

Jazz Mass 2008

St. James' poet laureate, Dr. Marvin Kimbrough, ends a recent piece with ...
"... in the fall there will be Jazz at St. James'..."

For this congregation, Jazz at St. James' has become a checkpoint; a significant event; a milestone. We can look back over the past year, reflecting on where we've been and we can begin to collect our spirits/gather our energy for Advent, the coming of Christ, and the challenges that lie ahead.

This year, like every year, has been filled with milestones:

- ◆ 98 years of life
- ◆ 75 years of music
- ◆ 66 years of worship
- ◆ 44 years of marriage
- ◆ 14 years of Jazz at St. James'
- ◆ 4 anos de espiritu

Born on February 24th in Corsicana, Texas, our headliner, David Newman, celebrated his 75th birthday this year; a milestone. Also this year, Mr. Newman released *Diamondhead*, his 40th studio album; a milestone. His 2005 release, *I Remember Brother Ray* became the #1 most played jazz album in the nation; a milestone.

Milestone: An important event in a person's career

Time goes by, seasons change, but come November, there will be Jazz at St. James'.

Milestone: An important event in the history of a nation or a church; a turning point

- ◆ 7 sacred buildings planted on the Eastside
- ◆ 6 souls joined the cloud of saints hovering in this space
- ◆ 5 core values - welcome, heritage, worship, stewardship as service, diversity
- ◆ 4 pillars of this congregation have joined Coltrane, Davis, Holliday, and Monk
- ◆ 2 many magnificent musicians to name call St. James' home
- ◆ Out of many, 1 body

September 15th, 2007- a friend and ally joined the House of Bishops

October 21st - we said goodbye to 3701 East Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd

October 28th - we blessed and occupied our new home

February 6, 2008 - Ash Wednesday, we buried the Alleluias

March 22nd - the Eve of Easter, we raised them up again

May 11th - Pentecost, the end of the Easter Season, yet we still live **every day** as Alleluia people

Time rolls on, people and places change, but come November, there will be Jazz at St. James'.

Milestone: a marker placed at regular intervals to reassure travelers that the proper path is being followed.

- ◆ 67th Founder's Day
- ◆ 14th Jazz Weekend
- ◆ 13th school year
- ◆ 4th dia de los muertos
- ◆ 3rd location
- ◆ 1st Black president

Edward B. Adams loved his family, loved jazz - especially Thelonius Monk, and loved St. James'. He strove to ensure that children in Austin and all across the state of Texas received the best education possible. Born in New York City, Ed's path led him from New York, to Vermont, to Colorado, and finally to Austin, Texas. His love for children and families was made visible in his service: on the boards of Huston-Tillotson University, St. David's North Austin Medical Center, and the University Hospital at Brackenridge. He also served on the Texas Workforce Commission, the Texas Business and Education Coalition, and the AISD Foundation. Ed worked on the initial planning team for Jazz at St. James' in 1994 and supported this ministry faithfully. **For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required.** Ed gave much, was loved well, and remains in our hearts as we continue on the path.

Time marches on, ministries may change, but come November, there will be Jazz at St. James'.

Milestone: a marker placed at regular intervals to indicate the remaining distance to a destination.

- ◆ 11 days to Thanksgiving
- ◆ 38 days to Christmas
- ◆ 45 days to the New Year
- ◆ 65 days to the inauguration
- ◆ 101 days to Ash Wednesday
- ◆ 147 days to Easter

We look backwards and we see how far we have come. We have developed a lay driven community that fosters a loving/accepting Christian environment in the Episcopal tradition. In this community, all individuals are valued and are empowered to use their time, their talents, and their resources to spread the Good News.

Before we prepare the Communion table, we make a simple statement: "Where ever you are on your journey of faith, you are welcome at this table;" a statement of belief that needs no explanation, no justification, because every good thing comes from God and this invitation pours forth from our hearts.

We look forward and we see how far we have to go. Finding our third rector, retiring our Capital Campaign debt, continuing to be a community where there is a place for everyone to worship in the manner that most speaks to their soul - contemplative, traditional with a Black twist, in Spanish, clapping your hands, tapping your feet and shouting when you feel like it, or waking up early on Wednesday mornings to have church and share a meal. A congregation where, on any given Sunday, you might bask in quiet reflection after a moving sermon or you may hear several resounding "Amens;" where the community is united in prayer in times of joy and in times of pain; where our spiritual focus is directed outward with a fierce determination to love one another.

Many milestones have been celebrated in this community. May we continue to recognize them/celebrate them whenever they occur, but may we not be so blinded by the milestones that we forget the moments: the laughter of a child in the play corner, the hand shake or hug that says "I love you," the colors of the rainbow on the faces of people in the pews, the bright blessed days, the dark sacred nights,

Time flies by and our wonderful world will change, but come November, there **will** be **Jazz** at St. James'.
