

MARCH 2024



# The Banner

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





# St. George's Episcopal Church

4301 North IH 35  
Austin, TX 78722  
512-454-2523  
[www.sgchurch.org](http://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](mailto:matt@saintgeorges-austin.org)

## ***Senior Warden***

Sandra Villalaz

[seniorwarden@saintgeorges-austin.org](mailto:seniorwarden@saintgeorges-austin.org)

## ***Administrator***

Jessie Morrone

512-454-2523

[admin@saintgeorges-austin.org](mailto:admin@saintgeorges-austin.org)

## ***Junior Warden***

John Rickard

[juniorwarden@saintgeorges-austin.org](mailto:juniorwarden@saintgeorges-austin.org)

## ***Head of School***

Jerri Thompson

[jerri@stgeorges-austin.com](mailto:jerri@stgeorges-austin.com)

## ***Music Minister***

Julie Park

[musicminister@saintgeorges-austin.org](mailto: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

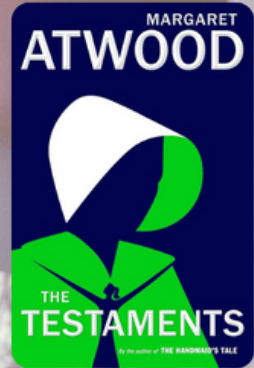


# March Events

## St. George's Pub Club

MONDAY, MARCH 4, 6:00 - 8:00 P.M.  
AT B.D. RILEY'S  
BRING A FRIEND!

Women's Book Group  
3:00 - 5:00 p.m.  
Saturday, March 9



A SECRET HISTORY OF  
CHRISTIANITY

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

MARK VERNON

Lenten Program  
Mysticism, Consciousness, & the Last Inking

Wednesdays in Lent,  
Feb. 21-Mar. 20, at 7:00 p.m.

*The Beloved Classic on Christian Belief*

*Mere  
Christianity*

C.S. LEWIS

RECTOR'S BOOK GROUP

7:00 - 8:30 P.M.

TUESDAY, MARCH 12, AT BATCH

TUESDAY, MARCH 26, ON ZOOM



**ST. GEORGE'S MEN'S GROUP:**  
PRAYER, STUDY, AND DISCUSSION

7:15 - 8:30 A.M  
THURSDAY, MARCH 7  
THURSDAY, MARCH 21



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

**Saturday, March 2, 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



# Choir Practice

Every Saturday  
9:30 - 11:00 a.m.



## St. George's Nursery

*For crawlers through fours  
from 10:00 a.m. to noon on Sundays.  
Follow the signs on campus, and please  
register children via the QR code!*



**CLICK HERE FOR  
ST. GEORGE'S EVENTS PAGE**







# Feast Days

March 2024

- 1 - David of Wales, Bishop, c.544**
- 2 - Chad of Lichfield, Bishop, 672**
- 3 - John and Charles Wesley, Priests, 1791, 1788**
- 7 - Perperpetua & Felicity, Martyrs, 202**
- 9 - Gregory of Nyssa, Bishop & Theologian, c. 394**
- 12 - Gregory the Great, Bishop & Theologian, 604**
- 13 - James Theodore Holly, Bishop, 1911**
- 15 - Vincent de Paul, Priest, & Louise de Marillac, Vowed Religious Workers of Charity, 1660**
- 17 - Patrick, Bishop and Missionary of Ireland, 461**
- 18 - Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop & Theologian, 386**
- 19 - St. Joseph**
- 20 - Cuthbert, Bishop, 687**
- 21 - Thomas Ken, Bishop, 1711**
- 22 - James DeKoven, Priest, 1879**
- 23 - Gregory the Illuminator, Bishop & Missionary, c. 332**
- 24 - Óscar Romero, Archbishop of San Salvador, 1980, and the Martyrs of El Salvador**
- 27 - Charles Henry Brent, Bishop of the Philippines, and of Western - New York, 1929**
- 29 - John Keble, Priest, 1866**
- 31 - John Donne, Priest, 1631**





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## Letter from the Rector

THE REV. DR. MATT BOULTER

### The Point of Lent: Honesty With Self

What is the purpose of Lent? I'd say it's this: learning to tell the truth ... to yourself.

I recently conversed with a friend who was curious about the Roman Catholic practice of auricular confession (confessing one's sins to a priest). He was somewhat astounded when I showed him the Rite of Reconciliation in the Prayer Book (as he had assumed that Anglicans/Episcopalians don't share the practice with Catholics).

In our discussion I said, "I think it is important to have at least one person in your life to whom you tell absolutely everything. Otherwise, it is almost certainly the case that you are lying to yourself."

At least one person. Maybe that person is your therapist. Maybe it's your friend, or your spiritual director, or your spouse. Maybe it is some kind of sponsor, like those in twelve-step programs.

It's relatively unimportant who that person is, in my opinion. What's more important is that you are "doing the work," that you are telling at least one person in your life absolutely everything. No secrets, no shadows, no deception or evasion.

Cont.



That is the point, I told my friend, of confessing to a priest. It's not exactly a matter of psychological therapeutic-ness (to coin a noun). It's really just a matter of learning to be honest. (Such honesty is more difficult for some than for others.)

Something similar, it seems to me, is true for Lent. When we admit our weakness, we are becoming more honest. We are telling the truth about ourselves at a deeper level. It is not about "groveling" before some spiritual authority (or before God) or "beating yourself up." It's simply about learning to tell the truth about who you are, and what's going on inside of you. Doing that in ways that are appropriate and guided by love. Love of God, love of others, love of one's own self.

In my opinion, the world needs more of this. More opportunities to tell the truth about oneself without shame or fear, in an environment that is truly "safe." (The church is a safe place with a very dangerous message—the ferocious love of God.)

In Lent there is an emphasis on sin, on admitting the sin in our lives. Such admission, when done in the right spirit, is the pathway, a pathway, to freedom, to joy, to love.

Faithfully,

*Matt+*

Fr. Matt



# Parish Updates and Announcements

## Women's Book Group



Our next meeting is on **Sat., March 9, from 3 to 5 p.m.** The book is *The Testaments* by Margaret Atwood, 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](mailto:mzlsnlsn@gmail.com) or Sarah Campbell at [cowmarket2@gmail.com](mailto:cowmarket2@gmail.com)

## Register now for the 2024 Women's Retreat

Join us **April 19-21** in the beautiful Hill Country at Wellspring Retreat Center on Wessendorff Ranch. Starting Friday afternoon, we'll enjoy an enriching weekend of worship, community, relaxation, wonderful discussions, good food, and more. Accommodations are casual but comfortable in the retreat dormitories; we should have room for everyone to have an individual room. Carpooling is encouraged and we can help facilitate it! Please note any dietary restrictions on the registration form. Fees for the weekend are \$50, but don't let that keep you from attending. [Register here](#). Submit [payment online](#) or put checks in the alms baskets at church. Questions or concerns? Reach out to Sandra Villalaz ([Sandra.Villalaz48@gmail.com](mailto:Sandra.Villalaz48@gmail.com)) or Belinda McGhee ([BelindaM18@gmail.com](mailto:BelindaM18@gmail.com))

## Save the Date for the Eclipse Viewing

On **Monday, April 8**, from 1 to 2 pm, St. George's will host an opportunity to view the total solar eclipse together with the school and our neighbors! We'll provide refreshments and solar eclipse glasses. Watch for details to be shared soon on the St. George's website events page.



## Creation Care

Creation Care - that's what church folk call caring for our environment and addressing human-caused climate change. In 2015, Pope Francis published an encyclical, 'Laudato Si', calling Christians to start an effort to "care for our common home." What I like about that phrasing is the notion that Earth is for all of us, not just you and me or those who can afford it. In the care of this earth, our National Episcopal Church in 2022 called for us to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030, in keeping with the U.N. goal.

So, what can we do together? How can we care for "this fragile earth, our island home?" We want to discuss that in our nascent Creation Care group. Meetings are not predictable at this point; that's on the to-do list. But we're definitely ready to share what's happening and get your input. This is what we want to do in March:

1. Review how we recycle on our campus and see if any upgrades are possible.
2. Initiate a Plastics Project that includes research/education + "green tips" for us all.

If you would like to join us or you want to offer a comment, please contact Suzette Puckett at [cshpuckett@austin.rr.com](mailto:cshpuckett@austin.rr.com).

## Covered in Prayer: St. George's Prayer Shawls

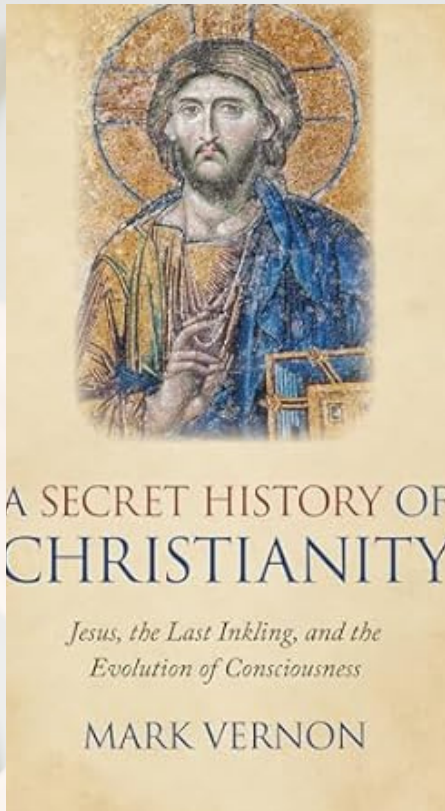
The Prayer Shawl Ministry has shawls available for parishioners or close friends who are suffering from grief, trauma, bereavement, or serious illness. The shawl is a handmade gift of love, compassion, and prayer that envelops the wearer physically and spiritually, in prayer and celebration, and in joy and sorrow. Our shawls have been made with love by members of our congregation and are available on request by calling the church office at 512-454-2523 or Sarah Campbell at 512-569-3081.



## 2024 Lenten Program

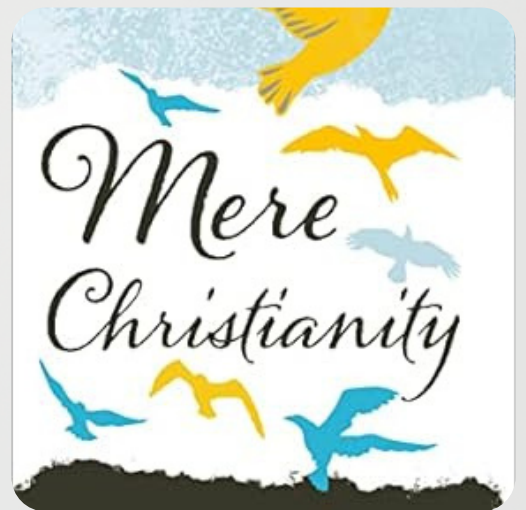
"Mysticism, Consciousness, & the Last Inking"

This series focuses on Mark Vernon's book, *The Secret History of Christianity*, and is 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 meet every Wednesday from 7:00 to 8:15 p.m. through March 20.** The first 45 minutes are for discussion, and the last 30 are for refreshments and fellowship. Each meeting is 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 at [Matt@saintgeorgesAustin.org](mailto:Matt@saintgeorgesAustin.org).



## Rector's Book Group

Beginning in February and running through May, we meet on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month, from 7:00 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.



## Gethsemane Vigil

From the end of the Maundy Thursday service on Thursday, March 28, until the start of the Good Friday service at noon on Friday, March 29, you are invited to keep watch with the reserved sacraments in remembrance of Jesus' plea to his disciples to "stay awake with me one hour." To participate in this vigil, please sign up for a one-hour shift on the sheet on the table just inside the south entrance of the church building. Up to four people may sign up for a shift. More information will be provided to those who sign up for the vigil closer to Maundy Thursday.

## 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](mailto:mzlsnlsn@gmail.com)).



## Easter Lily Donations

St. George's will be adorned with Easter lilies for our celebrations of the Resurrection of our Lord, March 31. We invite you to make an offering for lilies, perhaps in a loved one's memory or thanksgiving for a person or other blessing in your life. Donation forms will be in the Sunday bulletins through Palm Sunday. Or, complete the online form on our website at [sgchurch.org/easter-lilies](https://sgchurch.org/easter-lilies). The names of donors and any memorials or thanksgivings will be listed in the Easter service bulletins. Be sure to turn in your form by **Palm Sunday, March 24**, to have your name and dedication listed in the bulletin. The suggested donation is \$20 per plant. Make your check payable to St. George's (with "Lilies" noted in the memo line), or donate online by clicking the DONATE button at [sgchurch.org/stewardship](https://sgchurch.org/stewardship) and navigating to the "Easter Lilies" tile.



## 2024 Altar Flowers/Candles Calendar

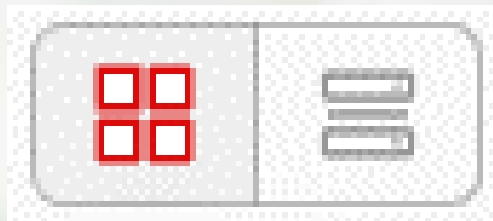
The 2024 Altar Flowers/Candles Calendar is available! If you'd like to donate altar flowers or altar candles in 2024, perhaps in honor of someone, in thanksgiving for a blessing in your life, or in memory of a loved one, visit the online [2024 Altar Flowers/Candles Calendar](#), or add your name to the 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.

## Online Donations

Vanco, the company that supports St. George's online giving capabilities, has announced some upgrades to their platform. If you have a profile (account) on the online giving page on our website, you can now edit your recurring transactions from within your Vanco profile. Simply log in to your account, view Scheduled Transactions, and click Edit to change any of the following giving criteria:

- Amount
- Frequency
- Start and end date
- Payment method
- Tile (Fund) choice

Also available now on the giving page is the option to toggle from the tile view to a drop-down list of funds/projects to which you can give. You'll find the two options in the upper right corner of the online donation page, which look like this:



The online giving page can be found by clicking the red DONATE button on our website at [sgchurch.org/stewardship](http://sgchurch.org/stewardship). If you have any questions about these upgrades or other questions about giving to St. George's online, please contact the parish treasurer, Frances Rickard.





# ST. GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

## TEACHERS CONTINUING EDUCATION

President's Day was an in-service training for the teachers presented by Carla and Mari and focused on the Language Arts Curriculum. Each Educational Director took their age groups and reviewed how and why a classroom enriched with literacy activities positively impacts children's future development.

Carla started her teaching teams (infants-toddlers) with a make-and-take literacy activity. Then each team presented their activity to the group and explained how they would scaffold the activity for individual children. It made for lively conversation and exploration. Mari took her group and extended their knowledge of story baskets and dramatization, a couple of techniques she learned during her training from Rice University's Classroom Storytelling Project experience, and shared it with the Yellow, Pink, Blue, and Rainbow teachers.

I then had the teachers explore new curriculum books and set up three activities in their classrooms. Each teacher visited each classroom and had to identify the objective of the activity and whether or not it was age-appropriate. We ended the day with a communication game called Fact Connect. During this game, one person begins by stating what led them into early childhood education. The person to their right listens for a common fact to extend upon until everyone has had a turn connecting with a fact. We learned a lot about one another during that game. And improved our active listening skills, too.

Jerri Thompson, M.Ed.

Head of School

St. George's Episcopal School

4301 N. IH 35

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

# Let's Celebrate

## Birthdays

Patrick Dieringer (Mar 9)  
Elaine Hosage (Mar 9)  
Emily Dieringer (Mar 10)  
Jeremy Stevens (Mar 10)  
Josh McGonigle (Mar 16)  
Fred Blood (Mar 19)  
Alena Navarro (Mar 19)  
Maddie Boyer (Mar 21)  
Josh Beckham (Mar 26)  
Henry Bandholz (Mar 28)  
Carey Kerrigan (Mar 29)  
David Savage (Mar 30)  
Frances Rickard (Mar 31)

## Anniversaries

Rob Blech & Mary Stewart Miller (Mar 20)



## **BANNER DEADLINE**

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

**Friday, March 22.**

Please email your submissions to [admin@saintgeorgesAustin.org](mailto:admin@saintgeorgesAustin.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