

THE BANNER



**St. George's
Episcopal Church**

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

July 2020
✠
Season after Pentecost

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
9:00 am Two-Way Prayer Grp
9:45 am Choir Rehearsal
10:30 am Holy Eucharist Rite II
with KidsWord &
YouthWord

The Rev. Kevin LJ Schubert
Rector

The Rev. Jim Enelow
Deacon

Mi-Young Kim
Music Minister

Jennifer Joslyn-Siemiatkoski
Office Administrator

Jerri Thompson
Day School Director

Josh Beckham
Bridgette Beinecke

Rob Blech
Melissa Brackin

Ed Crawford
Brad Dieringer

Hye Na Lucy

Stefan Schuster
Samantha Stevens
Vestry

Melissa Brackin
Senior Warden

Ed Crawford
Junior Warden

Samantha Stevens
Financial Secretary

Ashley Carrera
Treasurer

Brad Dieringer
Clerk

Ed Crawford
School Board Liaison

Mark Your Calendars

Wed 7/8 Wednesday Weavings
Sat 7/11 Women's Book Group
Mon 7/13 Vestry Meeting
Mon 7/20 School Board Meeting
Wed 7/22 Wednesday Weavings
M 7/15 – W 7/29 Office Closed
(Jennifer on vacation)

Click on the following links to find:

[Lay Ministry Schedule](#)
[Activities Calendar](#)

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Feast Days

1 Pauli Murray, Priest, 1985	22 Saint Mary Magdalene
2 Moses the Black, Monastic and Martyr, c.400	23 John Cassian, Monastic and Theologian, 435
4 Independence Day (United States of America)	24 Thomas a Kempis, Priest and Mystic, 1471
6 Eva Lee Matthews, Monastic, 1928	25 Saint James the Apostle
8 Priscilla and Aquila, Coworkers of the Apostle Paul	27 William Reed Huntington, Priest, 1909
11 Benedict of Nursia, Monastic, c.543	28 Johann Sebastian Bach, Composer, 1750
14 Argula von Grumbach, Scholar and Church Reformer, c.1554	29 Mary and Martha of Bethany
17 William White, Bishop, 1836	30 William Wilberforce, Social Reformer, 1833
19 Macrina of Caesarea, Monastic and Teacher, 379	31 Ignatius of Loyola, Priest and Spiritual Writer, 1556
20 Maria Skobtsoba, Monastic and Martyr, 1945	

Rector's Corner

Dear St. George's Family:

I pray that you and your family are doing well, staying safe, and making the best of our current conditions due to the pandemic. I know that each one of us is affected by the pandemic, and our beloved St. George's is not immune to these effects either. I am absolutely blown away by the response the church has received during this time. Our virtual services are being utilized by many; folks are maintaining their pledges; and the general mindset is positive and progressive.



Along with the vestry, the St. George's Task Force for Re-gathering has been working hard to set a course for St. George's, especially as it pertains to opening in-person services again. I believe that everyone shares the desire to be together in person, and at the same time we desire to reduce the risk of exposure to the virus, both for individuals and our wider community. The leadership of St. George's continues to be worried about the recent surge of COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations in the Austin area, and we recognize that church gatherings are high-risk contexts for spreading the virus. Although the Task Force is working with the diocese on our plan to open for in-person worship services, we agree to abide by the current guidelines and regulations put in place by our state, county, and city. We will not begin in-person worship services until these restrictions have been lifted and we feel comfortable in doing so. This means that we will continue to meet virtually at least until August 15th.

This is a trying time for us all. Personally, I miss each and every one of you. We have surely witnessed tremendous changes to our common life together, and we have had to set aside much of our normalcy, desires, and hopes during this time. Thankfully, we have a great amount of sacrificial theology to guide us. I am reminded of these words from the Gospel of Luke 9:23-25, "Jesus said, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will save it. What does it profit them if they gain the whole world, but lose or forfeit themselves.'" I believe that at this time our calling to take up our cross and follow Jesus means working toward the health and safety of our communities. This requires much sacrifice on our part – wearing our masks, refraining from gathering in large groups, sheltering in place, setting aside our desire to be together for the well-being of the whole. By sacrificing in these ways, we are losing a great deal in the near term, but in the long run we are literally saving lives. So, let us take up our crosses together and allow God to transform the world by doing our part for the well-being of the Kingdom of God.

Faithfully,

The Rev. Kevin LJ Schubert

August Banner Deadline



The deadline for news for the August issue of *The Banner* is Monday, July 27th. Please email news and articles you would like included in the next issue to stgeorgeaustin@gmail.com.

Deacon's Corner

Dear St. George's Family:

It's hard for me to believe that it's been almost four months since we've worshipped together in the same space. The "new normal" of COVID-19 seems almost surreal to me. I know you all are out there, but I see only a handful of you in person each Sunday. I miss you a lot and greatly look forward to Phase 2, when we can worship in the same space. Even with social distancing and masks, I will consider it a very happy occasion.



During the pandemic, I am only at St. George's on Sunday, but, after the service, I visit with our neighbors under the highway and help them with \$10 HEB gift cards and clothes, which I bring to them. Sometimes I have food to distribute, some of which is outdated food from Whole Foods and some of which is leftover food from University Baptist Church's Thursday meal. There is also a parishioner at All Saints' who sometimes gives me thirty or so peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, which I also give out.

The City of Austin appears to be more tolerant of the homeless during the pandemic, not trying to drive them out from underneath the highway and even leaving portable toilets and a wash station for their use. I even hear from one of our homeless neighbors that the City will clean up around the homeless campsites without trying to evict them.

The house long abandoned on the corner of the Northbound I-35 Service Road and Ardenwood Road is now occupied and the area outside the house has now been cleaned up, which is certainly good news to the neighborhood residents. So, some good things are happening. I hope we continue our ministry to the homeless in the months to come, and I thank you profusely for the support I have received from donations to the deacon's discretionary fund, which has allowed me to help those most in need. You have made St. George's a friend to the homeless and they are appreciative.

Peace and Blessings,

The Rev. Jim Enelow

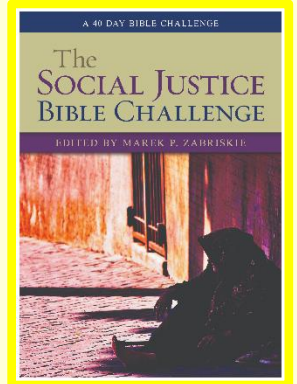
Summer Schedule



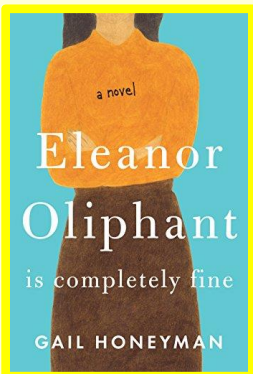
Jennifer will be on vacation with her family for the second half of July. Voicemail and email will be checked in her absence, but only messages in need of immediate response will be responded to; other messages will be returned when Jennifer is back in the office.

Wednesday Weavings

St. George's adult discussion group continues to meet via Zoom, from **7:00 to 8:00 pm** every other Wednesday. All are welcome to join the group for a discussion on a selected reading for the evening and a closing service of Compline. This month we will meet on **July 8th** and **July 22nd**. We will finish our study of *The Social Justice Bible Challenge* on July 8th. For the rest of the summer, we will use selected readings on race, systemic injustice, and equality for all God's people to further the current cultural conversation. Each reading stands on its own, so you can join the group anytime and never fall behind! Frances Rickard will send out the Zoom invitation prior to the meeting to the group's email list. To be added to the email list or with any other questions, contact Frances at fajrickard@gmail.com. There is plenty of room on the Zoom screen for all who want to join us!



Women's Book Group



Please join us for our next meeting on **Saturday, July 11th**, from **3:00 to 5:00 pm**, via **Zoom**. We will discuss *Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine*, by **Gail Honeyman**. 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 at **512-762-8349** or sandra.villalaz48@gmail.com. Happy reading!

Online Flower Donation Calendar

St. George's [Flower Donation Calendar](#) has moved online! About half the Sundays between now and Advent don't yet have anyone signed up to donate flowers, and you are invited to sign up. You can give flowers 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 donate flowers, please visit the online [Flower Donation Calendar](#) and enter your name and, if you wish, your dedication, next to the week of your choice. (To be sure that your donation is listed in the bulletin, please sign up at least two weeks in advance.) **A donation of \$35** is requested. You can make your donation by check or electronically through our online giving program. Make checks made payable to St. George's, with a note on the memo line indicating that the check is for altar flowers, and mail it to the church office. To give electronically, visit the [St. George's Donation page](#), scroll down to "Designated Gifts" / "Altar Guild," and enter the amount of your donation.



Flower Guild Begins at St. George's



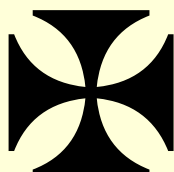
Perhaps you noticed the beautiful flower arrangements in the sanctuary next to the altar during our online worship services last month. The arrangements were the beginnings of a new lay ministry at St. George's to be known as the Flower Guild. Here's how it came about and how it works.

Almost simultaneously with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and stay-at-home services, our long-time parish florist, Jack Brown, decided to retire. For as many as 50 years, as best we can recall, Jack provided the flowers for Sunday services and special occasions at St. George's, and we are so grateful for his years of service. With Jack's retirement, we have not had flowers at the altar on Sunday mornings, until several parishioners who had previously expressed interest in arranging flowers met (on Zoom, of course!) to see if preparing flower arrangements would be something St. George's could do in-house. After a few weeks of a pilot program

in June and an enthusiastic response from Fr. Kevin, they agreed to continue and to become the first members of the Flower Guild.

Members procure the flowers from the source of their choice, including their own gardens, arrange them in clear glass vases, and bring them to the church on Saturday or on Sunday morning. Members are reimbursed for their expenses through the church budget and donations made by parishioners for the weekly altar flowers (see article on page 4). Although the Flower Guild is not part of the Altar Guild, an Altar Guild representative was most helpful in providing information as the Flower Guild got off the ground, and the two ministries will remain in close communication.

Right now, we have three parishioners on the Flower Guild and are looking for others who would like to serve! If working with flowers and preparing them for the Sunday altar might bring you joy or be of interest to you, please consider being a part of this ministry. Professional experience or expertise is NOT required! Current members of the Flower Guild will be more than happy to provide tips, assistance, and encouragement to those who would like to give it a try. Contact Frances Rickard at fajrickard@gmail.com if you have questions or would like to volunteer.



News from the School



Greetings from the School! We have been open now for a month and so far we are doing well with managing the spread of COVID. We have a plan in place if it happens, but our plan also includes proactive measures to reduce transmission. Our enrollment however is still very low, so with a heavy heart, I had to begin lay-offs. I am grateful to have a school board who sympathizes with this delicate situation. Our enrollment has dropped from 110 children to 40. Our staff has dropped from 28 to 16. I pray we do not have to make any more cuts this summer.

The changes made to the PPP guidelines has given us more flexibility, but the reality of our finances is concerning. I do not know what the future holds. Parents are changing their minds almost daily about whether to come back. I will not know how many plan on returning for our school year until probably early August.

Please pray for us, along with those teachers who gave so much. They left with understanding, but also with a longing for our sweet little school. And know that our thoughts and prayers are also with each of you.

Respectfully,

Jerri Thompson

Head of School



July Birthdays & Anniversaries

We wish the following parishioners a happy birthday:

Emma Jane Braun (Jul 2)	Athena Navarro (Jul 9)	Hal Stevens (Jul 24)
Eddie Terrazas (Jul 2)	Evan O'Donnell (Jul 16)	Lillie Tipps (Jul 25)
Margaret Tipps (Jul 2)	Braxton Smiser (Jul 17)	Kevin Schubert (Jul 26)
JT Kerrigan (Jul 3)	Jennifer Joslyn-Siemiatkoski (Jul 18)	Wesley Smiser (Jul 27)
Ashley Ibsen (Jul 5)	JT Sparks (Jul 18)	Charlotte Tipps (Jul 27)
Lori Ham (Jul 6)	Walter Moreau (Jul 20)	Philip Doty (Jul 30)
Brad Dieringer (Jul 7)	Josh Poage (Jul 23)	Peter Stuart (Jul 30)
Aidan Cormier (Jul 9)	Heather Schubert (Jul 24)	Michael Smiser (Jul 31)

And a happy anniversary to:

Ariane & Mark Corcoran (Jul 3)	Carolyn & Walter Moreau (Jul 13)
Philip Doty & Mikail McIntosh-Doty (Jul 5)	Fred & Michele Blood (Jul 23)
Josh & Anne McGonigle (Jul 7)	Hollie & Spencer Gordon (Jul 31)
Samantha & Hal Stevens (Jul 11)	

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](#)