



VOICE OF ST. JAMES'

ST. JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Founded December 7, 1941

OUR MISSION: To foster a loving and accepting Christian environment in the Episcopal tradition, where all individuals are valued and empowered to use their time, talent and resources in spreading the Good News.

The Rev'd Jeffrey H. Walker+ Interim Rector

Myra A. McDaniel, Editor

JANUARY 2009

RECTOR'S REFLECTIONS

New Year 2009. That will probably be the only time for at least three months that I will put the correct year on anything I write. Habit and I go a long way back. I know that most people approach a new year like a clean slate, or a new semester at school, with brand new books, and no grades yet. Other people take this time to renounce just about all their usual habits, and make bold commitments to become stellar and thinner human beings, who will from now on be reading really good books and not watching really bad television. They will cancel their subscription to People Magazine. They will eat only foods that taste like bark and twigs. Beverages will all be herbal. Even some of their clothes will be made from Green Tea. Incredible human beings; those who already possess a kind of will power the rest of us can only admire and envy from a distance, will keep these resolutions all year, because they are just that way. The rest of us garden variety human beings will not be so good at keeping our resolve, because that is just the way we are. Blue Bell did not become what it is today because of resolution keepers. Lack of resolution is just part of the human condition.

I suppose the human condition is why I tend to avoid the self-improvement side of a new year. It just looks like another occasion for failure to me. Before you know it, the new year isn't so new and suddenly it's Lent with a whole additional round of things to give up that we probably should have given up anyway and long ago.

I have come to enjoy more that clean slate, new semester, grades yet, side of new year. To enjoy that part of a new year beginning is worth maybe even a resolution to do just that. Start fresh. Erase the blackboard. Offer the gift of forgiveness for 2008, with hope on the near horizon. I like the feel of that much better. And I think makes for better theology. Better food for our souls.

Learning from the experiences of our life is essential. Hitting our heads against the same old wall year after year can make for a pretty headachy existence. So, we need to live and learn. The problem is that we can never learn enough to be perfect. And in that process, we may never really live either. Growing as a human being is a lovely thing, and admirable goal. But, there is something to be said about self-acceptance too. Resolutions for improvement are fine as long as we know that God won't love us any more for them, or love us less for our lack of resolve to eat things that reduce our carbon footprint. God loved us before we ever knew what a carbon footprint was. And God will still love us even after the headline in the paper reads: "Oat Bran, the Silent Killer!"

For most of the people I have come to know, attempting self-improvement always seems more achievable than self-acceptance. The corporate people would say that self-improvement can at least be "quantified." Self-acceptance is harder to see from the outside and carries too many haunting memories on the inside. But, it needs to be done. How about a resolution this time for self-acceptance? It is an amazing and radical thing. Not only are we loved by God, but somehow, in the mystery of grace, God considers us worthy of that love, no matter what last year was like.

The Rev'd Jeffrey H. Walker+, Interim Rector

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Watch your Sunday bulletin for the date of our annual Parish Meeting. At the Annual Meeting, the budget for 2009 will be presented, three new Vestry members will be elected and we will say thanks to the three outgoing members. The 2008 Annual Parish Report Booklet will contain summaries of what each of the lay ministries has done during 2008 and who the ministries serve. All members of St. James' are welcome to come and to vote. All others are welcome to come and see!

WORD FROM THE WARDEN

Happy New Year!

May 2009 bring you happiness, joy, good health and may your faith continue to grow in Christ!

It's all over the news, the U.S. is in a recession and 2009 is going to be a financially difficult time for many. Even though Austin has not felt it as hard as many of the other states, we do know it's a time of uncertainty. Budgets will be slashed to accommodate the times, but hopefully our spirits will endure. Even though we depend only on having hard committed numbers when we develop our Budget for the New Year, we know "secretly" that there are always those unspoken and unwritten line items called "hope and faith". Too bad we cannot put a dollar amount to them. Because it's the power of "hope and faith" that touches and moves us to act. Which in turn has a domino effect on those we touch, and these acts of "kindness and generosity" are what really sustains us during times of difficulty. So, let us build our "hope and faith" in Christ knowing that we will have the strength to conquer whatever comes our way.

Remember that I commanded you to be strong and brave. So don't be afraid. The Lord your God will be with you everywhere you go. Joshua 1:9

God is our protection and our strength: He always helps in times of trouble. Psalm 46:1

Thank you for allowing me to serve you,

Simone Talma Flowers, Senior Warden

EAST AUSTIN WELLNESS INITIATIVE

We have opened an affordable counseling center at St. James'! Counseling (individual, family and eventually group) is available for adolescents and adults. Fees are assessed on a sliding scale, based on income. Cash payments (but no insurance) will be accepted. Elizabeth Smith of St. James', a Licensed Professional Counselor Intern, is providing the counseling services. If you or anyone you know needs such services, please feel free to call. Elizabeth can be reached at counselor@stjamesaustin.org or you can leave a message at 926-6339 Ext. 110.

NEWCOMER ORIENTATION

January 22, 2009 we will begin a St. James' Episcopal Church Newcomer Orientation Series. The Newcomer Series will meet five Thursday evenings and will include discussions of the history of St. James', our commitment to diversity and inclusiveness and how we go about implementing that commitment, an introduction to church leaders and priests, and the current status of our church home. In past months several members of St. James' have indicated a desire to be part of the group that presents this series. Since that time many things have changed and so I am re-inviting anyone who is still interested and in a position to commit to this vital task to please contact me. We will have two planning and strategy meetings for the trainers prior to the series. We know how precious your time is so we commit to using it wisely and with respect. Please contact me directly at kburress@rmhc-austin.org or at 512/797-5045 if you would like to be part of sharing the life and work of St. James' with our newcomers. I will be happy to answer any questions that you may have. I need to hear from you by January 5, 2009.

Thanks, Kent Burress

FEAST DAY OF ABSALOM JONES

Guest Preacher

February 15, 2009, St. James' will celebrate the Feast of Absalom Jones. On that day our preacher will be the Rev. Canon Jesse F. Anderson Jr. In addition, during the Adult Forum hour, he will share a film about the life of the Rev. Absalom Jones and facilitate the discussion.

Fr. Anderson, Jr., served as the 16th Rector of The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania until his retirement in 2001. St. Thomas, founded in 1792, is the Mother Church for Episcopalians of African ancestry, the church that Absalom Jones founded.

Absalom Jones was the first African-American ordained a priest in the Episcopal Church. He was ordained a deacon in 1795 and a priest in September 1802. He was outspoken on many issues, not the least of which was

slavery. Under his leadership, the St. Thomas African Episcopal Church grew rapidly and was one of the largest in the Diocese of Pennsylvania.

Fr. Anderson, Jr., has followed in the footsteps of Absalom Jones and his father, Fr. Jesse Anderson, Sr., who was the 14th rector of St. Thomas. Throughout his ministry he has always been engaged with issues of social justice. In retirement, he remains active and engaged with The Episcopal Church. He serves as a supply priest in Sarasota, FL; preaches and consults with congregations regarding parish revitalization and church growth, emphasizing spiritual growth,

SNAPSHOT

Lonnie Jackson, a member of St. James' for 50 years, has many interesting stories to tell about his life and about the early days of our church. Lonnie was actually raised in the AME Church—his stepfather was a minister and presiding elder of the district and Lonnie remembers their driving over dusty roads to visit all the AME churches in the district. Those were the depression years, and most of their meals were made up of produce, primarily sweet potatoes, given in gratitude from the rural AME churches.

A life-long Texan, Lonnie calls himself an “I-35 kid” because he grew up mostly in Austin, but also in Dallas, Waco, and San Antonio. He graduated from the old Anderson High School and was a player in Anderson's 1942 state championship football team, a feat not reported in the Austin American Statesman until 1992, when a call from Lonnie to sports icon Rooster Andrews brought two reporters to Lonnie's home to get the story and a team picture Lonnie had saved. The article is framed and hangs in Lonnie's living room, along with the medal he received in 2004 when he was inducted into the Texas Black Sports Hall of Fame.

The summer of his graduation from high school, Lonnie met Jackie Robinson at Gates Drug Store on 12th Street. Robinson was a lieutenant at Fort Hood at the time, and a nationally-known UCLA athlete. He saw that Lonnie had basketball shoes around his neck and asked if he could join him at the gym. Robinson organized a local team and that summer and they played other Black pick up teams around the area.

Lonnie was invited to apply for Samuel Huston College by the school's president, but instead he was drafted into military service. He asked to enlist in the Navy rather than the Army, despite the fact that he knew the Navy to be the most segregated of all the services, where most African-American sailors were “mess boys” or cooks. However, he talked the recruiter into being inducted as a seaman and was sent to San Diego for basic yeoman training. He served for a “year and 15 days” as a demobilization specialist near Long Beach, and spent his free hours enjoying the LA jazz scene.

After the navy, Lonnie attended Huston College—too late to play on the basketball team under coach Jackie Robinson, who by then had then been recruited into the Negro National League and later the Brooklyn Dodgers. Lonnie graduated from Huston College in 1951; two years later the college campus was razed to make way for I-35, leading to the merger of Huston and Tillotson Colleges.

Lonnie had hoped to work for the post office or other civil service job, but at his mother's urging he contacted the principal of a new Black high school in Hallettsville who was recruiting him to teach science and coach football. He accepted the offer, despite the fact that the school as yet had no science or sports equipment. With Lonnie as coach, the team participated in the Prairie View Interscholastic League. The first year, he admits, the team lost all its games; the second year it tied the last game; but the third was a winning season.

After a few years, Lonnie left teaching temporarily to attend graduate school at UT, taking courses in education and biology because “I was interested in becoming more professional in what I was doing.” He taught next in Refugio until, after desegregation, they closed the Black schools and integrated them with the White schools. He has harsh memories of taking his team to Beaumont for the district playoffs, only to discover the intense racism there, even on the playing field. As Lonnie admits, “I've been fighting racism all my life.”

1956 brought Lonnie back to Austin as assistant coach and biology teacher at old Anderson High, then to Crockett High School in 1968 to do the same. After three years there, Lonnie decided that he was ready to leave teaching and coaching for school administrative positions, and enrolled in evening and summer classes at Southwest Texas State where he earned a master's degree and administration certification. At Crockett he then became a “dean”, then later moved to Bedichek as assistant principal, a position that paid more, and where he stayed for 10 years until retirement.

Lonnie has loved retirement, which has enabled him time for sports—he's an avid golfer—jazz, which he has loved since childhood, involvement in the Houston Tillotson University alumni association, and other pursuits. Fr. Bill Miller turned to Lonnie when he wanted to start Jazz at St. James' and Lonnie spent a good bit of his time and money reaching out to noted musicians and to donors for support. In 1998, he was inducted in the Houston Tillotson University Athletic Hall of Fame.

Lonnie joined St. James' in 1942 at the urging of his wife Ida Bess and became involved in the support of

the church almost from the beginning. As junior warden he cut the grass, trimmed the bushes, replaced broken windows, and made other needed repairs. When the new church was under construction he was at the site every day. "Times were really hard at St. James' in the 60s", he remembers. At vestry meetings with early leaders like Matthew Edwards, Harry Coleman, "Jimmy" Means, Bob Wormley, Clifford McPherson, and Archili Petite, "every one of us would have to go into our pockets to pay the bills."

It's one of the lessons we learn as we hear stories of St. James' past. The early and dedicated members who came before us brought our church forward during hard times. This they did by holding together and pitching in. We honor them by modeling our lives in community after them.

Karen Bordelon Hartwell

ST. JAMES' EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

After writing the Annual Report for the church, I realized that the school continues to accomplish wonderful and significant things at breakneck speed – the accreditation visit in January 2008, the Dedication Celebration and blessing of the buildings by Bishop Dena Harrison on Feb 29th, the accreditation award of five years this past June, the inimitable Odetta singing for the school in the church sanctuary in June 2008, the ending of our fiscal year in the black, the start of a third Montessori class in October, and the hiring of an amazing Development consultant. Whew!

The school's next major project is a Business and Sustainability Plan. Teri O'Glee, our fabulous development consultant, and I went to Abilene to present a grant proposal to Mr. Larry Gill, the grants administrator for the Dodge Jones Foundation. The school is creating a task force comprised of trustees, consultants, and staff who will research and develop a sustainable business model that will accommodate our mission and vision. This process will help us clarify our vision; design a plan for growth that addresses academic, financial and organizational opportunities; and achieve our full potential. The grant proposal was fully funded by Mrs. Judy Matthews, a founder and trustee of the Dodge Jones Foundation.

We are grateful for the help of Mrs. Matthews and eager to begin this intensive and yet fulfilling process in January 2009. The staff and board of St. James' Episcopal School are committed to spending the time and effort necessary to meet this challenge so that we can grow and flourish in a financially and academically responsible manner without sacrificing the values that make our school special. I can tell it's going to be another year filled with milestones. Happy New Year to all!

Glennie Burgess, Head of School

SEARCH COMMITTEE NEWS

Our search for a new Rector continues as we turn the corner into this new year. We are in conversation with several members of the clergy who may be interested in leading our parish. I am so proud of our parish. Each person I've spoken to has offered high praise for our congregation. All of them have read about our congregation and many of them have viewed our wonderful website. They are impressed and I must say, I've been impressed by many of them.

Sadly, some of the priests we contacted have declined our invitation to participate in the search process. Many have indicated that they are involved in projects or assignments that demand immediate attention. Others have indicated that they are involved in projects or assignments that may require considerable attention over the next several months, such that they do not feel inclined to leave their current positions at this time. I ask your prayers for each one of these fine individuals.

As I have reported before, once the committee receives the required packet of information from interested priests, we review the information and decide whether to assign the person to a subcommittee for more intense review. Currently, four subcommittees are hard at work. Additional subcommittee assignments will be made as appropriate.

I'm becoming quite the docent. I have escorted a least two interested priests on a tour of our campus. They both loved the facilities and each was extremely impressed by our school campus. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Andrea Methven, Assistant to the Head of School, for her assistance with the most recent tour. I expected to spend just a few minutes on the school campus since the children were in session but Andrea took time from her busy schedule to answer questions and show off the campus. Thanks Andrea!!!

On December 15, 2008, I had the pleasure of meeting with Rev. Ann Normand, the Canon of the Ordinary, about our search process. Rev. Normand expressed her continued commitment to provide us with assistance during this important time in the life of our parish. I ask your prayers for Rev. Normand and the staff of the Diocese of Texas as they assist us in our search.

As always, thank you for your continued support and confidence in our work.

Yours in Christ, Lora J. Livingston Search Committee Chair

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

The children rehearsed with Michelle Jordan and Roger Williams to prepare for the Christmas Eve Pageant. Thanks to Michelle and Roger we were treated to a lovely celebration of the birth of the Christ Child. The children will join the congregation during announcements now that rehearsals are completed.

The next Christian Formation Committee Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 11, 2009.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN AT ST. JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Our mission is to serve God, by assisting in the formation of Christians from birth through age 12, using hands on, child centered programs, nestled in a diverse, loving and Episcopalian community.

Nursery

8 a.m. Birth–Age 5

10:15 a.m. Birth–Age 3 ½

2 p.m. Birth – Age 5

6 p.m. Birth–Age 5

Snack provided

Available during all services and special events

Friendly childcare providers create a safe, inviting, and loving environment for infants and toddlers. We have one room for infants and one room for toddlers. The toddler side of the nursery is equipped with a pint sized potty. Each room has age appropriate furniture and toys. For added safety, parents sign their children in and out of the nursery. Infants and toddlers play, sing, eat snack, listen to story books, and interact in a loving community especially designed for them.

Children's Choir

Under the direction of Michelle Jordan, children rehearse and sing during four services throughout the church year: Aloha Sunday, Children's Sabbath, Christmas Pageant; and End of the church school year. Rehearsals are held four weeks prior to each service from 9:00am-10:15am.

9 a.m.–10 a.m.

THE "SUNDAY PAPER" TIMES

(3 year olds – 5th Grade)

This is a centers approach to Christian Formation available during Adult Forum and Choir Rehearsal. We interact with the *Sunday Paper*, a weekly paper that follows the lectionary written especially for children by Gretchen Pritchard. It teaches the lessons, psalms and Gospel to children using interesting cartoons. The children participate in a variety of activities related to the lessons or Gospel. The children have the choice to work in centers that involve art, music, drama, and cooking. We rehearse for the Children's Choir, periodically. A snack is provided.

10 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Atrium I (Age 3, 3 1/2 – Age 4)

Atrium II (Kindergarten –1st Grade)

In the **Level I Atrium**, children three and four years of age come to know God in the form that is most concrete for them. That is God as Jesus. Each child comes to know and love Jesus as the little baby born on Christmas morning; Jesus as The Good Shepherd; and Jesus as the Light of the World. Catechists facilitate the development of a loving relationship between each child and The Good Shepherd.

In the **Level II Atrium**, kindergartners – first graders are ready to explore a larger concept of God. They are ready to delve more deeply into the idea of God as both the redeemer and creator. Again the Catechists facilitate the development of a loving relationship between each child and God the Father and God the Son.

Please join us from 10:00am – 10:15am for snack and fellowship in the Purple Winona Miles Building then from 10:15am – 11:15am for worship in the Atria which are housed in the Purple Winona Miles Building and the Orange Building.

10:00am-11:15am
GODLY PLAY
(2nd Grade – 5th Grade)

Godly Play is a method of Christian education and spiritual direction for children age 2-12. (At St. James' 2nd grade-5th grade) The goal of Godly Play is to teach children the art of using religious language – parable, sacred story, silence, and liturgical action – to help them become more fully aware of God's presence in their lives. Godly Play is not a "rote" or "transfer" method of teaching and learning. It is an experiential, "discovery" method which engages the whole child – hands, heart, mind, senses, and intuition. This is the best way for children (perhaps all of us) to internalize and retain what we learn. The children have the opportunity to "enter" the story, "wonder" about it, and then find and express meaning that connects to their own lives. Instead of meditating abstractly on God's word, the children "meditate" in an artistic and kinesthetic way. Thus, Godly Play helps children know God – not just know about God or about the Bible. Excerpts from Center for the theology of Childhood – Jerome Berryman

Please join us from 10 a.m.–10:15 a.m. for snack and fellowship in the Purple Winona Miles Building then from 10:15 a.m.–11:15 a.m. for worship in the Godly Play Worship Center which is housed in the Orange Building.
Mila Jackson, Director of Christian Formation christform@stjamesaustin.org

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT PROGRAMS

Please see the Sunday bulletin for information about the Sunday morning Adult Forum.

TUESDAY NIGHT ADULT PROGRAM

Phenomenal Women, St. James' monthly gathering of women of the church and their friends, will kick off the new year on Tuesday, January 13th, at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Colleen Waller in east Austin. We will have a light potluck supper followed by a discussion period.

We meet the second Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. It is not necessary to attend every time, or to have done any pre-reading, so please join us as you are able. Our official Mission states that we are a "ministry developed to bring together women in a safe space, to provide dialogue and support as we strengthen our spiritual relationships with self and others on a mission to living our lives as fully expressed children of God."

In our busy and growing church, Phenomenal Woman is a nurturing place to more deeply connect with and support each other as we travel on our spiritual paths. For more information about the group or to be added to the Phenomenal Woman email list, please contact Colleen Waller at phenomenal@stjamesaustin.org or 401-3985.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT ADULT PROGRAM

The Voltrons–The 20's and 30's group at St. James: enthusiastic, educated, motivated and excited about *you* joining us for weekly discussion! Our discussion topics cover a range of perspectives, including theological, political, socio-cultural, economical and practical. We meet every Wednesday night from 8-10 p.m. at a member's home. Our meeting location varies by month. Additional information can be viewed on our website: <http://voltrons.pbwiki.com>. For more information, please contact Ryan Parks (791-6998) or voltrons@stjamesaustin.org.

E-GIVING

Credit cards\debit cards and automatic draft now available on St. James' website!!!

We have added the capability to our website for the use of credit and debit cards and setting up automatic drafts from your bank accounts to the church accounts. When you go to our website, www.stjamesaustin.org, you will see the "Egiving" link under the Members tab that is on the home page. If you have not "signed in", you will be required to create a user name and password. After you have "signed in" you will be taken to the eGiving Main Menu, which lists many options. From this list you can select, "Go to my organization's E-giving Transaction page." There you will be shown the various funds you can donate to. There is one blank space to add in whatever fund you would like it to go to, such as Jazz at St. James', Trinity Center, Capital Campaign. This information, but not your card number, etc. is provided to us on a weekly basis and then we distribute it to the appropriate place and record it in your contributions summary.

You are given the option to do a one-time donation or set up a recurring one. For those interested in setting a set amount and forgetting about it, this option is a good one. Another way to do this is through your online banking, most online banking services can do the same thing; many people at St. James' do this already.

While we are very happy to provide this convenience to you we also strongly discourage using credit cards for amounts you cannot pay off in that month. Credit is a dangerous game in our society right now, please be careful with it! If you have technical questions contact our webmaster, Margaret Listberger at <mailto:webmaster@stjamesaustin.org?subject=E-Giving>. Please let her know any problems you have.

MOBILE LOAVES AND FISHES

MOBILE LOAVES AND FISHES FOOD MINISTRY IS SATURDAY, JANUARY 17

It's winter when the weather is often very cold, and when we especially need to show our love and support of our homeless brothers and sisters. Please volunteer at St. James' Episcopal Church Day at Mobile Loaves and Fishes (MLF) Saturday, January 17 beginning at 9:30 a.m. until around 11:30 a.m. MLF is located at 903 South Capital of Texas Highway

(360) - on the grounds of St. John Neuman Church. It's located on the east side of 360 between Las Cimas and Lost Creek which is south of Bee Caves.

The St. James' MLF team makes sandwiches and we fill our mobile canteen with food, beverages, snacks, toiletries and clothing to serve individuals and families who are in need of our help. We need lots of helping hands. If you'd like to bring something to share, especially needed during the winter months are coats, shoes, thermal underwear and socks, especially for men. Other items that are always in short supply are disposable razors, toothbrushes and toothpaste, deodorant and carryalls and satchels (like the ones you receive at conventions and conferences).

For more information or to let them know you'll be there to help, contact Erik and Kathy Kwiecienski, St. James' lead ministers of this community service, at kathykski2005@yahoo.com or by phone to 512-431-1530.

Madeline Rae Gill

ODDS & ENDS

Watch Night: Wednesday, December 31, 6 p.m.

Discernment Committee Meeting, Friday, January 9, 6 p.m.

Christian Formation Meeting: Sunday, January 11 after 10:15 a.m. service

Advisory Committee on Disproportionality: Thursday, January 15, 6 p.m.

Finance Committee: Thursday, January 15, 6 p.m.

Vestry Meeting: Sunday, January 18, 12:20 a.m.

Newcomer's Orientation: Thursday, January 22 and 29, 6:30 p.m.

St. James' Episcopal School Board: Wednesday, January 28, 5:30 p.m.

ST. JAMES' MAILBAG

St. James,

I want to make sure everyone is aware of www.change.gov. This a website set up by the President-elect's transition team, to keep everyone informed on what they are doing and *to ask for everyone's input*. They are even listing all the groups that are meeting with them, and posting what documents the groups give them. I encourage everyone to check out this unprecedented stride toward transparency and inclusion in government. Just as important, I invite everyone who looks at it to share the information with people who do not much use the Internet, and to help people share their views if they would like..

Peace, Laura Lucinda-McCutchin

Anglican Cycle of Prayer

Week of January 4—In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we give thanks for the church in Lincoln (Canterbury, England). We give thanks for all in our community and this week we give thanks for Lisa Madry; Mervin Malone, Jr.; Patsy Maner and Charles Pappas, Nick Pappas; Margot Marshall; Carl and Hilary Martin, Caitlyn.

Week of January 11—In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we give thanks for the church in Los Angeles. We give thanks for all in our community and this week we give thanks for Dale Martin; Judith Martin; Victor and Adriana Martinez, Febe, Lemi; Jose Martinez; Sylvia Martinez; Jeffrey Martinhauk, Brian, Kacy.

Week of January 18—In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we give thanks for the church in Lweru (Tanzania). We give thanks for all in our community and this week we give thanks for Sophia Mathews; Garry and Cristina Mauro, Dominic, Frank, Andrew; John and Sandye May; Janet Maykus; Robert and Amy McAndrew, Alec; Deb McCarthy.

Week of January 25—In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we give thanks for the church in Maine.. We give thanks for all in our community and this week we give thanks for Jim and Tracy McCormack, Jeremy, Kennedy; Reuben and Myra McDaniel; Tim McIntyre and Rick McLinden; Everett McKinley; Ora McKinley; Laure McLaughlin.

And please remember in your prayers this month, St. James' School, Round Rock Medical Center, Huston-Tillotson University, the Seminary of the Southwest. And pray for our seminarian Jeff. Pray for all in our armed forces, for those who mourn, for the unemployed and for our enemies.

PRAYER

"An Outline of the Faith, commonly called the Catechism" found on pages 856-857 in the Book of Common Prayer describes seven forms of prayer. Listed below are those persons who have requested (or someone has requested on their behalf) intercessory prayer. Please pray for: Ollin; Francisco; Lucia; Huitzin Chavez and family; Wisman; LaVay George; Lois Hart and Doris Johnson; Margaret Listberger; Kate Kuhn; Dottie Welton; Enid and Violet; Anthony; Kate Kuhn; Bill Ikard; Lucas Liston; Thelma Fowler.

Wanda Hinton, Myrna Kerr, James Sellers, Chioima Okoro, Joe Snyder, Kevin Talma, Cathy Whatley.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

Heavenly Father, giver of life and health: Comfort and relieve your sick servants and give your power of healing to those who minister to their needs, that they may be strengthened in their weakness and have confidence in your loving care; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty and most merciful God, we remember before you all poor and neglected persons whom it would be easy for us to forget: the homeless and the destitute, the old and the sick, and all those who have none to care for them or pray for them. Help

us to heal those who are broken in body or spirit, and turn their sorrow into joy. Grant this, Father, for the love of your Son, who for our sake became poor, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O merciful Father, who hast taught us in thy Holy Word that thou dost not willingly afflict or grieve thy children: Look with pity upon the sorrow of thy servants for whom our prayers are offered. Remember them, O Lord, in mercy, nourish their souls with patience, comfort them with a sense of thy goodness, lift up thy countenance upon them, and give them peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

St. James' Vestry Members: Mary Lou Adams Patricia Braithwaite Simone Talma Flowers - Senior Warden Charlie Gunn - Junior Warden Elenor Hardin Bill Ikard Jim Johnson Alex Ogunmuyiwa Seth Wallace

Come to The Welcome Table The Core Values of St. James' Episcopal Church, Austin, Texas

St. James' Episcopal Church is a warm, lively Christian community called by our Lord Jesus Christ to love one another, to welcome into our midst all people, and to proclaim the Gospel by serving the needs of the world we live in. The life of the parish is centered in the Episcopal tradition of worship.

Heritage

"The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone."

Psalm 118:22, Matthew 21:42, Mark 12:10, Luke 20:17.

We cherish, affirm, and hold fast to our African-American heritage. Remembering that St. James' was founded by black Episcopalians who were not welcome in white churches in Austin, we strive to be a church where all of God's children can worship in a spirit of loving acceptance.

Welcome

"Wherever you are in your journey of faith, you are welcome at this table."

We hear these words at every Eucharist, and we seek to live these words every day in the respect we show for one another. Whoever you are, you are welcome here. There is a place for everyone at the table at St. James': It is God's table.

We work to practice a ministry of radical hospitality, in which we are intentionally inclusive, welcoming, respectful, and nurturing.

St. James' provides a holy, safe place where we can have fruitful conversations about difficult topics; where we support each other in our life in the faith; where we are open to finding new ways to carry out God's will.

Worship

Our worship is joyful! We value our beautiful, spirited, and varied music. We appreciate creative expressions in liturgy and the arts. We value good preaching. We seek ways for worship to be a nurturing experience for children.

Our celebrations of the Eucharist are varied to meet the needs of our congregation, including our Spanish-speaking community.

We go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia!

Stewardship as Service

God calls us to be faithful stewards of our time, talent, and resources.

As a community, we have a strong commitment to Christian formation for children, youth, and adults; to pastoral care; and to providing multicultural experience.

Our ministries range from programs located on our church campus – such as St. James' Episcopal School and the East Austin Wellness Initiative – to our partnership with the Ali Arab Hospital in Gaza.

We value our role in nurturing and helping train seminarians from the Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest.

Diversity

We rejoice in our diversity at St. James'. St. James' provides an opportunity for each of us to share our Episcopal worship with people who are different from us, and we believe we are all blessed by that experience. We pray that our diverse, loving community can be a beacon of hope, a foretaste of God's Kingdom.