

THE BANNER

May 2023



**St. George's
Episcopal Church**

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

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Rector's phone: 769-257-2377

Rector's email: matt@saintgeorgesaustin.org

www.sgchurch.org

Office hours: Monday – Wednesday 10:30-3:30 &

Thursday 12:00-5:00

Sunday Schedule

10:30 am [Holy Eucharist Rite II](#)

Online/In-person

11:15 am Coffee Hour

The Rev. Dr. Matt Boulter

Rector

Dia Park

Music Minister

Jessie Morrone

Office Administrator

Jerri Thompson

Day School Director

Anne Bandholz

Brad Barcus

Mark Casstevens

Dale Curry

Spencer Gordon

Belinda McGhee

John Rickard

Sandra Villalaz-Dickson

Ramón Treviño

Vestry

Spencer Gordon

Senior Warden

Dale Curry

Junior Warden

Samantha Stevens

Mark Your Calendars

Mon 5/1 St. George's Pub Club

Wed 5/3 Wednesday Weavings

Thur 5/4 Fr. Matt's Book Club

Mon 5/8 Vestry Meeting

Tue 5/9 Men's Bible Study

Wed 5/10 Installation Service

Sun 5/14 Mother's Day

Thur 5/18 Ascension Day

Fr. Matt's Book Club

Tue 5/23 Men's Bible Study

Mon 5/29 Memorial Day
(church offices closed)

St. George's Events Calendar

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Feast Days

1 The Apostles Saint Philip and Saint James	20 Alcuin, Deacon and Abbot of tours, 804
2 Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria, 373	23 Common of a Theologian and Teacher I
4 Monica, Mother of Augustine of Hippo, 387	24 Jackson Kemper, Bishop and Missionary, 1870
8 Dame Julian of Norwich, c. 1417	25 Bede the Vulnerable, Priest and Monk of Jarrow, 735
9 Gregory of Nazianzus, Bishop of Constantinople, 389	30 The first Book of Common Prayer, 1549
18 Ascension Day	31 The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
19 Dunstan, Archbishop of Canterbury, 988	

Rector's Corner

“Let the little children come...”

And he said: “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”—Matthew 18:3-5

Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”—Matthew 19:14

Now, don't get me wrong: I love children as much as the next guy. However, have you ever known someone—I'm thinking right now of the children's minister at the Baptist church I grew up in Amarillo—who just loves little kids? If I'm honest, I'm not one of those people. (Bouquet & I have actually discussed this many times over the years: we love our kids and would willingly lay down our lives for them, even, but we are not one of those couples that just lives for children—our own or any others!)

And so it's not really a huge shock that, when I began serving in the weekly Saint George's Episcopal School chapel every week, I was not completely "in my element." (This is especially the case in light of the fact that I've had a relative paucity of ministry experience with children over the years.) Don't get me wrong: I loved (and still love) the SGES kiddos ... but at first, I found myself struggling to "hit my stride" with that extremely young (and therefore quite "tough") audience. After all, how to mitigate against the crying, the playing, and the constant falling prey to distractions? It was, at first, quite a challenge.

Until. Until Jerri, our wonderful head of school, gave me a new set of children's storybooks! The story of creation, the story of Jacob's ladder, the story of Joseph and his colorful coat, and the story of Daniel in the Lions' Den. But the real strength of this particular children's storybook is the HUGE, COLORFUL PICTURES.

Wow. Now, in chapel, I just read the short lines of the story, hold the book up right in front of those riveted little faces, and pace back and forth, side to side, in front of them (and their teachers), displaying in full color the vivid stories of the people of God.

It's truly amazing. Week after week in chapel, I simply read these stories with as much age-appropriate vocal effect that I can muster and let the stories and the pictures do the work. I wish you could see their faces! Those little eyes glued to the book, the mouth gaping open in wonder or suspense, the eyebrows dancing up and down to the cadence of the plot.

I'm convinced: stories capture the imagination of children like nothing else. It's a deep truth of God's creation.

But you know what is a deeper truth, even still?

It's this: God's littlest ones are precious in his sight, especially beloved to him. Hence the truth of Matthew 19:14 above.

Equally as convicting is Christ's teaching that children “get it”—they get the things of God—more profoundly and truly than we adults do.

The bottom line is this: little children—the littlest among us—are central to God's heart, to the kingdom of God, to the Body of Christ.

The practical upshot: this is why we need an excellent nursery at St. Georges! Not to take our children out of worship but to encourage parents to bring them (and themselves!) to church.

When will we launch our St. George's nursery? Very soon, God willing! We are close. Stay tuned!

Faithfully,

Matt +

The Rev. Dr. Matt Boulter





Celebration of a New Rector

Celebrate the Installation of
The Rev. Dr. Matthew Boulter
as Rector of
St. George's Episcopal Church
Wednesday, May 10, 2023
6:00 pm at
St. George's Episcopal Church
Austin, Texas

Join us in person or online.
Reception following the service.

CLERGY, PLEASE WEAR
WHITE STOLES.



Office Announcement

Greetings St. George's!

An update from the office, we have recently switched over to Google Drive for our filing, and with that comes new email addresses. If you need to contact the administrator, Jessie, please email her at admin@saintgeorgesaustrin.org. If you want to reach our Rector, Fr. Matt, please email him at matt@saintgeorgesaustrin.org.

Looking forward to hearing from you!

June Banner Deadline

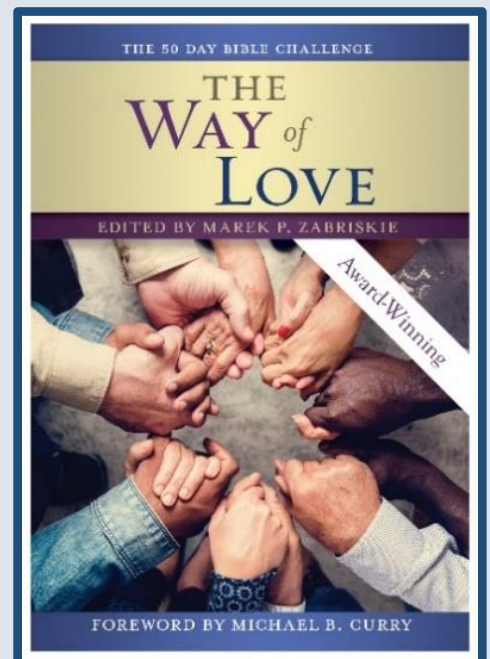


The deadline for news for the June issue of *The Banner* is Thursday, May 25th.

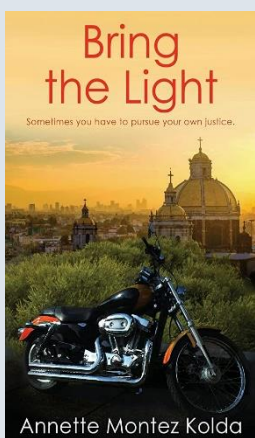
Please email news and articles you would like included in the next issue to admin@saintgeorgesaustrin.org.

Wednesday Weavings

St. George's adult discussion group, Wednesday Weavings, meets on the first and third Wednesdays of the month, from 6:30 to 8:00 pm, at rotating locations. In May, we will gather at the home of James and Gayle Wall on May 3rd, and in the Wright House on the church campus on May 17th. We share a simple meal, discuss a selected reading for the evening, and conclude with a brief service of Compline. The group is currently reading *The Way of Love*, published by Forward Movement Publications. Each reading stands on its own, so you can join the group anytime and never fall behind! Please bring a contribution for the salad bar meal (for example, fruit, vegetable, or crunchy toppings). Contact Frances Rickard (fajrickard@gmail.com) with any questions or to RSVP. All are welcome, and we hope to see you in May!



Women's Book Group



Please join us for our next meeting on **Saturday, May 13th**, from **3:00 to 5:00 pm**, at the **home of Sarah Campbell**. We will discuss *Bring The light* by **Annette Montez Kolda**. We are expecting the author to join us as well! All St. George's women are welcome to attend – even if you haven't read the book! We hope you can join us for an interesting conversation and our book discussion. To be added to the list, or with any questions, please contact Sarah Campbell at cowmarket2@gmail.com, Alice Nelson at mzlsnlsn@gmail.com

Helps International - Guatemala Trip

Thank you to St. George's for raising money for March 13th – 17th field trip for fifth graders from a Christian elementary school, William M. Botnan School, run by Helps International! The school is in the remote indigenous village of Santa Avelina, an area hard hit during the violent 30-year civil war (especially during the 80s). In Guatemala one in five children will not graduate from the 6th grade, and 60% of the indigenous population can't read or write. The children traveled all day to meet Carolyn Moreau, Father Matt, and Nahum, the Education Administrator, to visit the university, trade schools, museums, etc., to inspire them to continue their education, break the cycle of poverty and learn more about their country's history. Here is a snapshot of our daily experience with the kids:

- The kids, the principal, and a male teacher arrived on Monday afternoon at the San Bonafacio, an intentional community of Catholic women. Kids introduced themselves with a Name & Movement activity and they decorated their nametags. They did a map activity where they traced their bus trip from their village to Xela to give them some sense of geography. They also wrote in their journals about three new things they observed on the way. We gave them the beautiful string bags painted by Holly, so they could carry their journals, etc, around throughout the week.

- On Tuesday, as on each day, Father Matt began the day with a Biblical reflection in the beautiful chapel. He taught them Seek Ye First in Spanish which became the theme song for the week. A child would lead the group in prayers before each meal. Next, we visited Universidad Rafael Landiver, where the kids participated in a voting simulation as Guatemala faces presidential elections this summer. They also saw engaging demonstrations about chemistry, natural sciences, and criminology. From there we went to the stadium to watch the local Xelaju team practice. The kids had fun playing a little soccer and running up and down the bleachers. In the afternoon, we visited the Quetzaltenango Intercultural Center to learn about Mayan history and native costumes. That evening we decorated bookmarks.



- On Wednesday we toured a technical school, INTECAP, where they observed training for trades such as welder, electrician, mechanic, culinary arts, seamstress, and carpenter. After that we went to the zoo and the kids enjoyed seeing all the animals. That afternoon we visited the historic central district. We visited the municipal offices, the library, and a natural history museum as well as the central park. In the evening, local Xela residents and music teachers, Marielena and Guillermo came and shared music and songs with the children. Marielena shared how they were from a neighboring indigenous area and how Helps medical intervention saved her life by getting her to a hospital for heart surgery as a 4-year-old. We also divided the children into teams, and they selected mural themes for

them to draw (university, trade school, zoo and stadium). They also enjoyed scratch art during their free time.



- On Thursday, we went to a pretty mountain recreational area for a traditional dance presentation and soccer match with another school from the area. On the bus rides the kids enjoyed singing, playing Rock, Paper, Scissors, and tossing the Ball with Questions game. In the evening the kids finished and presented their murals to the group (practicing for making presentations to their parents later). We discussed what they wanted to be when they grow up after seeing all the options of the week. The kids enjoyed making bracelets as well. Finally, we had the goodbye ceremony where each child came up to Carolyn and Father Matt to give hugs and a personal word of thanks and gifts – handwoven tortilla cloths, bags, and scarfs. Each child received art supplies and we also sent extra school supplies for the school.



- On Friday morning the kids said goodbye after breakfast and began the long journey back home with new ideas and motivation for their future paths.

Many thanks to everyone at St. George's for the financial and material support that made this life-changing trip possible for these children.

Outreach Ministry Yellow Envelope Drive

Donate today! Outreach is holding a drive to replenish general operating and unexpected expenses. You may use the yellow envelopes in the pews or by the doors, or you may use the Undesignated Outreach tile after pressing the Give and then the Donate buttons. If you put a check in the alms basin or send it to the church office, be sure to mark the memo line as undesignated outreach.

The drive will last through **May 21st**. Since the dates include Mother's Day, if you wish to honor your mother, you can put her name on your gift.

We so value your generosity, which we have come to depend on.

Love,
Alice and Sarah

Christopher House Baskets/Bags



Delivery people are needed! St. George's has a long-standing ministry of delivering hospitality baskets to patients' families at Christopher House. As with everything else, the logistics of this have changed with the pandemic, but we continue to deliver bags, and we need more delivery people! Sign up for one or more weeks on the [Christopher House page](#) to be a part of this ministry. A \$10 donation is requested per bag, and you can also add a note and other goodies (nothing perishable). You can make the donation online via the [St. George's Donation Page](#) under Outreach or by placing a check in the offertory basket

(or mailing it to the church office) made out to "St. George's Episcopal Church," with "Christopher House Baskets" in the memo line. Then, contact Alice Nelson at mzlsnlsn@gmail.com to make arrangements to get a bag before your delivery week (often after church). Delivery includes no patient contact and only brief outdoor and masked contact with a Hospice staff member.

2023 Altar Flowers/Candles Calendar

After Easter are invited to donate altar flowers for one or more Sundays in 2023, or donate the cost of altar candles for one or more months, perhaps 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 give flowers or candles, visit the [2023 Online Flower/Candle Donation Calendar](#) and enter your name and dedication next to the week or month of your choice. **A donation of \$35 is requested.** You can make your donation online or by check. To give electronically, visit the [St. George's Donation page](#), scroll down to "Designated Gifts" / "Altar Guild," and enter the amount of your donation. Make checks payable to St. George's, with "Altar Flowers/Candles" in the memo line, and mail them to the church office.



Treasurer's Report

Below is a statement of St. George's actual income and expenses for the first quarter (January – March) of 2023, compared to the income and expenses budgeted by the Vestry. This statement does not include income or expenses from funds outside the general operating

fund, such as Outreach Committee projects, the Rector's Discretionary Fund, the Memorial Fund, or the Insurance Fund.

The roof project is now complete, and the vestry has voted to pay off the line of credit taken out at the end of 2022 to help with cash flow for that project. The new sidewalk in front of the Wright House was funded from an annuity given to St. George's by the estate of Ralph Hausser. St. George's School is sharing in the expenses for that project.

If you have questions about this report, please contact me at stgtreasurer78722@gmail.com. If you have questions about your pledge, please contact parish financial secretary Samantha Stevens (samanthahstevens63@gmail.com).

Blessings,
 Frances Rickard

**YEAR TO DATE FINANCIAL STATEMENT
 JANUARY – MARCH 2023**

	Actual	Budgeted
Plate, pledge, & offering income	\$67,201	\$65,093
Other income*	\$20,688	\$17,391
Total Income	\$87,889	\$82,484
Total Expenses	\$81,347	\$83,953
Difference between Income and Expenses	\$ 6,542	\$(1,469)

*Other Income includes rector salary support from the diocese, donations for altar flowers, and other income for operations purposes, such as building rental fees, bank interest, and shared use payments from St. George's School.

Pentecost on May 28th



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 could 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 on the Day of Pentecost, Sunday, May 28th, in person or online – as we celebrate the presence of the Holy Spirit among us. 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.

News from the School



Father Matt's first Slaying of the Dragon event was a success!! He was there to greet our parents and help the fair maiden tame the dragon. After this, we Knighted our Pre-K students recognizing their courage and bravery.

Following this event, we then spent a beautiful Sunday fundraising for the school during A Knight for St. George's. These yearly traditions are a vital part of the school's community building and financial support for projects around the campus.

We now turn our attention to the final month of school before our Summer Camp program begins with many things happening from Mother's Day Teas, Parent Conferences, and Teacher Appreciation Week. Teachers will be honored during the week of Teacher Appreciation (May 1-5), so feel free to send encouraging notes that can be placed in their teacher mailboxes. They'd love to hear from you.

And if you haven't seen the newly renovated Toddler Playground take a walk around to the North side of the campus. It's beautiful.



Respectfully,

Jerri

Ms. Jerri Thompson

Head of School

May Birthdays & Anniversaries



We wish the following parishioners a happy birthday:

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Matt Curtis (May 2nd) | Jeff Maki (May 17th) |
| James Wall (May 4th) | Frances Corcoran (May 18) |
| Alice Nelson (May 9th) | Adam Kerrigan (May 27th) |
| Ethan Worcester (May 9th) | Kelly Puckett (May 28th) |
| Chloe Metcalf (May 13th) | Grace Stallman (May 29th) |
| Charlie Wagner (May 13th) | August Dolan-Henderson (May |
| Jen Spencer (May 15th) | 31st) |
| Carolyn Porter (May 16th) | |

And a happy anniversary to:

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



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](#)