

THE BANNER



St. George's Episcopal Church

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

May 2021



Easter • Pentecost

4301 North IH 35 • Austin, TX 78722

512.454.2523 • stgeorgeaustin@gmail.com

www.sgchurch.org

Office hours: Monday – Thursday, 9:30 am – 2:30 pm

Sunday Schedule

- 10:30 am [Holy Eucharist Rite II](#)
Online/In-person
- 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

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| Wed 5/5 Wednesday Weavings | Sat 5/15 Women's Book Group |
| Sun 5/9 Mother's Day
Comfort Bag Blessing | Mon 5/17 School Board Meeting |
| Mon 5/10 Vestry Meeting
(on campus) | Wed 5/19 Wednesday Weavings |
| Tue 5/11 Choir Meet-up | Sun 5/23 Pentecost |
| Thu 5/13 Ascension Day | Tue 5/25 Choir Meet-up |
| | Sun 5/30 Graduation Sunday |

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

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Feast Days

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 The Apostles Saint Philip and Saint James | 19 Dunstan, Archbishop of Canterbury, 988 |
| 2 Elisabeth Cruciger, Poet and Hymnographer, 1535 | 20 Alcuin of York, Deacon and Abbot, 804 |
| 3 Athanasius of Alexandria, Bishop and Theologian, 373 | 21 Lydia of Thyatira, Coworker of the Apostle Paul |
| 4 Martyrs of the Reformation Era | 22 Helena of Constantinople, Protector of the Holy Places, 330 |
| 8 Julian of Norwich, Mystic and Theologian, c.1417 | 24 Jackson Kemper, Bishop and Missionary, 1870 |
| 11 Johann Arndt and Jacob Boehme, Mystics, 1621 and 1624 | 25 Bede, Priest and Historian, 735 |
| 13 Frances Perkins, Social Reformer, 1965 | 26 Augustine of Canterbury, First Archbishop of Canterbury, 605 |
| 15 Pachomius of Tabenissi, Monastic, 348 | 28 Mechthild of Magdeburg, Mystic, c.1282 |
| 17 Thurgood Marshall, Public Servant, 1993 | 31 The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary |

Interim Rector's Corner

Dear St. George's Family:

What do you miss most of all about church? I have never seen a process that was so easy to exit, yet so hard to re-enter. We all "battened down the hatches" in mid-March of 2020, and now we are trying hard to figure out how to create new hybrid services that include both "what we did before" and "what worship will look like now."



At St. George's, we also add to the mix the fact that this is a transition year, and the congregation not only has an Interim Rector, but is also going through various stages, going up the 19 steps, towards calling a new Rector. Soon, the company that developed the survey that many of you took will be giving a presentation to the church that will explain the results. They are in the process of pulling together the final results, including statistics from the past three years from our annual Parochial Reports.

Are you interested in being part of the process of calling a new rector? The group that will start that work is the **Profile Committee**; they will take all the survey results and, with the help of a diocesan template, plug in the St. George's information to create a Parish Profile and job description. Once the profile is ready, the Bishop's office gives us its blessing, and the job description goes out, at which point the Profile Team's work is over. A new committee takes the ball, the **Search Committee**, which will be responsible for reviewing all applications and candidates, and coordinating Zoom interviews and visits. They will narrow the field to one or two candidates and hand those names over to the **Vestry**, at which point the Search Committee's work is over. The Vestry will be the ones to make a final decision and offer a call for a new rector.

When a priest accepts the call from St. George's, another committee goes into action – the **Transition Team**. This group helps the new priest, along with their spouse and family, and the leadership of St. George's start out on a healthy road of working together.

As your Interim Rector, I am not part of this search process. My mission is to be sure that St. George's stays on task. What is your mission? Where might you be able to offer your services? The Vestry will have their responsibilities at the end of the process; who can help the front end of the process? Who can help the middle? Different people will be on different groups! If you would like to know more about these committees; please feel free to contact either your Senior Warden Brad Dieringer or myself.

The Gifts of God for the People of God! Think of all the gifts God has given you! How might you gather, come back together, ready to share and move forward as the People of God? Sometimes we end up in a place that might be a bit too comfortable. That is why, I believe, God steps in and shakes our world up a bit.

I invite all of you to pray for God's presence and guidance regarding church and return to worship as a community. Some need more time, some have other circumstances, and some of you are just not sure. Pray to God for help. And let us remember together our blessing of the SAFE Alliance Comfort Bags, and our celebration of all the women in our lives who have been mothers to us, both on May 9th.

Faithfully,

Ann +

The Rev. Ann McLemore

June *Banner* Deadline

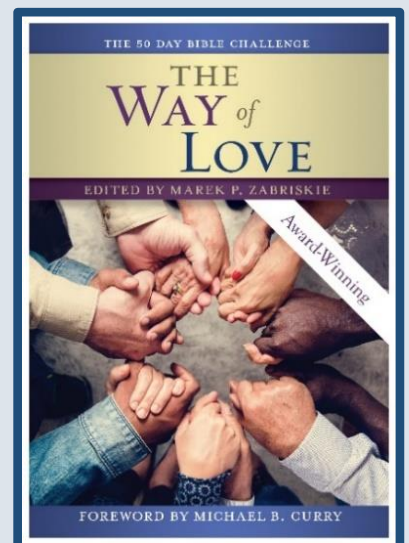


The deadline for news for the June issue of *The Banner* is Tuesday, May 24th. Please email news and articles you would like included in the next issue to stgeorgeaustin@gmail.com.



Wednesday Weavings

St. George's adult discussion group continues to meet every other Wednesday, from **7:00 to 8:00 pm**. All are welcome to join the group for discussion and a closing service of Compline. This month we will meet on Wednesdays, **May 5th** and **May 19th**. 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. The Zoom screen has plenty of room for all who want to join us!



Outreach Ministry Highlight

SAFE Alliance

SAFE | stop abuse for everyone

A merger of Austin Children's Shelter and SafePlace

Our Outreach Ministry Highlight for the month of May is the **SAFE Alliance**. The SAFE Alliance exists to stop abuse for everyone by serving the survivors of child abuse, sexual assault and exploitation, and domestic violence. They work to ending violence through prevention, advocacy, and comprehensive services for individuals, families, and communities that have been affected by abuse. For more information about SAFE and opportunities to get involved, visit their website at www.safeaustin.org. St. George's has had a long and fruitful relationship with SAFE. Our primary ministry with them is creating approximately 450 comfort bags each year, to be given to women and men who are undergoing clinical exams for and official reports of sexual assault.

For over a year, we have been unable to gather to create the beautiful hand-crafted bags, but neither their need nor our commitment has lessened. Thanks to the dedication of several of our parishioners, we have continued to create and fill bags. SAFE has let us know that they are in need of more bags, and we plan to fill and bless 250 bags – a record for us!

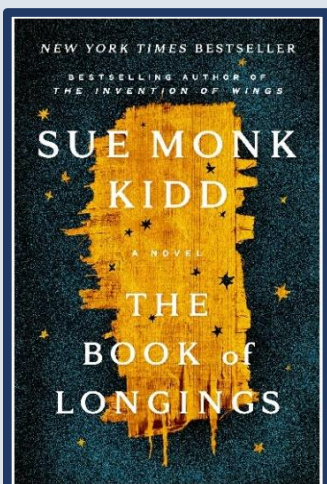
Please join us (in-person with registration or online) at the 10:30 service on **Sunday, May 9th**, when we will present the bags to be blessed before we give them to the SAFE Alliance to distribute to survivors of sexual assault. Two of SAFE's wonderful full-time advocates will be joining us as well.

We look forward to the day (hopefully soon!) when we can come together and create more bags at a sew-in. We've missed sharing that experience as a community!

Thank you for your continued support of this important ministry! Contact Sarah Campbell (cowmarket2@gmail.com) or Alice Nelson (mzlsnlsn@gmail.com) with any questions.



Women's Book Group



Please join us for our next meeting on **Saturday, May 15th**, from **3:00 to 5:00 pm**, at the **home of Belinda McGhee**. We are very excited to have our first in-person meeting in over a year! We will be meeting outdoors, in a shaded area, with masks encouraged, and we will observe social distancing. We will discuss **The Book of Longings**, by **Sue Monk Kidd**. 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 sandra.villalaz48@gmail.com or 512-762-8349. Happy reading!

In-Person Worship

St. George's began a return to in-person worship in the church in April. Needless to say, the return to "normal" worship will be gradual, and many aspects of how we participate in worship are different from the way they were pre-pandemic. Parishioners sit in every third pew, and we receive bread but no wine at communion. We don't have a real Coffee Hour, and parishioners wear masks throughout the service (extras are available at church in case you forget yours). Music is different as well. The services 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 it's difficult for some!), since indoor singing is a particularly dangerous activity in terms of spreading the virus.



The services are currently limited to 20 attendees, in addition to the worship leaders (including our streaming technicians), and [online registration](#) is required in order to maintain safe numbers. The 10:30 service continues 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!)

Outdoor Eucharist



Please join us for our weekly in-person, outdoor Eucharist on **Sunday afternoons at 12:15 pm**. 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.

Seminary Commencement

The Seminary of the Southwest will hold two ceremonies to recognize and celebrate graduating students and award degrees. An evening service of Eucharist will be held on Tuesday, May 18th, at 5:30 pm, and the Commencement Exercises, with Bishop Andy Doyle as Commencement speaker, will be held on Wednesday, May 19th, at 10:00 am. Both services will be live-streamed via the [Seminary of the Southwest's website](#). Our parishioner Joel McAlister, who is being sponsored for ordination by St. George's, will be among the graduates.



SEMINARY OF THE
SOUTHWEST

Pentecost



And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them.

~ Acts 2:2-3

The Day of Pentecost recalls the coming of the Holy Spirit to the first disciples of Jesus, empowering them to preach the gospel to people from many different places, backgrounds, and cultures. The disciples who had formerly been confused and frightened after the Ascension of Jesus, not knowing what to do without his physical presence among them, were emboldened by the Spirit, and began to form a community that would be able to carry on in these new circumstances. Pentecost is sometimes called the birthday of the Church for this reason. As the contemporary embodiment of the community those first disciples began, we celebrate the fruits of the Spirit in each of us and the sharing of our gifts with our community and the world.

Join us on the Day of Pentecost, Sunday, May 23rd – [online](#) or [in person](#) – as we celebrate the presence of the Holy Spirit among us. We will join together in reading the gospel in languages from around the globe. It is traditional to **wear red** on Pentecost – even if you’re at home! – so that the congregation itself becomes a symbol of the flames of the Holy Spirit.

Celebrating Our Graduates

On **Sunday, May 30th**, St. George’s will offer a blessing to celebrate those graduating or moving forward in their educational journey. We will offer a blessing for those who are graduating from high school, college, or any other certificate or degree program. If you or your child are graduating from any such program, please contact Jennifer Joslyn-Siemiatkoski in the church office at stgeorgeaustin@gmail.com so that we can honor them during the service.



2021 Altar Flowers/Candles 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.

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.

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 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.

News from the School

May is a great time to celebrate our amazing staff. Through this year, you have been slowly introduced to all the incredible teachers the school is honored to employ. The first full week of May is Teacher Appreciation Week. We recognize and celebrate our teachers every year, but this year has been especially difficult. This year, I hope all will take a moment to pray for these incredible people. They dedicate so much of their lives to provide a safe, loving, and enriching environment for children. People who work in this field are rewarded by the hugs and "ah-ha" moments they get from young children. This is what makes them do what they do. It's a love for being able to say, "I made a difference in a child's life."



If you would like to recognize the teachers of St. George's School, then post an encouraging comment on our word wall, [WORDS OF KINDNESS](#), by **Friday, May 7th**. I will share it with the teachers at the end of our week-long celebration.

Thank you all for your continued love and support for the school!

Respectfully,

Jerri Thompson

Head of School



May Birthdays & Anniversaries

We wish the following parishioners a happy birthday:

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Matt Curtis (May 2) | Jeff Maki (May 17) |
| James Wall (May 4) | Frances Corcoran (May 18) |
| Alice Nelson (May 9) | Joel McAlister (May 19) |
| Ethan Worcester (May 9) | Adam Kerrigan (May 27) |
| Chloe Metcalf (May 13) | Kelly Puckett (May 28) |
| Charlie Wagner (May 13) | Grace Stallman (May 29) |
| Jen Spencer (May 15) | August Dolan-Henderson (May 31) |
| Carolyn Porter (May 16) | |

And a happy anniversary to:

- Dylan & Rylee Worcester (May 7)
- Melissa & Dewey Brackin (May 18)
- Scott & Hye Na Lucy (May 23)
- Anne & Eric Bandholz (May 27)
- Andrea & Grant Sparks (May 28)
- Claire Jones & Ryan Wagner (May 29)



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](#)