



# 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

### MARCH 2009

#### RECTOR'S REFLECTIONS

I don't remember much about Lent when I was growing up. I mean that I don't have many memories of what it was supposed to mean. I know that we Sunday School kids were given mite boxes for our spare change so that kids very far away wouldn't starve or something like that. But, I always thought they were "might" boxes. I knew about Mighty Mouse. And I knew that when the ice cream truck came down the street, my mother said I "might" be able to get a Fudgesicle. Lent was pretty confusing for people like me. But, I did want to save people somewhere from starving, so I put extra pennies into the "might" box on a pretty random basis. At the end of whatever Lent was, we were supposed to bring our boxes to church where I hoped to receive many accolades for the way I was personally saving children somewhere from starving. After all, my "might" box was pretty heavy, because pennies used to weigh more back then. And I had written my name on the side just so whoever received my box would know who did all the work. I remember placing the box into a basket that was up by the altar, only to find lots of other boxes from lots of other kids. And worst of all, no accolades for being wonderful, or possibly even heroic. I'm guessing that I was living out the truth of Lent without really understanding it at all.

So, I wonder if we are really much better all these years later at teaching our children about Lent. After all, they are not just the children of the families who attend church. They are part of the body of the church themselves, part of our diversity. Observing Lent with children will really depend on what we believe about Lent ourselves. We can't teach what we don't know. And, Lent without Easter is just useless. Easter without Lent is less than it could be or should be.

It's hard to make it through Lent without talking about sin. But, how do we teach our kids what sin is in a healthy manner? Because, most of what we teach is predicated on what we supposed grown ups believe about sin. That understanding usually comes from assorted and not always good places. What we were taught and how we were taught. So, the church needs to speak with great care. In my first parish, one of the Sunday School teachers reported to me that a little boy had said a bad word that morning. She found this upsetting. I was just happy to find out that it wasn't one of my children. But, what I did find upsetting was that the teacher had told the little boy: "When you talk like that, you make Jesus cry." Even I know that can't be helpful.

Many of us were somehow taught that sin is something personal, meaning only individual, mostly physical, meaning sexual, and ultimately fixable if only we will just straighten up and fly right. This makes sin less than it is and more than it should be all at once. Frederick Buechner has said that sin is "whatever we do, or fail to do that pushes others away, that widens the gap between you and them and also the gaps within yourself." How should we teach that to a child?

Teaching children about sin is teaching them about the value, the specialness of all people, even themselves. It is made known in how we treat people. If we treat them badly, even for the best of reasons, we are making less of them than God intended. We know how this works. Using people. Taking ourselves out on people. Talking about that with our children is good for everybody.

But, we can't talk to them about sin without talking about forgiveness. That's biblical. And how do we teach them what forgiveness really is? There are two pieces of scripture that mean the most to me. One is the story of the Prodigal Son. It teaches us that forgiveness doesn't wait for an apology, even though teaching our kids to apologize is a good thing. The second is this verse: "God says, and I will remember their sins no more." The divine capacity to forgive and forget. How often do we teach children something else? Telling old stories of past transgressions. I think sometimes all we do is teach children how to hold a grudge.

Sin and forgiveness are words that our children need to grow into. They will grow into them much better if

the community of faith that has vowed to accompany them on their spiritual journey lives authentically with each other. We teach only what we ourselves already know. I think we do that best when we model behavior for them. When our forgiveness of each other is authentic and genuine. And when we live ourselves into the promise that Lent will always be over, and that Easter morning will come for us all.

Here is my favorite prayer for parents: “Dear Lord, I want to thank you for staying so close to me so far this day. With your help, I haven’t been impatient with my children. I haven’t lost my temper with them, or been grumpy, or judgmental with them. But, I’ll be getting out of bed in a minute, and I think I’ll really need Your help then. Amen.”

It might be a good Lenten prayer for all of us.  
The Rev’d Jeffrey H. Walker+

### **LENTEN STUDY GROUP**

Lent is a time for giving up and for taking on. This Lent, you are invited to “take on” an exploration of the ways in which fear permeates our culture and of how the gospel calls us to respond with courage. We will examine questions like: In a post-9/11 world, what is the balance between security and recklessness? How do we respond when we feel caught on a tightrope between protecting those people or things we love and hospitality towards the other? How do these dynamics affect our personal lives in our homes, our lives together as a nation, and our lives together as a parish:

To facilitate discussion, we will read Scott Bader-Saye’s *Following Jesus in a Culture of Fear*. Please join us as we engage our hearts, minds, and spirits each Tuesday evening at 7 at the church for dialogue around this book. We will begin on March 3. Books are available on Amazon.com, in the Seminary of the Southwest bookstore, and a limited number will be available in the church office beginning on Sunday, February 15.

Jeff Martinhauk, Senior Seminarian

### **The Dream\***

Let us dream of a church in which all members know simply and surely God’s great love, and each is certain that in the divine heart we are all known by name. In which Jesus is very Word, our window onto God’s own heart; the sign of God’s hope and design for all humankind.

In which the Spirit is not a party symbol, but wind and fire and life in everyone; gracing the church with a kaleidoscope of gifts and constant renewal for all.

Let us dream of a church in which worship is lively and fun as well as reverent and holy; and we might be moved to dance and laugh, to be quiet, cry or beat the breast. In which people know how to pray, and enjoy it— frequently and regularly, privately and corporately, in silence, in word, and in song.

Which is an open and caring household of faith where all find acceptance and affirmation. A community seeking to live its own proclamation, truly loving what God desires.

Let us dream of a church asking the right questions; holding law and grace, freedom and authority, faith and works together in tension.

So deeply rooted in gospel and tradition that, like a living tree, it can swing in the wind and continually surprise us with new blossoms.

Let us dream of a church so salty and yeasty that it would really be missed if it were no longer around. Where there is a wild sowing of seeds and much rejoicing when they take root, but little concern for success, statistics or growth. A church so evangelical that its worship, its quality of caring, and its eagerness to reach out to those in need cannot be contained.

Let us dream of a church in which each service is in mission, and each Christian gifted for ministry; a crew on a freighter, not passengers on a luxury liner. And let us dream of a people called to recognize all the absurdities in ourselves and one another, including the absurdity that is love; serious about the call to mission, but not too serious about ourselves.

Who, in the company of our Redeemer, can dance and sing and cry and laugh in worship, in ministry, and even in conflict. God of all grace, this is not only our dream, it is our prayer. Amen

*\*The Dream of Bishop Wesley Frensdorff adapted for St. James'*

### **CONNECTION GROUPS FORMING NOW**

To help become better acquainted with others in the church, Connection members are placed in a group for six months and meet monthly during that time for a meal together. Each member or family signs up to host one month either by themselves or with a co-host. There are lots of ways to host: potluck, picnics, soup nights, etc. The only requirement is to keep it casual and simple since it is the fellowship we remember, not the food! There will be someone at every service to sign you up to join one of these groups. You can also find the sign-up forms at the nametag table in the Narthex.

### **SNAPSHOT**

Myrna Kerr attends the 10:15 Eucharist with her husband Stan only on special occasions these days, but she is nonetheless a significant presence in the church community and is one of the dwindling numbers of those who date their membership in St. James' Church to its 7th Street location.

Myrna first attended St. James in 1955, brought there by her friend and Anderson High classmate Caroline Lawson, Hortense's daughter. Although Myrna had previously been a member of a nearby Methodist Church and sang in the choir there, she left after an unpleasant incident. Leaving the church was all right with her mother, but she was told unequivocally, "You've got to go somewhere." And that's how and why she came to St. James'.

When she thinks back to those early days at St. James', Myrna mostly remembers the peacefulness there. After the service, celebrated by Fr. Calloway, Hortense Lawson taught Sunday school, and afterwards provided lunch to the participating children. Ms. Lawson was not a stranger to Myrna when she came to St. James'—it was Hortense who made the uniforms for the drill team at Anderson in 1954, a group of which Myrna was a member.

Myrna was confirmed at St. James' in 1957. Two years later she left for Houston to enroll in Texas Southern. When she returned to Austin, she worked with Hortense in the day care center she had started at St. James' in an old Army barracks building located behind the church that also served as the Parish Hall. Hortense, Myrna, and another woman provided care for between 15 to 20 children while their mothers worked. Hortense often picked up children from their homes and returned them at the end of the day, providing yet an additional St. James' support to families in East Austin.

Thinking back to the days when St. James' was on 7th Street, Myrna remembers the strong women who sustained the church community, Thelma Elliot, Hortense Lawson, Mary Martin, Helen Edwards and others. The community, as Myrna remembers it, was a mix of people: well-off and poor, well-educated and not. Mary Martin was perhaps the first Anglo to join St. James'. She was a teacher and a foster mother, and still found time to sew beautiful altar linens for the church.

Myrna and Stan Kerr were married in May, 1970, the first to be wed in the new church on Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard. While Stan was attending UT Law School, they kept busy with raising two daughters and holding various jobs to support the family. For example, Myrna worked with Julia Bryant in catering for weddings and in Julia's florist business.

Several times Myrna served on the vestry; she was a hard-working junior warden in the years of Fr. Bill Miller's leadership, when they were preparing to become a parish. The church needed a great deal of repair work done. This, Myrna remembers, was part of the incentive for beginning Jazz at St. James' to bring in extra income to the church, along with reaching out to the community.

Myrna confesses that she "took sabbaticals" from St. James' several times, worn out from the many things she was involved in there. "St. James' can wear you down," she admits. It's an observation that attests to the intense involvement of so many members of the community that has made St. James' what it is today.

Myrna remembers St. James' in this way: "St. James' was a vessel. It was a close-knit family where members gathered for pancake suppers, Thanksgiving dinners, Christmas programs, breakfasts. It opened its doors to people in the arts community, unforgettable people like Boyd Vance. It was truly a gathering place.

The many years of illness with diabetes, kidney failure, dialysis, and surgery have gradually limited Myrna Kerr's physical involvement in St. James', but her continued interest in the community in which her husband, her daughter Mila Jackson who directs the children's spiritual formation program, and her many grandchildren are involved, remains strong.

Mila adds to Myrna's memories of St. James. "Most of my memories regarding Momma's involvement with the church are centered around her activities with Episcopal Church Women. I used to sit in the background as she helped fold the palms into crosses the Saturday before Palm Sunday, and organized and executed the Lenten Teas and Pancake Suppers. She is an organizer by nature and pulled off lovely events with the efforts of the group. She's also a rather bossy leader, which was often needed in a room full of strong women.

We also used to display a Living Nativity. The October my sister Tamara was born, I insisted that she be allowed to act as baby Jesus. Her size, olive skin, and curly brown hair made her the perfect baby Jesus in my eyes. I am thankful that Momma found a home at St. James' years before my birth and that she made sure it would also become not only my home but home for her grandchildren as well."

Karen Bordelon Hartwell

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

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**MAVIS STAPLES & the STAPLES SINGERS  
SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2009**

**St. James' Episcopal School  
is very proud to announce that  
Mavis Staples and the Staples Singers  
will be performing  
an intimate evening concert on  
Saturday, April 18th  
to raise funds for the  
children of St. James' Episcopal School.**

**Rock and Roll Hall of Famer, Mavis Staples, made a major contribution to the civil rights movement with her gospel music and socially conscious R&B, and continues to wow audiences with her soulful music today. Her tenure with her family's group, the Staples Singers, provided a steady, positive presence on the pop scene during the late antiwar unrest and civil rights struggles of the 1960s and 1970s. She marched with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and offered up notions of personal responsibility, dignity and spiritual hope in a heady and uncertain time. Full of power, soul and grace, Mavis Staples performed at the inaugural parties for presidents Kennedy, Carter and Clinton.**

**We are thrilled that she will be performing a benefit concert  
to raise funds for the children of St. James' Episcopal School  
on April 18, 2009.**

## **SEARCH COMMITTEE NEWS**

The Search Committee continues its diligent search for a new Rector for our parish. Two candidates have progressed to the second interview stage of our process. A preliminary report from one of our subcommittees suggests that a third candidate will soon advance to the second interview stage as well.

As I have previously reported, all candidates are initially screened by the full committee to determine if they should advance to the first interview stage, which includes an assignment to a subcommittee for a conference call interview. Only the most promising candidates advance to the second interview stage. This stage involves an in person interview by the full committee.

We are mindful of our budget constraints and we believe that we are conducting our search in the most efficient way possible. To date, we have spent very little of our \$10,000 budget. However, as these three very impressive candidates make their way through our process we will begin to expend more of our budget on the expenses related to travel. The more candidates that advance through the process, the more money we spend. Frankly, I hope we interview so many great candidates that we bust our budget. I'll keep you posted.

Faithfully yours, Lora J. Livingston, Chair

## CHURCH CALENDAR

Please mark your calendars:

**Sunday, March 1**, music will be provided, at the 8, 10:15 a.m. and 6 p.m. by two students from Huston-Tillotson who were invited to participate in a Historic Black Colleges and University (HBCU) All Star Jazz Concert in New York City. Funds from the Campus Ministry line item helped to support their once in a life time experience.

**Sunday, March 8** - Daylight Saving Time Begins

On **Sunday, March 15**, Michael Russell, Rector of All Souls' Point Loma, San Diego, CA will be our guest preacher. In addition to preaching, he will facilitate the Adult Forum that morning from 9:05a.m. to 10 a.m. His topic will be the Millennium Development Goals and his mission work in Kenya.

**Sunday, March 22**, Don Wimberly, Bishop of the Diocese of Texas will make his final visit to St. James as Bishop Diocesan. We look forward to Bishop and Mrs. Wimberly worshiping with us at the 10:15 a.m. service.

Ora Houston, Director of Congregational Involvement

## CHRISTIAN FORMATION NEWS

Communion Class Lenten Series for Kindergarten - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Children

Although most of our children have not ever known a time when they weren't nourished at the Good Shepherd's Table, they may come to a deeper understanding of this sacred meal by participating in this Lenten series. For children who have not received communion, this series can serve as a 1<sup>st</sup> Communion Class.

We will meet in Atrium II, which is housed in the purple Winona Miles Building, each Sunday of Lent from 10:15am - 11:15am. **Parents are asked to attend a final Saturday retreat, April 11<sup>th</sup> from 11:00pm - 2:00pm. Children are asked to attend the Saturday retreat from 9:30am - 2:00.**

The children's first communion with this deeper awareness will take place on Easter Sunday. In order to gain the most benefit from this series, it is important to attend every session. The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd presentations will be as follows:

3/1 The Good Shepherd and World Communion

3/8 The True Vine and The Maxims

3/15 Synthesis of the Eucharist with creation of personal Eucharistic prayer books

3/22 Preparation of Chalice, Washing of Hands

3/29 Altar III and Gestures of Communion

4/5 The City of Jerusalem

4/11 Reconciliation, The Origin of the Eucharist, History of the Gifts, Lunch,

and Logistics of receiving Communion

**Please RSVP at [mijackso@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mijackso@sbcglobal.net) or [mlaj4@yahoo.com](mailto:mlaj4@yahoo.com)**

Mark your calendars. We are hosting a diocesan **Godly Play workshop** here at St. James' on **April 18<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am - 3:00pm. Please let me know if you will be able to attend.** Childcare is available. I highly recommend this workshop to Godly Play Storytellers, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Assistants and Presenters and anyone from the 6:00pm service interested in beginning Christian Formation associated with their service. **I will need help physically arranging for the event Friday evening as well as providing**

**breakfast snacks and coffee that morning. Childcare can be provided for volunteers on Friday.**

### **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

We are **considering** holding a week long **Vacation Bible School** open to the community and St. James' children this summer. We are considering the 1<sup>st</sup> week school is out or right before school begins in August. This will only be possible if we have enough volunteers available **during the day from 8:00am – 1:00pm. I anticipate 20 – 40 children. If you are available and interested in volunteering, please contact me.**

We buried and cocooned the alleluias on Ash Wednesday and the first Sunday in Lent.

**If you have any questions, please contact Mila Jackson at [mijackso@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mijackso@sbcglobal.net) or [milaj4@yahoo.com](mailto:milaj4@yahoo.com).**

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

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

relationship between each child and God the Father and God the Son.

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

**10:00am-11:15am**

**GODLY PLAY**

**(2<sup>nd</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' 2<sup>nd</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 and fellowship in the Purple Winona Miles Building then from 10:15 a.m.–11:15 a.m. for worship in the Godly Play Worship Center which is housed in the Orange Building.** Mila Jackson, Director of Christian Formation

[mjackso@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mjackso@sbcglobal.net)

### **SUNDAY MORNING ADULT PROGRAMS**

In March, we will continue our study of Americans of African Descent in the Episcopal Church. March Forums will be held in Founders' Hall.

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](mailto: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, March 10, at 6:30 p.m. We will have a light potluck supper followed by a discussion period. Look for more details about the March 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](mailto: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](mailto:voltrons@stjamesaustin.org).

## **31<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL CROP HUNGER WALK**

**WHAT:** CROP is an acronym for Communities Responding To Overcome Hunger. The purpose of the annual walk is to raise awareness and funds for international hunger relief and development, as well as to assist local organizations fighting hunger in the Austin area.

**WHEN:** Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Registration is at 9:30

The approximately **1 MILE WALK** begins at 10:00

**WHERE:** Roy Guerrero Colorado River Park

Grove Blvd., off E. Riverside Drive, between Pleasant Valley and Montopolis, near ACC Campus

**WHO BENEFITS?**

25% of the money raised locally stays locally and assists organizations such as local food pantries, Urban Roots, Casa Marianella, AAIM for refugees and the Capital Area Food Bank of Texas.

75% helps support Church World Service, the national sponsor of the CROP Hunger Walks. CWS is in 80 countries building interfaith and intercultural coalitions to eradicate hunger and poverty and to promote peace and justice around the world. Their website is [www.churchworldservice.org](http://www.churchworldservice.org)

**HOW TO PARTICIPATE:**

**BE A WALKER.** Pick up an envelope from one of the contact people and sign up donors to sponsor your walk.

**SPONSOR** a walker by donating money to them.

**ST. JAMES' CONTACTS:**

**8:00 – Pam Daniel**

**10:00 – Joyce Christian and Pat Liston**

**1:00 – Jack Robertson**

**6:00 – Bruce Christman**

**ODDS & ENDS**

**Stress Reduction Clinic:** March 3, 10, 24 and 31 at 6 p.m.

**Vestry Meeting:** Sunday March 15, 12:20 p.m.

**Finance Committee Meeting:** Thursday, March 19, 6 p.m.

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

**MOBILE LOAVES & FISHES**

During Lent we are offered an opportunity to deepen our commitment to the teachings of Christ and to be merciful toward all of our brothers and sisters. Mobile Loaves and Fishes (MLF) is a monthly St. James' outreach and ministry to our homeless in Austin. We need helping hands and hearts on Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup> beginning at 9:30 a.m. when we will make sandwiches and load the mobile canteen with food, fruit, snacks and other refreshments. Those who are able can also help to deliver and serve the food and other refreshments from the canteen to needy men, women and families in downtown Austin. MLF is located at 903 South Capital of Texas Highway (360) - on the grounds of St. John Neuman Church. For more information or to let them know they can count on you to help, please contact Erik and Kathy Kwiecinski, St. James' lead ministers of this community service, at [kathykski2005@yahoo.com](mailto:kathykski2005@yahoo.com) or by phone to 512-431-1530. 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 donate clothing (especially 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

**ST. JAMES MAILBAG**

Friends,

Jerry and I will be traveling to Scotland September 7 -18 with a small group hosted by a Big Bend friend and Scot of note.

The trip includes many of the sacred sites and holy places of Celtic Christendom as well as a good sampling of culture, history and natural wonders. The organizer, Jim Glendinning, is a Scot with a long history of great trips to Scotland and Mexico.

For an itinerary and more information, e-mail Jim at [jimglen2sbeglobal.net](mailto:jimglen2sbeglobal.net).

Dallas Baxter

*Dear St. James,*

*I must first of all extend a Gi-NORMOUS thank you for all of the love and support shown to me during my tenure. I have had*

*the privilege of meeting some very special people who have impacted me in ways I will cherish. As I read the beginning history of this church, I am forever in awe, because the courage of the founders who were willing to take that step of faith exemplifies the tenacity and fortitude of this church. The foundation is solid and any and all progress from that point, is expected because the 1940's and 1950's members established and defined St. James. Thank you St. James' founders for allowing me to be a part of you.*

*Secondly, thank you St. James' vestry for all your love and support during my illness. Thank you also for understanding and being sensitive to what I was going through, even when I did not fully process it myself.*

*Fr. Jeffrey you are the man with the collar who is not afraid to step outside and show a very human side and for this, I thank you! You always knew when to take the seriousness out of my situation and yet when to be prayerful at the exact same time. You are awesome and I will truly miss you and your sense of humor. Thank you for being with me and my family in our time of distress.*

*Lastly, the many faces in the congregation who have befriended and encouraged me over the years, I thank you also! I am asking that you all continue to pray for me as my journey and struggle continues and when I get to the other side of this battle, perhaps, someday our paths will cross once again. May God continue to bless each of you.  
Peace and Love, Thelma*

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.*

### **Anglican Cycle of Prayer**

**Week of March 1**–In the Anglican of Cycle of Prayer we give thanks for the church in the Missionary Area of Macau, Hong Kong. We give thanks for all in our community and this week we give thanks for Hope Morgan; Cheryl and Gerald Cato; Michael Murray; Walter Muse; Elvia Myrie, Abiodun, Kamilah, Siva.

**Week of March 8**–In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we give thanks for the church in Montreal, Canada. We give thanks for all in our community and this week we give thanks for Yolanda Nagy; Celia Navarro; Carole Neal-Baird; Jerele and Elizabeth Neeld; Deborah Newman; Kurt and Susan Nieuwenhuis.

**Week of March 15**–In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we give thanks for the church in Mount Kilimanjaro, Tanzania. We give thanks for all in our community and this week we give thanks for Clark and Christy Nisbett; Jack and Jill Nokes; Ron and Cindy Noton; Vicente and Dee Nunez-Shaw, Maya, Joy.

**Week of March 22**–In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we give thanks for the church in Mumbai, North India. We give thanks for all in our community and this week we give thanks for Phillip and Cecelia Obilom, Gladys, Jessica, Stephanie, Karen, Kennedy, Cherie; William and Sharon O’Bryant, Aziza; Kit Odom, Camp; Beulah Ogiste; Leilani Ogujiofor.

**Week of March 29**–In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we give thanks for all in our community and this week we give thanks for Alex and Carolyn Ogunmuyiwa, Alex, Jr., Alan; Joseph Okoro, Jerome, Catherine, Christopher, Richard; Ugo and Angela Okoye; Chike Okpara; Roger Olien.

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: Jane Bittner; Yevonne Jensen; Raul Rodriguez and family; Trish Arriaga; Karen Bradfute Porter; Halle Brent; Billy Jones; Fr. Michael Carlisle; Cheryl Trawick; Warren Pandiscia; Orest; Natasha Smithey; Cercy Greer, Sr.; Rebecca and Don Johnson; Darlene; Enid and Violet; Bill Ikard; Margaret Listberger; Lucas Liston.

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.*