

THE BANNER



St. George's Episcopal Church

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

March 2023



Lent

4301 North IH 35 • Austin, TX 78722

512.454.2523 • stgeorgeaustin@gmail.com

www.sgchurch.org

Office hours: Monday – Thursday, 10:30 am – 3:30 pm

Sunday Schedule

- 10:30 am [Holy Eucharist, Rite II](#)
- 11:30 am Coffee Hour in Kleberg Hall

The Rev. Dr. Matt Boulter
Rector

Dia Park
Music Minister

Jessica Morrone
Office Administrator

Jerri Thompson
Day School Director

Anne Bandholz
Brad Barcus
Mark Casstevens
Dale Curry

Spencer Gordon
Belinda McGhee

John Rickard
Sandra Villalaz-Dickson
Ramón Treviño
Vestry

Spencer Gordon
Senior Warden

Dale Curry
Junior Warden

Samantha Stevens
Financial Secretary

Frances Rickard
Treasurer

Mark Your Calendars

- Thurs 3/2** Lenten Study
- Wed 3/11** Women's Book group
- Mon 3/13** Vestry Meeting
- Thurs 3/9** Lenten Study
Lunch and Learn at The Jordan
- Sat 3/11** Women's Book Group
- Sun 3/12** Daylight Saving starts
- Mon 3/13** Vestry Meeting
- Tue 3/14** Men's Bible Study (Zoom)
- Thurs 3/16** Lenten Study
- Thurs 3/23** Lenten Study
- Tue 3/28** Men's Bible Study (Kerby Lane)
- Thurs 3/30** Lenten Study

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

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Feast Days

- 1 David of Wales, Bishop, c. 544
- 2 Chad of Lichfield, Bishop, 672
- 3 John and Charles Wesley, Priests, 1791, 1788
- 4 Ember Day
- 7 Perpetua and her companions Martyrs, 202
- 9 Gregory of Nyssa, Bishop and Theologian, c. 394
- 10 40 Martyrs of Sebaste, 4th. Cen.
- 17 Patrick of Ireland, Bishop and Missionary, 461
- 18 Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop 286
- 20 **Saint Joseph**
- 21 Thomas Ken, Bishop, 1711
- 22 James DeKoven, Priest, 1879
- 23 Gregory the Illuminator of Armenia, Bishop and Missionary, c. 332
- 25 **The Annunciation of Our Lord Jesus Christ to the Blessed Virgin Mary**
- 27 Charles Henry Brent, Bishop, 1929
- 28 James Solomon Russell, Priest, 1935
- 29 John Keble, Priest and Poet, 1866
- 31 John Donne, Priest and Poet, 1631

Rectors Corner

A Time to (cultivate how we) Feel



Another first! I'm so thankful to the many people who helped me (helped us) pull off a really good vestry retreat in 2023. Special welcome to new vestry member Anne Bandholz, to John Rickard for coming back onto the vestry, now serving as Clerk, and to Spencer Gordon for signing back up and serving as our Senior Warden!

I wanted the vestry retreat to be about one-third “brass tacks,” and two-thirds relationships and spiritual formation. That is, I think, precisely what it was! For my part, I walked away encouraged. Tired, maybe ... but excited, for sure.

We discussed chapter two of the Derek Olsen book, *Inwardly Digest: The Prayer Book as Guide to a Spiritual Life*. I love the Olsen book because he is convincing us that the Book of Common Prayer, meant to serve as (or at least to facilitate) a rule of life, a way of patterning our lives intentionally, so as to be conformed to Christ (and not to the world).

In chapter two Olsen's focus is time, and in particular the liturgical, or church, calendar. What he says is profound: the seasons of the church—Advent, Christmastide, the time after the Epiphany, Lent, Easter, etc.—these are intended by the Church to form our emotions. He correlates these seasons roughly (and respectively) to the emotions of expectation, joy, enlightenment, penitence, joy (slightly different from the earlier kind), etc. Olsen asks: have you ever noticed how sometimes your “natural” feelings don't quite match the season, the emotions that you feel, for example in penitential Lent which occurs just when the flowers are starting to bloom and birds beginning to sing, don't quite match the penitential way you are “supposed” to feel?

I can relate to that: one of my Lenten practices is to wear my cassock every week day (except maybe Friday, my day off). As I ride my bike with my cassock on, through the trails of Mueller, around the beautiful lake, through the sweet air with the aroma of mountain laurel wafting all around me ... well, sometimes I don't feel penitent. I don't feel sad. I don't feel sorrow over the fact that my sin has damaged my intimate relationship with God and basically sent his Son Jesus to the cross. (Actually, that's one reason I wear my cassock in Lent: it serves as a constant reminder of the blackness or darkness of Lent.)

Olsen says: that's perfect. The point of the church calendar with its seasons and emotions is not to express how we “naturally” or spontaneously feel. Rather, the point of the liturgical calendar is to give us an opportunity to cultivate how we feel.

Did you know that you are not a slave to your emotions? Did you know that our emotions are not simply something that we are at the mercy of, that we are not completely passive recipients of our feelings, so that they necessarily cause us to be “blown and tossed in the wind”?

Our emotional life is something that we—and this is difficult; we must tread lightly here because we also want to completely acknowledge the reality of mental illness (without stigmatizing it)—have some agency over. It is possible to cultivate one's emotional life. To submit it, as with everything else, to Christ, to his lordship and his love.

This, Olsen says, is what the church calendar—not least Lent—allows us to do. I find this notion quite compelling and useful.

May God grant us all a Holy Lent!

Matt+

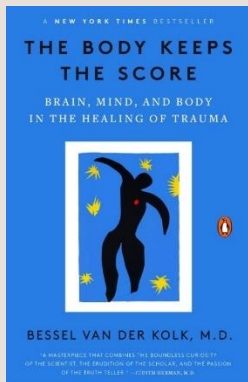
The Rev. Dr. Matt Boulter

News and Events

Lenten Study 2023

"Wounds, Healing, & the Body of Christ."

Each Thursday in March



The Wounds of Christ feature prominently in both Lent (especially Holy Week) and Easter. Guess how to say "wound" in Greek? "Trauma."

Join us Thursday evenings in Kleberg Hall during March, from 6:30-7:45, for a light supper followed by discussion of Bessel van der Kolk's 2014 bestseller bombshell *The Body Keeps the Score*. Featuring a guest speaker and discussion of an appointed section of the book, this class will also be available on Zoom. For more information, please visit our [events page](#).

Fr. Matt's Book Group

On Hold in March

During the month of March Fr. Matt's Thursday night book group will be on hold. We will pick up again with our normal schedule in April, after Easter Sunday. This is a great opportunity to "catch up" on reading and view the previous meetings videos on our YouTube page.

Daylight Saving Time

These days, many of us probably rely on alarms on our phones, which will automatically make the change from Standard to Daylight Saving Time early on the morning of Sunday, March 12th. However, if you rely on a different sort of clock to get up and make it to church, don't forget to set your clocks an hour ahead before you go to bed on **Saturday, March 11th!**

Come Have Lunch with Our Neighbors

Thursday March 9, we are invited to lunch and learn at the Jordan in our nearby Mueller neighborhood. The Jordan provides affordable housing and wrap around services for 132 families. The Jordan is a facility built and maintained by Foundation Communities, whose Executive Director, our own Walter Moreau, will make the brief presentation.

The program and lunch are timed for an hour to make it possible for working people to attend. The presentation will be in the learning center, marked on the map on the [St. George's Events page](#). Parking is available on Tilley and Philomena Streets, and direction signs will be posted.

Our vestry has established working with the Mueller neighborhood as a top priority. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet these neighbors and learn about the work going on there.

Easter Lilies

Although Lent has just begun, it's already time to think about the Easter lilies that will enhance the beauty and festivity of our Easter worship services. We invite you to make an offering for lilies, perhaps in a loved one's memory, or in thanksgiving for a person or other blessing in your life.

Donation forms will be available in the Sunday bulletins from now through Palm Sunday, April 2nd. Or, you can complete the online [2023 Easter Lily Donation form](#). Your name, along with any memorials or thanksgivings as provided on the donation form, will be listed in the Easter service bulletins. Be sure to complete the online form by Sunday, April 2nd, to have your name and dedication listed in the bulletin.



The suggested donation is \$20 per plant. Donate online by visiting the [St. George's Donation page](#) and indicating the amount of your gift in the section for Easter Lilies. Or you may write a check, payable to St. George's, with "Easter Lilies" in the memo line, and place it in the offering basket at any worship service or mail it to the church office.

Our Easter lilies are sourced again this year from Down Home Ranch, a non-profit organization outside of Elgin, Texas, which works to empower the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities through social, educational, residential, and vocational opportunities. For more about Down Home Ranch, see the related article in this issue of *The Banner*.

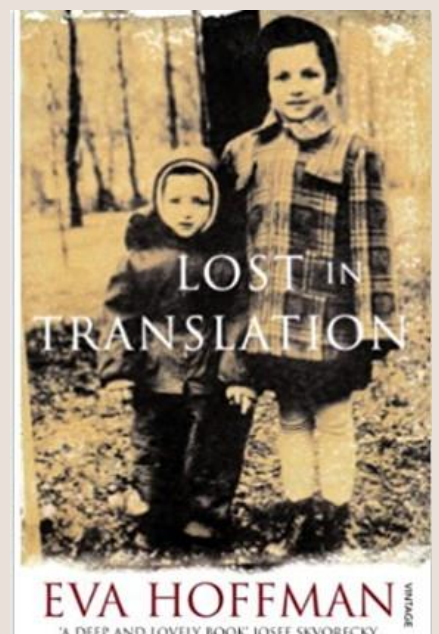
Women's Book Group

The Women's Book Group will meet Saturday March 11 from 3-5 pm at the home of Stephanie Savage, 4105 Idlewild. Contact her at ssavage4105@gmail.com if you have questions. The book is *Lost in Translation: A Life in a New Language* by Eva Hoffman. All women of the parish are welcome and encouraged to attend, even if you haven't finished the book.

We are pleased to report that the full amount for the scholarship for Dison has been raised. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

We have a form available for nominating books for next year's reading list: <https://forms.gle/ukGgLjkfXgPwqXkN7>. Please add to the list as you come across interesting reads.

Be well and read on,
Alice and Sarah



Women's Retreat 2023

The Annual St George's Women's Retreat will be held again at Well Spring Retreat Center at Wessendorff Ranch in Blanco, Texas, Friday to Sunday, April 21 – 23, 2023. If you haven't yet had opportunity to join the retreat, I hope you will consider coming this year.

This is the time for a relaxing, rejuvenating weekend and to be uplifted by the warmth of loving women from St George's Episcopal Church.

And he said to them, "Come away a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. - Mark 6:31

This Women's Retreat is planned to allow us to build relationships and enrich our overall community. It is very low key and loosely organized. We eat well, talk, laugh, meditate, pray, play games, walk, nap and, most of all, enjoy each other's company. I hope you will consider joining us. If you have a conflicting commitment, perhaps you can come for one of the days or a night and day.

The cost for the weekend is \$50.00. This will cover all meals and the facility fees. We are assigned accommodations which should allow for each of us not to share a room. If cost is an issue, please don't let it keep you away. We don't want anyone to stay away; please contact me to arrange a scholarship.

Payment for the registration fee can be made by dropping a check into the offertory basket made payable to St George's Episcopal Church with women's retreat notation on the memo line; or, you can also go online to St George's donation page, <https://www.sgchurch.org> and select women's retreat.

Please call me with questions or let me know you want to come by April 10; we must confirm numbers with the retreat center office by then. Please try to pay your registration fee by April 18 so that I will purchase enough food for the weekend.

Watch the weekly *Sunday Banners* in March and April for updates and reminders.

Peace to you this Lent,

Sandra Villalaz, your retreat coordinator

512-762-8349

sandra.villalaz48@gmail.com

Outreach

The Outreach retreat held on February 4 was well-attended. Parishioners were very interested in the work and had many suggestions. One main thrust of discussion was how to work with the organizations that have ties to our congregation: St. George's Court, Casa Marianella, Down Home Ranch, El Buen Samaritano, and Foundation Communities. Full minutes have been sent to an informal group that regularly participates. If you would like to see the minutes or be included on the distribution list, contact Sarah at cowmarket2@gmail.com.

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Action Items Arising from Outreach Retreat

1. Andrea Sparks has the ball rolling on monthly Saturday social gatherings at St. George's Court. We hope that the program will begin March 4; Safeguarding certification requirements may postpone the opening. If interested, contact Andrea at andreagalsparks@gmail.com.
2. El Buen Samaritano has (coincidentally) requested an opportunity to present to St. George's on ways our congregation can be involved. We are looking for a Sunday in Lent, possibly March 26, so watch for more information.
3. March 9 is the date for the luncheon at The Jordan at Mueller, a low-income housing project near to us, operated by Foundation Communities. We can learn about their work and how we can assist our neighbors. Watch for more information about this as the date gets closer, but mark your calendars now.
4. Carolyn Moreau and Father Matt leave for a week's mission trip to Guatemala on March 12. They will be serving the 5th Graders at the school run by HELPS International on their field trip to the capital. We will host a parish-wide lunch on their return to hear about what they have learned.
5. The Yellow Envelope Drive, to raise funds for outreach projects, will begin April 29 and run for about four weeks. Donors will have the option to honor their mothers with the gift.
6. The Christopher House bag project will be emphasized with education about the project, and a sale and filling of bags in late spring or early summer. Sign up is still available in Kleberg Hall in coffee hour.
7. Mary Coppinger is working on the possibility of a blood drive and would be glad for assistance with the logistics. Contact Mary at mecoppinger@gmail.com if you would like to know more or work on this project.
8. Alice and Hollie have taken the training for working with the legislature which was offered by the Health and Justice Advocacy Network (HJAN) and will be contacting the legislature on bills of interest. Contact Alice mzlsnlsn@gmail.com or Hollie gordonhollie3@gmail.com if you are interested in learning more.

Wednesday Weavings

St. George's Wednesday evening adult discussion group will not meet this month to give folks an opportunity to attend the Thursday evening Lenten program. We will resume during Easter season on Wednesday, April 19. For more information about Wednesday Weavings, contact Frances Rickard at fajrickard@gmail.com.

More About.....Down Home Ranch

For me you have changed my mourning into dancing, You removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy. - Psalm 30:6

This verse from Psalm 30 appeared in the Lent 1995 newsletter of Down Home Ranch, still in its early years of becoming a thriving community for people with and without intellectual disabilities. Its founders, Jerry and Judy Horton, were parishioners at St. George's when they dreamed of establishing a loving, nurturing, and purpose-filled environment for their daughter Kelly, born with Down syndrome, and other teens and adults with intellectual and development disabilities. Parishioners at St. George's provided moral and prayer support for the Hortons' dream, as well as financial support and physical labor to clear 214 acres on FM 619 outside of Elgin and make it ready for the working farm and ranch it has become today.

Although the heart of Down Home Ranch (DHR) is its residential program, DHR also offers day programs, overnight experiences in the countryside through its very successful Ranch Camp, and respite services for caregivers. The entrepreneurial spirit of the Ranchers (as the residents are known) is on full display in DHR's online store and in-person gift shop, where you will find everything from tote bags and original artwork crafted by the Ranchers, to fresh eggs from the free-range chickens on the Ranch, to seasonal plants, flowers, and herbs, and even Wagyu-Angus beef cuts from cattle raised at DHR. Items from DHR can also be found on Etsy and in the storefront of Sterling and Associates Real Estate in Elgin.

You might want to take a drive out there sometime this spring to do some shopping and see all the goodness for yourself! The address is 20250 FM 619, Elgin 78621. Of course, volunteer opportunities and ways to give financially are available. If you have questions or want to know more, be sure to visit DHR's very informative website at downhomeranch.org.

News from the School

Spring is nearly here, so it's a perfect time to start replanting and reviving the playgrounds. Maas Verde, the school's landscape, and playground company is here doing a major overhaul.

Here are some things you will begin to see:

- New irrigation for all playgrounds
- The addition of a new infant play area East End of the Beinecke Building
- The installation of a butterfly and sculpture garden around the Beinecke Building North Entrance
- Enlarge the toddler playground by adding a rolling mound, creating a figure eight riding track for push toys and trikes, extending the walkway for high-traffic areas, adding shade structures and trees, and adding a self-contained basalt water fountain feature kit

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The school also finalized the security upgrades. We now have doors that will automatically lock behind us but can be easily opened from the inside (Fire Marshal approved). The doors are equipped with mechanical locks with an override key for extra safety. We also added security cameras around all the buildings that can be monitored by the school administration. These upgrades bring such peace of mind knowing that the children and staff are better protected from any possible threats.

All of these upgrades were made possible by the Child Care Services COVID-19 Grants and the Parent Teacher Friends (PTF) group's successful fundraising.

What a blessing to have these luxuries..

Jerrie

Ms. Jerri Thompson, M.Ed.

Head of School

St. George's Episcopal School



March Birthdays & Anniversaries



We wish the following parishioners a happy birthday:

Patrick Dieringer (Mar 9)
 Elaine Hosage (Mar 9)
 Emily Dieringer (Mar 10)
 Jeremy Stevens (Mar 10)
 Richard Stuart (Mar 11)
 Josh McGonigle (Mar 16)
 Fred Blood (Mar 19)
 Heidi Braun (Mar 19)
 Alena Navarro (Mar 19)

Maddie Boyer (Mar 21)
 Maddeline Sparks (Mar 21)
 Christina Fultz (Mar 23)
 Josh Beckham (Mar 26)
 Henry Bandholz (Mar 28)
 Carey Kerrigan (Mar 29)
 Reeves Ham (Mar 30)
 James Poage (Mar 31)
 Frances Rickard (Mar 31)

And a happy anniversary to:

Rob Blech & Mary Stewart Miller (Mar 20)
 Matt & Christie Curtis (Mar 28)



Congratulations and Best Wishes!

April *Banner* Deadline



The deadline for news for the April issue of *The Banner* is Thursday, March 23rd.
 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 Page](#)
[Camp Allen](#)
[St. George's Court](#)
[Episcopal Relief and Development](#)