

THE BANNER



St. George's Episcopal Church

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

October 2021



Season after Pentecost

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

Sunday Schedule

10:30 am [Holy Eucharist Rite II](#)
Online/In-person
11:30 am Zoom Coffee Hour

The Rev. Ann McLemore
Interim Rector

Dia Park
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

Tue 10/5 Choir Meet-up

Wed 10/6 Wednesday Weavings

Sat 10/9 Women's Book Group

Mon 10/11 Vestry Meeting

Mon 10/18 School Board Meeting

Tue 10/19 Choir Meet-up

Wed 10/20 Wednesday Weavings

Sun 10/31 All Saints' Sunday

Comfort Bag Blessing

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

In This Issue

Interim Rector's Corner.....	2
Wednesday Weavings	3
Women's Book Group	3
In-Person Worship	3
Stewardship	4
SAFE Alliance Comfort Bags.....	4
All Saints' Day / Día de los Muertos ..	5
Nineteen Steps	6
2021 Altar Flowers Calendar	7

New Organ Update.....	7
The Labyrinth Restored.....	8
Hands for Hope.....	8
Christopher House Bags.....	9
Blandy Lecture	9
News from the School.....	10
October Birthdays & Anniversaries .	11
November Banner Deadline	11
Links for Further Information	11

Feast Days

1	Therese of Lisieux, Monastic, 1898
3	John Raleigh Mott, Ecumenist and Missionary, 1955
4	Francis of Assisi, Friar and Deacon, 1226
7	Birgitta of Sweden, Mystic and Prophetic Witness, 1373
9	Vida Dutton Scudder, Educator, 1954
11	Philip, Deacon and Evangelist
14	Samuel Isaac Joseph Schereschewsky and Channing Moore Williams, Bishops and Missionaries, 1906 and 1910
15	Teresa of Avila, Mystic and Monastic Reformer, 1582

16	Hugh Latimer and Nicholas Ridley, Bishops and Martyrs, 1555
17	Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop and Martyr, c.115
18	Saint Luke the Evangelist
19	Henry Martyn, Priest and Missionary, 1812
23	Saint James of Jerusalem, Brother of Our Lord Jesus Christ
25	Tabitha (Dorcas) of Joppa
26	Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Scholar and Social Reformer, 1902
28	Saint Simon and Saint Jude, Apostles
29	Mary of Qidun, Monastic, 4th century

Interim Rector's Corner

Dear St. George's Family:

In my sermon of September 26, I brought us back to the five focus points we are working through this year, during this time of transition. The focus points are: Heritage, Leadership, Mission, Connections, and Future. This fall we are in the time of Connection. A potential element of connection on our campus is our labyrinth. A labyrinth walk can be a "powerful ritual of connection" (*Labyrinths*, Zara Renander, p. 64). During our recent Saturday work day and the week following, several of you worked hard on our labyrinth and gave it a fresh face lift. For those who have not been on the campus recently, I invite you to come by and consider walking the labyrinth. May your walk be a prayer you are offering up for the next Rector to be called at St. George's.



I would like to share a story from the book *Labyrinths* by Zara Renander that might help you with your walk.

While I was director of a center for pilgrimage and reconciliation at the Church of the Nativity in Huntsville, Alabama, we decided to hold a special Veteran's Day labyrinth event. We wanted this to be an intergenerational experience honoring our armed forces and allowing veterans to tell a new generation what the day meant to them. Accordingly, we placed advertisements in the local newspaper and the Redstone Arsenal's Gazette about our program and intentions. We invited a high school JROTC cadet group and their leader to lunch with veterans of WWII. The young people ate with the veterans, and it was a good time of sharing stories and experiences. Following the lunch, the students all made an honor walk of the labyrinth for the members of our armed forces who were currently serving around the world. Many of the students had friends and family members in the military, and they appreciated the opportunity to ritually honor their service and commitment.

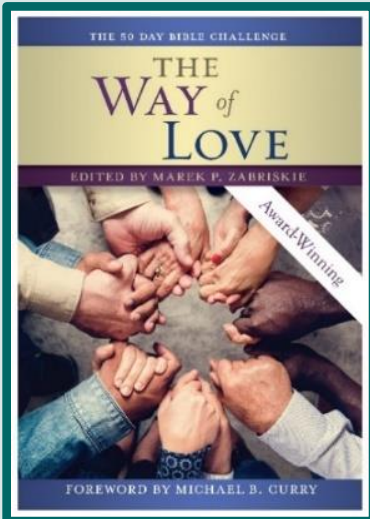
A chill rain dampened that dark, cold November afternoon, and after the students left, I thought about closing the labyrinth and going home. That's when he arrived, an old man bent over and walking in some pain, shuffling, and dragging his feet. I'd never seen him before. He'd come in response to one of our advertisements. He asked for a few directions on how to walk a labyrinth and started out. As his feet followed the circular path, his body began to shake—it became obviously difficult for him to continue. I went to him to help him and said, "This is very hard for you, isn't it?" He nodded by way of acknowledgement then opened his hand. In his palm he held a crumpled, tear-stained piece of paper with the names of all his World War II comrades. "All dead," he murmured, "all dead." Together we lit a candle for each of his friends and placed their names on a prayer list. Afterwards, he said, "I didn't understand why I had to come here this afternoon. Thank you, now I know."

That is what our labyrinth is and can be to the community—a connection to our neighbors. What connection is God calling you to make?

Faithfully,

The Rev. Ann McLemore

Wednesday Weavings



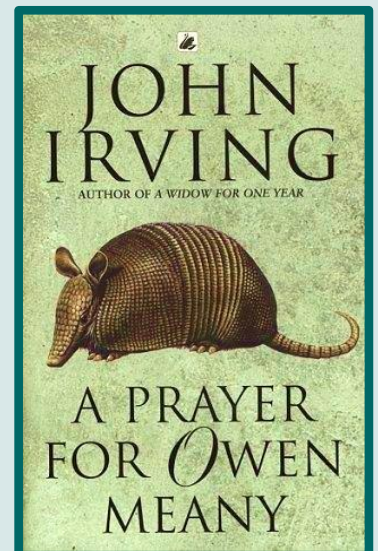
St. George's adult discussion group continues to meet every other Wednesday. In September, we will again have both meetings via Zoom. We will meet from **7:00 to 8:00 pm** on **October 6th** and **October 20th**, for a discussion on the selected reading for the evening and a closing service of Compline.

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 reading and the Zoom link 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.

Women's Book Group

Please join us for our next meeting on **Saturday, October 9th**, from **3:00 to 5:00 pm**, at the home of **Bridgette Beinecke**. We will discuss *A Prayer for Owen Meany*, by **John Irving**. The meeting will be held indoors, with masks.

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. Please contact Sandra Villalaz at **512-762-8349** or sandra.villalaz48@gmail.com with any questions. Happy reading!



In-Person Worship



Our Sunday morning services continue to grow as we emerge from the pandemic, gathering in person and reconnecting with our community.

We hope that you can join us! We are continuing to take measures to be safe, and our policies evolve as the situation changes.

Masks and social distancing are required; we are remaining in our pews to receive communion; and in-person worshipers are asked not to sing until the final hymn.

The 10:30 service continues to be accessible via both Zoom and Facebook Live, so if you don't feel safe coming back to in-person church just yet or can't make it every Sunday, you can still worship with us!

Stewardship

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above.
(James 1:17a)

In **October**, we will begin our annual season of stewardship at St. George's, culminating on Gratitude Sunday in November. This year's theme, **Every Perfect Gift**, highlights all the ways in which we have been blessed by God and how that inspires us to give back to our neighbors, our church, the world.

During this season, we prayerfully consider our financial commitment to St. George's in the year ahead. An insert in the bulletin each week will address a different way that we as individuals and as a community can more fully acknowledge the gifts we both give and receive. We will also hear from some parishioners about their personal approaches to giving. Pledge cards will be mailed out and sent by email. You can submit your pledge by placing your pledge cards in the offering basket, by mailing your card to the church office, or online (the online pledge form will be available by mid-October). For more information or to pledge online, visit our website at www.sgchurch.org/stewardship.



SAFE Alliance Comfort Bags



For many years, St. George's has created beautiful, hand-sewn bags to the SAFE Alliance, which gives them to the survivors of sexual abuse who come to SAFE for help. Although we have not been able to get together for a sew-in yet, our amazing angels with sewing machines are making another supply of 200 beautiful bags, ready to fill with the familiar items of comfort that mean so much to the survivors.

If you can help provide items to fill the comfort bags, please visit the [Comfort Bag Sign-Up Sheet](#) and sign up for the item and quantity you'd like to donate. If you have trouble with the link, please contact Frances Rickard at fajrickard@gmail.com. Then please deliver your items, or

have them shipped, to Alice Nelson, no later than **October 20th**. Contact Alice at mzlsnlsn@gmail.com for her address. We are currently planning a small, socially distanced gathering to fill the bags. Please contact Alice for more information about that event.

Please join us (in-person or online) at the 10:30 service on **Sunday, October 31st**, when we will present the bags to be blessed before we give them to the SAFE Alliance to distribute to survivors of sexual assault. We hope to welcome representatives from SAFE as well.

Thank you for your continued support of this important ministry!

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 on the closest 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, as at many other churches, we observe this sacred time with a special altar. Denise Hope and Mark Cassstevens will decorate the altar on **Saturday, October 30th, 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, October 31st**, 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. Please join us on All Saints' Day as we remember those who have gone before us.

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.
 - 10. The Search Committee is formed and prepares for interviews.
 - 11. The Search Committee reviews 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 the 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.
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2021 Altar Flowers/Candles Calendar



Just a few more Sundays in 2021 are available for which you can donate altar flowers or altar candles! The remaining dates for flower donations are October 17 and 24, and November 7. The month of December is available if you would like to donate the altar candles that month. To sign up and indicate a dedication if you wish (in honor of someone, in thanksgiving for a blessing in your life, or in memory of loved one), visit the [2021 Altar Flowers/Candles 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 place them in the offertory basket or mail them to the church office.

New Organ Update

Progress on the new digital organ for St. George's continues. Danny Brooke, with Organ Technology, has essentially completed his work to adapt a walnut Galanti organ console for a digital organ (see accompanying photos). He reports, "I think you're in for a treat on how nice this console is. The structure and cabinetry are wonderful. The top half of the console is actually finished inside to help resist moisture and enhance stability." When the carpentry and other work is completed in the organ area at the back of the church, Danny will order the speakers and other equipment needed to complete the job.



Danny recently sent a [YouTube link](#) to a story about a church in Indianapolis that has completed a similar digital organ project to ours that he thought might be of interest. The organist who tells the story is a friend of his, and Danny helped on the project. While the organ in the video uses software from a variety of different organ styles and regions, Danny says our organ will play one of the same organ sounds featured (the Armley-Shulze, which is a German/English Romantic style organ at St. Bartholomew's Church in Yorkshire). The video is about 5 minutes long, and we commend it to you.



The necessary carpentry, electrical, and cabling work is expected to begin in October, so we are getting very close to completion of the project. Please watch for further announcements as work progresses. Please contact John Rickard at john@p3consulting.us or Brad Dieringer at bradd77tx@gmail.com with any questions.

The Labyrinth Restored

Earlier this summer all you could see of our Labyrinth were a few stones not yet buried in the sands of time. But then the call went out, and people came by when they could, to find and dig up those rocks that had been laid out 18 years ago by St. George's Youth and their adult helpers.



These are rocks with a story. Rocks from the dismantling of the battle scene set for “The Alamo.”

Rocks from the San Gabriel River in Georgetown. Rocks from the dirt that was dug to make graves at Austin Memorial Park. Rocks that the people of St. George's brought from their own yards, “cap rocks,” to complete the project.

Today the Labyrinth has resurfaced and our friends at Natural Treasures have generously donated more rocks to finish out the current installation. We have added a couple more benches, to help define the area. There are three big rocks in the center for focus and possibly a place for small tokens. Eventually we hope to make a sign that gives a little guidance, in case anyone is seeking.

We know the Labyrinth is of value to those who have walked it meditatively before. We have seen children and parents from the school on the path too. Local lore has it that Easter eggs have even been hidden there in the past. And we hope it will quietly beckon as a place for anyone passing from the neighborhood or on the street, to take a moment for rest or contemplation.

Whatever the future brings – a new campus, a more beautiful maze of new design – we'll have stories of where we came from, even as we move forward. Thanks to all who were able to help this time around – many hands made Light work.



Hands for Hope



El Buen Samaritano's annual **Hands for Hope** meal drive will once again take place this year, beginning in mid-October and culminating in a grocery-bagging event on November 14th and meal delivery on November 20th. Watch the bulletin and the November *Banner* for details on how to participate.

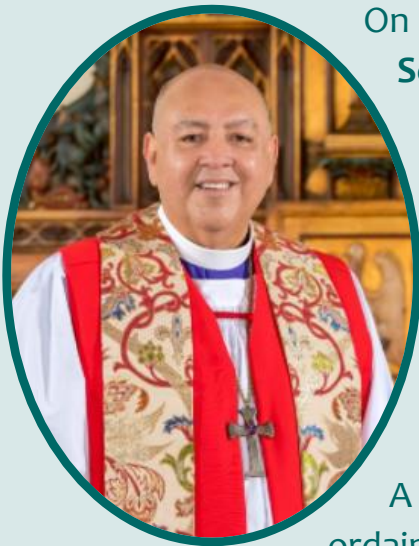
Christopher House Bags

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 (except now they are bags with handles), and we need more delivery people! To be a part of this ministry, sign up for one or more weeks



between now and December 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 placing a check in the offertory basket (or mailing it 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.

Blandy Lecture

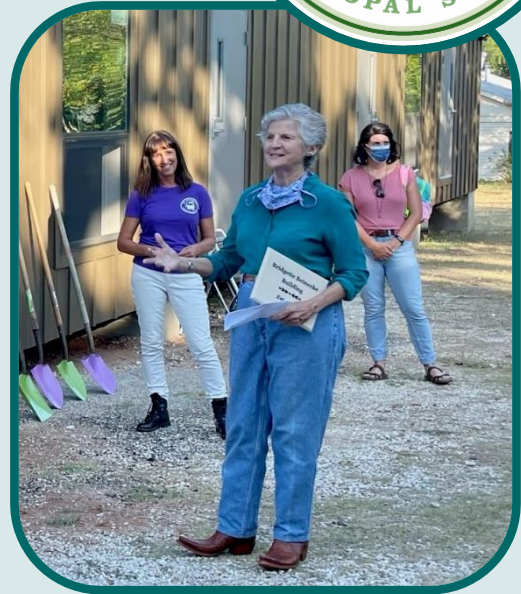


On **Wednesday, November 10th, at 6:30 pm**, the **Seminary of the Southwest** will present its annual Blandy Lecture, which is free and open to the public. This year's speaker is the **Rt. Rev. Hector F. Monterroso**, bishop assistant in the Diocese of Texas. Bishop Monterroso will present a talk on "Embracing the Multicultural Future of the Church." The lecture will be presented in a hybrid format, with both an in-person and online track. To register for either track, visit the [Blandy Lecture & Alumni Convocation](#) page of the Seminary's website.

A native of Guatemala, the Rt. Rev. Hector F. Monterroso was ordained as a deacon in 1986, a priest in 1987, and was consecrated as the Bishop of Costa Rica on June 7, 2003. He served as bishop of Costa Rica for 14 years before becoming bishop assistant in the Diocese of Texas in 2017. Bishop Monterroso has also served as Secretary General of Province IX (1986-2000); as editor of the *Revista Anglicanos*, a magazine that served the Hispanic diaspora in the Anglican Communion; and as Secretary General of the Anglican Church of the Central Region of America. During his tenure in Costa Rica, he secured its financial stability, increased the number of clergy from seven to 29, assured that most congregations were self-sustaining, and gained governmental recognition and support for many of the Diocese's programs. In Texas, Bishop Monterroso continues to strengthen the growth in both Hispanic congregations as well as new missional communities and church plants.

News from the School

What a joyful time! The school's new modular building has arrived, the [press release](#) went out, picked up by Community Impact, and the ground-breaking ceremony was a huge success. We are especially pleased to be naming the new building for Bridgette Beinecke, a St. George's parishioner who has served multiple times on the School Board and who has given countless hours to this project.



I am so thrilled that St. George's Episcopal School is continuing to thrive, fulfilling its mission, and making a positive impact in our community. I thank each and every one of you for your continued support and loving prayers. The many personal notes and congratulations warm my heart and soul. Thank you all!!

Other News:

The Halloween Parade and Chapel is scheduled for Oct. 29 at 9:05 AM. We'll parade around in the Big Playground and then come together for our special Halloween story focused on sharing.

The school had their annual licensing visit from Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, and zero violations were found! In the past five years, only one violation has been cited. We are very proud of the hard work of all our staff that keeps us compliant with all the state's requirements.

Hiring Update:

In case you have not seen the recent news surrounding the crisis in child care programs, this [Washington Post article](#) clarifies the problem. The article graphically spells out the crisis we are in, and I definitely have been feeling this for some time now. There is not a problem unique to St. George's. Most programs, if not all, are experiencing this shortage. In response, the St. G's staff members are stepping up, coming together, and at times working longer hours to cover the needed shifts.

St. George's is still searching for: one Assistant Teacher in the Orange Room (two-year-olds), one on-site substitute/afternoon Assistant Teacher in the Red Room (infants), and one other on-site substitute. I do however have a strong candidate for the Orange Room.

Respectfully,

Jerri Thompson

Head of School



October Birthdays & Anniversaries

We wish the following parishioners a happy birthday:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Matthew Jones (Oct 5) | Sara Scarborough (Oct 18) |
| Carolyn Moreau (Oct 12) | Madison McGonigle (Oct 22) |
| Sandra Villalaz-Dickson (Oct 14) | Adam Moreau (Oct 23) |
| Mikail McIntosh-Doty (Oct 16) | Mark Casstevens (Oct 24) |
| Nella Ibsen (Oct 17) | Leo Maki (Oct 26) |
| Dylan Kadas (Oct 17) | Samantha Stevens (Oct 27) |

And a happy anniversary to:

- Terry O'Donnell & Ramón Treviño (Oct 12)
 Jeff Maki & Jen Spencer (Oct 15)
 Margaret & Bailey Tipps (Oct 18)
 Laura & Joel McAlister (Oct 21)
 Susan & August Dolan-Henderson (Oct 27)
 Madeleine & Kyle Landry (Oct 27)



Congratulations and Best Wishes!

November *Banner* Deadline



The deadline for news for the November issue of *The Banner* is Tuesday, October 26th. Please email news and articles you would like included in the next issue to stgeorgeaustin@gmail.com.



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](#)