



Share Your St. James' Story

Rooted in Heritage • Moving Forward in Faith

This stewardship season, we are gathering short videos of parishioners telling **one St. James' story**, recorded on your phone at home. Your story helps us remember where we have come from and imagine where God is leading us next.

1 Choose one story

History

A moment from St. James' past, a founder or elder you remember, or how you first found us.

Impact

A ministry that made a difference for you, your family or our East Austin neighbors.

Joy

A celebration, a song, a shared meal, a moment of laughter around the table.

Transformation

A time St. James' changed you, carried you through something hard or opened a new path.

Need a starting place? Finish one of these sentences:

“ The first time I walked into St. James'...

“ The moment I knew I belonged here...

“ St. James' was there for me when...

“ Someone at St. James' who shaped my faith...

“ Something St. James' did for our neighbors...

“ What I hope St. James' is for the next generation...

2 Shape it in three parts

A FEW SECONDS

Say hello

Your name and how long you have been part of St. James'. ("I'm Ana, and I've worshiped here for 12 years.")

2 TO 3 MINUTES

Tell one moment

When and where it happened, who was there and what happened. One specific moment is more powerful than a summary.

ABOUT 1 MINUTE

Why it matters

What it meant to you, and what it says about who St. James' is, or who we can become.

Keep it to 5 minutes or less. It is fine to jot a few notes, but speak from the heart rather than reading a script. If you stumble, just pause and start the sentence again; we can trim it.

3 Record it on your phone



Find a quiet spot

Turn off the TV, fans and notifications. Soft rooms (rugs, curtains) sound best.



Face the light

Sit facing a window or lamp, not with it behind you, so your face is bright.



Phone at eye level

Prop it on a stack of books about an arm's length away, framed from your chest up.



Turn your phone sideways

Hold or prop it horizontally (landscape) so the video fills a screen.



Do a 10-second test

Record a quick hello and play it back to check light, sound and framing.



Breathe, smile, begin

Wait two seconds after pressing record and before stopping. Look at the camera lens, as if at a friend.

4 Send it to us by Sunday, November 1

Email your video to

office@stjamesaustin.org

- Subject line: **My St. James' Story – Your Name**
- In the email, include your name and a phone number.
- **Video too large to attach?** On an iPhone, choose **Mail Drop** when prompted. On Android, Gmail will offer to send it as a **Google Drive** link. Either works.

About sharing

By sending your video, you give St. James' permission to share it as part of the 85th Anniversary Celebration festivities.

Prefer it stay within the parish? Just say so in your email and we will only show it at St. James' gatherings, not online.

If a child appears in the video, a parent or guardian should send it.

Stories may be lightly trimmed for length.



Do steps 3 and 4 seem daunting? Schedule a time with us during the **12–1 pm hour on Sunday, October 18 or Sunday, October 25**, and we will help you record and send your story. To sign up, email rector@stjamesaustin.org.



"We've come this far by faith." Thank you for helping us remember, and for planting seeds of hope for future generations.

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