

THE BANNER

September 2010 ✦ Issue 10-09 ✦ *Season After Pentecost*

St. George's Episcopal Church

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✦ **LABOR DAY AT ST. GEORGE'S** ✦ This year, Sunday, **September 5** -- is the time we pause to remember the contribution each of us makes to the building of God's kingdom in the world and to renew our understanding of our work in life as a form of partnership with God. You are encouraged to bring an appropriate symbol of your labor to present at the altar. For those working and earning a salary, the choice is usually pretty straightforward. Ditto those in school. If you're retired or not currently employed, you might give some thought to what your current calling or mission in life is. (For some, it's finding a job!) A liturgy will follow the Prayers of the People and the symbols will be presented. If you forget to bring something (or anybody who didn't get the word) there will be an opportunity to write down the name of the symbol and present that instead.

✦ **RALLY DAY AT ST. GEORGE'S** ✦ On Sunday **September 12**, St. George's will celebrate the various ministries within our church. We will combine our two regular Sunday services for Rally Day and worship together at 9:30 a.m. After the service we will enjoy a potluck meal together, so bring your favorite dish to share with the parish! During the meal you will be presented with information regarding selected ministries. There will also be ministry sign up sheets available, giving you an opportunity to participate in our various excellent ministries. Mark your calendars to attend this special day in the life of St. George's!

✦ **YOUTH CONFIRMATION CLASSES** ✦ The third Sunday of the month, beginning on **September 19** the St. George's EYC Group will meet from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. through February. The class will be taught by the Rev. Kevin LJ Schubert pertaining to the preparation for confirmation. Confirmation is a sacramental rite in which individuals express a mature commitment to Christ in a special service on **February 27 at 6:30 p.m.** at which Bishop Andrew C. Doyle will preside. Those youth who attend the confirmation classes through the fall will be confirmed. The class will be held in the library from September through February, except in December. The final meeting will be a special activity on Sunday February 20, a week before the confirmation service, where the group will partake in a fun activity. Youth confirmation is open to any middle and high school youth interested in learning more about their faith and ultimately making a mature decision to commit their life to Christ's ministry. The sacramental rite has no age restrictions. For more information concerning youth confirmation please contact the Rev. Kevin LJ Schubert at the church office, 512-454-2523, or by e-mail kevinljschubert@gmail.com

Worshiping God together, sharing the gospel and serving God's children

✝ 'GRACES SERIES FOR FAMILIES' begins in September

St. George's Episcopal Church will present four programs a year, two in the fall and two in the spring, directed towards the Christian formation of our community. Each program will combine elements of spirituality, biblical interpretation, sharing stories, and fellowship. Our evening begins with dinner at **6:30p.m.** After the meal the youth and children will gather separately from the adults for a discussion centered on the night's appointed topic with the evening concluding at **8p.m.** The first 'Grace Series' will be Wednesdays **September 8, 15, 22, and 29.** The theme will be 'Lifesavers: Nuggets of Truth in Church.' All too often in life, events occur that make us feel as if we are drowning; pressure from all aspects of life play into these feelings, such as work, relationships, illness, inner thoughts, etc. In this four-week course we will investigate what our tradition and church have to offer as 'life savers,' those nuggets of truth that bring clarity and redemption ultimately revealing God's provision. The hope is that through this 'Grace Series for Families' lecture and discussion we may recognize healthy ways in which we can appropriately respond to life's difficult events. Nursery care will be available.

✝ **OUTREACH UPDATE** ✝ The Outreach Committee will not meet in September but will be participating in Rally Day instead. Our next scheduled meeting will be Sunday, **October 10** in Kleberg about noon. It's never too late to be a valued member of this committee. Whether you want to sit in on a meeting or become involved in a project, your input is important. For more information contact Gayle Wall at gwall9407@austin.rr.com or 837-0644.

Christopher House Baskets

Christopher House Baskets for fall/ winter deliveries will be available Rally Day, **September 12.** This ministry reaches out to **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. The Outreach Committee fills fifty-two baskets. Our goal is to deliver two baskets each week. We ask for a \$10 donation per basket to cover the cost of supplies and encourage donors to personalize their baskets with fresh fruit and baked goods. The baskets may be delivered any day of the week you select. Upon request, we can have someone make your delivery if you would like to participate but are unable to deliver your basket. If you have any questions please contact Mary Stewart Miller at millerm@grandecom.net or 220-5821.

Foster Girls

The Zilker Hillside Theater has become an annual summer tradition for the foster girls. For some of them it will be their third year. Although the pool is presently closed the girls were quite content to look pretty sitting on their little blankets and passing the time beforehand enjoying snacks, reading magazines and trying to stay cool and bug-free. We appreciate Katie Carnes for organizing this event and arriving early, early, early to spread blankets on some prime lawn space and Sarah Campbell, Andrea Sparks, Gayle Wall and Hollie and Spencer Gordon for supplying bug-spray, bottled water, magazines, umbrellas, snacks, cool rags for our faces, moola for the concession stand and flashlights for bathroom breaks.

Katie Carnes summed the evening up well with this delightful summary: "We Came, We Saw, We Conquered! When we joined the girls from the Robinson Foster Home ("Our Girls") for the Zilker Park Hillside Play on Thursday evening, July 22, we almost saw the musical *Singing in the Rain*. With our blankets spread, four of Our Girls weathered a brief rain shower with us that delayed the beautiful, fun, musical *Annie* for about an hour. (The play was over at about 11:30 p.m.) Our Girls even encountered a curious raccoon while strolling around the park! Our Girls could definitely relate to the "It's the Hard-Knock Life" Annie song but also have hope with the Annie song "Tomorrow, tomorrow, we love you tomorrow; you're only a day away." It was a beautiful night, surrounded by beautiful families and Our Girls were happy and at peace. Please keep your eyes open for fun and free events we could share with Our Girls and let us know!"

In August Our Girls came to church for the Blessing of the Backpacks. They brought a very sweet card thanking the congregation for their Back-to-School gift cards. There is a picture of them on the bulletin board in the narthex of the church and in Kleberg ready to shop. And shop they did Friday and Saturday at the outlet malls in Round Rock and San Marcos! Vernell and Curtis have only 5 girls presently in care but are expecting three more soon. We saved their cards for when they arrive as we look forward to getting to know them.

Our New Girl, Ruby, had an August birthday. Although too shy to go up for a birthday blessing, we were pleased to have her with us to celebrate her birthday. After church we took the girls to Pokey Jo's for lunch and a birthday celebration. But what happens when the birthday girl doesn't like cake? Sarah Campbell comes to the rescue with a birthday cheesecake that Ruby loved and cupcakes for those who preferred cupcakes. Thank you Sarah for the cake, the birthday card and the gift card for Ruby and thank you Hollie for the gift you brought Ruby. We were joined at Pokey Jo's by Hollie, Spencer, Christina and Elaine who then raced off, braving the heat to rent kayaks to take the girls kayaking at Barton Springs. All the girls cruised around Lake Lady Bird and reported their arms had had a good workout. They saw some turtles and also discovered one should go West (upstream) on Lake Lady Bird first so you can have an easy ride back flowing downstream with the current. Definitely enjoying God's creation is easier when you go with the flow! Thank you all for spending the afternoon with the girls.

Trinity Center Streets - I want to thank everyone who served at Trinity Center Sunday, August 10. We appreciate Spencer stepping up to the bat for Terry in his absence; Hollie, thanks for keeping us organized and bringing your friend, Mary, (please be sure to thank her for us); Melissa, it was great to have you join us and I hope you can come again sometime; and Ralph, our rock, always there and even better than "The Book" to keep us on track. Thanks again for supporting St. George's in its Outreach ministry to our downtown neighbors. I enjoyed working with all of you!

Any Baby Can - This is a "behind-the-scenes" project that provides food bags of specific items for some of ABC's most needy clients. Any Baby Can provides us with a list of grocery items, created with input from their nutritionist. On the first and third Mondays of each month five bags of groceries are delivered to ABC's facilities on East 7th Street. The food bags are then distributed to ABC clients by their caseworkers. Whoever is responsible for any particular week buys the groceries on the list and packs them into sturdy bags. Receipts are sent to St. George's treasurer for reimbursement. On average, the cost is approximately \$150/month depending on pricing and the savvy shopping of our shoppers. If you are interested in participating in this project, contact Stephanie Savage at ssavage@grandecom.net or 459-7679.

SafePlace - Outreach continues the collection of items for SafePlace, a local shelter for victims of domestic violence. Items requested are: unopened packages of diapers and diaper wipes; baby clothes and children's clothes, especially underwear, shoes and socks. Place items in the specially marked SafePlace container inside the south church entrance. Contact Pat Ford at pat@patfordassociates.com or 497-2264 for more information.

✠ NEW MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY ✠ Lay Eucharistic Visitors

A new opportunity for people to serve our great family here at St. George's has emerged. There are a number of individuals unable to attend Sunday services, either because they are homebound or may find themselves hospitalized on a Sunday during the services. Because of these various circumstances, St. George's will begin a new ministry to provide those persons an opportunity to share in communion with the rest of the community. If you are interested in serving as a Lay Eucharistic Visitor please contact The Rev. Kevin LJ Schubert at the church office by phone, 512-454-2523, or by e-mail, kevinljschubert@gmail.com.

✝ **NEWS FROM THE VESTRY** ✘ The Vestry met on August 9 and meets next on September 13.

- ✱ The Vestry has finalized the sale of the Rectory the end of August. This process has been a labor of love for many, and will improve the status of the Church's budget!
- ✱ We are looking into buying or leasing a new copier to better accommodate the Church's printing needs.
- ✱ Lastly, the Vestry approved a resolution authorizing St. George's to be listed as a "conversation partner" at the Moving Forward Conference, in October in Houston, which will address the inclusion of Gay, Lesbian, Bi-Sexual and Transgendered people in the Church. For more information about the Conference, contact Father Kevin at stgeorgeaustin@gmail.com.

✝ **THE ST. GEORGE'S CHOIR** resumes rehearsal this month on Tuesday evenings in the church. We gather at 7:00 p.m. and sing until 8 or 8:30 p.m. This is a great time to join in, even if just for a season or two, as the choir begins to rehearse for the fall. Contact music minister Paul Pew at 638-6444 or e-mail, paulpew@austin.rr.com for more information.

✝ **NEWS FROM ST. GEORGES'S DAY SCHOOL** ✘

- ✱ The outdoor bathroom is complete and we are loving it! The children do not have to go inside the building to use the bathroom and the teachers are able to stay on the playground to supervise.
- ✱ We are not having a full Fall Festival this year. We are going to have a Fall Playdate where we just come hang out on the playground with some musicians to entertain us and a few laid-back activities. It will also kick off our season of giving and participants may bring a food donation for our Thanksgiving Food Drive, a toy for our Christmas Toy Drive and/or a donation to our Annual Fund. The fun will happen on Sunday, November 7 after church.
- ✱ The school is the recipient of a \$5,000 playground grant from Worksource. We are going to add a toddler playscape and climber to the east of the new bathroom for our younger friends! We are very excited about this development.

✝ **NURSERY ATTENDANT NEEDED** ✘ If you know of anyone willing to serve as a nursery care attendant please let the Rev. Kevin LJ Schubert know as soon as possible, either by calling the church office, 512-454-2523, or via e-mail, kevinljschubert@gmail.com. We have recently employed Maria Tellos, nursery attendant for St. Hildegard's, to provide her services on Sunday mornings in the nursery. Because of Diocese of Texas Safeguarding God's Children policies, we are required to have two safeguarded adults in the nursery. During this transition we ask for your assistance. Any Safe Guarding certified church members that are willing to volunteer their time in the nursery on Sunday's are encouraged to inform Kevin. While we search for a second nursery attendant, we hope that these persons will provide the appropriate adult supervision in the nursery.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Sept 5	Labor Day Service, 10:30 a.m. Celebration of Vocation & Avocation
Sept 5	EYC meets after church in the green EYC room (church basement)
Sept 8	Graces Series for Families, four Wednesdays in September, Kleberg
Sept 12	Rally Day. On service at 9:30 a.m. followed by parish-wide ministry celebration
Sept 19	Youth confirmation class, 9:15a.m. church library
Nov 12-14	Parish retreat at Wessendorf Ranch
Feb 27	Confirmation Service w/ Bishop Doyle, 6:30 p.m., reception following

✘ BIRTHDAYS IN THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER ✘

Terrie Hoster – 04 Barbara Staub – 10 Gladys Dykes – 10 Ray Ford – 15 Pat Ford – 15
Jennifer Long – 15 Suzette Puckett – 15 Ted Staub – 19 Priscilla Boston – 20
Divesh Manohar – 20 Kristi Couvillon-Wise – 20 Colin O'Donnell – 23 Donna Johnson – 24
Ramón Treviño – 24 Vicki McClure – 28 Sandy Welles – 28 Hollie Gordon – 30

✘ CHRISTOPHER HOUSE BASKET DELIVERIES FOR SEPTEMBER ✘

Alice Nelson 05-11 Sarah Campbell 12-18 Henry Welles 19-25

✠ SEPTEMBER COFFEE HOUR HOSTS ✘ **5th - Outreach Committee** **12th - Rally Day**
19th - Lectors and Intercessors **26th - Vestry**

Hildegard's Illumination: A Season of Doubt

Fear lies at the root of all religion: fear of God, fear of the Devil or (to put it un-theologically) fear about the way things are. Rightly so: there is a lot to be afraid of. But there is something else: a defiant, dancing hope that dares to leap and celebrate in the face of all things that would crucify it....

Rock of Doubt, Sydney Carter

For four Sundays beginning August 29, we are experiencing "A Season of Doubt," liturgies based on the writings and music of Sydney Carter in conversation with the appointed Old Testament and Gospel readings. If the name Sydney Carter is unfamiliar to you, the last phrase in the quotation above will give you a clue—he's the man who wrote "Lord of the Dance." At St. Hildegard's we sing and dance to another one of his songs about Julian of Norwich: "Ring out, bells of Norwich and let the winter come and go. All shall be well again I know." Two Hildegardians, Cindy Ybarra and Daphne Levey, read his book, unearthed the story of his incredibly creative life and researched his music. These liturgies are their gift to the community.

I feel God's grace in the timing of this since I am experiencing a personal season of doubt. This last year I went almost daily to visit Joe's mom as dementia gradually robbed her of her spunk and connection to people, and tormented her with nightmarish fantasies. Now as I grieve her death, my own fears 'about the way things are' and what suffering lies ahead in my own life are stirred up. I'm expectant that these liturgies will help me connect with 'a defiant, dancing hope'! I'm looking forward to preaching on these themes and learning new songs.

Sydney Carter sees doubt as essential to faith, part of the human condition to be embraced, the place where seeds of hope sprout. In an opening ritual we'll be saying some words of Carter's including this sentence:

Faith and doubt both serve the truth. To crush either by an act of terror, in another or oneself, does no service to the truth.

Then we'll place a stone and name a particular doubt that is weighing on our hearts and minds. Carter's music is influenced by English folk tunes and is contagious with joy and hope. My own heart will certainly leap and celebrate when we sing:

"Come, love, caroling along in me! Come, love, caroling along in me! All the while, wherever I may be, I carry the maker of the world in me."

Blessings, *Judith*

Links to:

<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/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 Camp Allen registration for multiple programs
www.elbuen.org El Buen Samaritano Episcopal Mission

The Rev. Kevin LJ Schubert
Acting Rector

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

Paul Pew *Music Minister*

Laura Colangelo
Day School Director

Vestry

Rob Blech	<i>Senior Warden</i>
Hollie Gordon	<i>Junior Warden</i>
Andrea Sparks	<i>Clerk</i>
Ralph Hausser	Martha Paull
Jan Phillips	Frances Rickard
Hal Stevens	Ramon Trevino

Sunday Morning Schedule

8:00a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I
(with Morning Prayer on
first Sundays)
8:00a.m. Contemplative prayer
9:45a.m. Choir rehearsal
10:30a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II
with Kids Word
(Nursery available)

at a glance...

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- * Wednesday program in September
- * Rally Day
- * Outreach update
- * Confirmation classes for youth
- * Day School news
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- * Mark your calendar

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my
heart be acceptable in your sight,
O LORD, my strength and my redeemer

Psalm 19:14

The next issue of **The Banner** will go
out on **October 1**. Deadline for news is
Wednesday, September 22.
E-mail information to Alice Nelson
mzlsnlsn@gmail.com.

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