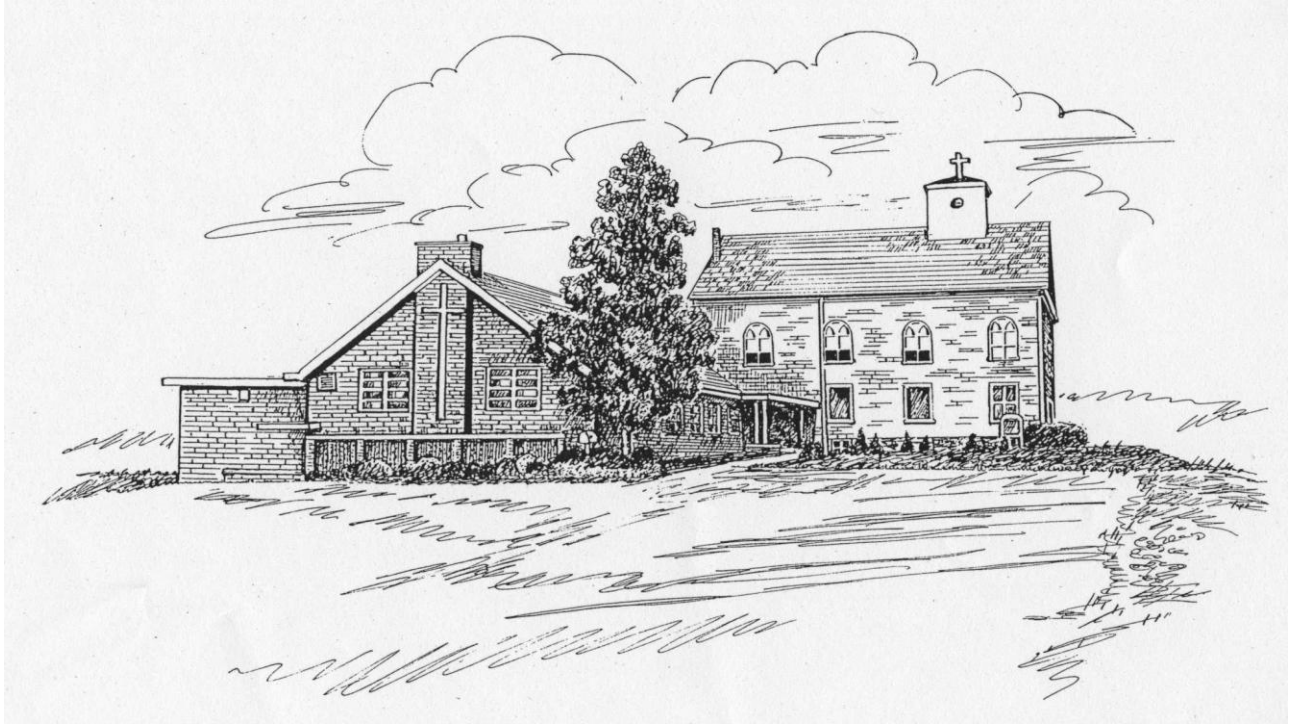


# *WISPS OF STRAW*



*St. James Lutheran Church Newsletter*

*July 2010*

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*“Serving Christ in Word and Deed”  
for 260 Years*

## *The Pastor's Letter*

*<sup>3</sup>I thank my God every time I remember you. <sup>4</sup>In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy <sup>5</sup>because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, <sup>6</sup>being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. Philippians 1:3-6 NIV*

Dear Friends,

It is good to be in partnership in ministry with you! First of all I want to thank all of you, in so many ways for being so welcoming to my wife and me. That has been so important to us, since as you can well imagine, leaving upstate New York where Pam and I have spent most of our lives was no easy matter. Neither was it easy to leave St Stephen after nine years of partnership in ministry with the folks there.

But when God calls you, God knows what you need, and we are feeling "at home" in our new place, in the community, and especially with you dear brothers and sisters in Christ at St. James! Your friendliness is wonderful to us. Continue to share that gift with each other, and to the newcomers in our midst.

First I wish to commend you for two things. The first is your dedication to ministry at St. James over these past four years searching for a new pastor. The phrase "the church is the people" is very true here. Those who stepped forward in leadership did an especially fine job.

Secondly was the wonderful service of installation and dinner on June 13<sup>th</sup>. All the folks who helped organize this memorable event are to be commended. From the music of our organist Scott Burzynski, with an assist from a friend on the trumpet, the Youth Choir, the "installation" adult choir, worship leadership, Pr. Schatzenbach's message, Bishop Reilly's presence, assisting folks, a handsome program put together by our secretary, Beth Van Blarcom, it couldn't have been better. The same could be said for the dinner, with special thanks to the Boy Scouts for their part.

I call on all of us to look to Our Lord in prayer, as we begin the challenges of ministry together at St. James. Winston Churchill once said: "The problems of victory are more agreeable than those of defeat, but they are no less difficult". So too might we say about what is before us: "The challenges of the church having a pastor are better guided than without, but they are no less difficult".

I am confident though, as we sort our challenges out with the Holy Spirit's guidance, God will give us the direction we need to effectively be "serving Christ in Word and Deed".

Thank you all again for the privilege of being able to serve you as pastor of St. James.

Your brother in Christ,

Pastor John

## *Confirmation*

At the June 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday Worship we joyously celebrated the reception into full membership at St. James of seven young people:



Shown with Pastor John, our Confirmands are (l to r): Anthony J. Sillet, Sean Gregory, Meghan Ericson, Roxanne Novo, Mark Carducci, Brandon Vasquez, and Collin Vincent. They, along with their families and instructors, were honored with a reception following Worship.

## *Vacation Bible School*

Mark your calendars for August 16<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> and join us on a High Seas Expedition as we explore God's love. A well-run and well-attended VBS has long been one of St. James' great strengths, and this year should be no exception. VBS is open to children ages 4 years through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Cost is \$15 per child with a maximum of \$40 per family. Full details are at the VBS link on the church web site, [www.strawchurch.org](http://www.strawchurch.org).

Volunteers are greatly needed! Can't commit to a full week? How about helping behind the scenes getting ready for VBS? Teen helpers are needed too. Any students who need service hours (scouts, school, etc.) are encouraged to lend a hand. Last year, we had over 70 children join us. Can you join the fun, too? Contact Beth Van Blarcom if you can help in any way.

In addition, donations and/or loans of various items would be very helpful. A complete list of what is needed is posted on the bulletin board outside the Ed Frey Memorial Hall. Of course, monetary donations to help defray costs would be appreciated as well.

## *Installation of our Pastor*

June 13<sup>th</sup> will remain a memorable Sunday in the long history of St. James. To the joyous strains of organ and trumpet, and with the voices of the Adult and Children's Choirs raised in celebratory praise, we witnessed the installation of Rev. John H. Van Haneghan as our church's 21<sup>st</sup> Pastor. The Worship was led by Bishop Roy Riley along with his assistant, Rev. Scott Schantzenbach, and Rev. Karol Van Wulfen, who served us as Vice Pastor for a time earlier in the vacancy. We were also joined by our former Pastor, Rev. Gerald Kramer, and other Pastors from the area.



*"The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;  
surely I have a delightful inheritance." Psalm 16:6 NIV*

Think of it, when the Declaration of Independence was written, the "straw church" now known as St. James was doing ministry here for almost 16 years! Now some 260 years later we are still doing ministry here in Phillipsburg and surrounding areas. What a marvelous "inheritance" we have. Of course we want the inheritance to continue. Obviously our own stewardship places a part in our giving of our time, talents and "treasure" now. But another way to ensure the ministry of St. James past our own lifetimes is to remember the church in our wills. If I understand correctly it was one such bequest from a will that helps maintain our carillon which peals out a witness in song to the surrounding community.



You may designate such a bequest for a specific purpose, a "designated bequest" or one that will go where it is needed through an "undesignated bequest". I have seen in my 26 years of ministry how folks remembering the church in their wills have made a difference in continuing the ministry of the church.

Prayerfully consider whether this is something that God is calling you to do.

Pastor John

## *New Members*

St. James was blessed to be able to welcome new additions to our family at both the May 16<sup>th</sup> and June 27<sup>th</sup> Worship Services. Our new members are:

Rev. Rick Brunsell

Sharon and Alan Hardenbergh and their children, Shannon, Hayley, and Andrew

Joe and Erika La Placa and their son, Elijah

Pam Van Haneghan

Sabrena Will

Christine Winnicky and her daughter, Madelaine

## *Baptisms*

Cecilia Ella Kiley was welcomed into child membership through the Sacrament of Baptism at the May 16<sup>th</sup> Worship. Cecilia is the daughter of James and Monica Kiley of Alpha, NJ.



## *Pastoral Care*

You are encouraged to call Pastor John in the church office when in need of pastoral care for yourself, family, or friends. If you know of a fellow member who is hospitalized, please inform the office or the Pastor. Most hospitals today no longer contact churches with this information.

## *Fund Raising Efforts*

We are engaged in several ongoing as well as new endeavors to help provide much-needed income for your church. Please keep the following programs in mind.



### **Pancake & Sausage Breakfast**

Saturday, August 7

7 am to 12 noon

Ed Frey Memorial Hall

\$8.00 Adults (& Kids 10+)

\$5.00 Kids under 10

Please join us!

Shop-Rite Gift Cards are available any time the office is staffed as well as after Worship. For every \$100 in gift cards purchased, St. James receives \$5. Cards are redeemed for face value at Shop-Rite. For any questions, please contact the office.

Hoagie Sale. Simply purchase tickets at St. James for \$6 each for a hoagie from Gino's sandwich shop in Phillipsburg. Take your ticket(s) to Gino's and order your custom-made sandwich. For each ticket the church earns \$2.

## *Benevolence Opportunities*

Food Bank. In the current economy, the need for food is greater than ever. Please help the NORWESCAP Food Bank provide for our less fortunate community members by donating canned or other non-perishable food items. Donations should be left in the barrels outside the Ed Frey Memorial Hall.

Baby Drive. We are collecting items for area families with new babies. NORWESCAP has asked for the following items: Bibs, bottles, pacifiers, diapers (all sizes), baby wipes. No formula, please, but sealed, wrapped cases of baby food are appreciated. Individual jars of food cannot be accepted.

### *Senior League*

#### *Fellowship Over Fifty*

Our June meeting, the last before the usual summer break, was a pizza and sundae night. We were joined by the Children's Choir, who made the evening special with renditions of newer as well as "old favorite" hymns.

Come and join us when regular meetings resume in September. Usual time is 6:00 pm on the first Wednesday of the month, in the Ed Frey Memorial Hall. Check the Sunday Bulletin for any changes. There are always enjoyable activities and/or interesting speakers, and a light supper is provided. RSVP to Carol Meixsell at 908-454-6734.

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*We were called to be witnesses, not lawyers or judges.*