



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

FEBRUARY 2009

WORD FROM THE WARDEN

Thank you Thelma Fowler!

It is with great sadness that we say good-bye to our long-time Parish Administrator, Thelma Fowler. She has given St. James' over 9 years of dedicated service. Thelma fell ill the beginning of October 2007, which left her paralyzed in her lower body. She did lots of work for her rehabilitation and was able to regain strength in her legs and learn to walk again. She started off walking with the assistance of a walker and graduated to the cane. When Thelma felt good enough she physically returned to work at the St. James' office. It was wonderful to have her back for a few months. But the affliction came back a second time. One morning she just could not move her lower body. This time she stayed in the hospital for over 8 weeks.

Thelma has always been in good spirits and her mind continues to be as sharp as ever. However, the main frustration for Thelma is that her illness has no known name or diagnosis or cure. It was and still is a mystery! After the 2nd episode and after lots of rehabilitation, Thelma again, regained strength in her legs and learned to walk again. During all this time, Thelma still worked closely with us at St. James' via the networked computer and telephone. And when she could she came back and helped us in the office. But the affliction happened a 3rd time, and this time, Thelma decided that she needed to focus on healing her body. She now knows that whatever this illness is, it comes back about every 6 months, but her body needs lots of rest and she needs to stay clear of any kind of stress.

We know how much we missed Thelma, because in her absence if anything did not go right or did not happen, the first thing anyone would say was, "Ask Thelma! Thelma did that! Thelma did this! Thelma took care of it! I did not have to worry about it, she just got it done! When is Thelma coming back! We need Thelma!" It was only when she was physically absent that we realized just how much Thelma did for us. Thelma took really good care of us at St. James' and we loved her for it.

Now as we say our final good bye to Thelma, we just want to say "Thank You for the past 9 years! Thank you for giving us as much as you did! Thank you for being such beautiful person! Thank you and we honor you!

With God's Blessings,

Simone Talma Flowers, Senior Warden

FEAST DAY OF ABSALOM JONES

Guest Preacher

On 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.

Let's make this a festive occasion and wear attire representing the African Diaspora. Regardless of your cultural background, African, Black, Caribbean, European, South American, put on your brightest most colorful clothing and welcome Canon and Mrs. Anderson to St. James'.

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., 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.

Fr. Anderson, Jr., has followed in the footsteps of Absalom Jones and his father, the Rev. 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, evangelism and stewardship. He is dynamic, engaging and can share, first hand, much history regarding Absalom Jones and the history of Historic St. Thomas Church, both of which form the basis of our ministry.

Please mark your calendar and help us extend a 'radical welcome' to the Rev. Jesse Anderson, Jr., and his wife Constance on February 15, 2009.

Shalom, Ora Houston, Director, Congregational Involvement

EAST AUSTIN WELLNESS INITIATIVE

What is Stress?

Stress is the reaction of a body to adjust or adapt in light of change. Since change is an element of being alive, we can't really expect to be stress free. We can explore ways to identify and reduce the stressors in our lives and learn new ways to manage and respond to stress which can't be avoided.

What is Mindfulness?

Mindfulness is about paying attention on purpose, choosing to focus and be fully aware of the present moment. This may sound simple, yet due to the increasingly fast-paced and reactive culture in which we live, it has become a skill less and less available to modern human beings. Feeling scattered, distracted and overwhelmed has become a way of life and many of us can relate to feeling more like a "human doing" than a human being.

The Stress Reduction Clinic provides instruction and support for those seeking to increase their capacity to live a more grounded and peaceful life. It may not be possible to reduce the stress which comes at us from outside of ourselves but with the tools taught at the Stress Reduction Clinic, we can develop increased capacity to be aware, observe and respond in new ways to external stressors, thus lessening the degree of internal stress and reactivity which we generally experience.

Meditation practice is a basic component of all world religions. The Stress Reduction Clinic introduces meditation practice from a medical or scientific perspective. These practices can be integrated with any religious or philosophical belief system one might hold. Mindfulness is about connecting with one's inherent, internal resources, in order to rediscover, remember and experience the depth of our being. These practices strengthen and deepen the human capacity in order to live more meaningful and peaceful lives.

This series was a huge success when we offered it last summer. We hope that those who were unable to attend then will take advantage this time. You will learn how to incorporate *Mindfulness* and *Meditation* into your life.

The Stress Reduction Clinic is a unit of 8 classes facilitated by Sharyn Reynolds.

The dates are Tuesday February 10, 17, 24, March 3, 10 (17th Spring Break no class), March 24, 31 and April 7th 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Classes will be held in Founders Hall.

We strongly recommend that you make a commitment to all 8 classes as the benefits are cumulative. The cost is \$25.00 and includes light refreshments and materials for the class. Please call or email the Church office to register. 926-6339 office@stjamesaustin.org. Scholarships are available.

Sharyn Reynolds is a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin and The Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. She brings to her work at the Stress Reduction Clinic a wide range of professional experience as educator, social worker, manager, pastor, Hospice chaplain and therapist. Sharyn was ordained by the Presbyterian Church USA and served in congregational ministry at University Presbyterian Church in Austin, Texas for ten years. She was on the clinical staff of the Samaritan Center for sixteen years.

Joyce Christian, Parish Nurse

SHROVE TUESDAY SERVICE AND PANCAKE SUPPER

It is traditional to clean out the larders on the day before Lent begins and so we will have pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, February 24. We also burn the palm crosses and palm branches from the last Palm Sunday to form the ashes used for the next day's imposition of ashes. If you kept your palm branches over this last year, you can bring them along this night to be added to the ashes. We will begin at 5:30 p.m. with pancakes, followed by prayers, the burning of the palms and burying the alleluias.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Lent will begin on February 25 with Holy Eucharist and the Imposition of Ashes at both 7:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. on that day.

SNAPSHOT

She's the Poet Laureate of St. James'— Marvin G. Kimbrough, Ph.D. A prodigious poet, she has written numerous ones for and about St. James'. Among them are the poems "TGIGF (Thank God It's Good Friday)", written several years ago for our Good Friday Service, and "Reflections", written on the occasion of our campaign to build the new church. It is a poem that beautifully recounts the history of St. James', the epilogue of which reads: "St. James' was yesterday, St. James' is today, St. James' will be tomorrow."

Dr. Kimbrough is part of all of those periods, having been a member of St. James' for 50 years. An Austin native, Dr. Kimbrough attended the old Anderson High School. When she entered Huston-Tillotson in 1948, Dr. Kimbrough, along with members of her sorority, visited different churches in the area, and she remembers liking St. James' best. She explains, "I liked the people—Mr. and Mrs. Shackles were our neighbors. I also liked that the service was short." At Huston-Tillotson, Dr. James Means was her math teacher and sponsor of the honor society. Nathaniel Williams, Nancy Johnson's husband, taught her flute and how to read music.

With a bachelor's degree in chemistry, Dr. Kimbrough was ready for graduate school and wanted to attend the University of Texas. She couldn't pursue the study of chemistry, however, because in 1952 an African-American could only be admitted to a UT graduate program in a field that was not available at Prairie View College. So she chose a language for her master's degree and, having completed that, worked toward a Ph.D. in Communication, during which time she taught English and French at Huston-Tillotson. A Ford Foundation grant made it possible for her to take a year off from teaching to complete her doctorate.

In the early years after receiving her doctorate, Dr. Kimbrough taught at various black colleges: Wiley College in Waco, Paul Quinn College in Dallas, Butler College in Tyler and Albany State in Albany, Georgia. She continued to enrich her education through summer programs made possible with fellowships and grants. She was a Fulbright Scholar at the Sorbonne and the University of Strasbourg. Other summers, Dr. Kimbrough studied Spanish in Saltillo, Mexico, the humanities at Atlanta University and African culture at Michigan State.

Then in 1960, Dr. Kimbrough returned to Huston-Tillotson where she taught English and Creative Writing for 39 years, retiring as Professor Emerita in 1999. She adds, laconically, "I am House Bill 442," referring to the Texas House of Representatives' proclamation given in her honor at her retirement.

Besides writing scores of poems over the years, many of which have been published in anthologies, Dr. Kimbrough has another interesting sideline. She has "starred" as an extra in numerous films, including "Courage Under Fire." She's even registered with the Third Coast Agency and was once generously paid as a brief stand-in.

She's also a collector of varied things: Black Santas, cobalt blue glass, Black dolls and souvenir spoons from around the world. She has no pets, but numerous feral cats hover around her home hoping for a good meal.

In 2000, Dr. Kimbrough received the Austin Writers League Prized Pen Award. She was associated with Boyd Vance in the Austin arts scene, including readings of her poetry at St. James'. Dr. Kimbrough regularly attends the 8 a.m. service where she is a greeter; she's also a member of the St. James' group, Women Living Alone, which is sponsoring a Poetry Fest on February 7, from 3 to 5 p.m. in Founders' Hall.

Over the years, Dr. Kimbrough's ambition has been to publish an anthology of her poems, a goal that now seems elusive because it is such a huge task that she cannot accomplish without assistance. Anyone who has read her poems or heard her read them, knows that aiding in this project would be a worthy enterprise. Poetry-loving volunteers, raise your hands!

Below is a brief poem Dr. Kimbrough composed for the inauguration of Barack Obama as President of the United States.

Karen Bordelon Hartwell

Along Came Obama—the Dream Fixer
by Marvin G. Kimbrough, Ph.D. c. 2009

Just when the American Dream was fading
And hopes were about to wither, break or become inert
Like a dolphin breaking through sea water
Came Barack Hussein Obama saying, “Yes, We Can”

He broke through the net of the dream keeper
Emerging on the side of change, bringing with him a dreamline
Of little boys who dared to dream of being president
And little old ladies who never expected to see an African-American leader
In their lifetime and first-time voters who had faith in the American system
And people from both parties who, too, shared the dream
And together, they flew

Leaving behind the status quo, the political tiffs and turmoil
And nightmares of poverty, civic unrest, joblessness and ignorance
And together, they will awaken the dreams of some
Mend the dreams of others, while soothing and motivating the rest
They will fix the dream, making America what it is meant to be
The land where dreams do come true.

**ST. JAMES’
EPISCOPAL SCHOOL**

At one of our Wednesday communion services in January, Father Jeffrey asked the children if they could identify the man whose picture he was holding. The children easily and excitedly recognized “Martin Luther King!” Fr. Jeffrey started talking about a time when black children and white children could not attend the same school or share a seat on a bus. The children knew that and added that black children and white children couldn’t go to the same movies or drink water from the same water fountains. There were all kinds of indignant responses. Fr. Jeffrey asked the children what they thought of that. The children said, “That’s bad. That’s crazy! Why did they do that?” One little girl sat very still and said, “That’s very sad.” A child sitting next to me in the pew told me that Dr. King’s life was too short.

Fr. Jeffrey then asked the children if they knew what Dr. King had done, why he was important. There were a number of responses – “he had a dream,” “he wrote a very important speech,” “he helped white folk and black folk work and be together.”

At St. James’ School, we have children of mixed ancestry, children who are Hispanic, African-American, white, Asian. Dr. King’s dream is realized in those children sitting in St. James’ Church waiting for communion, in their attitude toward one another, in their attitude toward their teachers who are also a very diverse group of people. I am proud of what the teachers taught our three, four, and five year olds. I am proud that the children know this is an important lesson. They know that people are supposed to work things out together, that everyone has a right to be in the classroom and that everyone should treat each other with respect and kindness. I’m grateful for Dr. King’s legacy represented in the diversity of the children and teachers of St. James’ School.

Glennie Burgess, Head of School

**BUENOS DIAS # 16:
SOÑADORES ANÓNIMOS ESTABLICIDOS
DREAMERS ANONYMOUS ESTABLISHED**

Enrique Carbonell quien asiste a nuestro 1:00pm misa en Español es un soñador. Sus sueños para servicio social entre los que no tienen recursos no se saben límites. Pues entonces, ha establecido un grupo se llama “Soñadores Añimos.” Este nombre es similar a “Alcohólicos Añimos” que significa auxilio sin fanfarria o anuncio.

Contestaron muchos miembros de San Santiago a la invitación de regalar la ropa para hombres y mujeres sin techos de Austin en el mes pasado. Mandan Los Soñadores un mil gracias por centenares de artículos de abrigos,

chamarras, zapatos, pantalones, trajes y así incluso corbatas. (Además participaron en esta colección miembros de San Mateo Episcopal.) También damos gracias por el éxito del concierto beneficio por el violinista Gipsy 21 Diciembre en la casa de Jennifer Long (Directora de Casa Marianella).

Con el liderazgo de Enrique van a continuar Los Soñadores Anónimos a conducir programas de consejo y auxilio (incluyendo un grupo de Alcohólicos Anónimos) para pueblo sin techos y también con huéspedes de Casa Marianella quienes necesitan ayuda contra adicciones. Los miembros de San Santiago van a tener oportunidades en el futuro de echar las manos con tiempo, talento y tesoro.

Enrique Carbonell who attends our 1 p.m. Spanish-language congregation is a dreamer. His dreams for social service among underserved people know no bounds. So, he has formed a working group named “Soñadores Añnimos.” The name is a take-off on “Alcoholics Anonymous” indicating aid and assistance without fanfare or notice.

Many St. James’ members answered his call for donations of clothing for Austin’s homeless this past month. Los Soñadores give a thousand thanks for several hundred items of coats, shoes, trousers, suits, shirts, even neckties. (Members of St. Matthew’s Episcopal were our partners in this collection.) Also, we give thanks for the success of the benefit concert by violinist Gypsy this past 21 December hosted by Jennifer Long (Casa Marianella director).

With Enrique’s leadership, Soñadores Añnimos will continue to hold counseling and assistance programs (including an Alcoholics Anonymous group) with homeless people and with Casa Marianella residents who come with their own need for help with addictions. St. James’ members will have future opportunities to lend their hands with time, talent, and treasure.

Jack Robertson

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 Atrium 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. Milla Jackson, Director of Christian Formation
mijackso@sbcglobal.net

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT PROGRAMS

Americans of African Descent in the Episcopal Church:

This article is to invite you to attend the Adult Forums planned for February. The Forums are held from 9:05 a.m. - 10 a.m. on Sundays. On February 1st the Forum will be held in the Red Building; the other Forums through March will be held in Founders' Hall.

On February the 1st and 9th, participants will have the opportunity to view the DVD titled, "Telling Our Story" which tells the story of historic Black congregations in the Diocese of Texas. On February 15th, The Rev. Canon Jesse F. Anderson, Jr., rector emeritus of The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, will share with us his insights about Rev. Absalom Jones, the first priest of African descent in the Episcopal Church. On February 22nd we will view a DVD made from a tape which has not been seen since 1997 - the Festival Eucharist when St. James' became a parish. Many of our ancestors are visible and many of our current members, who are 11 years younger, can be identified, if you look real close.

During the month of March we will move from the Diocesan and local levels to the national level which will inform the viewer of the history of Blacks in The Episcopal Church. The five week series in March is titled, "Mine Eyes Have Seen The Savior: 400 years of Black Episcopal Ministries. All are welcome.

If you have questions please contact me at beinvolved@stjamesaustin.org Shalom, Ora Houston
Congregational Involvement

TUESDAY NIGHT ADULT PROGRAM

The next meeting of Phenomenal Woman, St. James' monthly gathering of women of the church and their friends, will be held on Tuesday, February 10, at 6:30 p.m. We will have a light potluck supper followed by a discussion period. Look for more details about the February gathering in the weekly St. James' emails and the Sunday announcements as we get closer to the date!

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.

JOURNEY TO ADULTHOOD

The youth program – including J2A and EYC – is up and running after a holiday hiatus. Both of these programs have met once each in January, and are poised to be active from February to May.

These programs for young people ages 11 through High School – 6th graders and up – meet on Sundays right after the 10:15 worship, and are over by 1:30. J2A meets in the orange building that is part of the school campus; EYC is liable to meet in a variety of places like skating rinks, movie theaters, etc. It may take longer that 1:30 to have all the fun they have. For details, see the EYC article elsewhere.

THE SCHEDULE, February through May:

Feb. 1–J2A; Feb. 8–J2A; Feb. 15–EYC; Feb. 22– J2A
Mar.1–J2A; Mar. 8–J2A; Mar. 15–EYC; Mar. 22–Spring Break; Mar. 29–**SPECIAL** J2A
Apr. 5–Palm Sunday; Apr. 12–Easter; Apr. 19–J2A; Apr. 26–J2A
May 3–EYC; May 10–J2A; May 17–J2A; May 24–J2A; May 31–EYC
June 7 –End of year **PARTY!**

Some of the J2A programs will include “*4-1-1 on Being an Episcopalian*”, and “*Everything you need to know about Dealing With Parents*” Also, one month will be designated as “**SUPER SERVICE MONTH**” with various projects being undertaken as service to others. And of course other sessions will be added from our material on “Self, Society, Spirituality and Sexuality. Keep tuned in to learn the details of this, and more.

Jo Krouse, Coordinator

SEARCH COMMITTEE NEWS

This month I’d like to turn the spotlight on a couple of the members of the Search Committee, Keith Braithwaite and Bruce Christman. Both Keith and Bruce are technically retired, but you certainly couldn’t tell that from their work on this committee. They each contribute greatly to the work of the committee and we are grateful to them for their dedicated service.

Fresh from an outstanding 2008 Jazz at St. James’ event, Keith brings a keen sense of organization to our group. He likes to plan ahead and he likes to stay on course. I’ve decided that every committee should have an engineer on board.

Bruce, always the teacher and yet able to massage (pun intended) both the difficult and delicate issues that we sometimes face as a committee. He has a laid back style and also a certain level of intensity that helps him to get to the heart of the matter but in a way that allows for easy deliberation.

It is truly a joy to work with Keith and Bruce and with all the members of the Search Committee. I am blessed to have this opportunity and I so enjoy working with everyone on this committee. We are in a unique place in the life of our Parish and I am pleased to make this part of the journey with these two outstanding men of St. James’.

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

Faithfully,
Lora J. Livingston, Search Committee Chair

UPDATE ON GAZA HOSPITAL

As we observed the closure on our formal relationship with the Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza City, many have continued their interest, particularly with the current invasion of Gaza. Those who may wish to keep up with the development of circumstances surrounding the witness of this Episcopal hospital, please contact Ed Hartwell at ehartwell@austin.rr.com.

If you wish to make a contribution to assist this work, it is easily done by sending your check to the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, P. O. Box 2040 Orange, CA 92859. You can designate the Ahli Arab Hospital on your check. You can also request being put on their mailing list to receive their publication.

Ed Hartwell

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. Please let her know any problems you have.

MOBILE LOAVES AND FISHES

Please volunteer at **ST. JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH DAY AT MOBILE LOAVES AND FISHES** food distribution for the homeless at 903 South Capitol of Texas Highway (360)–on the grounds of ST. John Neuman Church on Saturday, February 21 beginning at 9:30 a.m. For more information or to let them know you'll be there to help, contact Erik and Kathy Kwiecinski, St. James' lead ministers of this community service at kathykski2005@yahoo.com or by phone at 512-431-1530. We make sandwiches and deliver them and other items to the homeless in downtown Austin. The Mobile Loaves and Fishes building is on the east side of Capitol 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. Clothing, especially white tube socks and shoes, sweaters, coats, and toiletries are always appreciated.

Madeline Rae Gill

ABUNDANT LIVING CONFERENCE STAYING WELL–LIVING LONGER

March 2-4

Join us at Camp Allen for the 6th Annual Abundant Living Conference.. Look forward to inspirational and informative speakers, great food and entertainment. Activities include walks in the piney woods, line dancing, dancing, horseback riding, music and relaxation. Register online at campallen.org or 936-825-7175. Rates are \$200 for double occupancy and \$245 for single occupancy–includes all programming, two nights lodging, meals and socials.

ODDS & ENDS

Church Women United: Friday, February 6 9:30 a.m. to noon

Discernment Committee Meeting: Thursday, February 12, 6 p.m.

St. James' School Scholarship Luncheon, Wednesday, February 18, 11:30 a.m.

Finance Committee Meeting: Thursday, February 19, 6 p.m.

Vestry Meeting: Sunday, February 15, 12:20 p.m.

St. James' Episcopal School Board: Wednesday, February 25, 5:30 p.m.

ST. JAMES' MAILBAG

Members of St. James',

My name is Maryann Philbrook, and I am a member of the 6pm service here at St. James'. I have recently been offered the opportunity to work with students from around the world as the Communications Intern with the World Student Christian Federation (WSCF) in Geneva, Switzerland. The WSCF is a global community of Student Christian Movements committed to dialogue, ecumenism, social justice and peace. Its mission is to empower students in critical thinking and constructive transformation of our world by being a space for prayer and celebration, theological reflection, study and analysis of social and cultural processes and solidarity and action across boundaries of culture, gender and ethnicity.

Living and working with WSCF will be a unique experience that will give me a chance to continue living in God's radical hope in a new way. Although I am very excited by this opportunity, WSCF does not have much money and I am asking for your support. With St. James' as my sending parish, I am asking for your prayers and any monetary support you can provide. Please consider making a one time donation so I can get to Geneva in February as well as making a donation each month for the duration of my intern year (Feb 2009-Jan 2010). I will make sure to keep everyone here updated with my newsletter as well as my blog,

www.maryanningeneva.blogspot.com. Please email me if you have any more questions at

maryannphilbrook@gmail.com.

Sincerely, Maryann Philbrook

Anglican Cycle of Prayer

Week of February 1–In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we give thanks for the church in Manicaland (Central Africa). We give thanks for all in our community and this week we give thanks for Larry and Sue McMahan; Clifford and Emma McPherson; Guillermo McPherson; Lisa McPherson; Martha McRae; Chuck and Suzanna McVey, Patrick John.

Week of February 8–In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we give thanks for the church in Maseno South (Kenya). We give thanks for all in our community and this week we give thanks for Bertha Means; Ronald and Diane Means, Jasmine; Vella Medlock,

Adrian, Michael; Delia Merritt, Elijah; Melissa and Genia Metry-Bonyun, Rayya.

Week of February 15—In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we give thanks for the church in Matlosane (formerly Klerksdorp) (South Africa). We give thanks for all in our community and this week we give thanks for Sarah Meyer and Jeff Hughes; Susie Milam; Paul Miles; Barbara Miller; Charlotte Miller; Fred and Kathryn Miller.

Week of February 22—In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we give thanks for the church in Melbourne (Victoria, Australia). We give thanks for all in our community and this week we give thanks for Kenneth and Christine Miller, Shelby; Lisa Miller; Vicki Minor; Mark and Ann Mitchell; Thomas and Suzanne Mitchell, Joe, Dylan, Luna; Alex and Monesha Montgomery.

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: Ricky and his family; Sylvester Gradt; Enid and Violet, 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

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.

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.