

# THE BANNER

January 2010 ✧ Issue 10-01 ✧ *Christmas* into *Epiphany*

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## *St. George's Episcopal Church*

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## *The Feast of the Epiphany*

*There will be a candlelight service of Holy Communion in the church on  
Wednesday, January 6, at 7 p.m.*

✧ **ST. GEORGE'S ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** will take place on **Sunday, January 10**. On that day we will take the opportunity to worship as one congregation at **9:30 a.m.**, have brunch together and then take care of some church business immediately thereafter. The annual parish meeting is the time we elect members to the Vestry, select Diocesan Council delegates, hear reports on various parish activities, etc. Church members slated for election are Ralph Hausser, Frances Rickard, and Ramón Treviño. Outgoing Vestry members who have completed their three-year terms are Kristi Couvillon-Wise, Ruth Crawford and Alice Nelson.

✧ **SUNDAY, JANUARY 10**, is also a major feast day in the Church Year--that of the Baptism of our Lord. As such, it is one of the most appropriate times for us to celebrate the sacrament of Holy Baptism. **If you, your child or someone you know desires to be baptized**, please contact the rector as soon as possible.

✧ **SUNDAY ADULT EDUCATION DURING LENT** ✧ The Lenten Adult Education offering will be "The Power of Forgiveness" led by Deborah Hughes-Habel. This production was awarded the 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 **February 21, 28 and March 7, 28**.

✧ **OUR LOVE AND PRAYERS** are extended to **Sarah Campbell** and her family on the death of her mother, Clara Guinn Campbell, on December 16.  
*Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with your saints, where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting.*

✝ **A NEW FLOWER CHART** for the year **2010** is hanging in the narthex of the church. If you would like to **give altar flowers** on any given Sunday, **or candles** for any given month, please print clearly on the sign-up sheet so you can be recognized in the Sunday pew sheet. Be sure to note if you are giving the flowers or candles in memory of someone or in thanksgiving for some blessing in your life. A donation of **\$25** (for either flowers or candles) is requested; checks may be made payable to St. George's and placed in the alms basin on Sundays or mailed to the church office. Be sure to note on the memo line that the check is for altar flowers/candles.

✝ **THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE** will meet on the **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday** of each month this year although we will not meet in January. The meetings will continue to be held in the library at noon. Our annual retreat will be on Saturday afternoon, **January 23** at Sarah Campbell's house, 4601 Shoal Creek. A time is yet to be determined. We ask for your prayers as the committee determines our path for 2010.

The Angel Tree provided many blessings for those we served and for those who participated. Hollie and Spencer Gordon's dedication and organization provided the framework for a multi-faceted project. As this was made possible by everyone's generous donations of money, time and talent, I share the highlights with you.

Outreach presented \$300 to Casa Marianella for phone cards so their clients could call home during the holidays. These funds were made possible by leftover donations from the *Red Envelope Offering* held in February.

The Day School, under Laura Colangelo's direction, collected toys for gift baskets assembled for Foundation Communities (FC) for their clients. Chris Alberts, the FC volunteer coordinator, attended the children's chapel service to receive the donations and thank the teachers and students for their generosity.

The Church sponsored the foster girls at the Robinson Group Home and the residents of St. George's Court. Each resident of the Court received a \$10 gift card from HEB presented in a stocking handmade by the EYC. The foster girls each received two gifts and a \$25 gift card. Due to your thoughtfulness there are always extra gifts for the girls; these were packaged together and presented as one gift. Our thanks to Sandra Villalaz-Dickson and Alice Nelson for the extras and to Patsy Chandler for the personalized ornaments she gave each girl.

The basket of gift cards for the Court was well received. They had a lovely party where we were treated to a holiday sing-a-long led by the Ding-a-Lings, an absolutely delightful bell choir consisting of several of the residents dressed in black pants/skirts, white shirts/blouses and bright red neck scarves. I wished I had taken my camera! There was a buffet luncheon and gift-exchange. The residents were very thankful for their gift cards. They were especially touched by the fact the kids had made the little

stockings and want the church to know how appreciative they are of their efforts. There were residents who told me they had gone to St. George's many years ago or had a friend who attended. The event was filled with such an overwhelming sense of love that one could feel God's presence. Visiting with them for even a short time made me realize that the gift of our time, if only for a few minutes is just as precious as a \$10 gift card...if not more so.

Funds from a grant allowed the foster girls to attend Rocking Christmas with Katie Carnes and Hollie Gordon on December 20. They had a glorious time. Katie and Hollie wrote via e-mail: *"The girls were literally on the edge of their seats. They clapped, they sang, they danced; a few went down on the stage and did the limbo with the cast. After the show, they ran down on to the stage and picked up the faux snow and tossed it at each other like a snow fight. They said at intermission how fun it was to be there. It was absolutely perfect. They were so, so, so very happy. Thanks to Outreach for getting these tickets for the girls."*

The girls were still quite excited on the way home from the play because they had heard Santa might come that evening. And indeed he did! Two of the girls were hiding outside to get the first peek when he arrived. Maybe they were trying to see if reindeer really know how to fly...alas...he arrived in a truck and they squealed with delight when they saw him. Once inside the door, Santa presented each girl with her gifts as the foster dad took their picture with him. The gifts were placed under the tree for opening on Christmas day. The girls even had a plate of cookies for Santa! Again this year our gratitude goes to "Santa" aka Raul Carrera and his helper, Chloe Carrera, who joyfully delivered the presents to the delight of the foster girls and the awe of Vernell and Curtis' two-year old, wide-eyed granddaughter.

December 21, Hollie and Spencer attended basketball games in which two of the foster girls are team members. The girls were truly surprised to see them, came up and hugged them telling the Gordons how much they appreciated their coming. One of the coaches came up to Hollie and Spencer to express her appreciation for their support.

So where do the blessings end...I feel they are just beginning! For every penny donated, for every prayer offered, for every present wrapped, I thank you all and am humbled by your unceasing willingness to provide to those less fortunate with a joyous Christmas! Happy New Year. *Gayle Wall*

✠ **EYC/ Kids Word kids raised \$222** from their Italian dinner fundraiser at the **Pink Candle Party**, thanks to the generosity of St. George's parishioners. The Environmental Defense Fund was their charity of choice. The funds will go to the "endangered animal protection" part of the agency. As an added bonus, any donations made in the month of December were matched by a 1:1 grant, thus making the donation go further than planned! Great job to one and all!!

✝ **COFFEE HOUR SIGN-UP** ✖ A **2010** calendar has been hung on the wall next to the entry door to Kleberg Hall. If you have enjoyed the tasty treats provided by your fellow parishioners, but haven't signed up in quite some time or ever... now is your chance. Share the task with another person or family.

✝ **MISSIONARY GIVING** ✖ You may recall, back in late October, early November, a flip chart was posted in the church narthex for persons to vote on where monies should go for the Episcopal Diocese of Texas (EDOT) ministry/outreach funding commitments. Mission Funding is the way that we as individual congregations voluntarily join other congregations in our diocese to reach out as One Church, empowered by the Gospel of Jesus Christ, to minister to others, to share God's love and to transform lives.

Following is a break down on the final designations for St. George's (\$6,500) and St. Hildegard's (\$1,500) pledge for 2010. The amount designated for each ministry was based on the percentage of votes cast for that ministry.

Austin Area Interreligious Ministries	\$ 662
Navasota, Children-at-Risk, Camp Allen Scholarship Fund	\$ 782
Community of Hope	\$ 360
Austin, El Buen Samaritano	\$1,144
Episcopal Community Outreach Ministries	\$ 60
Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston	\$ 300
Restorative Justice Ministries (Prison Ministries) Council	\$ 120
Galveston, St. Vincent's House	\$ 181
Beaumont Ubi Caritas - A Healing Ministry	\$ 300
EDOT Disaster Relief & Development	\$ 400
World Mission	\$ 360
Diocesan Commitment to the Millennium Development Goals	\$ 542
Austin, SafePlace Episcopal Fund	\$1,204
The Episcopal Church of the United States of America (ECUSA) - Money pledged to this category will be sent to ECUSA to be used at its discretion.	\$ 585
<b>Total for Missionary Giving</b>	<b>\$8,000</b>

✠ **ABUNDANT LIVING** ✧ Seniors, family members and caregivers, consider attending the Camp Allen 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Abundant Living. **March 1-3, 2010.** Explore aging as a spiritual journey – grow mentally, socially, creatively. Enjoy canoeing, yoga, line dancing and guided nature walks. Learn from geriatricians how to stay healthy and fit. Come, relax, enjoy...celebrate the years!

Where: Camp Allen Conference and Retreat Center, Navasota, Texas  
The Episcopal Diocese of Texas

Cost: \$200 double occupancy includes meals, presentations and socials.  
Discount for early registration before February 10<sup>th</sup> - \$185

Contact: Camp Allen, 1-866-334-2267. [www.campallen.org](http://www.campallen.org) or  
Rev. Helen Appelberg, D.Min, Fellow, Sealy Center on Aging,  
[hwappelb@utmb.edu](mailto:hwappelb@utmb.edu) 1-409-772-5352

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Jan 6	The Feast of the Epiphany – 7 p.m. candlelit service and Holy Communion
Jan 10	Annual Parish meeting following one service at 9:30 a.m. Brunch
Jan 23	Outreach retreat
Feb 7	EYC meeting after church coffee hour
Feb 13	161 <sup>st</sup> Diocesan Council, Killeen
Feb 14	Pancake Sunday in lieu of Shrove Tuesday
Feb 17	Ash Wednesday -
Feb 21	First Sunday in Lent
Feb 24	Lenten program series, 5 Wednesday evenings, 6 p.m. meal, 7 p.m. program
Mar 7	EYC meeting after church coffee hour
Mar 13	Spring break, most area schools and universities
Mar 14	Trinity Center Outreach meal preparation for our downtown neighbors 2 p.m.
Mar 28	Palm Sunday – beginning of Holy Week
Apr 4	Easter Sunday

### Links to:

<http://www.sgchurch.org/worship4.asp> Lay ministry schedule

<http://www.sgchurch.org/events3.asp> The Banner including past electronic issues

<http://www.sgchurch.org/worship3.asp> Sermons

[www.stgeorges-austin.org](http://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](http://www.campallen.org/html/summer.htm) Camp Allen registration for multiple programs

[www.earth911.org](http://www.earth911.org) Recycling and other earth friendly information

[www.elbuen.org](http://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

Alice Nelson *Senior Warden*  
Martha Paull *Junior Warden*  
Kristi Couvillon-Wise *Clerk*  
Ruth Crawford Robert Blech  
Andrea Sparks Hollie Gordon  
Jan Phillips Hal Stevens

*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...*

- \* Epiphany
- \* Annual parish meeting
- \* Prayers and concerns
- \* Outreach
- \* EYC update
- \* Mission funding
- \* Camp Allen opportunity

The sparrow has found her a house  
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young  
by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts,  
my King and my God.

*Psalm 84:2*

The next issue of *The Banner* will go  
out on February 1<sup>st</sup>. Deadline for news  
is **Sunday, January 24<sup>th</sup>**.  
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[mzlsnlsn@gmail.com](mailto:mzlsnlsn@gmail.com).

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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