

# THE BANNER



## St. George's Episcopal Church

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

April 2021



Holy Week • Easter

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**  
**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*

**Belinda McGhee**  
*Clerk*

**Bridgette Beinecke**  
*School Board Liaison*

### Mark Your Calendars

- |                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Thu 4/1</b> Maundy Thursday     | <b>Sun 4/18</b> Return to in-person Worship |
| <b>Fri 4/2</b> Good Friday         | <b>Sun 4/18</b> A Knight for St. George's   |
| <b>Sun 4/4</b> Easter Sunday       | <b>Mon 4/19</b> School Board Meeting        |
| <b>Wed 4/7</b> Wednesday Weavings  | <b>Wed 4/21</b> Wednesday Weavings          |
| <b>Sat 4/10</b> Women's Book Group | <b>4/21-23</b> Women's Retreat              |
| <b>Mon 4/12</b> Vestry Meeting     | <b>Tue 4/27</b> Choir Meet-up               |
| <b>Tue 4/13</b> Choir Meet-up      |   |

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

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### Feast Days

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 Frederick Denison Maurice, Priest, 1872                                   | 15 Damien, Priest, 1889 and Marianne Cope, Monastic 1918 of Hawaii   |
| 3 Mary of Egypt, Hermit and Penitent, c.421                                 | 16 Peter Williams Cassey, Priest, 1917 and Annie Besant Cassey, 1875 |
| 4 Martin Luther King, Jr., Pastor and Martyr, 1968                          | 17 Kateri Tekakwitha, Prophetic Witness, 1680                        |
| 5 Harriet Starr Cannon, Monastic, 1896                                      | 21 Anselm, Archbishop of Canterbury and Theologian, 1109             |
| 8 William Augustus Muhlenberg, Priest, 1877                                 | 22 Hadewijch of Brabant, Poet and Mystic, 13th century               |
| 9 Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Pastor and Theologian, 1945                          | 23 Toyohiko Kagawa, Prophetic Witness, 1960                          |
| 10 William Law, Priest, 1761  | 25 <b>Saint Mark the Evangelist</b>                                  |
| 14 Zenaida, Philonella, and Hermione, Unmercenary Physicians, c. 100, c.117 | 27 Zita of Tuscany, Worker of Charity, 1271                          |
|   | 29 Catherine of Siena, Mystic and Prophetic Witness, 1380            |

## Interim Rector's Corner

Dear St. George's Family:

"He is risen, indeed!" Easter is here – a day, a season and the reason for our Christian existence!

Who would have thought in March 2020, when we were packing up our churches and going into retreat due to this unknown COVID-19, that we would be still working our way through the phases of this pandemic?



St. George's is not only in the midst of the pandemic but is also in this transitional period with an Interim Rector! This may sound like too much, but in many ways, this is a refreshing time in the life of the church. Remember that after the horrible fires in Yellowstone National Park, they found that through the burned-out brush, trees, and wildlife, the undergrowth offered new life, new green, new growth. The fire had cleared away all the debris, and new life was there if you looked carefully. Look carefully – I think that St. George's also has new signs of fresh growth. To borrow a phrase I learned last week, we need to "change our gaze" and be open to what the new growth looks like for St. George's.

On March 24<sup>th</sup>, we had a hearty discussion at our last evening in the Lenten Series, which zeroed in on five Focus Points for this period we are together: Heritage, Leadership, Mission, Connections, and Future. We saw examples of the creativity in the community: some excellent sugar cube works were shared! Those were to crank our minds and our spirits, to oil the gears a bit and prepare for motion forward. We talked about what has been offered and discussed in the past and what might look different today. We spent time talking about our neighbors behind us (the neighborhood), next to us (the school), and in front of us (the homeless under I-35) – a definitive answer to the question, "Who are our neighbors?"

I hope we all have a better sense of self and community as we look at the questions, "Who are we?" and "What is God calling us to do?" One thing that I believe God is calling us to do is to start working our way back to church, to the church building. We are continuing to be cautious, particularly watching COVID numbers after Spring Break. We have started outdoor in-person services on our campus on Sunday afternoons at 12:15 – a short, safety-conscious Eucharist. For Holy Week and Easter we continue to keep it simple yet grace-filled. As we come back into the church building, this, too, will be in steps. See the article on page 5 for more information about our plans to begin worshipping together in the church again.

Yes, he is risen indeed! And, yes, we are rising to God's call!

Faithfully,

*Ann +*

The Rev. Ann McLemore

## May *Banner* Deadline



The deadline for news for the May issue of *The Banner* is Monday, April 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).

# Holy Week and Easter at St. George's

## 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 online 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.

### 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
- Meditation on the Stations of the Cross (online)



### EASTER SUNDAY, April 4

- 7:00 am – Outdoor Sunrise Service with Eucharist ([register online](#), attendance limited)
- 10:30 am – Liturgy of the Word (online)
- 12:15 pm – Outdoor Eucharist ([register online](#), attendance limited)

## Weekly Eucharist



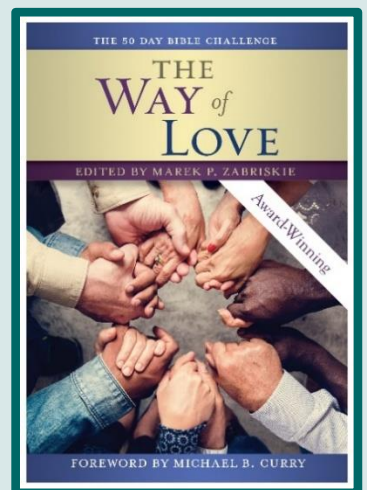
Please join us for our weekly in-person, outdoor Eucharist on **Sunday afternoons** at **12:15 pm**. After nearly a year of not celebrating the Eucharist together, we're thrilled to be doing so again! The services are limited to 12 people and require registration. To attend, please [register online](#). 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

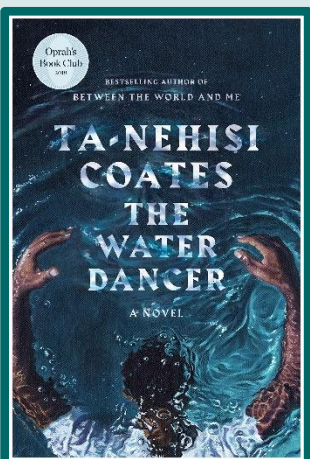
[Eucharist online](#). This service will not take the place of the 10:30 Liturgy of the Word, which will continue to be live-streamed each Sunday from the church.

## Wednesday Weavings

After our break for Lent, St. George's Wednesday night adult discussion group, Wednesday Weavings, will resume our regular meeting schedule in April. We 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 Wednesdays, **April 7<sup>th</sup>** and **April 21<sup>st</sup>**. 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 and/or video 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](mailto:fajrickard@gmail.com). The Zoom screen has plenty of room for all who want to join us!



## Women's Book Group



Please join us for our next meeting on **Saturday, April 10<sup>th</sup>**, from **3:00 to 5:00 pm**, via **Zoom**. We will discuss *The Water Dancer*, by Ta-Nehisi Coates. 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!

## In-Person Worship

As COVID rates continue to drop, and increasing numbers of people are getting vaccinated, St. George's is planning for a return to in-person worship in the church. We tentatively plan to have limited numbers of parishioners return to the 10:30 worship service beginning on **Sunday, April 18<sup>th</sup>**. Needless to say, the return to "normal" worship will be gradual, and many aspects of how we participate in worship will be different from the way they were pre-pandemic. Parishioners will only sit in every third pew, and we will receive bread but no wine at communion. Coffee hour will be a few steps down the path, and we ask that parking lot conversations be kept to a minimum and that everyone wear masks throughout the service (extras will be available at church in case you forget yours). Music will be different as well. The services will include a mix of live and pre-recorded music. We ask that those in church listen and enjoy the music but not sing along (we know that will be difficult for some!), since indoor singing is a particularly dangerous activity in terms of spreading the virus.



Initially, the services will be limited to 20 attendees, in addition to the worship leaders (including our streaming technicians), and registration will be required in order to maintain safe numbers. (More information about how to register will be forthcoming.) The 10:30 service will continue to be accessible via both Zoom and Facebook Live, so on the Sundays you and your family aren't among the 20 attendees, or if you don't feel safe coming back to in-person church just yet, you can still worship with us. (And at home, you're free to sing along to your heart's content!)

## Women's Retreat



With diocesan approval for increased in-person gatherings, we have decided to go ahead and hold this year's Women's Retreat, from **Friday, April 23 to Sunday, April 25**, at **Well Spring Retreat Center** at Wessendorff Ranch in Blanco, Texas. This is your chance to join other energetic, talented women of St. George's for a relaxing, rejuvenating – and safe! – weekend. We are carefully planning so that we can be socially distanced and safe throughout the retreat.

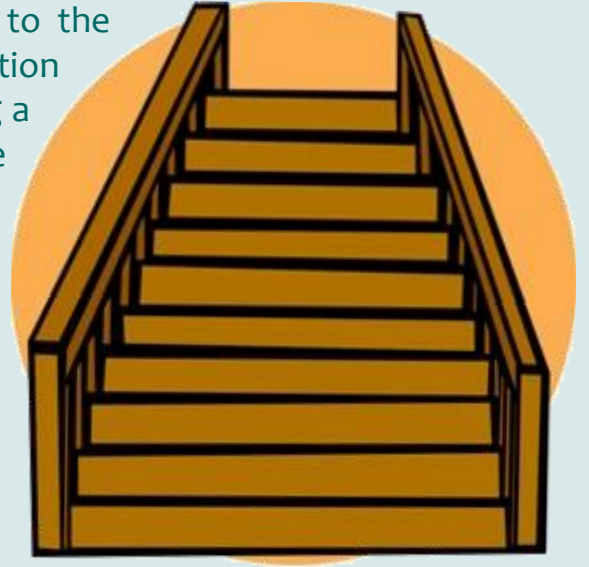
We have been assigned the large house, several of the smaller houses on the upper hill, the library, and the Cocina for our use. This space will allow us to spread out, each have our own room, fewer sharing bathrooms, and still have plenty of activity space to insure safe distancing. Meals will be planned and carried in so that the joint activity of preparing meals together will not require a crowd in the kitchen.

The cost for the weekend, which covers all meals and the facility fees, is \$50.00. If cost is an issue, please don't let it be – alternate arrangements can be made, and we don't want anyone to stay away! Payment can be made online at the [St. George's Donation page](#), in the Women's Retreat section, or by check mailed to the church, made out to St. George's with "Women's Retreat" on the memo line.

The deadline for registration and payment is **Friday, April 16<sup>th</sup>**. To register, or with any questions, please contact Sandra Villalaz at 512-762-8349 or [sandra.villalaz48@gmail.com](mailto:sandra.villalaz48@gmail.com).

## 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. \*
- 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.

\* Many thanks to everyone who completed the Church Assessment Tool survey! We plan to share the results with the congregation soon.

## Outreach Highlight of the Month: Christopher House Baskets



**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 baskets, and we need more delivery people! To be a part of this ministry, sign up for one or more weeks between now and 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](mailto:mzlsnlsn@gmail.com) to make arrangements to get a basket before your delivery week. Delivery includes no patient contact, and only brief outdoor and masked contact with a staff member.



## 2021 Flower/Candle Donation Calendar

You are invited to donate altar flowers for one or more Sundays in 2021, or 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 [2021 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.



## News from the School



I'm happy to report that most of our vegetation made it through the snow storm. Our playground and landscape designer stopped by and assessed the situation, and the school only has to make a few replacements. Before long our campus will be looking beautiful once again, just in time for one of our favorite traditions, the Slaying of the Dragon. This year the event will precede our annual fundraiser, A Knight for St. George's (KSG), so be on the lookout for your electronic invitation. KSG will be virtual this year, and our Chairs, Christie Curtis and Madeleine Landry, have creatively put together a fun time! The funds raised will help us recover our losses from this pandemic.

During the week of April 12, the school will celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The Week of the Young Child. This celebration was created by our accrediting body, The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), and it has daily themes. This year we are adding our own weekly theme, Medieval Times, designing activities to connect us to our school's identity. Here's a list of the fun ideas the school came up with to coincide with NAEYC's daily themes:

- Music Monday – Children will create instruments popular during medieval times.
- Tasty Tuesday – Children will taste a variety of breads and make butter.
- Work Together Wednesday – Children will paint boxes as a group project. These boxes will be used to create the dragon for our Slaying of the Dragon event.
- Artsy Thursday – Children will make stained-glass windows to hang in our breezeway to catch the light.
- Family Friday – The pre-K parents will come up and listen to our traditional story, "The Knight and the Dragon," by Tomie DePaola, and then Knight their own child, before the children are released to slay that scary dragon.

And we're continuing our (not-quite) monthly meet-the-teachers feature! Take a moment to read more about some of our terrific teachers

### Meet Carmel Sweat

Hi! I'm Ms. Carmel, and this will be my sixteenth year working with children, and most of my career has been here at St. George's. Because St. George's provides a warm and comforting environment and helps support children and their families, especially these last few months, I have loved working here. We have a passionate staff who have many opportunities to grow and learn as educators, which makes St. George's a special place to work.



### Meet Christina Sembrano

My name is Ms. Christina, and I have been working at St. George's for a little over a year now, and in Early Childhood Education for about five years. I love working at St. George's because it is the most caring and pleasant environment that I've ever been a part of. I feel that all the children here love to be at school with educators who are always going above and beyond to care for the children and guide them to become the best versions of themselves.





### Meet Mari Vasquez

Hello, my name is Mari Vasquez, and I have been working with children for almost 19 years now. My last six years in early childhood education have been spent here at St. George's Episcopal School. I love the small-school feel and tight-knit community that St. George's offers. Our school family is one of the best I have ever worked for, from the administration to the staff and families. Teaching pre-K at St. George's has been so rewarding and has taught me so much.



### Meet Angie Marchan

My name is Angie Marchan, and I have been in the Early Childhood field for 15 years, and at St. George's since the summer of 2014. I love working with other caring co-workers who love this field and want to be a team, supporting parents so their children can benefit. Another great perk is having both my daughters here to learn and grow at the best school in Austin!



Enjoy your Springtime!

Respectfully,

*Jerri Thompson*  
Head of School

## April Birthdays & Anniversaries



*We wish the following parishioners a happy birthday:*

Caroline Braun (Apr 1)  
Rylee Worcester (Apr 4)  
Ralph Hausser (Apr 8)  
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!**

## 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](#)