

THE BANNER



St. George's
Episcopal Church

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

November 2016



Season after Pentecost / Advent

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Website: www.sgchurch.org

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Office hours: Monday – Thursday, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Sunday Schedule

8:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite I
9:45 am Choir Rehearsal
10:30 am Holy Eucharist Rite II
with KidsWord &
YouthWord
5:00 pm Recovery Eucharist

The Rev. Kevin LJ Schubert
Rector

The Rev. John Brewer
Deacon

Anne Weaver
Music Minister

Jennifer Joslyn-Siemiatkoski
Office Administrator

Jerri Thompson
Day School Director

August Dolan-Henderson

Brad Dieringer
Claire Irwin
Clayton Kelley
Denise Hope
Mark Casstevens
Mary Stewart Miller
Raul Carrera
Spencer Gordon
Vestry

Brad Dieringer
Senior Warden

Spencer Gordon
Junior Warden

Sandra Villalaz
Financial Secretary

Frances Rickard
Treasurer

Claire Irwin
Clerk

Mark Your Calendars



Wed, Nov 2	Wednesday Weavings
Sat, Nov 5	Women's Book Group
Sun, Nov 6	All Saints Sunday
Fri - Sun, Nov 11-13	Parish Retreat
Mon, Nov 14	Vestry Meeting
Wed, Nov 16	Wednesday Weavings
Sun, Nov 20	Parish Meeting
Mon, Nov 21	School Board Meeting
Thu, Nov 24	Thanksgiving
Sun, Nov 27	First Sunday of Advent

Click on the following links to find:

[November Lay Ministry Schedule](#)

[November Activities Calendar](#)

Feast Days

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 All Saints | 17 Hugh, Bishop of Lincoln, 1200 |
| 2 Commemoration of All Faithful Departed | 18 Hilda, Abbess of Whitby, 680 |
| 3 Richard Hooker, Priest, 1600 | 19 Elizabeth, Princess of Hungary, 1231 |
| 7 Willibrord, Archbishop of Utrecht, Missionary to Frisia, 739 | 20 Edmund, King of East Anglia, 870 |
| 10 Leo the Great, Bishop of Rome, 461 | 22 Clive Staples Lewis, Apologist and Spiritual Writer, 1963 |
| 11 Martin, Bishop of Tours, 397 | 23 Clement, Bishop of Rome, c. 100 |
| 12 Charles Simeon, Priest, 1836 | 25 James Otis Sargent Huntington, Priest and Monk, 1935 |
| 14 Consecration of Samuel Seabury, First American Bishop, 1784 | 28 Kamehameha and Emma, King and Queen of Hawaii, 1864, 1885 |
| 16 Margaret, Queen of Scotland, 1093 | 30 Saint Andrew the Apostle |



The deadline for news for the December issue of *The Banner* is Tuesday, November 29th. Please email news and articles you would like included in the next issue to stgeorgeaustin@gmail.com.

Rector's Corner

Dear St. George's Family,

On October 30th, we celebrated Generosity Sunday, wrapping up our stewardship season. I am very grateful for everyone that returned a pledge card for 2017. If you have not turned your card in yet, I encourage you to do so, as the vestry will soon begin budget preparations for the new year.



The weekend of November 11-13, all are encouraged to attend the annual parish retreat at the beautiful Well Spring Retreat Center outside of Blanco, TX. This is a great opportunity to get away from our busy lives for a bit of rest and relaxation. If you have not yet done so, please register as soon as you can, so we can plan accordingly (see the Parish Retreat article below for more details).

We are fast approaching the Advent season of the church. During this very important season we begin a new year in the church calendar. Advent is a time of prayerful preparation for the coming of Christ. It signifies a departure from the hustle and bustle that our culture throws at us right before Christmas. I pray that you are able to enter into a space of reflection, patient anticipation, and prayer as we expectantly await the coming of Christ in our lives.

May your month be filled with joys and blessings. And may you be moved by the Spirit at work, at home, at rest, and (of course) at your church home of St. George's.

God bless,

The Rev. Kevin LJ Schubert



Daylight Savings Time



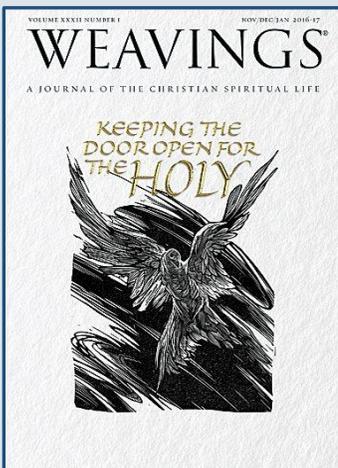
It may not feel like fall, but according to the calendar, it is! Which means that Daylight Savings Time is coming to an end. Early on the morning of **Sunday, November 6th** (or on the evening of **Saturday, November 5th**), remember to **FALL BACK** and set your clocks back one hour. Otherwise, you'll wonder where everyone is when you arrive at church on November 6th ready to celebrate All Saints' Sunday!

Living Generously

Our six-week season of stewardship at St. George's, **Living Generously**, has just concluded with Generosity Sunday. Many thanks to all those who made a pledge to financially support the work of St. George's in the coming year. And if you haven't yet been able to do so, it's not too late! Pledge cards are still available on the tables at both entrances to the church, and you can also pledge online, as well as get more information, at www.sgchurch.org/ministries6.asp.



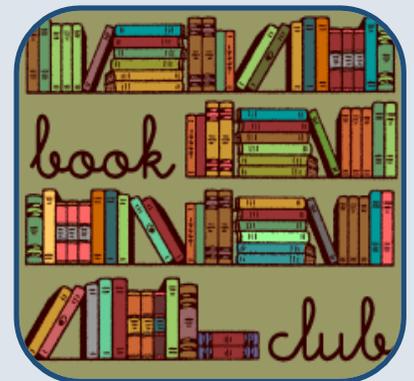
Wednesday Weavings



The St. George's adult discussion group Wednesday Weavings gathers on **the first and third Wednesdays** of each month, from **6:30 to 8:00 pm**, in different locations. All are welcome to join the group for a simple meal, a short time of centering prayer, and discussion on a selected reading from the journal *Weavings: A Journal of the Christian Spiritual Life*. In November, our gatherings will be on **November 2nd**, at the home of **Gayle and James Wall**, and on **November 16th**, at the home of **Sarah Campbell**. We'll begin reading from the latest issue of *Weavings*, "Keeping the Door Open for the Holy." More information and copies of the reading will be available in church on the Sunday before the Wednesday gathering. If you come, please bring a contribution for the salad bar meal (for example, fruit, vegetable, or crunchy toppings). We hope to see you there! For more information, contact Frances Rickard at fajrickard@gmail.com.

Women's Book Group

Please join us for the next meeting of the St. George's Women's Book Group, on **Saturday, November 5th**, from **3:00 to 5:00 pm**, at the home of **Carolyn Moreau**. We will discuss *A Man Called Ove*, by Fredrik Backman. All the women of St. George's are welcome to attend; this group is open and welcoming of all. We hope you can join us for interesting conversation, delicious snacks, and our book discussion. And this month, we have a special incentive to come – Carolyn has promised to bake her delicious *Pan de Muerto*! If you are interested in the group, or even just a little curious, please contact Sandra Villalaz at **512-762-8349** or sandra.villalaz48@gmail.com to learn more. Happy reading!



All Saints' Day / Día de los Muertos



Rituals around the certainty of death and the care of the dead are universal. The many Christian traditions around the observation of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day are related to other customs of veneration for one's ancestors practiced worldwide, through events such as the Roman custom of the

Lemuria, the Celtic Samhain, the Chinese Ghost Festival, and the Japanese Bon Festival.

All Saints' Day – November 1st, but often celebrated the following Sunday – is the day the Church honors all Holy Ones, known and unknown. Our English word “saint” literally means “holy.” In the broad sense, all we who are baptized are included in this category, but from the beginning of the Christian tradition, certain of the faithful whose lives were exemplary have been held before us as our models and guides. While we have information about many Saints, and we honor them on specific days, there are many unknown or unsung Saints, whom we celebrate on All Saints' Day. The Commemoration of All Faithful Departed, more commonly known as All Souls' Day, falls on November 2nd. This day is set aside to remember those who have died to whom we have a more personal connection – not necessarily those whose lives are held up as models for all Christians, but those whose lives, and deaths, have personally affected us.

Día de los Muertos, the traditional Mexican celebration of these two days, can actually be traced further back than the arrival of Christianity in Mexico. The Aztecs celebrated a festival for the goddess of the underworld, Mictecacihuatl, and many indigenous cultures of Mexico honor the Lady of the Dead, sometimes portrayed today as La Catrina, a skeleton woman wearing a fancy hat. When the Spanish arrived in Mexico, bringing Catholicism with them, the traditional Mexican celebrations of Mictecacihuatl and the Lady of the Dead, through which ancestors were honored, merged with the Catholic observances of All Saints' and All Souls' Days. Celebrations often feature altars honoring those who have died with marigolds, sugar skulls, favorite foods or beverages, and other mementos of the dead. Families often visit the gravesites of deceased family members, where they bring offerings, or *ofrendas*, hold vigils, and even have picnics and parades as a way of celebrating the life of those who have gone on before them.



These celebrations of All Saints', All Souls', and Día de los Muertos are tied in with the belief in the Communion of Saints, that all of God's people, in this earthly life and in the various states of the larger life, are connected in one communion. The Saints are not divine, nor omnipresent or omniscient. However, because of our common communion with and through Jesus Christ, our prayers are joined with the heavenly community of Christians.

At St. George's, we will observe this sacred time with a special altar on **All Saints' Sunday, November 6th**. Denise Hope will decorate the altar on **Saturday, November 5th, from 9:00-11:00 am**. All are welcome to come for any portion of that time to help with the decorating. On All Saints' Sunday, all are encouraged to bring pictures and/or mementos of loved ones who have died, to be placed on the altar. A sign-up sheet will also be available if you would like your loved one's name added to the list of those remembered.

Parish Retreat

NOVEMBER IS HERE! JOIN US FOR THE PARISH RETREAT!



Each fall, St. George's gathers for a time of rest, relaxation, and community-building at the beautiful Well Spring Retreat Center in the Texas Hill Country. This year's retreat will be held from **Friday, November 11th, through Sunday, November 13th**. (You can also come just for the day on Saturday.) The retreat is dedicated to enriching our communal bonds as we enjoy times of worship, recreation, social activities, fellowship, and great food! We'll have plenty of free time to enjoy the beautiful scenery

of the Texas Hill Country. The Ranch offers a tranquil atmosphere with incredible views of the surrounding hill country, comfortable accommodations, a lovely chapel on the highest point, and a gorgeous and inspiring Umlauf sculpture of Jesus. It also provides easy access to view a remarkable geological phenomenon called the Narrows, created by the Blanco River rushing through a narrow limestone canyon.

Accommodations:

Motel-style rooms (preference given to families with children) and dormitory-style rooms. (There are no single occupancy rooms.) All participants are asked to bring their own bedding.



Cost:

The cost of the retreat includes accommodations, all Saturday meals, and Sunday breakfast and lunch (meals are not provided on Friday, so please plan to eat before you arrive or bring your own dinner). Scholarships are available; please don't let cost keep you from coming! Contact Kevin Schubert for more information.

	Adults	Children
Friday-Sunday	\$45.00	\$25.00
Saturday only	\$15.00	\$10.00
Maximum cost per family	\$125.00	

Space is still available. **REGISTER ONLINE!** More information is available on the St. George's website at www.sgchurch.org/events2.asp. Join us for a relaxing weekend in a beautiful setting, with our wonderful community!

Hands for Hope

IT'S TIME TO MAKE HUNGER TAKE A HOLIDAY!



Twenty percent of Central Texans have trouble putting food on their tables, and their food insecurity affects every aspect of their lives – from health to work and school. A quarter of children in Texas live in households that struggle to afford food. Imagine how hard it is not knowing where your next meal will come from, or how you will take care of your children.

El Buen Samaritano's annual **Hands for Hope** Thanksgiving meal distribution event is **Saturday, November 19th**. Each year at Hands for Hope, more than 1,000 low-income families receive Thanksgiving care packages that include a frozen turkey, a pie, stuffing, and all the trimmings to prepare a delicious meal at home. Hands for Hope is an extension of the year-round food pantry operated by El Buen Samaritano.

Here is how you can give hope to families in need this Thanksgiving:

- **GIVE.** Look for the Hands for Hope donation poster in Kleberg Hall, or go to www.h4h.elbuen.org. Each gift of \$20 provides a Thanksgiving turkey to a family in need. How many families can you help?
- **REGISTER FAMILIES.** Spanish speakers are needed to register families to receive a Thanksgiving meal on Saturday, November 5th, or Saturday, November 12th. If you don't speak Spanish, volunteers are also needed as runners and to enter registrations into the data system.
- **VOLUNTEER.** Join volunteers from other area Episcopal churches to help assemble and distribute Thanksgiving meal packages to more than 1,000 families on Saturday, November 19th, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at El Buen Samaritano's campus. (Volunteers must be at least 12 years old if accompanied by a parent, or 16 years old if unaccompanied.)

If you would like to volunteer for Hands for Hope or have any questions, please contact Carolyn Moreau at carolynmoreau@austin.rr.com.

El Buen Samaritano, which is also St. George's **Outreach Ministry Highlight** for the month of November, is an outreach of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas committed to helping Latino and other families in Central Texas lead healthy, productive, and secure lives through high-quality and affordable healthcare, education and financial security services. For more information, visit their website at www.elbuen.org.



Parish Meeting: Election of Diocesan Council Delegates



The 2017 Diocese of Texas Diocesan Council will be held in Galveston, Texas, from Thursday, February 9th through Saturday, February 11th, and we want St. George's to be represented there! Ordinarily, we would elect Diocesan Council representatives at our Annual Parish Meeting, but that meeting will be in late January, which won't allow enough time for those who are elected to make plans to attend. So we will hold a brief parish meeting **after the 10:30 service on Sunday, November 20th, in Kleberg Hall**, for the purpose of this election.

St. George's delegation to Diocesan Council consists of four elected delegates and two alternates, each of whom serves a three-year term. At the November meeting, we will elect one Council Delegate and two alternates to fill the positions that are currently open. Any adult member in good standing may serve as a delegate, and anyone interested is encouraged to put your name forward as a nominee. If you would like more information about Diocesan Council or about what being a delegate entails, please contact The Rev. Kevin LJ Schubert at kevinljschubert@gmail.com. Please plan to stay after church on November 20th to help elect our parish's representatives!

Thanksgiving

The Church office will be closed on Wednesday, November 23rd and Thursday, November 24th, in observance of Thanksgiving.

Almighty God, we give you thanks for the fruits of the earth in their season and for the labors of those who harvest them. Make us 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, and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

Amen.



May you have a joyful and blessed Thanksgiving!

Welcome, Vivienne!



Congratulations to John and Toni Brewer, who welcome a new grand-daughter to the world, along with parents Joshua and Bren, and big sister Sienna, all of whom live in Cypress, TX. Vivienne Brewer was born on Friday, October 21st, at 9 pounds, 2 ounces, and 19 inches long.

Confirm their joy by a lively sense of your presence among them, O God, and give them calm strength and patient wisdom as they seek to bring this child to love all that is true and noble, just and pure, lovable and gracious, excellent and admirable, following the example of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Parish Financial Statement

Below is a statement of St. George's actual income and expenses compared to the income and expense amounts the Vestry budgeted for the first nine months of the year. This statement does not include income or expenses from funds outside the general operating fund, such as donations to Outreach Committee projects, memorial funds, or Fifth Sunday offerings. A more complete report is posted on the bulletin board in Kleberg Hall.



Year-to-Date Financial Statement January to September 2016

	Actual	Budgeted
Plate, pledge, and offering income	\$ 146,527	\$ 152,238
Other income*	\$ 23,593	\$ 29,968
Total Income	\$ 170,120	\$ 182,206
Total Expenses	\$ 173,765	\$ 179,773
Difference between Income and Expenses**	\$ (3,645)	\$ 2,433

* Consists of donations for altar flowers, building use fees, reimbursements from St. George's School, and Randall's Card income.

**To offer a comparison, at this point last year the difference between actual income and expenses was a negative balance of \$(15,533).

If you have questions about this report, please contact parish treasurer Frances Rickard (fajrickard@gmail.com). If you have questions about your pledge, please contact parish financial secretary Sandra Villalaz (sandra.villalaz48@gmail.com).

Kitty Quilts



My friend Connie Carson cuts up old t-shirts to make these "quilts" for the kitty cages at the Austin Animal Shelter. Any size, weight, color or design of t-shirt is fine, as are rips, holes or stains – as long as they are freshly laundered. If you would like to donate any t-shirts too far gone for human use, please place them in the collection basket at the south entrance to the church in November. I will be happy to take them to Connie. On behalf of Connie and the kitties, I thank you for your generosity.

~ Gayle Wall

Soul in the City

Each semester, the Center for Writing and Creative Expression at the Seminary of the Southwest hosts a free happy-hour-style concert featuring a local musician. The events are a fun way for seminarians and folks from the broader community to mingle and unwind. The next Soul in the City event will be on **Friday, November 11th, from 5:30 – 7:00 pm, on the SSW campus** (501 East 32nd Street, Austin, 78705), and the guest will be indie blues musician **Jackie Venson**. This is a free, family-friendly event, and all are welcome. Contact writing.center@ssw.edu for more information.



∞ Advent at St. George's ∞

Advent Begins November 27th



The first Sunday of Advent begins the Church's liturgical year. Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas and lasts until Christmas Eve. It is a time of reflection, waiting and preparation for the birth of Jesus Christ. The season's name is derived from the Latin word *adventus*, which means "coming" or "arrival." Advent is a time of preparation and expectation

for the coming celebration of our Lord's nativity, and for the final coming of Christ. The Scripture readings throughout the season reflect this double anticipation of the coming of Christ – his First Advent as a babe in Bethlehem, and his Second Advent in power and glory. Advent is a reminder that we live between the times, when what has been promised has not yet been fulfilled. Advent is also an invitation into a space of prayerful expectation that is often at odds with the larger culture's approach to the weeks before Christmas.

The most common symbol of Advent is the Advent Wreath – a circle of greenery with four (or five) candles, each of which represents one of the Sundays of the season. (If a fifth candle is used, it is placed in the center and called the Christ Candle, and it is lit on Christmas Eve.) Each Sunday, the circle of light expands, as Christ comes ever closer.

Children & Youth Music in Advent

At the 10:30 Sunday morning services throughout Advent, KidsWord and YouthWord will be devoted to music! We will gather each Sunday in Kleberg Hall, share a brief Advent ceremony, and learn several pieces of Christmas music. We'll sing and play instruments, with the youth helping the younger children learn the songs. Those who are able to attend St.

George's beautiful pageant service on Christmas Eve will provide the music for that service, as we tell the story of the birth of Christ in word and song. But all of our children and youth are welcome to join us and learn this wonderful music, whether or not they can participate in the pageant. Come sing with us!



Angel Wreath



Outreach Advent Angels needed! This year, St. George's Angel Wreath will, an annual Advent project of the Outreach Committee, will be providing gift cards for residents of **St. George's Court**, phone cards for residents of **Casa Marianella**, and board books to the families served by **Any Baby Can**. The Angel Wreath will go up on **Sunday, November 27th**, and all donations must be received by **Sunday, December 11th**. That gives us only three Sundays, so start planning what and how you'd like to donate now!

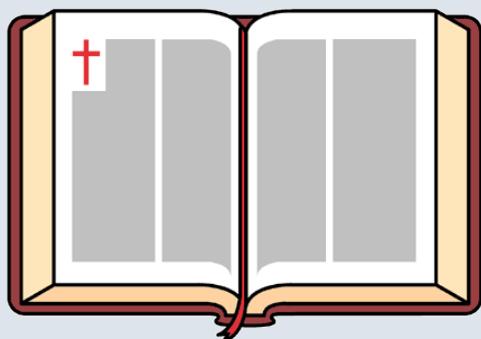
- To be an angel for a resident of **St. George's Court**, simply select a stocking from the wreath once it's up, and return it to the stocking with a **\$20 gift card from either HEB or Wal-Mart**.
- To help residents of **Casa Marianella** stay in touch with far-away family over the holidays, place a check in the alms basin (made out to "St. George's Episcopal Church" with "Outreach/Casa Phone Card" on the memo line). You may also mail your check to the church, or place cash in the alms basin in an envelope marked "Outreach/Casa Phone Card" (envelopes will be provided in the pews). The Outreach Committee will collect all the donations to purchase phone cards.
- To be an angel for a family served by **Any Baby Can**, purchase a board book of your choosing in either English or Spanish, and place it in the collection box at either of the church entrances.



If you have any questions, please contact Gayle Wall at 512-837-0644 or gwall9407@austin.rr.com.

The Outreach Committee thanks you for your generosity!

The Story of Jesus: A Reading of Matthew



In order to better understand the complete story of Jesus, the St. George's community gathers each year at the beginning of Advent to explore together the gospel appointed in the lectionary for the new church year. During the liturgical year starting with this Advent, most of the gospel readings will come from the gospel of Matthew. We will gather on **Sunday, November 27th, from 5:00-6:30 pm, in Kleberg Hall**, to read through most of the Gospel of Matthew and sing hymns together. Because Matthew is quite long, we'll be reading excerpts rather than the entire book. But we will still gain a sense of the story of Jesus' life in its entirety, and a much deeper context for each of the short passages we'll hear throughout the next year. Please join us as we ponder together the Story of Jesus.

News from the School



The holiday season is upon us and with it come exciting activities for our families. During November, we will celebrate both Thanksgiving and Christmas with 'Tis the Season, a festive event which is becoming a tradition here at St. George's School. This event is a gift from the school to our families. The teachers set up arts & crafts around Kleberg Hall and the children and parents do the crafts together. We also have a visit from Santa Claus. It's our small way of saying thanks to our families, and bringing them together to enjoy their children at play. Our 2016 Annual Fund begins the first week of November – check your mail for our appeal. Thank you in advance for your support!

We are beginning work on the renovation of the playground on Thursday, November 10th, and it is expected to last two to three weeks. It shouldn't impact any church activities.

Please note that the school will be closed the entire week of Thanksgiving, November 21-25, following the AISD calendar.

November Birthdays and Anniversaries



We wish the following parishioners a happy birthday:

Gabriel Moreau (Nov 5)	Kendra Gamble (Nov 24)
Laura Cook (Nov 13)	Bridgette Beinecke (Nov 25)
Mary Stewart Miller (Nov 16)	Martha Sahs (Nov 26)
John Brewer (Nov 18)	Laura Henkel (Nov 27)
Dustin Worcester (Nov 20)	Ellen Scarborough (Nov 28)
Susan Dolan-Henderson (Nov 21)	Terry O'Donnell (Nov 30)
Harper Schubert (Nov 23)	

And a happy anniversary to:

Joe & Ashley Carrera (Nov 1)
Madison & Michael Smiser (Nov 3)

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](#)