



SAINT JAMES' IN THE CITY

ANGLICAN/EPISCOPAL

EVER ANCIENT | EVER NEW

THE FIRST 100 YEARS



Interview with Emily and Andrew Maverick

In 1957, when the Mavericks first joined Saint James', the concept of neighborhood parishes



was still being upheld by the diocese and parishioners were to attend the Episcopal church within their immediate neighborhood.

"Technically," said Andy, I think we were supposed to attend St. Mary's, but Saint

James' was closer." Emily recalls that active parishioners included the British Consul and the Headmaster of Marlborough School.

The Mavericks came to Los Angeles from the Midwest. Andy was born in Los Angeles, but then moved to Southern Illinois when his father became a professor at the university there. Emily was born in Cleveland, Ohio. They met in graduate school at the University of Illinois where Emily was studying chemistry and Andy was studying chemical engineering. That was in the spring of 1951; six months later they were married. Then Andy got a job with Standard Oil that brought them back to Los Angeles. Emily continued her graduate studies at UCLA. "The aspect of Los Angeles," recalls Emily, "that made a great first impression on me was all the open space and the fact that even low income families could

afford their own home. That was very different from the city where I grew up."

"The women's guilds were very active at Saint James' when we joined," remembers Emily. "The very first Sunday we attended, Father Ivor Curtis interviewed me so that he could place me in the right guild. Initially he suggested a guild that included other young mothers. My oldest child, Andrew, was two at the time." Regarding the eventual dissolution of the guilds in the late 70s, Emily speculates that more women in the work force meant less time to donate to guild work. This also meant that children weren't being brought to church as often. Some of the ties began to loosen. Andy further speculates that the growing popularity of television affected the change, too. "It gave people more of a reason to stay at home."

In 1966 in response to the Watts riots and the awareness of the separation of ethnic communities even within the diocese, Father D'Amico formed an outreach group to two other, primarily black, Episcopal churches. Emily and Andy were invited to be part of that group. This would be only one small part of the Mavericks' work on behalf of Saint James'. Andy served several terms on the vestry and on the School Board, under both Father D'Amico and Father Oliver. Emily served on the vestry and as a Senior Warden for Father Oliver.

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In 1979 Father Oliver asked Andy to form an Outreach group to assess the needs of the parish and the community. Andy considers the greatest achievement of that group to be the creation of Saint James' Manor on Gramercy Place. It took



over the first site of Saint James' School when the school moved to St. Andrew's Place. It was a notable effort to meet the needs of seniors in the diocese.

In the 90s the original Parish Hall no longer met the city's earthquake codes and had to be destroyed. Andy and Emily helped shape the design of the new building to meet the needs of the community. The Food Pantry, where Andy worked for 13 years, used to be on the third floor of the old building – which had no elevators. The new building was designed with street level access for the Food Pantry, which made the entire operation easier. Andy also served with the AIDS Luncheon group that brings food to HIV+ people waiting for health care services at County General Hospital. Emily takes a sense of accomplishment in being one of the women who helped create the Saint James' Infant/Toddler Development Center. "This met a real need for working mothers and it was the working mothers of Saint James' who made it happen," she said. The Mavericks also focused their efforts on Saint James' extraordinary

stained glass windows. Beginning during Father Bob Oliver's tenure, they were among the parishioners who were involved with the planning and fundraising toward the creation and installation of the final windows.

Are there things they miss from previous times at Saint James'? They miss the Mid-Wilshire Alliance of churches. "Ministers and rabbis from surrounding houses of worship would be invited to speak at each other's services. It created a sense of community that we enjoyed," said Andy. "We miss that." Another difference is that Saint James' today is more than a neighborhood church. "It will always be important to engage in outreach activities with our immediate neighbors," said Emily, "but we are now a destination church for people throughout the city who want to be a part of the multi-cultural embrace that distinguishes Saint James'. That's special and very different from the way things used to be."

As they look to the future of Saint James', Emily and Andy hope that the church will keep its focus on outreach activities. "Helping one another is the heart of our mission and I hope we never forget that," said Emily. "We hope that focus will also extend to the needs of the elders in our community. They have great and growing needs, and I hope Saint James' can be of service to them," agreed Andy.

Did the societal changes of the last half-century as experienced at Saint James' change their views? "Well," laughed Andy, "I used to be Republican, but that meant something different back then." Emily thinks that their careers as academics shaped their values more than the church did. "This country tends to think of academics as elites, but I don't think so. We deal with students and their families and that brings us into contact with a much greater spectrum of beliefs and values than we've experienced in the church. Our interactions with our students have shaped our values the most. We've taken those values with us to Saint James'."