

FEBRUARY 2024 ISSUE



The Banner

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
ST. GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
AUSTIN, TX



St. George's Episcopal Church

4301 North IH 35
Austin, TX 78722
512-454-2523
www.sgchurch.org

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Sunday Schedule

10:30 am Holy Eucharist Rite II

11:45 am Coffee Hour

Sunday Bulletin

Directory

Office Hours

M: 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

T: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

W-TH: 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Rector

The Rev. Dr. Matt Boulter

769-257-2377

matt@saintgeorges-austin.org

Sr. Warden

Sandra Villalaz

seniorwarden@saintgeorges-austin.org

Administrator

Jessie Morrone

512-454-2523

admin@saintgeorges-austin.org

Jr. Warden

John Rickard

juniorwarden@saintgeorges-austin.org

Head of School

Jerri Thompson

jerri@stgeorges-austin.com

Interim Music Minister

Julie Park

musicminister@saintgeorges-austin.org

Vestry

Anne Bandholz

Spencer Gordon

Tommy Moreland

Alice Nelson

Jan Phillips

John Rickard

Hal Stevens

Ramón Treviño

Sandra Villalaz

Treasurer

Frances Rickard

Financial Secretary

Samantha Stevens

February Events

St. George's Pub Club

MON., FEB. 5, AT B.D. RILEY'S
6-8 P.M.

BRING A FRIEND!

Women's Book Group

3 - 5 p.m.

Sat., Feb. 10

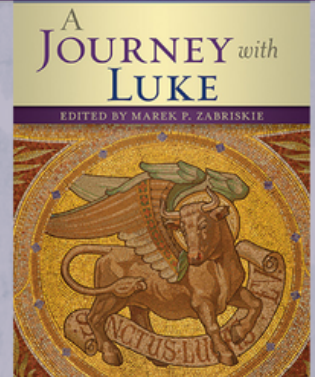


Wednesday Weavings

6:30 - 8 p.m.

Wed., Feb. 7

Last gathering until the Easter season



Choir Practice

Every Saturday

10:30 a.m. - noon



Join us to celebrate and be in community
with the residents of St. George's Court.

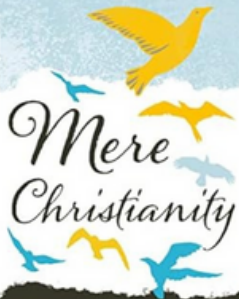
Sat., Feb. 3, 11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m

[Click here to sign up](#) or scan the QR code.

**Birthday
PARTY**
AT ST. GEORGE'S COURT



The Beloved Classic on Christian Belief



C·S· LEWIS

RECTOR'S BOOK GROUP

7 - 8:30 P.M.

TUES., FEB. 13 AT BATCH

TUES., FEB. 27 ON ZOOM



A SECRET HISTORY OF
CHRISTIANITY

*Jesus, the Last Inking, and the
Evolution of Consciousness*

MARK VERNON

Lenten Program

“Mysticism, Consciousness, & the Last Inking”

Wednesday's in Lent
at 7p.m

ST. GEORGE'S MEN'S GROUP:

PRAYER, STUDY, AND DISCUSSION

7:15 - 8:30 A.M

THUR., FEB. 1

THUR., FEB. 15



St. George's Blood Drive

In Honor and Memory of Ralph Hausser & Stan Coppinger

Sunday, Feb. 4, 11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

[Register Here](#) or via the QR Code



SHROVE TUESDAY... ON A SUNDAY!

SUN., FEB. 11 - DURING COFFEE HOUR
WITH PANCAKES MADE BY THE YOUTH OF ST. GEORGE'S



Ash Wednesday

SERVICE TIMES

8:00 AM - ASHES TO GO (SCHOOL DROP OFF)
NOON - SERVICE
7:00 PM - SERVICE



St. George's Nursery

*For crawlers through fours
from 10 am - noon on Sundays.
Follow the signs on campus, and please
register children via the QR code!*



ST. GEORGE'S EVENTS PAGE





Feast Days

February 2024

- 1 - Brigid of Kildare**
- 2 - The Presentation of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple**
- 3 - Anskar, Bishop & Missionary, 865**
- 5 - The Martyrs of Japan, 1597 & Agathat of Sicily, Martyr, c. 251**
- 8 - Josephine Margaret Bakhita, Monastic, 1947**
- 10 - Scholastica, Monastic, 543**
- 13 - Absalom Jones, Priest, 1818**
- 14 - Ash Wednesday - Fast**
- 15 - Thomas Bray, Priest & Missionary, 1730**
- 17 - Janani Luwum, Archbishop & Martyr, 1977**
- 19 - Agnes Tsao Kou Ying, Agatha Lin Zhao, & Lucy Yi Zhenmei, Catechists & Martyrs, 1856, 1858, & 1862**
- 20 - Frederick Douglass, Social Reformer, 1895**
- 21 - Ember Day**
- 22 - Margaret of Cortona, Monastic, 1297**
- 23 - Polycarp of Smyrna, Bishop & Martyr, 156 - Ember Day**
- 24 - St. Matthias the Apostle - Ember Day**
- 26 - Photini, The Samaritan Woman, c. 67**
- 27 - George Herbert, Priest & Poet, 1633**
- 28 - Anna Julia Haywood Cooper, Educator, 1964**



Letter from the Rector

REV. DR. MATT BOULTER

The January Whammie

Almost eighteen months into this new rector gig thing at St. George's, I am now beginning (or, rather, I have just begun) my second full, twelve-month year.

Hey, 2024.

This is my second January, my second "at bat" (to use a baseball metaphor, weirdly) at the beginning of a new calendar year.

Ah ... the great value of hindsight and past experience! Warts, bruises, and all!

What I did not realize in January of 2023 is that we Episcopal rectors, at the beginning of a new year (after a long and wonderful season of Confirmation preparation beginning in September and culminating in the Bishop's Visitation, after a Stewardship campaign in the Fall, after the post-stewardship process of ratifying the new budget, after the Christmas season and all that that involves—especially if you have a parish school!) we must confront a formidable challenge. Something of a monster or a beast (albeit a good monster/beast). To what do I refer? I speak, dear friends, of *The January Whammie*.

What, you ask, is that?

Cont.

The January Whammie is that constellation of tasks and projects (most of which could be gathered under the descriptive umbrella of “administration”) that must be completed at the beginning of a new year:

- The annual parish meeting (at which new vestry members, vestry officers, and Diocesan Council delegates and alternates are elected)
- The January vestry meeting
- The Vestry Retreat (at which new and not-so-new vestry members are welcomed and trained)
- The submission to the National Church (I think) of the Parochial Report, which documents (for example, and among many other things) that our average Sunday attendance increased 50% year over year in 2023 (from 45 to 67)
- The arrangements for Diocesan Council (to take place this year, in February, in Waco)

Wow: that’s a lot! Especially if you don’t see it coming (which, last year, I definitely did not).

Now, a couple of paragraphs above I used the first-person plural pronoun “we.” Who is “we”? Who is the “we” that must confront (and conquer) the January Whammie? It is not the rector alone, thanks be to God. Without such stellar teammates as a competent and kind Parish Administrator, the individual members of the vestry, the Junior Warden, the Parish Treasurer, and the Senior Warden ... without them I’d be toast.

Cont.

But with them, we did conquer that mighty foe. The January Whammie, alas, has been vanquished! (At least 95%, that is.)

But friends, here is what I really want to say: all of these above tasks, as important and necessary as they are ... none of them are the real thing. None of them are actually the thing that matters in the end. To quote Alexander Schmemmann in the opening chapter of his life-changing *For the Life of the World*: "What is the life of life itself? ... When all committees have fulfilled their task, all papers have been distributed, and all practical goals achieved, there must come [some ultimate] joy."

What is this joy? In the next paragraph, Schmemmann gives us a hint: "Man is what he eats."

For me, the joy is Communion. The sacrament of Holy Communion, yes, for sure (hence the point about eating). But that sacrament is just one dimension, one glimpse, of an iceberg beneath the surface: the intimate, relational communion of love with God and God's creatures.

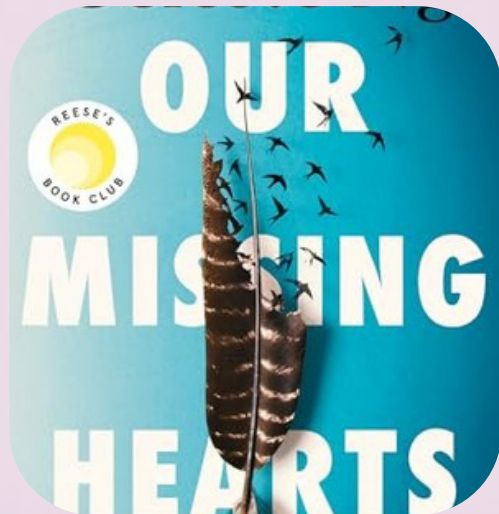
What is the point of the January Whammie, at the end of the day? It is that.

Faithfully,
Matt+



Parish Updates and Announcements

Women's Book Group



Our next meeting is on **Sat., Feb. 10, from 3 to 5 p.m.** The book is *Our Missing Hearts* by Celeste Ng, and we hope many of you can join us. All the women of St. George's are welcome, even if you haven't read the book!

For more information, contact Alice Nelson at mzlsnlsn@gmail.com or Sarah Campbell at cowmarket2@gmail.com

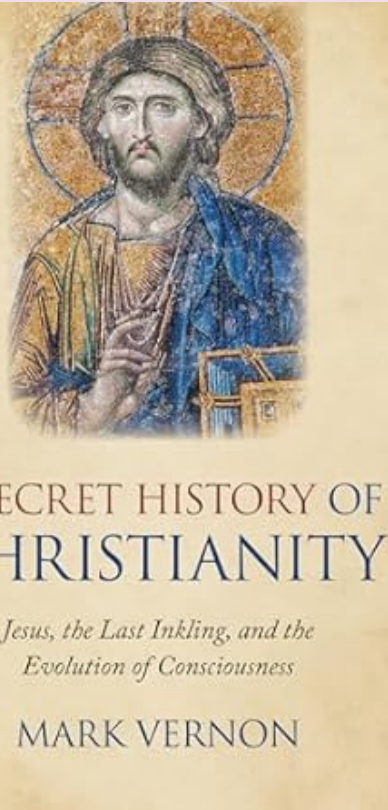
Wednesday Weavings

St. George's Wednesday night adult discussion group, Wednesday Weavings, will have one gathering in February, on **Wed., Feb. 7, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Bridgette Beinecke's home**. All are welcome to join the group for a simple meal, discussion on a selected reading, and a closing service of Compline. Our current readings from the Forward Movement publication *A Journey with Luke* provides us with a lesson from Scripture, a reflection, discussion questions, and a prayer. This will be our last gathering until the Easter season, as we will take our usual break during Lent, which begins with Ash Wednesday on February 14. Please join us if you can, and bring a contribution to the salad bar meal (for example, fruit, vegetable, or crunchy topping). You can email Frances Rickard at fajrickard@gmail.com for more information and a copy of the reading. We hope to see you there!

2024 Lenten Program

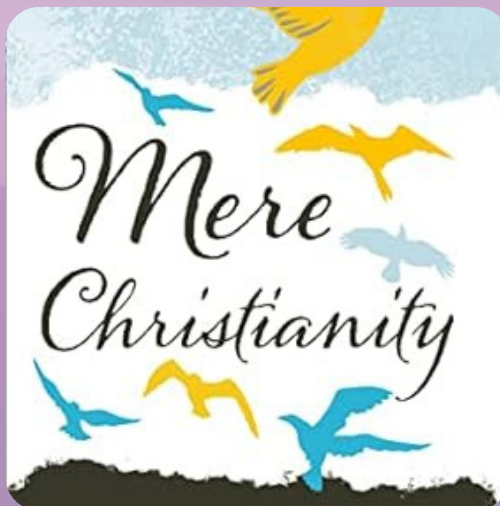
"Mysticism, Consciousness, & the Last Inking"

This series will focus on Mark Vernon's book, *The Secret History of Christianity*, and will be a sustained reflection on the statement by 20th-century Catholic theologian Karl Rahner that "in the post-Christian world, all Christians will be mystics." **We will meet every Wednesday from 7 to 8:15 p.m. in the Nave beginning Feb. 7.** The first 45 minutes will be for discussion, and the last 30 will be for "goodies" and fellowship. Each meeting will be live-streamed and available on our [YouTube page](#). [Copies of the book can be purchased here](#); if you are unable to purchase the book or are short on funds, please contact Fr. Matt (Matt@saintgeorgesAustin.org).



Rector's Book Group

Beginning in February and running through May, we will meet on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. to discuss C.S. Lewis's *Mere Christianity*. On the second Tuesday of the month, we will meet in person at Batch, and on the fourth Tuesday, we will meet via Zoom. This book group is open to **everyone!** More information, including the Zoom link, can be found on our [events page](#).



St. George's Men's Group

Join the men of St. George's from 7:15 to 8:30 a.m., downtown on the first and third Thursday of the month to discuss varying posts from Nick Cave's "Red Hand Files." We will start with a brief prayer and then dive into a discussion. [Click here to explore the "Red Hand Files" blog](#), and see our [events page](#) for more information.

Christopher House Bags

We are looking for volunteers to take two bags of goodies to Christopher House. [Sign up for your week here](#). Then, go to [St. George's online donation page](#), click "Donate," then "Christopher House Baskets," and enter your donation (\$10/bag; most take two bags). Add some treats (perishable items are fine again) and drop off your two bags with the staff there during your week. If you have questions, contact Alice Nelson (mzlsnlsn@gmail.com).

2024 Altar Flowers/Candles Calendar

The 2024 Altar Flowers/Candles Calendar is available! If you'd like to donate altar flowers or altar candles in 2024, perhaps in honor of someone, in thanksgiving for a blessing in your life, or in memory of a loved one, visit the online [2024 Altar Flowers/Candles Calendar](#), or add your name to the calendar on the bulletin board in the north entrance of the church. Enter your name and dedication next to the week or month of your choice. A donation of \$40 is requested. You can make your donation online or by check. To give electronically, visit the online [St. George's Donation page](#), click on the "Altar Flowers and Candles" tile, and enter your information and 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.

Thank you for a Successful Comfort Bag Drive

Dear generous people of St. George's:

The recent comfort bag creation culminated with the presentation at the headquarters of SAFE. This gift is the product of so many of our members who sewed, ironed, painted, decorated, strung, shopped, printed and wrote cards, donated funds, and stuffed bags. It was a special joy to be present at SAFE and to participate in the blessing of the bags and also of the building itself, and of the many hands who participated in this work. St. George's members were joined by the advocates and nurse advocates from SAFE, who shared their experiences with the program and told us how meaningful our gift is.

The sew-in on Jan. 7 was the best yet, with over 40 of our members participating, working hard, and finishing a record **165 bags** in one afternoon! In spite of cold weather and a long drive, over 40 of us also made the trip to SAFE on Jan. 21 to participate in the blessing and tour of the facility. This heartfelt dedication makes a deepening relationship with our Outreach partner as we mark the 10th anniversary of this project. Most heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated.

Thank you from our SAFE Coordinator

Hi team,

Just wanted to thank you all again for the beautiful blessing ceremony on Sunday. What a turnout! I'm so thrilled that y'all were able to visit us, to meet more of our team, and to bless this work and all the hands that contribute to it.

Alice and Sarah, the comfort bags are beautiful. I'm ever grateful for all of your hard work throughout the year, organizing and wrangling and cheerleading. It is a tremendous ministry, and so deeply felt.

Father Matt, thank you for helping to sanctify our space, for making the blessings beautifully welcoming and inclusive, and for bringing so much heart. It's a gift to be in community with you.

I'm very pleased with how everything turned out, and I'm also very open to any feedback about how we can do better next time

Thank you again for everything! More soon.

With love,

Sabina

St. George's SAFE Coordinator

SAFE Comfort Bag Drive Photos



Sewing



Filling



Blessing



ST. GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

TIME TO ENROLL

Spread the Word, it's time for the school's Open Enrollment period. During open enrollment, chances to get into the school are better because parishioners have priority over waitlisted families. Instructions on how to enroll will be emailed out during the week of February 5th by the parish administrator, so be watching your inbox and feel free to spread the word.

Why choose this school? What makes St. George's School unique? For one, we live our mission statement - St. George's Episcopal School is an inclusive community, inspiring children to love learning by nurturing each child's mind, body, and spirit.

By embracing what learning through play means, the children are provided with hands-on activities with just the right amount of challenge to spark their creativity and problem-solving skills. The children here are happy and belong to a loving community of people. After touring families or interviewing possible teachers, I ask if anything stood out to them about the school, and often the answer is, "The children are so happy."

I strongly believe that our balance of finding the right talent, presenting a strong play-based curriculum, and supporting an outdoor learning environment creates the perfect approach for young children. We are meeting them where they are, allowing for exploration, presenting challenges, and providing love.

I'd love to see you join us, so don't miss out and mark your calendars for February 21!

Jerri Thompson, M.Ed.

Head of School

St. George's Episcopal School

4301 N. IH 35

[Instagram](#) [Facebook](#)

Let's Celebrate

Birthdays

Anne McGonigle (Feb. 1)
Melissa Eason Brackin (Feb. 2)
Sutton Stevens (Feb. 2)
James Rickard (Feb. 5)
Eli Boulter (Feb. 6)
Joe Miller Carrera (Feb. 7)
Henry Dieringer (Feb. 13)
Luke Stevens (Feb. 16)
Dylan Worcester (Feb. 22)
Stepahnie Craven (Feb. 24)
Grant Sparks (Feb. 28)

Anniversaries

Elzy & Betty Cogswell (Feb. 2)
Herb Dickson & Sandra Villalaz-Dickson (Feb. 13)
Carey & Trey Kerrigan (Feb. 14)
Gayle & James Wall (Feb. 17)

BANNER DEADLINE

The deadline for news and article submissions for the February issue of *The Banner* is

Thursday, Feb. 22

please email your submissions to
admin@saintgeorges-austin.org

LINKS

St. George's Episcopal Church

St. George's Episcopal School

St. George's Court

The Episcopal Diocese of Texas

The Episcopal Church, USA

The Lectionary

Camp Allen

Episcopal Relief and Development