

August 2011 + Issue 11-08 + Season after Pentecost

ST. GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

4301 North IH 35 • Austin, TX 78722

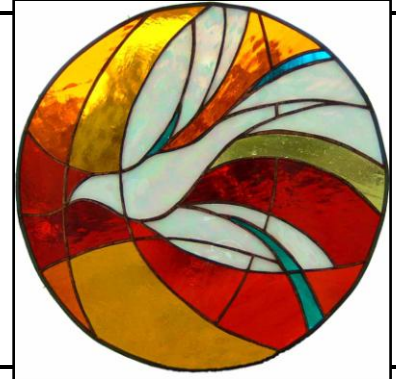
Church office: 512.454.2523

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.



+ WELCOME OUR NEW CURATE!

At this month's vestry meeting, your parish representatives voted to create and fund the position of curate. The position of curate in the Diocese of Texas is typically held by a recent seminary graduate and newly ordained person to the priesthood. Thus, the curacy works like an internship where the curate will learn how to function as a priest in the church. **The Rev. Josephine Robertson** has gladly accepted this position at St. George's! Josephine is an exceptionally bright individual with great energy and gifts to bring to our community. She graduated from the Seminary of the Southwest this past May with a Master of Divinity degree. Earlier this year Josephine was ordained to the transitional diaconate. Her ordination to the priesthood will be a great celebration here at St. George's at **10:00am** on **August 13th** administered by Bishop Ousley of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan. As an opportunity to visit with Josephine before her ordination, John and Frances Rickard are hosting a meet and greet at their home (4107 Rockford Ln.) on **August 10th** from **5:30-7:00pm**. **All are invited to the meet and greet, as well as the ordination!** Please join us for these joyous celebrations as we welcome Josephine to the St. George's family!

+ A NOTE FROM OUR CURATE

Greetings from your new curate! I am delighted by the opportunity to serve and learn with you over the coming year and wanted to give you a brief introduction before I arrive in August. I was born and raised in rural Michigan and worked in Michigan as a software engineer before God called me to Austin for seminary. I am blessed with a loving husband, Tim, and two step sons of whom we are incredibly proud. Jacob serves in the Air Force, and Lucas is a Navy medic. We look forward to meeting you all and to exploring this opportunity for new ministry at St. George's.

Blessings of Peace,
The Rev. Josephine Robertson

+ **PARISH GARAGE SALE - AUGUST 6TH, 7:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

As part of our focus on the stewardship of possessions this summer, St. George's will hold a garage sale on **Saturday, August 6th from 7:00am to 12:00pm**. It's a great fund-raiser for the parish and will give you an opportunity to clear out the clutter in your life. Storage space before the sale is limited, although we do have a pod in the Kleberg parking lot if you need storage ahead of time. **We are looking for several volunteers who can help with sorting and pricing the garage sale items on Friday. Also, we need volunteers who can help move sales items and serve at the checkout table on Saturday.** If you would like to volunteer or have questions, please contact Belinda McGhee at 388-1476 or belindam18@gmail.com.

+ **WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP - SATURDAY, AUGUST 13TH, 3:00-5:00 PM**

The St. George's Women's book group will meet **Saturday, August 13th, from 3 to 5 pm** at the home of Carolyn Moreau. We will be discussing "Winter's Bone" by Daniel Woodrell. Please contact Carolyn Moreau at carolynmoreau@austin.rr.com for more information.

+ **RALLY DAY AT ST. GEORGE'S**

On Sunday, **August 21st**, St. George's will celebrate the various ministries within our church. We will combine our two regular Sunday services for Rally Day and worship together at **9:30 am**. During the service we will have our "Blessing of the Backpacks" (and/or lunch boxes) as well as the Installation of our Day School Teachers to honor the beginning of another school year. Students who are preschool through adult should bring their backpacks or lunch boxes to church for a special blessing. After the service we will enjoy a potluck meal together, so bring your favorite dish to share with the parish! During the meal you will be presented with information regarding selected ministries. There will also be ministry sign-up sheets available, giving you an opportunity to participate in our various excellent ministries. Mark your calendars to attend this special day in the life of St. George's!

+ **ST. GEORGE'S: CORE VALUES AND VISION**

Our beloved parish is currently in a state of transition! There is recognizable growth and energy within our family. We have witnessed excellent opportunities for St. George's over the past year and some on the horizon in the near future. Due to the transition of our parish, it is necessary for us to clearly state who we are and what we deem as our important values. St. George's parish will look to the future to create a vision plan after our leadership has determined the core values. On **Saturday, August 27th**, the St. George's leadership will gather to determine our core values and create a new mission statement that reflects them. Continuing this process, on **Saturday, October 15th**, the entire St. George's community will be invited to attend a visioning workshop to set a course for the parish to move into the future with our established core values in place. Because of the importance our school has in the life of the parish, the school will develop their own core values and create a vision simultaneously with the church. The St. George's vestry has employed a diocesan facilitator, Mary Parmer, to lead the work of the parish and school. In the months to come, look for more information concerning this important work in the life of our community.

+ THE DISCOVERY SERIES: ADULT CONFIRMATION CLASS

This series of classes is intended to teach those seeking to be confirmed, those that are curious about confirmation, and those persons already confirmed more about St. George's and the Episcopal Church. During this four week course, anyone interested will have the opportunity to learn about our worship, our history, our theology, our ministries, our expectations – you name it!

The course will be held each Sunday, **August 28 - September 25, from 9:15-10:15 in the Library.** Participants that have completed the class and aren't already confirmed in the Episcopal Church will be eligible to receive the sacrament of confirmation at a special liturgy on October 2nd at 10:30 a.m. by The Right Rev. Dena Harrison, Bishop Suffragan, The Diocese of Texas. Below is a list of the scheduled topics for each class in the series.

Sunday, August 28	Introductions, Life of Prayer & Service to God
Sunday, September 4	No Class: Labor Day Weekend
Sunday, September 11	Theology, Faith, History, & Biblical Interpretation
Sunday, September 18	St. George's Community: Current Ministries & Hopes
Sunday, September 25	The Sunday Eucharist & Beyond
Sunday, October 2	Confirmation w/the Bishop

+ LABOR DAY AT ST. GEORGE'S

This year, Sunday, **September 4th**, is the time we pause to remember the contribution each of us makes to the building of God's kingdom in the world and to renew our understanding of our work in life as a form of partnership with God. You are encouraged to bring an appropriate symbol of your labor to present at the altar. For those working and earning a salary, the choice is usually pretty straightforward. Ditto those in school. If you're retired or not currently employed, you might give some thought to what your current calling or mission in life is. (For some, it's finding a job!) A liturgy will follow the Prayers of the People and the symbols will be presented. If you forget to bring something (or for anybody who didn't get the word) there will be an opportunity to write down the name of the symbol and present that instead.

+ GOD IS LOVE!

The First Letter of John reminds us that "God is Love." And the people of St. George's certainly express that love in many ways. Now we have another opportunity to show and share love with our community. On **Saturday, September 10th**, at **11:00 am** in downtown Austin, members of St. George's and St. Hildegard's will march together in the Austin Pride 2011 parade.

St. George's has a long history of love and support for our lesbian and gay members. Marching in this parade presents a unique opportunity to both show that loving support and to draw to our community LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and queer) people looking for a safe, accepting and faith-filled environment.

Everyone is invited to participate. Details about when and where to meet will be available closer to the date. If you're interested in participating, please contact Scott Hoffman (TexanPurdue2002@yahoo.com). We need to let Austin Pride know how many of us are marching.

+ CHOIR REHEARSAL RESUMES – TUESDAY, AUGUST 23RD, 7:00 PM

St. George's choir will resume their Tuesday night rehearsals beginning on August 23rd. Rehearsals take place in the church every Tuesday at 7:00 pm until next summer. Please contact our music director Paul Pew at paulpew@austin.rr.com if you'd like more information about the choir.

+ WELCOME ST. GEORGE'S SEMINARIANS!

Beginning Sunday, September 11th, St. George's will have two new faces at our worship services! Middler Seminarians from the Seminary of the Southwest, Susanna Brosseau and Seth Olson, will join the St. George's family to learn parish ministry from our great church. Susanna & Seth have been assigned to St. George's for the remainder of their seminary careers over the next two years. Their training will also include a special component new to seminary training. St. George's is partnering with the non-profit organization, Comfort the Children International (www.ctcinternational.org), led by its executive director, The Rev. Zane Wilemon. Rev. Wilemon is a local Episcopal priest that created and developed CTC ten years ago as a relief organization for the peoples of Kenya. Please go to their website to learn more about their organization. Our seminarians will train with both St. George's and CTC to learn the priestly role in the parish and outside the parish. This is a great opportunity for our seminarians and especially for St. George's as we continue our outreach and social justice focus in Christ's Kingdom. Come and meet our new seminarians and Rev. Wilemon on **Sunday, September 11th**, as we welcome them to our community!

+ A NOTE FROM OUR JUNIOR WARDEN

The City of Austin is currently preparing to begin work on water, sewer and gas lines in the Ardenwood and Crestwood neighborhoods. The work will be done along the streets in front of residences and will stop at St. George's property. This will provide new sewer service and new connections to the St. George's School playground, however.

Access to the church property will be available. Barricades will be up, but we will be able to drive around them to get to our parking. Because the work will be completed in stages, it is highly likely that crews will not be in our area for another six months! Stay tuned for more information as we near that time.

+ THANK YOU!

THANKS TO EVERYONE who helped out with the recent painting job of Kleberg Hall, especially: Spencer and Hollie Gordon, who spearheaded the project and found the contractors; Alice Nelson, Jan Phillips, Francesca Wigle and others from the St. Hildegard's community, and Spencer, who emptied cabinets, returned items to the cabinets, and did some clutter removal while they were at it; and Becca Meaders, who emptied the refrigerator of spoiled food after it was left unplugged during the painting and Alice, who cleaned it (it looks brand-new now!). Great job!

+ REAL STORIES REAL PEOPLE

St. George's is looking for volunteers to submit an article about your personal spiritual journey. We need a submission for the October edition and beyond. Articles should be no more than 2000 words. If you are interested in sharing your story, please email or call the church office (454-2523 or stgeorgeaustin@gmail.com).

+ VESTRY NOTES

You may have noticed quite a bit of work being done on the property around St. George's recently, including a fresh coat of paint for Kleberg and the church office, tree trimming and removal of dead trees, replacement of an air conditioning compressor in the church, and pipe organ repair. Other recent repairs and maintenance have included rewiring of the sound system in the church, squirrel removal from the roof covering the walkway between the church office and the school building, and squirrel damage repair. Thank you to Junior Warden Jan Phillips and the Buildings & Grounds Committee for all their work to make these improvements happen.

As I hope you all know by now, at the July vestry meeting the vestry approved the creation of a one-year, part-time curate position for St. George's. Kevin subsequently offered the position to the Rev. Josephine Robertson, whose first Sunday at St. George's will be August 14th. St. George's will host Josephine's ordination to the priesthood on Saturday, August 13th, at 10:00 am, and I hope many of you will make plans to attend this special service.

So, you may wonder, where is the money coming from to pay for all this? About a year ago, St. George's sold the rectory on Daugherty Street, which we had owned for 20+ years. After paying off a sizeable commercial loan the church had taken out some years ago, we placed the proceeds from the sale of the rectory (about \$68,000) into a fund reserved for maintenance and repairs. This was done at the request of the Church Corporation, the diocesan entity that holds title to all church property in the diocese. We were asked to use the proceeds only for maintenance and repair (which includes replacement of worn-out equipment and furniture) for the period of one year, after which we can take an alternate plan to the Church Corporation for approval. We currently have about 75% remaining in the reserved maintenance fund, which will now be available for other uses upon approval by the Church Corporation.

In addition, St. George's recently received a \$14,000 check to settle a longstanding property dispute in which our parish and the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection in Austin were to have received the proceeds of a house in south Austin but did not. I won't go much more into that, but suffice it to say the matter is now resolved and our check is in the bank. I am pleased to report that the vestry voted to tithe \$1,400 of this unexpected blessing by sending an additional check to the diocese for its missionary and outreach budget. An additional \$2,600 has been added to the parish budget for evangelism. This gives us some funds to do the visioning work that you'll read about elsewhere in this issue of *The Banner*, to pay for the relatively minor costs associated with the neighborhood cook-out last month, to send parishioners to the diocesan evangelism conference later this year, and other items related to our evangelism efforts. The remainder has gone into our savings account with other unencumbered funds to do the work of this parish as needed.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me or any other member of the vestry. We are always conscious of our role as stewards of the parish's resources and do not make these decisions lightly or easily. As always, thank you for your generosity and faithfulness in giving to St. George's, which allows us to move forward in faith, as we work together for the kingdom of God.

Faithfully,

Frances Rickard, Senior Warden

+ OUTREACH UPDATE

AUSTIN SAMARITANS

The note cards that were created for this fundraising effort are still available. The cards are blank inside and have one of 6 flower designs on the outside. The back carries a message about this outreach effort and St. George's website. Please help us to share with the world that St. George's Episcopal Church in Austin, TX, cares about the outside world by purchasing some note cards. The cards are \$20 for a pack of 12 cards-- 2 each of 6 designs. You can contact Sandra Villalaz-Dickson at 762-8349 to arrange for a purchase or see her after church on Sundays.

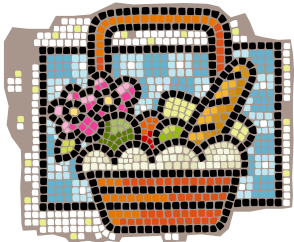
ROBINSON FOSTER HOME GIRLS

Outreach has begun collecting money for back to school shopping for the Robinson foster girls. St. George's provides funds to each girl to buy clothes for the new school year. This is important for the girls to feel confident and look nice while in school. Please consider contributing to this fund by placing a donation in the pink envelope provided in your pew on Sunday. You may place the envelope in the collection plate during the offertory or may mail it to the church office. For more information about this project or the outreach committee please contact Hollie Gordon.



CHRISTOPHER HOUSE BASKETS

The Christopher House basket semi-annual sale will begin **Sunday, August 21st** and continue for 3 weeks. This ministry reaches out to families who have a loved one at Christopher House, a facility for terminally ill patients in their final days who are under the care of Hospice Austin. The outreach committee provides baskets filled with basic daily necessities; our goal is to deliver two baskets each week. You can purchase a basket & contents for \$10



apiece and we encourage you to personalize it with fresh fruit, baked goods, and a handwritten note. Deliver baskets to Christopher House (on MLK Blvd, just west of Airport) any day of the week you select and the staff there will give them to a family. If you feel called to participate in this ministry or have any questions, please see Mary Stewart Miller on August 21st or contact her at millerms@grandecom.net or 220-5821.

+ CHRISTOPHER HOUSE BASKET DELIVERY SCHEDULE +

July 31-Aug 6: Donna Johnson
Aug 14-20: Carolyn Moreau
Aug 28-Sept 3: Ada Pewitt

Aug 7-13: Herb and Sandra Dickson
Aug 21-27: Mary Stewart Miller
Sept 4-10: Mikail McIntosh-Doty

+ *Hildegard's Illumination: The Wild Goose Festival (June 2011)*

"The Wild Goose is a Celtic metaphor for the Holy Spirit. We are followers of Jesus creating a festival of justice, spirituality, music and the arts. The festival is rooted in the Christian tradition and therefore open to all regardless of belief, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, denomination or religious affiliation."

"In adopting the image of the Wild Goose we recognize that in the current climate of religious, social and political cynicism, embracing the creative and open nature of our faith is perhaps our greatest asset for rebuilding and strengthening our relationships with each other, with our enemies, with our stories, our texts, and the earth. In that spirit, in a festive setting, and in the context of meaningful, respectful, and sustained relationships, we invite you to create with us!"



Francesca and Jim Wallis
Photo courtesy of F. Wigle

When I read the above description of what the Wild Goose Festival was about, I felt blessed to be able to join Judith and Kevin to take the spirit of St. Hildegard's, St. George's, and Franciscans to this wondrous event. Being part of a gathering of individuals longing for a new way to join together to celebrate justice, spirituality, music and the arts was absolutely amazing.

The festival took place out in the countryside in North Carolina. There was a main stage, a place for storytelling and performance, a place for talks, a coffee barn, a geodesic dome made of tree limbs, a peace garden, a social justice gazebo, and an outdoor film screen. Choosing which wondrous event to attend was challenging! Among the presenters, Franciscan Father Richard Rohr, from the Center for Action and Contemplation, Jim Wallis of Sojourners, Vincent Harding (associate of the late Dr. Martin Luther King), Phyllis Tickle, Paul Knitter, John Dear of Fellowship of Reconciliation, Abdullah Antepli, Brian McClaren, Mark Scandrette, Rabbi Or Rose, Becca Stevens (founder of Magdalene/Thistle Farms), June Keener Wink (wife of theologian Walter Wink), musicians David Lamotte, Jennifer Knapp, and Michelle Shocked..... and the list goes on. There was a spirit of camaraderie and openness at each event. I met some amazing people, and the time there truly inspired me. Parents brought their children, and there was a large area for the kids to gather together to play, create, and share stories. There were folks of all ages. Most people camped out. One of my favorite experiences was meeting a young Baptist lady who had a big tattoo of St. Francis on her arm!

As the weekend continued, I began to feel (and continue to feel), **HOPE**, for a world where we can all get along, share our thoughts, work together for peace and justice for everyone, worship together, let music fill our souls, and find ways to take care of our beloved planet. Judith came back to Austin with a real sense of awe for Becca Stevens, who started the non-profit, Magdalene/Thistle Farms, for women who have survived prostitution, addiction and incarceration. Becca has visited nine cities and women's prisons as part of the Find Your Way Home Prison Tour. The tour has been based on two principles - that love is the most powerful source for social change and that women can begin to create their own communities of healing wherever they are. They make natural bath and body products that are as good for the earth as they are for the body. This was the first Wild Goose Festival in the United States. "Wild Goose Festival is going to grow into the largest, best run, most dynamic religious happening in the U.S." I would say that those who were able to attend would agree with that statement! -- Francesca Wigle, TSSF



Picnic with Theologian Walter Wink, seated between Francesca and Judith. In the back row, middle, is June Keener Wink. Photo courtesy of F. Wigle

+ OUR PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY

Our Prayers and Sympathy are extended to the family of **Nora Garcia Loran**, who died on June 25, 2011. Nora was the founder of St. George's School, a mentor to the teachers and staff, and a friend to many St. George's parishioners over the years.

May the souls of all the faithful departed, by the mercy of God, rest in peace.



August 2 - Rob Blech
August 3 - Noah Savage
August 7 - David McGhee
August 12 - Ada Pewitt
August 17 - Ronn Worcester
August 19 - Roberta Tisdale
August 25 - Rachel Long
August 31 - Rachel Elizabeth Long

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

August 3 - Ruth Crawford
August 5 - Tom Sethre
August 9 - Elzy Cogswell
August 13 - Carole Metcalf
August 18 - Robert Couming
August 23 - Sarah Campbell
August 27 - Sue Worcester



August 3 - Scott Metcalf
August 6 - John Rickard
August 12 - Dewey Brackin
August 13 - Loretta Navarro
August 19 - Royce Blech
August 23 - Will Wolfe
August 29 - Dale Curry

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

August 4 - Belinda & David McGhee
August 8 - Carole & Scott Metcalf
August 18 - Ronn & Sue Worcester



COFFEE HOUR HOSTS



August 7 - Outreach Committee
August 21 - Women's Book Group
September 4 - Lay Eucharistic Ministers

August 14 - Choir
August 28 - KidsWord & EYC
September 11 - Altar Guild

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.lectionarypage.net/> The Lectionary - a calendar of current scripture readings
<http://www.episcopalchurch.org/> The Episcopal Church
<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
www.ctcinternational.org Comfort the Children International

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

August 6	Parish Garage Sale, 7:00am - 12:00pm
August 10	Meet & Greet the Curate, 5:30-7:00pm
August 13	Ordination of Josephine Robertson, 10:00am
August 13	Women's Book Group, 3-5:00pm
August 21	Christopher House Basket Sale Begins
August 21	Rally Day, Blessing of the Backpacks, Teacher Installation, and Parish Potluck
August 23	Choir Rehearsal Resumes, 7:00pm
August 28	Adult Confirmation Class, 9:15-10:15am
September 4	Labor Day Liturgy, 10:30am service
September 5	Labor Day, Church Office Closed
September 10	Austin Pride 2011 Parade
September 11	Adult Confirmation Class, 9:15-10:15am
September 18	Adult Confirmation Class, 9:15-10:15am
September 25	Adult Confirmation Class, 9:15-10:15am
October 2	Confirmation Service, 10:30am service
October 15	Core Values and Vision Workshop
November 18-20	Parish Retreat

The Church Office will be closed in observance of Labor Day on Monday, September 5th. If you have a pastoral emergency during this time please call the church and leave a message on the emergency extension.

The Rev. Kevin LJ Schubert
Rector

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

The Rev. Josephine Robertson
Curate

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 **Sept. 1st**. Deadline for news is **August 24th**. 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.