



# 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

### NOVEMBER 2009

#### RECTOR'S REFLECTIONS

James Taylor sang: "Everybody got the blues. Everybody got some days that they can't explain." That feels familiar, and more honest than looking for understandings that just might not be there. We don't understand everything, even, or mostly about our own lives. Nellie, the beautiful wife of Thelonious Monk, once described the more troubled time in his life as his "un" years. That might feel familiar too, even if we are not a creative genius. We all do some "un" time in life. I don't mean to sound harsh, but I'm not sure I would trust anybody who said that they never had the blues, an unexplainable day, or some "un" time. At the very least, they would just make me feel even less confident about my own capacities. I can do that on my own, without their help. At most, I would wonder if they weren't just lying.

I wonder how early in life we start to realize that things don't always turn out the way we dreamed or imagined. I wonder how deep that disappointment goes or how much it just fades with time. And I wonder if the disappointments that come later, linger more and hold us back for longer periods. After all, I didn't become a cowboy, and I planned pretty hard for that when I was around six. I didn't turn out to be a fireman, and that looked pretty promising when I was about nine. Sometimes, goals are just kid wishes and those aren't so bad when they wander away. I was eleven when my dad died after a year of hellish cancer. Hellish for him and for those of us who watched what hell looks like. Lots of days followed that I just couldn't explain. More than the blues. Some "un" years. One of the people who helped me, even though I didn't experience it at all as help at the time, was a friend of my mother. She told me something close to these exact words: "You are never going to have the life the other kids have, who haven't gone through what you have. All you have is this life. So, what are you going to do with this life that you have?"

There were still some unexplainable days, and the blues, and "un" time after that. Her talk to me was not a sitcom miracle where life is solved in thirty minutes. But, the message must have begun to sink in somewhere along with way. Her name was Eve and I never knew her to show up at church. Yet, she turned out to be one of those angels you hear about every once in a while, who wander into the world to tell you what you need to know. A kind of divine messenger, even if they don't know that's who they are. I just wish I had been smart enough to thank her before our lives went their separate ways.

Too often we don't give faith enough space and credit. Too often we allow it to be nothing better than a system of lessons and rules and admonitions to shape up or get ready to suffer all the consequences we so rudely deserve. We don't really need faith to get that. All that takes is an old fashioned High School Assistant Principal. I already met him.

Faith never denies the blues. Never acts like all days would make sense. Never tells us that we can avoid any "un" times by being alive. That's just life. More than admonitions or rules and regulations, faith is the truth of always second chances. Always another chance because the God I believe in never gives up on us. Ever.

I have great boots, but I am no cowboy. I admire firemen, but know that I would have been a lousy one. I know that I never had and won't ever have the life that the other kids did. I have this one. And every single day I can wake up with the idea that there is a new chance, no matter how sleepless last night was. There is another chance, no matter how many ways I messed up the day before. That is more than optimism, as nice as optimism can be. It is more than trying to have positive thoughts as good as those are. The second chances of a life of faith are about hope. Hope is what we really need. Hope is what God offers.

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

## **JAZZ AT ST. JAMES'**

This year we have a dynamic group of musicians scheduled to play at our Jazz at St James' weekend, headed by the Javon Jackson band. Local musicians have been scheduled to play both at the concerts and at all our masses. Friday and Saturday nights, November 13-14, St. James' presents Javon Jackson with guest artists George Cable, Corcoran Holt and Louis Hayes in the Fifteenth Annual Jazz Concert Series. Warming up the stage and opening the show Friday night will be the Jeff Lofton Quartet with jazz vocalist Donna Hightower. Saturday night's opening act is the Joe Morales Sextet. The Series continues on Saturday morning with the Jazz at St. James' Masters' Class led by Javon Jackson. The educational is offered to jazz students and fans of all ages. This rare opportunity is FREE and starts at 11 a.m. at the Church.

Tickets purchased in advance are \$25. Tickets purchased at the door are \$30 (\$20 for students with ID). Doors open at 6:30. Show time is 7:30 p.m.

On Sunday, November 15, the St. James' Episcopal Church Jazz Mass will feature Dream Lovers at the 8 a.m. service. The 10:15 a.m. service will feature Javon Jackson. Son y No Son will be featured at 1 p.m. and the Donna Manthol Trio will be featured at 6 p.m.

Jazz at St James' is a program that provides a means of outreach for the church. As a congregation, it is a perfect time to have people visit our church for both the concerts and the jazz masses. The success of our event is due to the wonderful JASJ committee members and the congregation. As a congregation you can help make JASJ a success by being Jazz Angels, attend the concerts and publicize the event to your family and friends.

Please take a number of the beautiful brochures that can be found in the rear of the narthex and pass them out. We have many of these so don't be shy about taking them. Invite people to your service. You will be proud of the entertainment we have for you and it is a good time to introduce people to our church.

Thanks to you, Jazz at St James' has become a successful and anticipated event in the Austin music and entertainment community. With your help, we can make it even better this year. For additional information visit our website [www.jazzatstjames.org](http://www.jazzatstjames.org).

Keith Braithwaite, Chair JASJ 2009

## **SEARCH COMMITTEE NEWS**

Round two has come to a close. Earlier this year the Search Committee made a recommendation to the Vestry but the candidate accepted a position in another parish. That was round one. The Search Committee has now made another recommendation to the Vestry and the Vestry is in the process of considering that recommendation. So, round two has come to a close. Obviously, I will report more as I am able but for now please know that the Search Committee is confident in its recommendation and the Committee looks forward to swift action by the Vestry.

From time to time in this space I have offered a short profile of some of the members of the Committee. This month I want to highlight the extraordinary work of Pam Daniel. I want to extend a special thanks to Pam for her thoughtful and calm demeanor. Until recently, Pam was the least vocal, most soft spoken of our congenial group. Trust me when I tell you that Pam has a voice! Lately, Pam has let it be known that she packs quite a punch when she feels strongly about an issue. Pam expresses her feelings in a way that lets you know she is passionate about something but also in a way that lets you know she has given the matter considerable thought. She chooses her words carefully and she expresses as much love as does wisdom in her statements. She listens to others, considers all the angles and then shapes her own position in a way that sometimes makes me wonder why I didn't see the matter more clearly from the start of the discussion. And on top of all that, Pam makes a mean quiche. Yum!!!

I am anxious to tell you more about our recommendation but the confidential nature of our process prevents that until the Vestry has had an opportunity to act on the recommendation. I fully expect that to happen immediately. You can rest assured that I will shout it from the mountain top when the time is right. Stay tuned. Until then, please continue your prayers for everyone involved in our search process and especially for those whom we did not recommend. We wish them all goodwill and God's grace as they continue their own journeys.

Faithfully, Lora J. Livingston  
Chair, Search Committee

## SNAPSHOT

Music is central to the liturgical experience for most of us in the St. James' community. The 10:15 choir accompanied by organ and piano; the guitars and horn and singing of the 1 p.m. service in Spanish; piano and saxophone and rousing chorus of the evening service. Jazz at St. James'. The Sunday Jazz Mass. The bells and alleluias of Christmas and Easter. All of it memorable. All of it St. James'.

But there's a new St. James' sound these days. We heard it first at the 10:15 service on Aloha Sunday and again at the Children's Sabbath. It's the Children's Choir, who after years of teaching and directing, have found their voice and have delighted the parents and the community of the 10:15 Eucharist with their clear, sweet singing.

Meet their teacher and director, Michelle Jordan. She has been teaching songs to the children for many years—in the mornings before Sunday School, during summer Bible School, on Saturday rehearsals. And all of a sudden, her choir has developed its own strong voice.

Michelle has been a member of St. James' for approximately 12 years, ever since she moved to Austin from Colorado. She learned about St. James' from an ad in the paper announcing that it was an inclusive, multicultural church. Michelle wasn't an Episcopalian then, but she joined the church, and several years later, Marti Rickel prepared her for confirmation.

For 11 years Michelle taught music at Blanton Elementary School on East 51<sup>st</sup> Street. Teaching is her joy, so much so that for several years she has been pursuing a doctorate in the study of how children learn, specifically, how they manage the experience of uncertainty while developing projects and how they collaborate with one another. Her interest might have been sparked while teaching and observing children composing music together, a creative effort marked with uncertainty.

Michelle says she had withdrawal pains when she left Blanton, but St. James' has allowed her to continue with teaching children music. Anyone watching her work with the children's choir can see how much she loves it—the teaching, the music, and the children. She says, however, that while she loves teaching music, she's interested in all aspects of children's learning, and hopes one day, when she receives her Ph.D. in Education, to be able to do further research on the learning process. This will likely take her, sadly, to another university or college away from Austin, but for now, Michelle works on her dissertation and spends many Saturdays and Sunday mornings with the Children's Choir of St. James', trying, she says, "to grow singers", who will continue to love making music in the church as teens and adults.

Often Michelle rushes from choir practice back home to continue her writing, and she misses not attending St. James' regularly. Still, she says, she "feels the pull of St. James', feels its strength." She adds, "St. James' has been a very important part of my adult life, and I love the new church and its much improved acoustics."

Michelle also has praise for the musicians who have supported her in her teaching—Roger Williams who often accompanied the children on the guitar, and Sharon Coleman who accompanies the children's singing in the church. But her greatest admiration is for Mila Jackson, Director of the Children's Christian Formation Program, about whom she says, "What a joy Mila is to work with. I respect her so much. She is a model of faithfulness."

No doubt Mila would have the same to say about Michelle, who has faithfully given St. James' children a voice and a love of singing. If you missed them at Aloha Sunday or Children's Sabbath, they will be singing again on Christmas Eve at their annual Christmas Pageant.

Bravo, Michelle, and thank you for the love of song and singing that you are imparting to our children.

Karen Bordelon Hartwell

## BUENOS DIAS # 22:

### *1 PM CONGREGATION'S CAMP ALLEN RETREAT*

Nuestra congregación has had one-day retreats in past years, but the retreat September 25-27 was the first time we spent three days together away from our homes to focus on our future as a community. Fifteen members attended. We enjoyed the Brazos Cabin on Lake Coffield at Camp Allen.

Father Alejandro Montes and Father Jaime Case led us in two workshops on evangelism. Fr. Montes is rector of the large Latino congregation at San Mateo in Houston. Fr. Case is the Diocese of Texas Canon for Multicultural Ministries. Their talks gave us the opportunity to reflect on our roles and responsibilities in regards to outreach and helped us make a commitment on how we can act when we set about to evangelize our world.

There is still much work to be accomplished to prepare this group for evangelism, but the retreat was a great start. I found the retreat to be a reminder on how God's Grace works through St. James' and the importance of sharing St. James' mission and vision with our world in Austin Texas. Especially helpful was our review and study of the St. James' statement of core values and the St. James' mission statement.

In today's news, I see people reacting to life's transitions and difficulties with fear. People seem to look for a

scapegoat--someone to blame for their problems. This behavior is not of the God I perceive. St. James' congregations worship every Sunday and Wednesday. I believe that we follow the God of love, peace, and grace, and when we live in God's Grace we live in a world of abundance. There are plenty of resources for all of us (even though at times we probably think we and others do not have "enough!"). As the body of Christ at St. James', we learned that we need to take this message to everyone around us. Perhaps the goal is not to convert people who already have a relationship with Christ, but perhaps to bring the Good News of our God by bringing hope to people who have none--bring peace to people in turmoil. I realized all these thoughts in our weekend retreat. I can't wait to see what God does when we all begin to work together. I for one am ready to do some evangelism.

Fr. Jeffrey and the St. James' office gave us wonderful on-going support with this retreat and our ministry. Thank you St. James' for standing alongside Nuestra Congregación while we were on retreat. You all made it possible to let God work through our lives.

The Rev. Margarita Arroyo

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

When my third grade teacher read aloud Charles Dickens *A Christmas Carol*, I had nightmares for a long time. To this day, I still find the story scary. But writing in October before All Saints' Day, somehow it seemed appropriate to think of students past, present, and future.

Professionally, I started as an engineer working for Texaco. When I decided building into lives was more important than building projects, I switched to teaching twenty years ago. I have worked harder for less money but with more joy. And interacting with students and families over the years has been and continues to be my greatest joy.

With the perspective of time, I see that we are all people "in process" – students, teachers, families, administrators. We all begin as novices and grow to maturity – as a child, a student, a parent, a teacher, or an administrator. None of us is perfect. All of us make mistakes. And this growth is not instantaneous but life-long and evolving.

I remember one small boy at a previous preschool who had such a hard time transitioning into school. He was no longer the focus of family attention. He had a hard time listening to and following directions. That first teacher and I went "toe to toe" with him so many times, and we talked with his parents to coordinate between home and school. When given two acceptable choices, he would offer a third or fourth! He was, in fact, a master negotiator! Learning to be a part of a group of students, however, took what seemed like forever. The reward for our hard work that year came when the next teacher found him to be a wonderful part of her group of students.

I remember a previous 5<sup>th</sup> grade student who struggled in school. I spent many afternoons re-teaching math lessons in various ways. How could I have known then that she would later work for me as a preschool aide and then become a certified teacher? Though an excellent student, another former 5<sup>th</sup> grade student could barely be heard when she gave her answers in class. She wanted to be a veterinarian then. Today she is completing a master's degree in education and is preparing to teach elementary students.

Each day, I see a range of growth right before my eyes since our school serves children aged 2½ to kindergarten. The youngest student almost toddles, while the oldest races across the playground. The youngest student starts with pouring and spooning, while the oldest begins to read. All are learning the rules - the way we work together and help each other. How much easier it is to tell that someone else is *not* following the rules than to follow them ourselves!

Our future is even apparent as I watch pregnant mothers bring our current students to school. What a delight to then see these shy babies give me a smile and then say learn to say hello. Before I know it, they are walking in with sister's lunch box, being potty trained, and finally coming to school. I was able to tell one child recently that we saw her when she was in her mother's womb, saw her as a baby, and are now so excited that she is at our school!

The past, the present, the future: I am thankful for each and every child and family who was, is, and will be a part of my learning and growth. Shared concerns and tears, encouragements and laughter have blessed my life. For me, school is a grace-filled place for each of us to learn and grow.

Andrea Methven, Assistant to the Head of School

### **J2A: JOURNEY TO ADULTHOOD**

This program for 5th grade through Junior High ages (11 and up) has met 7 times since the beginning of the fall school term. We began with the youth-wide Aloha Sunday, during which we outlined what we wanted to include in our Fall Program. We are using activities based on the popular TV series "The Simpsons" which generates discussions on topics relevant for this age group. We have roughly a dozen young people in that age group, with

usually at least six showing up on any given Sunday.

We have had two sessions on the Simpsons theme.

Other activities have been:

*Saturday, Sept 26* - Austin parks and Pizza, for our last of the summer Water Fling.

*Oct. 11 -- Service project:* Our young people have assembled the Church's playground set, which arrived needing assembly. This involved the use of power screw drivers and drills, and called for training in safety issues connected to the use of power equipment. The playground still needs a few finishing touches.

*Rainy Day Activity - Communication:* Each person drew a picture based, sight unseen, on one person's description of her picture. Comparing results led to some useful observations on how we communicate.

*Oct. 25 - A Mystery Activity,* which is still a close secret as we go to press.

In November we are planning:

*Nov. 1 - J2A activity.*

*Nov. 8 - Super Service:* Finish the playground, weather permitting.

*Nov. 15 - Crazy Music.*

*Nov. 22 - J2A Activity*

December sessions will be devoted to preparing for the Church's Christmas Eve dramatic presentation.

This group has developed into an exciting group to work with. They are already an integral part of our church body, and we can look at this program as an investment in our church's future, as these young people reach adulthood and take their place as adult members of the church.

Jo Krouse, Coordinator

*Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." (Luke 6:38)*

#### **ST. JAMES' MOBILE LOAVES AND FISHES DAY IS SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21**

Members and St. James' have the privilege of showing God's love and promise every third Saturday of every month when we demonstrate how much we care about our homeless brothers and sisters in Austin. Please join us at St. James' Mobile Loaves and Fishes food outreach and ministry at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, November 21. We prepare sandwiches and load the mobile canteen with food, fruit, snacks and beverages. Those who are able can stay on to help deliver and serve the food and other refreshments to needy men, women and families in downtown Austin. We usually finish between 11:30 a.m. and noon. If you can bring items to donate, men's large and extra large clothing is always appreciated, as well as disposable razors, t-shirts and socks. As cold weather approaches, sweaters and warmer clothing is also needed.

Please call Erik and Kathy Kwiecienski, St. James' lead ministers of this community service, at 512-431-1530 if you have questions or to let them know you can volunteer or contact Kathy at [kathykski2005@yahoo.com](mailto:kathykski2005@yahoo.com).

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.

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.

#### **CHRISTIAN FORMATION ANNOUNCEMENTS**

##### Trick or Treat

Trick or Treat for Unicef boxes are due November 1<sup>st</sup> or November 8<sup>th</sup>. Please place them in the basket at the back of the church.

### Advent Wreath Intergenerational Event

The annual Advent Wreath making event will take place on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent, November 29<sup>th</sup>. Details to be announced.

### Christmas Pageant Rehearsals

Christmas Pageant rehearsals will begin Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup> from 9:30am – 10:15am We will meet at that time each Sunday in Advent in the Orange Building.

Pageant will be held during the 6:00pm Christmas Eve Family Service.

### 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 11-8 after 10:15 service

Children's Choir Rehearsals 9:30am – 10:15am each Sunday 11/29-12/20; 10:00am – 11:00am Wednesday, 12/23

### **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**

### **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 will gather for their monthly meeting on Tuesday, November 10 at 6:30 p.m. Our co-hosts this month will be Renette Bledsoe and Katherine Mudge. We begin with a light potluck supper followed by a program presented each month by our host(s). All women of St. James' and their friends are welcome and encouraged to join us!

If you have questions about the group in general, or the November meeting, please contact Colleen Waller at 401-3985 or [phenomenal@stjamesaus.org](mailto:phenomenal@stjamesaus.org).

Watch for reminders and more information about the November meeting in the Phenomenal Women e-mail list as we get closer to the date.

*Tuesday Night Group*-- If you have questions about the liturgy, the church or just want to hear others discuss their questions, join 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).

## 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.

## THE CITY OF AUSTIN *NEEDS* AND *WANTS* YOUR INPUT!

The City of Austin has started a two year process to develop a Comprehensive Plan. It is imperative that citizens in every part of our city have their voices heard in the process. Some may remember that the *Austin Tomorrow Comprehensive Plan* was adopted in 1979. That plan is the current plan of record. In 2008 the City Council adopted an *Interim Update*.

Over the past 20 years the city has changed. New issues and concerns have emerged which require a complete re-examination of our community. The examination will not be from a personal or neighborhood level **or** from the top of the Frost Bank Building or the Austonia, (Couldn't help myself). The Comprehensive Plan will be developed from high enough up to see all parts of the city and yet have a feel for the unique parts that we all know and love.

It is extremely important to hear from **YOU** in this process. Things like: What is your vision of the city 30 years from now? How does the city deal with the movement of people efficiently and effectively? What do you cherish about Austin? Do you have a passion about something that is not getting enough attention? Do you have suggestions about how to manage the tension between those who want density and those who want to maintain the character of neighborhoods? What about IH35? How do we pay for the quality of life all citizens desire? What about health care, the elderly, dropout rates, employment, the quality of our air and water...what do you think?

There will be four Community Forums over the next two years. The first Forum will be held during the week of November 9<sup>th</sup>. You are invited to attend any and all of them.

**Nov. 9<sup>th</sup>, 6:00p.m.** Westwood High School  
Baty Elementary School

**Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>, 8:00a.m.** Central Location – TBA - City and State employees  
**6:00p.m.** Bowie High School

**Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>, 6:00p.m.** Reagan High School  
Travis High School

The Comprehensive Plan Citizens Advisory Task Force is representative of the diversity found in the city. Members are there to hear the concerns and solutions offered by citizens. More information can be found at [www.cityofaustin.org/compplan](http://www.cityofaustin.org/compplan) to learn more about the development of the plan **and** take an online survey. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Shalom, Ora Houston, Congregational Involvement

## ALL SAINTS' DAY

*November 1*

Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: Give us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those ineffable joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

## ODDS AND ENDS

**Daylight Saving Time Ends**, November 1

**Christian Formation Committee Meeting:** Sunday, November 8, following 10:15 am service

**Vestry Meeting:** Sunday, November 22, 12:15 p.m.

**St. James' Episcopal School Board Meeting:** Wednesday, November 25, 5:30 p.m.

**Family Advent Wreath Making:** Sunday, November 29—See Sunday Service Bulletin for more details.

**Children's Choir Practice** Sunday, November 29, 9:30-11:16 a.m.

### Anglican Cycle of Prayer

**Week of November 1**—In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we give thanks for the church in Ughelli (Province of Bendel, Nigeria). We give thanks for all in our community and this week we give thanks for Mary Boehm; Paul and Roxanne Bogucka, Harriet; Annie Bolden; Julia Bonner, Jessica, Justin; Sharon Bowers; Donald and Janice Boyd.

**Week of November 8**—In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we give thanks for the church in Uyo (Province of the Niger Delta, Nigeria). We give thanks for all in our community and this week we give thanks for Bill and Caren Bradshaw; Keith A. and Pat Braithwaite; Keith D. Braithwaite; Lisa Braithwaite. James Brewster and Grace Martino-Brewster, Grayson, Christian; Dwight Brooks.

**Week of November 15**—In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we give thanks for the church in Virginia (Province III, USA). We give thanks for all in our community and this week we give thanks for Michael and Kristen Brooks; Daniela Brown; Lateesha Brown; Michael Brown; Patricia Brown; Rodger and Linelle Brown.

**Week of November 22**—In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we give thanks for the church in Wau (Sudan). We give thanks for all in our community and this week we give thanks for Jason Brownlee; Dorothy Bryant; Georgetta Bryant; James and Glennie Burgess; Michael and Terri Burke; Kent Burress.

**Week of November 29**—In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we give thanks for the church in West Texas (Province VII, USA). We give thanks for all in our community and this week we give thanks for Rachel Burrow; John and Cora Butler, John Baptist; Carolyn Caffrey; Lizzie Cain and Will Clark, Margaret Warren, George William; Mike and Vicki Cain, Andrew; Sylvia Camarillo-Brittain.

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 Demetrio Vaquera; Iris Hipolito; Emile M.; Lindzi and Leeora; Casey; James Ashwood; Klaus and Geraldine Schmidt; the family of Jamie Goode; Brent Salone; Tony (Charles) Knutson and family; Andy; Ricky Williams; Nikia; Seneca; Debra S.; Mary Sloan Edelen; Wilene Gordon; Evans Igiehon-Osifo; Omore Igiehon-Osifo; Wayne Adams; 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.*

## **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.