. James Easter Egg Hunt. Sporting her new bonnet is Anya!

NEW ORLEANS MISSION TRIP

While exactly who is going remains, at this writing, somewhat of a mystery, there are enough people registered to go that the New Orleans Mission trip is a "go". We ask that all our congregation pray

for our work in New Orleans, as you will be sending us to do very hard work in a city known mostly for play. We will be working under the direction of Lutheran Disaster Response an internationally

respected agency. This assures us that the work we do will accomplish good goals and actually help the people we intend to help.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



The Central States Synod Office is in need of volunteers who can help with large mailings, specifically our monthly newsletter. Our office is centrally located to the metro KC area at 71 Highway & Linwood Blvd. We can't pay you, unless you count coffee and doughnuts; but we can promise you a fun atmosphere working with and meeting other Lutherans from around town. We love our volunteers and appreciate all they do for us! If you're interested, please contact Christina Brooks at the Synod Office, 816-861-6584 or cbrooks@css-elca.org.

Grace and peace to you,
 Elaine Hines
 Synod Statistician/Secretary to Bishop Mansholt
 Central States Synod, ELCA
 3210 Michigan Ave, Ste 400
 Kansas City, MO 64109-2055
 816-861-6584
 FAX 816-861-4753

"In all thy ways acknowledge Him,
 and He shall direct thy paths." -- Prov. 3:6



If you are new to St. James, or are already giving through the Simply Giving program, and wish to make any changes in the dates, bank name or amount of

your pledge, please remember to fill out a new form each time. Then give it, along with a voided blank check, to David in the church office. Simply Giving helps you conveniently and consistently contribute to St. James, a Lutheran institution or pay tuition at a Lutheran school. Your gifts are made through a preauthorized withdrawal from your bank account on the same day it is withdrawn from your account - at no cost to you or the recipient.

Preschool News

At a specially called meeting on April 23rd, the St James Church council received

the resignation, effective May 23rd, 2007, of Ms. Sherry Clark, our Preschool Teacher. After receiving financial and enrollment reports from Marie Summers and Sarah Cline (asst. teacher) it was moved, seconded and carried that the Preschool be placed on "hiatus" for the 2007 and 2008 academic year. The School faces declining enrollment due to a variety of factors, including the numbers of children in the neighborhood and competing programs which include day-care as part of their services.

The council agreed to revisit the decision at the February Council meeting to review any changes in the other programs and our changing neighborhood situation. The council expressed gratitude to Ms. Clark, Sarah Cline, Marie Summers, Kevin Stephens (council liaison) and Julia Kuhn (former council liaison) for their work.



BIRTHDAYS IN THE MONTH OF MAY

- | | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|---|
| 1 - Joseph Backus
Neneng Bishop | 7 - Jennifer Kam
8 - Megan Unterreiner | 12 - Kacey Ellwein
13 - Katie Brainard
16 - Mary Meyer
17 - James Lee
20 - Dakota Rosson
Craig Simon | 23 - Marie Dahl
Anna Mae Layman
24 - Marge Paille
25 - Bob Brunker
Sarah Grafelman | Earleen Goodman
Danielle Hankes
Matt Hillman
Nina Leip |
| 3 - Elizabeth Backus | 9 - Michelle Mason
Connie Royal | 21 - Chad Kerns
22 - Cathy Stone | 26 - Lauren Treat
Dean Werner | 28 - Lou Whittier |
| 4 - Esther Bricker
Robert Martin
Jacob Wallace | 11 - Bryan Guggenmos
Anya Kuhn | | 27 - Don Alshouse | |
| 5 - Laura Mortimer | | | | |
| 6 - Jim Foley | | | | |



MLM Items for December

- 6- Macaroni & Cheese; Jell-O
- 13- Bath Soap & Toilet Paper; Spaghetti
- 20- Peanut Butter & Jelly; Baby Food
- 27- Canned Fruit & Vegetables; Pork & Beans

Adult education for December

- 6 - Bill Stancil
- 13 - Bill Stancil
- 20 - Bill Stancil
- 27 - Fellowship & Coffee



**LISTEN:
TO HEAR WITH THOUGHTFUL
ATTENTION.**

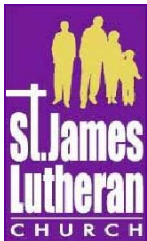
Did you ever talk to someone but felt as if that person just wasn't listening? Stephen Ministers are trained to listen well. They will hear what you have to share and respond lovingly and non-judgmentally - rather than telling you what you should or shouldn't have done. If you need someone who will really listen to you as you work through a problem in your life, consider Stephen Ministry.

If you would like more information on our Stephen Ministry, please contact Pastor Liz.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- May 6th—Congregational Potluck and Meeting—election of Council and Endowment committee.
- May 11—High School Dinner at St James.
- May 13—Installaion of ALL council members
- May 20- Outside the Box meets in the St. Timothy Room—Topic is “What will I do *this summer* to make my daily walk more like the spiritual walk I dream of?”
- May 28—Memorial Day—Office Closed
- June 1-3—Synod Assembly in Overland Park, KS
- June 9-16 - Confirmation Camp at Sky Ranch in Colorado.
- June 17—St James Garden Party
- June 23—July 1—Mission Trip for High School Students to New Orleans.

**Join us for one
or more of our
Sunday
Services:
8:30 a.m.
11:00 a.m.
5:00 p.m.**



**ST. JAMES LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

1104 NE Vivion Road
Kansas City, MO 64118

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**MAY
2007**



**ST JAMES IS A RECONCILING
IN CHRIST CONGREGATION**

Saint James welcomes all of God's children with open arms; we embrace people of all colors, race, disability or economic background. Saint James welcomes persons of all sexual orientations and gender identities to share in the worship of God and the work of God's dominion.