

THE BANNER



St. George's Episcopal Church

4301 North IH-35 | Austin, TX | www.sgchurch.org

February 2023



Epiphany

4301 North IH 35 • Austin, TX 78722

512.454.2523 • stgeorgeaustin@gmail.com

www.sgchurch.org

Office hours: Monday – Thursday, 10:30 am – 3:30 pm

Sunday Schedule (In-person and online)

10:30 am [Holy Eucharist, Rite II](#)

The Rev. Dr. Matt Boulter
Rector

Dia Park
Music Minister

Jessica Morrone
Office Administrator

Jerri Thompson
Head of School

Anne Bandholz
Brad Barcus
Mark Casstevens
Dale Curry
Spencer Gordon
Belinda McGhee
John Rickard
Sandra Villalaz-Dickson

Ramon Treviño
Vestry

Spencer Gordon
Senior Warden

Dale Curry
Junior Warden

Samantha Stevens
Financial Secretary

Frances Rickard
Treasurer

Mark Your Calendars

Thur 2/2 Fr. Matt's Book Group
(Batch)

Sat 2/4 Outreach Retreat

Wed 2/8 Wednesday Weavings

Sat 2/11 Women's Book Group

Tue 2/14 St. Valentine's Day
Men's Bible Study
(Zoom)

Thur 2/16 Fr. Matt's Book Group
(Zoom)

Sat 2/18 Vestry Retreat

Wed 2/22 Ash Wednesday

Mon 2/27 School Board Meeting

Tue 2/28 Men's Bible Study (Kerby
Lane)

[St. George's Events Calendar](#)

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Feast Days

- 1 Brigid, abbess of Kildare, 523
- 2 **The Presentation of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple**
- 3 Anskar, Archbishop and Missionary, 865
- 4 Cornelius the Centurian
- 6 Titus, Bishop and Confessor, 1st Cent.
- 10 Scholastica, Virginia nd first Benedictine Nun, 543 Commune of monastic II
- 13 Absalom Jones, Priest, 1818
- 14 Cyril, Monk, and Methodius, Bishop, 9th Cent.

- 15 Thomas Bray, Priest and Missionary, 1730
- 18 Simeon of Jerusalem, Bishop and Martyr, 1st Cent.
- 21 Peter Damian, Bishop, 1072 Common of a Theologian II
- 22 **Ash Wednesday**
- 23 Polycarp of Smyrna, Bishop and Martyr, 156
- 24 **Saint Matthias the Apostle**
- 25 Ethelbert, King and Confessor, 616 Common of a Saint II
- 26 **The First Sunday in Lent**
- 27 George Herbert, Priest, 1633
- 28 Oswald of York, Bishop, Abbot, 992

Rector's Corner



Dear St. George's Family:

A Trip to Waco

"Amateurs borrow; geniuses steal." I'm not sure when I first heard that line, but it has stuck with me for many years. I aim to steal good ideas from leaders who have a proven track record of success (giving them credit, of course).

That's why, on Thursday of last week, I made a trek to Waco, Texas for my quarterly meeting with the Reverend Aaron Zimmerman, who has been the rector of St. Alban's Episcopal Church for nine years now. When Aaron took the reins, the church was about 50% larger than St. George's is now, both in terms of attendance/membership and in terms of annual budget.

Today, nine years later, there are well over 400 folks in the pews every Sunday, and the church budget is, well ... enough money to purchase one of the nicer homes in the Cherrywood neighborhood! (It is roughly five times as large as our current budget at St. George's.)

I meet with Aaron once a quarter to glean wisdom, to steal like a genius, and to compare notes.

My "take-aways" from this most recent meeting with Aaron? I have two "bullet points": church planting mode, and administrative leadership.

Let's take the last one first. When it comes to administrative leadership, the honest truth is that I need to "up my game." I'm not "beating myself up"; it's just that I've never done this rector thing before, and we learn *by doing*. So Aaron gave me lots of good ideas for working toward best practices, and I hope to share some of these with the vestry on our February retreat.

Now for the first bullet point: church planning mode. Aaron's assessment is that I/we are scoring quite high on this count. St. George's is not a church plant, and yet I'm convinced that there are very few problems that this church has that would not be solved by the addition of 25 new households during 2023. This is why, at the annual parish meeting (thanks, Alice Nelson!! 😊) I emphasized our need to figure out how to minister well to young fams w/ kids ("YFWK's"), to prevent the rector from drowning in admin & facility issues, and to continue to cultivate a building/facilities and parish grounds that are safe, welcoming, and beautiful.

This is *also* why I hope that you, the good folks of St. George's, will join me as we venture off the church grounds into our surrounding precincts. I refer to three opportunities in particular:

- Our in-person book group gathering at Batch (on Manor Rd.) on the **first Thurs of each month**;
- Our in-person men's Bible study gathering at Kerbey Lane (Mueller) on the **fourth Tues of each month**;
- Our St. George's Pub Club at B. D. Riley's (Mueller) on the **first Mon of each month**.

Finally, this is also why we have launched our sermon podcast, "Slain by Love." Find it on Apple Podcasts and Spotify ... and share it with your friends!

Blessings & Peace,

Matt+

The Rev. Dr. Matt Boulter

*The monthly on-line portion of our book group is held on Zoom, on the **third Thurs of each month**.

The monthly on-line portion of our men's Bible study will be held on Zoom, on the **second Tues of each month.

Vestry News

Our Current Vestry:

Term expires 2024

Mark Casstevens
Dale Curry
Belinda McGhee

Term expires 2026 (newest members)

Anne Bandholz
Spencer Gordon
John Rickard

Term expires 2025

Ramón Treviño
Sandra Villalaz-Dickson
Brad Barcus

News from the School

Happy February,

It's that time of year to spread the word to all your friends and co-workers looking for a fabulous pre-school experience. Our open enrollment period, and the best time to join the school is happening this month. Church members receive priority over waitlist and community members, so mark Feb. 22 on your calendar, if interested. Also on Feb. 24, we open enrollment up to the community, so tell a friend to check out our website for all the details on how to register. Registration is online and first come first serve.

I'm often asked if the school would ever consider opening a kindergarten classroom. I accept this question as a wonderful compliment and honor that families are that comfortable with us and see the high level of care and education we provide. While I have no doubt we could fill a classroom of kindergarten children, I also see the need for infant and toddler care. This past year we opened a second infant classroom and it's been very successful. Unfortunately, there are not a lot of child care programs that understand the importance of providing an environment that is focused on children 0-2 years.

At St. George's, I have built an infant toddler program that is rooted in providing children with their most basic needs so they can flourish. This means the teachers focus on developing relationships with each child and their families. Building trust with both parent and child is the first step to ensuring each child is comfortable and able to take in all that we expose them to, which is an environment rich with exploration and language. Recently a new employee said to me, "I've never seen such young children in childcare exhibit so much trust. They are so happy." I simply smiled and said, thank you for noticing. The teachers are professionals at bonding with young children, so they can thrive in an environment other than their home.

The teaching staff at St. George's who teaches the children 3 months - 2 years, need to be at the top of their game, and, I'm pleased to say that they are. It's hard work and they deserve all the accolades they receive.

Jerri

Jerri Thompson, M.Ed.

Head of School

St. George's Episcopal School

Women's Book Group

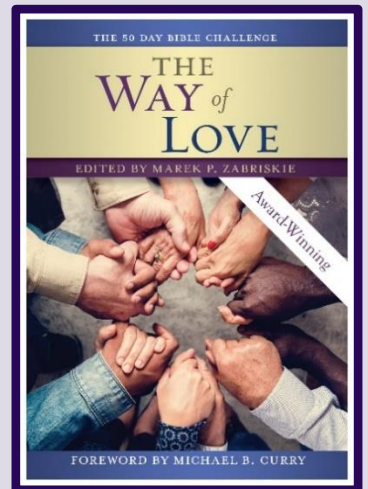
Our next meeting will be on February 11 from 3-5 pm at the home of Bridgette Beinecke, 2320 Tom Miller Street in the Mueller Development; her cell is 512.762.9300 if you need directions or have questions. The book is *These Precious Days* by Ann Patchett. It should be another fun and interesting afternoon! All women of St. George's are encouraged to attend, even if you haven't finished the book.

Have fun and read on!

Love,
Alice and Sarah

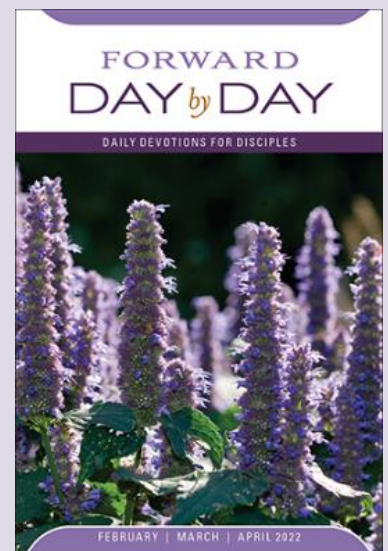
Wednesday Weavings

St. George's Wednesday night adult discussion group, Wednesday Weavings, will have one gathering in February – **on Wednesday, February 8, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at Gayle and James Wall's home.** All are welcome to join the group for a simple meal, discussion on a selected reading, and a closing service of Compline. Our current readings are from the Forward Movement publication *The Way of Love: A 50 Day Bible Challenge*, which provide us with a lesson from Scripture, a reflection, discussion questions, and a prayer. This will be our last gathering until Easter season, as we will take our usual break during Lent, which begins with Ash Wednesday on February 22. Please join us if you can, and bring a contribution for the salad bar meal (for example, fruit, vegetable, or crunchy topping). You can email Frances Rickard at fajrickard@gmail.com for more information and a copy of the reading. We hope to see you there!



Forward Day by Day

The February/March/April issue of Forward Day By Day are now available on the tables at the north and south entrances of the church. Forward Day by Day is a booklet of daily inspirational meditations reflecting on a specific Bible passage, chosen from the daily lectionary readings as listed in the Revised Common Lectionary or the Daily Office from the Book of Common Prayer. The meditations are rich in substance and offer a wide range of witness and experiences. Each month's meditation is written by a different author. If you have not tried Forward Day By Day as part of your daily spiritual practice, feel free to pick up a copy and try it! The daily meditations and more information are also available online at <https://prayer.forwardmovement.org/fdd>.



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Along with many in the rest of the world, the Episcopal Church during the month of February celebrates BLACK HISTORY MONTH. There are many programs, readings, opportunities all scheduled during this month to celebrate the unique contributions that our Black brothers and sisters have made to our world.



The **Seminary of the Southwest [just down the road at 32th and Duval Road]** continues their tradition of celebrating Black History Month with a number of events:

- **Thursday, February 2nd at 5:30pm** - The Very Rev. Kim Coleman will preach in Christ Chapel at Southwest's Thursday evening Eucharist. All are welcome.
- **Friday, February 3rd 6pm – Weeks Center- Black History Month Kickoff Dinner and Keynote with the Very Rev. Kim Coleman.** In support of the 2023 Black History Month theme, “Black Resistance,” join us for our 2023 BHM Keynote Address, “Black Resistance: Yet with a Steady Beat,” featuring The Very Rev. Kim L. Coleman, National Union of Black Episcopalians president. This dinner will be a reflective look at the more than 200 years of the Union of Black Episcopalian leadership in the Episcopal Church. This will also be a time for us to honor our Southwest alumni/ae and the contributions of other Black leaders in service. Full dinner reception. Semi-Formal attire. [RSVP here.](#)
- **Tuesday, February 7th at 7:00pm – online- 2023 Payne Lecture featuring J. Kameron Carter. Please join J. Kameron Carter–** Professor of Religious Studies, and Co-Director, Center for Religion and the Human at Indiana University Bloomington – as he presents the 2023 Payne Lecture this February 7, 2023 at 7pm. Hosted by Seminary of the Southwest's Board of Trustees, the Payne Lecture is an annual event that focuses on mission and honors the Rt. Rev. Claude E. Payne, former chair of the seminary's board and bishop of the Diocese of Texas, retired. The lecture will be presented virtually and livestreamed to Southwest's website and Facebook page. [Register here.](#)
- **Thursday February 16th at 6:00pm – Knapp Auditorium- “Baptized Rage, Transformed Grief” Concert & Conversation** - A Spiritual Journey celebrating human life as we grapple with Loss and emerge in Joy. The Rev. Dr. Cheryl Kirk-Duggan, international womanist scholar, vocal performer, professor, poet, prayer partner, and preacher returns to Austin, celebrating her love of God and her commitment to empower others to live their authentic lives as they process and release loss. “Baptized Rage, Transformed Grief” embraces music and poetic musing, including works of George Gershwin, Leonard Bernstein, Robert Schumann, Bette Midler and Tammy Wynette. This multi-faceted performer steps into the spotlight to tell her inspiring story of embodied, eternal love. Light reception to follow. [RSVP here.](#)
- **February 26th at 2:00 pm - Celebrate Black Austin, A Walking Tour of East Austin** - Join us in celebrating Austin's rich Black history with a walking tour of East Austin. This tour will highlight landmarks of historic significance and amplify the voices and stories of those from the community. Following the tour, there will be an opportunity to shop and eat with local Black-owned businesses and food trucks. Presented by Southwest's Counselors for Social Justice. [RSVP here.](#)
- **February 27th at 5:45pm – Knapp Auditorium - “Wither The Blacks?: Meditations on End of the African-American Era” Lecture-** Please join us for “Wither the Blacks?: Meditations on End of the African-American Era,” facilitated by the Rev. Dr. Stephen Ray, Crump Visiting Professor and Black Religious Scholars Group Scholar-in-Residence and MLK scholar. With a dinner reception. Sponsored, in part, by the Department of Beloved Community Initiatives. [RSVP here.](#)

Outreach Retreat

Let's get together and discuss Outreach! The long-awaited return to in person strategic discussion has been scheduled for Saturday February 4 at 10 am in the home of Sarah Campbell, 4601 Shoal Creek Blvd. Coffee and snacks will be served. Everyone at St. George's is a de facto member of the outreach committee, so everyone is invited to attend: to present ideas, to listen, to offer evaluation of current programs. Let's think about what's important to us and how we want to proceed to offer our service in the months ahead. We're calling this meeting a retreat because it gives us a chance to center down and think broadly. But we will hold it to two hours (or so). So please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

Love, Alice Nelson and Sarah Campbell

Christopher House Bags

Delivery people needed! St. George's has a long-standing ministry of delivering hospitality baskets to the families of patients at Christopher House. As with everything else, the logistics of this have changed with the pandemic, but we continue to deliver bags, and we need more delivery people! To be a part of this ministry, sign up for one or more weeks on the **Christopher House page**. A \$10 donation is requested per bag, and you can also add a note and other goodies (nothing perishable). You can make the donation online via the **St. George's Donation Page** under Outreach, or by placing a check in the offertory basket (or mailing it to the church office) made out to "St. George's Episcopal Church," with "Christopher House Baskets" in the memo line. Then, contact Alice Nelson at mzlsnlsn@gmail.com to make arrangements to get a bag before your delivery week (often after church). Delivery includes no patient contact, and only brief outdoor and masked contact with a Hospice staff member.



FLOWER/CANDLE DONATIONS

St. George's 2023 Altar Flower/Candle Donation Calendar is now available! You may use the paper calendar on the bulletin board at the north entrance of the church or the online calendar at <https://tinyurl.com/2uumwkfs>. Either way, enter your name and, if you wish, your dedication, next to the week or month of your choice. You can give flowers or candles in honor of someone, in celebration of an important event, in thanksgiving for a blessing in your life, or in memory of a loved one. **A donation of \$35** is requested. Checks can be made payable to St. George's with "altar flowers" or "altar candles" in the memo line. Payments by credit card or electronic fund withdrawal can be made by clicking the DONATE button at www.sgchurch.org/stewardship.

Ash Wednesday



Remember
that you are
dust and into
dust you shall
return.

Ash Wednesday, which this year falls on **Wednesday, February 22nd**, marks the beginning of the season of Lent, the period of forty days (excluding Sundays) leading up to Easter. Lent is traditionally a time of self-examination and repentance through prayer, fasting, self-denial, and reading and meditating on scripture. The forty days of Lent symbolize the forty years in which the Israelites wandered in the wilderness in search of the Promised Land. It also recalls the time Jesus spent in the wilderness in fasting and prayer, during which he was tempted. A common practice during Lent is to participate in a Lenten discipline; this can involve giving something up or taking on a new practice, in order to deepen your faith and bring you closer to Christ.

We hope you will join us as the community of St. George's journeys together into the Lenten season.

St. George's will observe this day with a service, more details will be available soon.



Ice Cream Social

You voted, and now you get to eat ice cream! The diocese is treating us to an ice cream social because we won one category in the voting challenge. We will have a hot dog and ice cream lunch on **February 12 in Kleberg, following the 10:30 service**. Please come and enjoy this pre-Lenten indulgence! The voting challenge ("get souls to the polls") was sponsored by the Health and Justice Advocacy Network, a diocesan initiative dedicated to justice in access to health care. We won the category of most members voting as a percent of average Sunday attendance. See you there! ~ Hollie, Alice and Sarah

Shrove-Tuesday-on-Sunday

February 19th is Shrove-Tuesday-on-Sunday! We'll start with Pancakes, fruit salads, and those L'il Smokie Sausages! Add some Mardi Gras music and beads and we'll be ready to laissez les bons temps rouler. If you're feeling really festive you could wear a festive hat ... But whatever you do, don't miss this breakfast feast celebrating the end of the season of Epiphany and a transition to the more solemn season of Lent. Hosted by kids of St. George's and their families. If you have a few dollars to contribute, we'll be collecting for a charity that the kids choose, in accordance with guidance Jesus gave us in Matthew 25. For more info contact Suzette: cshpuckett@austin.rr.com.

Women's Retreat

The Women's Retreat at Well-Spring Retreat Center at Wessendorff Ranch, April 21-23, 2023. Watch for all details in the March Banner. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call Sandra Villalaz, Women's Retreat Coordinator.

March *Banner* Deadline

The deadline for news for the March issue of
The Banner is Thursday, February 23rd.

Please email news and articles you would like included
in the next issue to stgeorgeaustin@gmail.com.

February Birthdays & Anniversaries



We wish the following parishioners a happy birthday:

Anne McGonigle (Feb 1)	Ian Poage (Feb 16)
Melissa Eason Brackin (Feb 2)	Carolyn Powe (Feb 16)
Sutton Stevens (Feb 2)	Luke Stevens (Feb 18)
Alison Poage (Feb 5)	Dylan Worcester (Feb 22)
James Rickard (Feb 5)	Stephanie Craven (Feb 24)
Joe Miller Carrera (Feb 7)	Katherine Curtis (Feb 27)
Henry Dieringer (Feb 13)	Grant Sparks (Feb 28)

And a happy anniversary to:

Elzy & Betty Cogswell (Feb 2)
Grace & Erik Stallman (Feb 11)
Herb Dickson & Sandra Villalaz-Dickson (Feb 13)
Carey & Trey Kerrigan (Feb 14)
Gayle & James Wall (Feb 17)
Alison & Josh Poage (Feb 20)



Congratulations and Best Wishes!

Links for Further Information

[St. George's Church website](#)
[St. George's Episcopal School](#)
[The Episcopal Diocese of Texas](#)
[The Episcopal Church, USA](#)

[The Lectionary](#)
[Camp Allen](#)
[St. George's Court](#)
[Episcopal Relief and Development](#)