

THE BANNER



St. George's
Episcopal Church

April 2023



Lent • Holy Week • Easter

4301 North IH 35 • Austin, TX 78722

512.454.2523 • stgeorgeaustin@gmail.com

www.sgchurch.org

Office hours: Monday – Wednesday 10:30-3:30 &
Thursday 12:00-5:00

Sunday Schedule

10:30 am [Eucharist, Rite II](#)
11:15 am Coffee Hour in Kleberg

The Rev. Dr. Matt Boulter
Interim Rector

Dia Park
Music Minister

Jessica Morrone
Office Administrator

Jerri Thompson
Day School Director

Anne Bandholz
Brad Barcus
Mark Casstevens
Dale Curry

Spencer Gordon
Belinda McGhee
John Rickard

Sandra Villalaz-Dickson
Ramón Treviño
Vestry

Spencer Gordon
Senior Warden

Dale Curry
Junior Warden

Samantha Stevens
Financial Secretary

Frances Rickard
Treasurer

Mark Your Calendars

Sun 4/2 Palm Sunday
Sun 4/9 Easter
Mon 4/17 Vestry Meeting
Wed 4/19 Wednesday Weavings
Thur 4/15 Fr. Matt's Book Group (zoom)
Sun 4/16 **SGES: A Knight for St. George's**
Mon 4/24 School Board Meeting

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

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Feast Days

1 Frederick Denison Maurice, Priest, 1872	19 Alphege, Archbishop of Canterbury & martyr, 1012
2 PALM SUNDAY	21 Anselm, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1109
6 MAUNDY THURSDAY	24 Mellitus, First Bishop of London, 624
7 GOOD FRIDAY	25 Saint Mark the Evangelist
8 HOLY SATURDAY	29 Catherine of Siena, Mystic and Prophetic Witness, 1380
9 EASTER SUNDAY	

Rector's Corner

Dear St. George's Family:

Holy Week 2023

“But [Christ] said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you; my power is made perfect in weakness.”

- Paul, in 2 Corinthians 12:9

For me, the above quotation is what Holy Week is about. It is why Holy Week is good news.

You see, I pretty much always feel weak.

Or, another adjective that I learned in the rooms of the twelve steps: “powerless.”

Powerless to control my surroundings. Powerless to control other people. Powerless to affect my own agenda or will.

What I've learned (not just in those rooms but also in two decades of pastoral ministry and a quarter century of marriage & kids) is that there is only one thing that I can control, and that barely-just-barely. That one “thing” is myself. Galatians 5:22—“... the fruit of the Spirit is ... self-control.”

Wait. Did Paul say that the fruit of the Spirit is daughter-control or spouse-control? That the fruit of the Spirit is vestry-control? That the fruit of the Spirit is election-control?

No. He did not even say that the fruit of the Spirit is body-control (although that comes far closer to what he means than the three alternatives above, assuming that what is in view is one's own body, and not the body of another).

Everything in our world screams “control!”

Yet, I find that I can control nothing. That is often an uncomfortable experience. In fact, it feels like and requires something like death.

I can control nothing (save possibly, with God's grace, on a good day, myself). I'm especially cognizant of this powerlessness on a day like today, when it seems like—in church, in home, in the public square—all heck is breaking loose, and I, well, I cannot control it.

I find that I can control well-nigh nothing. In other words, I am poor. I am poor in Spirit.

Hence, the good news, the Gospel, of Holy Week. We have a King who lost control. We have a King who became weak.

We have a king who, though he could control (indeed, he could create) literally everything, he laid down his superpowers. He gave up his rights. This king, he took on the form of a slave.

It's all right there is Philippians 2 (our epistle lesson on Palm Sunday): “taking the form of a slave ... he humbled himself, and became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”

And yet, it gets better (or worse) still. In first century Palestine not even slaves were expected to wash the feet of other people. Yet look at Jesus: on Maundy Thursday he washes the feet of his disciples.

Do you see? Weakness. A king without power. The foot washing was just the beginning: this weakness leads this king not to a throne, but to a cross.

Happy Holy Week!

Faithfully,

Matt +

The Rev. Dr. Matt Boulter



Wednesday Weavings

After our break for Lent and Holy Week, St. George's adult discussion group, Wednesday Weavings, will resume its regular meeting schedule on April 19th, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the home of Spencer and Hollie Gordon. We share a simple meal, a brief evening worship service of Compline, and discussion on a selected reading for the evening. The group is currently reading *The Way of Love*, published by Forward Movement Publications. Each reading stands on its own, so you can join the group anytime and never fall behind! Please bring a contribution for the salad bar meal (for example, fruit, vegetable, or crunchy toppings). Contact Frances Rickard (fajrickard@gmail.com) with any questions or to RSVP. We hope you'll give Wednesday Weavings a try this Easter season!

Women's Book Group

The April meeting of the Women's Book Group will be held at the women's retreat Saturday afternoon 3-5 pm. The book is *Golden Girl* by Elin Hilderbrand. For more information contact Sarah at cowmarket2@gmail.com.

Women's Retreat



I hope by now you have decided to join the women of St George's for the annual spring women's retreat. This retreat is will be held again at Well Spring Retreat Center at Wessendorf Ranch in Blanco, Texas, Friday to Sunday, April 21 – 23, 2023.

This is the time for a relaxing, rejuvenating weekend and to be uplifted by the warmth of loving women from St George's Episcopal Church. The Hill Country is beautiful and a perfect setting for Easter season. Plan on spending the second Sunday of Easter with us in the Hill Country.

This Women's Retreat is planned to allow us to build relationships and enrich our overall community. It is very low key and loosely organized. We eat well, talk, laugh, meditate, pray, play games, walk, nap and, most of all, enjoy each other's company. I hope you will consider joining us. If you have a conflicting commitment, perhaps you can come for one of the days or a night and day.

The cost for the weekend is \$50.00. This will cover all meals and the facility fees. We are assigned accommodations which should allow for each of us not to share a room. If cost is an issue, please don't let it keep you away. We don't want anyone to stay away; please contact me to arrange a scholarship.

Payment for the registration fee can be made by dropping a check into the offertory basket made payable to St George's Episcopal Church with women's retreat notation on the memo line; or, you can also go online to St George's donation page, www.stgchurch.org and select women's retreat.

Please call me with questions or let me know you want to come by April 10 though you can still register later if you need; we must confirm numbers with the retreat center office by April 10. Please try to pay your registration fee by April 18 so that I will purchase enough food for the weekend.

Peace to you,

Sandra Villalaz, your retreat coordinator

512-762-8349

sandra.villalaz48@gmail.com

In the words of CS Lewis, "I believe in Christ like I believe in the sun. Not because I can see it but by it, I can see everything else."

Outreach

We will have a general fundraiser to support Outreach projects and to be able to reach out when needs become known. Watch for the Yellow Envelopes in the pews and in the narthex. The drive will open Sunday April 30 and run for four weeks, through May 21. You may put cash or a check in the envelope, noting that it is for Outreach, and put it in the alms basin. You may also give online using the "Undesignated Outreach" tile on the giving page.

It continues to be a blessing to have funds on hand for immediate giving. For example, this year we were able to help with transportation costs and program expenses for the mission trip to Guatemala. Since the drive encompasses Mother's Day, you may choose to honor your mother with this gift. You can write her name on the envelope or mention it in the optional Note section in the online tab.

We thank you so much for your continued generosity,
Alice and Sarah

Help Throw a Birthday Party for Senior Citizens

Saturday, June 3, from 11:00am to 2pm. Join us to spread St. George's faith, love, and joy at St. George's Court, our affordable housing ministry for the elderly and people with disabilities. We need volunteers to bring finger sandwiches, fruit and/or veggie trays, birthday cake and balloons, easy smiles, and good conversation skills. Please email Andrea Sparks, andreagalsparks@gmail.com, if you're interested in putting together a small team or in joining one to make this happen. We've already got April 1 and May 6 birthdays covered, but if you want to join us to help spread cheer, let Andrea know.

Christopher House Baskets/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.

2023 Flower/Candle Donation Calendar

After Easter are invited to donate altar flowers for one or more Sundays in 2023, or donate the cost of altar candles for one or more months, perhaps in honor of someone, in celebration of an important event, in thanksgiving for a blessing in your life, or in memory of loved one. To give flowers or candles, visit the [2023 Online Flower/Candle Donation Calendar](#) and enter your name and dedication next to the week or month of your choice. A **donation of \$35** is requested. You can make your donation online or by check. To give electronically, visit the [St. George's Donation page](#), scroll down to "Designated Gifts" / "Altar Guild," and enter the amount of your donation. Make checks payable to St. George's, with "Altar Flowers/Candles" in the memo line, and mail them to the church office.



KidsWord is Liturgy of the Word for kids!

Just a few Sunday's ago we were able to meet with children during the worship service, for the first KidsWord since March 2020. A breath of fresh air in this beautiful springtime! At the opening hymn kids ages 5 yrs through 5th grade followed the blue Tree of Life banner to the front of church. After a blessing they went with their teachers downstairs, while older kids and adults heard their lessons in the sanctuary. We sat on our new rug to exchange greetings and hear brief stories of Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter. When asked what they liked in the stories, one child said, "well, now I see how they all fit together." Profound. We know that the stories speak to people; they always have. After these stories our younger kids returned to the sanctuary to join families and friends for worship in the Great Thanksgiving. Going forward, we'll make adjustments to KidsWord as needed for time and space. We'll keep you in the loop and ask for your input, as this chapter of children's ministry evolves. And we look to September when there will be new spaces, and places for kids in our community. Please contact Jan Phillips with questions or comments: janphillips62@gmail.com



May *Banner* Deadline

The deadline for news for the May issue of *The Banner* is Tuesday, April 25th.

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

Links for Further Information

[St. George's Church website](#)
[St. George's Episcopal School](#)

[The Episcopal Diocese of Texas](#)
[The Episcopal Church, USA](#)

News from the School

Please join us for another great tradition A Knight for St. Georges.

Join us at our annual fundraiser for St. George's Episcopal School!

Enjoy a night of fun, food & fundraising at the Ballroom at Spider House.

Tickets can be purchased [here](#).

The school's PTF chair, Carson Quinn, and her team of volunteers have worked hard to keep the tradition alive. This would not be possible without our wonderful volunteers and donations to our Silent Auction. Soon you will get a sneak peek at the fun items available.

You are also invited to watch the children Slay the Dragon on Friday, April 14, 9:00-9:30 AM. We will start off in Kleberg Hall with a Knighting Ceremony for our Pre-K class.

Here's to a Happy Spring,

Jerri

Ms. Jerri Thompson, M.Ed.
Head of School



April Birthdays & Anniversaries



We wish the following parishioners a happy birthday:

Caroline Braun (Apr 1)
Rylee Worcester (Apr 4)
Anne Bandholz (Apr 10)
Walter Long (Apr 13)

Ariane Corcoran (Apr 24)
Ole Ibsen (Apr 25)
Chloe Carrera (Apr 28)
Claire Jones (Apr 29)

And a happy anniversary to:

Kelly & Suzette Puckett (Apr 1)
Laura Henkel & Susan Highfield (Apr 2)
Belinda & David McGhee (Apr 17)
Caroline & Justin Braun (Apr 24)
Carolyn Porter & David Stuart (Apr 30)



Congratulations and Best Wishes!