

June 2011 + Issue 11-06 + Easter into Pentecost

ST. GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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+ ASCENSION DAY SERVICE – WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8TH AT 12:15 PM

In observance of the Ascension of our Lord, St. George's will incorporate the selected Ascension readings from the Revised Common Lectionary at the normally scheduled Healing Service with Holy Eucharist on **Wednesday, June 8th at 12:15 pm** in the sanctuary. The service marks the close of the post-resurrection appearances after Easter and signifies the rule of Christ in the present through the Holy Spirit. Healing prayers and the anointing of oil will be offered as normal.

+ THE DAY OF PENTECOST – SUNDAY, JUNE 12TH

THE DAY OF PENTECOST, or Whitsunday, is celebrated 50 days after Easter Day and this year falls on **Sunday, June 12th**. Pentecost has its origins in Judaism as a festival of thanksgiving for the first fruits of the wheat harvest. On Pentecost, the Christian church remembers the coming of the Holy Spirit to the first disciples of Jesus, and we celebrate the fruits of the Spirit in each of us and the sharing of our gifts with our community and the world. It is appropriate for those who desire to wear something **red** on Pentecost as a symbol of the fire of the Holy Spirit.

+ SUMMER KIDSWORD TEACHERS NEEDED!

To give our regular Kidsword teachers a break, you are invited to spend some time with the fabulous children in our congregation by teaching Kidsword for one or more Sundays during the summer. Teachers must have taken the Safeguarding God's Children training within the last 5 years. You can plan your own lesson, or lesson plans are available upon request. If you would be willing to help with this ministry, contact Jan Phillips at 836-3784 or janwp22760@aol.com, or catch her on Sundays at church.

+ **WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP - SATURDAY, JUNE 11TH, 3:00-5:00 PM**

The St. George's Women's book group will meet **June 11th, Saturday from 3 to 5 pm** at the home of Frances Rickard. We will be discussing "Grace Eventually" by Anne Lamott. Please contact Carolyn Moreau at carolynmoreau@austin.rr.com for more information.

+ **SUMMER CHOIR**

THE CHOIR IS TAKING a break from Tuesday evening rehearsals for the summer months, beginning June 14th. However, they'll continue to sing at the 10:30 am service, rehearsing an easy anthem each Sunday morning at 9:45 am. If you've been thinking about joining the choir -- or like to sing but don't have time during the week to rehearse -- this would be a great time to come and sing on Sunday mornings whenever you can! Contact music director Paul Pew at paulpew@austin.rr.com if you'd like more information about the choir.

+ **BYOB (SUMMER FILM SERIES)**

Producer and director Raul V. Carrera is a parishioner here at St. George's and will be hosting the BYOB film series. The concept for the BYOB film series is simple and friendly. Anybody and everybody is invited and welcomed! St. George's will provide the venue (Kleberg Hall at St. Georges Episcopal Church, 4301 N. IH_35 Austin, TX 78722) The film series will continue for four more weeks (plus a group outing to watch *Tree of Life*) on **Saturday nights at 7:30 pm**. Everybody brings their own beverages and snacks and we watch the films. Afterwards, who ever wishes to, can stick around to discuss and critic the film, or movies in general.

+ **STREET RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT - MEET THE CONTRACTOR OPEN HOUSE**

Phase 2 of the Group 19 street reconstruction project is taking place in the neighborhood around St. George's. This project will begin in late June and is anticipated to be complete in 15 months. An informational meeting about the project will take place in Kleberg Hall on **Tuesday, June 7th from 5 to 7:30 pm**. The event is open house format. If interested in learning more about the project, please feel free to attend at your convenience to visit one-on-one with the project team members. For project details and updates, visit http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/publicworks/group_19_reconstruct.htm

+ **YOUTH UPDATE - JOIN FR. KEVIN AT SUMMER CAMP!**

Fr. Kevin will be directing a camp session at Camp Allen this summer. The session takes place **June 26-July 2** and is for grades 5th - 6th. If you'd like more information or would like to register your child up for Kevin's session follow this link: [Camp Allen Parent Info](#).

+ **COMMUNITY COOK OUT - SUNDAY, JULY 10TH**

Sunday, July 10th, St. George's is hosting a community-wide BBQ, featuring pet blessings, live music and much more! Mark your calendars!

+ OUTREACH UPDATE

THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE has been offered some discounted tickets to take the Robinson Foster Girls to the play *Hair Spray* at Zachery Scott Theatre. We will attend the play around the 16th - 18th of June. We would love for anyone who would like to join us to contact Hollie Gordon at hlemond@austin.rr.com. Also, please plan to join us for the Zilker Hillside Theater in July. *Footloose* will be the play this year. This is always a fun outing. Come chill out at the pool and then sing along with *Footloose*.

SUCCESSFUL LUNCHEON, SUCCESSFUL FUND-RAISER - The Outreach Committee sponsored a luncheon to raise funds and awareness about one of Austin Samaritans' supported ministries, Centro de Ayuda Esperanza. This luncheon was informative, successful and yummy. All who attended enjoyed a very delicious lunch and heard compelling presentations from three guest speakers:

Elda Guillet, a past resident of Managua, provided us a vision of the Mercado Oriental neighborhood as well as a description of the types of needs.

Caly Fernandez, a past missionary with Austin Samaritans, described her impression of Reverend Matthew Yun and his compassion for very needy people. He sets aside his concern and works with many people who are dangerous but all who are in great need.

Dr. John Doty, founder of Austin Samaritans, was on hand to describe why Austin Samaritans feels compelled to help support Rev Jun and the Center. He also provided us an update on the impact made from our previous donation (2009) for the support of cervical cancer screening.

The center under the direction of Reverend Matthew Jun, a Korean minister who himself was homeless in his youth in post war Korea, provides the following: approximately 200 hot meals daily for homeless and near homeless in one of the poorest and most dangerous neighborhoods in Managua, Nicaragua; child-care and instruction for the young children who would otherwise roam the area while their mothers work; a shelter for the most vulnerable - homeless women and children - each night; medical, optometry and dental services for all in the area.

At the luncheon, we were successful in raising \$1000 of the \$1500 goal. These funds were raised by donation for the luncheon, purchase of note cards and from the offertory plate. I will have the note cards available at coffee hour for the next several weeks. Please consider purchasing the cards and, of course, your donation in the offertory plate will definitely be appreciated. The note cards are pictures of flowers and are packs of 12 made up of 2 each of 6 designs; a pack can be yours for \$20.00.

Special thanks to Alice Nelson for coordinating the luncheon and the lovely prepared food to share. Our little church is so giving; your generosity is so moving! Thank you for sharing your resources with those in need.

Peace and love,
Sandra Villalaz

+CHRISTOPHER HOUSE BASKET DELIVERY SCHEDULE+

June 5-11: John & Frances Rickard
June 19-25: James Wall

June 12-18: The Savage Family
June 26-July 2: Mikail McIntosh-Doty

+ ST. GEORGE, THE DRAGON AND THE LABYRINTH

The following is article about the relationship between St. George and the labyrinth written by our own Sonya Ingwersen and the St. George's Contemplative Prayer Group. Enjoy!

Did you know that dragons and labyrinths have something in common?

The patron saint of this church is also the patron saint of England. Most scholars today think he really existed, and that he met a martyr's death some time before the epoch of Constantine, who made Christianity the official religion of the Roman Empire. Constantine died in 337. George's cult didn't become popular until the 6th century, and we don't hear of his slaying a dragon (a dragon?) until the late 12th century. There aren't any credible witnesses to dragons wandering about in medieval Europe, or for that matter, medieval-anywhere-else. So the odds are heavily against old George's having offed a dragon. But some contemporary investigators in the West now think dragons (a variation of serpents) may be a literal outpicturing of coherent currents of energy that flow in the earth itself. It's an indisputable fact that the sites of many of the oldest and most revered cathedrals and churches in Christianity were considered sacred long before the advent of Christianity. Jerusalem itself is the locale of many, and when the city was lost to Islam in 1291 after the final disastrous Crusade, Jerusalem with all her sacred sites was lost to the Christian faithful as a place of pilgrimage. One result: the creation of labyrinths in cathedrals across Europe. The labyrinth became the new Jerusalem. The most famous is the one in Chartres, but there are many, many others.

Labyrinths per se predate Christianity by millennia (think Crete and the Minotaur). Their geometric layouts – always some variation of a spiral – have a pattern that is fundamental to creation itself, and a peculiar resonance with the psycho spiritual nature of human beings. The labyrinth is a meditative tool that addresses our embodiedness and can counteract the destructive trend in our society towards living only from the neck up. It's the way of praying wordlessly with the whole body. Walking a labyrinth is a contemplative experience.

Unlike the Western church, which became increasingly cerebral and moralistic, the Eastern Orthodox Church maintained – at least among its monks – the tradition of Hesychastic prayer. Hesychasm is a form of inner mystical work that attaches particular importance to the continuous repetition of the Jesus Prayer along with special body postures (which can be full prostrations) that are synchronized rhythmically with one's breathing and the words of the Prayer itself. It's definitely not a practice for the lazy or the physically unfit.

St. George's Episcopal Church has a labyrinth. A committed member of our Contemplative Prayer Group has undertaken to upgrade and improve it with plantings. On a recent yoga / silence / contemplation retreat that the Group made at Cedarbrake, all of us had the opportunity to walk the beautifully maintained one there.

So what does this have to do with you? Simply this: walking your St. George's labyrinth can be a wonderful healing, empowering, growth-engendering experience. You can't get it wrong. You are the only expert when you enter its sacred precincts. Simply pause before you step inside, and formulate an intention. Some examples: "My spouse/child/beloved pet has died. God, help me." "My workplace is unbearable. Help me endure it or find another job." "I hate (fill in the blank). Show me what I'm contributing to the situation." "My savings are exhausted and I've just been fired." "I've been diagnosed with a serious illness and feel overwhelmed. I need to be peaceful and centered to make good decisions for myself." "It's been a really great day, and I just want to tell my gratitude more deeply." Then, after you've clarified your intention, if it feels right, inhale and exhale deeply two or three times and bow to the Center of the labyrinth. You are also bowing to your own Sacred Center.

That's it.

Let go of any expectations and surrender to the energy of the labyrinth. Just walk (or dance, skip, whatever) to the Center and out again. Other people will not change. ("Get my crappy boss off my back" is not a functional intention.) Your immediate situation probably won't. But you will change. Over the days, weeks and months, you'll find you can cope better, and perhaps be able to bring change to the formerly difficult situation. Or maybe the situation itself will simply disappear. You might even find unexpected healing. Changes may come suddenly. You may get insights as you walk. Changes may come so gradually that you scarcely notice them. Each walk will be different. There are no undesirable side effects, much to gain and nothing to lose except stuff you don't want anyway.

+ 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 4 months of the year. The primary reason for the difference between actual and budgeted 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 for 2011.

	Actual	Budgeted
Loose offering & pledges	\$53,272	\$51,476
Other income*	\$49,140	\$51,928
Total Income	\$62,412	\$63,404
Total Expenses	\$73,469	\$68,885
Difference between Income and Expenses	-\$11,057	-\$5,481

*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.

+ NEWS FROM ST. GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL DAY SCHOOL

SUMMER HERE WE COME!

We are winding down the school year at St. George's Episcopal School and celebrating the wonderfully successful year that we have had! Another huge thank you to the parishioners who attended and/or supported the Knight for St. George's on May 1st. Under Megan Truong's amazing leadership we raised over \$10,000 that night! Unbelievable! This amount surpasses all previous fundraising efforts and is going to allow us to do many things, including implementing a Music Together program next year in all of the classes. This is a world-class music curriculum that we have been waiting for and hoping to have at St. George's.





We are also going to be able to do some much-needed facility upgrades. One of these upgrades will be to install locks on the gates to the school with a code for entrance. All parents, parishioners, and friends will be given this code. The purpose of these coded locks is to keep people unknown to the school and the church out of the campus and out of the classrooms. This is an important security upgrade for us. It was strongly recommended in the accreditation report, and I hope that you will understand the slight inconvenience of having to learn a code for the gates. We are in the process of getting bids right now, and hope to have them installed by the fall. Before they are installed, we will get the word out in every way possible so that parishioners of St. George's will know the code!

On Friday, May 27th, in a sweet graduation service in the church, we said goodbye to our pre-k graduates. After the ceremony, we dismissed for a week in order to give the teachers a break and get all of the classrooms painted. On June 6th, we will begin our Summer at St. George's! This is a separate program from our school-year program, but with similar hours to accommodate working parents. We operate in optional two-week sessions and the children wear their bathing suits each day. They have a splashy morning of fun, followed by indoor activities during the heat of the day in a more relaxed schedule. As the pictures show, the children love the change of pace and the time to relax and splash together!



COFFEE HOUR HOSTS



June 5 - Outreach Committee
June 19 - Women's Book Group

June 12 - Choir
June 26 - Ushers



JUNE BIRTHDAYS



June 3 - Nancy Carrera
June 6 - Herb Dickson
June 13 - David Pew
June 15 - Lina Castellanos
June 17 - Lynn Cowick
June 21 - Herb Long
June 27 - Kathryn Pew

June 4 - Anna Doty
June 6 - Johnnie C. McLane
June 14 - Denise Hope
June 15 - Kirby Goodson
June 19 - Hannah Nelson
June 26 - Lee Edwards
June 30 - Liam Dolan-Henderson

June 6 - Jonathan Brackin
June 6 - Stephanie Savage
June 14 - Martha Paull
June 16 - Gayle Wall
June 20 - Walter Long, Jr.
June 26 - Mae Stevens

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

June 23 - Kathryn & Paul Pew
June 28 - Frances & John Rickard

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> 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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

June 4	BYOB Film Series, 7:30 pm
June 8	Ascension Day Service, 12:15pm
June 11	Women's Book Group, 3-5:00 pm
June 11	BYOB Film Series, 7:30 pm
June 12	The Day of Pentecost
June 18	BYOB Film Series, 7:30 pm
June 25	BYOB Film Series, 7:30 pm
June 26-July 2	Kevin's Summer Camp Session, Camp Allen
July 2	BYOB Film Series, 7:30 pm
July 10	Community-wide BBQ

**The Church Office will be closed in observance of Independence Day on Monday, July 4th.
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*

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 **June 30th**. Deadline for news is **June 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.