



# 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

### OCTOBER 2009

#### RECTOR'S REFLECTIONS

Caught somewhere between the anxiety of not knowing and the haunting faces of unforgotten regrets. Some of us live stuck there all the time, and my guess is that all of us live there at least some of the time. The world of Ambien.

The chronology of past and future plays an unfair game with us. The older we get, the less the future looms over the horizon. But, the regrets keep adding up.

Of course, the regrets are more easily counted and recounted and the recounted again. The future of not knowing is so much less specific. What we used to call our unnamed dreads. We lie awake because of our past that won't let us go. We don't seem to know how to let go.

But, it is the not knowing that keeps us from trusting. Maybe even keeps us from acting bravely now. Sure, it is evident in our daily lives and the worries we try to name. It is manifest in our common life when too many people fear what might happen and what might not happen and see the world they knew slipping away into something they don't know at all. Fear of not knowing can become toxic.

There was a time when people had pretty much given up hope. They had been given promises about the future, but those promises seemed to always vanish in the dusty roads of Palestine. Hope for freedom was always crushed by oppression. Being under somebody else's foot again and again. Hope for being rescued from this unhelpful world was almost in the gene code, it had been there so long. This messiah who would overthrow the oppressors and restore greatness to the people who had suffered beyond memory. False messiahs had shown up before and would offer only disappointment. Tricksters, crazies, and con men.

But, most of the people were looking for only what they had always expected in the first place. When the Messiah finally came, he didn't arrive in any way they had come to look for. No warrior on horseback. No army to crush the Romans. Nothing that would show them that he was all they ever needed, unless they could imagine better than the everyday.

The past, with all its sorrow and failed attempts, was all they knew. Yet, it was familiar. The not knowing of the future would ask more of them than their past. Not knowing would require trust like they had never had to trust before. Not everybody was able to take that step. Take that leap into the promise offered by this rabbi from Nazareth. Others saw only a threat to their power and position when they looked at him and heard his talk of the Kingdom. Good Friday, they went home believing that they had kept themselves safe. Everything just as it always had been. Others went home to the past that was familiar, but with another dashed hope, making them just a little less capable of attempting to trust again. All of them stuck.

Faith simply must be more than Ambien for the soul. It must offer more than unforgiven memories. It must offer more than fear of whatever might come next. Or it really isn't faith at all. It becomes lots of activities and maybe even some good works to mask the fear we feel in the present. The irony is that the present is the only time we have. And we lose it so easily.

The Cross stands there to keep reminding us of the grace and mercy of God. Tells us that the past does not need to haunt us. It, all of it, is forgiven. Every face, every foolish decision. Every wound given and received. And the Resurrection stands there to offer us a future we can trust, because we can trust the One who offers us the gift of sharing in his own resurrection.

Not knowing is just how time is. How we live with not knowing is a matter of faith. It defines a person, a parish, a people. What we have now is the meantime, and the question is: "What will we do with it?"

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

## JAZZ AT ST. JAMES'

This year we are bringing our featured artists from the New York Metropolitan area to Austin. We are requesting anyone who would like to donate "air miles" for the artists transportation to contact [jazz@stjames.org](mailto:jazz@stjames.org) or call the church office at 926-6339.

### ST. JAMES' ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP DRIVE

#### The Welcome Table: Bearing the Gifts We Share!

*I'm gonna sit at the welcome table*

*I'm gonna sit at the welcome table one of these days*

*hallelujah*

*I'm gonna sit at the welcome table*

*Gonna sit at the welcome table one of these days*

For the month of October we will gather at the Welcome Table, demonstrating our faith through pledges of support for St. James'. And when we all participate in the stewardship of our mission, what a Welcome Table we have! Our many ministries – youth programs, music, Jazz at St. James, East Austin Wellness Center, Trinity Center, just to name a few – happen because of our generous commitment of both time and resources.

No matter how much you give, everyone's participation is important. Our church family can fully pursue our ministries to God and our neighbors only if you let us know your pledge of support for 2010.

### OCTOBER IS COMMITMENT MONTH

Please think and pray about what your role will be, and plan to pledge in October.

#### WAYS TO PLEDGE:

By mail: look for an invitation to pledge in the mail in early October

On Sunday: pledge cards will be in the pews each Sunday in October

Online: go to <http://www.stjamesaustin.org> any time in October

If you have questions or want to volunteer for the Stewardship committee, contact us at: [jacknokes@gmail.com](mailto:jacknokes@gmail.com) or [hbledsoe@austin.rr.com](mailto:hbledsoe@austin.rr.com)

God's peace be with you,

Renette Bledsoe

Jack Nokes

Co-Chairs, Stewardship Campaign

### ST. JAMES' PLAYGROUND MEET UP

For folks at St James' whose kids enjoy playgrounds: Come enjoy some time outside with fellow St. Jamesians.

Sunday, October 25, 2 pm to 4 pm, Little Stacy Park

Future dates and locations TBD.

Questions, thoughts, suggestions? [lizziecainclark@gmail.com](mailto:lizziecainclark@gmail.com).

### THE EAST AUSTIN WELLNESS INITIATIVE

In collaboration with

The Sustainable Food Center of Austin

Presents

The Happy kitchen/La Cocina Alegre

A 6 week Nutrition education and cooking program

Saturday October 17, 24, 31, November 7, 14, 21

10 – 11:30 AM

Founders Hall

1. Learn to prepare delicious, healthy and seasonal meals
2. Be informed of good nutrition for you and your family
3. Learn how to get the most food for your money

**Free of charge**  
**Child care provided**  
**To register, call Valeria Morrow at:**  
**236 – 0074 X 103**  
**Or email: [valeria@sustainablefoodcenter.org](mailto:valeria@sustainablefoodcenter.org)**

**CALL OR EMAIL THE CHURCH OFFICE TO SIGN UP FOR FLU SHOTS ON  
SUNDAY 4 OCTOBER  
9:15 AM – 12:45 PM  
CHECK SERVICE BULLETIN AND WEEKLY  
E-NEWSLETTER FOR DETAILS**

Joyce Christian, Nurse Coordinator for East Austin Wellness Initiative, (512) 926-6339 or [joycechristian@austin.rr.com](mailto:joycechristian@austin.rr.com)

**SNAPSHOT**

Several months ago the St. James' Austin Wellness Initiative, headed by Joyce Christian, added a new and important facet to its program—mental health services. We've read about the addition of Elizabeth Smith, a licensed professional counselor intern, in previous newsletters, but were not made fully aware of the wealth of counseling experience and skills that Elizabeth has to offer the congregation and the outlying community.

Elizabeth and her husband Oliver Smith have lived and worked in more cities than most of us, and the span of Elizabeth's career as an educator and counselor is likewise broad.

At the University of Wisconsin, where she earned her Masters Degree in counseling, Elizabeth gave counseling support to non-traditional students, many from rural areas who were the first to attend college in their families. She also completed internships as a junior high school guidance counselor, a peer mediation trainer for elementary and middle school students, and a family therapist. Previous to her master's program, Elizabeth had taught math in junior high, tutored students at all levels in math, and developed a close mentoring relationship with low-achieving Hispanic students.

When Elizabeth and her family first moved to Austin in 1996, Elizabeth served as a family self-sufficiency coordinator for the Austin Housing Authority, and also provided individual counseling for women at the YWCA. These experiences led her to directing a Welfare-to-Work program for the Central East Austin Community Organization for two years until the program lost its funding. The program provided counseling, case management, and crisis intervention for its clients.

In the two years the family left Austin for New Haven Connecticut, Elizabeth advised students in an accelerated business degree program, where she was assistant director. As Elizabeth admits, she's both a right- and left-brained person with strengths in thinking and organizing and in feeling and creativity. During her life experiences and her work over the years she recognizes that she has grown in empathy, and she has the desire to give back to the community through counseling in a nonprofit setting.

The Smiths returned to Austin in 2004. One summer between her senior year in high school and college, their daughter Natalie volunteered at Round Rock Medical Center. "Every day when she'd come home from the hospital," Elizabeth remembers, "it was 'Father Amy, Father Amy.'" Sometime later, a hospital board member recommended Oliver to serve on the hospital's ethics committee. Still later, in a phone conversation with Elizabeth over a job posting Amy thought she might be interested in, Amy learned that Elizabeth was involved in Stephen Ministry through Hope Presbyterian Church—a ministry of one-on-one moral and spiritual support to persons who are ill and home-bound. "Oh," said Amy Donohue Adams, chaplain of Round Rock Hospital, "how would you like to be a volunteer chaplain assistant at the hospital?" Thus Elizabeth was the third member of her family to become involved in Round Rock Hospital, where she served for five years.

Again, it was through Father Amy that Elizabeth first attended St. James' Church at a special Eucharist remembering a patient who had died at Round Rock Hospital. Though Elizabeth and Oliver are both ordained elders

at Hope Presbyterian Church, they love the racial and cultural diversity and the spirit of St. James'. Accustomed to attending more than one church (in Kansas they attended three different churches), they share their time between Hope Presbyterian and St. James'. Their ties to St. James' are rooted now—while Elizabeth has a counseling office in the Wellness Center, Oliver is vice-president of the St. James' School Board.

This is what Elizabeth writes about herself, “My counseling interests have an emphasis on relationship issues and life transitional challenges. My approach is eclectic, meeting each person where they are at spiritually, emotionally and mentally. . .” About fees for counseling appointments, she writes, “Fees are assessed on a sliding scale from \$7 to \$125 for a 50-minute session. Special consideration will be given for senior citizens and students.” Elizabeth adds that she is comfortable with people “no matter their color, age, or background.” She has a good deal of experience with young people, but also has a special relationship with seniors.

Elizabeth’s counseling assistance has already reached outside the bounds of St. James' to Heritage Point Apartments and Safe Place. In addition, she has made known her availability to work with groups of middle and high school students in the East Austin area. Recently she and Joyce Christian participated in a Travis County Roundtable discussion of counseling assistance needed at the office of Parental Representation, a support service for families where parental custody is at issue.

Elizabeth Smith is working hard to extend the ministry of St. James' East Austin Wellness Initiative. She’s in her comfy counseling office at the Wellness Center Tuesdays through Thursdays available by appointment to anyone who needs an experienced and compassionate listener. She can be reached at the St. James' office 926-6330 ext.10 or by email: [counselor@stjamesaustin.org](mailto:counselor@stjamesaustin.org).

Karen Bordelon Hartwell

### **ST. JAMES' EPISCOPAL SCHOOL**

In December of 2008, St. James' was awarded a business planning grant and formed a Business Planning Task Force, led by consultants Mary Keenan and Teri O’Glee. The goal was to plan the next stage of school growth in a formal manner, and the members of the Business Planning Task Force were board officers and chairs of committees, faculty members and administrators and any board member interested in serving on the task force. Among the considerations were a variety of enrollment models for growing the school, current demographic and education trends in Austin, the core strengths of the school and the fundraising landscape. The overriding concern of Task Force participants was to ensure that St. James' Episcopal School provide the best possible educational start for children in a manner that is financially sustainable and allows the continued participation of families who are unable to afford full tuition.

The Task Force was committed to looking at all options, but very early in the process, non-negotiables surfaced. We validated the importance of remaining an Episcopal school, of residing in East Austin, and of maintaining our mission to children from diverse religious, ethnic, and economic backgrounds. And, then, we worked to discover how we would support those non-negotiables over the next 8 – 10 years.

In June of 2009, the Board of Trustees adopted a plan for growing the school that expands the current preschool/kindergarten model by increasing the number of students from 64 to 135. This new vision addresses documented needs for early childhood education and care in the Austin community and builds on the unique strengths of St. James' in helping children and their families build a strong foundation for school and for life.

The research involved in the Business Plan shows the need for the safe care for children of working families and for an educational opportunity that will provide an excellent foundation for early childhood learners. Research also pointed to the work of public schools to improve the quality of education provided to students in East Austin and the growth of charter schools in our neighborhood. This focus on education helps all children. Children who are best prepared for school both academically and socially succeed.

Our Business Plan also involves a financial model that extends through 10 years and allows us to see the impact of increased enrollment or additional staff on the bottom line. The Plan narrative and the financial model are of a sophistication rarely seen in early childhood centers. We are grateful to our donor and to the many people who worked so hard on the Task Force. The work we have to do is difficult, because our mission dictates significant fundraising. However, when I see our children playing on the playground or working in the classroom, when I hear them singing songs at chapel and learning to sign new songs, and when I know that we have children who are accepted to charter schools and private schools in Austin, I know the work is definitely worth the effort. I am grateful to all those who worked so hard on this plan, to the parents who entrust their children to us, to the board members who work for a good and fruitful future for the school, and to the teachers and staff who make this often challenging enterprise seem effortless. One of our grandparents said, “I love coming to a school where learning is so much fun and everyone seems happy! “

Glennie Burgess, Head of School

## THE COMPANY WE KEEP

Creativity & Community with C.S. Lewis & the Inklings-- Come join us at Camp Allen from October 30 to November 1 for the C.S. Lewis Southwest Regional Retreat as we together learn about C.S. Lewis, J.R.R. Tolkien, and their friends the Inklings, and discover how we are refreshed and inspired as we connect with others in Christian community. This very special three-day conference will feature a variety of activities for the entire family: lectures, performances by the Ad Deum Dance Company; a delightful children's track for young Narnians (ages 7-12), a writers workshop option. Call 1-888-CSLEWIS or [www.cslewis.org](http://www.cslewis.org). Don't miss out on this feast for the heart, mind and imagination!

## CHRISTIAN FORMATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Children's Choir

Special thanks go out to Michelle Jordan, Sharon Coleman and our precious children for the Children's Choir offering on Aloha Day. Children's Choir rehearsals began again from 9 a.m.-10 a.m. September 27.

### Children's Sabbath

We will celebrate the Children's Sabbath Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup> with religious communities from around the world. This year's theme is ***Create Change for Children Today: Bring Hope and a Better Tomorrow***. The children will serve as lay readers; the Children's Choir will sing for the offertory and communion hymns; the Christian Formation Committee will be commissioned; and we will kick off Trick or Treat for Unicef as a service project. **PLEASE TURN IN BOXES ON SUNDAY NOVEMBER 1 OR 8.**

### Wish List

Natural materials for art (dry leaves, bark, pine cones, seeds, etc.)  
Beads with which to make Anglican Prayer Beads  
Large leaf ivy plants in 6-10 inch plastic pots  
Artificial grape vine with vine, leaves, and grapes

### Dates to Remember

Christian Formation Committee Meeting: October 11 after 10:15 a.m. service  
Children's Choir Rehearsals: 9 a.m. – 10 a.m. September 27- October 4, 11 and 18, Saturday, October 17 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.  
Parent Materials Making Workday: Saturday, October 17 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.  
Children's Sabbath: Sunday, October 18

## CHRISTIAN FORMATION 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  
**1 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 snacks, 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 a.m.-10:15 a.m.

**9 a.m.–10 a.m.**  
**THE “SUNDAY PAPER” TIMES**  
**(3 year olds – 5<sup>th</sup> 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 –1<sup>st</sup> Grade)**

In the **Level I Atrium**, children three years of age --Kindergarten 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**, First and second 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. The guiding parable for this Atrium is The True Vine. 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 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. for snack on the playground or in the **Orange Building**

10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. Atrium Level I - **Purple Winona Miles Building**; Atrium Level II--**Left side of Orange Building**

6 p.m. -7 p.m. **Purple Winona Miles Building**

**10:00am-11:15am**  
**GODLY PLAY**  
**(3<sup>rd</sup> Grade – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade)**

Godly Play is a method of Christian education and spiritual direction for children age 2-12. (At St. James’ 3<sup>rd</sup> grade-5<sup>th</sup> 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 on the playground or in the **Orange Building**

10:15 a.m.–11:15 a.m. right side of **Orange Building**. Mila Jackson, Director of Christian Formation

**Milaj4@yahoo.com**

Look for upcoming reminders in the Sunday announcements and weekly e-newsletters.

**SUNDAY MORNING ADULT PROGRAMS**

Please check the Sunday Service bulletins for our schedule. Thank you for your support, Susan Gezana

**MONDAY NIGHT ADULT PROGRAMS**

The Intercessory Prayer Group meets each Monday night at 6 p.m. at the Church and is open to all who wish to pray for others with a group of people. Please feel free to come and join us at the Church.

The Seekers is a forum for St. James’ members that have the desire to expand their hearts and minds and to share their ideas and reflections about faith with each other. We have guest speakers of DVD’s on a variety of spiritual topics followed by group discussions. We meet on the third Monday of each month from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the

Seminary of the Southwest. For more information on The Seekers, contact Sharon Elmore at 928-0475 or [sharonelmore@austin.rr.com](mailto:sharonelmore@austin.rr.com).

## **TUESDAY NIGHT ADULT PROGRAMS**

### *Phenomenal Women of St. James'*

*October 13, 6:30 p.m.*

Our seminarian Jeff Martinhauk preached a sermon last Fall about how the threads that represent each individual person at St. James' combine to create the vibrant and beautiful tapestry that *is* St. James. At our October meeting, we'll explore one small facet of that vision of individual threads making up our church tapestry.

We'll begin by discussing the individual religious histories that we each brought to St. James'. What were our religious histories and experiences? How do those histories and experiences compare to what we found at St. James'? Were there things from our religious pasts that we were glad to put behind us? Things from our pasts that we miss? Familiar thing that we rejoiced to find at St. James'...or not? Things that were new that we embraced...or not? And we'll end by taking a look at the St. James' tapestry that our individual threads help create.

Please join us! You are welcome whether you're a regular or whether you've never been before. We'd love to have you with us.

The October meeting is at Chrisy Nisbett's house. We'll begin with dinner at 6:30, but feel free to come on in if you get there earlier. Bring a dish if you'd like or just bring yourself. Contact Colleen Waller at 401-3985 or [cwaller@austin.rr.com](mailto:cwaller@austin.rr.com) with questions about the group in general or this month's meeting in particular.

### *Tuesday Night Group*

If you have questions about the liturgy, the church or just want to hear others discuss their questions, join the the Rector and the Tuesday Night Group at 7 p.m. Wine and cheese are also on the menu!

## **WEDNESDAY NIGHT ADULT PROGRAMS**

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: [www.voltrons.pbwiki.com](http://www.voltrons.pbwiki.com). For more information please contact Ryan Parks (791-6998) or [voltrons@stjamesaustin.org](mailto:voltrons@stjamesaustin.org).

## **FALL YOUTH CALENDAR: J2A and EYC**

The young people of St. James' have crafted a joint calendar to organize the activities for young people at St. James'. "Young People" in this context are defined as people in the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade through High School. The activities take place after the 10:15 worship (approximately 12:00 noon) usually until 1:30, unless special notice is given for a particular activity. The Fall Calendar is as follows:

~~Saturday, Sept. 26 SCHLITTERBAHN~~

Oct. 4 J2A Activity

Oct. 11 Super Service

Oct. 18 The Simpsons and God

Oct. 25 ►►Mystery Activity ◄◄

Nov. 1 J2A Activity

Nov. 8 Super Service

Nov. 15 Crazy Music

Nov. 22 J2A Activity

Nov. 20 Advent Wreath Sunday

Dec. 6 Drama Sunday

Dec. 13 Drama Sunday

Dec. 20 Christmas PAR-TAY

The possibility of some of our young people attending the Diocesan Senior High Retreat at Camp Allen Dec. 28-30 is being considered.

Jo Krouse, Coordinator

## **JOIN ST. JAMES' VOLUNTEERS AT MOBILE LOAVES AND FISHES ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17**

Mobile Loaves and Fishes (MLF) is a monthly St. James' outreach and ministry to our homeless brothers and sisters in Austin and we need helping hands and hearts on Saturday, October 17. We begin at 9:30 a.m. when we make sandwiches and load the mobile canteen with food, fruit, snacks and other refreshments. Those who are able can also help deliver and serve the food and other refreshments from the canteen to needy men, women and families in downtown Austin. We usually finish between 11:30 a.m. and noon. This is a wonderful opportunity to share the Good News in service to others. For more information or to let them know they can count on you to help, please contact Erik and Kathy Kwiecienski, St. James' lead ministers of this community service, at [kathykski2005@yahoo.com](mailto:kathykski2005@yahoo.com) or by phone to 512-431-1530.

Directions: MLF is located at 903 South Capital of Texas Highway (360) - on the grounds of St. John Neuman Church. The Mobile Loaves and Fishes building is on the east side of Capital of Texas Highway between Lost Creek Blvd. and Las Cimas Blvd (look for the historic marker sign). Las Cimas Blvd is the next intersection south of Bee Caves. If you are able to bring clothing (especially men's large and extra large cotton knit shirts and T-shirts, white tube socks, gym shoes, sweaters, coats) or toiletries, these are always very needed and appreciated.

Madeline Rae Gill

### **CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

The office hours at the church are Monday through Thursday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Please bring, email or fax all announcements to the church office by **5 p.m. on TUESDAY** for inclusion in the back of the Sunday service leaflet and in the Enews. The church phone number is 926-6339, the fax number is 928-1489 and the email address is [office@stjamesaustin.org](mailto:office@stjamesaustin.org).

Verbal announcements must be given at all four Sunday services. If the request is for the clergy to make the announcement, provide a copy prior to Sunday morning.

### **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](http://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. Please let her know any problems you have.

### **ODDS & ENDS**

**Vestry Meeting**, Sunday October 25, 12:15 p.m.

**St. James' School Board**, Wednesday, October 28, 5:30 p.m.

### **CARDS AND LETTERS**

St. James' Update October 2009

It's Maryann Philbrook. It's been a few months since I wrote last, but I'm still in Geneva working as the Communications Intern with the World Student Christian Federation. This summer I fell behind in keeping St. James' updated about my work, but now I want to thank you for your prayers and continued support. I am working on publications here and generally helping around the office. We're currently planning our international leadership

training on Identity, Diversity and Dialogue to be held in Chiang Mai, Thailand in December. There is always work to be done here! Thankfully, I am going to stay here in Geneva until the end of December. If you want to know more about my work here, please check out my blog [www.maryanningeneva.blogspot.com](http://www.maryanningeneva.blogspot.com) or ask Ryan Parks about a copy of my most recent letter of support. Thank you again for all the ways that you at St. James have supported me. I look forward to sharing with you when I get back in January.

Maryann

### PRAYER FOR THE PRESENT MOMENT

Dear Lord, we spend so much time reliving yesterday or anticipating tomorrow that we lose sight of the only time that is truly ours—the **present moment**.

You give us today, one moment at a time. That is all we have—all we ever will have.

Give us the **faith**, which knows that each moment contains exactly what is best for us.

Give us **hope**, which trusts you enough to forget past failings and future trials.

Give us the **courage** to recognize each other as family and communicate with child-like innocence.

Give us the **wisdom and warmth** to express our appreciation for each other and not assume it is already understood.

Give us the **love**, which makes each moment an anticipation of eternity with you.

We ask this in your name, O Lord, who is the same **yesterday, today, and forever**.

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

### Anglican Cycle of Prayer

**Week of October 4**—In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we give thanks for the church in St. Francis, Friar. We give thanks for all in our community and this week we give thanks for Charles and Christine Aubrey; Geovani and Deborah Avalos, Sebastian, Gianni; Jorge Avalos; Toni Avila and Mariah Balcazar, Nitse; Ben and Sally Backus.

**Week of October 11**—In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we give thanks for the church in Tanga (Tanzania). We give thanks for all in our community and this week we give thanks for Kate Bailey; Stuart Bailey and Linda Fontaine; Patricia Banks-Bell, Rodney; Adriana Bardin-Prestwood; Phil Barrow and Sharon Elmore; Dallas Baxter and Jerry Mitchell.

**Week of October 18**—In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we give thanks for the church in the Gulf (Pakistan). We give thanks for all in our community and this week we give thanks for Pam Beachley; James Beard; Stephen and Emilie Becker, Isaac, Antonia; James and Cheryl Beesley; George and Angela Bell, Kara, Cornelius Sirls.

**Week of October 25**—In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we give thanks for the church in Torit (Sudan). We give thanks for all in our community and this week we give thanks for Anne Delia Bello, Sylvia Martinez; Donna Bennett; Jane Bittner; Horace and Renette Bledsoe; Sherry Blyth.

And please remember in your prayers this month, St. James' School, Round Rock Medical Center, Huston-Tillotson University, the Seminary of the Southwest. 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: Jake Conerly; Lynn; Enid and Violet

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

*Pray without ceasing for the Vestry and for the health, strength and spiritual growth of the St. James' family. Prayer time is 9 a.m. Pray wherever you may be.*

#### TO GOD BE THE GLORY

*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.*

*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.*

*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.*

*Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

*Most loving God, whose wisdom has guided St. James' since its beginning, stir up your Spirit in our midst and lead us forward in the work we are called to do.*

*Enable this community to continue to serve you by ministering to those inside and outside of our walls.*

*Rid us of petty rivalries, sensitivities, vanities, egos, discourtesies, inhospitality...anything which distracts us from rejoicing in the good done by others in your name.*

*Grant that we may be united in a common mission and share in a single spirit...your Spirit. Christ.*

*Grant that we may faithfully envision where you are calling us to be and what you are calling us to do, as individuals and as a community. And then, Lord, bless our efforts to be faithful to that calling.*

*Grant that your goodness and grace may be seen in every face, your warm accents of love heard in every voice. Grant us the strength and wisdom to see the eyes of Christ in all those we meet, and to treat them as such. Amen.*

## 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.