



Journeying
Together
in
Prayer

2016 Prayer Journal

Judson College



Welcome to the sixth annual Judson College prayer journal!

We have changed things up a bit this year, and we hope you will find the journal as inspiring and thought-provoking as we have! Rather than providing an extensive biography of each of our spotlighted women, we decided to ask each woman about her thoughts on community. Our desire to focus on community arose from reflections on our time at Judson and what made Judson unique. We realized that in addition to our academics, it was the dedication of a loving, supporting, and faithful community that made our Judson experiences so meaningful and formational.

That being said, each entry contains less biographical information and more direct quotations from our friends on the definition and value of community. We asked each woman what she has learned about community from God and through Judson. Each of the women featured in the journal demonstrate a strong commitment to discerning God's call on their lives and a deep love of Judson. As we expected, they also provided powerful answers to our questions about community.

As you make your way through the prayer journal, we hope your definition of and thoughts towards community will be broadened and challenged. We hope you will apply what the Lord reveals to you in both your own local contexts and the larger Judson community. Whether you are a current student or an alumna, you are a member of a long tradition of the Judson community, and we all have a responsibility to keep our community strong, healthy, and faithful. We have been inspired by the words here, and we hope you will be too.

Katie A. Cooper, 15

Stirling E. Hutchins, 13

Kimberly D. Johnson, 14

Co-chairs, Journeying Together in Prayer Committee



Week of January 25

Meet Deanna Waltman

Deanna Waltman graduated with the class of 2010 and currently works with a law firm in Marion, Alabama as a paralegal. She refers to John 13:34-35 as the basis for living in community: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." Deanna writes, "The people around you make up your community, and your community is a vital part of life. They build you up and support you no matter what storm you face in life. Community is about empowering one another and making a difference in one another's lives. At Judson it is called sisterhood; in Marion it is called neighbors; and in Christ it is called brothers and sisters. No matter the title or label, it is important to surround yourself with people who will help you be the best you can be."

Scripture

"For it was you who formed my inward parts;

You knit me together in my mother's womb.

I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

Wonderful are your works;

That I know very well."

Psalm 139:13-14

Prayer Focus: Admissions and Prospective Students

This week we encourage you to pray for the process of recruiting new students and everyone who is involved, including admissions staff, financial aid staff, prospective students and their families, and pastors and guidance counselors who may encourage women to attend Judson. We especially pray that the Holy Spirit will extend wisdom to these people throughout the process. For women applying to colleges and considering Judson, we pray they will consider the value of Judson's close-knit community, the sisterhood, which creates a space for growth and learning as a student and provides ample networking opportunities for her future beyond college. With the confidence that the Lord knows each prospective student by name and has known them before they were born, we pray that God will send women to Judson who can thrive in our community - women who will excel academically, socially, and spiritually at Judson.



Week of February 1

Meet Marsha Ford

Marsha Ford graduated in 2007 and is currently working at Judson as the Resident Hall Director of Barron Dormitory and the Assistant Vice President for Athletics. Her thoughts on community point to the seasonal aspect of community - each community that God places us in is for a time and a season. She writes, "I've learned that God has planted each of us in certain communities during certain seasons of our lives to learn life lessons that will mature our faith. Our community is much more than buildings and highways; it's the people that we come in contact with each day. Each community that we are a part of has some kind of influence in our lives. Sometimes we are so delighted to be a part of our local, earthly community, and other times our communities help keep us focused on our ultimate goal, that is heaven. Being a part of a community when times are good makes it easier to focus on prayer when times are tough. God uses our communities and the people in it to show His power and greatness."

Marsha's mother, Frances Dobyne Ford also graduated from Judson and is now involve in the Marion community through Sowing Seeds of Hope. Being the daughter of a Judson alumnae and a long-time resident of Marion has taught Marsha that "there are no perfect places, and some communities need more work than others. However, when we look beyond outward appearances and seek God's will there's a perfect place for each of us. I'm often reminded that God is looking for us to be his hands and feet here on Earth. The simplest acts of kindness can be a seed of God's love, whether you are helping build a ramp through Sowing Seeds of Hope or sharing the good news of Jesus Christ through mission trips you can make a difference for God's Kingdom. So Judson and my Mother have taught me that God's word is true - that the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. So I often ask myself 'Will you work to be the presence of Christ in your community?' And because I am a Judson Girl, I say yes."

Scripture

"The Lord is my light and my salvation;

Whom shall I fear?


The Lord is the stronghold of my life;

Of whom shall I be afraid?"

Psalm 27:1

Prayer Focus: Freshmen

This week we ask that you pray for the freshmen students. They are beginning their second semester at college, and many of them are still adjusting to life away from their families, living in the dorms, and the rigor of college classes. Transitions are always difficult to make, and we pray that in the midst of this transition the freshmen find stability and strength in the Lord. We pray that they are finding friends and places to thrive in the Judson community.





Week of February 8

Meet Tammie Thomas

Tammie Ayers Thomas graduated in 2003 and works for the Department of Human Resources as a social service caseworker. She has the challenging responsibility of handling child abuse investigations and foster care cases. Her definition of community expounds on the essentiality of a good community for our own growth and health. She writes, "Community is so important. It's important to get out into the world and get to know people and have a zeal for leading people to The Lord, but it is equally important to surround yourself with a small group/community so you have people to uplift you and encourage you. God loves it when believers fellowship together. It is essential for our growth as Christians!"

Scripture

"But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults.

Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me.

Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.

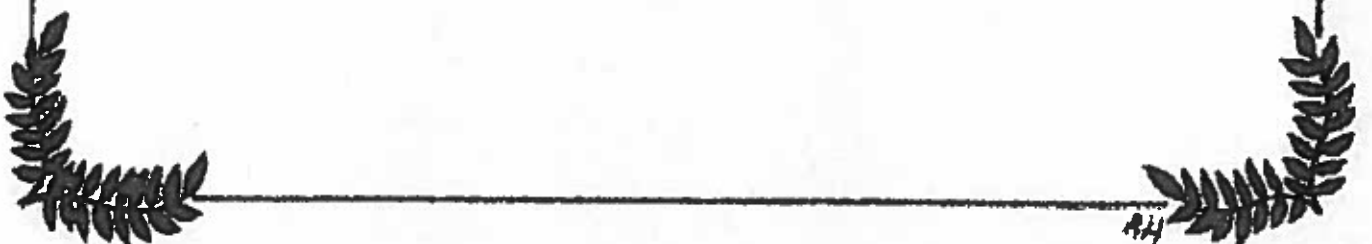
Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable to you,

O Lord, my rock and my redeemer."

Psalm 19:12-14

Prayer Focus: Junior/Sophomores

Tammie's statement and the Psalm passage both testify to the importance of surrounding ourselves with people and thoughts who are uplifting and encouraging so that we can be our best selves. The junior/sophomore class has just finished what is commonly called "the most difficult semester," the semester when they endure the joys and frustrations of Pageant. We pray that Pageant has "joined them together, joined them forever, joined them in bonds of love" as one of our dear Judson songs proclaims. We also pray that as they move into this semester, they feel refreshed and encouraged to finish their second year at Judson strong.





Week of February 15

Meet Alex

Alex will graduate in June 2016. She is conducting the last semester of her studies through the Distance Learning program from Birmingham, AL, where she is a receptionist at Grayson and Associates, P.C. When asked about the community at Judson, she wrote, "Judson is a close knit college that ensures if you are ever in need there will be many people available and present to help. Professors, faculty, staff, students, and other Marion residents know the name of just about every Judson Girl, and they are always willing to lend a hand. Community isn't just a neighbor or a colleague; it's a lifelong friend and sometimes even family. God brought me to Judson to not only study psychology and earn my degree, but also to teach me about what it means to serve Him and others as a community."

Scripture

"Your word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

I have sworn an oath and confirmed it, to observe your righteous ordinances.

I am afflicted; give me life, O Lord, according to your word.

Accept my offerings of praise, O Lord, teach me your ordinances."

Psalm 119:105-108

Prayer Focus: Seniors

As the seniors are nearing the end of their time at Judson two things are on their minds: graduating and what to do after graduation. They may find themselves feeling the anxiety they once felt as they were applying to colleges and taking their first steps on the Judson campus. In their moments of worry about their future, we pray that the Lord's peace will be upon them. We pray that they will continue to work hard on their studies until graduation and also find time to enjoy the sisterhood for just a while longer. For those who are also in the process of applying for jobs and graduate programs, we also pray. In all of their endeavors, we pray that the Lord will be "a lamp unto their feet and a light unto their path".



Week of February 22

Meet Kendel Gilcrest

Kendel Gilcrest began working for Judson in 2013 shortly after she and her family moved to Marion from Texas. As the Director of Career and Calling Initiatives, Kendel helps students adjust to college living and explore their calling. She graduated from Asbury College, a Christian liberal arts college in Kentucky, in 2002. Her perspective of community reminds us that forming and maintaining relationships is often a messy and difficult endeavor, but having those relationships are key to remembering our own value and worth. She writes, "Real community is messy. It is the place where God calls you to love the unloveable. Yet it is also a safe place where others know the most unloveable parts of yourself, and yet you are still loved - welcomed and embraced into the community and told 'You belong'."

Scripture

*"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my loving eye on you."*

Psalm 32:8

Prayer Focus: Student Services

Our prayer focus this week is on the student services staff, which includes Student Life, Athletics, and Resident Life. The people in these positions are the most responsible for and committed to creating a loving, faithful, and safe community for the students on campus. As Kendel reminds us, being in community is difficult. So our thoughts and prayers are extended to the student services staff as they face challenging situations every day. May they never lose sight of their purpose: to encourage, love, and support the students in ways that extend God's grace and love and reminds them that they are beloved children, made in the image of God. We pray for the students, also, who rely on student services staff in more ways than one, that when they encounter staff personnel, they encounter God's love.



Week of February 29

Meet Wanda Foskey

Wanda Holland Foskey graduated in 1987. Now a resident of Frisco Texas. She dedicates most of her time to being a mom and volunteering with many programs in her community, including Bible study for women and youth at her church, the 'Moms in Prayer' group associated with the local high school, baseball team mom, homeless ministry, anti-human trafficking ministry, and the Frisco Young Men's Service League. For Wanda, the Judson community was instrumental in helping her define her faith. She writes that her time at Judson was "the time that my faith became my own rather than my parents'. I was raised in a strong Christian home and didn't really question what my parents taught me about God. Once I left home and was faced with real-world issues and people who had been raised differently, I had to evaluate what I had been taught and embrace the truths of God's word for myself. Judson provided me the opportunity to put my faith to action and serve those who were not as fortunate to have a strong Christian foundation or even a loving home. God opened my eyes to His plan of Christian fellowship and responsibilities in our community."

Scripture

*"Praise the Lord, my soul;
all my inmost being, praise his holy name."*

Psalm 103:1

Prayer Focus: Facilities and Housekeeping Staff

This week's prayer focus is for the facilities and housekeeping staff who keep our buildings functioning properly and clean. These men and women work tirelessly to keep our campus beautiful, beginning their work before most students even rise from their night's sleep. We extend a prayer of thanksgiving and gratitude for their work and ask that they feel the love and appreciation that they so deserve. We also pray that the Lord will be with them in all that they do, granting them peace and blessings.



Week of March 7

Meet Lenora Kendrick

Lenora Moore Kendrick graduated in 1992 and currently works at Gruenloh and Associates, P.C., an accounting firm in Robertsdale, AL, she is also the President of the Baldwin County alumnae chapter, but that is only one of her many commitments. In her family community, she and her husband Brent work together to raise their 17 year old daughters. She and her family are also heavily involved with their church community, Robertsdale First Baptist Church. Finally, Lenora is also involved with the Baldwin County community through her service as the President of the Central Baldwin Education Foundation. Lenora counts her communities, past and present, as answered prayers before she even asked for them. She says, "God continues to show me grace and mercy that His love is never ending. Much like His provision for my Alma Mater, God continues to bless me and know my needs before I do. I am thankful that God allowed me to attend a Christian college and grow my faith, and I am thankful for the life He provides no matter the circumstances."

Scripture

*"Show me your ways, Lord,
teach me your paths.
Guide me in your truth and teach me,
for you are God my Savior,
and my hope is in you all day long."*

Psalm 25:4-5

Prayer Focus: Faculty and Academic Support Staff

As you spend time in prayer for Judson this week, we encourage you to think specifically about our faculty, library personnel, and academic support staff. We pray that they will continue to teach and offer words of wisdom that challenge the students to explore new ideas. We also pray that they will teach with kindness and compassion, being attentive to the needs and feedback of their students. With Spring Break approaching, students and professors may become overwhelmed with assignments and grading. We pray for the peace and the endurance that they need to accomplish their goals this semester.



Week of March 14

This week is Spring Break at Judson, and we decided to focus on the mission trips planned by Campus Minister Laura Lee. She has planned trips for three destinations: New York City, Miami, and Marion. We are providing the names of participants and leaders for each trip so that you may keep them all in your prayers by name.

New York City: Queteeria Mooney, Celicia Maynor, Kayla Oliver, Katie Owens, Lauren Hurt, Erin Brown. **Leaders:** Cynthia White and Sarah Fowler

Miami: Kristen Telley, Karina Griniage, Elisabeth Grandstaff, Briana Allen, Kai Bu, Destany Sherman. **Leader:** Andrea Abernathy

Marion: Alexis Whetstone, Chandra Barnes, Toni Austin, Bethany Kinard
Leaders: Laura Lee and Marsha Ford

Scripture

"The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade on your right hand.

The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in

from this time forth and forevermore."

Psalm 121:5-8

Prayer

As we pray for the women going on mission trips near and far this week, we pray for the Lord to be present with them. We pray for the Lord to give them courage to do the work they were sent to do, wisdom to keep themselves safe, and compassion to see the image of God in each person they encounter. We pray that the Lord will provide guidance to the leaders and protection over each person. For the communities who will be welcoming them, we pray that the Lord has prepared their hearts, spirits, and minds for a new thing. We pray for the Holy Spirit to be present and moving in all things.

"Compassion asks us to go where it hurts, to enter into the places of pain, to share in brokenness, fear, confusion, and anguish. Compassion challenges us to cry out with those in misery, to mourn with those who are lonely, to weep with those in tears. Compassion requires us to be weak with the weak, vulnerable with the vulnerable, and powerless with the powerless. Compassion means full immersion in the condition of being human."

~Henri Nouwen





Week of March 21

Meet April Deal

April Autrey Deal graduated with the class of 1974, and since 2009 she has worked at the YWCA as the Planned Giving Coordinator. Prior to working at the YWCA, she worked with the Greater Birmingham Convention and Visitors Bureau. She says that God taught her from an early age that community is about loving our neighbors. Her parents were faithful believers and church-goers of two different denominations, and April and her sister alternated going to each church. She says, "From each church I learned that we are all brothers and sisters on this planet and we should respect each other, treat each other with dignity, and listen to one another. This was also practiced in our home. I learned that loving God and loving neighbor are intricately related." Her understanding of community continued to grow through her time at Judson and especially now as an alumna as she thinks about the vastness of our sisterhood. "Judson is a rich part of my life. As an alumna, I feel that all who went there are truly part of a sisterhood. This far reaching sisterhood has taught me the value of sustained friendships, and no matter where I go, I am always delighted and surprised when I meet other Judson alumna. The values and lessons taught at Judson have stayed with me, and I am grateful that Judson's sense of community expands world-wide. Whether our work is at home or parts unknown, that special Judson community travels with all of us and with me, for it is in my heart. What has Judson taught me about community? It has taught me that we are part of something greater than ourselves and like my upbringing, if we stick to the basics: 'Love God and love neighbor,' we will help make our corner of the world better."

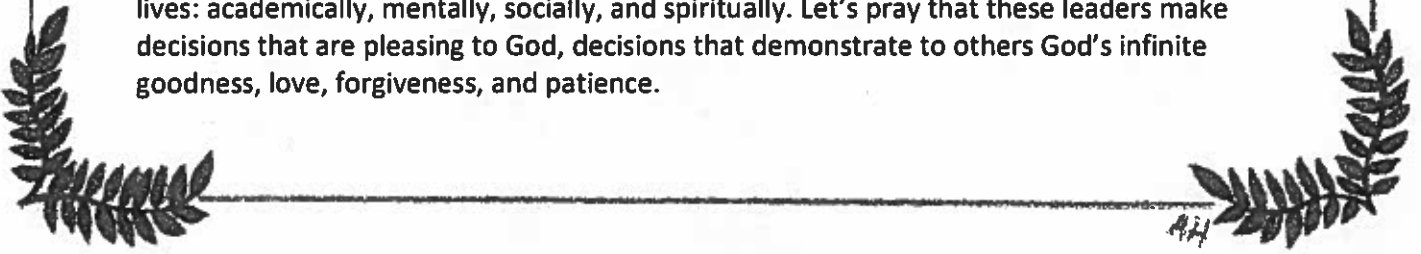
Scripture

*"Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me from your presence
or take your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me."*

Psalm 51:10-12

Prayer Focus: Administrators

Dr. Potts and other administrators often make tough decisions that affect the present and future of Judson. This week we hold them in our prayers, as we are confident that they strive to make Judson a place that enriches the lives of students in all aspects of their lives: academically, mentally, socially, and spiritually. Let's pray that these leaders make decisions that are pleasing to God, decisions that demonstrate to others God's infinite goodness, love, forgiveness, and patience.





Week of March 28

Meet Laura Lee Logan

Laura Lee Logan graduated in 2012 and is now in her second year of teaching 9th grade English at Smiths Station Freshman Center. In her time at Judson, Laura Lee's community of friends and teammates were central to her life and faith journey. She writes, "At Judson, I definitely learned that good friends and teammates make life more fun and help provide the support that you need to face the challenges placed before you. God specifically blessed me at Judson by giving me several like-minded Christian friends who reminded me to pursue that relationship with Christ that is so central to a joyful and meaningful life. As a Christian, being plugged in to a local church where Biblical truth is taught and having some Christian friends to walk through challenges with me has been really important in my walk with the Lord. At Judson, there seemed like little chance to do life alone because of the strong community feeling on campus, and I liked that!" She also names the struggles of finding meaningful community after college and how she is working to build a new community. "I am now adjusting to what this post-college phase of life should be like in terms of community. I am no longer living on campus with friends nearby (or with as much time to do fun stuff after work). I still keep in contact with some of those friends, but we are just in physically different places now. I don't have teammates I see at practice every night, and I miss that sometimes. Like every stage of life though, I can see how the Lord has put me around new people who I am starting to see as community. The women who teach on the same hall as me have become part of my new community. They give me teaching tips and listen when I've had a long day. There is an older woman who leads a Bible study I attend who speaks truth into my life, and I'm so thankful for her. I am currently praying about which church in my area to make my permanent body that I can plug into and grow in. So, community is still a definite need for me!"

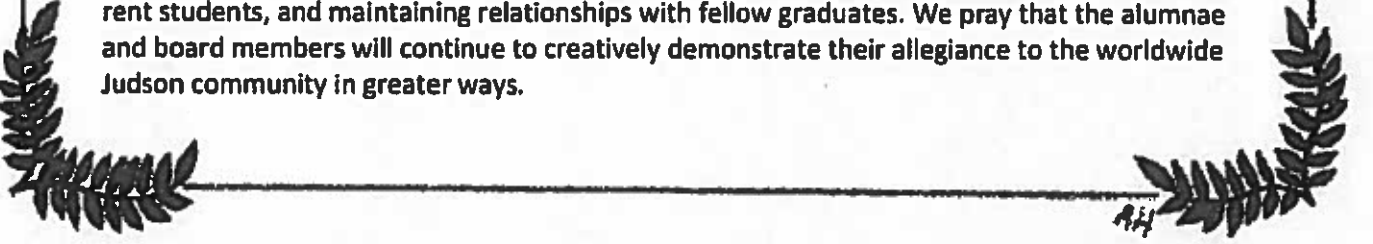
Scripture


*"The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of his hands."*

Psalms 19:1

Prayer Focus: Alumnae and Boards

Given the effort that the people on campus put into sustaining and improving Judson, there are many people who are not regularly on campus who also work just as hard for Judson. The Board of Trustees, Board of Governors, Board of Advisors, and alumnae consist of people who are often able to have the biggest impact on Judson. They are instrumental in providing guidance and support for the college. We offer a prayer of thanksgiving that Judson has been blessed with such dedicated people to watch over the college. We pray that the Lord will be with them in their daily lives and also in their conducting Judson business. We pray that alumnae will continue to find effective ways of reaching prospective students, supporting current students, and maintaining relationships with fellow graduates. We pray that the alumnae and board members will continue to creatively demonstrate their allegiance to the worldwide Judson community in greater ways.





Week of April 4

Meet Sau Nam

Sau Nam was a student from Myanmar who graduated in 2014. After graduation, she returned home for a brief period, but she is now back in the United States participating in a new program at Samford University, Masters of Education: Policy, Organization, and Leadership. She will graduate from this program in December 2016, and she plans to return to Myanmar to teach. She says that her prayer is for God to send her friends and to help her be a good symbol of God to those whom she encounters. She continues, "I don't have much to offer people, but I offer myself and my time to brothers and sisters in Christ. Spending time with someone in Christ is so precious and beautiful to me. Spending time with other people is how God has shown me to live in community with others." Sau Nam reminds us of the simplicity of community and the beauty of being in the presence of others.


Scripture

*"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it;
for he founded it on the seas
and established it on the waters."*

Psalm 24:1-2

Prayer Focus: The future of Judson College

For those of you who have joined in prayer with other Judson graduates, students, professors, and friends for the past weeks: we have all been reminded of how important the Judson community is and has been for many women as it has helped shape their lives. But most importantly we have been reminded of what it looks like to be in community with God. This week's prayer focus is the future of Judson College. As we pray for the future of Judson, we include the community as it exists now, those who have come before us, and those who will come behind us. For those who will come behind us, we pray for God to use the Judson community to help them grow, find their purpose, and excel, just as God has done for us. For our current community, we pray that we are people who "send forth blessed light" to all who we encounter and that we are people who are known by our good works and the love of Christ that we extend to one another. Through this others will be drawn to Judson because of what God has done in the lives of so many who have walked "these halls of ivy".





Concluding Remarks

We thank you for journeying with us through prayer over the past several weeks. Our prayer is that your lives have been enriched by the reflections offered to you here. As you move forward, we hope you will continue the practice of keeping Judson in your prayers.

In our final remarks we would like to extend a special thanks to the women who shared with us their visions of community. We love that each answer was unique and that each answer spoke truth of what community does and how important it is for the individual to be connected and involved in the lives of others!

We would also like to extend a special thanks to Amanda Nolander Hunte for designing the artwork for this prayer journal. Amanda graduated in 2012 and is now a full time artist. We are so appreciative that she volunteered her time and talent to help us create a beautiful prayer journal for you this year. We are so pleased with the original artwork she created for us!

Finally, we are thankful for being given this opportunity to support our Judson community in this way by Alumnae President, Elizabeth Holland Hutchins. It has been a rewarding experience to create this journal for you.

May God's peace be with you always.

