

April 2011 ✦ Issue 11-04 ✦ Lent into Easter

ST. GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

4301 North IH 35 Austin, TX 78722

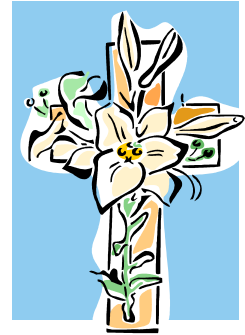
Church office: 512.454.2523

Fax: 512.454.2524

Church website: www.sgchurch.org

E-mail: stgeorgeaustin@gmail.com

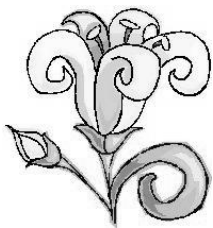
Church office hours: Monday – Thursday, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.



+ 2011 GRACE SERIES: LENTEN PROGRAM - WEDNESDAYS DURING LENT

Dr. Greg Garrett is leading St. George's Episcopal Church through a series of lectures and discussions during the season of Lent. Please join us as writer, teacher, and theologian Dr. Greg Garrett explores with us the challenges and possibilities for 21st-century Christianity. The series is based on his most recent work, *The Other Jesus*. This semester's 'Grace Series' will continue on **Wednesday evenings, April 6 & April 13, from 6:30pm to 8:00p.m.** The evening will begin with a pot-luck meal in Kleberg Hall followed by a lecture and discussion with Greg. Family, friends, and neighbors are welcome! Kleberg Hall is on the south side of the church property along Ardenwood. Click [here](#) for directions and a map. For more information about the series, click [here](#). Donations are invited to gather funds for Greg's time with our community.

+ EASTER LILIES

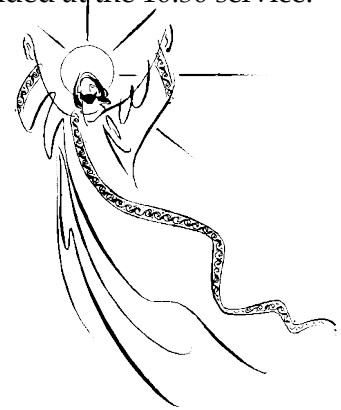


In celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, St. George's will be adorned with Easter lilies at the Easter Vigil and Easter Day services. If you wish to make an offering for the lilies, please complete the form in Sunday's bulletin and place it with your cash or check in the alms basin during the offertory. You may also mail it to the church office at 4301 N IH-35, Austin, TX 78722. Names of donors, along with memorials or thanksgivings (optional), will be published in the Easter Vigil and Easter Day service bulletins. Please turn in your card by **Palm Sunday, April 17th** to have your name appear in the bulletin. **The suggested donation is \$15 per plant.**

Holy Week and Easter Services at St. George's

Please join us as we prepare for and celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ

- April 17 **PALM SUNDAY**
Regular services of Holy Eucharist at 8:00 a.m.* and 10:30 a.m. The Rite II, 10:30 service will begin outdoors, in front of room 5 of the school wing. Here we will take part in the Liturgy of the Palms and process with palm branches into the church. The service includes a reading of the Passion Gospel. Childcare provided at the 10:30 service.
- April 18 **MONDAY IN HOLY WEEK**
12:15 p.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II*
- April 19 **TUESDAY IN HOLY WEEK**
12:15 p.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II*
- April 20 **WEDNESDAY IN HOLY WEEK**
12:15 p.m. Stations of the Cross (around the St. George's campus), No Holy Eucharist*
- April 21 **MAUNDY THURSDAY**
7:00 p.m. Service in the church with foot washing (optional), Holy Eucharist, shared meal of fruit, bread and cheese, followed by the stripping of the Altar. Bring fruit, bread, wine or juice to share at the agape meal. Childcare available.
- April 21 **GETHSEMANE VIGIL**
From the end of the Maundy Thursday service until the start of the Good Friday service, you are invited to keep watch with the sacramental bread and wine reserved from the Maundy Thursday service, in remembrance of Jesus' plea to his disciples to "stay awake for one hour with me." A sheet will be available on which you may sign up for one-hour shifts during the hours of the vigil.
- April 22 **GOOD FRIDAY**
12:00 p.m. Good Friday service, with Eucharist from the reserved Sacrament followed by lentil soup lunch in quiet. Childcare available.
- April 23 **EASTER VIGIL**
7:00 p.m. Our first celebration of the Resurrection is this ancient liturgy, in which we recall by candlelight our salvation history through the Old Testament stories, renew our baptismal vows, and proclaim "Alleluia" at the news of the risen Christ. We will begin the service outside, just east of the church, to celebrate the new light liturgy. Bring bells to ring! Childcare available.
- April 23 **EASTER DAY**
Regular services of Holy Eucharist at 8:00 a.m.* and 10:30 a.m. The 10:30 service will include choral music, the flowering of the cross, and possibly baptisms. The service will be followed by a children's Easter egg hunt and reception. Childcare available.



Children may bring flowers for the cross. Also, those children who will be staying for the egg hunt should leave at least one dozen plastic eggs in the designated box in the church office before the service begins.

*Childcare not available for these services

+ PARISH FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Below is a statement of St. George's actual income and expenses compared with the budgeted income and expenses for the first 2 months of the year. The primary reason for the difference between budgeted and actual income and expenses is a large payment to catch up on some pension payments for Kevin that we missed last year and that was not budgeted.

YEAR TO DATE FINANCIAL STATEMENT JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2011

	Actual	Budgeted
Loose offering & pledges	\$24,703	\$25,738
Other income*	\$4,986	\$5,964
Total Income	\$29,689	\$31,702
Total Expenses	\$38,447	\$35,233
Difference between Income and Expenses	-\$8,758	-\$3,531

*includes donations for altar flowers, building use fees, reimbursements from the day school and St. Hildegard's, etc. This does not include donations to outreach committee projects or other special fund-raisers.

+ WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP - SATURDAY, APRIL 2ND, 3:00-5:00 PM

The St. George's Women's book group will meet **April 2nd, Saturday from 3 - 5 p.m.** at Belinda McGee's house to discuss "The Life of Pi" by Yann Martel. Please contact Carolyn Moreau at carolynmoreau@austin.rr.com for more information.

+ CELEBRATING OUR GRADUATES - SUNDAY, MAY 29TH, 10:30 AM SERVICE

St. George's will offer a special liturgy at the 10:30 service on **Sunday, May 29th** to celebrate those graduating or moving forward in their educational journey. We will offer a blessing for all who are graduating from high school, college, technical schools, certification programs and/or programs of formation (i.e. Education for Ministry). All students are invited to attend this service, but if you (or your child) is graduating from one of the education institutions listed above, please inform Becca Meaders at the church office (454-2523 or stgeorgeaustin@gmail.com) so we can honor him or her in the service.

+ HEALING SERVICES - WEDNESDAYS AT 12:15 PM

St. George's offers a healing service to the community every Wednesday at 12:15 pm. This service provides an opportunity for members and persons in the community to gather for the Holy Eucharist, healing prayers, and a shared sermon. The Episcopal Church understanding is that through the laying on of hands and the administering of the sacrament of unction (anointing of oil) God's healing grace is bestowed upon the sick and needy. The emphasis of healing during the service by no means denotes a cure of particular ailments. Healing signifies a restoration to wholeness for individuals seeking the sacrament of unction, and therefore maintaining and strengthening their relationship with God. God's healing of the sick in mind, body, and spirit is, and always will be, a mystery to humanity. Through the celebration of God's mysteries, we become participants in the divine, whether a cure is the ultimate outcome or not.

+ COMMUNION AVAILABLE THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF LAY EUCHARISTIC VISITORS



If you, or someone you know, is not able to attend regular Sunday services due to hospitalization, illness, being home bound, or any other reason the ministry of a Lay Eucharistic Visitor is available to you. Please contact the church office or the Rev. Kevin LJ Schubert directly. Once scheduled, a Lay Eucharistic Visitor will bring the sacraments of bread and wine, consecrated at our primary Sunday service, to you.

+ NEWS FROM ST. GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL DAY SCHOOL +

St. George's Day School classes are studying and experiencing the rodeo, signs of spring, wind, and farm and zoo animals. It is a busy, busy time of year, but the beautiful warm weather makes us all very happy!

We got some wonderful news from SAES (the Southwestern Association of Episcopal Schools) that we were re-accredited for the maximum amount of time - 5 years. We must write a report to address all of the recommendations in the visit report after 5 years and, if all goes well, we won't have another visit for 10 years. The visiting team was very impressed with our school, especially the close sense of community and the loving interactions between teachers and students throughout the day. Another big thank you to everyone who helped in the accreditation effort this year.

All are invited to our annual fundraiser, A "Knight" for St. George's. Please call Laura Colangelo in the school office (452-6063) for tickets or more information.

Calling all Ladies and Lords in the Land!

Please join us for ...

A "Knight" for St. George's

An annual silent and live auction event benefitting our beloved little school

Cherrywood Coffee House 1400 East 38 ½ Street

Sunday, May 1st 8:00 - 9:00 pm

Tickets: \$30/each ~ \$50/couple

+ OUTREACH UPDATE

St. Georges is partnering with All Saints to help build a home for **Habitat for Humanity**. This home is being built for the Mena Family. No training is required and help is needed with lots of painting, landscaping, fence building etc. Also, help is need on the lunch crew. We will continue work at the home on **April 9th, 8 am to 4 pm**. Contact **Hollie Gordon** to sign up for this great outreach project, hlemond@austin.rr.com or **922-2190**.

Katie Carnes and Hollie & Spencer Gordon took the Foster Girls to the Lady Longhorn vs. AM Basketball game. We all enjoyed the game except for the final score. In the Spring we are planning to go to the Umlauf gardens, ride the Duck Mobile, and go kayaking again. If you would like to join us for one of these outings email Hollie at hlemond@austin.rr.com.

Outreach finished collecting "Handbags for Hope" on March 28th. We delivered 76 purses to the Travis County Sheriff's office on March 31st. The handbags were given to women that are at risk for domestic violence. Inside the purses will be contact numbers for free legal advice and safe houses. Thanks to everyone who donated!



Hollie Gordon delivering "Handbags for Hope"

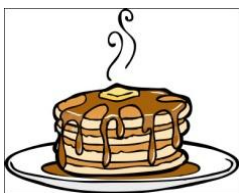
The Outreach committee has chosen to support the Austin Samaritans in their efforts to improve the overall well being in Nicaragua. This year Outreach will support the education efforts in one of the three schools supported by Austin Samaritans. A quality education provides hopes to lift children and families out of poverty and despair. Our goal is to help Austin Samaritans provide students in Colegio Cristiano Presbiteriano (CCP) with tuition, uniforms, books, supplies and a hot nutritious meal every school day. CCP is located in one of the poorest barrios in Managua, Mercado Oriental. On **April 10th**, we will begin the sale of a lovely pack of note cards carrying a message that St George's cares about the outside world. We, also, plan to have a fund raising luncheon on **May 22nd**. Please plan on attending; we pray you will provide a fair donation to help us achieve the goal of \$1500. Please call Sandra Villalaz (762-8349) if you want or need more information or want to take some packs of cards out to your circle of friends.

+ CHRISTOPHER HOUSE BASKET DELIVERY SCHEDULE +

Mar 27 - April 2: Denise Hope
April 10-16: Heather & Kevin Schubert
April 24-30: Ruth Crawford

April 3-9: Dolan-Henderson Family
April 17-23: Henry Welles
May 1-7: Janine Borelli & Gayle Wall

+ YOUTH UPDATE



Our St. George's family has once again astonished us with your generosity! The EYC Mardi Gras pancake breakfast raised an amazing \$645 for the Austin area Crop Walk. Thank you all for your unbelievable kindness and support to our youth. Walkers were Adam and Gabriel Moreau, Luke Stevens, Ellen and Sara Scarborough, Deblina Moulik, Suzette Puckett, Samantha Stevens, Carolyn Moreau and Martha Paull.

+ HILDEGARD'S ILLUMINATION: EMPTINESS IN LENT

A famous professor full of knowledge and strong opinions comes to a Zen master for instruction. The Zen master welcomes the guest and offers a small cup, then begins to pour tea. When the cup is full, the master continues to pour for several minutes and the tea spills out and runs over. The distinguished visitor is dumbfounded. The master calmly explains, "Like the cup you are already full of your own opinions. How can I show you Zen unless you first empty your cup?"

I first read this story in one of Henri Nouwen's* books years ago. The picture of the tea pouring out onto the startled visitor, splashing on clothing and skin, cushions and mats has stayed with me. The story reminds me that emptying and letting go are crucial for Christians too. It is only human to hang on to the familiar, especially to those things that serve us well. The Holy Spirit seems to always be loosening our grip and getting us ready for something fresh and new. At times we can sense that and follow the Spirit with ease; other times it's more difficult. Lent is the time of the Church Year when we try to make room in our lives for hearing the Spirit with open hearts and minds. Of course it is important to do that year round but Lent is set aside as a special preparation time. At its core fasting from food or activity is about making emptiness, making space for God.

This Lent at St. Hildegard's we have a theme of "emptiness." On Ash Wednesday each of us made a small bowl from damp, pliable clay. The bowls have gradually dried and hardened. Every Sunday we begin the Eucharist with a silent walking meditation, each of us carrying our own small bowl as a gesture of emptiness, twice around the circle. When we look at the bowls set out on a table, we see a beautiful picture of our community – small vessels, each handmade and unique, brought together, waiting to be filled.

At the Offertory we sing a simple chant, "Through our emptiness flows the breath of God..." As we move to stand around the altar-table for Holy Communion, there is a sense of communal emptiness and expectation that deepens week by week. Singing and dancing a beautiful new chant with words by Angelus Silesius (1624-1677), "God is a pure No-thing, concealed in now and here. The less we reach for God, the more God will appear," reminds us to be open to God's timing and ways, rather than grasping.

Of course for most of us life continues to be busy and pressured with many demands. Yet at a soul level this deeper preparation is going on. Maybe a few of us are able to be more accepting of limits, to make time for a quiet walk to enjoy the springtime flowers and listen to the birds, to find the gift of a slower pace. For others though things may even speed up with school activities, gardening, SXSW or Spring Break trips. Emptiness comes as a gift in the midst of all we do. I love the image of the weed that is able to find the crack in the pavement and push up, bringing forth a beautiful bloom. It's not about how successful we are at keeping Lent but about the grace of God finding us wherever we are. May you know the blessing of a Holy Lent wherever you are!

Blessings, Judith

* an internationally known priest, teacher and author of books for the spiritual journey.

+ CONGRATULATIONS +

To all who were baptized and confirmed when Bishop Doyle was at St. George's on February 27th. Those baptized were Parker Carlisle, Angela Reasoner, and Claire Trowbridge. Those confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church were Liam Dolan-Henderson, Adam Moreau, Gabriel Moreau, Deblina Moulik, Ellen Scarborough, Sara Scarborough, Maddie Sparks, Luke Stevens, Erin Thompson, and Trevor Thompson.

Almighty and everliving God, let your fatherly hand ever be over these your servants; let your Holy Spirit ever be with them; and so lead them in the knowledge and obedience of your Word, that they may serve you in this life, and dwell with you in the life to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

+ NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE OF TEXAS

In order to read about fellow parishioners, get great ideas for ministry from other congregations or receive notice of upcoming conferences and events (like Episcopal Night with the Astros), you may do one or all of the following:

Visit our new website:

<http://www.epicenter.org>

Subscribe to the bi-weekly e-newsletter:

Please email Luke Blount at **lblount@epicenter.org** to receive the e-newsletter. The email newsletter includes important news and events from around the Diocese of Texas that used to be included in the Texas Episcopalian newspaper, but is now delivered online.

Visit our online version of the quarterly Dialog magazine:

<http://www.omagdigital.com/publication/?i=62992>

Visit our articles page and calendar:

<http://www.epicenter.org/articles>

<http://www.epicenter.org/calendar/>

Subscribe to our RSS news feed:

<http://www.epicenter.org/mediafiles/articles.xml>

Find us on Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/texasdiocese>

Follow us on Twitter:

<http://www.twitter.com/texasdiocese>

<http://www.twitter.com/texasbishop>

Follow the Bishop's blogs:

<http://www.texasbishop.blogspot.com> and <http://www.hitchhikingthebible.blogspot.com/>



COFFEE HOUR HOSTS



April 3 - Outreach Committee
April 17 - Women's Book Group
May 1 - Lay Eucharistic Ministers

April 10 - Choir
April 24 - Easter: Special Menu TBD
May 8 - Altar Guild



APRIL BIRTHDAYS



April 4 - Judy Wilkerson
April 12 - Bill Wilkerson
April 21 - Henry Welles
April 28 - Chloe Carrera

April 8 - Ralph Hausser
April 13 - Walter Long
April 22 - Vivienne Wise
April 29 - Claire Jones

April 12 - Buck Edwards
April 15 - Ryan Couming
April 27 - Stephen Linam

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

April 1 - Kelly & Suzette Puckett
April 3 - Louann O'Bannion & Tom Sethre

LINKS

<http://www.sgchurch.org/worship4.asp> Lay Ministry Schedule
<http://www.sgchurch.org/events3.asp> The Banner (including past electronic issues)
www.stgeorges-austin.org St. George's Day School
<http://www.io.com/~kellywp/> The Lectionary - a calendar of current scripture readings
http://www.episcopalchurch.org/episcopal_life.htm Episcopal Life Online
<http://www.epicenter.org> Episcopal Diocese of Texas
<http://www.campallen.org/> Camp Allen
<http://www.stgeorgescourt.org/> St. George's Court
www.hildegard-austin.org St. Hildegard's Community

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

April 2	Women's Book Group, 3-5:00 pm
April 6	Grace Series: Lenten Program, 6:30-8:00pm
April 9	Habitat for Humanity Build, 8:00am - 4:00pm
April 13	Grace Series: Lenten Program, 6:30-8:00pm
May 1	"A Knight for St. George's," 6:00-9:00pm
May 22	Austin Samaritans Luncheon & Fundraiser
May 29	Service Celebrating Our Graduates, 10:30am

The Rev. Kevin LJ Schubert
Rector

The Rev. Judith Liro
*Associate Rector and Minister to
St. Hildegard's Community*

Paul Pew *Music Minister*
Becca Meaders *Office Administrator*
Laura Colangelo *Day School Director*
Maria Tello *Nursery Attendant*

Vestry
Herb Dickson
Hollie Gordon
Ralph Hausser
Scott Hoffman
David McGhee
Ramón Treviño

Frances Rickard *Senior Warden*
Jan Phillips *Junior Warden*
Hal Stevens *Clerk*

Sunday Schedule

8:00am - Holy Eucharist Rite I
8:00am - Contemplative prayer
9:45am - Choir rehearsal
10:30am - Holy Eucharist Rite II with Kids Word (Nursery available)
4:00pm - St. Hildegard's Worship

The next issue of THE BANNER will go out on **May 2nd**. Deadline for news is **April 27th**. Please e-mail information you would like included in next month's edition to stgeorgeaustin@gmail.com.

Worshiping God together, sharing the Gospel, and serving God's children.