

# THE BANNER



## St. George's Episcopal Church

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

February 2021



Epiphany

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, 9:30 am – 2:30 pm

### Online Sunday Schedule

10:30 am [Liturgy of the Eucharist, Rite II](#)

The Rev. Ann McLemore  
Interim Rector

Dia Kim  
Music Minister

Mikail McIntosh-Doty  
Office Administrator

Jerri Thompson  
Head of School

Josh Beckham  
Spencer Gordon  
Mark Casstevens  
Ed Crawford

Dale Curry  
Brad Dieringer

Sandra Villalaz-Dickson

Belinda McGhee  
Samantha Stevens  
Vestry

Brad Dieringer  
Senior Warden

Dale Curry  
Junior Warden

Samantha Stevens  
Financial Secretary

Ashley Carrera  
Treasurer

Belinda McGhee  
Clerk

Bridgette Beinecke  
School Board Liaison

## Mark Your Calendars

Wed 2/2 Wednesday Weavings  
Mon 2/7 Vestry Meeting  
Tues 2/8 Choir Practice  
Sat 2/12 Women's Book Group

Sat 2/14 St. Valentine's Day  
Tue 2/15 Choir Practice  
Wed 2/16 Wednesday Weavings  
Tues 2/22 Choir Practice  
Mon 2/21 School Board Meeting

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

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## Feast Days

- 1 Brigid of Kildare, Monastic, c.523
- 2 **The Presentation of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple**
- 3 Anskar, Bishop and Missionary, 865
- 4 Cornelius the Centurian; Manche Masemola, Martyr, 1928
- 5 Agatha of Sicily, Martyr, c.251 ; The Martyrs of Japan, 1597
- 8 Bakhita (Josephine Margaret Bakhita), Monastic and Prophetic Witness, 1947
- 10 Scholastica, Monastic, 543
- 11 Theodora, Empress, c.867
- 13 Absalom Jones, Priest, 1818
- 14 Cyril and Methodius, Missionaries, 869 and 885
- 15 Thomas Bray, Priest and Missionary, 1730
- 17 Janani Luwum, Archbishop and Martyr, 1977

- 18 Martin Luther, Pastor and Church Reformer, 1546
- 19 Agnes Tsao Kou Ying, Agatha Lin Zhao, and Lucy Yi Zhenmei, Catechists and Martyrs, 1856, 1858, and 1862
- 20 Frederick Douglass, Social Reformer, 1895
- 22 Margaret of Cortona, Monastic, 1297
- 23 Polycarp of Smyrna, Bishop and Martyr, 156
- 25 Emily Morgan, Lay Leader and Contemplative, 1937
- 24 **Saint Matthias the Apostle**
- 26 Photini, The Samaritan Woman, c.67
- 27 George Herbert, Priest and Poet, 1633
- 28 Anna Julia Haywood Cooper, Educator, 1964

## Interim Priest's Corner

Dear St. George's Family:

Greetings,

I wanted to share the "February" page of the Church Pension Group which has classic illustrations that are so 'spot on.' This month it has our Presiding Bishop Michael Curry at a pulpit with a big heart banner hanging on the front. With a big grin he proclaims, "Since February is Heart Awareness Month allow me to report..." The next panel on the page he offers, "if it's not about love, it's not about God."



Coming out of the 2022 annual meeting there are several examples that propel this congregation into ministries and mindfulness. It is clear God's love is in the lives of this worshipping community. As we all are aware, God's love is not necessarily always defined as "sunshine and lollipops." However, the pain of the eight-plus break-ins has revealed serious damage that would not have been discovered had we not been pulling out broken stained glass and frameworks. Yes, we have major construction work happening on the church and Wright House; but, left unattended, the situation might have been much more serious if let go as it was before we started opening walls. And so we humbly move forward! I offer the following prayer,

"Loving God, we come as your beloved children,  
presenting the needs and concerns of our hearts.  
Listen to our prayers, and lead us in your pathways,  
for we come to you through Christ our Lord."

We offer to God what is in our hearts; we ask for our prayers to be heard, and for direction on which way to go. There is so much happening right now at St. George's: a time of transition; a search committee diligently doing their work which will lead to calling a new rector; resolving grounds and building issues; and a pandemic that continues to morph into new variations and trigger new sets of "rules" in which to act. This can all be very consuming of our time, our energy, and our hearts. Yet it is in our hearts that we find God in the midst of all of this happening!

The calendar page also reminds us that we are part of a bigger entity, The Episcopal Church, a church with 110 dioceses in this country, a province that is part of the worldwide Anglican Communion. As our Presiding Bishop has reminded us over and over: "We are the Episcopal Branch of the Jesus Movement." We will have a better sense of this greater church as we head off to Diocesan Council the 25th and 26th of this month.

Sometimes, it is easy to become a bit too inwardly focused. Let us keep in mind, what is God calling us to do in this little corner of His kingdom? What is God calling our vestry to do? What is He calling our school to do? What is He calling our children and youth to be doing? What is He calling for in the next rector, in terms of gifts and strengths? What has the pandemic cleared away for us and made more visible? How can we be better, loving neighbors with residents at The Court? How might each member of St. George's take on a bit more so that the same few who often lead don't have such heavy loads on their shoulders? We have some unfinished business around St. George's: some from years past and some of more recent arrival in the past year. During this time of transition is when we are trying to draw attention to and complete some of these checklist items. The reason for such work, now, is so that when the new rector arrives, the church all will not be loaded

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with these projects to address; instead you and your hearts will be open and receptive to a new chapter in the Book of St. George's.

I remind you that Interim time is not just a place holder; but, it is time for the congregation to grieve their losses, start trying new ways, and begin looking at life on a new path, maybe even begin a new journey. An Interim Rector is called to help find the center; sort of a neutral place. When your new Rector comes there will be new energy, new thoughts and new ways of "doing church." Your new Rector needs your prayers now. Different priests are in prayer right now considering this congregation; and one of them will likely become your next Rector. Pray for them with all your hearts; just as they are praying for you.

Faithfully,

*Ann +*

The Rev. Ann McLemore

## Vestry News

### Current Vestry:

#### Term expires 2023

Josh Beckham  
Brad Dieringer  
Spencer Gordon

#### Term expires 2025 (our newest members)

Ramón Treviño  
Sandra Vilallaz-Dickson  
Brad Barcus

#### Term expires 2024

Mark Casstevens  
Dale Curry  
Belinda McGhee

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## News from the School

Open Enrollment for the '22-'23 School Year is Wed. 2/16 [Click Here](#) for more information. Registration is online and first come first serve. The online portal opens at 6:00 AM.

### **Jerri**

Jerri Thompson, M.Ed.

*Head of School*

*St. George's Episcopal School*

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## 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 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.

### March *Banner*

### Deadline



The deadline for news for the March issue  
of

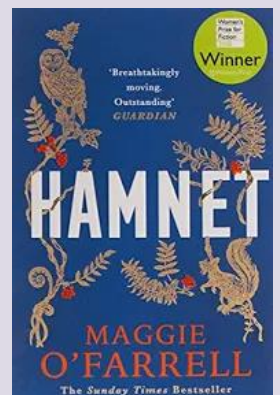
*The Banner* is Tuesday, February 22<sup>rd</sup>.

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

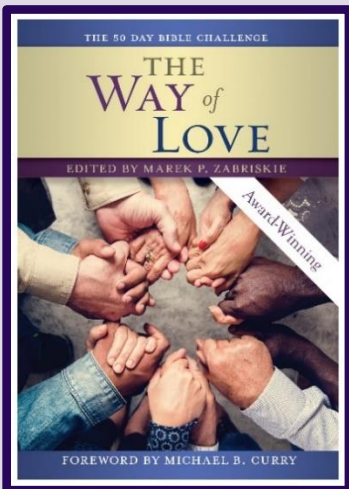
## Women's Book Group

Please join us for our next meeting on **Saturday, February 12<sup>th</sup>**, from **3:00 to 5:00 pm**, via **Zoom**. We will discuss *Hamnet*, by **Maggie O'Farrell**. [The next selection for **March 12** is *The Pull of the Stars* by Emma Donoghue]. 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 Dickson at 512-762-8349 or [sandra.villalaz48@gmail.com](mailto:sandra.villalaz48@gmail.com). Happy reading!

The Women's Book Group is raising funds to continue its commitment to educating a Guatemalan student, Dison Adrian Ostuma de la Cruz, through HELPS International. Members of the Women's Book Group are asked to consider a donation of \$50 toward our goal of \$1,000. You can donate online at St. George's [Online Donation page](#) under "Women's Book Group/HELPS," or mail a check to the church office, made out to "St. George's Episcopal Church," with "HELPS" in the memo line. The deadline to contribute is March 18<sup>st</sup>. Please contact Carolyn Moreau at [moreaucarolyn@gmail.com](mailto:moreaucarolyn@gmail.com) with any questions.



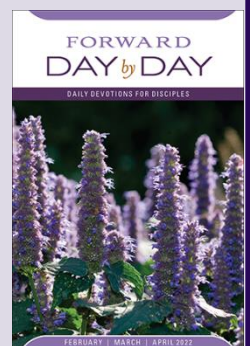
## Wednesday Weavings



St. George's Wednesday night adult discussion group, Wednesday Weavings, continues on Zoom in February with **gatherings on February 2 and 16 from 7 to 8 p.m.** These will be the last gatherings until after Easter, as we will take our usual break during Lent, which begins with Ash Wednesday on March 2. All are welcome to Zoom in for fellowship, discussion on a selected reading, and a closing service of Compline. Our current readings are from the Forward Movement publication *The Way of Love: A 50 Day Bible Challenge*, which provide us with a lesson from Scripture, a reflection, discussion questions, and a prayer. Frances Rickard provides the Zoom link and a copy of the reading before each gathering. We hope to see you there! For more information, contact Frances at [fajrickard@gmail.com](mailto:fajrickard@gmail.com).

## Forward Day by Day

We have just received copies of the new Forward Day by Day booklet of meditations for February through April. We have both the smaller pocket version and the large-print version in the entrances to the church. Pick up one next week when you come or let us know and we can either mail it out to you or you can drop by and pick one up during the week at the office. For more information about Forward Movement and their other publications and programs, check out their website: <https://www.forwardmovement.org/>.



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## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Along with many in the rest of the world, the Episcopal Church during the month of February celebrates BLACK HISTORY MONTH. There are many programs, readings, opportunities all scheduled during this month to celebrate the unique contributions that our Black brothers and sisters have made to our world. St. George's will set aside time on Sunday, February 13<sup>th</sup> to celebrate Absalom Jones (1746-1818), one of our early American saints who helped lead the church to more awareness of the struggles of our Black brethren. For more information about the life and work of Jones, check out this link: <http://www.aecst.org/ajones.htm>.



The **Seminary of the Southwest [just down the road at 32<sup>th</sup> and Duval Road]** continues their tradition of celebrating Black History Month with a number of events:

- They start the celebration with a Black History Month Service of Evening Prayer on **Thursday, February 3** at 5:30pm via Zoom. The service will feature worship leader the Rev. Dominique Robinson and the Rev. Marcia Sadberry. [RSVP here](#) to ensure you receive the Zoom link. This event is free and open to the public.
- The Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania is celebrating the Life and Ministry of Blessed Absalom Jones on **February 12** from 9:00am - 10:30am (Central Time). This is a virtual event, but registration is requested. <https://www.diopa.org/events/celebrating-the-life-and-ministry-of-blessed-absalom-jones-2-12-22>
- The Seminary is sponsoring a panel discussion on Black Health and Wellness featuring Dr. Marlon Johnson and the Rev. Jennifer Cumberbatch, moderated by Flora Fearon. It will be a virtual event on **Thursday, February 17** at 7:00pm. [RSVP here](#) to receive the Zoom link.
- On **Thursday, February 24** the Seminary will host Black History Month Keynote Speaker: The Rev. Dr. Brandon Crowley. The lecture will focus on African American Religion on the Margins: The Theological Distinctives of Black LGBTQIA Church Plants. It will be held at 7:00pm in Knapp Auditorium with a dessert reception to follow in the Howell Dining Hall. Please [RSVP here](#).

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## Outreach

Outreach is springing back to life, and we need your help. We are excited and hopeful about returning to an in-person sew-in and bag filling for our SAFE Alliance comfort bag project. The **sew-in will be March 6 in Kleberg** after the service. We will space sewing machines, ironing boards and stringing tables thoughtfully, and serve individually wrapped items for lunch. If weather permits, we will encourage eating outside.

**Bag filling will be after church on March 13th**, and blessing in the church and delivery to SAFE during the **Sunday Service on March 20th**. Stay tuned for information about writing notes, and what items are needed for the bags. Masks, of course, are required for all events, except eating lunch.

This schedule is predicated on Austin being out of stage 5 by then. We will send timely announcements if plans need to change. Contact Alice or Sarah with questions or comments: email Alice at [mzlsnlsn@gmail.com](mailto:mzlsnlsn@gmail.com) or Sarah at [cowmarket2@gmail.com](mailto:cowmarket2@gmail.com).

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## Christopher House Bags

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



To be a part of this ministry, sign up for one or more weeks between from now to June on the [Online Christopher House Basket Calendar](#). A \$10 donation is requested per basket, and you can also add a note and other goodies (nothing perishable). You can make the donation online via the [St. George's Donation Page](#) under Outreach, or by mailing a check to the church office, made out to "St. George's Episcopal Church," with "Christopher House Baskets" in the memo line. Then, contact Alice Nelson at [mzlsnlsn@gmail.com](mailto:mzlsnlsn@gmail.com) to make arrangements to get a bag before your delivery week. Delivery includes no patient contact, and only a brief outdoor (and masked) delivery to a staff member.

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## ***FLOWER/CANDLE DONATIONS***

St. George's 2022 Altar Flower/Candle Donation Calendar is now available! You may use the paper calendar on the bulletin board at the north entrance of the church or the online calendar at <https://tinyurl.com/2uumwkfs>. Either way, enter your name and, if you wish, your dedication, next to the week or month of your choice. You can give flowers or candles in honor of someone, in celebration of an important event, in thanksgiving for a blessing in your life, or in memory of a loved one. **A donation of \$35** is requested. Checks can be made payable to St. George's with "altar flowers" or "altar candles" in the memo line. Payments by credit card or electronic fund withdrawal can be made by clicking the DONATE button at [www.sgchurch.org/stewardship](http://www.sgchurch.org/stewardship). *See some examples from 2021:*



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## Ash Wednesday



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

Ash Wednesday, which this year falls on **Wednesday, March 2nd<sup>th</sup>**, marks the beginning of the season of Lent, the period of forty days (excluding Sundays) leading up to Easter. St. George's will observe this day with a service at **7:00 pm**. Lent is traditionally a time of self-examination and repentance through prayer, fasting, self-denial, and reading and meditating on scripture. The forty days of Lent symbolize the forty years in which the Israelites wandered in the wilderness in search of the Promised Land. It also recalls the time Jesus spent in the wilderness in fasting and prayer, during which he was tempted. A common practice during Lent is to participate in a Lenten discipline; this can involve giving something up or taking on a new practice, in order to deepen your faith and bring you closer to Christ. We hope you will join us as the community of St. George's journeys together into the Lenten season.

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## Mikail "reads" for the GOEs

Ann+ suggested that some of you might enjoy hearing about my work with the national church in reading (evaluating) General Ordination Exams (GOEs) in February. These are the six written exams that candidates for ordination to the Episcopal Church from across the US and our territories take in early January each year. There are six "canonical" areas --(1) The Holy Scriptures, (2) History of the Christian Church, (3) Christian Theology, (4) Christian Ethics and Moral Theology, (5) Christian Worship, (6) The Practice of Ministry – which are given over three-four days (often with a break day in the middle). Most questions require a short response essay of 750-1200 words. The candidates are given the exams one by one and have 2-3 hours to answer each question set with only two question sets per day. The writers are given a code so that their responses are confidential and private.

A month later, a small group of potential readers are assigned to each area and must be trained and qualify to read. Generally, there are two teams of two qualified readers per question. This year a little over 168 candidates took the exam (not all dioceses require it) and that means that in addition to the exams I trained and qualified on in Church History, I will "read" another 81 essays on that set. I am given 9-14 days to do so; that is where I am currently. When I and my assigned partner finish our initial readings, our evaluations are compared. Anything we agree is a proficient answer is noted as such and is "done." Anything we disagree on must be resolved by us over another 5-6 days. Anything we agree that is not proficient must be carefully reviewed and we must write an analysis, of not less than 300 or more than 600 words, detailing what was done well and what was not sufficiently addressed, and provide guidance on how the candidate could have improved the response.

These analyzed answers and our response are sent to our "chaplain," often a bishop or a board reader with extensive experience, who oversee two sets of readers per area. If the chaplain does not agree with our analysis, it is sent back to us with the chaplain's concerns which must be addressed. When everything is approved, a final group of editors goes over



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every reader response and makes sure the writing is consistent, fair, and follows the guidelines we were given. The exam and these analyses are put back together. Only then is a copy of our analysis sent to the candidate and his or her bishop and/or diocesan board of examining chaplains. So a “perfect” GOE is one with no written analysis. A GOE with one or two areas that are “NP” (not proficient) will initiate a more involved discussion with the bishop and/or the diocesan board of approval. The GOEs are just one of several evaluating tools used by bishops and their dioceses to ensure that the candidates are truly ready for ordination. While we read, we often engage in prayer, at least one community service (if only on Zoom these days), and prayerfully keep in mind that these folks are to be future leaders in our church.

I’ve done this “reading” for nearly 15 years on and off now. It has become more formalized and consistent over the years, especially more recently. It has also become more focused. Earlier we were given whole sets to evaluate, not just one area. That was harder (and the evaluations tended to be a bit more uneven), but it did give us a more concrete sense of the whole candidate. Now the candidate and bishop see the whole while we readers just see our “neck of the woods.” Nonetheless, I do this each year because the P answers more often than not can be outstanding. And I learn a lot from them. And even those that get an NP for whatever reason often have sections or passages that give me immense hope for the future of the church. There are amazing folks coming up from our ordination process. And I am honored to be a part of that process, even if I only see a picture postcard part of it. For more details and a fuller sense of the process, check out the Board of Examining Chaplains website: <https://www.episcopalgbec.org/>

*Mikhail*

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## COVID Testing Kits (FREE)



Home testing kits are available free from the US Government. Just fill out the four or five questions on this form and four tests will be sent to your home via the US Mail (USPS) for free: <https://www.covidtests.gov/>

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## Episcopal Church Structure 101

From Ann+:

A former Bishop that I served under, once said, “If you are having trouble sleeping, start reading The Episcopal Church Constitution and Canons!”

In preparation for our new rector, we are going to start this small column to help the congregation understand better some of the workings of the church as guided by the practices and rules of the larger Episcopal Church. This issue will deal with Canon III.9.6(a) **Rectors and Priests-in-Charge and Their Duties.**

(1) The Rector or Priest-in-Charge shall have full authority and responsibility for the conduct of the worship and the spiritual jurisdiction of the Parish, subject to the Rubrics of the Book

of Common Prayer, the Constitution and Canons of the Church, and the pastoral direction of the Bishop.

(2). For the purposes of the office and for the full and free discharge of all functions and duties pertaining thereto, the Rector or Priest-in-Charge shall at all times be entitled to the use and control of the Church and Parish buildings together with all appurtenances and furniture, and to access to all records and registers maintained by or on behalf of the congregation.

To be continued next month...

## February Birthdays & Anniversaries



*We wish the following parishioners a happy birthday:*

Anne McGonigle (Feb 1)	Ian Poage (Feb 16)
Melissa Eason Brackin (Feb 2)	Carolyn Powe (Feb 16)
Sutton Stevens (Feb 2)	Luke Stevens (Feb 18)
Alison Poage (Feb 5)	Dylan Worcester (Feb 22)
James Rickard (Feb 5)	Stephanie Craven (Feb 24)
Joe Miller Carrera (Feb 7)	Katherine Curtis (Feb 27)
Henry Dieringer (Feb 13)	Grant Sparks (Feb 28)

*And a happy anniversary to:*

Elzy & Betty Cogswell (Feb 2)  
 Grace & Erik Stallman (Feb 11)  
 Herb Dickson & Sandra Villalaz-Dickson (Feb 13)  
 Carey & Trey Kerrigan (Feb 14)  
 Gayle & James Wall (Feb 17)  
 Alison & Josh Poage (Feb 20)



**Congratulations and Best Wishes!**

## Links for Further Information

[St. George's Church website](#)  
[St. George's Episcopal School](#)  
[The Episcopal Diocese of Texas](#)  
[The Episcopal Church, USA](#)

[The Lectionary](#)  
[Camp Allen](#)  
[St. George's Court](#)  
[Episcopal Relief and Development](#)