

May 2013 + Pentecost

ST. GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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+ RECTOR'S CORNER

Greetings to everyone this May! There are a number of exciting events this month, including baptisms at Pentecost on May 19th and the end of the school year for all youth and children. Please take note of the graduation Sunday liturgy on June 2nd. Two of our beloved youth, Adam & Liam, will be graduating this year. Both of these guys have been tremendous leaders in the congregation, and I know that they will continue in their spiritual journey with God as they move into a new chapter of their lives. We will miss them dearly, but their home will always be here at St. George's!

On June 2nd we will also bless Katherine & Paul Pew, as they continue their spiritual journey. We have been blessed by their presence and ministry among us, and they will be missed dearly. We pray for their continual growth and future spiritual journey!

I have been extremely pleased with the participation of the Lifelong Learning class this Easter season. Our last class will be on Sunday, May 12 after the 10:30 service. During this class we will discuss the future of our stewardship pledge drive next fall. Every member of the congregation plays an integral part in developing the fall pledge drive and your insight and ideas are greatly appreciated. These ideas and thoughts will be taken by the recently-formed stewardship commission and will be implemented in the fall. Members of the stewardship commission are also planning to attend The Conference, a diocesan led conference on stewardship, formation, and evangelism. The Conference will be held the first weekend in May at Camp Allen. I know that those in attendance will come away with very helpful insight and ideas!

I pray that each of you may be blessed this month and continue to grow in your relationship with Christ. If there is anything that you would like to discuss with me, my door is always open. I encourage you to contact me for any need or concern.

God bless you!

Peace, The Rev. Kevin LJ Schubert

+ A WORD FROM THE SEMINARIANS

Over the past two years, St. George's has become not only a rich learning environment for me, but my church home. From my very first visit in the fall of 2010, I knew that St. George's was where I wanted to be--the warmth and welcome of all the people here pulled me in and made me feel right at home. You all have taught me so much, supported me as I've grown in ministry, and surrounded me with loving care. I've always felt that I could share so much with you because you have all shared so much of your lives with me. There are many places where I can find God and God's presence in relationships with others, but St. George's will always stand out to me in that respect. Though I'll miss you all more than I can say, I know that I carry your love and prayers with me as I set out on this new journey. I hope you all know that you, too, will always be in my most affectionate thoughts, prayers, memories, and hopes for the future. Thank you, all of you, for this time of dedicated worship, honest and loving feedback, abiding friendships, and love that is such a mirror of God's love for us all.

Susanna

Dear St. George's Church,

Let me start by saying, I am not very good with goodbyes. Sometimes at parties, I try as best as I can to sneak out without others noticing, so that I will not experience the sting of saying goodbye. Other times I over-exaggerate my goodbyes making them overly dramatic, to the point of comedy. Again I am avoiding the pain that I have in leaving people that I love. Saying goodbye to St. George's Church, where I have had the privilege of serving as seminarian, carries with it this same difficult feeling of not wanting to part ways with ones that I love. In fact, I do not think I can properly say "goodbye and thank you" on my own, so I am going to turn to a master of saying goodbye, the Apostle Paul.

Paul ends his first letter to the Corinthians writing, "Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love." Although I have only been with you at St. George's for two years, I have found that all we do together, we do in love. Whether it is Life Long Learning, the Grace Series, Hallelujah Hour, Meeting, Preaching, Singing, Praying, Eating, Reaching Out, or any other way of Serving God, we have done all this in love. As I leave, I feel very thankful that I have experienced your strong witness of faith. You who are strong, courageous and alert to God's call make me joyful to be going into ordained ministry. I am grateful for the witness of Christ that I have seen in this community from all of you, and I hope that I have reflected that witness back to you.

Although I am graduating and moving on to serve with the people of St. John's Church in Decatur, Alabama, I feel called to stay connected with the City of Austin, the Seminary of the Southwest, and St. George's. I will be sure to drop a line and hope you will pass on news to me. Thank you again for all of your honest feedback, support, prayers, blessings, and love. Now I am going to sneak out before I have to say goodbye...

God's Peace,
Seth+

+ SEMINARY COMMENCEMENT

Seminary of the Southwest will hold its Sixty-second Commencement on Tuesday, May 14, at 10:00 a.m. at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church (8134 Mesa Dr.) in Austin. The Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina, the Rt. Rev. Michael B. Curry, will preach at the Commencement.

+ PENTECOST SUNDAY, MAY 19TH BAPTISMS!

THE DAY OF PENTECOST, or Whitsunday, is celebrated 50 days after Easter Day and this year falls on Sunday, May 19th. Pentecost has its origins in Judaism as a festival of thanksgiving for the first fruits of the wheat harvest. On Pentecost, the Christian church remembers the coming of the Holy Spirit to the first disciples of Jesus, and we celebrate the fruits of the Spirit in each of us and the sharing of our gifts with our community and the world. It is appropriate for those who desire to wear something red on Pentecost as a symbol of the fire of the Holy Spirit. It is also appropriate to celebrate the sacrament of baptism on this day. We have scheduled four baptisms! If you would like to receive the sacrament of baptism please let our rector, Kevin, know as soon as possible.



+ ANY GIVEN WEDNESDAY

Have you ever felt like you needed a boost of something-but-you're-not-quite-sure-what by the middle of the week? What you're experiencing might be a call to attend St. George's mid-week service of Holy Eucharist! Every Wednesday at 12:15, Fr. Kevin celebrates the Eucharist in the church for those who have gathered. The service takes no more than 30 minutes, so it's easy to make time for it during your lunch hour if you work within 15 minutes of the church. I find the opportunity for spiritual refreshment in the middle of the week is rarely one I can pass up, and I go as often as I can. It is a more informal service than Sunday morning, but one you will be completely familiar and comfortable with. Fr. Kevin wears just a stole over his clothes, rather than his full vestments; and we use ceramic Eucharistic vessels in place of the silver ones we're used to on Sundays. After the scripture readings, Fr. Kevin offers a few thoughts and then opens it up to the congregation for further reflection, much as he does at the 8 a.m. Sunday service. Next come the prayers of the people, usually led by someone in the congregation, and then Fr. Kevin offers prayers of healing and the anointing of oil (making the sign of the cross on your forehead with blessed oil) for anyone who wants to come forward to the altar rail for prayers. This part is completely voluntary and private, and not scary at all. If you like, you can ask for healing prayers for yourself, for a loved one or a friend, or even for the world. We pass the peace and then gather around the altar for the celebration of the Eucharist, using a wonderful Eucharistic prayer from *Enriching Our Worship*, a book of supplemental liturgies authorized by the Episcopal Church. Nourished by the Body and Blood of Christ, we then go back into the world for the work God has given us to do. Try it; you'll like it! Wednesdays at 12:15 p.m. I'd love to see you there! Peace, Frances Rickard

+ TREASURY NOTES

Paying the bills for St. George's, as you might suppose from your own household experience, is a pretty mundane task. "Quotidian" is a great word for it. I learned this word from a wonderful essay by Kathleen Norris called *The Quotidian Mysteries: Laundry, Liturgy, and Woman's 'Work,'* in which she writes about the spiritual fruit of doing everyday, repetitive (i.e., quotidian) tasks. As I told the Vestry recently, I keep a copy of the St. George's mission statement, vision, and core values in the front of my treasurer's notebook, which I pull out every time I have church bills to pay. It helps me remember that every expenditure we make, just like every gift you provide to make the expenditures possible, is our response to God's love for each of us and for our communal mission to worship God and share our faith through word, action, and service. I thought it might be interesting from time to time to highlight some of the people, organizations, and businesses I regularly write checks to on behalf of the parish. Perhaps this will give you a fuller sense for where your gifts are going and how integral they are to the mission of St. George's. I'll start next month with the check we write to the Religious Coalition to Assist the Homeless.

The parish's financial report for the first quarter of 2013 is posted on a bulletin board in Kleberg Hall. Please don't hesitate to let me know if you have any questions about it or would like more information. E-mail me at jrickard9x@aol.com, call me at 346-5216, or catch me at church sometime.

Last, but in no way least, I would like to publicly thank Becca Meaders for her wonderful service to St. George's as our parish administrator for the past almost-three years. Becca was graciously receptive and responsive to anything I ever asked of her, even strange requests like relaying access codes from the bank when I got locked out of our online account recently. (I probably shouldn't admit that that happened, but, in the interest of transparency, there you have it.) Many blessings to her and her family in the journey ahead. - Frances Rickard, Treasurer

+ SPECIAL THANKS FOR LIFELONG LEARNING

During this Easter season St. George's has participated in a very rewarding Lifelong Learning class centered around Financial Stewardship. The subject of our finances is always a sensitive topic and can be rather uncomfortable to discuss. A special thanks to all those who attended the class and participated! With the instruction of the class, St. George's has a tremendous foundation to build upon for the future of our stewardship of all of God's gifts!

+ CONGRATULATIONS

Welcome to baby Meaders!

Congrats to CJ and Becca Meaders on the birth of their son, Wynn Everett Meaders, on April 15, 2013.

Hear Ye, Hear Ye! All parents, grandparents, former parents, parishioners, alumni, and friends are invited to our "Knight for St. George's" on **Sunday, May 5th** at Scholz Garten from 6 - 9pm. Tickets are \$30 per person for food, friends, drinks, and amazing silent and live auction items. All proceeds benefit St. George's Episcopal School. Contact Laura at laura.stgeorges@gmail.com to be put on the will-call list! It will be a night to remember, as it always is! Come one, come all!

+ THE BANNER 2.0

The Banner is getting a new format! As of June, The Banner will be delivered to your e-mail via Constant Contact. This will cut out the .pdf middle-man and give you more control over your newsletter subscription.

+ CALL TO SERVICE

For those of you interested in serving as Lector or Intercessor, you can sign up online! St. George's has partnered with Volunteer Spot to make your path to service a smooth one. Just go to <http://vols.pt/ugtBvX> and enter your e-mail to gain access to our calendar of vacancies and to sign up. Don't worry, you don't have to become a member of the site to use our calendar!

+ FLOWER CALENDAR

There are still a few openings on this year's flower calendar on the bulletin board inside the north entrance of the church. If you would like to give altar flowers for one of the open Sundays, please indicate so by printing clearly on the calendar so you can be recognized in the Sunday bulletin. Be sure to note if you are giving the flowers in memory of someone or in thanksgiving for some blessing in your life (this is optional). A donation of \$25 is requested; make your check payable to St. George's (note "Altar flowers" in the memo line) and place it in the alms basin on Sundays or mail it to the church office.

+ SUMMER CHOIR SCHEDULE

This summer, as usual, the choir will be singing each Sunday but without the Tuesday rehearsals. The last Tuesday choir rehearsal will be May 28th, and our summer schedule begins in June. For more information contact Paul Pew at paulpew@austin.rr.com.

+ STARRY NIGHTS AND CAMPFIRE LIGHTS: MAY 9TH

Camp Allen is gearing up for the fifth annual Starry Nights and Camp Fire Lights - Austin gala on Thursday, May 9. It's a casual, fun event designed to support Camp Allen. Held at Serrano's (located on 1111 Red River Street), the night promises to be loaded with stars, casual fun, and muy bueno Tex-Mex fare. This annual fund-raiser provides scholarships to children of need so that they may attend our Summer Camp or our school-year Discovery Program. More than 2400 precious children received scholarships for one of these programs just last year, and with your help we can exceed this number in 2013! For more information, contact Lauren Day at laurend@campallen.org or 866-334-CAMP. You may register for this event by following this link.

+ A REMARKABLE OPPORTUNITY!

If you shop at Randall's and use the Remarkable Card, a percentage of your total grocery bill will go to St. George's if you give the cashier the following nonprofit account number: **1809**. Once you give that number, it will be entered into the computer system, and your grocery bill at ANY Randall's store will be credited to the St. George's account. Proceeds from Randall's "Good Neighbor Program," about \$400 per year, go to the church operating budget.

+ MORE THAN A BOOK

Outreach will be raising funds and purchasing books for the Women's Storybook Project of Texas. The Storybook Project is a non-profit, interfaith program that connects children with their incarcerated mothers through literature. Volunteers travel to Texas female prisons to record offenders as they read stories to their children. The mothers also give short messages and the tapes and new books are then mailed to children. This gives them a chance to hear their mothers' voices while the mothers are away.

It is a simple idea with big impact. About 350 books and tapes are mailed monthly to their children. Outreach is asking St. George's to contribute in several ways. \$10.00 will purchase a book and tape, \$15.00 will purchase a book, a tape and padded mailer, \$100.00 will purchase 15 books. **We will also have a list of new books that you can purchase and bring to the church.** A basket will be provided. Look for the pink envelope in the Sunday Banner. The list of books will be on the table where you enter the church. Lets help these children for Mother's Day.

+ WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP

We will be discussing "Revealing Heaven: The Christian Case for Near-Death Experiences" by former St. George's Rector, John Price on May 12th, Saturday, from 3 - 5 p.m. at Frances Rickard's home. Please contact Carolyn Moreau at carolynmoreau@austin.rr.com for directions and information.

+ GRADUATION SUNDAY: JUNE 2ND

Join us in worship and jubilee as we celebrate the high school graduations of Liam Dolan-Henderson and Adam Moreau in a special youth-led service. On this day, we will also celebrate the ministry of Mr. Paul Pew, whose last day as Music Minister will be June 9th. Spectacular refreshments will be served in Kleberg Hall after the service!



+ NEWS FROM ST. GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL DAY SCHOOL

St. George was a brave knight who managed to slay a fierce dragon in defense of a princess. We at St. George's reenact this story using a homemade cardboard dragon every year as a community celebration of our namesake and in anticipation of our "Knight for St. George's" event. The weather this year was appropriately misty and medieval, and the brave knights and princesses emerged victorious in the intense and passionate (if brief) battle extraordinaire. The teachers prepare the children for this exciting event each year by reading stories and learning about the traits of a knight - bravery, loyalty, strength, and honor. What fun it is to learn how we all can show these traits in our everyday life. It is even more fun to dress up and reenact the battle!



+ INTERESTED IN SENDING YOUR CHILD TO ST. GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL SCHOOL?

As a member in good standing of St. George's Episcopal Church you have the blessing of having an excellent school on your church campus. Members of the church have first priority of enrollment. The deadline of enrollment for the fall semester of each calendar year is January 1st of the same year. For more information please contact Kevin.

+ *Hildegard's Illumination: The Wisdom of Other Faith Traditions*

"It simply doesn't matter that the two Chechen-born brothers suspected of perpetrating the Boston attacks were Muslim. Any religion, or lack of one, can be co-opted and used by a person or people as a justification for extremism. What matters right now, and into the future, is the way the faith and values of every other American can either help us resist the fear-generating effects of terrorism, or help that fear grow and take root like a weed, choking out trust and diversity." Theologian Susan Brooks Thistlethwaite, April 23, 2013 Washington Post.

St. Hildegard's Vision states that we will respect the wisdom of other faith traditions—rooted in the love of Christ we will be open to dialogue and appreciation of those on other spiritual paths. After 9-11 and now the Boston bombings it seems even more urgent not to confuse the actions of extremists with what Islam believes and practices. It's important to learn about other faith traditions too. Especially in a pluralistic society we want to foster respect, trust and acceptance of diversity. Here are some recent ways we've been living out our Vision:

When religious historian and prolific author, Karen Armstrong, was granted a TED prize in 2008 her wish was for the world religions to play a positive role in creating peace. With the help of spiritual leaders from around the world and the input of ordinary people via the web, the Charter of Compassion, based on the Golden Rule found in all the traditions, was adopted to counter the voices of extremism, intolerance and hatred. During Easter Season we are having readings from Armstrong's book, *12 Steps to a Compassionate Life*, and sermons that connect compassion with the Gospel of the Day. It's been a powerful combination offering practices to nurture our own compassionate hearts as well as a better understanding of compassion's role in different faiths.

I'm serving on the diocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Committee formed in the Fall of 2012. We successfully passed two resolutions at Diocesan Council in February. One affirms the Charter of Compassion and the other one calls for the diocese to encourage learning about other faiths. The committee meets this week to plan how to offer resources to clergy and parishes.

At a "Ways of Women Retreat" put on by the Interfaith Ministries of Greater Houston early in April, Gretchen Stolfo was especially grateful to hear presentations by two women born in India who had immigrated here in their twenties: Ranjana Narasiman spoke about the phases of life according to Hinduism and Dr. Ruma Acharya, President of the Tagore Society spoke about empowering women.

Francesca, Harriett and Carol recently attended an offering of the Institute of Interfaith Dialog by Dr. Cynthia Rigby Theology professor at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary on "Ways Christians Understand Christ." The IID, sponsored by the Turkish community to foster friendship and understanding among different religions, offers a variety of events in Austin, Houston and other states too. On May 9th there will be a youth panel from the three Abrahamic faiths speaking about addressing violence in the high schools.

Former member, Michael Godwin, left St. Hildegard's two years ago after a call to convert to Judaism. He visited last Sunday and spoke after the liturgy about Jewish worship. We hope to visit Agudas Achim synagogue sometime soon and experience both Torah study and worship. In our Envisioning process fostering interfaith understanding is an important value for us.

May you know Blessings of Compassion and Friendship,
Judith

MAY BIRTHDAYS

4 - James Wall
13 - Chloe Metcalf
26 - Katie Carnes

9- Alice Nelson
16 - Warren Linam-Church
28 - Kelly Puckett

9 - Ethan Worcester
16 - Carolyn Porter
31 - August Dolan-Henderson

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

1 - Heather and Kevin Schubert
22 - Kristen and Jamie Byrnes



COFFEE HOUR HOSTS



May 5 - Vestry

May 12 - Choir/LEM's

May 19 - Women's Book Club

May 26 - Ushers

June 2 - Outreach

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

May 5	A Knight for St. George's
May 5	Seth and Susanna's last Sunday at St. George's
May 12	Mother's Day
May 12	Women's Book Group, 3-5pm at the Rickards' house
May 13	Vestry Meeting, 7:00pm (Kleberg Hall)
May 14	Seminary of the Southwest Commencement, 10:00 am (St. Matthew's)
May 19	Day of Pentecost
May 20	School Board Meeting, 6:00pm (Kleberg Hall)
May 27	Memorial Day (Church office closed)
May 29	Deadline to submit <i>Banner</i> news
June 2	Graduation Sunday

Deadline for news for the next issue of **THE BANNER** is **Wednesday, May 29th**.
Please e-mail information you would like included in next month's edition to
our office administrator, Shelley Meabon, at stgeorgeaustin@gmail.com.

LINKS

<http://www.sgchurch.org/worship4.asp> Lay Ministry Schedule
<http://www.sgchurch.org/events3.asp> The Banner (including past electronic issues)
www.stgeorges-austin.org St. George's Day School
<http://www.lectionarypage.net/> The Lectionary - a calendar of current scripture readings
<http://www.episcopalchurch.org/> The Episcopal Church
<http://www.epicenter.org> Episcopal Diocese of Texas
<http://www.campallen.org/> Camp Allen
<http://www.stgeorgescourt.org/> St. George's Court
www.hildegard-austin.org St. Hildegard's Community
www.ctcinternational.org Comfort the Children International

The Rev. Kevin LJ Schubert
Rector

The Rev. Judith Liro
*Associate Rector and Minister to
St. Hildegard's Community*

Paul Pew *Music Minister*
Shelley Meabon *Office Administrator*
Laura Colangelo *Day School Director*

Vestry

Melissa Eason Brackin
Patsy Chandler
Herb Dickson
Scott Hoffman
David McGhee
Mary Stewart Miller
Alice Nelson
John Rickard
Trevor Thompson

Patsy Chandler *Senior Warden*
Herb Dickson *Junior Warden*
Melissa Eason Brackin *Financial Secretary*
Frances Rickard *Treasurer*
Mary Stewart Miller *Clerk*
John Rickard *Day School Representative*

Seminarians

Susanna Brosseau
Seth Olson
Laurence Wainwright-Maks

Sunday Schedule

8:00am - Holy Eucharist Rite I
9:00am - Contemplative prayer
9:45am - Choir rehearsal
10:30am - Holy Eucharist Rite II with Kids Word (Nursery available)
4:00pm - St. Hildegard's Worship

Worshiping God and sharing our faith through word, action and service.