

November 2011 + Issue 11-11 + Season after Pentecost - Advent



ST. GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

4301 North IH 35

Austin, TX 78722

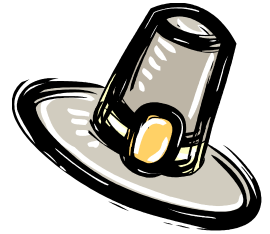
Church office: 512.454.2523

Fax: 512.454.2524

Church website: www.sgchurch.org

E-mail: stgeorgeaustin@gmail.com

Church office hours: Monday – Thursday, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.



Go **SLOW!** It's Advent

Reboot your holiday.

Advent begins a new year in our church. But it is also a time of stress and busyness for many. Join your St. George's family to slow down, reflect, celebrate, and find peace among the hustle and clamor of the season before Christmas. Our Advent program begins our new Lifelong Learning experience here at St. George's and includes opportunities for all ages.

9:15am to 10:15am Each Sunday in Advent
Stay tuned for more information...

+ MISSION FUNDING

In a process called Mission Funding, each congregation in the Diocese of Texas is asked to pledge an amount of its budget toward the diocesan missionary budget. Mission Funding allows us to extend our collective helping hands to communities across the diocese doing greater ministry than we could do alone. St. George's has been asked to pledge \$12,404 for this purpose in 2012. We are invited to respond, not only with the dollar amount of support we will give, but also to designate selected ministries within the diocese toward which we would like our money to go. On Sundays, October 30 and November 6, the congregation is invited to vote on a selected list of organizations and ministries that asked for help through the diocesan missionary budget. The list of organizations will be on a poster board in the narthex. Everyone in the congregation (children and youth, too!) can vote for up to three ministries, using the stick-on dots we've used in years past. We will allocate our contribution based on the percentage of votes each organization or ministry receives. If you'll recall from your stewardship letter, one of the vestry's dreams for next year's budget is to accept the full amount that we have been asked for. The vestry will decide at the November meeting how much we can give toward the diocesan missionary budget in 2012. Results of your voting and the total amount we will give will appear in the December Banner.

+ ST. GEORGE'S VISION

Over the past few months the St. George's leadership and community have worked to produce a vision plan to guide us into the future. After a very successful vision workshop, a group of wordsmiths have been working to clarify the decided visions. At the November vestry meeting, the vestry will vote to accept that vision. Shortly after this meeting, you will receive a letter outlining that vision along with an action plan to accomplish them. This is a very exciting time for St. George's as we look towards the future of continuing to be a Christ-centered community in Austin.

+ ST. GEORGE'S FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

We are winding down our financial stewardship campaign. Thank you to all that have turned in a pledge card! This is an important process to determine the 2012 budget. If you have not turned in a pledge card, there is still time! Pledge cards are available either in the church or church office. Thank you for supporting the wonderful community of St. George's!

+ DAY OF THE DEAD ALTAR – SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH



The “Day of the Dead” may sound like a horror movie title to some, but Día de los Muertos is a holiday celebrated in Mexico and in some parts of South America and the U.S. At St. George's we celebrate the day on All Saints' Sunday (this year, **November 6**) with a special altar at the front of the church. It is a time to remember our friends and relatives who have died, but still live on in our hearts. It is a day of the year when the distance between them and us is shortened, the veil between us and the afterlife is thinner. It is a day when we can feel a closer connection to them. We will be “building” the altar on Saturday, **November 5th**, from **9:00 to 11:00 AM**. Everyone is invited to come and participate for the whole time or any part. Please bring pictures and/or mementos of loved ones to church on Sunday to place on the altar. Also part of the tradition is to place on the altar some object that is familiar to that person, like a favorite book, playing cards, can of soda, etc.

+ TURN BACK YOUR CLOCKS – SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH



Daylight Saving Time ends early on All Saints' Sunday morning, **November 6th**. Be sure to set your clocks back one hour before you go to bed Saturday night, or you'll be late for church this week!

+ GLUTEN-FREE WAFERS AVAILABLE AT COMMUNION!

If you prefer to receive gluten-free wafers during communion, there is now a process to do so. During the distribution an appointed person will be available to distribute gluten-free wafers on the far left hand side of the altar rail, closest to the north entrance of the church. We will begin gluten-free communion distribution on **Sunday, November 6th**.

+ HALLELUJAH HOUR! – TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH, 5:00 PM

On Tuesday, **November 8th**, the Evangelism Committee will be hosting a Hallelujah Hour at the **Draught House Pub & Brewery** (4112 Medical Pkwy #100, 78756). This bi-monthly event serves our community as a social gathering to know one another better outside the church walls. All are welcome to attend! Future events will be outlined in the church calendar.

+ ST. GEORGE'S FALL GRACE SERIES - WEDNESDAYS 6:30 – 8:00 PM

Twice a year (Fall and Spring) the St. George's community gathers for a four-week teaching series. The evening begins in Kleberg Hall with a potluck meal at 6:30 pm, followed by a lecture and discussion. The evening concludes at 8:00 pm. The Fall Grace Series is continuing in November with the following presenters. Please come and enjoy an evening of good food, excellent teaching, and great fellowship!

- November 2 The Rev. Susan Dolan-Henderson
- November 9 The Rev. Josephine Robertson
- November 16 Donna Johnson

+ PRAYER AND DEVOTIONAL GROUP - THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH, 10:00 AM

The Prayer and Devotional Group (formerly known as the Thursday Morning Bible Study) will meet the second Thursday of each month at 10:00 am and will include communion. This month the group will meet at **Ruth Crawford's house at 1308 Ludlow Terrace on November 10th at 10:00 am**. You can reach Ruth at 453-6571. The group will be reading and discussing the book "Here and Now," by Henri Nouwen. Please come.

+ WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP - SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12TH, 3:00-5:00 PM

We will be discussing "Cleopatra: A Life" by Stacy Schiff at our next book group meeting on **Saturday, November 12th, from 3-5:00 pm**. We will be meeting at Frances Rickard's house (4107 Rockford Lane). Please contact Carolyn Moreau at carolynmoreau@austin.rr.com for directions or more information.

+ ST. GEORGE'S ANNUAL PARISH RETREAT

NOVEMBER 18-20TH, WELLSRING RETREAT CENTER

Each Fall, St. George's gathers for a time of rest, relaxation, and community building at the beautiful Well Spring Retreat Center on Wessendorff Ranch in the Texas Hill Country. This year's retreat will be held from **Friday, November 18th through Sunday November 20th**. If you would prefer to only come on Saturday, you are welcome to do so by indicating the one day option on the back of the registration form. **Registration forms are available in the church or church office**. The retreat is dedicated to enriching our communal bonds as we enjoy times of worship, family and individual recreation, social activities, community building activities, and great food! There will be plenty of dedicated free time to enjoy the beautiful scenery of the Texas Hill Country, including the spectacular sight of the famous 'narrows.' The Blanco River flows through the ranch's limestone landscape creating a breathtaking glimpse of what is commonly known as the 'narrows.' Accommodations for families with children will be in motel style rooms with a dormitory arrangement for others when the motel rooms fill up. There are no single-occupancy rooms. You are asked to bring your own beverages and bedding to the retreat, as well as snacks to share. The cost of the retreat includes sleeping accommodations and all meals. Scholarships are available; please contact Kevin Schubert for more information. This is a great opportunity to know your church family better as we grow to know God through our common relationships with one another. Come and enjoy a relaxing weekend in a loving restful environment! **Please turn in your retreat registration forms as soon as possible so we can adequately plan for the weekend!**

Retreat Cost Breakdown (Family Maximum cost is \$125)

Friday - Sunday	Adults:	\$45
Friday - Sunday	Children:	\$25
Saturday Only	Adults:	\$15
Saturday Only	Children:	\$10

+ BAILEY LECTURES AT ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH – NOV. 11TH – 13TH

Each year All Saints' Episcopal Church hosts the Bailey Lectures, which are open to the public and free of charge. The series hosts several lecturers, including John Philip Newell, who will present the opening lecture, "A New Harmony: The Spirit, the Earth, and the Human Soul." If you would like more information about this lecture and others in the series, please follow this [link](#) or go to All Saint's webpage, <http://www.allsaints-austin.org/>.

+ PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY

Our prayers and sympathy are extended to Hollie and Spencer Gordon and their family on the death of Hollie's mother, "Ozzie" Wortham Harris, on October 24.

May her soul, and the souls of all the departed, by the mercy of God, rest in peace.

+ CONGRATULATIONS

To parishioner Donna Johnson, whose newly published memoir, *Holy Ghost Girl*, has received national attention. Reviews in publications including the *New York Times*, *Texas Monthly*, and *O* magazine have praised her work for its captivating prose, humor, and eloquent detail. Donna will be speaking at St. George's on the concluding evening of the Grace Series, Wednesday, November 16th, beginning at 6:30 pm in Kleberg Hall.

To April Sikes who was received into the Episcopal Church on Sunday, October 2, by Bishop Dena Harrison.

Almighty God, send her forth in the power of the Holy Spirit to perform the service you set before her, that she may serve you in this life and dwell with you in the life to come. Amen.



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS



November 2 - Matt Puckett November 5 - Gabriel Moreau November 15 - Christi Cowick
Nov. 16 - Mary Stewart Miller November 20 - Dustin Worcester November 26 - Martha Sahs
Nov. 28 - Ellen Liu Scarborough November 30 - Terry O'Donnell



COFFEE HOUR HOSTS



November 6 - Lay Eucharistic Ministers
November 20 - Lectors & Intercessors
December 4 - Outreach Committee

November 13 - Altar Guild
November 27 - KidsWord & EYC
December 11 - Choir

+ OUTREACH UPDATE

BASTROP COMPLEX FIRE RELIEF FUNDRAISER

Congratulations and Thanks to St. George's! Our community raised \$1650 in cash and gift cards for the community of Calvary Episcopal Church in Bastrop. In addition, the Outreach Committee has given \$1,000 for the discretionary fund of Calvary's rector to be used where she sees the greatest need for it. The Rev. Lisa Hines, rector of Calvary, is greatly appreciative of our generosity. The relief and assistance needed in Bastrop has no definitive end in sight though. The diocese and Calvary are working hard to identify and prioritize the needs of the Bastrop community. Once a plan is in place for the redevelopment of the community, St. George's will play an important role in providing assistance. As the plan comes to fruition more information on how to help will be available.

A REMARKABLE OPPORTUNITY!

If you shop at Randall's and use the Remarkable Card, a percentage of your total grocery bill will go to St. George's if you have give Randall's the following nonprofit account number for St. George's: 1809. Once you give that number, it will be entered into the computer system, and your grocery bill at any Randall's store will be credited to the St. George's account. Proceeds from Good Neighbor Program, amounting to more than \$200 so far this year, go to the church operating budget.

ST. GEORGE'S COURT ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR

St. George's Court is holding its annual Arts & Crafts Fair and you're invited! Each year residents of this affordable residential complex for the elderly and disabled, sell items such as the following: Christmas ornaments, tote bags, sparkly hand crafted baubles, crocheted blankets, scarves and hats, jewelry, and baked goodies. The fair takes place at St. George's Court (1443 Coronado Hills Dr., 78752) **Saturday, November 12th, from 10am-2pm**. There is no entrance fee and this is a great way to meet and support the residents of this wonderful community! For directions and more information, please call 459-1002.

HELP FOR CASA OF TRAVIS COUNTY

CASA of Travis County is working with a family that just reunited and is in need of the following items:

Pots/Pans

Blankets

Table & Chairs

If you have any of these items to donate please e-mail sonia.kotecha@casatravis.org or contact Sandra Villalaz-Dickson for more information.

ANGEL WREATH PROJECT

Our Angel Wreath project is just around the corner. If you are interested in helping make the small felt stockings that hold the gift cards for St. Georges Court, please contact Hollie Gordon at hlemond@austin.rr.com.

Helping those in need is at the heart of our understanding of the Gospel as we reach out to the larger community of the city, the nation, and the world. - St. George's core value statement on outreach

+ *Hildegard's Illumination: Grace upon Grace*

The Prologue of *The Gospel of John* tells of the Word becoming flesh and dwelling among us and that from this fullness of Presence “we have received grace upon grace.” This astonishing abundance describes my experience during my recent sabbatical. Someone who knows me better than I know myself prepared a time for me that has been everything I could have hoped for and more. I returned to my work on October 23rd feeling refreshed and with deepened spiritual practices that will continue to sustain me. Here are some of my experiences:

Hospitality and friendship: I was longing for solitude so was surprised by the love of God that came through other people. Although I traveled where I knew no one, I experienced a community of friends where I was embraced and welcomed wherever I went. At a Center for Action and Contemplation Conference in Albuquerque as well as Ghost Ranch near Abiqui, at Rivendell Retreat Centre near Vancouver, B.C. and also back in Austin I’ve met such generous, caring people full of Loving Presence. One meaningful connection was the Rivendell Community. They are an ecumenical group of 17 committed Christians who are stewards of the retreat centre and rotate being the hosts for the groups and individuals who come. Their warm hospitality sustained me as did a time of contemplative worship every day at 5 p.m. My small life was joined with the larger Community of Life and I experienced the reality of the incarnation wherever I went.

Connections that only God could have known: The first night of the 10-day Silent Retreat before we went into Silence, I sat by Pam Martin. It turns out that Pam and her family are very active in St. Mark’s Anglican Church in Vancouver and that St. Mark’s is very much like St. Hildegard’s! It was spooky – our communities being introduced to each other by the Holy Spirit. On September 11th I worshipped with St. Mark’s and had great conversations with others as well. One connection was St. Gregory’s of Nyssa – Paul Fromberg and Sara Miles had been there to lead a weekend event. St. Mark’s had redone their worship space about a year before and it was lovely. Pam gave St. Hildegard’s a beautiful blanket with the symbol of The Raven, the creator of the world in indigenous lore. She may even come visit us. Another surprise was a clown named *Talitha Koum* who visited us during the Silent Retreat. When I was in my 30’s I did clown ministry with the EYC at All Saint’s and it played an important role in hearing my call to ordained ministry. When *Talitha* showed up I was connected with those stirrings in my heart and soul and felt they were still lively in me so many years later.

Solitude: I did enjoy solitude as well, spending hours each day on the trails of Rivendell Retreat Centre. The love of God came to me not only in the flesh of people but embodied in the trees of Bowen Island. This poem by Wendell Berry describes their blessing:

*I part the out thrusting branches
and come in beneath
the blessed and the blessing trees.
Though I am silent
there is singing around me.
Though I am dark
there is vision around me.
Though I am heavy
there is flight around me.*

Blessings, Judith



+ NEWS FROM ST. GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL DAY SCHOOL +

St. George's Episcopal School is an inclusive community, inspiring preschool children to love learning by nurturing each child's mind, body, and spirit.

CORE VALUES

Community

St. George's seeks to build a sense of community among the children and their families, within the school, and as a part of the larger world. We cherish all people, places, and the natural environment.

Quality

We strive for excellence at all levels of the school, as demonstrated in the curriculum, teaching, administration, and board oversight. Children at St. George's receive an enriching early childhood education that fosters a lifetime love of learning.

Nurturing

We believe children learn best in a positive, caring environment in which their individuality is recognized and embraced. Teachers and staff are warm and respectful towards all children and families in the St. George's community.

Spiritual Development

Within an Episcopal framework and grounded by weekly chapel services, we respect all faith traditions. St. George's celebrates the spirit of God within each child while honoring the religious tradition of each family.

Inclusive

St. George's is a welcoming community that fosters and respects the dignity of all people, celebrating diverse ethnic, racial, religious, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic backgrounds and perspectives.

VISIONING WORK

As you can see, the board of St. George's has been hard at work revising the mission statement and articulating our core values. On October 29th, the entire school community came together in a visioning retreat that allowed us to take these core values and dream of

what our future can be. It was an exciting and invigorating process to be able to build upon the success of the past few years and look to the future. More details to come!

COMMUNITY HELPERS MONTH

The board is not the only group that has been busy at school. October is community helper's month at St. George's and we have had many visitors! Parents in many classes have come to tell us about what they do at work during the day. We have had a nurse, a fireman, a midwife, and many other parents who do interesting office work during the day. We also had a few musician parents come entertain the children with songs in the classrooms. The St. George's community is filled with talented people!

These classroom visits culminated in a special yearly visit from the firefighters from Station 14 on Airport Blvd. on Tuesday, October 18th. They brought their engine and all of their equipment and the excitement was palpable that morning! The students learned not to be afraid of firemen if they have to come to their house. They even got to touch a fireman who was all dressed up in his gear so that they know that he is there to help.

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

We had Parent/Teacher conferences the week of October 10th. This is an important time of year when parents and teachers come together to discuss the progress of each student and determine individual goals for the year. It takes a lot of time to meet with every parent, but it is worth the extra time investment to form those close relationships and keep the lines of communication open about the incredible kids at St. George's!

+ CHRISTOPHER HOUSE BASKET DELIVERY SCHEDULE +

Oct 30-Nov 5: Mikail McIntosh-Doty

Nov 6-12: David Savage

Nov 13-19: Nancy Day

Nov 20-26: Dolan-Henderson Family

Nov 27-Dec 3: Josephine Robertson & Tim Peoples

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.lectionarypage.net/> 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

www.ctcinternational.org Comfort the Children International

+ **DIOLOG E-NEWS** - If you would like to sign up for the Diocese of Texas' e-news, please submit your email using this link <http://tinyurl.com/diologeneews>.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

November 2	Fall Grace Series, 6:30-8:00pm (Kleberg Hall)
November 5	Building the Day of the Dead Altar, 9-11:00am (Church)
November 6	Daylight Saving Time ends
November 6	All Saints' Sunday (with Day of the Dead Altar)
November 7	Worship Committee Meeting, 6:00pm (Church)
November 8	No Choir Rehearsal
November 8	Hallelujah Hour, 5pm (Draught House Pub & Brewery)
November 9	Fall Grace Series, 6:30-8:00pm (Kleberg Hall)
November 10	Prayer and Devotional Group, 10am (Home of Ruth Crawford)
November 11-13	Bailey Lectures (All Saints' Episcopal Church)
November 12	St. George's Arts & Crafts Fair, 10:00am-2:00pm (St. George's Court)
November 12	Women's Book Group, 3-5:00pm (Home of Frances Rickard)
November 14	Vestry Meeting, 7:00pm (Kleberg Hall)
November 16	Fall Grace Series, 6:30-8pm (Kleberg Hall)
November 18-20	Parish Retreat (Wellspring Retreat Center)
November 21	School Board Meeting, 6:00pm (Kleberg Hall)
November 24	Church Office Closed for Thanksgiving Day
November 27	Advent Christian Education Program begins, 9:15am

The Rev. Kevin LJ Schubert
Rector

The Rev. Judith Liro
*Associate Rector and Minister to
St. Hildegard's Community*

The Rev. Josephine Robertson
Curate

Susanna Brosseau
Seth Olson
Seminarians

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*
James Wall *Financial Secretary*
Stephen Linam & Rob Blech
Treasurers
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 **Dec. 1st**. Deadline for news is **Nov. 22nd**. Please e-mail information you would like included in next month's edition to stgeorgeaustin@gmail.com.

*Worshipping God and sharing our
faith through word, action and service.*