

# THE BANNER



## St. George's Episcopal Church

4301 North IH-35 | Austin, TX | [www.sgchurch.org](http://www.sgchurch.org)

November 2020



Season after Pentecost  
Advent

4301 North IH 35 • Austin, TX 78722

512.454.2523 • [stgeorgeaustin@gmail.com](mailto:stgeorgeaustin@gmail.com)

[www.sgchurch.org](http://www.sgchurch.org)

Office hours: Monday – Thursday, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

### Online Sunday Schedule

10:30 am [Liturgy of the Word](#)  
11:15 am Zoom Coffee Hour  
5:15 pm Compline

**The Rev. Merrill Wade**  
*Interim Priest*

**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

<b>Sun 11/1</b>	All Saints' Day	<b>Thu 11/12</b>	Parish Get-together
<b>Mon 11/2</b>	Parish Profile Training	<b>Mon 11/16</b>	School Board Meeting
<b>Wed 11/4</b>	Parish Get-together	<b>Wed 11/18</b>	Parish Get-together
<b>Sat 11/7</b>	Women's Book Group	<b>Tue 11/24</b>	Choir Meet-up
<b>Mon 11/9</b>	Vestry Meeting	<b>Wed 11/25</b>	Wednesday Weavings
<b>Tue 11/10</b>	Choir Meet-up	<b>Thu 11/27</b>	Thanksgiving
<b>Wed 11/11</b>	Wednesday Weavings		

### St. George's Events Calendar

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### Feast Days

1 <b>All Saints</b>	18 Hilda of Whitby, Abbess, 680
2 <b>All Souls / All The Faithful Departed</b>	19 Mechthilde of Hackeborn and Gertrude the Great, Mystics, 1298 and 1302
3 Richard Hooker, Priest and Theologian, 1600	22 Clive Staples Lewis, Apologist and Spiritual Writer, 1963
6 William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1944	24 Catherine of Alexandria, Barbara of Nicomedia, and Margaret of Antioch, Martyrs c.305
8 Ammonius, Hermit, 4 <sup>th</sup> century	25 James Otis Sargent Huntington, Monastic and Priest, 1935
11 Martin of Tours, Bishop, 397	26 Sojourner Truth, Liberator and Prophetic Witness, 1883
14 The Consecration of Samuel Seabury, 1784	28 Kamehameha and Emma of Hawaii, King and Queen, 1864 and 1885
15 Herman of Alaska, Missionary, 1837	30 <b>Saint Andrew the Apostle</b>
16 Margaret of Scotland, Queen, 1093	
17 Elizabeth of Hungary, Princess, 1231	

## Interim Priest's Corner



Dear St. George's Family:

I want to thank you for such a warm welcome this past month. It has quickly come clear to me that St. George's has a kindly, playful and resilient spirit. It is my pleasure to serve you all.

November 1<sup>st</sup> is All Saints' Day and I hope you will participate online. I am very curious about our church traditions here at St George's, especially the Día de los Muertos altar! I am always moved by the All Saints liturgy. On this holy day we remember all the saints. We remember and honor those we have known and loved who taught us to be patient, brave, and true. We recall the great saints of the church like George our patron saint. We give thanks for all those who have died for their faith. And we do not neglect to give our gratitude to God for the meek and merciful among God's people; those who quietly lived their faith with passion and without drawing much attention, yet shimmering at the heart of the church.

I have begun keeping office hours (mostly) on Fridays, and I will be in my office in the Wright House at these times:

Friday, November 6, 10:30 am – 3:00 pm

Friday, November 13, 9:30 am – 2:30 pm

Friday, November 20, 9:30 am – 2:30 pm

Monday, November 23, 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Feel free to contact me at [merrill76@utexas.edu](mailto:merrill76@utexas.edu) or 512-454-2523 ext 2; I will check voice mail daily during the week. When in the office, I would love to meet with you on the porch of the Wright House or some other socially distanced setting. Just call me or email me so when can set up a time in advance.

I enjoyed meeting many of you at our Virtual Parish Get-togethers in October, and I hope you'll make time to come online in our November (see the article on page 5 for more information). These conversations are warm, engaging, and encouraging. I will offer some reflections on our faith but generally we just share ourselves with each other, whether there are five of us or fifteen.

I want to report that our first outdoor, in-person gathering for Compline on Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, went very well. It was lovely to worship together. We will continue to gather for Compline on Sunday nights at 5:15 pm (see the article on page 5 for more information, including how to register), and I hope you will join us!

I would like to close with a prayer for our country – Almighty God, to whom we must account for all our powers and privileges: Guide the people of the United States of America in the election of officials and representatives; that, by faithful administration and wise laws, the rights of all may be protected and our nation be enabled to fulfill your purposes; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP p. 822 – *For an Election*)

Faithfully,

*Merrill Wade*

Interim Priest

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## Deacon's Corner

Dear St. George's Family:

This is the last time I will write you as your deacon. I will be leaving St. George's at the end of November to accept an offer to be the deacon of St. Augustine's of Canterbury in Benton Harbor, Michigan. My wife, Cynthia Caruso, will be the rector of this same church. I have enjoyed my time at St. George's and will miss you. I have appreciated your support of my ministry to the homeless and know that you will continue to welcome our homeless neighbors after I leave. My experience has been that there are few people who really see God's image in the homeless, and I am proud of the people of St. George's for being among those who do.



There are so many people who have made me feel a part of the St. George's family. I thank you all and wish you Godspeed in your search for a new rector. I know you will find someone who will lead you with confidence and care for each and every one of you. It has been a privilege to be your deacon.

Peace and Blessings,

The Rev. Jim Enelow

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## December Banner Deadline



The deadline for news for the December issue of *The Banner* is Monday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>. Please email news and articles you would like included in the next issue to [stgeorgeaustin@gmail.com](mailto:stgeorgeaustin@gmail.com).

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## Daylight Savings Ends

It finally feels like fall, which means that Daylight Savings Time is coming to an end! Early on the morning of **Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup>** (or on the evening of **Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup>**), remember to **FALL BACK** and set your clocks back one hour. Showing up an hour early to online church may be less embarrassing than doing it in person, but you'll still be annoyed with yourself for missing out on that extra hour of sleep!





## All Saints' Day / Día de los Muertos



Rituals around the certainty of death and the care of the dead are universal. The many Christian traditions around the observation of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day are related to other customs of veneration for one's ancestors practiced worldwide, through events such as the Roman custom of the Lemuria, the Celtic Samhain, the Chinese Ghost Festival, and the Japanese Bon Festival.

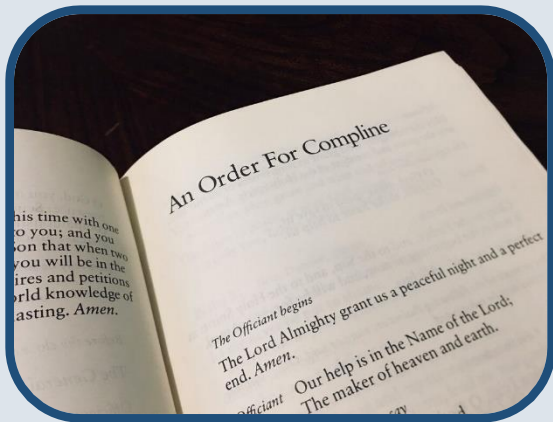
All Saints' Day – November 1<sup>st</sup>, but often celebrated the following Sunday – is the day the Church honors all Holy Ones, known and unknown. Our English word “saint” literally means “holy.” In the broad sense, all we who are baptized are included in this category, but from the beginning of the Christian tradition, certain of the faithful whose lives were exemplary have been held before us as our models and guides. While we have information about many Saints, and we honor them on specific days, there are many unknown or unsung Saints, whom we celebrate on All Saints' Day. The Commemoration of All Faithful Departed, more commonly known as All Souls' Day, falls on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. This day is set aside to remember those who have died to whom we have a more personal connection – not necessarily those whose lives are held up as models for all Christians, but those whose lives, and deaths, have personally affected us.

Día de los Muertos, the traditional Mexican celebration of these two days, can actually be traced further back than the arrival of Christianity in Mexico. The Aztecs celebrated a festival for the goddess of the underworld, Mictecacihuatl, and many indigenous cultures of Mexico honor the Lady of the Dead, sometimes portrayed today as La Catrina, a skeleton woman wearing a fancy hat. When the Spanish arrived in Mexico, bringing Catholicism with them, the traditional Mexican celebrations of Mictecacihuatl and the Lady of the Dead, through which ancestors were honored, merged with the Catholic observances of All Saints' and All Souls' Days. Celebrations often feature altars honoring those who have died with marigolds, sugar skulls, favorite foods or beverages, and other mementos of the dead. Families often visit the gravesites of deceased family members, where they bring offerings, or *ofrendas*, hold vigils, and even have picnics and parades as a way of celebrating the life of those who have gone on before them.



These celebrations of All Saints', All Souls', and Día de los Muertos are tied in with the belief in the Communion of Saints, that all of God's people, in this earthly life and in the various states of the larger life, are connected in one communion. The Saints are not divine, nor omnipresent or omniscient. However, because of our common communion with and through Jesus Christ, our prayers are joined with the heavenly community of Christians. At St. George's, as at many other churches, we observe this sacred time with a special altar, which Denise Hope and Mark Cassstevens have volunteered to decorate again this year despite the restrictions related to COVID-19. The service on **Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup>** will include a reading of the names of those who have died since the All Saints' Day last year, as well as a slideshow of photos of loved ones who have died, since such photos cannot be placed on the Día de los Muertos altar this year. Please join us on All Saints' Day as we remember those who have gone before us.

## Compline Services



St. George's is carefully restarting in-person gatherings with outdoor Sunday evening Compline services at 5:15 pm. Compline is a beautiful evening prayer service, which will be led by our new Interim Priest Merrill Wade. The services are limited to approximately 20 people and require registration. To attend, please [register online](#).

Compline will last approximately 15-20 minutes and will be held at the rear of the playground. If you wish to sit, please bring your own chair; you are also welcome to stand. Masks and social distancing will be required, and bathrooms will not be available. Please bring a Book of Common Prayer or a device to access [Compline online](#). We look forward to seeing you in person!

## Virtual Parish Get-Togethers

The Vestry has hosted virtual parish get-togethers in the months of September and October. Many thanks to those of you who have participated. We are continuing these get-togethers on a monthly basis, so that we continue to stay connected with one another.

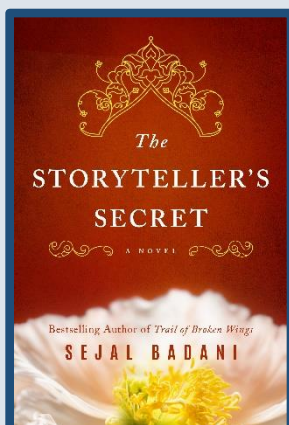
At the November get-togethers, Merrill will offer some reflections on our faith, but the primary focus will be fellowship. Once again, we have scheduled three get-togethers in the hope that everyone will find one that works for them; please choose the date and time that best fits your schedule:

- Wednesday November 4, 5:00-6:00 pm
- Thursday, November 12, 7:00-8:00 pm
- Wednesday November 18, 5:00-6:00 pm

The Zoom links for the meetings will be emailed to all parishioners. Contact Melissa Brackin at [MelissaAEason@gmail.com](mailto:MelissaAEason@gmail.com) or 512-415-7721 with any questions. We look forward to seeing you!



## Women's Book Group

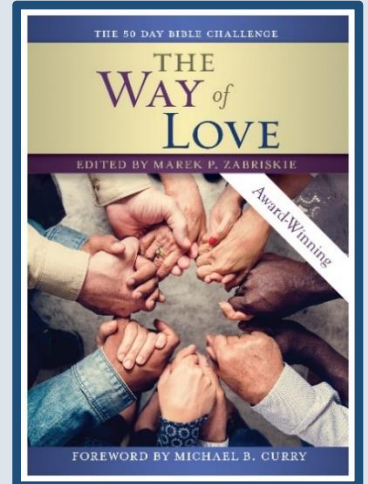


Please join us for our next meeting on **Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup>**, from **3:00 to 5:00 pm**, via **Zoom**. We will discuss ***The Storyteller's Secret***, by **Sejal Badani**. All St. George's women are welcome to attend – even if you haven't read the book! We hope you can join us for interesting 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](mailto:sandra.villalaz48@gmail.com). Happy reading!

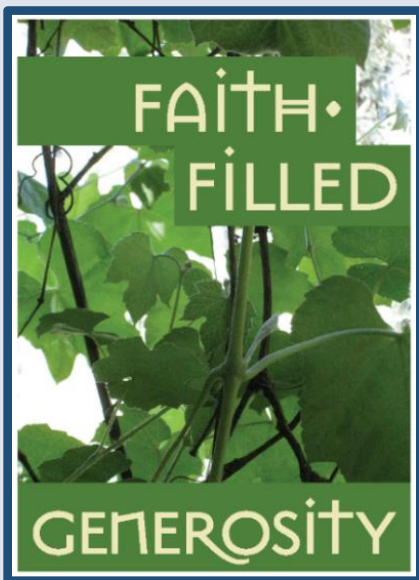


## Wednesday Weavings

St. George's adult discussion group is continuing to meet via Zoom, from **7:00 to 8:00 pm** every other Wednesday. This month we will meet on Wednesdays, **November 11<sup>th</sup>** and **November 25<sup>th</sup>**. We are continuing our study of *The Way of Love*, a Forward Movement publication edited by Marek Zabriskie. The book offers 50 meditations, each consisting of a Scripture reading, reflection, discussion questions, and prayer. The meditations are divided into seven sections based on seven spiritual practices for a Jesus-centered life: Turn, Learn Pray, Worship, Bless, Go, and Rest. All are welcome to join the group for discussion and a closing service of Compline. Frances Rickard will send out the Zoom invitation along with the reading before each meeting to the group's email list. If you are not on the list and would like to receive the email, or if you have any questions, please contact Frances at [fajrickard@gmail.com](mailto:fajrickard@gmail.com).



## Stewardship



On October 11<sup>th</sup>, we began our annual season of stewardship at St. George's, culminating on Generosity Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup>. This year's theme, **Faith-Filled Generosity**, is a call to each one of us to be generous and ready to share so that our futures are secure and our lives are worth living. Eugene Peterson writes it this way in *The Message*:

“Tell them to go after God, who piles on all the riches we could ever manage – to do good, to be rich in helping others, to be extravagantly generous. If they do that, they'll build a treasury that will last, gaining life that is truly life.” (1 Timothy 6:18b-19)

During this season, we prayerfully consider our financial commitment to St. George's in the year ahead. Many of the scripture readings and sermons reflect this theme, particularly focusing on stewardship as a spiritual practice and an act of faithful generosity. An insert in the bulletin each week addresses a different way that we as individuals and as a community can live more fully with a spirit of generosity. Pledge packets have been mailed out and sent by email; if you have not received one, please contact Jennifer in the church office at [stgeorgeaustin@gmail.com](mailto:stgeorgeaustin@gmail.com). You can [pledge online](#) or by mailing your pledge cards to the church office up until **Generosity Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup>**, when we will give special thanks for God's goodness and grace in our lives. For more information or to pledge online, visit our website at [www.sgchurch.org/stewardship](http://www.sgchurch.org/stewardship).

## Hands for Hope

**El Buen Samaritano Episcopal Mission** is hosting its 30<sup>th</sup> annual Hands for Hope meal drive with the goal to provide holiday meal kits to 1,750 families over three distribution days in November and December. This event is a wonderful way for the Episcopal community to come together to provide all the trimmings for a delicious meal to families in need during the holidays!

And this year, it's more important than ever to show our support as some of our neighbors increasingly struggle to put food on the table as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

# HANDS FOR HOPE



Our parish is participating in a fundraising campaign to raise the money for turkeys and pies, while our Episcopal schools are raising funds for canned goods and side items. To be a part of this initiative, visit [www.elbuen.org/h4h](http://www.elbuen.org/h4h) to donate online, and be sure to put “St. George’s” in the “Your Note for the Donor Scroll” section. (You can also give by check; make the check out to “El Buen Samaritano,” with “Hands for Hope/St. George’s” in the memo line, and mail it to El Buen Samaritano, 7000 Woodhue Drive, Austin, TX 78745.)

El Buen also needs volunteers for Hands for Hope! To help distribute meal kits on the morning of Saturday, November 21<sup>st</sup>, please go online to [www.elbuen.org/volunteer-application](http://www.elbuen.org/volunteer-application) to reserve your spot. Spots are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. You must be 18 years of age and attend the Volunteer Safety Training before the event. More details can be found in the application.

If you have any questions about El Buen Samaritano or Hands for Hope, please contact Carolyn Moreau ([carolynmoreau@austin.rr.com](mailto:carolynmoreau@austin.rr.com)), our Hands for Hope Liaison. **El Buen Samaritano** is an outreach ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas serving the Latino community of Central Texas, and is committed to recognizing the dignity of all by ensuring access to healthcare, education and essential needs that lead to healthy, productive and secure lives.

## Christopher House Baskets



Thanks also to those of you have signed up to deliver Christopher House Baskets. We now have people signed up to deliver baskets through November, but we need more basket delivery people for December and beyond! If you are interested, sign up on the [Online Christopher House Basket Calendar](#). (You can also check the calendar if you're not sure whether or when you're signed up.) If you have

signed up to deliver a basket but don't have one, please contact Alice Nelson at [mzlsnlsn@gmail.com](mailto:mzlsnlsn@gmail.com) to make arrangements to get one.

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## Advent Angels

Outreach Advent Angels needed! St. George's Advent Angels, an annual Advent project of the Outreach Committee, is collecting donations for HEB gift cards for the residents of St. George's Court. The Advent Angels project will begin on **Christ the King Sunday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>**, and all donations must be received by the **third Sunday in Advent, December 14<sup>th</sup>**.



Because of the pandemic, we are asking that donations for the Advent Angels project be made online or by check, and Outreach will purchase all the gift cards. To be an angel for a resident of **St. George's Court**, donate online at the [St. George's Donation page](#), or mail a check to the church office (made out to "St. George's Episcopal Church," with "Advent Angels" in the memo line).

For more information, please contact Sarah Campbell at [cowmarket2@gmail.com](mailto:cowmarket2@gmail.com).

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## Support St. George's with Amazon Smile



As we're all starting to think about Christmas shopping, don't forget about using **AmazonSmile!** The AmazonSmile Foundation donates 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. When you first visit AmazonSmile, select St. George's Episcopal Church in Austin, TX, as your charity of choice (or just follow [this link](#)). Once you've selected your preferred charitable organization, your preferences will be saved; then just do your Christmas shopping as usual! (Note that you can support many different worthy organizations through AmazonSmile, including our school – see this month's "News from the School" article below for more information. If you already support St. George's with your pledge and feel called to use your Amazon shopping to support another organization, feel free to do so.)

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## News from the School

I am pleased to announce that we are still managing without any cases of Covid. I always hesitate stating that because I'm aware of the possibilities, but I am also aware of how staff and parents are staying vigilant and following the protocols. Thank you all for this!!

Due to our success, the school is receiving calls from currently enrolled families about extending days of the week, as well as calls for new family enrollment. Therefore, I am hiring new staff in preparation for opening another class in January. This will be a class of young toddlers. I do not have plans to open any more classes during this school year. The school is able to cover expenses without much left over, however by opening a seventh classroom, we will have a little extra to begin the process of replenishing the money used to cover salaries during the shutdown. Even with the help of the Payroll Protection Program, the school had to use a large sum of their reserves to cover expenses as families slowly began to come back.





If interested, here are some simple ways you can help support the school:

1. With holiday shopping coming up don't forget about **AmazonSmile**. When you use this link and select St. Georges Episcopal School (EIN # 74-1553627) as your charitable organization, we receive 0.5% of eligible purchases. It's an easy way to boost our fundraising dollars.
2. If you have any gently used Tonka Trucks you don't need anymore, or know of another family who has outgrown theirs, we would appreciate a donation for our kids to play with.
3. We can always use plastic grocery bags. If you have a bunch you don't need, please drop them off in the office and we will distribute them to our classrooms. They are used to wrap up dirty diapers, so we go through a lot!
4. The PTF (our Parents, Teachers, Friends Committee) is working hard behind the scenes on our Annual Fund and will officially launch **"IgKnighting our Legacy"** on November 16<sup>th</sup>. All funds raised will help the school continue to provide exceptional care and education by rebuilding our reserves. Your donations will help many more enjoy our magnificent playgrounds and strong curriculum which launches them into a bright educational future.
5. And thanks to the PTF for a successful Photo Fundraising event! We raised \$2,550 from sitting fees alone, and when prints are purchased, we will receive an additional 50%.

And of course, we're continuing our monthly meet-the-teachers feature!

### Meet Carla Genusa

My name is Carla Genusa and I have been with St. George's for five wonderful years. I've always considered this school much more than a job or a calling – it's my safe place. When the world is chaotic or scary, I find comfort in knowing that for eight hours a day I'll be surrounded by families that care about me as much as I care for them, children that bring me so much joy, and a work community that has taught me (and continues to teach me) so much. To say that I appreciate the security that St. George's has brought me and my daughter is an understatement. It's my little "Cloud 9."



### Meet Kat Garcia

My name is Kat Garcia and I have been with St. George's for six years, since the summer of 2014. When I started here at St. G's, I came in to take over as an assistant in the 3-year-olds room, while another teacher was on maternity leave. Since then, I have been an assistant, co-lead, and lead teacher, and now I am the motor skills teacher and on-site sub. What can I say, I can do it all, but what I enjoy about being here at St. George's is that we as a whole school community have grown so much, and I love that we all have the same mission – not only be good but to strive to be the BEST school in our community.



Respectfully,

*Jerri Thompson*  
Head of School



## November Birthdays & Anniversaries

*We wish the following parishioners a happy birthday:*

- |                                |                             |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Gabriel Moreau (Nov 5)         | Harper Schubert (Nov 23)    |
| Leonard Martinez (Nov 6)       | Bailey Tipps (Nov 24)       |
| Kyle Landry (Nov 8)            | Bridgette Beinecke (Nov 25) |
| Laura Cook McAlister (Nov 13)  | Christie Curtis (Nov 24)    |
| Justin Braun (Nov 15)          | Martha Sahs (Nov 26)        |
| Mary Stewart Miller (Nov 16)   | Laura Henkel (Nov 27)       |
| Eleanor Bandholz (Nov 17)      | Jenna Moeller (Nov 27)      |
| Dustin Worcester (Nov 20)      | Ellen Scarborough (Nov 28)  |
| Ed Crawford (Nov 21)           | Scott Lucy (Nov 29)         |
| Susan Dolan-Henderson (Nov 21) | Terry O'Donnell (Nov 30)    |

*And a happy anniversary to:*

- Joe & Ashley Carrera (Nov 1)
- Ashley & Kent Ibsen (Nov 8)



**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](#)