

# THE BANNER

November 2009 ✧ Issue 09-11 ✧ *After Pentecost into Advent*

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## *St. George's Episcopal Church*

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✠ **PLEDGE TO SHARE YOUR GIFTS** ✧ It is time once again to prayerfully consider your financial pledge to St. George's for the coming year. Hopefully by now you have received a letter in the mail from Fr. Hoster and Belinda McGhee, Stewardship Coordinator, providing a context for the current financial situation of the parish and asking for your pledge to guide the vestry in preparing a budget for 2010. We count on the abundance of what each of us has to give in order to make St. George's a living, vibrant part of the body of Christ. Your gifts of money, time, and talent truly make a difference. Please return your pledge card to the church, either by mail or by leaving it in the alms basin on any Sunday morning between now and Ingathering Sunday, November 8. Extra cards are available in the office and on the tables at either entrance to the church or online at <http://sgchurch.org/ministries6.asp>.

✠ **FALL RETREAT AT WESSENDORFF** ✧ Do not delay in making plans to join your fellow parishioners in the lovely Texas Hill Country, **NOVEMBER 13 – 15**. Intergenerational Christian Education is something we haven't done at for St. George's in some time. This year the Saturday program will mix young and old and everybody in between in a structured program that draws out everybody's unique gifts. If Jesus meant what he said about entering the Kingdom as a child, then we all have a lot to learn from each other. We can't make you sit there and listen to an adult drone on with the kids in the picture! It will be engaging, interesting and exciting! Brochures are in the church office and narthex, or online at <http://sgchurch.org/events.asp>

✠ **FALL ADULT EDUCATION OFFERING** ✧ Starting **Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>**. We will be showing the DVD video "**Is God Green?**" from the Bill Moyers, *Moyers on America*, series. The DVD will serve as a basis of discussion for our understanding of stewardship as Christians in the Episcopal Church tradition in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The showing of the DVD will be spaced over four Sundays with discussion and reflection time included for approximately 45min. to an hour. We will meet in the library starting at 12 noon on the following Sundays, **November 1, 8, 22 and 29**. You may contact Deborah Hughes-Habel for more information at 801-864-2567 or [dhughes-habel@ssw.edu](mailto:dhughes-habel@ssw.edu).

✝ **MUSICAL EVENT and INVITATION** ✝ The congregation is invited to attend the UT String Project winter concert to celebrate several of our young peoples' musical gifts. Several of our St. George's children have been spending every Saturday morning learning to play string instruments. UT graduate music students teach the classes. The next free concert is on Saturday, **December 5th** from 9:30 to noon at Bates Recital Hall in the Butler School of Music on the UT campus, 26th and Medical Arts Blvd. Seating is limited so please come a little early and be prepared to be awed. Performers include the Stevens children: Luke (violin) Mae (violin) and Sutton (cello) Ellen Scarborough (violin) and Noah Savage (cello). Their talents are truly inspiring.

✝ **NICARAGUAN PROJECT UPDATE** ✝ We pledged to raise \$2500 to support the efforts of Austin Samaritans in their cervical cancer screening efforts. To date we have raise approximately \$2200 after paying expenses for the coffee purchases. This has been accomplished by the sale of Christmas cards, note cards, coffee and, of course the generously supported luncheon held on Rally Day.

You will have one more opportunity to purchase coffee and contribute to helping us reach the goal of \$2500. I will take coffee orders after church on November 30 and December 7 and plan to deliver your fresh roasted coffee to you on Sunday, December 14. This is a fabulous answer for any coffee lover on your Christmas gift list. Won't you treat your friends and family to fabulous coffee and contribute toward saving the life of a Nicaraguan woman?

Note cards and Christmas cards can also be available but those need to be printed so please call me, 762-8349, if you want to purchase cards. Of course, you can also place a donation into the offering plate with Nicaragua noted on the memo line.

Thank you for your generosity and your support. Blessings to you, Sandra Villalaz, 762-8349.

✝ **THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE** has changed the meeting time to the second Sunday of each month. We will continue to meet at noon at a location to be announced. Our committee is dedicated to making the world a better place for those in need in our local community as well as those across the nation and around the world. We welcome new members; whether you participate on a monthly basis, serve on a one-time project, or simply sit in on our meetings, your input, prayers and presence are appreciated. We look forward to seeing you on **Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>**!

Outreach is very grateful to Raul Carrera for installing shelves in the closet in Kleberg for storage for the Christopher House Basket supplies. He has made a dream come true for us. Thank you, Raul, for the generous donation of your time and talents.

**Trinity Center** is a faith-based organization meeting the spiritual, emotional and physical needs of people experiencing poverty and homelessness, our "neighbors." As a partner congregation, St. George's helps Trinity Center achieve its mission by serving a meal to the downtown homeless community. Terry O'Donnell is seeking volunteers to serve an early evening meal the **first Sunday in November, which is the 1st.**

**Christopher House** - If you have any questions regarding delivery of your hospitality baskets, contact Carolyn Moreau at [carolynmoreau@austin.rr.com](mailto:carolynmoreau@austin.rr.com) or 330-0639. We appreciate everyone who undertook a delivery and truly see God at work in this ministry. Outreach recognized KidsWord participation in putting together the hospitality baskets this fall with a Certificate of Appreciation for their service. Carolyn is to be commended for involving the children in this ministry and we are blessed to have their help as they learn through her example to care for others going through difficult times.

**SafePlace** collection boxes are located in the church narthex and in Kleberg. The five most needed items are unopened packages of diapers (newborn to 1 yr.) and wipes; unopened packages of children's underwear and socks sized 3-7 for both boys and girls; unopened deodorant, toothpaste, and toothbrushes; pillows and twin-size linens/blankets (clean, gently used items are okay). We will continue to collect the trial size toiletries as well.

**Angel Tree**—Hollie and Spencer Gordon will head the Angel Tree project this Advent season. The EYC will make the ornaments for the tree and decorate it as their service project. The Angel Tree will provide \$10.00 gift cards to the elderly and disabled residents at St. George's Court and two unwrapped \$20-25 gifts and one \$25.00 gift card for each foster girl at the Robinson Group Home for Teen-age Girls.

The tree will be set up by **Nov. 22**. Each ornament will be numbered and have a gift suggestion written on the back plus a removable square card. You will select an ornament that has a gift you would like to sponsor, you then write your name on the square card and leave it in the gift box beside the tree. Take the ornament with you as a reminder of your gift selection. **The ornament, which will be used as a package decoration, needs to be returned attached to the unwrapped gift to the church or to the church office no later than Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>.** We will have a wrapping party after coffee hour Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> and deliver the gifts that afternoon.

✠ **FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, NOVEMBER 29** ✠ Advent was the last season to be officially added to the church calendar, in about 600 AD. It was made the first season of the church year because it begins the story of the events of Christ's life, death, and resurrection. Advent always includes four Sundays before Christmas, this year (2009) beginning on November 29. Originally, in the Eastern Church, Advent focused on the Annunciation (when the angels told Mary that she would bear a son); but in the West it came to concern the first Coming at the Nativity, the future Coming at the end of time, and the present coming, through grace, to the hearts of men and women.

The source of the Advent Wreath as we now know it is most likely the fire wheel used by ancient Teutonic tribes to honor the Sun God. To Christians, both the circular shape of the wreath and the evergreens used to construct it represent the eternal nature of God. The candles represent the Light of Christ.

The candles on the Advent Wreath are lit successively, until all are ablaze on the Fourth Sunday in Advent. There are four candles, three violet and one rose. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday of Advent, referred to as "Gaudete" or "Rose Rejoicing" Sunday (from the epistle and introit which speak of "rejoicing in the Lord always"). "Rose Rejoicing Sunday" shows how anticipated joy over our Savior's coming breaks through all our serious Advent preparation. More information will be in the December *Banner*.

## Friends in St. George's,

In July we held the first meeting of a Public Policy Group for St. George's. In that first meeting a dozen members decided to look for ways to respond to appeals for policy input from Episcopal national, state and local groups.

We receive news from the Episcopal News Service and e-mails from the Episcopal Public Policy Network inviting us to influence public policy and alleviate human suffering. Such requests, dealing with issues like poverty, education, health and women's rights, often ask us to write letters or phone representatives. You probably receive such requests yourself and respond to them when you can.

As an outgrowth of our first meeting, we encouraged you to participate in national discussions on health care reform by communicating your thoughts to your elected representatives. We will not be speaking on behalf of St. George's but rather seeking to help you become part of the discussion on issues of concern to the church at large.

Now we plan to meet once more after the coffee hour on **Sunday, December 6th**. Please join us for this conversation. This time, we will try to develop processes for selecting future issues and ways to inform you on making your own opinions effective. Toward the end of coffee hour, we will invite you to the library to talk.

In Christ,

Elzy Cogswell, [poetryplease@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:poetryplease@mail.utexas.edu), 452-4314  
Ralph Hausser, [r\\_hausser@hotmail.com](mailto:r_hausser@hotmail.com)

✠ **THANKSGIVING PRAYER** ✠ *Almighty and gracious Father, we give you thanks for the fruits of the earth in their season and for the labors of those who harvest them. Make us we pray, faithful stewards of your great bounty, for the provision of our necessities and the relief of all who are in need, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen*

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Nov	1	Day Light Savings Time Change – FALL BACKWARDS
Nov	1	All Saints Day - Day of the Dead
Nov	1	Fall Adult education 12 p.m. – 1p.m. in the library
Nov	1	EYC meets after church 12:15 – 1p.m. Location to be announced
Nov	1	Trinity Center Meal for the neighbors downtown, 2p.m.
Nov	8	Outreach meeting after 10:30 service
Nov	13-15	Parish retreat at Wessendorff
Nov	22	Last Sunday after Pentecost
Nov	26	Thanksgiving
Nov	29	First Sunday in Advent
Dec	6	Public Policy meeting at noon in the library
Dec	6	EYC meets after church 12:15 – 1p.m. Location to be announced
Dec	13	Pink Candle Party
Dec	24	Christmas Eve church services, 6:30p.m. and 10:30p.m.
Dec	25	Christmas falls on a Friday this year. 10a.m. service, no music

### 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 via podcast  
[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...*

- \* Stewardship
- \* Fall retreat at Wessendorff
- \* Adult education
- \* Trinity Center meal
- \* Youth talent concert
- \* Mark your calendar

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving  
And make good your vows to the Most High.

*Psalm 50:14*

The next issue of *The Banner* will go  
out on December 1<sup>st</sup>. Deadline for  
news is **Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>**.  
E-mail information to Alice Nelson  
[mzlsnlsn@gmail.com](mailto:mzlsnlsn@gmail.com).

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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