

THE BANNER



**St. George's
Episcopal Church**

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

January 2019



Christmas • Epiphany

4301 North IH 35 • Austin, TX 78722
Phone: 512.454.2523 • Fax: 512.454.2524

Website: www.sgchurch.org

E-mail: stgeorgeaustin@gmail.com

Office hours: Monday – Thursday, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Sunday Schedule

8:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite I
9:45 am Choir Rehearsal
10:30 am Holy Eucharist Rite II
with KidsWord & YouthWord

The Rev. Kevin LJ Schubert
Rector

Anne Weaver
Music Minister

Jennifer Joslyn-Siemiatkoski
Office Administrator

Jerri Thompson
Day School Director

Bridgette Beinecke
Ashley Carrera
Melissa Eason-Brackin

Hollie Gordon
Denise Hope

Mary Stewart Miller
Frances Rickard
David Savage
Stefan Schuster
Vestry

Mary Stewart Miller
Senior Warden

Bridgette Beinecke
Junior Warden

Ada Pewitt
Financial Secretary

Sandra Villalaz
Treasurer

Ashley Carrera
Clerk

Mark Your Calendars

Wed 1/2 Wednesday Weavings	Wed 1/16 Wednesday Weavings
Sat 1/5 Women's Book Group	Mon 1/21 School Board Meeting
Sun 1/6 Feast of the Epiphany	Sun 1/27 Annual Parish Meeting / Potluck
Sun 1/6 Comfort Bag Sew-in	
Mon 1/14 Vestry Meeting	

Click on the following links to find:

[January Lay Ministry Schedule](#)

[January Activities Calendar](#)

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Feast Days

1 Nicholas Ferrar, Deacon, 1637	17 William Lloyd Garrison, 1879, and Maria Stewart, 1879, Prophetic Witnesses
2 Channing Moore Williams, Missionary Bishop in China and Japan, 1910	21 Saint Thomas the Apostle
4 John of Damascus, Priest, c. 760	25 The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ
5 Clement of Alexandria, Priest, c. 210	26 Saint Stephen, Deacon and Martyr
6 Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, c. 342	27 Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist
7 Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, 397	28 The Holy Innocents
13 Lucy (Lucia), Martyr at Syracuse, 304	29 Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1170
	30 Frances Joseph Gaudet, Educator and Prison Reformer, 1934

Rector's Corner

Dear St. George's Family,

Happy New Year! I pray that you will have a blessed year with new beginnings and the continuation of God's grace upon you. I am excited for this next year for various reasons. Personally, I look forward to my upcoming sabbatical, from Monday, April 22nd (the day after Easter) to Monday, September 9th. During that time I will be away from St. George's refreshing myself, praying, and deliberately rejuvenating my call to the ministry of this beloved church. I am still in the planning stages of what exactly I will be doing, but I will spend much of the time with my family as we travel, and some alone camping and canoeing. The vestry and I are working on the details of coverage for all the rector's responsibilities in my absence. A detailed plan will be made known to the parish once completed.



Speaking of vestry, I am extremely thankful for the work of the 2018 vestry. We have accomplished great things together, and have respectfully and diligently maintained the course of St. George's over the past year. I look forward to the new vestry members that will be joining us this year, and am very hopeful for the future. Don't miss the Annual Parish Meeting and Potluck Lunch on Sunday, January 27th after the 10:30 service, when we will elect these new vestry members.

I pray that you are enveloped by God's peace and love throughout this month and the entire year.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kevin L J Schubert".

The Rev. Kevin L J Schubert

Welcoming Our Interim Music Director

Please welcome Nikki Birdsong, our new Interim Music Director. Nikki is an accomplished pianist, and she has served as a substitute musician for us on numerous occasions over the last several years. Her first regular Sunday with us was the Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 23rd, and she boldly leaped in and led us through the Christmas season! We are thrilled to welcome Nikki and look forward to getting to know her and to her leadership of our music program. Please say hello when you get a chance!



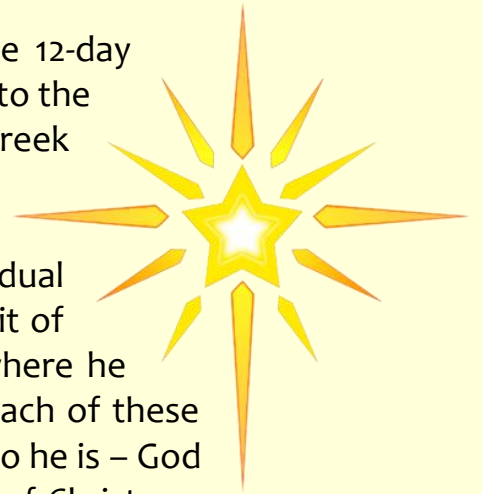
February Banner Deadline



The deadline for news for the February issue of *The Banner* is **Thursday, January 24th**. Please email news and articles you would like included in the next issue to stgeorgeaustin@gmail.com.

The Feast of the Epiphany

With the Feast of the Epiphany, on Sunday, January 6th, the 12-day season of Christmas draws to a close, and the church moves into the season of Epiphany. The Word *epiphany* comes from the Greek word *epiphaneia*, which means “appearing” or “revealing.” The season of Epiphany focuses on God’s self-revelation in Christ. Christian tradition pays special attention to the gradual revelation of Christ’s nature as shown in three events: the visit of the Magi, the baptism of Jesus, and the Wedding at Cana where he performed his first miracle, changing water into wine. With each of these events, the circle of those who see and recognize Jesus for who he is – God with us – grows larger. And with this revelation, the promise of Christmas



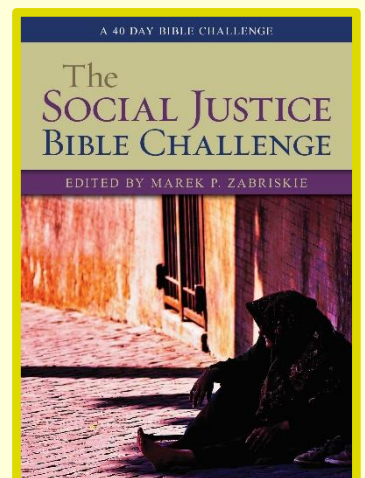
begins to be fulfilled, as the light of Christ enters the world: “Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you” (Isaiah 60:1). God is always making God’s-self known to us.



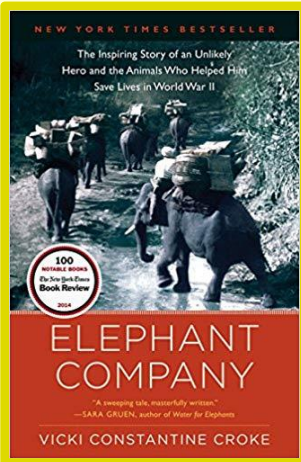
Because Epiphany fell on a Sunday this year, we observed it as part of our regular Sunday services, and did not hold a separate Epiphany service at Casa Marianella as we usually do. We look forward to joining them again next year.

Wednesday Weavings

St. George’s Wednesday night adult discussion group, Wednesday Weavings, continues in January with gatherings on the first and third Wednesdays of the month. All are welcome to join the group for a simple meal, a short service of Compline, and discussion of a reading from the Forward Movement publication, *The Social Justice Bible Challenge*. This month we will meet on **January 2nd**, at the **home of Hollie & Spencer Gordon**, and on **January 16th**, at the **home of Frances & John Rickard**, from **6:30 to 8:00 pm**. If you come, please bring a contribution for the salad bar meal (for example, fruit, vegetable, or crunchy toppings). We hope to see you there! For more information or for a copy of the book, contact Frances Rickard at fajrickard@gmail.com.



Women's Book Group



Our first meeting of 2019 was held on **Saturday, January 5th**, from **3:00 to 5:00 pm**, at the home of **Carolyn Moreau**, who treated us to the traditional *rosca de los reyes*, or king cake. We discussed ***Elephant Company: The Inspiring Story of an Unlikely Hero and the Animals Who Helped Him Save Lives in World War II***, by **Vicki Croke**. All St. George's women are welcome to attend; this group is open and welcoming of all. We hope you can join us for interesting conversation, delicious snacks, and our book discussion. Please contact Sandra Villalaz at sandra.villalaz48@gmail.com or **512-762-8349** with any questions, or if you want to join the fun. Happy reading!

SAFE Alliance Comfort Bags

Three or four times a year, St. George's creates and gives hand-crafted bags filled with both necessities and luxuries to the SAFE Alliance (Stop Abuse for Everyone – formerly SafePlace), to be given to women and men who are undergoing clinical exams for and official reports of sexual assault. Our first 2019 sew-in to create the bags was on **Sunday, January 6th**, after the 10:30 service, along with a potluck lunch. This is a wonderful community event and a lot of fun for all participants, even if we are working. The potluck and sew-in also served as a send-off for Hollie and Spencer Gordon before they leave for extended travels – we wish them well!



Our next bag assembly and blessing will be scheduled for a future date, when we have more information from SAFE about exactly what they need.

Thank you for your continued support of this important ministry! Please contact Sarah Campbell (cowmarket2@gmail.com) with any questions.

Annual Parish Meeting and Potluck

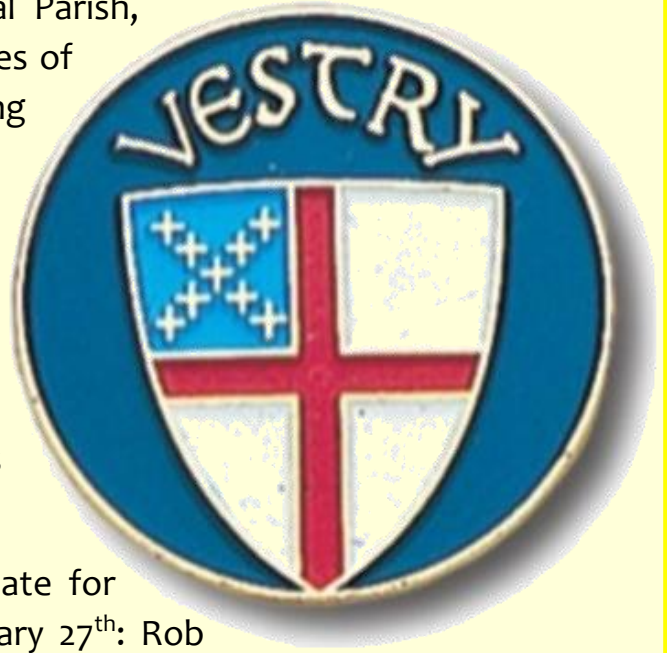


St. George's Annual Parish Meeting will take place on **Sunday, January 27th**, in **Kleberg Hall**, after the 10:30 service. We will share a potluck meal, so please bring something to share (but come anyway even if you can't bring something!). The annual parish meeting is our opportunity to elect members of the Vestry, hear reports on various parish activities, and discuss other church business.

If you lead a St. George's ministry of any kind, please submit a report outlining your ministry's activities throughout the past year, by **Monday, January 21st**, to Jennifer in the church office (stgeorgeaustin@gmail.com). These reports will be compiled into a parish report to give us all a larger picture of the life of St. George's.

2019 Vestry Slate

The Vestry is the governing body of an Episcopal Parish, responsible for managing the resources and finances of the church, making legal decisions, and ensuring effective organization and planning for all church activities. The St. George's vestry consists of up nine members, elected to serve staggered three-year terms. At the Annual Parish Meeting each January, three new members are elected for three-year terms, and if necessary, members are also elected for one or two years, in order to complete the terms of members who were unable to do so.



The current vestry presents the following 2019 slate for election to at the Annual Parish Meeting on January 27th: Rob Blech, Ed Crawford, Samantha Stevens (three-year terms), and Raul Carrera (one-year term).

Rob Blech

Time at St. George's | We have attended St. George's for about 15 years.

Prior Vestry experience | I have served on the St. George's Vestry and was serving as Senior Warden when Kevin was called.

Involvement at St. George's | In addition to serving on Vestry and as Senior Warden, I have also served as the President of the St. George's Court board, as a Lector, and as a LEM.

Gifts and abilities to bring to the work of the Vestry | I bring my legal background, trust in my fellow parishioners, and healthy humility.

Other Information | I like travel, camping, hiking, running, and reading. My wife Mary Stewart is currently serving as Senior Warden and is a school librarian at Ortega Elementary. My son Royce is 14 years old and a freshman at McCallum. He was baptized at St. George's and has been attending his entire life. I am an attorney in the Office of the General Counsel of the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles.

Raul Carrera

Time at St. George's | My family has attended St. George's since 1990.

Prior Vestry experience | I have served one full three-year term on the Vestry here at St. George's. In addition, I have twice completed someone else's term when they have been unable to continue, which I am slated to do again this year.

Involvement at St. George's | I have participated on multiple committees, boards, and the Vestry. I have represented St. George's at Diocesan Council and will do so again this coming year. And my family has attended the Parish Retreat lots of times throughout the years.

Gifts and abilities to bring to the work of the Vestry | I love St George's and think of it as my home that I need to help take care of. Because of my career in theater, film, and television production, I have many years' experience in special project management and hands-on execution. This includes producing and directing as well as building, painting, decorating or generally preparing the sets for filming. Plus, my father was a general contractor in New Braunfels and the surrounding area for over 40 years. All my brothers and I worked for him on and off throughout that whole period. I therefore feel safe in saying that I have life-long experience in home building and repair.

Other Information | Back in the fall of 1990, having just moved to Austin, Nancy and I enrolled our daughter Ashley at the day school and began attending St. George's Church. In the ensuing years since then, the girls grew up and went off to school. Ashley came back and got married. Chloe went to school in L.A. and now lives in Hollywood. All the while, we have been members of St George's.

Ed Crawford

Time at St. George's | I have been attending St Georges full time for a little over a year. I was confirmed at here in my youth (probably in the 60s), but was away for many years to pursue my career.

Prior Vestry experience | I served on the vestry at my previous two churches, Trinity in Hamilton, OH, and Grace in Pine Bluff, AR.

Involvement at St. George's | I currently serve as usher, lay reader, and Lay Eucharistic Minister for the 8:00 am service. I also participate in multiple fellowship opportunities at St. Georges, such potluck dinners, retreat, Lenten learning.

Gifts and abilities to bring to the work of the Vestry | I am hesitant to claim any special gifts – I see so many other members that seem much more talented than I am. I have helped out at church with some of the electrical and computer issues, but you don't need to belong to the vestry to help out.

Other Information | I grew up in Austin and left to pursue a career in industry. I returned to Austin upon retirement to help my mother. I found that retirement did not agree with me, so I just started working part-time at Home Depot. I am single (divorced), enjoy cooking (although I have yet to find my cookware in storage) and gardening, and am a big science fiction fan. If there are any Doctor Who fans in the congregation, say hi!

Samantha Stevens

Time at St. George's | I think my family began going to St. George's in 1992.

Prior Vestry experience | I have not been on a vestry before but I have been on the school board.

Involvement at St. George's | I have been teaching KidsWord since my son Luke was a baby – over 20 years.

Gifts and abilities to bring to the work of the Vestry | I am organized and interested in what is happening at St. George's.

Other Information | I am married to Hal Stevens. We have four kids, Luke (age 22), Mae (age 18), Sutton (age 14), and Jeremy (age 8). We recently moved back to Austin from Georgetown. I love to read, garden, walk my dogs, and listen to live music. I just retired from teaching and now I'm tutoring math in a middle school in south Austin.

Women's Retreat



Ladies of St. George's, please plan on joining a group of interesting and talented women for a relaxing, rejuvenating weekend at Well Spring Center at Wessendorf Ranch in Blanco, Texas, **Friday to Sunday, March 29-31, 2019**. The Women's Retreat allows us the opportunity to build relationships and enrich our overall community. I

hope you will consider joining us. Take this opportunity to unwind, rejuvenate, and relax. The retreat is very low key and loosely organized. We eat well, talk, laugh, sleep, meditate, play games, walk, nap, and, most of all, enjoy each other's company. This year, we will stay in the big historic house on the property, so it should be lovely and homey.

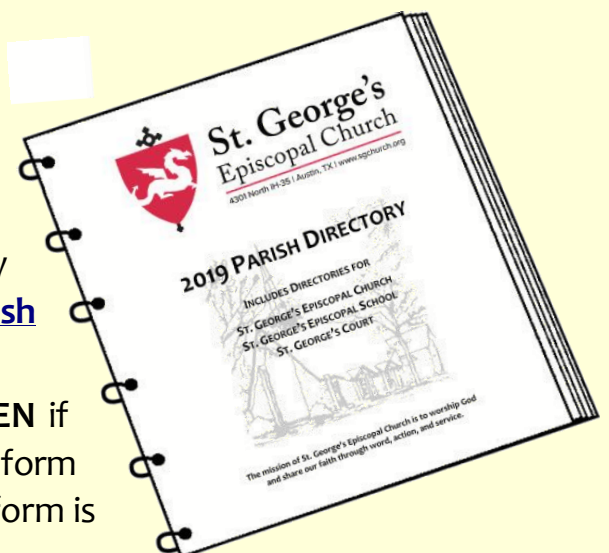
The cost for the weekend, which covers all meals and the facility fees, is \$50.00. If cost is an issue, please don't let it be – alternate arrangements can be made, and we don't want anyone to stay away! And if you have a conflicting commitment, feel free to join us for just one of the nights, or even just on Saturday.

We need to let them know how many people are coming by **Monday, February 18th** (although payment may be made later than that). Please contact Sandra Villalaz at sandra.villalaz48@gmail.com or 512-762-8349 to register or with any questions.

2019 Parish Directory

It's time to prepare our 2019 Parish Directory! In order to make sure that you and your family are listed correctly, please do the following:

- If you were listed in last year's directory, **CAREFULLY** review your listing. The 2018 Directory can be found at this link: [St. George's 2018 Parish Directory](#).
- Complete a 2019 Directory Information Form – **EVEN** if you have no changes from last year's listing (the form includes the option to indicate "no changes"). This form is available in two formats:
 - online, available at this link: [2019 Directory Information Form](#)
 - paper, available on the tables at both entrances to the church



If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer in the church office, at 512-454-2523 or stgeorgeaustin@gmail.com. Please complete your form no later than **Sunday, January 27th**.

2019 Flower/Candle Donation Calendar



A new calendar for donations for flowers and altar candles is hanging on the bulletin board inside the north entrance of the church. If you would like to give altar flowers for one or more Sundays next year, or altar candles for one or more months, please print your name clearly on the calendar so that you can be recognized in the Sunday bulletin. Be sure to note if you are giving the flowers or candles in memory of someone or in thanksgiving for some blessing in your life. A donation of \$35 (for either flowers or candles) is requested. You can make your donation by check or electronically through our online giving program. Make checks made payable to St. George's and note on the memo line that the check is for altar flowers/candles. To give electronically, use the Give + Church app on your mobile device, or click the "DONATE" button on the home page of our website (www.sgchurch.org).

Advent Angels Thank You

Thank you to all of the participants in the Advent Angels project this year. We were able to gift each resident of St. George's Court with a stocking and a \$20 HEB gift card, as well as provide extra gift cards to incoming residents or those in need throughout the year.

We also collected \$280 for Casa Marianella, enabling them to purchase both HEB gift cards and phone cards for current and future residents, helping them stay in touch with far-away family during the holidays.

I am especially thankful for all the helpful and giving hearts that make this project a success. We have so many gifts we can share whether it be time or money, and St. George's always amazes me in its ability to serve others so well.

~ Jennifer Bigbee



Cold Weather Donation Drive



Our Deacon Intern Jim Enelow is coordinating a donation drive for our neighbors who live underneath I-35. Please bring blankets, socks, underwear, or any other cold weather clothing items to the small conference room in the Wright-Giles House. When we have enough, we'll announce a date and time when any parishioners are welcome to come and help distribute what we have collected. Please contact Jim at 512-893-0935 or jenelow@austin.utexas.edu with any questions. Thank you for your generosity!

Bishop Suffragan Election

The Diocese of Texas will elect a Bishop Suffragan to assist the diocesan bishop, the Rt. Rev. C. Andrew Doyle, on Friday, February 22nd, at its 170th Diocesan Council.

All bishops are called to follow in the footsteps of the apostles, teaching, uniting, and reconciling in the name of Christ. Bishops Suffragan are elected to support and without automatic succession to the diocesan bishop. They are assigned a particular portfolio. The strategic role a Bishop Suffragan plays within the life of a diocese is far more than preaching and confirming on Sunday mornings. The job description for the new Bishop Suffragan in the Diocese of Texas will include serving as board chair of several diocesan institutions, visitations of 67 churches in the western region of the Diocese, a strategic partnership with the executive team of the Diocese, and other jobs as befit the unique gifts she will bring as an individual leader. Elected delegates from each of the Diocese's congregations and diocesan clergy will elect the next bishop suffragan to succeed retiring Bishop Suffragan Dena Harrison.



The Rev. Hannah
E. Atkins Romero

The Rev. Hannah E. Atkins Romero, the Rev. Canon Glenice Robinson-Como, and the Rev. Canon Kathryn (Kai) Ryan have been approved to stand for election as Bishop Suffragan of the Diocese of Texas, the diocesan Standing Committee announced November 26. Atkins Romero is Rector of Trinity, Houston; Robinson-Como is Missioner for Outreach and Justice Ministries at Christ Church Cathedral, Houston; and Ryan serves at Canon to the Ordinary and Chief Operating Officer on the diocesan staff. Profiles of each candidate in English and Spanish are available on the website at www.epicenter.org. "Each person brings unique gifts and disposition, and each has secular and church experience that makes them qualified to do the work of this particular office," said the Rev. Chuck Treadwell, chair of the search committee.



The Rev. Canon Glenice
Robinson-Como

Delegates will get to meet the candidates at a "walkabout" at Camp Allen on January 5, 2019, in order to get to know those who have put their names forward. Each candidate will give a brief presentation, followed by a Q&A session. Participants will move between rooms of each candidate, hence the term "walkabout." Each candidate's presentation is designed to provide delegates a context within which to consider the selection of the candidate as a spiritual leader in this Diocese. While we are electing a Bishop Suffragan for the Diocese of Texas, the person elected will also be a bishop for the whole Church.



The Rev. Canon
Kathryn (Kai) Ryan

Please continue to pray for the candidates, and for those who will elect a new bishop suffragan.

Almighty God, giver of every good gift:

We thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ, and for the witness of your whole church in his name.

We thank you for your Holy Spirit, empowering us for ministry.

*Guide the hearts and minds of those who shall choose a bishop suffragan
for the Diocese of Texas and of those who will respond to the call,*

that we may receive a faithful pastor who will care for your people and glorify your name.

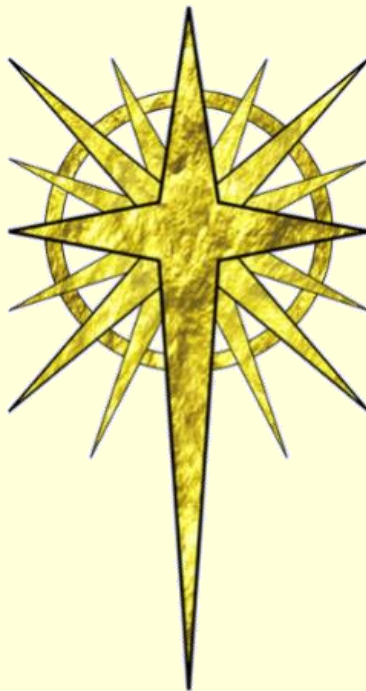
*May our discernment transform our spirits and draw us closer to you, Almighty God;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen*

Camp Allen



Camp Allen
AWAKEN YOUR SPIRIT IN THE PINEY WOODS

Next summer may seem far away, but it's not too early to start planning! Registration for summer camp 2019 at Camp Allen is now open. One-week sessions are available all summer long for rising 3rd-graders through rising high school seniors. Camp Allen's summer camp is one of the largest summer camp programs in the Episcopal Church. Each summer, over 1900 campers from across Texas come to refocus, relax, and have a blast – and your child can be one of them! [Register here!](#)



News from the School



I do hope that everyone had a joyous Christmas and that the New Year is starting on a bright note. We ended our first semester on a high note with our Christmas Pageant. The children were adorable as usual!

We are kicking off this new year with two days of Teacher In-Service Training. Our staff will engage in team building exercises, learn Conscious Discipline techniques, build new math and language arts skills, and take time for self-care with reflective supervision.

As we move into this new semester, I pray that we continue to receive good news from the city and our progress continues with speed. We are all missing Kleberg Hall and are eager for the return of normal.

Many thanks for your continued support of our treasured school!

~ Jerri Thompson





January Birthdays & Anniversaries

We wish the following parishioners a happy birthday:

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Ashley Carrera (Jan 2) | Lisa Wagner (Jan 18) |
| Mark Corcoran (Jan 3) | Cyrus Cormier (Jan 20) |
| Jenny Sahs (Jan 4) | Nora Kadas (Jan 20) |
| Jackson Lucy (Jan 6) | Vanamala Manohar (Jan 22) |
| Claire Irwin (Jan 8) | Madison Smiser (Jan 22) |
| Andrea Sparks (Jan 8) | Periwinkle Schuster (Jan 23) |
| Rebecca Brackin (Jan 11) | Stefan Schuster (Jan 24) |
| Randy Parker (Jan 11) | George Stuart (Jan 25) |
| Jan Phillips (Jan 13) | Mary Parker (Jan 29) |
| Madeleine Landry (Jan 15) | Bonita Snyder-Jones (Jan 30) |
| Hye Na Lucy (Jan 17) | |



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](#)