



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

SEPTEMBER 2009

RECTOR'S REFLECTIONS

Of course, it is an old truth that the only thing that remains the same is change. While true, it still isn't always comforting to know, the older we get and the more set in our comfortable ways of life. Many times, change is just scary and we usually try to avoid being scared, if we can. Being scared can make us stop dead in our tracks. Get scared enough and you'll show up screaming at a protest rally you don't really understand, and you'll bring a loaded gun. Scared crazy is what they call that, for good reason. And usually, fearmongering can't be overcome by facts. Being scared is not given to logic and reason. Telling me that I shouldn't feel afraid is just about the most useless thing you can say to me. I need to find out for myself that my fears are less than I made them out to be. I need to live into my own future for that to happen. I think we all do. We often believe that younger people handle change better. After all, they are the ones usually demanding changes in everything. But, my experience is that they are just as afraid of change as the rest of us. They simply have better bravado than we do. We used to have as much as they did. Maybe it got scared out of us.

I am constantly amazed by the human condition. We tend to settle in, with a picture of how life is supposed to look, even when where we are settled is really not all that great, and the way life looks isn't all that great either. It's just known. Known makes it familiar. Familiar makes it bearable. And there we live. Change isn't simply a matter of tweaking some of our less than admirable habits, or making modest adjustments in our unappreciated behavior. It is about radically altering the way we look at the world. That's why we avoid it. Asking us to change the way we see the world is to ask us to experience that world differently from what we have come to know and expect. Yet, the changes keep coming. The people living under oppression in the time of Jesus had hoped for change for a lifetime. But, they wanted only the kind of change they could imagine, and that imagination was stuck in only what they expected and assumed. Blind is what they were, but they just didn't know it. Jesus was going to change everything but not necessarily the things they wanted on the surface. It took real imagination, and the deeper eyes of faith for some people to catch the feel of the time that was coming. The Kingdom of God. It took hard work to follow Jesus into that future. Imagination is always harder work than being surrounded by familiarity. And goodness knows, they don't call them growing pains for no reason. St. James' will be seeing changes in its future with new leadership on the way, and new visions. I am certain that this new Rector will want to hold fast to the very best of our heritage. But, that person is coming with gifts, talents, and experiences to offer us too. Some things will change. Part of that might be scary as we experience the new. Part of it will be exciting as we see this wonderful community of faith grow and evolve in ways we don't yet know. In the meantime, we need to keep our eyes on one simple thing. We need to trust God with our future. When we do that we are being faithful to the One who promises to be with us always.

It's been a long time coming. But, I know a change gonna come. Oh, yes it will.

You may not always believe a guy who is just an Interim Rector, but you gotta believe Sam Cooke. His heart was singing that change is going to be good.

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

ALOHA DAY

Sunday, September 13

In Hawaiian, “aloha” means hello *and* goodbye. On September 13, we say good-bye to our summer programs and hello to the new church year. We will resume our regular schedule of classes for all ages at 9 a.m. Sunday mornings.

Parents are urged to make every effort to bring their children to the 9 a.m. classes on Aloha Sunday. There you will meet the teachers, register your children and learn more about the religious formation programs designed to give the children of St. James’ an early knowledge and love of their faith

WORD FROM THE WARDEN

It’s hard to believe that summer is over this month. I hope everyone was able to take sometime off to relax and rejuvenate.

I just wanted to give an update on what’s going on in and around the church. We will be meeting with the bank to renegotiate our loan this month. The treasurer of our Diocese, Bob Biehl will accompany us to the meeting. So please keep us in your prayers that we can have a loan agreement that is favorable for the church. In October we will be kicking off the Stewardship campaign. Renette Bledsoe is our new co-chair for the Stewardship committee. We are very thankful to both Renette and Jack Nokes for taking the reins of the Stewardship Committee.

This is also the beginning of the budget process, so ministries start thinking about what you want for 2010 and submit your paperwork to the Finance Committee. Forms with directions will be available.

We are working with Rogers O’Brien to help fix a few repairs in our building and parking lot that needs work. It’s hard to believe we have been in our new home for 2 years. Our church building was built to last, so everything should be working seamlessly. If you do encounter something that is not working correctly please contact our Junior Warden, so we can have it taken care of.

I would like to think that the church is different from other places when it comes to security, but in actuality the church is no different from any other place when it comes to security. We have to secure our building, make sure we are alert to our surroundings and take the same precautions we do anywhere else to keep safe. The church has had a few major thefts since we moved to this location, with the most recent in mid-August. This is not good! Let’s keep a watchful eye and report suspicious activities.

The Vestry meets the 4th Sunday of the month. If you or your ministry is interested in making a presentation you are welcome to do so. Please inform the church office and we can put it on the schedule.

Thanks and take care,
Simone Talma Flowers, Senior Warden

SEARCH COMMITTEE NEWS

The Search Committee has been extremely busy! Since our last newsletter article was published, we have received a number of new applications from interested priests. Since then we have also interviewed some very impressive individuals and we are hopeful that we are nearing the end of our search. Our commitment to confidentiality prevents the disclosure of any specific details about these individuals but it is clear that our parish has captured the attention of many priests who see themselves as our next Rector. We have received inquiries from priests from around the globe and it is such a blessing to hear so many of them remark on their favorable impression of St. James’.

There is a definite theme among the comments we hear from these individuals. Without exception, they are drawn to us because of our commitment to diversity. They like what they have read about us, what they have heard about us, and what we have to say about ourselves on our website and in other communications. They have been impressed by our commitment to outreach and civic involvement. They have heard about our reputation for joyful worship and they want the chance lead a congregation as warm and open as ours. And they, like all of us, want to worship with other children of God’s kingdom who cherish each other, who try to live out the Gospel, and who love Jesus. Wow! When you think about it, who wouldn’t want to join us on our journey?

As always, the Search Committee is thankful for your thoughts and prayers for each of our members and for the work you have entrusted to us. We pray with you and for you as we continue our work. Thanks be to God!

Respectfully, Lora J. Livingston

Search Committee Chair

COMMUNION AND COMMUNITY

Wednesday Morning Eucharist

Each Wednesday at 7:30 a.m. the Eucharist is celebrated at St. James'. It is generally a tranquil, contemplative service during which the congregation gathers around the altar for the Prayer of Consecration and receiving the Bread and Wine. The plate and the cup are passed from one person to next, making this a unique expression of being fed by God and by one another. It is a demonstration of how our relationship with God through Jesus Christ is mirrored in our connection to each another.

Following the Eucharist a breakfast is prepared by all of us in Founders Hall. Here we gather at another table to eat, share our experiences of the week, discuss matters of interest or concern and support one another on our journey in the world.

I believe that the totality of this Wednesday morning gathering is a remarkable opportunity to expand and enrich our Baptismal Covenant of loving God and our neighbor through the still, quiet voices of calm. The often hectic morning rush is pulsing in the streets around us. Here, in the Sanctuary of St. James', we gather round the two tables in Communion and Community with prayers of praise and thanksgiving for God's grace so abundant in our lives.

All are invited!

Peace, The Rev. Hugh Craig+

SNAPSHOT

While St. James' can boast a goodly number of priests, lawyers, and teachers in its community, it's the nurses who predominate—nurses serving in many different fields: nurse education, school nursing, home health, holistic health, health education, and spotlighting in this snapshot, preventive care or, as it is also known, wellness.

Wellness was the goal of Joyce Christian, who in 2001, with the encouragement of then Rector Greg Rickel, became St. James' Parish Nurse. With the involvement of other nurses in the church community, they began offering activities such as health education, screening, and referrals. Three years later, in 2004, these activities were formalized and funded by a grant from St. Luke's Episcopal Health Charities of Houston, and our parish program became the East Austin Wellness Initiative, with Joyce Christian as its director.

The mission statement of the program is "to promote wellness of the whole person in body, mind, and spirit, within the congregation and the surrounding community." In addition to serving the members of St. James, several programs have been presented to the residents of Heritage Point Apartments across the street, and to the parents of St. James' School and nearby Norman Elementary School.

The program is expanding its services all the time. Within the past year it has incorporated a counseling program staffed by Elizabeth Smith, M.S.E., a Licensed Professional Counselor Intern, and a nutritional program, provided by Asia McMullin, who, besides offering nutrition counseling, recently began marketing nutritional meals prepared at St. James' for interested members. These services supplement the preventative health offerings including the annual flu clinic in the fall, the spring health fair, and occasional referral services offered at the church such as shingles shots, an annual cardiovascular screening, a stress management clinic, and, at Heritage Point, a six-week educational series on breast health. At Norman Elementary School, the Wellness Center has provided staff education, a health fair, and a young women's health workshop. For the Spanish-speaking members of the 1 p.m. Sunday service, Joyce engaged the Sustainable Food Center of Austin to provide a demonstration program in Spanish and English of affordable health meals.

For many of these services, Joyce relies on support from her St. James' health team and an advisory strategic planning team. But it is Joyce who is at the center, tirelessly coordinating these activities. Recently, Fr. Jeffrey has talked with Joyce about developing a pastoral team to be linked with the East Austin Wellness Initiative who would call upon community members in the hospital to make sure that they have adequate support when they return home.

One would think that the responsibilities of the East Austin Wellness Initiative would take up all of Joyce's time, but no, she is also a member of a Care Communities' St. James' Care Team with Sharon O'Brien, and the two of them share duties in the care of a terminally ill cancer patient, visiting her weekly to provide numerous support services that enable her to remain in her home. Last year Joyce received a Guardian of Caring Award for her 11 years as a care team member. (In August of this year, Care Communities also award bestowed a similar honor on another St. James' member, Eugene Sepulveda.)

Joyce and her husband Rudy Green are long-time members of St. James' and attend the 10:15 service. Born and raised in Dominica, an island nation in the Caribbean, Joyce attended nursing school in England. She came to Austin in 1986, and worked for many years as a neonatal intensive care nurse and then as a Hospice nurse. She

speaks of that career transition as moving from “preserving life to preserving spirit.” Besides her East Austin Wellness coordination, and her Care Team responsibilities, Joyce also works part-time at a home health agency providing administrative support.

Central to the core values of St. James’ is “proclaiming the Gospel by serving the needs of the world we live in”. Joyce Christian is surely an inspiration for what we are called to be as members of St. James. For more information about the St. James’ Wellness program or to contact Joyce with a question or request, call the St. James’ office number 926-6339 between 9 and 5, or email Joyce at parishnurse@stjamesaustin.org.

ST. JAMES’ EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

New beginnings. Those of us who work in schools busily prepare classrooms, buildings, and outside play areas for the arrival of the children and the start of a new school year. During the in-service week in August, we focus on best practices in dealing with children and in setting up a welcoming environment for the students and parents. In addition, we plan how best to structure the school day most effectively. At St. James’, we think about the possible challenges of the first six weeks with very young children and discuss ways to help them feel secure and safe.

Like other teachers, we approach the start of school with mixed emotions. We are anxious that we get absolutely everything done that needs to be done. We worry about our classrooms or the equipment, about the large amount of paperwork that has to be processed, and about those last minute things that can trip us up. We are worried about the number of children in our classes or whether or not we will have the materials and resources we need. However, in the midst of the worry, we are also eagerly anticipating the excitement of the first day of school. We will see new as well as familiar faces. And, we will miss some faces. We will remember past first days of school while we are relishing in the joy and chaos of this year’s first day.

I am grateful for teachers everywhere – for those who educate young children and for those who challenge our young people. I am especially grateful for the teachers at St. James’ Episcopal School. I pray that we all remain focused on the children sent to us and that God will give us the grace and energy to give our best effort always.

Bill Adams wrote a collect for St. James’ School which states, “Make of the Staff and the Board of Trustees, instruments of insight and faithful service to the mission of the School and to the welfare of our children and their parents, that these children, and those who will follow, may be even more clearly signs and agents of your good intentions for all creation.” Amen & Amen. New Beginnings.

Glennie Burgess, Head of School

J2A: JOURNEY TO ADULTHOOD

The Journey to Adulthood youth group will begin its Fall Program on Aloha Sunday -- September 13 – meeting in the Orange Building at approximately 12:00 (right after the 10:15 worship). The young people will be planning their program for the Fall – listing projects, activities, and discussion topics for the Sundays between now and Christmas. This will include service projects as well as learning and fun activities. The session will conclude at 1:30 PM. Lunch will be included.

Journey to Adulthood is the program at St. James’ for young people in the 6th Grade through High School. They meet each Sunday after 10:15 worship and while having lunch, they explore topics and engage in activities of interest to them. These might be service projects, outings, lock-ins, retreats, or activities based on topics they care about. The program is designed to help them develop leadership skills that will be of use to them in their present and adult lives. These skills fall in the areas of:

- Active Listening
- Negotiation
- Assertion
- Research and
Information Management
- Partnership
- Leadership

These are skills they will find useful all of their adult lives. That is why we call this program the JOURNEY TO ADULTHOOD – J2A.

We generally meet right after 10:15 worship (11:45?) and are finished by 1:30. On weeks when we do something special that takes longer, we try to let parents know when we expect to be through. During the summer months we will be doing some special activities, which we will announce through the bulletin and by post cards, so that everybody who is interested can be invited.

Jo Krouse, Coordinator

ST. JAMES' PLAYGROUND MEET UP

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

Saturday, September 26, 10 am to noon, Green Gate Farm

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

Future dates and locations TBD.

Questions, thoughts, suggestions? lizziecainclark@gmail.com.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Children's Choir-

The Children's choir will sing during the Offertory on Aloha Day 9/6 Choir Rehearsal
10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. Orange Building

9/12 Choir Rehearsal

10 a.m. – 11a.m. Founder's Hall

9/13 Choir Rehearsal

9:00am – 10:00am Red Building

Aloha Day, September 13th

Once again we say goodbye for now, to our Summer Sundays and hello to a new church school year. Here is the schedule for the day:

*9 a.m. – 10a.m. Children's Choir Rehearsal in Red Building

*9 a.m. – 10 a.m. Registration and Parent Orientations for Atrium II and Godly Play in Orange Building

*10:15 a.m.–11:15 a.m. Atrium I's Registration and Parent Orientation session. This is mandatory for all children participating in Atrium I. In Atrium I we ask that one parent stay with their child for the first session even if it is not Aloha Day.

*10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m Worship Services

*Children's Choir sings for offertory

* Christian Formation Volunteer Drive table in Narthex

*5:30 p.m. Registration and Parent Orientation Session for 6:00pm service.

*6 p.m. – 7 p.m. Children's Christian Formation for 6 p.m. service

UPCOMING EVENTS:

8/30 CHILDREN'S CHOIR REHEARSAL IN ORANGE BUILDING 10:15AM

9/6 CHILDREN'S CHOIR REHEARSAL IN ORANGE BUILDING 10:15AM

9/12 SET UP ATRIUM II AND GODLY PLAY 10:00AM – 12:00PM

9/12 CHILDREN'S CHOIR REHEARSAL 10:00AM – 12:00PM

9/13 ALOHA SUNDAY –

*PARENT ORIENTATION SESSIONS AND REGISTRATION

(ATRIUM II AND GODLY PLAY 9:00AM – 10:00AM; ATRIUM I 10:15AM – 11:15AM)

*CHILDREN'S CHOIR REHEARSAL 9:00AM – 10:00AM RED BUILDING

*10:15AM – 11:15AM ATRIUM I & II AND GODLY PLAY WORSHIP SERVICES

*CHILDREN'S CHOIR SINGS DURING THE OFFERTORY

*5:30pm Registration and Parent Orientation Session

*6:00 – 7:00 CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN FORMATION

9/27 CHRISTIAN FORMATION MEETING

Mila Jackson, Director of Christian Formation

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.

TUESDAY NIGHT ADULT PROGRAMS

Phenomenal Woman in September

After a summer break during the heat, Phenomenal Woman will resume on Tuesday, September 8, at 6:30 p.m. Please look for more details, including location, in upcoming worship announcements and emails.

Phenomenal Woman is open to all women of St. James and their (female) friends. Hosting duties rotate among members each month.

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. No matter the topic chosen by the host each month, the evening always seems to bring spiritual inspiration and deeper friendships and connections.

We meet the second Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. Our meetings range from intimate groups of 8-10 to sometimes larger gatherings of 15-20 women, depending on the month. 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."

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. Specific directions to host's homes are sent out prior to the meeting to the Phenomenal Woman email list and others who would like to come, as requested.

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. For more information please contact Ryan Parks (791-6998) or voltrons@stjamesaustin.org.

BUENOS DIAS # 21:

UPDATE: RELIABLE WORKERS AT YOUR SERVICE

I think everyone has seen this notice (below) about people available for work. Nobody has retired wealthy yet. They are still ready to work (Enrique, Jesus, Marcial, Rolando, Marcos, Antonio....and others)

In August, the work diminished to almost zero. So we want to renew the notice and re-start the effort. Otherwise the men are in the line at the Home Depot day work site, hoping for a hire.

Starting this past March and continuing through the end of July, 25 men and women worked a total of 70 work-days (some full days and some half-days), and they earned a total of \$3,680. They worked landscaping, tree trims, painting inside and out, moving furniture, working light construction

They have worked for St. James' members and for Austin churches S St. Matthew's, St. James', St. Alban's, St. Phillip the Joy Giver. Muchisimas gracias a everyone.

TELEPHONE: Enrique Carbonell 386-7814 (Spanish), Jesus Ramirez 386-7814 (Spanish), Oscar Ponce 351-7501 (Spanish and English), Jack & Susan Robertson 453-4115 (Spanish and English).

We will work all the jobs for your home and garden -- garden and yard trim and landscaping, leaf clearance, clean buildings inside and out, move furniture, paint interiors. \$50 per day for 6-7 hours + lunch.

The self-help group named Soñadores Anónimos (Dreamers Anonymous) knows these workers. They seek work, not a handout. Several regularly attend the Spanish-language church service each Sunday at 1:00pm at **St. James' Episcopal Church**. When you have work to offer, please call to make arrangements. You'll never again need to visit the day-work sites to hire unknown people.

Jack Robertson

ST. JAMES' MOBILE LOAVES AND FISHES DAY IS SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

Please join us at St. James' Mobile Loaves and Fishes (MLF) Day, a food outreach and ministry for our homeless brothers and sisters in Austin, at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, September 19. 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.

Please call Erik and Kathy Kwiecienski, St. James' lead ministers of this community service, at 512-431-1530 if you have questions or to volunteer or email Kathy at 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

NOTES FROM THE 76TH GENERAL CONVENTION

This is my final communiqué regarding the 76th General Convention of the Episcopal Church, held in Anaheim, CA, July 6th – 17th. By the time you read the 'long version' I will have given the Cliff Notes version to the four services at St. James, the congregations of All Saint's Austin, St. Philip's San Antonio and St. Francis, PV.

First, I will address the issues I asked you to watch during the ten legislative days. Then I will talk about **C056**, the other resolution that was covered most by the media. Finally, I will end with some personal reflections and next steps as the Church, locally and internationally, move forward.

Before leaving for General Convention three issues were identified as ones to watch:

- 1) Decline in membership**
- 2) B033 – On Election of Bishops**
- 3) Changes to Title IV – Relating to Disciplinary Policies and Procedures**

1) The decline in membership was manifested most significantly in the decline in revenue to fund the budget for the Church through the Triennium. For the reasons we discussed during our pre-convention conversations (starting with the decision regarding divorce/re-marriage, ordination of women, 'new' prayer book, The Hymnal 1982, the election of an openly gay, partnered individual as bishop and the election of a woman as the presiding bishop), dioceses, congregations and communicants began leaving the Church 30 years ago. In addition, over the years, some dioceses gave congregations an option, depending on their view of the vision of the church, to send or not to send 'the asking' (money) that funds the mission and ministry of the wider Church. Now congregations are experiencing the reality of the down turn in the economy.

The proposed budget was cut by 23 million dollars. Thirty individuals in the New York office and the regional offices will not have jobs as a result of the lack of revenue. Among those who were given notice is The Rev. Jayne Oasin, Social Justice Officer, who visited St. James' several times, the last time in 2007. In addition, the person who staffed the Evangelism Office was let go. Go figure, at a time when the Church needs to be intentional about evangelism, the person who could coordinate and share best practices and promising practices will not be in place to assist local congregations. Opportunities for mission were not funded; budgets of the presiding officers were cut; budgets of Commissions, Committees, Agencies and Boards (CCABs) were reduced; Anti-Racism Training, Faith Based Reconciliation and Women's Ministries will be absorbed by sub-committees of the Executive Council.

The line item for the Millennial Development Goals which is a **commitment to dedicate 0.7% of the income of the Church to United Nations MDG's and an equal amount to domestic poverty initiatives**, was restored. Funding for the three historic Black Episcopal Colleges was reduced. The strategic vision to share Christ with Hispanic/Latino's through the work of the Episcopal Church was funded at a much lower amount than requested. The Program, Budget and Finance (PB&F) Committee offered a revised 'asking' formula to encourage congregations and dioceses to increase their giving to the wider Church.

2) **B033 – On Election of Bishops** – There were many resolutions submitted to the Legislative Committee on World Mission. The committee placed the resolutions into three general categories: those that repeal of B033; those that re-state or strengthen the Church's nondiscrimination canons; and those that emphasize where the Church is today. (I felt that there was a fourth category – those that sought to reaffirm B033, the positions of the Windsor Report and the various iterations of subsequent covenant drafts.)

The Committee **offered D025 – Commitment and Witness to Anglican Communion**, which is in the third category. D025 was passed as amended. The vote was by orders in the House of Deputies – the resolution passed by a 2/3 majority in both the Lay Order and the Clergy Order. (All resolutions can be found on-line www.episcopalchurch.org. Click on the General Convention icon when you get to that page then click on 'legislation'.)

In 2006 I voted for **B033** and this year I voted for **D025**. I think that D025 articulates in a clear and honest way the feelings of faithful Christians about the issues of human sexuality **and** our desire to remain part of the Anglican Communion with a commitment to include the humanity and gifts of **all** of God's children in the various ministries of the Church.

3) Changes to **Title IV – Relating to Disciplinary Policies and Procedures** – The passage of **A185** as amended, a massive re-write of Title IV, was a surprise to me. To the lay person in the pew, like me, the canon appears to be convoluted and labor intensive. Fortunately, the laity can leave the implementation of Title IV to the legal and process minds of the diocese who, along with clergy, will design the implementation of and training on the changes.

C056 – Liturgies for Blessings concurred with substitute, in a vote by orders. The resolution relates to same-gender blessings and invites, through an open process, the "...collection and development of theological and liturgical resources and report back to the 77th General Convention." The resolution allows for a 'generous pastoral response' in those dioceses within civil jurisdictions where same gender marriage, civil union, or domestic partnerships are legal. The resolution also acknowledges and honors the theological diversity of the Church in this matter. At this point in time, blessings will not be performed in the Diocese of Texas.

419 resolutions were submitted: A= 92, B=32, C=87 and D=108. 361 were dealt with. The 95, for which no action was taken or on which both Houses did not act, will be referred by the Secretary of the House to Standing Committees of the Executive Council or to a CCAB.

While the media focused on **D025** and **C056**, in anticipation of the response from the Anglican Communion and parts of The Episcopal Church, many other resolutions were passed, funded and unfunded (mainly unfunded), to offer us a way forward.

D027 - concurred with amendment, 'Five Marks of Mission':

To proclaim the Good news of the Kingdom

To teach, baptize and nurture new believers

To respond to human need by loving service

To seek to transform unjust structures of society

To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth....

A177, concurred with amendment, **Denominational Health Plan**

A138, concurred, **Establishing a mandatory lay employee pension system**

D065, pending in the HD, adopted with substitute by HB, **Youth, seat and voice on vestry and in deputation, (16 up)**

D096, concurred with amendment, **Prevention of Domestic Violence**

D055, concurred, Reaffirm **Tithe as Minimum Standard**, each person in the congregation is invited to sign a pledge to move toward 10% giving

A142 concurred with amendment, **To Recommit** and declare itself to be dedicated to continue to work against the sin of racism for the next Three Triennia

If you have a passion, there was a resolution that touched it: encourage the establishment of an Episcopal Veterans Fellowship in each diocese to support wounded soldiers and veterans; condemnation of Torture; oppose the trafficking of humans (specifically women and children); HIV/Aids education/prevention; Episcopal Peace Fellowship, etc.

I am very hopeful about the opportunities that are before us over these next three years. The critical step is to learn how to be a member of God's 'blended family'. Each person in the pew must become intentional about evangelism. Laity and clergy must be open to new ways to 'be church' (that includes music, liturgy, service times and locations). Each congregation must acknowledge that God calls us to ministry and mission from a place of abundance rather than scarcity, and we must take up our crosses, get out of our ruts and get to work.

Each person must identify and use the gifts that God has given them to minister to our sisters and brothers in the city, the state, the nation and overseas. It is not enough to just attend a service and write a check (although income is needed at every level). Christianity is not a spectator sport; God is calling each of us to get on the field and participate. Our lives and the lives of those in our communities depend on us.

Where should our focus be?

Identity – As a Christian, do you see yourself as a member of The Episcopal Church or the Anglican Communion?

Stewardship – What is our financial commitment to our parish, the Diocese of Texas and the wider Church?

Evangelism – Are we willing, with training, to move outside the comfort and safety of our walls and introduce Jesus to people who do not look like or think like we do?

Youth and Young Adults – Will we be intentional about including youth and young adults in the leadership of the church; as members of the vestry; as members of Diocesan committees; as elected representatives to various positions in the Diocese and the wider Church? Will we listen to them?

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, we have a lot to talk about and a lot of work before us. There is room for everyone at the table and in the conversation. I invite you to stay engaged.

Ora Houston, Delegate,

76th General Convention, July, 2009

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.

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

E-GIVING

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

We have added the capability to our website for the use of credit and debit cards and setting up automatic drafts from your bank accounts to the church accounts. When you go to our website, www.stjamesaustin.org, you will see the "Egiving" link under the Members tab that is on the home page. If you have not "signed in", you will be required to create a user name and password. After you have "signed in" you will be taken to the eGiving Main Menu, which lists many options.. From this list you can select, "Go to my organization's E-giving Transaction page." There you will be shown the various funds you can donate to. There is one blank space to add in whatever

fund you would like it to go to, such as Jazz at St. James', Trinity Center, Capital Campaign. This information, but not your card number, etc. is provided to us on a weekly basis and then we distribute it to the appropriate place and record it in your contributions summary.

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

While we are very happy to provide this convenience to you we also strongly discourage using credit cards for amounts you cannot pay off in that month. Credit is a dangerous game in our society right now, please be careful with it! If you have technical questions contact our webmaster, Margaret Listberger. Please let her know any problems you have.

ODDS & ENDS

Dinner and a Movie: Saturday September 19, 6 p.m. in founders' Hall. Join us for a relaxed, fun-filled evening! All are welcome. See the Sunday bulletin, or call Mike Murray (472-5192; mmurray8@austin.rr.com) For more info.

Vestry Meeting, Sunday September 27, 12:15 p.m.

St. James' School Board, Wednesday, September 23, 5:30 p.m.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer

Week of September 6—In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we give thanks for the church in South India. We give thanks for all in our community and this week we give thanks for Anne Wynne; Austin "Zach" and Kristen Young, Dakota Donna, Austin Young V; Lucille Zapata; Baldomero Zarate; Janet Zimmerman.

Week of September 13—In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we give thanks for the church in Southern Highlands (Tanzania). We give thanks for all in our community and this week we give thanks for Benjamin and Georgina Abattam, Felilx, Linda, Jeffrey; Mary Lou Adams; W.S.Adams and Amy Donohue-Adams; Sandy and Beatrice Adeoye; Lisa Alexander, Donte V. Daniel.

Week of September 20—In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we give thanks for the church in Southwark (Canterbury, England). We give thanks for all in our community and this week we give thanks for Allison Allen; Harold and Kim Ambler, Annalee; Theodora Anastaplo, and David Westerberg; Gayle Anglin; Margarita and Eric Arroyo, Isaiah.

Week of September 27—In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we give thanks for the church in St. Andres's Dunkeld & Dunblane (Scotland). We give thanks for all in our community and this week we give thanks for Karin Ascot; Lisa Ashcroft; John Ashmun and Sasha Russell; Joan Asseff; Vonette Austin-Wells.

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: Mary Ana "Cookie" Rosario and her children; the families of Steven Byrd and Margaret Brown, Norman Lanier Miller; Annick Moton; David & Catherine Bedford; Billy Bob Watson; Daniel Reber; the family of Mike Stout; Halle Brent; Michael Turner; Jo Raby; 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