

the st. james



January 2009

Volume 9 Number 1

Sunday Schedule

8:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite I
9:00 am Adult Education
10:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite II
11:00 am Sunday School
11:15 am Coffee & Fellowship
11:45 am Children's Choir

Sunday, January 25
There will be only 1 service
At 8:00 a.m.

Everyone is invited to the
90th Diocesan Annual Council
Closing Eucharist at 9:00 a.m.
at the Hotel Roanoke
Convention Center

St. James Episcopal Church
4515 Delray Street
Roanoke, Virginia 24012
Phone: 540-366-4157
Fax: 540-366-2851
Email: stjames@rev.net
www.stjamesroanoke.org

Rector's Message

The Rector and Staff of St. James wish you a joyful Christmastide and every blessing for the New Year.

From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. Someone during that era wrote this carol as a catechism song for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning: the literal meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of their church. Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality which the children could remember.

- The partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ.
- Two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments.
- Three French hens stood for faith, hope and love.
- The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke & John.
- The five golden rings recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament.
- The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation.
- Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit--Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership and Mercy.
- The eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes.
- Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit--Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self Control
- The ten lords a-leaping were the ten commandments.
- The eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful disciples.
- The twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed.

St. James Episcopal Church

Clergy:

The Rev. Susan E. Bentley, Rector
seb@rev.net

Staff:

Mrs. Connie Bierly, Secretary
Mrs. Sharon Capps, Choir Director
and Organist
Mrs. Donna Park & Ms. Sandi Hudson,
Sextons

The Connection:

Send copy to: sjconnection@cox.net
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Internet Web Page:

www.stjamesroanoke.org
Butch Eanes, Webmaster
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The St. James Vestry:

Senior Warden, Donna Frost, 989-3054
Junior Warden, Tim Buchholtz, 366-5779
† Clerk, TBA
† Treasurer, Matt Cordani, 362-3016,
† Ass't. Treasurer, Avis Aheron, 774-0010
† Rec. Treasurer, Bob Bird, 366-0996
Helen Campbell, 489-4536, Jed Doak, 354-4164
Maile Armstrong, 947-5016
Chuck Cohen, 366-3178,
Tricia Champion, 563-9554
Michael Kennedy, 389-1003
Peter Hannon, 986-0778
(† - Not Vestry members)

Standing Committees

Christian Education:

Liturgy: Helen Campbell, 489-4536
Membership: Pat Ball, 725-8730
Outreach: Ray Kasey, 562-1956
Parish Life: Tricia Champion, 563-9554
Property: Maile Armstrong, 947-5016
Stewardship: Avis Aheron, 774-0010
Finance: Glen Lake, 345-7550
& Gail Fields, 265-0786

Episcopal Church Women:

Pam Reilly, 362-9742

Daughters of the King:

Esther Williamson, 366-3177

Parish Register

Baptisms

Katherine Lucille Costello, daughter of Maggie and Kevin was baptized on November 2, 2008.

John Edward Doak III, son of Kelly and Jed Doak, was baptized on November 2, 2008.

Cason Robert Nichols, son of Allyson and Brandon, was baptized on November 2, 2008.

Marriages

Elizabeth Jean McCary & William John Witz III, were married on September 27, 2008

Burials

Betty Heins Ward, November 21, 1921 to September 12, 2008, buried on October 18, 2008.

Maureen Patricia LaMort Cohen, October 13, 1951 to November 28, 2008, was buried December 6, 2008.

Wayne Edward Attaway, March 19, 1947 to December 12, 2008, was buried on December 18, 2008.

Transfers

Betsy Hanson to St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Salem, Virginia.

Bishop's Visit and Confirmation

Bishop Powell will be at St. James on Sunday, April 26th for his regular parish visitation which is an occasion for Baptisms, and welcoming new members into the Episcopal Church through Confirmation and Reception. If you wish to be Baptized or have a child to be baptized, or if you wish to become an Episcopalian, contact the Rector to discuss the appropriate preparation. Any youth who are considering Confirmation need to contact the Rector so a Confirmation mentor can work with them.

Parking Notice

Additional parking is available at That'll Do restaurant on Williamson Road behind the Church. Regular St. Jimmies are reminded to park there and come through the back fence into our parking lot. This will allow space for newcomers, visitors and latecomers to park in our St. James parking lot.

The Stewardship Corner

All things come from you, O Lord, and of your own have we given you.

+
+ +
Time + + Talent
+ +
+ + + + +
Treasure

Pledged and Unpledged Support: In November, St. James received \$12,474.16 in pledged and unpledged support. The amount budgeted for November was \$10,152.84. The year-to-date income of \$122,362.94 still reflects favorably with the year-to-date budget of \$118,437.70. As our Treasurer, Matt Cordani, reported at the Annual Parish Meeting, the current budget still reflects a deficit gap of approximately \$9,720.00. You responded to his plea for additional giving in November to close the deficit gap. Hopefully, December's plate offering will yield additional funds to close the gap even further. Thank you for your continued support of the work that goes on at St. James.

St. James Cycle of Prayer: In January, we give thanks for the work of the Vestry. We pray that all vestry members, wardens and other vestry officers will be guided by God's grace in their deliberations and decisions throughout the coming year.

Kroger Gift Cards: In December, your Kroger purchases netted St. James a rebate check of \$434.60 bringing the total for 2008 to \$4,248.95. Thank you to everyone for using your Kroger cards so faithfully. Kroger gift cards also make nice gifts for the holidays, or for birthdays or as a thank you. If you would like to purchase a gift card for \$5, please see Mother Sue, Dorothy Herndon or Connie Bierly.

Adopt-a-Day: To date, St. James has received adopt-a-day donations in the amount of \$1,884.00. You can celebrate a special occasion or honor a loved one on their special day. Forms can be found on the table outside the secretary's office. Forms will also be emailed during the first week of each month and can be filled out and returned to the parish secretary via email. Please consider "adopting" a day in 2009. All Adopt-a-Day contributions will be published in the monthly Connection.

Loose Offering and Unpledged Support

Every Sunday, when the collection plate is passed, some of us reach into our wallets or purses and place a cash offering or a check that represents a donation other than what we have pledged in support of the work at St. James. Each Sunday is designated for a specific fund or charity.

The General Fund receives all loose offerings and any undesignated checks on the 1st and 4th Sundays of each month. The 2nd Sunday of each month is designated for the rector's Discretionary Fund. That leaves the 3rd and 5th Sundays for specific charities chosen by the Outreach Committee at the beginning of each year.

For 2008, St. James was asked to contribute \$800 to the Williamson Road Clergy emergency outreach fund. In the past, the amount donated has been \$400, but this year, because of the increased need, it was necessary to double the requested amount to be donated. The parish supported this project through individual donations and the proceeds of the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper; however, the shortfall was made up by funds from the Rector's Discretionary Fund. The need continues to grow and is expected to be much greater in 2009. It is anticipated that a significant portion of the Discretionary Fund will go to this emergency outreach fund.

The Discretionary Fund has also been used to provide emergency assistance to parishioners for mortgage payments, utilities, gas, etc. Monies collected for Youth Scholarships or leadership development are also deposited in the Discretionary Fund and disbursed as requests are received. Your loose offerings and undesignated checks received every 2nd Sunday, as well as specific designations, go directly to the Discretionary Fund.

The benevolence offerings received on the 3rd and 5th Sundays of every month are sent to local charities and occasionally national or global organizations. The minimum donation amount is set at \$70. If less than \$70 is received from the loose offering, undesignated checks, or checks specifically designated to a particular charity, the additional amount needed is made up from Outreach Committee budget. During the past year, St. James made donations to the following organizations:

Bradley Free Clinic
Episcopal Relief & Development

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Millennium Development Goals
Pastoral Counseling Center

Phoebe Needles Scholarships
Rescue Mission

Roanoke Area Ministries (RAM House)
Roanoke Jail Ministry

St. Paul's College
Salvation Army

Second Harvest Food Bank
Total Action Against Poverty (TAP)

Transitional Living Center
United Thank Offering

West End Center
Youth Scholarships

Your generosity is the cornerstone that allows St. James to lend a helping hand to those within and outside our parish in this time of great need. Your loose offering support each Sunday is deeply appreciated and continues our mission to do the work God has given us to do in Roanoke and the world.

**Are you leaving a legacy of "red tape"
for your heirs?
A will can cut confusion.
Your will can benefit your church too.**

Youth News:

FOR GRADES 6-12

Can You UBUNTU???

Come find out at the biggest, best Youth@Council ever! (just ask Rachel)

Date: Jan 23-25, 2009 (at St Andrew's this year)

Cost: \$75.00 - there are scholarships, so DO NOT let a little thing like money stop you

Registration forms available in the youth cave AND at www.youth.dioswva.org - Forms MUST be mailed this year and received at Evan's House by Jan 12!

We will be exploring how YOU can make a difference and another Stop Hunger Now event will take place (see details below). Come join us for another

fabulous week-end. FOR GRADES 6-12. Questions?? Call Beth at 556-2594 or Holly at 521-5329.

Stop Hunger Now News:

The Youth are hosting another Stop Hunger Now event during Y@C this year. Last year we packaged over 40,000 meals in about 4 hours. This year our goal is 80,000 meals and we plan to involve the Youth, young Adults, Children, and Adults in our project.

How can you help??

1. Be present for packaging (more details to come)
2. Donate to Stop Hunger Now by writing a check with Stop Hunger Now in the notation (you can give these to Beth, Holly, or Rachel)
3. Eat in to Help Out (details below)
4. Spread the news and check out our footage from last year on the youth website:

www.youth.diocese.org

Eat in to Help Out

It's fast and easy! Simply eat in instead of going out and donate that money to the Stop Hunger Now event during Youth@Council!

Better yet, host a eat in to help out event at your house to spread the news and involve the greater community (ie, your friends) and have your friends/guests donate what they would have paid to go out that evening. Steve and I are hosting such an event in January, and I always look for easy when I plan events. Luckily, the Youth website is full of ideas for recipes to serve, MGD facts to print as place cards and even discussion questions for dinner revolving around the MGDs. It doesn't get any better than that! Info on Eat in to Help Out can be found on the youth website at www.youth.diocese.org.

Remember, for your donations to count towards the council Stop Hunger Now event, they must be received at Evan's house by mid January.

Beth Wiegandt

Parish Dinner

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, January 21 for a Southern Dinner to welcome the Rev. Peter Yorkstone back to the Roanoke Valley. He will be here for our Diocesan Annual Council as the

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representative from our companion diocese of Bradford, England and we are delighted to be able to host him this evening. The Social Hour will begin at 6:00 pm with dinner being served at 6:30 pm. The cost of the dinner will be \$6.00 per person. A sign up sheet will be in the Parish Hall after the Christmas holidays.

The 90th Diocesan Annual Council

The 90th Annual Diocesan Council will be held January 23-25, 2009 at the Hotel Roanoke Conference Center. The St. James Delegates to Council this year are: Esther Williamson, Mike Kennedy, Donna Frost, and the Alternates are Butch Eanes and Sandy Maxwell, and they will attend with the Rector. All members of St. James are invited to attend Saturday @ Council and specific information on this is included elsewhere in the newsletter. The Rev. Dr. Ian Markham, Dean and President of Virginia Theological Seminary is the Keynote speaker on Saturday.

The Opening Eucharist for Council is Friday night at 8:00 pm at St. Andrews Catholic Church and this is open to anyone who would like to attend. Members of the St. James choir will be leading worship in the Diocesan choir that evening. **On Sunday morning, January 25th the closing Eucharist is at 9:00 am in the Hotel Roanoke Conference Center and all members of St. James are invited to attend that service to worship with the diocesan delegates, alternate delegates, clergy and visitors. There will only be an 8:00 am service at St. James that day.**

2009 Vestry Members

Congratulations to the new Vestry members elected at our Annual Meeting; Tim Buchholtz, Tricia Chapion and Donna Frost. The Vestry officers for 2009 will be Sr. Warden, Donna Frost, Junior Warden, Tim Buchholtz, Clerk, TBA, Treasurer, Matt Cordani, Receiving Treasurer, Bob Bird, and Assistant Treasurer, Avis Aheron. A special thank you to those who have served on the 2008 Vestry: Doris Mattox, Senior Warden, Maile Armstrong, Jr. Warden, Butch Eanes, Chuck Cohen, Peter Hannon, Helen Campbell, Bob Ostrom, Mike Kennedy, and Jed Doak, Lynn Wright, Clerk, Matt Cordani, Treasurer, Bob Bird, Receiving Treasurer, Avis Aheron, Assistant Treasurer.

With A Grateful Heart

I write this with a very grateful heart to thank you all for the very generous Christmas gift from the Saints of James. Michael and I are visiting Williamsburg for a brief holiday during Christmastide and your gift will enable us to enjoy touring a few of the James River plantations that we have wanted to see at Christmas time. Thank you so much. Ministry with you continues to bless me and deepen my understanding of Faith, Hope and Love. May the Spirit of Christmas bless you in the New Year. God's Peace and Love, Sue+

Conversation and Community

If you have not already done so, sign up for one of our small group gatherings of Conversation and Community, for an opportunity to strengthen our sense of community and share ideas about our mission and ministry as members of St. James and Christians in the world. The next gatherings scheduled are on Saturday, January 17th, at the home of Jackie Leonard, 7:00 to 9:00 pm; Sunday, January 18th at the home of the Lawton and Ray Kasey, from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm; Sunday, February 1st at the home of Jeannie and Glenn Lake from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm; and Saturday, March 14th at the home of Donna and Arby Frost from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. The sign up sheets are on the bulletin board outside the Kitchen.

Thanks for Greening

Many thanks to all of the following people who helped on Monday, December 22 with the "greening" of the church for the Christmas season...Ann Bird, Betsy Briggs, Joyce Brown, Tim Buchholtz, Sharon Capps, Dorothy Herndon, Boots Ingram, O'Dell James, Lawton Kasey, Ray Kasey, and Pam Reilly. As usual, all "helping hands" worked together to usher in Christmas and reflect on our many blessings as a St. James family.

Lawton Kasey.

PROPERTY REPLACEMENT PLAN

By now, most of you have heard that we are working on a Life-Cycle Property Replacement Plan to replace specified Church property when it wears out. The fact of the matter is that we haven't planned for these expenses and there are many critical items in

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the Church that may be expected to need replacement in the next few years. For example: The kitchen refrigerator is 20 years old, the kitchen ranges are approximately 30 years old, the water heater is 33 years old and all of the air conditioning and heating systems are between 11 and 15 years old – to name a few. Replacing just these items would run well into the thousands of dollars.

The Life-Cycle Property Replacement Committee was formed in August, 2008, and has developed a comprehensive plan addressing this need. This plan will be presented to the 2009 Finance Committee and the 2009 Vestry in early January, 2009. Look for additional information in the near future.

Carl Ball, Chairman

Dear St. James,

Thank you so much for the wonderful Christmas gift. Your kindness and thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated.

It's a true joy for me to work with all the wonderful people and Mother Sue here at St. James. My prayers and best wishes are with you during this Christmas season and throughout 2009.

Thanks again!
Connie Bierly
Church Secretary

Knitting Ministry

The St. James knitting ministry, sponsored by ECW and led by Linda Bryant, donated over two dozen scarves and shawls to the Rescue Mission in December. Half of the items were blessed at the 8:00 am service and the other half at the 10:00 am service. The knitting ministry meets every six weeks or so after coffee hour on Sunday to share individual commitments to this work. This ministry continues to be carried out at home in between the gatherings at St. James. Anyone who is interested in participating in this ministry is invited to join the group at their next gathering. Watch the Sunday bulletin for the announcement of the next meeting time.

ECW Educational Program

On Sunday, February 8th, Dr. Michael Bentley will repeat his 2008 Annual Council workshop, "How Green Is My Faith." Just how concerned should we as Christians be with our environment? His presentation will be held shortly after the conclusion of coffee hour that day. All parishioners are invited to attend this event, and a light lunch of soup and sandwiches will be available for those wishing it (nominal fee). Watch the Sunday bulletin for more information. A sign-up sheet for the luncheon will be available in the parish hall later in January. Mark your calendars now! This is one event you won't want to miss.

THERMOSTATS

In the fall of 2005, we replaced the three main thermostats in the Church with 7-day programmable thermostats – to conserve energy and to control our rising energy costs, while still meeting the daily needs of the Church. At the time, as now again, the utility companies were seeking significant rate increases. Along with replacing the thermostats to better control our energy use, we also changed some of the temperature settings – mostly a couple of degrees cooler in the winter. I could give a long explanation as to the whys of the selections we made but, suffice it to say, we have tried to accommodate each regular recurring use of the Church spaces the best that we can. While we hope that the temperatures we have selected are sufficiently comfortable, temporary changes to the temperature may be made – see paragraph below. If you have specific questions, please see me.

TO MAKE TEMPORARY CHANGES to a temperature setting, it is very easy. On the **OUTSIDE** of each thermostat are two arrows, one up and one down. Simply by pushing either the up arrow or the down arrow, you will temporarily reset the "set temperature" to the setting you select in the display window on the thermostat. The word "TEMPORARY" will also appear in the display. If you set a temporary temperature, you should also reset the thermostat back to the programmed settings when leaving a space. Simply open the door on the front of the thermostat and push the "RUN PROGRAM" button. The word "TEMPORARY" in the display will go out to show that the thermostat is back

to its programmed settings. If you do forget, the program will automatically resume at the next scheduled change.

DO NOT SET THE TEMPORARY TEMPERATURE HIGHER (OR LOWER) THAN THE END TEMPERATURE DESIRED. It does not cause the heat to rise any faster or the AC to cool any faster, either the system is on or it is off – there are no stages of heat output or AC output. If you set the thermostat to a higher (or lower) than needed temperature – it just causes the heat (or AC) to keep on running until it reaches the set temperature. This wastes an enormous amount of energy and increases costs unnecessarily.

NEVER SET "HOLD TEMPERATURE"! This locks in the setting you have made and the programmed settings will not resume until the "RUN PROGRAM" button is pressed to release the "HOLD". This means that the thermostat will "hold" the temperature you selected 24 hours a day, 7 days a week – until someone realizes what you have done and resets the thermostat. If undetected, this could easily be for several days (and nights) and could significantly (and adversely) affect our energy costs.

By Carl Ball

Beggars' Circus

Beggars' Circus: an Epiphany Concert: Trinity Episcopal Church in Rocky Mount invites you to join them for a live performance by Beggars' Circus, Tuesday, January 6, 6:30 pm.

- Come enjoy their Celtic-themed music, and bring the whole family for a stompin' good time.
- Tickets are \$10 for individuals, \$20 for families.
- All profits will go to Helping Hands of Franklin County.
- Tickets may be purchased in advance or at the door.
- To reserve tickets, please call Karen Russell, Parish Administrator at (540) 483-5038.

Subject: Church bulletins

If we can't laugh at ourselves, others will! They're Back! Those Wonderful Church Bulletins! Thank God for church ladies with typewriters. These sentences actually appeared in bulletins, or were announced in church services.

The Fasting & Prayer Conference; includes meals.

The sermon this morning: "Jesus Walks on the Water."
The sermon tonight: "Searching for Jesus."

Our youth basketball team is back in action Wednesday at 8 PM in the recreation hall. Come out and watch us kill Christ the King.

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

The peacemaking meeting scheduled for today has been canceled due to a conflict.

Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

Miss Charlene Mason sang "I will not pass this way again," giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hospitality.

Potluck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM - prayer and medication to follow.

This evening at 7 PM there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

Ladies Bible Study will be held Thursday morning at 10 AM. All ladies are invited to lunch in the Fellowship Hall after the B.S. is done.

The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7 PM. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

LITTLE CHURCH SOCIAL CLUB

We had our Christmas party on December 10. The evening started with carol singing by all the members and volunteers, accompanied by Sharon Capps, Doris Mattox and other choir members.

After that, we feasted on goodies provided by the volunteers which included all kinds of sandwiches, ham biscuits, sausage balls, sausage rolls, smoked cocktail wieners, Chick-fil-A nuggets, cookies and other sweets. Everyone had more than they could eat.

Then who was that Ho ho Hoing up the stairs? Well, it was Santa (Bob Ostrom) all decked out in his red suit (kind of warm, wasn't it Santa?). But it didn't cut down on his enthusiasm as he greeted each member and volunteer with a hug and then began to give out the dozens of gifts. He was assisted this year by his special elves – Sarah Roberts, Will Ostrom, and yes, Mother Sue, in a Santa hat. We thank Santa and his helpers so much.

We also thank all the volunteers and sponsors who work so hard every year to make this party the highlight of all our lives. We thank Frances Stebbins who always sends many, many wrapped gifts for those who don't have sponsors. We thank Joyce Brown, ECW who sponsor two members, DOK, Betsy Briggs, James Kyle, Brenda Harvey, Jean Schaefer, Betty Harnsberger, Kate St. Clair, Gail Fields, Ray Kasey, Elinor Bent, Sandy Maxwell, Donna Repa, Jackie Leonard, Sharon Capps, Pam Reilly, Lonnie Bower, Cathie Cook, Esther Williamson, Helen Lang, Doris Mattox, Pat Ball, Dana Cox, and Laura Anderson. You can see that this is a church wide effort with everyone's involvement, including the budgeted amount that the Vestry allows us each year for the over-all meeting expenses.

Special thanks to Betty Harnsberger and James Kyle who coordinate everything and keep us on track, to Ray Kasey who transports most of our members in the bus and for our emergency drivers, Bob Ostrom and Chuck Cohen.

We were saddened this year by the death of two long time volunteers, Charlie Stebbins and June Bessell, and one member, Wayne Attaway. We welcomed a new liaison from Blue Ridge Behavioral Sciences, Barry Schaffer, and then said goodbye to him as he went back to full time teaching in December. Our new liaison will be Sonia King and we are looking forward to working with her. We also welcome new volunteers, Dana and Mabes Cox, Laura Anderson,

Nan Mallen and Sharon Miller. Our new year will be exciting with all these new volunteers and we also have several new members as older members have been moved to other adult homes or to nursing homes.

We hope you all have as much fun at your own Christmas celebrations as we had at ours and we are ready to begin our 27th year of socializing with our members.

Jean Schaefer

Thanks

Dear Saints of James,

Thank you for the generous gift at Christmas. I consider it a blessing to be able to work with Mother Sue, the Junior Choir, and the Senior Choir as we provide meaningful liturgies for our worship services.

Thank you for your continued support, not only with money but with your prayers. I look forward to being back at the organ bench in late January. May God continue to bless you in your ministries.

Love, Sharon

Schedules for Sunday Services

Now that the holiday season is over, it is time to start thinking about the next several months. In the next couple of weeks I will be working on the schedules for the various Sunday servers (Crucifers, Acolytes, Lay Readers, Ushers, etc.). The Sunday Server Schedule for **February thru June** should be issued by the middle of February. If you know that you will not be available on a particular Sunday to serve, it would be a great help for both me and you if you would let me know now. I will try not to schedule you for that time, then you will not have to find a substitute or switch with someone. You can email me the information (capa1@cox.net), call me (725-8730) or give me the information at church. St. James is really blessed to have so many people volunteer on a regular basis.

Thank you, Pat Ball