

# THE BANNER



## St. George's Episcopal Church

4301 North IH-35 | Austin, TX | [www.sgchurch.org](http://www.sgchurch.org)

March 2021



Lent • Holy Week

4301 North IH 35 • Austin, TX 78722

512.454.2523 • [stgeorgeaustin@gmail.com](mailto:stgeorgeaustin@gmail.com)

[www.sgchurch.org](http://www.sgchurch.org)

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

### Sunday Schedule

- 10:30 am [Liturgy of the Word](#)
- 11:15 am Zoom Coffee Hour
- 12:15 pm Outdoor Eucharist

**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**  
**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*

**Belinda McGhee**  
*Clerk*

**Bridgette Beinecke**  
*School Board Liaison*

### Mark Your Calendars

- |  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Tue 3/2</b> Choir Meet-up           | <b>Tue 3/16</b> Choir Meet-up       |
| <b>Wed 3/3</b> Lenten Series           | <b>Wed 3/17</b> Lenten Series       |
| <b>Sat 3/6</b> Women's Book Group      | <b>Wed 3/24</b> Lenten Series       |
| <b>Mon 3/8</b> Vestry Meeting          | <b>Fri 3/26</b> CAT Survey Deadline |
| <b>Wed 3/10</b> Lenten Series          | <b>Sun 3/28</b> Palm Sunday         |
| <b>Sun 3/14</b> Daylight Saving starts | <b>Tue 3/30</b> Choir Meet-up       |
| <b>Mon 3/15</b> School Board Meeting   |                                     |

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

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### Feast Days

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 David of Wales, Bishop, c. 544   | 19 <b>Saint Joseph</b>   |
| 2 Chad of Lichfield, Bishop, 672   | 21 Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury, Liturgist, and Martyr 1556        |
| 3 John and Charles Wesley, Priests, 1791, 1788   | 24 Oscar Romero, Archbishop and Martyr, 1980, and the Martyrs of El Salvador   |
| 7 Perpetua and Felicity, Martyrs, 202  | 25 <b>The Annunciation of Our Lord Jesus Christ to the Blessed Virgin Mary</b> |
| 9 Gregory of Nyssa, Bishop and Theologian, c. 394                                      | 26 Harriet Monsell, Monastic, 1883   |
| 10 Harriet Ross Tubman, Social Reformer, 1913  | 28 James Solomon Russell, Priest, 1935   |
| 12 Gregory the Great, Bishop and Theologian, 604                                       | 29 John Keble, Priest and Poet, 1866   |
| 15 Vincent de Paul, Priest, and Louise de Marillac, Monastic, Workers of Charity, 1660 | 31 John Donne, Priest and Poet, 1631   |
| 18 Patrick of Ireland, Bishop and Missionary, 461                                      |  |

## Interim Priest's Corner

Dear St. George's Family:

The 172<sup>nd</sup> Council of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas closed out the month of February. I was very impressed with how smoothly it all ran, given that it was entirely held via Zoom and included electronic voting by all delegates. It appeared smooth to the participants, but I'm sure that in reality it was like the duck that smoothly glides across the water while its two little legs are paddling like crazy below the surface! Special thanks to our four delegates who attended Council on behalf of St. George's – Patsy Chandler, Brad Dieringer, Spencer Gordon, and Frances Rickard. An additional thank you to Frances for her participation in the zoom choir made up of people from all over the diocese, that was very impressive! At our March 3<sup>rd</sup> Lenten program (see the article on page 4 for more details), we will hear from our four delegates about their thoughts and experiences. In our Diocesan Bishop Doyle's address at Council, he recognized the suffering that we all have gone through over the past year. In the naming of the suffering, he continued, is his prayer for gifts and talents to meet the work. He said that the miracle is not the work that has and will continue to be done; rather, the miracle is us.



As part of the work that we, the people of St. George's, are currently being called to do, I invite you all to complete the **Congregational Assessment Tool** (for more information, see the article on page 3). The survey will only be available for three and a half weeks. Why not make a Lenten commitment to complete it within a week? This is Step Five of the Nineteen Steps towards calling a new Rector (see the article on page 5 for a complete list of the Nineteen Steps).

Another aspect of our process involves working through the Five Focus Points – Heritage, Leadership, Connections, Mission, and Future. These five points are the focus of this year's Lenten Series (see the article on page 4 for more details). Each of these five points builds upon one another. Heritage was our base, and at the beginning of March, we turn to Leadership. Just as the church is not merely a building but rather the people, so church leadership is not limited to the clergy but is also – and perhaps primarily – the people. This is a time to look at the leadership of our church and ask who has unrecognized talents, who would like to try their hand at something new, and who is ready to take on new ministries! Remember that God chooses us and provides the tools for us. I talked about tools in my sermon on February 28<sup>th</sup>; we have a toolbox that we may not even be aware of in our hands. In Mexico, my traveling communion kit was actually in a fishing tackle box, and it still is! I always love that name – “tackle box.” We can tackle whatever we need because it is in that box and we have God's help with the assignment!

After nearly a year without being able to regularly celebrate the Eucharist together, I am thrilled to invite all of you to attend a service of Eucharist and receive Holy Communion again. Beginning on Sunday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, we will be holding a weekly, outdoor, in-person service Eucharist service on Sundays at 12:15 pm at the back of the school playground. See the article on page 4 for more details about how to register and how the service will work.

We have all come a long way since Bishop Doyle's letter on March 13, 2020, which changed the way we have been worshiping (and doing everything else) for the past year. Look at all that we have all learned about community, technical production, and our love for one another!

Faithfully,

*Ann +*

The Rev. Ann McLemore

## April *Banner* Deadline



The deadline for news for the April issue of *The Banner* is Friday, March 26<sup>th</sup>.

Please email news and articles you would like included in the next issue to [stgeorgeaustin@gmail.com](mailto:stgeorgeaustin@gmail.com).

## Daylight Saving Time

These days, many of us probably rely on alarms on our phones, which will automatically make the change from Standard to Daylight Saving Time early on the morning of Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup>. But if you rely on a different sort of clock to get up and make it to your dining room table or couch or wherever you do church, don't forget to set your clocks an hour ahead before you go to bed on **Saturday, March 13th!**



## Planning Our Future Together: We Want to Know Your Story!



Our church has entered into a time of discernment during which we are gathering information to guide our decisions for our future. Recent bulletins have included announcements about one aspect of this process: the [Church Assessment Tool \(CAT\)](#). This tool will enable us to collect and understand the range of views that exist at St. George's, and provide a clearer picture of who we are as a church and what directions might be important for our future. The on-line assessment is available as of February 28<sup>th</sup>, and we ask that you take it as soon as possible, no later than **Friday, March 26<sup>th</sup>**. Your response is very important to us. All answers are strictly anonymous. We have no way of matching any assessment to a particular person, so please feel free to candidly share your perceptions, opinions, and experiences. Our ability to plan for our future together depends on everyone's participation and honest answers.

The assessment will take approximately 30 minutes to complete. Please set aside enough time to complete the survey in one sitting, as you will **not** be able to submit or save a partially completed response. Also, please do not complete the survey more than once, even if you rethink some of your answers, as that will skew the results. Have each adult and young adult (age 14+) in your household complete the survey **separately**. Individual input is key to gaining insight into overall perceptions and experiences.

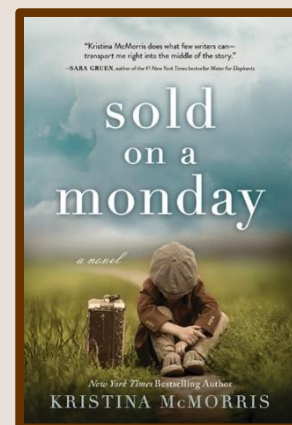
The online version of the survey is available here: [Church Assessment Tool \(CAT\)](#). If you would prefer to complete the survey on paper, please contact Jennifer in the church office at [stgeorgeaustin@gmail.com](mailto:stgeorgeaustin@gmail.com) or 512-454-2523, and we will provide you with a paper copy of the survey, along with a stamped envelope addressed to the church so you can easily return it once completed.

Thank you for your willingness to be a part of this congregational assessment and for helping to build St. George's future! If you have questions, please contact **Melissa Brackin** at [melissaAeason@gmail.com](mailto:melissaAeason@gmail.com) or 512-415-7721.

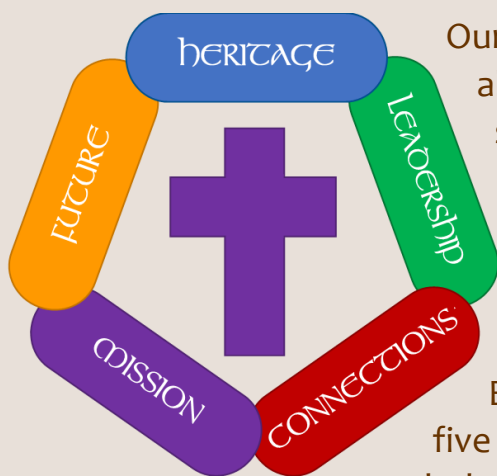


## Women's Book Group

Please join us for our next meeting on **Saturday, March 6<sup>th</sup>**, from **3:00 to 5:00 pm**, via **Zoom**. We will discuss ***Sold on a Monday***, by **Kristina McMorris**. 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](mailto:sandra.villalaz48@gmail.com). Happy reading!



## 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 began on Wednesday, February 24<sup>th</sup> with a focus on Heritage, and we are continuing on subsequent Wednesdays with discussions of Leadership, Connections, Mission, and Future. Zoom information has been emailed to all parishioners; please contact Jennifer in the church office at [stgeorgeaustin@gmail.com](mailto:stgeorgeaustin@gmail.com) to be added to the email list.

## Weekly Eucharist

On **Sunday, March 7<sup>th</sup>**, we will begin holding a weekly in-person, outdoor Eucharist on **Sunday afternoons** at **12:15 pm**. We have been unable to celebrate the Eucharist together for almost a year, and we're thrilled to begin doing so again! The services are limited to approximately 12 people and require registration. To attend, please [register online](#). The service will last approximately 20-30 minutes and will be held at the rear of the playground. Communion will include distribution of the consecrated host only, not the wine. If you wish to sit, please bring your own chair; you are also welcome to stand. Masks and social distancing will be required. Please bring a Book of Common Prayer or a device to access the [Eucharist online](#). This service will not take the place of the 10:30 Liturgy of the Word, which will continue to be live-streamed each Sunday from the church.



## Nineteen Steps to Calling a New Rector

Just as there are 19 steps in the Wright House up to the Rector's Office, there are 19 steps for the congregation going through the process of preparing for and calling a new rector. The whole congregation is invited to be part of the process of each of these 19 steps, the ultimate goal being the arrival of a newly called rector on Step 19! The steps are:



- 1. The Rector announces that s/he is leaving.
- 2. Supply clergy lead worship; work out interim priest arrangement.
- 3. The Interim priest arrives; work out Interim Rector arrangement.
- 4. The Interim Rector arrives and begins transition work.
- 5. **The congregation completes a [survey](#) provided by the diocese. (See page 3!)**
- 6. The results of the survey are shared with the congregation.
- 7. The Parish Profile Committee is formed and generates a Parish Profile.
- 8. When the profile is ready, the diocese approves it.
- 9. The Profile is circulated locally and nationally for six to eight weeks.
- 10. The Search Committee is formed and prepares for interviews.
- 11. The Search Committee reviewing applications and holds interviews.
- 12. Zoom visits or (if safe and possible) in-person visits are held with the candidates.
- 13. The Search Committee narrows list to one or two finalists and presents them to the Vestry.
- 14. Throughout the work of the Parish Profile and Search Committees, transition and interim work are taking place.
- 15. The Vestry reviews the name(s) from the Search Committee.
- 16. The Vestry votes to extend a call to one candidate.
- 17. A call goes out to the new Rector.
- 18. A Transition Team is formed to welcome the new Rector and his/her family.
- 19. The new Rector arrives.

## St. James' Lenten Tea



The St. James' Episcopal Church Women cordially invite the women of St. George's to attend their virtual Lenten Tea on **Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, at 3:00 pm**. Over 43 years ago, the women of St. James began to observe the fourth Sunday in Lent, or Rose Sunday, with a Tea, and all women are invited to help them continue this tradition. You can attend [via Zoom](#) (Meeting ID: 840 8862 2287, Passcode: JMOPZu). Feel free to share this invitation.

## Easter Lilies

St. George's will be adorned with Easter lilies for our celebrations of the Resurrection of our Lord. We invite you to make an offering for lilies, perhaps in a loved one's memory, or in thanksgiving for a person or other blessing in your life.

The [2021 Easter Lily Donation](#) form is available online. Names of donors, along with any memorials or thanksgivings, will be listed in the Easter service bulletins. Be sure to complete the online form by **Monday, March 29<sup>th</sup>** to have your name and dedication listed in the bulletin.

The suggested donation is **\$20 per plant**. Donate online by visiting the [St. George's Donation page](#) and indicating the amount of your gift in the appropriate section (*Other Designated Gifts, Altar Guild, "Easter Lilies" in the notes section*), or send a check payable to St. George's, with "Easter Lilies" in the memo line, to the church office.



## Good Friday Offering



*Worship during the pandemic at St. Christopher's Cathedral, Bahrain. Note the laptop on the lectern.*

Words like "unprecedented" seem too small to describe the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has sorely afflicted the lives of millions of people around the world. It is hard to get one's mind around the impact of this crisis. And yet, for many Christians in the Middle East, the pandemic is just one more crisis to add to the list.

Reflecting upon the situation in Yemen, the Ven. Bill Schwartz, Archdeacon for the Gulf in the Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf, writes: "The COVID crisis is actually only one more

difficulty for them in the face of three other ongoing epidemics (cholera, dengue fever, malaria) and all are greatly affected by all of the problems of the ongoing civil war."

In the Middle East, the political instability of countries like Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, and Yemen can overshadow all other concerns. Governments in turmoil continue to create conditions which promote poverty, food insecurity and economic instability which put a desperate strain on refugees and displaced persons, health care, education and family life in the best of times.

The Good Friday Offering is an opportunity throughout the Episcopal Church to support our Anglican sisters and brothers in their ministry to their neighbors to help meet the needs of innocent people caught in the middle of these realities.

For more information or to donate, visit the [Good Friday Offering](#) page of the national church's website.



## Holy Week & Easter Services

All Holy Week services will be available via [Facebook Live](#) and Zoom. (The Zoom link will be sent in an email to parishioners; for more information, contact [stgeorgeaustin@gmail.com](mailto:stgeorgeaustin@gmail.com).) Visit the St. George's Online Worship page at [www.sgchurch.org/online-worship](http://www.sgchurch.org/online-worship) before each service for the Facebook link and to download the bulletin.

### PALM SUNDAY, March 28

- **10:30 am** – Liturgy of the Word (online) with Blessing of the Palms and the reading of the Passion
- **12:15 pm** – Outdoor Eucharist (registration required, attendance limited)



### MAUNDY THURSDAY, April 1

- **7:00 pm** – Liturgy of the Word (online)

### GOOD FRIDAY, April 2

- **12:00 pm** – Good Friday service, with reading of the Passion and meditation on the Stations of the Cross (online)

### EASTER SUNDAY, April 4

- **10:30 am** – Liturgy of the Word (online)
- **12:15 pm** – Outdoor Eucharist (registration required, attendance limited)



## 2021 Flower/Candle Donation Calendar



Now that our worship leadership has moved back into the church, we will once again be using altar candles and altar flowers (after Easter). If you would like to donate funds for the altar candles for one or more months, or for flowers for one or more weeks (beginning the Sunday after Easter), please visit the [Online Flower/Candle Donation Calendar](#) and enter your name and, if you wish, your dedication, next to the week or month of your choice. A **donation of \$35** is requested for either flowers or candles (via the [St. George's Donation page](#) or by writing a check to St. George's, with "Altar Flowers/Candles" in the memo line).

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## News from the School

This article should be called “News from the ‘What Could Possibly Happen Next?’ School”! From nearly losing the school because of the pandemic and then learning how to function under COVID protocols, to being closed for six days due to the winter storm and having to give up our Spring Break vacations, the school is being tested like never before. Of course, we all know that things could still be worse than they are, and we are all very fortunate to have what we do have: loved ones, family, homes, food, and community.



The school community is strong, as our registration cycle has once again shown. We are full except for two Monday-Wednesday-Thursday spots in a three-year-olds class. God is so good! We even have a healthy wait list. I have no doubt that when we get our new building, we will fill it. There are so many families in need of quality care. It's a blessing that we can provide it for them.

Speaking of our new building, we have once again begun moving forward on the building project. The school has now completed the Water Tap in the city's Right of Way. With so many delays, we are now collecting new bids from contractors and the building company to see where we stand with costs to complete the project. I will keep you updated as I receive more information. Bridgette Beinecke is acting as our volunteer project manager and putting in many countless hours towards helping us see it through to completion.

Our summer camp registration is now open! Kids don't need to be enrolled in our regular school to participate in summer camp. For more information or to register, visit the [Summer Camp](#) page of our website.

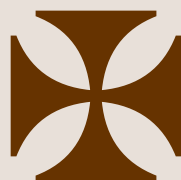
Respectfully,

*Jerri Thompson*

Head of School

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## March Birthdays & Anniversaries

*We wish the following parishioners a happy birthday:*

Patrick Dieringer (Mar 9)  
 Elaine Hosage (Mar 9)  
 Emily Dieringer (Mar 10)  
 Jeremy Stevens (Mar 10)  
 Soren Schuster (Mar 11)  
 Richard Stuart (Mar 11)  
 Josh McGonigle (Mar 16)  
 Fred Blood (Mar 19)  
 Heidi Braun (Mar 19)  
 Alena Navarro (Mar 19)  
 Maddie Boyer (Mar 21)

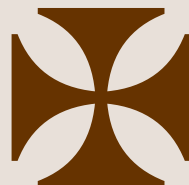
Maddie Sparks (Mar 21)  
 Christina Fultz (Mar 23)  
 Stephen Milburn (Mar 25)  
 Josh Beckham (Mar 26)  
 Henry Bandholz (Mar 28)  
 Carey Kerrigan (Mar 29)  
 Reeves Ham (Mar 30)  
 David Savage (Mar 30)  
 James Poage (Mar 31)  
 Frances Rickard (Mar 31)

*And a happy anniversary to:*

Rob Blech & Mary Stewart Miller (Mar 20)  
 Matt & Christie Curtis (Mar 28)



**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](#)