

March 2011 + Issue 11-02 + Epiphany into Lent

ST. GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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+ A NOTE FROM THE RECTOR

Dear St. George's Family,

What a wonderfully special service we had this past Sunday! The visit of the Diocesan Bishop is always a momentous occasion for a parish, and along with Bishop Doyle's visit we confirmed ten persons, baptized three, and celebrated our new ministry together with me as your rector. It is my great pleasure to serve as the rector of St. George's Episcopal Church and I am eager to continue to work closely with each and every one of you serving God's Kingdom.

I am extremely grateful for Sunday's celebration, excitement, and energy. It is very clear that St. George's will continue to be a vibrant and important part of the Austin community. The festivities, preparation, and implementation of the celebration took a lot of planning and organizing. I offer my deepest gratitude to all that had a hand in making that night such a success.

The day before the big service the vestry of St. George's gathered for a very worthwhile retreat. During our time together we developed some specific goals for the upcoming year, including heightened evangelism, beautifying our campus, developing core values and a new mission statement, and building community through fun exciting activities. This is an exciting list to work with as St. George's continues to seek avenues of greater visibility in Austin.

There are wonderful things in store for St. George's during the year to come! I hope that you are as excited as I am about the possibilities and opportunities that await our community. I pray that you continue to be filled with God's grace and love, and recognize God's presence among you and your family. May God bless you and keep you this day and forever.

Peace be with you!

The Rev. Kevin LJ Schubert

+ THE SEASON OF LENT FOR ST. GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Beginning with Ash Wednesday (March 9) and concluding with the Easter Vigil Service (April 23), the community of St. George's will partake in the Season of Lent. Lent is a very important season of the church as we enter into a time of self-examination and repentance through prayer, fasting, self-denial, and the reading and meditating on scripture. The period of forty weekdays before Easter symbolizes the forty years in which the Israelites were wandering in the wilderness led by Moses to find the Promised Land. It also symbolizes the period of time in which Jesus found himself being tempted in the wilderness. A common practice during Lent is to participate in a Lenten discipline of either giving something up or taking something on in one's life to better their well being. The community will also meet for four weeks during Lent to participate in the Grace Series. See the article below for more information concerning this program.

+ 2011 GRACE SERIES: LENTEN PROGRAM - WEDNESDAYS DURING LENT

Dr. Greg Garrett will lead St. George's Episcopal Church through a series of lectures and discussions during the upcoming Season of Lent. This semester's 'Grace Series' will be held on **Wednesday evenings, Mar 23, Mar 30, April 6 & April 13, from 6:30pm to 8:00p.m.** The evening will begin with a pot-luck meal followed by a lecture and discussion with Greg. Donations are invited to gather funds for Greg's time with our community. Below you will find more information regarding Greg and the topic we will discuss.

The Other Jesus

"Why and how have we got to a situation where people experience the Church as blocking the view – not only the view of the human landscape in all its beauty and confusion, but even the view of Jesus himself?" asks Rowan Williams, the Archbishop of Canterbury, who certainly knows a few things about the Church. The Archbishop suggests that in the new book *The Other Jesus*, "Greg Garrett, one of the most searching and honest of Christian writers today, sets out to clear away some of the obstacles to seeing Jesus truthfully and to suggest what sort of church might happen if we all did the same. It won't be a church without disagreement and diversity of conscientious conviction – but it might be a church that modeled what a life well-lived, a life of compassion and trust, would look like."

Greg is a writer, teacher, preacher, and public theologian who has spent his whole life asking hard questions about faith. Raised in a conservative tradition, he fled organized religion for decades before being rescued by an Episcopal congregation trying to live faithfully, with compassion and justice. *The Other Jesus* emerged from reflection on his journey, on the current state of the Church, and on how we might be thoughtful disciples of Jesus in a world that is increasingly Post-Christian, indifferent or even hostile to the faith we profess.

How might we read the Bible and do theology today? What might we find in the traditions of Christian liturgy and spirituality that continue to be life-giving? How do we walk alongside people whose faith commitments differ drastically from ours--or who have no faith commitment at all? Join Greg for four weeks of discussion growing out of *The Other Jesus* as we explore the challenges and possibilities for 21st Century Christianity.

Info on an event coinciding with our time with Greg:

The BookPeople Theology on Tap is **Tuesday, March 1st at 7:00 pm**, and will feature a discussion of some of the issues of the book with emergent pastor Gideon Tsang and religion journalist Eileen Flynn DeLao.

+ REPORT ON DIOCESAN COUNCIL – SUBMITTED BY FRANCES RICKARD

The 162nd Council of the Diocese of Texas met in The Woodlands on February 12, 2011. Council is the annual business meeting of the diocese held every February. Delegates from St. George's were Raul Carrera, Spencer Gordon, Frances Rickard, John Rickard, the Rev. Kevin Schubert, and the Rev. Judith Liro. In his [address to the Council](#), Bishop Doyle announced his intention to call for the election of a Bishop Suffragan to replace the retiring Bishop High, although the election will not take place until the 2013 Diocesan Council. Bishop Doyle will conduct a search for an Assisting Bishop, who would serve temporarily until the new Bishop Suffragan is on board. You can read the full address and learn more about what happened at Council on the revamped [diocesan website](#). ✂ Also of note was the Bishop's appointment of St. George's rector, the Rev. Kevin LJ Schubert, as chair of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission.

+ SAFEGUARDING GOD'S CHILDREN – FIRST TRAINING THIS SATURDAY, MARCH 5TH

Safeguarding God's Children is a training program for the prevention of sexual abuse of children and youth. The program provides participants information they need to protect the children they know and care for in their personal lives and in the ministries in which they serve. If every adult can protect just one child, they will forever change one life. If we can all change one life, together we will make a difference in this generation of children. Every church in the Diocese of Texas requires its leaders to be trained. This includes, but is not limited to – vestry and committee members, those serving in ministries that have any interaction with children & youth, all persons involved in a liturgical role, such as Lay Eucharistic Ministers, lectors, ushers, etc. If you are involved in any leadership role at St. George's the training is required. The training is a very good prevention program that is actually recommended for everyone, no matter if it is required or not. All should take the time to be trained, but some must. If you have received the safeguarding training before, please call Becca in the church office to check if you need a recertification. The training certification lasts 5 years.

St. George's is offering two opportunities for certification and recertification. They will be held during a three-hour block on two Sundays during Lent (You can even see this as a possible Lenten discipline!) Our very own Mikail McIntosh-Doty will be our trainer. **Saturday March 5 from 9 am to 1 pm** will be the first opportunity. Lunch will be available during this particular training; monetary donations are appreciated to offset the cost. The second opportunity to be trained will be **Saturday March 26 from 9 am to 12 pm**. To register please contact the church office or fill out the form at this link: [Safeguarding Registration](#)

The total cost associated with running background checks for the number of persons required to take the training will be high. Because of this cost to the church any donation to offset this cost is greatly appreciated. Each background check costs \$10. If you are willing to donate this cost please bring cash or check to the training.

+ WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP - SATURDAY, MARCH 5TH, 3:00-5:00 PM

The book group will be reading "Suite Francaise" by Irene Neimirovsky for our **March 5th** meeting. We will be meeting at Rebecca Strabo's house **3 - 5 p.m.** Please contact **Carolyn Moreau** at carolynmoreau@austin.rr.com for information and directions.

+ PANCAKE BRUNCH - SUNDAY, MARCH 6TH



Come and celebrate a Pancake Brunch on **Sunday, March 6th** with your church family! After the 10:30 am service we will gather in Kleberg Hall for some good food and fellowship. The Pancake Brunch is the last celebratory event of the church before the upcoming Lent Season beginning on Ash Wednesday.

+ CROP HUNGER WALK - SUNDAY, MARCH 6TH, 1:30 PM

Please join St. George's EYC group in walking the Austin annual CROP Hunger Walk on **Sunday, March 6th**. This walk fights hunger locally and globally with 25% of the proceeds supporting local organizations assisting those in need in central Texas. One agency receiving contributions is the Capital Area Food Bank. We will be caravanning out to Walter E. Long park at **1:30 pm** from St. George's on March 6th, right after the Mardi Gras pancake breakfast! Please see any EYC youth group member for information on sponsoring a walker for this important ministry. The proceeds from the pancake breakfast will be put toward our group's contribution to the CROP walk.

+ ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE -MARCH 9TH

On **Wednesday, March 9** at **12:15 pm & 7:00 pm** the St. George's community gathers for Ash Wednesday services. This service initiates the season of Lent in the church calendar, which is a season of penitence and fasting. The observance of a holy Lent includes self-examination and repentance by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and reading and meditating on God's holy Word (BCP p. 265).

+ HEALING SERVICES - WEDNESDAYS AT 12:15 PM

St. George's now offers a healing service to the community every Wednesday at 12:15 pm. This service will provide 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. This is so, with the full knowledge that God's healing and grace is available for all conditions of humanity. The emphasis of healing during the service by no means denotes a cure of particular ailments. Rather, 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. And through the celebration of God's mysteries, we become participants in the divine, whether a cure is the ultimate outcome or not. The Rev. Kevin LJ Schubert officiate this service.

+ 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 +

The February SAES accreditation visit was a success! Five early childhood professionals spent three days with us getting to know all about St. George's and they offered amazing recommendations (things that we have to do) and suggestions (things that we might want to think about doing). A major commendation was the spirit of community and caring within the school families as well as the strong and supportive relationship between the church and the school. The faculty and the Board of Trustees are getting details of the findings and making a plan to move forward with this wise, detailed, insightful and helpful report. It should go before the next SAES standards committee in early March and we will be notified of our accreditation status soon after. A huge thank you to everyone involved in the school: teachers, board members, and parents who helped manage an intense, but valuable experience!



We celebrated a Grandparents and Special Friends Day on Friday, February 18th. It was a morning filled with love as our special guests enjoyed a chapel service featuring songs about love, followed by a breakfast reception in Kleberg Hall featuring a slide show of the children and gifts. It was a wonderful morning to enjoy and celebrate our school community.

St. George's Episcopal School sends out colorful monthly e-newsletters filled with pictures, news and all you want to know about happenings at the school. If you are interested in receiving these e-newsletters, please send your email address to laura.stgeorges@gmail.com and she will put you on the list!

+ 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 be working at the home on **March 12th** and **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**.

The Outreach committee is collecting "**Handbags for Hope**" for the month of March. On behalf of the Travis County Sheriff's Office we are collecting your gently used (current style) or new purses which will be taken to domestic violence shelters. They will offer the purses to children who will select a handbag to give to their mother on Mother's Day. Inside each handbag, these women will find hotline numbers for the Texas Advocacy Project, allowing them to access completely free legal solutions. Please drop off your donated handbags at church during the month of March.

The **Christopher House Basket** semi-annual sale began **Sunday, February 20th**. This ministry serves 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 filled by the Outreach Committee with basic daily necessities 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 to Christopher House any day of the week you select. There is no patient contact. If you feel called to participate in this ministry or have any questions, please contact **Mary Stewart Miller** by **Sunday, March 6th** at millerms@grandecom.net or **220-5821**.

+ HILDEGARD'S ILLUMINATION: REMEMBERING THE DREAM

Many years ago Judy Horton stood up during the 10:30 service in St. George's and told all of us present about a dream she had: Jesus was underneath the church healing and baptizing and many were coming. As I recall there was a large fountain that I've always thought of as "Living Water" for the baptisms. It was an extraordinary dream I have carried in my heart ever since. I've always thought that Judy dreamed it for the parish and not just for herself. I think of it as a dream that is true now as well as then. Jesus is among us baptizing and healing and calling people to deep relationship with God. With Jesus here amazing things keep happening!

In preparation for Bishop Andy's visit, Kevin asked the Vestry to list accomplishments over the last two years. My thoughts have ranged beyond that time frame to consider the healing ministry that has poured forth from St. George's that most people don't even know about. In 1990 Judy and Jerry Horton, responding to the needs of their daughter Kelly, founded Down Home Ranch, the remarkable village in Elgin for those with intellectual disabilities. Virginia Marie Rincon left for seminary at Episcopal Divinity School (EDS) in Cambridge, Massachusetts; later she was ordained priest, serving as Hispanic missionary in the Diocese of Maine and founding *Tengo Voz*, a non-profit empowering Latina women and their families. Carolyn Thompson also graduated from EDS and has a powerful ministry related to the full-inclusion of persons with disabilities, currently serves on a World Council of Churches taskforce. Peggiann Jones continues her healing work with the local VA clinic, treating clients with PTSD from many wars.

In the years since St. Hildegard's began Carol Bradsen found healing through the SLS, graduated from EDS, and co-founded the Restoration Project in Tucson, an intentional community offering contemplative worship and doing justice. Heather Britt served as a missionary with the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and has remained in the Middle East doing humanitarian work. Although the SLS and St. Hildegard's haven't grown large in numbers, we've been a seedbed supporting those who are discerning call or already engaged in creative healing ministry beyond the parish walls. In addition current members and those who have moved on are returning to graduate school in theology and counseling, writing books, making film. When we consider this with all the Outreach of St. George's and the healing love found in both our communities, as well as St. George's School, St. George's Court and the 12-step groups that abound, we can see that Jesus has multiplied our relatively small numbers into amazing abundance both here and out into the world.

How appropriate to have Kevin's installation with baptisms, confirmations and a confirmation of our parish calling. With Jesus in our midst, we'll continue to be amazed.

Blessings,

Judith

+ AUSTIN TAN CERCA DE LA FRONTERA DELEGATIONS – BY JUDITH ROSENBERG

Note: Hildegardians Judith Rosenberg and Josefina Castillo have been leaders of Austin Tan Cerca de la Frontera since 1999. ATCF is a new non-profit, a recent spin-off from the American Friends Service Committee. Ten Hildegardians have been on delegations and are quoted below.

Entering the World of Maquiladora Workers - A Theology of Delegations

"Jesus sent the disciples out by twos and threes. He said don't take any food with you. Don't take anything. Rely on the people. He wasn't sending the disciples out to convert. He was sending them to know the world and relate to it. For me the delegation was a way into the world. We go with all the answers. We come back with all the questions. We are turned upside down... converted."

--St. Hildegard's Community member and Austin Tan Cerca Solidarity Delegate

Austin Tan Cerca de la Frontera (Austin So Close to the Border) leads solidarity delegations to border cities in Mexico 4 times a year. The delegations are three-day journeys into the communities, homes and lives of women and men who work in the maquiladoras or foreign-owned factories that produce for export to the US. A grassroots organization composed entirely of current and former workers, the *The Comité Fronterizo de Obreras/os* (CFO or Border Committee of Working Women and Men) hosts the delegations. The CFO has been organizing and advocating for their legal rights and improved conditions for 30 years.

What others say about the delegations:

"This visit, with Austin Tan Cerca, used a model called, 'solidarity'. We were to witness, to listen, to learn, and to hear stories. We were encouraged to ask questions of workers and organizers in Mexico. Our job was to be *present*... challenging because to be present meant not being more powerful. There were no opportunities to fix anything, to give anything materially, to solve the problems. Our purpose was to continue in the relationship that began 10 years ago... between organizations and people in Austin and Mexico.... relationship that is mutually beneficial, in and through the process of walking with people."

"We live very separately from the marginalized. But on the delegations we get to eat in their kitchens, stroll in their streets, talk about their work with them and share their food. This is where Jesus lived; if he came back, this is where he would live again."

Austin Tan Cerca de la Frontera invites you to join a delegation! **Next delegation: March 18 - 20, 2011**, going to Ciudad Acuna, Mexico with stops in Piedras Negaras and Del Rio, Texas. **Passport required.** Fee: \$225 includes transportation from Austin, translation, food and lodging, and orientation information. Orientation meeting: **March 17**. For more info and a registration form, **please email JRosenberg@atcf.org or call Judith R at 512 494-8377**. Communicate interest/questions **immediately**. A \$100 deposit will reserve a space. Some scholarship assistance available. Future delegations in May and October 2011.

-Judith Rosenberg, Board President and Delegation Coordinator, ATCF

+CHRISTOPHER HOUSE BASKET DELIVERIES+

Feb 27 – Mar 5: Donna Johnson
 March 13-19: Sarah Campbell

March 6-12: Mary Maxwell Spies
 March 20-26: Ronn & Sue Worcester



COFFEE HOUR HOSTS



March 6 – Mardi Gras party hosted by KidsWord & EYC

March 13 – Altar Guild

March 27 – Vestry

March 20 – Lectors & Intercessors

April 3 – Outreach Committee



MARCH BIRTHDAYS



March 1 – Pat Booker

March 9 – Elaine Hosage

March 23 – Christina Fultz

March 31 – Kirk Wilson

March 6 – Carolyn Roseboom

March 17 – Deblina Moulik

March 25 – Scott Hoffman

March 31 – Frances Rickard

March 9 – James Byrnes

March 21 – Madeline Sparks

March 30 – David Savage

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

March 20 – Rob Blech & Mary Stewart Miller

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- | | |
|----------|---|
| Mar 5 | Safeguarding God’s Children Training, 9:00am – 1:00 pm |
| Mar 5 | Women’s Book Group, 3-5:00 pm |
| Mar 6 | Pancake Brunch, after the 10:30 service |
| Mar 6 | CROP Hunger Walk, 1:30 pm |
| Mar 9 | Ash Wednesday Service 12:15pm & 7:00pm |
| Mar 12 | Habitat for Humanity Build, 8:00am – 4:00pm |
| Mar 23 | Grace Series: Lenten Program, 6:30-8:00pm |
| Mar 26 | Safeguarding God’s Children Training, 9:00am – 12:00 pm |
| Mar 30 | Grace Series: Lenten Program, 6:30-8:00pm |
| 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 |

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

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*

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

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

Sunday Schedule

8:00am - Holy Eucharist/Morning Prayer 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 **April 1st**. Deadline for news is **March 23rd**. Please e-mail information you would like included in next month's edition to stgeorgeaustin@gmail.com.