

THE BANNER



**St. George's
Episcopal Church**

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

February 2021



Epiphany • Lent

4301 North IH 35 • Austin, TX 78722

512.454.2523 • stgeorgeaustin@gmail.com

www.sgchurch.org

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

Online Sunday Schedule

10:30 am [Liturgy of the Word](#)
11:15 am Zoom Coffee Hour
5:15 pm Compline

The Rev. Ann McLemore
Interim Rector

Mi-Young Kim
Music Minister

Jennifer Joslyn-Siemiatkoski
Office Administrator

Jerri Thompson
Day School Director

Josh Beckham
Rob Blech
Mark Casstevens
Ed Crawford
Dale Curry

Brad Dieringer
Hye Na Lucy
Belinda McGhee

Samantha Stevens
Vestry

Brad Dieringer
Senior Warden

Ed Crawford
Junior Warden

Samantha Stevens
Financial Secretary

Ashley Carrera
Treasurer

Brad Dieringer
Clerk

Bridgette Beinecke
School Board Liaison

Mark Your Calendars

Tue 2/2	Fireside Chat Choir Meet-up	Mon 2/15	Fireside Chat
Sat 2/6	Women's Book Group	Tue 2/16	Choir Meet-up
Mon 2/8	Vestry Meeting	Wed 2/17	Ash Wednesday service
Wed 2/10	Wednesday Weavings	Fri 2/19	Fireside Chat
Sat 2/13	Fireside Chat	Mon 2/22	School Board Meeting
		Wed 2/24	Lenten Series

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

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Feast Days

1	Brigid of Kildare, Monastic, c.523	18	Martin Luther, Pastor and Church Reformer, 1546
2	The Presentation of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple	19	Agnes Tsao Kou Ying, Agatha Lin Zhao, and Lucy Yi Zhenmei, Catechists and Martyrs, 1856, 1858, and 1862
4	Manche Masemola, Martyr, 1928	20	Frederick Douglass, Social Reformer, 1895
5	Agatha of Sicily, Martyr, c.251	22	Margaret of Cortona, Monastic, 1297
6	The Martyrs of Japan, 1597	23	Polycarp of Smyrna, Bishop and Martyr, 156
8	Bakhita (Josephine Margaret Bakhita), Monastic and Prophetic Witness, 1947	24	Saint Matthias the Apostle
10	Scholastica, Monastic, 543	26	Photini, The Samaritan Woman, c.67
11	Theodora, Empress, c.867	27	George Herbert, Priest and Poet, 1633
13	Absalom Jones, Priest, 1818	28	Anna Julia Haywood Cooper, Educator, 1964
14	Cyril and Methodius, Missionaries, 869 and 885		
15	Thomas Bray, Priest and Missionary, 1730		
17	Janani Luwum, Archbishop and Martyr, 1977		

Interim Priest's Corner



Dear St. George's Family:

The Wright House has a fair share of fireplaces. I'm sure that at the time of the building of this home they were a welcome part of the architectural design and were a real asset to drawing the family together at the hearth and, more practically, staying warm! Starting in February, I will "host" a series of Fireside Chats. These will be done on Zoom, so we'll have to imagine the warm fire! They will last for an hour or so, and each one will be limited to 10 people. This is an opportunity to share our stories, current or past, a time to find the threads that bring the community of St. George's together, and a chance to see and connect to one another. See the article on page 3 for more details, including dates, times, and how to sign up.

At the January vestry meeting, I discussed our five focus points for 2021: heritage, leadership, mission, connections, and future. The Heritage focus will involve looking back at the beginning of St. George's, and that is where stories from all of you are important. Whether a 40-year member or a four-year member, all your stories are part of the community.

Although we can't come together for a pancake dinner, I challenge all of you to mix up a batch of pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, February 16th, and to think about incorporating beads into your celebration this Mardi Gras – Mardi Gras beads on a necklace, the beads of a rosary, or a string of beaded pearls in celebration of women and the work to come from our first woman Vice-president. Let these beads be a part of your 2021 Lenten observance.

Ash Wednesday, which opens the season of Lent, is on February 17th this year. As with all our worship over the last year, the Ash Wednesday liturgy will challenge us as we look at our customs and habits for celebrating this day that kicks off our Lenten season. (See the article on page 4 for more information about Ash Wednesday and our service.) We will all be missing the imposition of ashes on our foreheads, but I hope that we can find alternative ways to bring Lent into our hearts, if not on our faces. The imposition of ashes is not a sacramental action, but is a sign – a sign of what is to come, that we will all at some point go down into the ground. I invite each of you to take time to look up Ash Wednesday in your Book of Common Prayer, beginning on page 264. You will note the bar running along the last full paragraph on page 265, which indicates that this part is optional. Although the imposition of ashes has become a central part of Ash Wednesday for many of us, it is actually not considered a necessary part of the service.

Each Wednesday evening in Lent, at 7:00 pm, I invite you make a pot of soup and then join me for a new kind of Lenten Series (see the article on page 5 for more information). I will send out a suggested flavor and recipe for each week, but feel free to make whatever type you like. Soup suppers are traditional during Lent as a way to simplify what we consume. Each evening of the Lenten series will focus on one of the five focus points mentioned above – heritage, leadership, mission, connections, and future. These community discussions will be part of our preparations for Easter, as well as part of the process of preparing to call a new rector.

My cell phone number is 769-257-2377. If you would like to call and say "hi" or if you would like to visit, do not hesitate to call. And it may take a while, but please don't give up on a COVID vaccine! Just as baptism is a work in progress throughout our lives, so is the vaccinating of as many people as possible a work in progress for the whole world.

Gratefully,

Ann +

The Rev. Ann McLemore

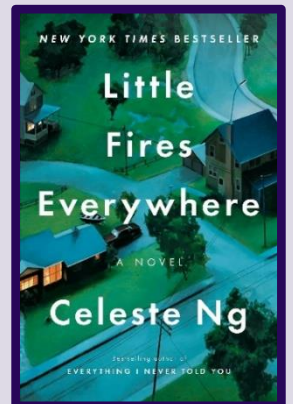
March *Banner* Deadline



The deadline for news for the March issue of *The Banner* is Tuesday, February 23rd. Please email news and articles you would like included in the next issue to stgeorgeaustin@gmail.com.

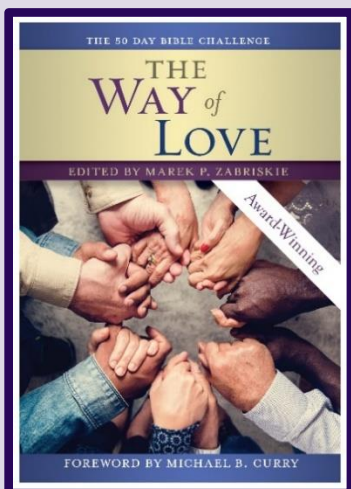
Women's Book Group

Please join us for our next meeting on **Saturday, February 6th**, from **3:00 to 5:00 pm**, via **Zoom**. We will discuss *Little Fires Everywhere*, by **Celeste Ng**. All St. George's women are welcome to attend – even if you haven't read the book! We hope you can join us for interesting conversation and our book discussion. The Zoom invitation will be sent out to the group's email list prior to the meeting. To be added to the list, or with any questions, please contact Sandra Villalaz at **512-762-8349** or sandra.villalaz48@gmail.com. Happy reading!



The Women's Book Group is raising funds to continue its commitment to educating a Guatemalan student, Dison Adrian Ostuma de la Cruz, through HELPS International. Members of the Women's Book Group are asked to consider a donation of \$50 toward our goal of \$1,000. You can donate online at St. George's [Online Donation page](#) under "Women's Book Group/HELPS," or mail a check to the church office, made out to "St. George's Episcopal Church," with "HELPS" in the memo line. The deadline to contribute is March 21st. Please contact Carolyn Moreau at moreaucarolyn@gmail.com with any questions.

Wednesday Weavings



St. George's adult discussion group is continuing to meet via Zoom, from **7:00 to 8:00 pm** every other Wednesday. All are welcome to join the group for discussion and a closing service of Compline. This month we will meet on Wednesday, **February 10th**, after which we'll be taking a break for Lent. We are continuing our study of *The Way of Love*, a Forward Movement publication edited by Marek Zabriskie. The book offers 50 meditations, each consisting of a Scripture reading, reflection, discussion questions, and prayer. The meditations are divided into seven sections based on seven spiritual practices for a Jesus-centered life: Turn, Learn Pray, Worship, Bless, Go, and Rest. Frances Rickard will send out the Zoom invitation along with the

reading before each meeting to the group's email list. If you are not on the list and would like to receive the email, or if you have any questions, please contact Frances at fajrickard@gmail.com. The Zoom screen has plenty of room for all who want to join us!

Fireside Chats

Join our Interim Rector for a Fireside Chat in February. These conversations will last for about an hour and be limited to 10 people each. They will be an opportunity to share our stories, current or past, a time to find the threads that bring the community of St. George's together, and a chance to see and connect to one another. The dates and times are:



- Saturday, February 13, 9:00 am
- Saturday, February 13, 12:00 pm
- Monday, February 15, 7:00 pm
- Thursday, February 18, 7:00 pm
- Friday, February 19, 10:00 am
- Monday, February 22, 7:00 pm

Please [register online](#) for the date and time that work best for you. If you have difficulty with the registration process, contact Jennifer in the church office at stgeorgeaustin@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you by the fireside!

Ash Wednesday

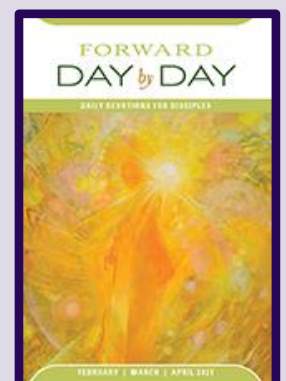


*Remember
that you are
dust and into
dust you shall
return.*

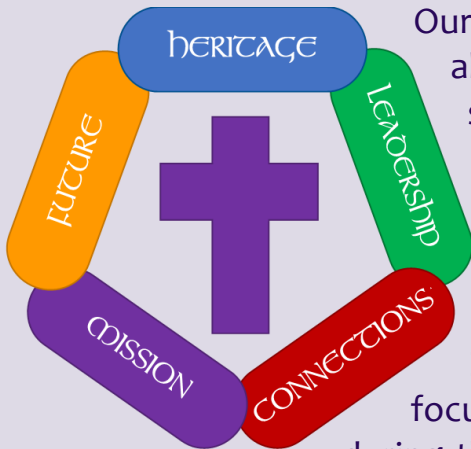
Ash Wednesday, which this year falls on **Wednesday, February 17th**, marks the beginning of the season of Lent, the period of forty days (excluding Sundays) leading up to Easter. St. George's will observe this day with a service at **7:00 pm**. We will not be able to observe Ash Wednesday with the traditional imposition of ashes, but our prayers and scripture readings will still remind us of our mortality and dependence on God and invite us to reflection and repentance. 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 symbolizes 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.

Forward Day by Day

Although we can't put them out in the church entrances right now, we are still getting the Forward Day by Day booklet of meditations. A couple of parishioners have volunteered to deliver them to anyone who would like one, while supplies last. If you're interested in getting a copy, please email Jennifer in the church office at stgeorgeaustin@gmail.com (and specify if you would like a large-print copy).



Lenten Series



Our traditional Wednesday evening Lenten Series continues, albeit somewhat differently this year! All are invited to enjoy a simple soup supper, using recipes sent out weekly by Ann if you wish to do so, and then join in a Zoom discussion at **7:00 pm** every Wednesday during Lent. The goal is to be in community as best we can, and to think and pray together about how we are observing Lent 2021.

Each Wednesday evening will be geared around one of the five focus points we are delving into as part of our transitional work during this interim period. We will begin with **Wednesday, February 24th** with a focus on Heritage, and continue on subsequent Wednesdays with discussions of Leadership, Connections, Mission, and Future. Zoom information will be emailed to all parishioners; please contact Jennifer in the church office at stgeorgeaustin@gmail.com to be added to the email list.

Christopher House Baskets

St. George's has a long-standing ministry of delivering hospitality baskets to the families of patients at Christopher House, who are in their final illness. The baskets contain necessities and also items to help pass the time. The families have often been summoned with little notice or time for preparation, so the baskets provide a useful gesture of support. As with everything else, the logistics of this have changed with the pandemic, but we continue to safely deliver baskets, and we need more delivery people!



To be a part of this ministry, sign up for one or more weeks between from now to June on the [Online Christopher House Basket Calendar](#). A \$10 donation is requested per basket, 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 mailing a check 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 basket before your delivery week. Delivery includes no patient contact, and only a brief outdoor (and masked) delivery to a staff member.

COVID Vaccine Pre-Registration



The COVID vaccine is currently being made available to people in category 1A (medical first responders) and 1B (age 65 and over) through Austin Public Health. Whether or not you are in one of those categories, you can pre-register at www.austintexas.gov/ph-vaccine-reg to be notified when the vaccine is available and you are eligible, and to make an appointment when appropriate.

News from the School



The new school semester is off to a great start!

Open enrollment for the 2021-2022 school year begins in February for both parishioners and community families. Parishioners can [enroll online](#) on February 17th. And registration for our [Summer Camp program](#) will begin on March 1st. We'd love to have any parishioners with pre-school age children join our school family!

With the opening of our new classroom, we've been able to hire new teachers. So this month's meet-the-teachers feature introduces three of our newest staff members!

Meet Grace Cunyus

Hello, my name is Grace, and I am excited to be joining the Purple Room as an Assistant Teacher! My educational background is in theater (I have a BFA in playwriting), but my passion lies with early childhood education. This is my eleventh year working with children, and three of those years have been focused on early childcare. I am dedicated to providing the children I work with with a safe space to learn, grow, and play!



Meet Cissy Vahalik

I'm Cissy, and I'll be the Assistant Teacher in the Rainbow Room. I am originally from Alice, Texas. I have two children – Nisa (24 yrs old) and Joshua (21 yrs old) – and a poodle named Ollie. When time allows, we enjoy spending time traveling together. Our road trips are always exciting, but mostly we love our international adventures; some of which have included trips to Scandinavia (Sweden, Denmark, Norway) and Spain. I believe my greatest life accomplishment has been raising my two beautiful children on my own. They have truly been a blessing in my life! In 2012, I relocated to the Austin area with my children to continue my education at Austin Community College. In May 2014, I received my Associates Degree in Child Care and Development and graduated as a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. Caring for children has always been in my heart, and I thank God for allowing me to do what I love. With my knowledge and 20 years of former experience, I aim to be the kind of teacher who encourages and inspires every child to do more, seek more, and learn more. I look forward to many exciting days with the children at St. George's.



Meet Sarah Wilson

Hi! My name is Sarah, and I will be an on-site substitute. I began teaching children art and music during Sunday school at my parents' church. I am empathetic, loving, patient, and creative. I enjoy educating children, connecting with all types of minds, and presenting information on a level that resonates with each unique style of learning!





February Birthdays & Anniversaries

We wish the following parishioners a happy birthday:

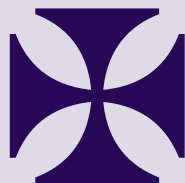
Anne McGonigle (Feb 1)	Ian Poage (Feb 16)
Melissa Eason Brackin (Feb 2)	Carolyn Powe (Feb 16)
Sutton Stevens (Feb 2)	Luke Stevens (Feb 18)
Alison Poage (Feb 5)	Dylan Worcester (Feb 22)
James Rickard (Feb 5)	Stephanie Craven (Feb 24)
Joe Carrera (Feb 7)	Katherine Curtis (Feb 27)
Henry Dieringer (Feb 13)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