

THE BANNER



**St. George's
Episcopal Church**

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

May 2020



Easter

4301 North IH 35 • Austin, TX 78722
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Website: www.sgchurch.org

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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

Sat 5/9 Women's Book Group
Sun 5/10 Mother's Day
Mon 5/11 Vestry Meeting
Wed 5/13 Wednesday Weavings
Mon 5/18 School Board Meeting

Thu 5/21 Ascension Day
Sun 5/24 Graduation Sunday
Wed 5/27 Wednesday Weavings
Sun 5/31 Pentecost

Click on the following links to find:

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

In This Issue

Rector's Corner..... 2
Deacon's Corner 3
Online Services 3
Letter from the Senior Warden 4
June Banner Deadline..... 4
Women's Book Group 5
Wednesday Weavings 5
Celebrating Our Graduates 5
Pentecost 6

Seminarian's Farewell..... 6
Christopher House Baskets..... 7
COVID-19 Testing..... 7
SAFE Alliance..... 8
Seminary Commencement..... 8
Outreach Notes 9
News from the School..... 10
May Birthdays & Anniversaries 10
Links for Further Information 10

Feast Days

1 **The Apostles Saint Philip and Saint James**
2 Elisabeth Cruciger, Poet and Hymnographer, 1535
3 Athanasius of Alexandria, Bishop and Theologian, 373
4 Martyrs of the Reformation Era
8 Julian of Norwich, Mystic and Theologian, c.1417
11 Johann Arndt and Jacob Boehme, Mystics, 1621 and 1624
13 Frances Perkins, Social Reformer, 1965
15 Pachomius of Tabenissi, Monastic, 348
17 Thurgood Marshall, Public Servant, 1993

19 Dunstan, Archbishop of Canterbury, 988
20 Alcuin of York, Deacon and Abbot, 804
21 Lydia of Thyatira, Coworker of the Apostle Paul
22 Helena of Constantinople, Protector of the Holy Places, 330
24 Jackson Kemper, Bishop and Missionary, 1870
25 Bede, Priest and Historian, 735
26 Augustine of Canterbury, First Archbishop of Canterbury, 605
28 Mechthild of Magdeburg, Mystic, c.1282
31 **The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

Rector's Corner

Dear St. George's Family:

Over the past several weeks, we have experienced unprecedented times for our world and in the life of our church community. I have been amazed by the resiliency of the St. George's community. It is a source of hope and joy to see the community as strong as ever during these trying times.



This past week Bishop Andy Doyle shared his vision for the future opening of diocesan institutions. In previous directives, the Bishop had indicated that churches could re-open as of May 11th, but in light of more recent information, he has opted to use a more phased approach. It is apparent that the virus is not going away any time soon. The phased approach that the diocesan staff are planning will ensure the safest outcomes for each member of our community.

This approach includes four phases as we work towards returning to the communal life of the church. We are currently in Phase I, which focuses on slowing the spread of the virus. Phase II will be initiated after the stay-at-home and work-safe protocols have been lifted, and will continue the prohibition on large group gatherings. Phase III will welcome the return to regular public life. Phase IV will involve the work of preparing for future pandemics. Moving from one phase to the next, including beginning in-person worship and church-sponsored gatherings of all kinds, at the church or in members' homes, will require the guidance and approval of our Regional Bishop, the Right Reverend Kai Ryan.

Determining the dates when we will transition between these phases is difficult; we will work with the diocese to make appropriate decisions. In the weeks to come, St. George's staff and vestry will determine how to proceed with clarity. I personally do not see us entering into Phase II until, at the earliest, early June. We will not be able to enter Phase II until at least 14 days of continuous reduction in community spread occurs. And it is important to note that not every church will transition from one phase to the next at the same time. The right time for one location may not be the best for another.

One of the great benefits of this experience has been the introduction of virtual worship to our community. Even after we begin public in-person worship again, we will continue to offer virtual worship, enabling those who might have difficulty getting to church to continue worshipping with us.

I believe the directives given to our parishes by the bishop are of paramount importance. They are provided for our mutual well-being, and the continuation of the Kingdom of God. We have a daunting task ahead of us as we work toward the return to regular public life, but I believe through the ingenuity, creativity, and love of the members of our great community, we will come away with a renewed understanding of mission within the kingdom.

Over the next few weeks your rector, staff, and vestry will continue to share developments concerning our future. It continues to be my pleasure to serve the Kingdom of God alongside you. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions at 512-417-0910 or kevinljshubert@gmail.com. May God continue to bless you and keep you.

Faithfully,

The Rev. Kevin LJ Schubert

Deacon's Corner



Dear St. George's Family:

It's always a blessing to be able to communicate with you, but particularly now during this time when we are unable to see each other in person.

I have been distributing food to the homeless, both across the street underneath I-35 and at other locations around the city. I have taken safety precautions, but I feel it is important to continue this ministry, particularly at a time when the homeless are facing severe food shortages. The appreciation I receive is a blessing, and I feel privileged to be able to continue this ministry. I have also been distributing a few HEB gift cards, thanks to St. George's and All Saints'. I have an ongoing supply of PBJ sandwiches and bottled water from a friend and parishioner at All Saints'.

Doing virtual church has been a new experience for me. The part of the service I like best is after the postlude, when I get to see the faces of all those who have attended the service online. It's like a new type of coffee hour, and I love seeing everyone. I really appreciate your faithfulness and want to thank you for sticking with us during this difficult time. I hope we can have church in person soon, but I'm resigned to the idea that it might not happen for some time.

While we all shelter-in-place, I hope we are mindful that God is with us. As we know from Scripture, the Israelites often found themselves in exile, but they kept the faith. I know that we will do likewise, as we live through this modern-day exile from our church community and so many of those we love.

Peace and Blessings,

The Rev. Jim Enelow

Online Services



While we are unable to gather in person, we will gather on Sunday mornings to worship together online. Please join us at **10:30 am** each **Sunday morning** for the **Liturgy of the Word**. Links to the services and worship bulletins will be available on our website at www.sgchurch.org/online-worship, as are links to previous services. (You can watch the livestream directly from the website, even without a Facebook account.) Many parishioners have found that the Facebook feed has better picture and sound than Zoom. Whether or not you choose to worship on Zoom, you are invited to join the Zoom link (emailed weekly to the parish) immediately after the service for a brief time of fellowship with other parishioners.

Letter from the Senior Warden

Dear St. George's Family:

Happy Easter! I was inspired by Father Kevin's letter of last week to reach out to our St. George's family as well.

St. George's is an amazing community with a strong foundation based on our shared love of God and each other. I miss being able to share our faith together on Sunday mornings but I am very grateful to have our on-line services and especially appreciate those of you showing your shining faces! I may get brave enough soon to show all my gray hair. Special thanks to Susan for stepping in to help, and to the choir and vestry members (and now lectors!) participating along with Kevin and Jim (from safe distances, of course).



I agree wholeheartedly with Kevin's statement that we must remain distant so that we can be together again. St. George's will continue following CDC guidelines and Bishop Doyle's guidelines for the Episcopal Diocese of Texas. In the meantime while currently in "Phase I," the diocese has been working to prepare for the changes that will be needed and has released Phase II Guidelines to assist church leaders and congregations when the time comes that we are able to begin the transition to in-person services. Other vestry members and I are continuing the "business" of the church so please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns.

It is difficult to maintain peace of mind during this time. For me, prayer, meditation, and yoga have been critical. If you are able, helping someone else is a great mood-lifter. I recently heard a comment about some phrases that are being used frequently these days: "We're all in this together;" and "We're all in the same boat." While we are all in the same storm, we are not in the same boat – some people have yachts while others have tiny boats with holes. Some are able to enjoy extra time while others are desperately lonely or are risking their health to work and support their families or take care of others. Many of us remain healthy while others are sick. A "random" act of kindness to someone in another "boat" really can make a difference.

My family and I pray for you all during this challenging time. I look forward to seeing you all soon. God bless you!

Peace,

Melissa Brackin

Senior Warden

melissaAeason@gmail.com, 512-415-7721

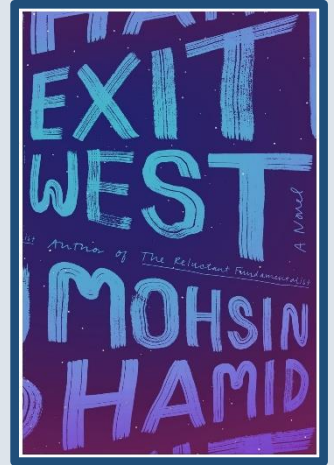
June Banner Deadline



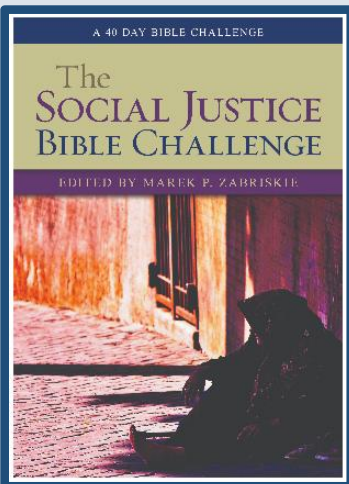
The deadline for news for the June issue of *The Banner* is Monday, May 25th. Please email news and articles you would like included in the next issue to stgeorgeaustin@gmail.com.

Women's Book Group

Please join us for our next meeting on **Saturday, May 9th**, from **3:00 to 5:00 pm**, via **Zoom**. We will discuss *Exit West*, by **Mohsin Hamid**. 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, delicious snacks, 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!



Wednesday Weavings



St. George's adult discussion group is continuing to meet via Zoom, from **7:00 to 8:00 pm**. All are welcome to join the group for a service of Compline and a discussion on a selected reading for the evening. This month our schedule has changed slightly; we will meet on the second and fourth Wednesdays – **May 13th** and **May 27th**. The group is currently reading *The Social Justice Bible Challenge*, published by Forward Movement Publications. 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. We hope you can join us!



Celebrating Our Graduates

On **Sunday, May 24th**, St. George's will offer a special liturgy to celebrate those graduating or moving forward in their educational journey. We will offer a blessing for those who are graduating from high school, college, or any other certificate or degree program. If you or your child are graduating from any such program, please contact Jennifer Joslyn-Siemiatkoski in the church office at stgeorgeaustin@gmail.com so that we can honor them during the service.



Pentecost



And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them.

~ Acts 2:2-3

The Day of Pentecost recalls the coming of the Holy Spirit to the first disciples of Jesus, empowering them to preach the gospel to people from many different places, backgrounds, and cultures. The disciples who had formerly been confused and frightened after the Ascension of Jesus, not knowing what to do without his physical presence among them, were emboldened by the Spirit, and began to form a community that would be able to carry on in these new circumstances. Pentecost is sometimes called the birthday of the Church for this reason. As the contemporary embodiment of the community those first disciples began, we celebrate the fruits of the Spirit in each of us and the sharing of our gifts with our community and the world.

Join us [online](#) on the Day of Pentecost, Sunday, May 31st, as we celebrate the presence of the Holy Spirit among us. We will join together in reading the gospel in languages from around the globe. It is traditional to **wear red** on Pentecost – even if you’re at home! – so that the congregation itself becomes a symbol of the flames of the Holy Spirit.

Seminarian’s Farewell

Over the past two years, we have been blessed to have Bryan Callen as our seminarian. Unfortunately, we won’t have the opportunity to see him and wish him and his family farewell, but we do wish them all the best. He’ll be graduating at the Seminary of the Southwest’s online commencement ceremony on Wednesday, May 20th (see the article on page 8 for more details). He sent the note below:

Dear St. George’s Family,

As the end of my semester, the end of my time at seminary, and the end of my time with you comes to an end, I find myself full of sadness and blessings. I wanted to close out this time with you all in person where I could properly say goodbye. However, that way of leaving is no longer an option. Distant goodbyes must happen so that we can protect each other. Therefore, I say goodbye and send love to you all from this medium. I have been blessed to be formed in the community of St. George’s these last two years. I have learned so much

from Kevin and Jim. To say I am grateful would be an understatement. Jeri, the kids, and I are blessed and thankful for how accepting and welcoming you all have been to us, and St. George’s will always be a part of our hearts. As I now continue on to start my ministry, you all will always be in my prayers.

*Peace and blessings,
Bryan*



Christopher House Basket Deliveries

St. George's has a long-standing ministry of delivering hospitality baskets to the families of patients at Christopher House, who are in their final illness. The baskets contain necessities and also items to help pass the time. The families have often been summoned with little notice or time for preparation, so the baskets provide a useful gesture of support. Of course, the current situation has affected Christopher House and how it can interact with families and with volunteers like those who deliver baskets. Shelter-in-place rules have limited them to six patients at a time and only one visiting family member per patient. For now Philip, their Volunteer Coordinator, requests that St. George's delivers only one basket per week, rather than our usual two, and has some new instructions for us:



- If you already have two baskets for delivery, please just deliver one during the week you're scheduled, and save the other one for another time.
- Please don't put any perishable items in the baskets as demand will be uneven for now, and baskets may need to be held for a while before being given to a visiting family member.
- When you make a delivery, park in back of the building. You may need to ring the bell to get admitted to the courtyard. Someone will meet you at the back door and take delivery of your basket.

Philip was extremely appreciative of this long-running outreach project and spoke warmly about how each item in the basket is valued. If you have any questions about this ministry (including needing a reminder about which week you signed up for!), please contact Sarah Campbell at cowmarket2@gmail.com or Alice Nelson at mzlsnlsn@gmail.com.

COVID-19 Testing



PREVENT. PROMOTE. PROTECT.

on the "Take Self-Assessment" button to create an account and complete a questionnaire listing your symptoms. If you meet the criteria you will be referred to testing. Completion of the online assessment does not guarantee referral to testing. Austin Public Health will continue to prioritize healthcare workers, first responders, and people at higher risk for developing severe symptoms. Testing continues to be by appointment-only and tests at the APH testing sites are FREE.

Austin Public Health has launched an online Enrollment Form for COVID-19 testing, available at AustinTexas.gov/COVID19. The online form will allow people to take an assessment to determine eligibility and schedule testing without a referral from a healthcare provider. To access the form, click

SAFE Alliance

The week of April 19-25 was Volunteer Appreciation Week, and we are thrilled that the SAFE Alliance has chosen St. George's and our Comfort Bag project as the volunteer group they are highlighting! You can see their touching tributes to our work and some photos on their [Facebook post](#) and [Twitter post](#). Here's what they said:



safealliance[™]
WHERE HOPE & HEALING BEGIN

The congregation of St. George's Episcopal Church has been supporting survivors of sexual assault who come through SAFE's Eloise House since 2014. Every single patient who receives services from our sexual assault program is offered at least two things: an information packet with our hotline and resources, and a hand-sewn comfort bag from the people at St. George's.

Through the years, St. George's has graciously donated nearly 600 bags a year and given survivors this gift that demonstrates they are believed and supported even when they leave the gates of SAFE. Each bag contains a stress toy, a small satchel of lavender to help comfort and calm, some candy, a comb, a toothbrush, and a hand-written note of affirmation from a member of the congregation. Each bag has a unique pattern, giving survivors the opportunity to pick their favorite style. Survivors are often moved to tears when they receive their bags. The comfort bags help advocates to form a closer bond, teach adaptive coping and self-soothing activities with the stress management tools they contain, and shows the survivor that the community supports them.

Before bringing the bags to SAFE, St. George's opens up their church and welcomes our advocates to join them for a bag blessing. Everyone who helped create the bags puts a hand on them as a prayer is said. The generosity of love and resources given by St. George's is an essential part of our program and our community.

Because the comfort bags have demonstrated the sewing prowess of St. George's members, the SAFE Alliance has asked if we can help them with making masks for the survivors they serve. Some people have already started on this project, but they can always use more! If you have the ability and time to sew masks, please contact Sarah Campbell at cowmarket2@gmail.com for more details.

Seminary Commencement



SEMINARY OF THE
SOUTHWEST

The Seminary of the Southwest has made the decision that this year's commencement ceremony will be held online. The ceremony will recognize and celebrate graduating students and award degrees in divinity, religion, counseling, chaplaincy, pastoral care, and spiritual formation, and diplomas in Anglican studies and in theological studies. The ceremony will be held on **Wednesday, May 20th**, at **10:00 am**, and live-streamed via the [Seminary of the Southwest website](#). Our current seminarian Bryan Callen and former seminarian Nelson Mendoza will be among the graduates.

Outreach Notes

We contacted a few of the organizations we support through our various Outreach projects to see how they're doing during this difficult time.

Foundation Communities

From Walter Moreau:

Foundation Communities has been supporting many of our residents with emergency rent, food, and supplies during this time. Our residents are really resilient in adjusting to life and school and work at home, and at this moment we are not aware of anyone that is still in quarantine. Our Prosper Centers are still open online and on the phone to help people get their taxes done, apply for health insurance, file unemployment, and access other financial support. We are grateful to so many generous donors and volunteers. To help or find help, please visit our website www.foundcom.org.



Casa Marianella

From Jennifer Long:

Casa Marianella is currently doing well. All 14 shelter houses are full and no one is sick currently. Precautions are working so far. Our biggest challenge currently is that many of our former residents have lost their jobs. We are providing food and rental assistance for as many as 60 or more households for May 1. Although Casa's volunteer program is currently not active, we do have people who are helping deliver food to people in quarantine. We are particularly grateful for the generosity of St. George's and to a number of St. George's members who have helped financially in this challenging time. To find out how to help, contact Jennifer at jlong@casamarianella.org.



Any Baby Can

From Veronda Durden:

At Any Baby Can, the health and safety of our client families, staff, and volunteers are of the utmost importance. Our offices are currently closed and all staff are working remotely, but we are continuing to see our clients through telecommunication services. Our client families need us now more than ever; donations to support families and children during this time can be made at www.anybabycan.org/donate.



News from the School



St. George's Episcopal School, like all other area schools, has been closed since mid-March. After careful consideration of the rules and regulations that enable entities such as ours to provide childcare during the pandemic for the children of essential workers, the school board has decided to remain closed for the safety of our families, children, staff, and community until the stay-at-home orders and the ban on gatherings of more than ten people are modified. The school staff continues to provide online learning and opportunities for students and families.

We are very thankful for the patience, understanding, and compassion of our school families during this difficult time. Especially at this time we are reminded of our call to live into Christ's commandment to love one another as Christ has loved us. Currently, to love our neighbor, and to love God, and to love ourselves means to shelter in place and to not spread the sickness that engulfs our world. This is the source of healing that Christ provides at this time. And, soon, very soon, we will be together again.

May Birthdays & Anniversaries



We wish the following parishioners a happy birthday:

Matt Curtis (May 2)	Carolyn Porter (May 16)
James Wall (May 4)	Jeff Maki (May 17)
Alice Nelson (May 9)	Joel McAlister (May 19)
Ethan Worcester (May 9)	Adam Kerrigan (May 27)
Chloe Metcalf (May 13)	Kelly Puckett (May 28)
Charlie Wagner (May 13)	Grace Stallman (May 29)
Jen Spencer (May 15)	August Dolan-Henderson (May 31)

And a happy anniversary to:

Heather & Kevin Schubert (May 1)
 Dylan & Rylee Worcester (May 7)
 Melissa & Dewey Brackin (May 18)
 Scott & Hye Na Lucy (May 23)
 Anne & Eric Bandholz (May 27)
 Andrea & Grant Sparks (May 28)
 Claire Jones & Ryan Wagner (May 29)



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](#)