

JUNE 2023 ISSUE

# The Banner

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF  
ST. GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH





# St. George's Episcopal Church

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

## Office Hours

M-W: 10:30am -3:30 pm

Thursday: 12 - 5pm

### Rector

Rev. Dr. Matt Boulter

769-257-2377

[matt@saintgeorgesaustin.org](mailto:matt@saintgeorgesaustin.org)

### Administrator

Jessie Morrone

512-454-2523

[admin@saintgeorgesaustin.org](mailto:admin@saintgeorgesaustin.org)

### Music Minister

Dia Park

### Head of the School

Jerri Thompson

### Financial Secretary

Samantha Stevens

### Treasurer

Frances Rickard

### Sr. Warden

Spencer Gordon

### Jr. Warden

### Vestry

Anne Bandholz

Brad Barcus

Mark Casstevens

Belinda McGhee

John Rickard

Sandra Villalaz-Dickson

Ramón Treviño

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## Sunday Bulletin



### Sunday Schedule

10:30 am Holy Eucharist Rite II

11:15 am Coffee Hour





# June Calendar

THUR- 1 - Fr. Matt's Book Group (Batch)

SUM - 4 - Sew In

MON - 5 - St. George's Pub Club

WED- 7- Wednesday Weavings

SAT - 10 - Community Work Day

Women's Book Group

SUN - 11 - Christopher House Bag Sale

Safe Bag Filling

MON - 12 - Vestry Meeting

TUE - 13 - Men's Bible Study (Zoom)

THUR - 15 - Fr. Matt's Book Group (Zoom)

MON - 19 - St. George's Court

WED - 21 - Wednesday Weavings

TUE - 27 - Men's Bible Study (Kerby Lane)

[For more details and upcoming events,](#)  
[please see our Events Page.](#)

## Feast Days

1 Justin, Martyr, 167

2 The Martyrs of Lyons, 177

3 The Martyrs of Uganda, 1886

5 Boniface, Archbishop of Mainz, Missionary to  
Germany, & Martyr, 745

8 Corpus Christi, Various Occasions 5, Of the  
Holy Eucharist

9 Columba, Abbot of Iona, 597

10 Ephrem of Edessa, Deacon, 373

14 Basil the Great, Bishop of Caesarea, 379

15 Evelyn Underhill, Mystic and Writer, 1947

16 Joseph Butler, Bishop of Durham, 1752

22 Alban, First Martyr of Britain, c. 304

24 The Nativity of St. John the Baptist

28 Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons, Martyr, c.202

29 The Apostles Saint Peter and Saint Paul





# Letter from the Rector

REV. DR. MATT BOULTER

## The Good Infection (Intentional Evangelism)

As you may know, I have a good friend in Waco, Texas who is the rector of St. Alban's Episcopal Church. Father Aaron Zimmerman took that church from an "ASA" (average Sunday attendance) in 2015 of around 80 to an ASA of around 450 this year, eight years later. (The church budget has grown in a similar way.)

Now, numbers are most definitely "not everything!" That goes for dollar numbers and people numbers. Plus, it's God's job to grow the church, even if it is us—you and I—through whom he grows it.

True enough ... but back to Aaron. When I was with him for my quarterly coaching session back in February, he looked at me and said, "There is no way that St. George's won't grow, Matt, partly because you are the rector and partly because Austin (including Central East Austin) is growing."

When I met with him last week, however, I was a bit more pointed in my questions. You see, I feel that I, to a large extent, now "have my sea legs under me," and I feel the need, as the rector of this church, to "get down to brass tacks"! Especially in terms of intentional evangelism, the main topic of my interrogations of Aaron.

The first thing he said was encouraging: "Matt, you say that you try to be present at the school at least once a week, just shaking hands and greeting parents as they drop off their kids at the school in the morning. That's great, among other reasons for the following reason: the vast majority of those parents are unchurched, and they do not have a pastor or minister who loves them and cares for them. And, at some point, they are going to go through some kind of crisis or experience some kind of loss ... and you will be the only pastor they know, the only minister who they feel cares for them....."

That was great to hear, not because I want anyone to experience loss or pain, but because I want to be there, representing Christ and the Church in love, when (not if) they do!

Aaron had other great (non-gimmicky) ideas, as well. When I told him that I was excited about the Blessing of the Pets on St. Francis Day, he said, “Make sure you call the local SPCA & ask what kind of donations they might need. Then you can collect that item, and involve not just the church but also the neighborhood in that effort.” Pure gold, that.

Aaron had lots of other good ideas (including asking parishioners to share the sermon podcast with their friends!), and I took notes.

But the most important thing, friends, is that we keep doing what we are doing. (By my count, we have attracted around 10 new household units to our church who have been putting down roots here, and, who knows: if we did not have a chain link fence around the building, it could be twice that number!) We have so much going for us, mainly embodied love.

I love what C. S. Lewis said about evangelism: it is more “caught than taught; it spreads like a good infection.”

I know that we have what the world needs. (Recently, I was talking with a school parent who was struggling with financial issues related to in-laws and the passing of the parent of a spouse. As I listened, I was thinking: “If only you would come to coffee hour, you would be able to glean such wisdom from the wise saints of St. George’s, who have so much wisdom and love to give!”)

We have what the world needs: the embodied love of Christ. Keep doing what you are doing, and let the good infection spread!

Faithfully,

*Matt+*

Rev. Dr. Matt Boulter



# NEWS<sup>2023</sup> June LETTER



## SAFE BAGS CONSTRUCTION, FILLING, & DELIVERY

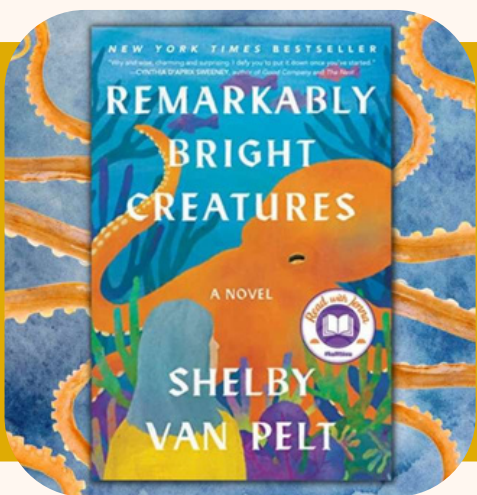
**The next sew-in will be June 4** after church in Kleberg Hall. We will need sewers, ironers and stringers, and gofers as available. Everyone's help will be appreciated, and you don't have to be able to sew to be able to help. We will need sewing machines, thread, scissors, safety pins, irons, ironing boards, as well as your willing hands. Lunch will be served, so make plans to attend this fun family event.

**Bag filling will be after church on June 11**, with many hands making light work. All are needed to help create the growing pile of beautiful bags. **Blessing and bag delivery will be on June 18 at the 10:30 service.** Our new SAFE contact, Sabina Ibarrola, will be with us to address the congregation and discuss the bags' impact on survivors. She and possibly other nurse advocates will join us for the service and coffee hour. Please come by to introduce yourself and meet our new friends.

For those new to St. George's: the SAFE project is now in its 9th year and was created at the request of the head of Services for Survivors of Sexual Violence and Assault. Our congregation has come together to meet this need. Our creation of handmade bags filled with items ranging from practical to comforting and including a hand-written note serves women and men in crisis who feel degraded, hopeless, and in despair. We have been assured that our gift is a meaningful, tangible sign of hope and love to those who feel abandoned. Often, the church has hurt them, and our gift is a reminder that they are not lost or judged. This project is a lot of work by many people, but it is our gift of love. We have been blessed in return with purpose, new friendships, and community. SAFE stands for Stop Abuse for Everyone. It is a powerful organization with transitional housing and extensive wrap-around services for survivors and their families. Its roots were in the former Rape Crisis Center and the Battered Women's Shelter. St George's was honored to be their Volunteer of the Year in 2020 because of our continued gift of the comfort bags.

## Christopher House Bags - Sale

**Christopher House bags will be on sale during coffee hour on June 11.** Parishioners can buy one or two bags for \$10 apiece and choose delivery dates. The bags are given to family members waiting with a loved one during their last days. The contents serve as emergency supplies and gifts of comfort during a hard time of waiting. We continue to hear from our contact there that these are important and meaningful gifts. The bags can be complemented with snacks of the donor's choosing and delivered at any point during the chosen week. Christopher House is located at 2020 East Martin Luther King Blvd, and parking is behind the building. It is always a joy to visit this beautiful and tranquil spot. Please contact Alice Nelson [mzlnlsn@gmail.com](mailto:mzlnlsn@gmail.com) with questions.



## WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP

The June meeting of the women's book group will be at the home of Andrea Sparks, 2402 Rollingwood, on June 10 from 3-5 pm. The book is Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt. We hope many of you can join us, even if you haven't finished the book. Call or text Sarah with questions or if you need directions at 512.569.3081

## 2023 ALTAR FLOWERS/CANDELS CALENDER

After Easter are invited to donate altar flowers for one or more Sundays in 2023, or donate the cost of 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 [2023 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.

## WEDNESDAY WEAVINGS

St. George's adult discussion group, Wednesday Weavings, meets on the first and third Wednesdays of the month, from 6:30 to 8:00 pm, at rotating locations. We share a simple meal, discuss a selected reading for the evening, and conclude with a brief service of Compline. The group is currently reading *The Way of Love*, published by Forward Movement Publications. Each reading stands on its own, so you can join the group anytime and never fall behind! Please bring a contribution for the salad bar meal (for example, fruit, vegetable, or crunchy toppings). Contact Frances Rickard ([fajrickard@gmail.com](mailto:fajrickard@gmail.com)) with any questions or to RSVP. All are welcome, and we hope to see you in June!



# Help Throw a Birthday Party at St. George's Court!

For the past few months, we've been hosting monthly birthday parties at St. George's Court, our church's affordable housing ministry for seniors. We meet at the Court at 11am on the first Saturday of the month, serve sandwiches and veggie/fruit trays for lunch, have some table talk with residents, sing happy birthday, play bingo, and we're done by 1:30.

Church members are known to have just as much fun as the residents!

If you'd like to put a team together to do this or help out on a team for July 1st or September 2nd, please contact Andrea Sparks at [andreasparks@gmail.com](mailto:andreasparks@gmail.com).





# St. George's Episcopal School

## A time of Reflection

Another year has come and gone, and this year made my 9th. It's so hard to believe that I have been part of this beautiful community for 9 years. And through those 9 years, so much positive growth has happened.

Nine years ago, I arrived at St. George's and had an office with an amazing assistant, but only 1 phone and 1 computer to be shared between us. The 5 classrooms spanned ages ranging from 18 months - 4 years. There were 55 children and 13 staff members. The big playground was shared by all, and an extra play area for toddlers was available.

Fast forward to May 2023. St. George's has 115 children, 9 classrooms (ranging from 3 months-4 yrs.), 26 staff members, and serves 19 zip codes. The expansion has brought so many opportunities for us to reach out as a ministry to not only families but also the wonderful people who work here and their families.

The ministry the school serves on behalf of St. George's Episcopal Church is not taken lightly by me. Being able to plant seeds and love one another on this wonderful campus is serving God in ways that are not always seen but can be felt. Fr. Matt has said a few times that he feels peace when walking through the school. I hear this too from parents I tour and people I interview. This is my way of serving the Lord, and I thank you all for allowing me to do it.

Here's to another great summer and soon to be '23-'24 school year!!

Humbly,

Jerri Thompson, M.Ed.

Head of School



# Let's Celebrate

## Anniversaries

Brad & Emily Dieringer (Jun 25)  
Scott & Claire Bush (Jun 27)  
John & Frances Rickard (Jun 28)

## Birthdays

Scott Bush (Jun 1)  
Erik Stallman (Jun 2)  
Nancy Carrera (Jun 3)  
Anna Doty (Jun 4)  
Stephanie Savage (Jun 4)  
Jonathan Brackin (Jun 6)  
Herb Dickson (Jun 6)  
Pete Sebert (Jun 8)  
Denise Hope (Jun 14)  
Martha Paull (Jun 14)  
Ainsley Blood (Jun 16)  
Gayle Wall (Jun 16)  
Jennifer Bigbee (Jun 17)  
Walter Long, Jr. (Jun 20)  
Carson Blood (Jun 23)  
Molly Powers (Jun 25)  
Claire Bush (Jun 26)  
Mae Stevens (Jun 26)  
Liam Dolan-Henderson (Jun 30)

## **BANNER DEADLINE**

The Deadline for news and article submissions for the July issue of *The Banner* is

**THURSDAY JUNE 22**

please e-mail your submissions to [admin@saintgeorgesAustin.org](mailto:admin@saintgeorgesAustin.org)

## **LINKS**

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