

THE BANNER

February 2010 ✧ Issue 10-02 ✧ *After Epiphany into Lent*

St. George's Episcopal Church

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Story as Scripture

Lent Programs for 2010 at St. George's
Wednesdays, February 24 to March 24

The Judeo-Christian tradition rooted itself in storytelling from the beginning. Around campfires or in palaces, at home or in exile, the stories of Creation, Noah, Abraham, Moses, David and Solomon, Elijah down to the story of Jesus himself, have always done the Bible's heavy lifting. Not tales of gods and heroes, not abstruse doctrine or mystic ritual, not even scripture dictated in heaven, but stories of ordinary people undergird Judaism and Christianity.

Our tradition lives because God enters the lives of people like ourselves, and if ordinary people in biblical times, why not ordinary people in our time? Indeed, what richer tapestry can we experience than the life-shaping and life-changing stories of people at St. George's? Yet we live so much in our own present and near future that stories from the past of our fellow Christians are often known to us, a loss of biblical proportions.

Lent 2010 aims to correct this scriptural deficiency. Presentations will raise our awareness of God's active presence in personal experience we thought of as ordinary. We will learn ways to listen to the stories of others, learn from them and grow, which is the reason why scripture itself was given. We will have opportunities to recall and to share our own personal stories in the knowledge that God is enriching the lives of others through us.

We will gather for potluck evening meal at 6 p.m. and the program begins at 7 p.m.

✠ **ASH WEDNESDAY** ✧ Wednesday, **February 17**. Service at **7 p.m.**

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. St. George's will hold a service of Holy Eucharist, with Ash Wednesday liturgy and the imposition of ashes, at 7 p.m. in the church.

✠ **SHROVE TUESDAY ON SUNDAY, PANCAKE DAY** ✠ The last three days before the beginning of Lent are known as Shrovetide. Shrovetide was celebrated with games, sports, dancing and other revelries. There were feasts to use up the food that could not be eaten during the Lenten fast. Football was played in the streets and the Nickanan Night (as Shrove Monday evening was called in Cornwall) was a time for boys to run riot in the villages: hiding gates, taking off door knockers, and making off with anything that householders had forgotten to lock away. Shrove Tuesday is the last day before the period that Christians call Lent. This day is one of the moveable feasts in the church calendar and is directly related to the date on which Easter falls.

Shrove Tuesday always fall 47 days before Easter Day, so the date varies from year to year, and falls between February 3rd and March 9th. Check in the index of the Book of Common Prayer, *Tables and Rules for Finding the Date of Easter Day*.

The name Shrove comes from the old word "shrive" which means to confess. On Shrove Tuesday, in the Middle Ages, people used to confess their sins so that they were forgiven before the season of Lent began.

Sunday, February 14th following the 10:30 a.m. service, St. George's will celebrate Shrove Tuesday/**Pancake Day**. The kids and parents from Kids Word/EYC will be griddling up some pancakes with assorted sides and lots of coffee.

✠ **NEAR DEATH EXPERIENCE** ✠ The Rev. John Price was rector of St. George's for twenty years. He will join us on **Sunday, February 14** to preach and then to give a talk on near death experience during the pancake luncheon. John has put together this presentation along with a book he is writing on near death experience. Many of the stories he relies on are people he has served pastorally. His particular angle is theological--most books on the subject are psychological, medical or sensationalistic.

✠ **SUNDAY ADULT EDUCATION DURING LENT** ✠ The Lenten Adult Education, offering will be "The Power of Forgiveness" led by senior seminarian Deborah Hughes-Habel. This production was awarded Best Documentary at the Sun Valley Spiritual Film Festival in 2007. This DVD was produced in response to the study of forgiveness over the last 20 years; "The Power of Forgiveness" explores this important work and reveals how forgiveness can transform your life. We will be meeting for four Sundays at noon in the library on the following dates, **February 21, 28 and March 7, 28**.

✠ **THE CHRISTOPHER HOUSE BASKET** semi-annual sale begins Sunday, **February 21**. This ministry reaches out to the **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. Fifty-two hospitality baskets are filled by the Outreach Committee (with help from Kids Word) with basic daily necessities and sell for **\$10 each or two for \$20**. Our goal is to deliver two baskets each week. We encourage donors to personalize the baskets with fresh fruit, baked goods, and a handwritten note. The baskets may be delivered any day of the week you select. If you feel called to participate in this ministry or have any questions, please see Mary Stewart Miller on **February 21** or contact her at millerms@grandecom.net or 220-5821.

✠ **OUTREACH UPDATE** ✠ The Outreach folks had a very productive planning retreat and want to share our plans for 2010. The best news is that we will not need a Red Envelope Offering this year. Due to your generous donations last year and our very frugal shoppers for

Any Baby Can there are enough funds to see us through this year and retain our Outreach projects. We want to know how much we appreciate your prayers and participation that are vital to the success of our Outreach efforts.

Plans are to schedule one Sunday each quarter to serve an afternoon meal to the homeless through the **Trinity Center Streets** program at St. David's Church. The first Sunday we are scheduled for is **March 14**. The leader of this project is Terry O'Donnell. This project requires about 2-3 hours from 6 volunteers each time. Our downtown neighbors are very humble and appreciative of our service to them. If you are interested in helping, please let Terry know as the time approaches.

The **Back-to-School Drive** will be led by Roberta Tisdale beginning in July. Your donations provide gift cards for the foster girls to use so they can shop for new clothes on the tax-free weekend in August. The State of Texas provides their school supplies but there are no state funds for clothes. The girls are so excited to have something new to wear and it is such a boost to their self-esteem.

SafePlace project will continue to be led by Nancy Ricketts with the assistance of Pat Ford. This is an ongoing project collecting personal items for use by victims of domestic violence who in most instances must leave home with nothing but the clothes on their backs. A wish list of items includes unwrapped packages of children's underwear, socks as well as ladies underwear, diaper wipes, infant diapers, pull-ups for toddlers, unopened and unexpired feminine hygiene products, baby shampoo, lotions and diaper creams. Since SafePlace needs full size containers, we will divert to Christopher House the trial size soaps, shampoos, lotions, toothpaste etc. collected in the baskets at the entryways to the church. Pat will make a more complete list available and provide some baskets to collect these items. Volunteers will take donated items to SafePlace on a monthly basis.

The Angel Tree will once again be spearheaded by Spencer and Hollie Gordon. The tree will be decorated the end of November and your donations will provide presents for the foster girls and St. George's Court. Phone cards will be provided again for Casa Marianella from existing funds and if enough funds remain then possibly a donation to Trinity Center will be made. St. George's Day School will partner with us again this year by collecting toys to give to Foundation Communities for distribution to their clients.

Our shoppers for **Any Baby Can** provide bi-monthly food bags of very specific food items for some of their most needy clients. This behind-the-scenes project is led by Stephanie Savage and additional shoppers, Hollie Gordon, Chuck Webb and Alice Nelson.

Katie Carnes, Sarah Campbell, Roberta Tisdale, and Hollie and Spencer Gordon will continue to take the girls from the **The Group Foster Home** on outings as time and funds permit. These outings give the girls a wonderful opportunity to experience things they have never been able to do and forge a relationship with a supportive adult, rebuilding their lives and forging new trusting relationships.

I would like to commend our outstanding project leaders for their time and enthusiasm. Without them and your support this committee would not exist. If you would like more information about any of these projects, please visit our website at www.sgchurch.org.

We welcome new members to this committee; whether you participate on a monthly basis, serve on a one-time project, or simply sit in on our meetings, your prayers and presence are appreciated. If you feel called to participate in our ministry please contact me at gwall9407@austin.rr.com or join us at our monthly meetings, which will continue to be at noon in the library. We will meet on the **2nd Sunday of each month this year**. The February meeting will coincide with Pancake Sunday on the 14th thus we will meet briefly in Kleberg during the meal instead. God bless you all, *Gayle Wall*

✠ **CONGRATULATIONS** ✨ By the grace of God and the people consenting, The Right Reverend Dena Harrison, Bishop suffragan of Texas on behalf of The Right Reverend Leo Frade Bishop of Southeast Florida, ordained **Rohani Ann Weger** to the Sacred Order of Priests in Christ's One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church on Saturday, January 23.

For all members of your Church in their vocation and ministry, that they may serve you in a true and godly life, we pray to you, O Lord. Amen

Dear Members of St. George,

Thank you very much for your offering for my discretionary fund. I have really appreciated your part in my journey towards the priesthood. Your affirmation of ministry was incredibly helpful for me as I "practiced" all I was learning in seminary. And I have so much appreciated being able to come back several times as well. It was great seeing several of you at my ordination and I look forward to coming back sometime to finally celebrate a full Eucharist sometime in the future!

Mother Rohani Weger

✠ **BRIDGES OUT OF POVERTY** – Saturday, March 6, 9 a.m. – noon.
The Church of St John the Divine, 2450 River Oaks Blvd, Houston, Texas

Dr Ruby Payne is one of the country's leading experts on poverty and the mindsets of the different economic classes. Her work has profoundly influenced many organizations working with those in entrenched poverty, including Ubi Caritas, Cathedral Health & Outreach, and other ministries in the Diocese of Texas. In this workshop, led by Dr. Payne, you will develop accurate mental models of poverty, middle class, and wealth, a new lens through which you can view yourself and the people you are trying to help. You'll learn hidden rules and mindsets, as well as specific strategies for overcoming poverty's obstacles.

If you're working with the poor, you won't want to miss this workshop. There is no cost, but advance registration is encouraged to ensure a seat. Reserve your seat now by registering online at www.sjd.org or contacting Ann Cochran, St John the Divine's Outreach Coordinator (acochran@sjd.org).

✠ **Trinity Episcopal School** ✨ My name is Jennifer Morgan, admission associate and I am contacting you from Trinity Episcopal School. We would like to let your community know we are accepting applications for our lower school (Kindergarten – 4th grade). 3901 Bee Cave Road, Austin, TX 78746. Phone (512) 472-9525. www.trinitykids.com

✠ **FASTING FROM THE COMFORT OF THE FAMILIAR** ✠ The Episcopal Church of the Resurrection will host a Series that addresses the human experience of sameness and difference, of the familiar and the strange. **The Series is guided by the Rev. Alex Montes of St. Mary Magdalene, a new Episcopal community gathering in Manor.** Participants will find that this Series raises awareness of the human tendency to favor sameness over difference in others, and to cling to what is familiar in others and to fear what seems strange about them. It will incorporate Christian themes appropriate to Lent, such as Reconciliation and the practice of Fasting, to assist participants in growing toward celebration of difference and diversity. ECR is located at 2200 Justin Lane, near the intersection of Justin Lane and Burnet Road. **The Series meets Sundays from 4 to 5:30 p.m., February 21 through March 14. The Series is offered free of charge and donations are accepted. All are welcome.**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Feb 13	161 st Diocesan Council, Killeen
Feb 14	Pancake Sunday in lieu of Shrove Tuesday -
Feb 17	Ash Wednesday - service, 7p.m.
Feb 21	First Sunday in Lent – Adult Education Class (Feb.21, 28, March 7, 28)
Feb 24	Lenten program series 5 Wednesday evenings, 6p.m. meal, 7p.m. program
Mar 13	Spring break, most area schools and universities
Mar 14	Trinity Center Outreach meal preparation for our downtown neighbors 2pm
Mar 28	Palm Sunday – beginning of Holy Week
Apr 4	Easter Day
Apr 15,16	Drop off items in Kleberg for garage sale – NO clothes
Apr 17	BIG GARAGE SALE at St. George's
May 23	Day of Pentecost Whitsunday

Links to:

<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/index.htm> Episcopal Life Online
<http://www.epicenter.org/edot/Calendar24.asp?SnID=309494341> EDOT calendar year
<http://www.foundcom.org/> Foundation Communities
www.campallen.org/html/summer.htm Camp Allen registration for multiple programs
www.earth911.org Recycling and other earth friendly information
www.elbuen.org El Buen Samaritano Episcopal Mission

The Rev. David W. Hoster *Rector*
Paul Pew *Music Minister*
James Thomas *Parish Secretary*
Deborah Hughes-Habel
Senior Seminarian
Laura Colangelo
Day School Director

Vestry

Rob Blech *Senior Warden*
Hollie Gordon *Junior Warden*
Andrea Sparks *Clerk*
Ralph Hausser Martha Paull
Jan Phillips Frances Rickard
Hal Stevens Ramon Trevino

Sunday Morning Schedule

8:00a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I
(with Morning Prayer on
first Sundays)
8:00a.m. Contemplative prayer
10:30a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II
with Kids Word
(Nursery available)

at a glance...

- * Pancake Sunday
- * Near death experience
- * Wednesday Lenten Program
- * Outreach update
- * Events of interest
- * Mark your calendar

Bless the LORD, all you works of his,
in all places of his dominion;
Bless the LORD, O my soul.

The next issue of *The Banner* will go
out on March 1st. Deadline for news is
Sunday, February 21st.
E-mail information to Alice Nelson
mzlsnlsn@gmail.com.

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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