



Journey to Damascus

Houston Community Newsletter

Spring / Summer 2025

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Father Stephen Payne Honored!

Congratulations to Father Stephen Payne who was honored by the Archdiocese of Galveston Houston as one of the "Clergy of the Year" at the Clergy Appreciation Dinner on January 24, 2025.

He was nominated by the Knights of Columbus Council 787 for his service to the community of Holy Family Parish in Galveston.



Pictured Deacon Tim Cullen, Fr Stephen Payne, Deacon Tom Whited and MaryClare Cullen

Welcome New JTD Community Members

The Houston Journey to Damascus would like to welcome the pilgrims of JTD #231 to the community.

Women's Journey #231 April 2025

Bridget Lewellen, Connie Ballou, Danielle Zientek, Diamond Campos, Diane Longoria, Gisella Castro, Janet Flores, Jaylyn Castro, Jean McKinney, Jessica Taylor, Julie Wilson, Kathy Bucher, Kendall Cunningham, Kenisha Woods, Linda Howarth, Linz White, Lisa Foster, Loni Duncan, Lorena Silguero, Nikki Dodson, Penny Whited, Stacey LaViola, Tammie Gatewood, Tracy Rolling, Vanessa Lewis

Board of Directors:

Shawn Royer, Past President
 Eric Gallup, President
 Randy Bame, Vice President
 Kevin Clark, Treasurer
 Susan Norman, Secretary
 Joy Willison, Member
 Timothy Broxson, Member
 Ian Cullen, Member

Spiritual Advisors:

MaryClare Cullen
 Deacon Tom Whited

Board of Trustees:

Gerald Blackwell
 MaryClare Cullen

Board Update

The purpose of the Houston Community Board of Directors is to serve our community and through prayerful discernment, carry on the work of Journey to Damascus: to support weekends and fourth day activities, coordinate spiritual directors, engage with the Board of Trustees as needed, manage facility relationships, finances and community member lists, facilitate Lay Director Training, community-wide communication, and to support the weekend team nomination. The 2025 Houston JTD Board Members are:

| | | | |
|----------------|------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| President | Eric Gallup | Tccsuper01@yahoo.com | 832-253-4766 |
| Past-President | Shawn Royer | shawn@houstonpermitservice.com | 713-834-5669 |
| Vice President | Randy Bame | Randy.bame@yahoo.com | 425-449-2263 |
| Treasurer | Kevin Clark | kevin@riveroakscouriers.com | 281-652-6974 |
| Secretary | Susan Norman | Snorman48@icloud.com | 713-397-6494 |
| BOT Member | Gerald Blackwell | Geraldblackwell835@gmail.com | 832-620-1475 |
| BOT Member | MaryClare Cullen | Mchamma16@gmail.com | 713-480-7511 |
| BOT Member | Edward Strempel | ebstrempel@icloud.com | 832-589-4714 |
| Member | Timothy Broxson | Tim.broxson@dixieinteriors.com | 832-707-6002 |
| Member | Ian Cullen | lancullen01@gmail.com | 832-289-1841 |
| Member | Joy Willison | jywillison@gmail.com | 281-917-5397 |

Join Our Board: Seeking Passionate Members!

We are looking for two new board members to join our team! To maintain an ecumenical balance, we are seeking one Catholic and one Protestant representative. If you or someone you know is interested, we would love to hear from you!

Board members are dedicated individuals from the local community who commit to serving a minimum of three years. Their role includes attending monthly meetings and contributing additional time to support committee work and other essential board activities. Beyond assisting with a single Journey to Damascus weekend, board members typically dedicate 2-8 hours per month to meetings and related responsibilities.

But don't let that intimidate you! Our board is a welcoming, passionate group of people who love this ministry and are committed to its growth and success. If you're looking for a meaningful way to serve, we'd love to have you join us!



Serving Together: Cook Team Creator!

A Passion for Cooking: My Journey in the Kitchen



Hello, I'm Sherry Toy—the one who loves to cook for you! My journey began in April 2009 on Journey #72, and from that moment, I knew I wanted to be part of the cook team. However, before I could lead my own team, I had to cook alongside the men's team four times. They jokingly called me "Dryer Girl" because I had to do all the behind-the-scenes work before stepping into a leadership role. I quickly learned that knowing how to cook is one thing, but preparing nine meals in a row—on time—for 75 people is a whole different challenge! Thankfully, we now prepare eight meals instead, which makes weekend prep a little easier. Along the way, I also discovered the importance of good cooking tools and gadgets—so I always bring my own!

For each journey, I ask the Lay Director about their favorite foods and build a menu around their preferences. I've realized that while I can't please everyone, I can focus on delighting one person while ensuring everyone is well-fed. This time, however, things are a little different. Pam Gonzalez told me she likes everything—which, coincidentally, I do too! After working together on our last journey (and a little help from texting), I discovered her favorites. This weekend's menu will be a surprise to all, even Pam, featuring some of my personal recipes.

Over the past three years, I've also shared my love for cooking by teaching classes at a small shop in Brenham. Now, I'm expanding my passion by preparing to-go meals for friends each week. Cooking isn't just something I do—it's who I am, and I feel truly blessed to share this gift.

P.S. I don't just cook—I create.

With love,

Sherry Toy



Upcoming Journey Weekends

Men's JTD #234
July 31-August 3, 2025

Women's JTD #236
October 16-19, 2025

Come with open hearts and empty hands. As we focus on our common Christian beliefs while still respecting our differences, we may be gradually and slowly working our way toward truly being one in Christ.

All journey weekends will be held at:

Camp Lone Star Pines
22610 Tuwa Rd. Tomball, TX 77375

Registration forms for Pilgrims and Team can be found at

<https://Houstonjtd.com/registration>



MEN'S JTD #234, JULY 31ST - AUGUST 3RD, 2025

Psalm 19:1 – "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands."

Hello Journey Family,

My name is Jason Willison, and I had the blessing of attending the best Journey ever—JTD #196—back in January 2020. That weekend marked the last Journey before COVID paused our lives, and like many of you, I was hesitant to attend. Thankfully, I listened to my amazing wife and surrendered my heart to God. Since then, not a day goes by that I don't thank Him for leading me to this beautiful community and each one of you.

Now, I have the incredible honor of serving as the Lay Director for the upcoming men's Journey, JTD #234, happening July 31st-August 3rd. My prayer is simple: that every Pilgrim who joins us experiences the fullness of God's love throughout the weekend.

To make that happen, we need a strong, faithful team to walk alongside these men—caring for their physical and spiritual needs. Please consider serving in any way you can. Whether you've served many times or it's your first, your presence matters. And if you can't serve this time, I encourage you to reach out to the men in our Journey family—both new faces and familiar ones—and invite them to be a part of this mission.

Team meetings will be held at Chapelwood United Methodist Church, 11140 Greenbay St. Houston, TX 77024 in the Fireside Room at 8:30 AM on the following dates:

We're also looking for our wonderful Journey ladies to serve dinner on **Saturday, August 2nd**, and of course, we'll need lots of smiling faces at **Candlelight and Closing** to remind the Pilgrims they are not alone.

Let's make this the most powerful Journey yet and bring more men closer to the heart of God.

Team info and application links can be found below.

De Colores,
Jason Willison
Lay Director, JTD #234

<https://jtd.breezechms.com/form/TeamApplication21410822063>

<https://jtd.breezechms.com/form/PilgrimApp21446796492>



Men's Journey #234 - St. Elsewhere Team:

LD - Jason Willison

Board Rep - Ian Cullen

Head CHA - Tom Donlin

ALD - Joe Matula - Team

ALD - Jeremy Summers - Pilgrims

ALD - Pete Curran - Speakers

Talk Schedule:**Friday August 1, 2025**

Priorities - Pete Curran

Grace - Reverend Lewis

Priesthood of All Believers - Tim Broxon

Faith - Deacon Tom

Life in Piety - Nolan Lynch

Saturday August 2, 2025

Growth Through Study - Jeremy Summers

Sacraments - Father Sherry

Christian Action - Gerald Blackwell

Obstacles to Grace - Deacon Tom

Discipleship - Tom Donlin

Love and Unity (at Candlelight) - Joy Willison

Sunday August 3, 2025

Changing Our World - Joe Matula

Body of Christ - Troy Lynn

Perseverance/4th Day - Jason Willison

Journey #238

AFTERGLOW

Chapelwood United Methodist Church
11140 Greenbay St, Houston

August 23, 2025
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Please provide salads, sides, and desserts to feed 10 people.

Last name A-G; Salad

Last name H-L; Sides

Last name M-Z; Desserts



WOMEN'S JTD #237, OCTOBER 16 - 19, 2025

Message from Mary Gillis: Lay Director for Women's Journey #237



Hello Journey to Damascus community!

My name is Mary Gillis, and I will be serving as the Lay Director for the Women's Journey #237, October 16-19, 2025.

We often question why God calls us to do something when we don't feel qualified. When I was asked to serve as Lay Director, my first thought was, there were other people more qualified than me. I had to remember that He doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called.

John emphasized the relationship between Jesus and his followers, *"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me."* (John 10:27)

I hear that calling now and again, and I've ignored it too many times in the past. But this time my inner voice, His voice, encouraged me to say yes. So here I am, serving as Lay Director nine years after my pilgrim Journey in October 2016.

I'm thankful to know God has a plan and is in control, guiding each of us called to serve with the gifts He has given us. I am finding myself JOYFULL in the anticipation of not only the Journey weekend but also working alongside my sisters in Christ as we plan and prepare for pilgrims.

Matthew 4:10, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." I ask you to listen to His call and prayerfully consider joining us for a transforming weekend. Invite a family member, a friend, or someone you meet by chance that needs to experience the Journey weekend. And as a reminder, the Journey weekend gets better every time you serve on team. Again, it's October 16-19, 2025, at Camp Lone Star Pines in Tomball, TX.

You can access the Pilgrim, Sponsor, and Team applications through the JTD website at www.houstonjtd.com. If the Holy Spirit moves you to help or would like more information, feel free to reach out to me. Text me or call at 832-428-0703 or via email at marygillis@comcast.net.

Candlelight on Saturday, October 18, 2025, is a special experience not only for our pilgrims but for all involved. Let us show the pilgrims the love of the Journey community by filling the room.

We ask for prayers as we continue our preparations in the coming months.

De Colores,

Mary Gillis



**Women's Journey #237 - St. Elsewhere Team:**

LD - Mary Gillis

Board Rep - Susan Norman

Head Angel: Tracy Kelly

Head Angel: Barbara Slanis

ALD - Keri Whitt - Team

ALD - Ada Main - Pilgrims

ALD - Roseann Carothers - Speakers

Talk Schedule:**Friday October 17, 2025**

Priorities - Nikita Salcedo

Grace - Elizabeth Henson

Priesthood of All Believers - Penny Whited

Faith - Donna Hodges

Life in Piety - Claire Hackney

Saturday October 18, 2025

Growth Through Study - Susan E Norman

Sacraments - Father Payne

Christian Action - Keri Whitt

Obstacles to Grace - MaryClare Cullen

Discipleship - Vanessa Castor Guzman

Love and Unity (at Candlelight) - Julie Caston

Sunday October 19, 2025

Changing Our World - Roseann Carothers

Body of Christ - Ada Main

Perseverance/4th Day - Mary Gillia

Lay Directors Needed

We need both men and women who have a desire to plan, lead, and grow the Houston JTD community in 2025 and beyond. Being a Lay Director is both a privilege and a calling to which takes prayerful consideration.

If you meet the below criteria and/or would like to learn more about this very important commitment, please contact any board member or email MaryClare Cullen, BOD Spiritual Advisor - clarecullen@windstream.net.

Criteria for consideration of a Lay Director:

- Must have given two (2) different weekend talks (not including Love and Unity)
- Have served in three different team positions:
 - As Table Leader or Assistant Table Leader
 - As an Angel/Cha
 - As Assistant Lay Director

Christ is counting on you!



Ways to Support the JTD Community

PILGRIMS!

The most important piece to this pie is PILGRIMS! To continue this ministry that is so needed during these trying times we need the community to be intentional in inviting and sponsoring pilgrims. Should you need help on how to share what JTD is about please reach out to a board member who can provide brochures, details to go in church bulletins, etc.

Recurring Donation

As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, JTD relies on the generous donations from the community. To support JTD by recurring donation you can pay online via credit card at [houstonjtd.com](https://www.houstonjtd.com) at the link <https://www.houstonjtd.com/donate-to-jtd>. Next go to 'Donate to JTD' and enter a weekly, monthly, yearly, or one-time amount. If you prefer to make your donation by check please email us at houstonjtd.com.

Company Matching

Many companies provide matching of your donations to a charity or non-profit. Please be sure to check with your company and request a match form. You may contact a board member for the JTD Tax ID as your company match will usually require it.

GOLF TOURNAMENT!

The 2025 Journey to Damascus Memorial Golf Tournament will be held Friday September 26th at Gleannloch Farms Golf Course. The tournament will be a shotgun start, with registration, check-in, and lunch beginning at 11 am and tee off at noon. Lunch will be served at the course with a dinner and awards ceremony following the event at the Gleannloch Farms Community Center (due to renovation at the golf club facility), a few blocks from the course parking lot. There will be many chances to win with prizes, a raffle, and fun events!



REUNION GROUPS

Connect with your brothers and sisters in Christ and keep the JTD fire going by joining a Houston reunion group near you:

Please call or email the reunion group contact before attending a group for the first time

Men's Reunion Groups

Dixie Farm Boys

Mondays, 6:00 PM

Contact: Matt Hoffman, 713-819-2297, mhof1100@aol.com

Location: Gateway Community Church, 760 Clear Lake City Blvd., Webster

STRIVE!

Tuesdays, 6:00 AM

Contact: Brad Whitt, 713-469-1565, brad.t.whitt@gmail.com

Location: Panera Bread, 26003 NW Freeway, Cypress

SEASoned Warriors

Every other Wednesday, 7:00 PM

Contact: Greg Bedell, gjbedell@mdanderson.org

Location: Willie's Grill & Icehouse, 7092 Hwy 6 North (FM 529 & Hwy 6) Houston

Walking Tall

Fridays, 6:00 AM via Zoom Call

Contact: Tom Stallings, 281-450-8101, tom@tomstallings.com

Mama's Boys

Fridays, 8:00 AM

Contact: Mike Main, 832-444-1728, mike.j.main@gmail.com

Location: Buffalo Grille, 1301 S. Voss Road (S. Voss & Woodway) Houston

Blurry Eyed Boys

Saturdays, 7:00 AM

Contact: Tim Cullen, 281-948-1417, tpcullen@windstream.net

Location: La Madeleine, 2675 Town Center Blvd., Sugar Land

Gravy Spoon Disciples

Every other Saturday (or when His Honeys meet), 9:00 AM

Contact: Eric Gallup, 832-253-4766, tccsuper01@yahoo.com

Location: Black Walnut, The Vintage Park, 10623 Louetta Rd. Houston



Women's Reunion Groups

SEAS Sisters

Mondays, 11:30 AM

Contact: Denise Dreyling, 281-855-7745, denise@thoede.com

Location: Romero's, Hwy 6 & Longenbaugh, Houston

Sisters with a Purpose

2nd & 4th Monday, 1:00 PM

Contact: Shay Christopherson, 281-799-2002, christopherson.shay@gmail.com

Location: Jason's Deli, 529/Hwy6, Houston

His Honeys

Every other Saturday, 9:00 AM

Contact: Pam Gonzalez, 713-854-6587, furnituregirlpam@gmail.com

Location: Black Walnut, The Vintage Park, 10623 Louetta Rd., Houston

The Breakfast Club

Thursdays, 6:00 AM

Contact: Toni Weyand, 281-731-6883, toniweyand@gmail.com

Location: Dennys's, 1422 Highway 6, Sugar Land

Sophia Sisters

Every other Saturday, 8:00 AM

Contact: MaryClare Cullen, 713-480-7511, clarecullen@windstream.net

Location: La Madeleine, 2675 Town Center Blvd, Sugar Land

Grace Girls

3rd Tuesday of the month, 6:00 PM

Contact: Rachelle Vento, 713-851-0364, rachelle.vento@gmail.com

Location: La Fiesta, 11623 Katy Freeway, Houston

Mary Martha

2nd & 4th Saturday, 11:00 AM

Contact: Agnes Fernandes, 281-933-3721, agnesffernandes@gmail.com

Location: Panera Bread, 7041 FM1960 East, Atascosita

Bay Area Blessed Sisters

3rd Wednesday, 7:00 PM

Contact: Claire Hackney, 281-797-6597, ctrieng2_crh@swbell.net

Location: La Madeleine, 929 Bay Area Blvd, Webster



Houston JTD 2025 Calendar

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| <u>July</u> 8 - Board meeting 12 - Men's JTD #234 team meeting 31 - 8/3 - Men's JTD #234 Weekend | <u>August</u> 2 - Candlelight 12 - Board meeting TBD - JTD #234 Afterglow | <u>September</u> 9 - Board meeting 26 - Golf Tournament |
| <u>October</u> 14 - Board meeting 16 - Women's JTD #237 18 - Candlelight | <u>November</u> 11 - Board meeting 15 - JTD #237 Afterglow TBD - Women's JTD #241 Team meeting | <u>December</u> 9 - Board meeting |



JTD Annual Golf Tournament



Friday, September 26th!

The tournament will be a shotgun start, with registration, check-in, and lunch beginning at 11 am and tee off at noon.

Lunch will be served at the course with a dinner and awards ceremony following the event at the Gleannloch Farms Community Center located at 19420 Gleannloch Forest Drive (across from the golf course).

There will be many chances to win with prizes, a raffle, and fun events! Dress code is Collared shirt and Bermuda length shorts or pants. No jeans or metal spikes.

Registration and Sponsorship Details

Registration and Sponsorship can be signed up online (a QR code will be available soon) through the JTD website. All sponsors will receive recognition at the award ceremony. Company logos and sponsor names will be displayed with banners and signage. There are four sponsorship levels available:

\$2500 Title Sponsor

\$1000 Prize Sponsor

\$1000 Drink Sponsor

\$250 Hole Sponsor

›Please consider company gift matching contributions.

For additional questions please reach out to a member of the golf committee!

| | | |
|------------------|--------------|--|
| Randy Bame | 425-449-2263 | Randy.bame@yahoo.com |
| Eric Gallup | 832-253-4766 | Tccsupero1@yahoo.com |
| Shawn Royer | 713-834-5669 | shawn@houstonpermitservice.com |
| Tim Broxson | 832-707-6002 | Tim.broxon@dixiecarpet.com |
| Eric Casten | 847-549-7556 | Eric.casten@yahoo.com |
| Gerald Blackwell | 832-620-1457 | Geraldblackwell835@gmail.com |

Registration Link coming soon!

Be an ambassador for Houston JTD!

JTD merchandise

We have the following items available for purchase:

To purchase these items, please visit the link below on our JTD Houston website

[Merchandise | Houston Jtd](#)

We are working to replenish our inventory soon, so if we are low on sizes, please visit the site again soon.

