

THE BANNER



St. George's Episcopal Church

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

October 2020



Season after Pentecost

4301 North IH 35 • Austin, TX 78722

512.454.2523 • stgeorgeaustin@gmail.com

www.sgchurch.org

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

Online Sunday Schedule

10:30 am [Liturgy of the Word](#)

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

Sun 10/4 The Rev. Merrill Wade's first Sunday

Sat 10/10 Women's Book Group

Mon 10/12 Vestry Meeting

Tue 10/13 Choir Meet-up

Wed 10/14 Wednesday Weavings

Sat 10/17 Parish Get-Together

Mon 10/19 School Board Meeting

Tue 10/20 Parish Get-Together

Thu 10/22 Parish Get-Together

Tue 10/27 Choir Meet-up

Wed 10/28 Wednesday Weavings

Click on the following links to find:

[Activities Calendar](#)

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Feast Days

1	Therese of Lisieux, Monastic, 1898	16	Hugh Latimer and Nicholas Ridley, Bishops and Martyrs, 1555
3	John Raleigh Mott, Ecumenist and Missionary, 1955	17	Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop and Martyr, c.115
4	Francis of Assisi, Friar and Deacon, 1226	18	Saint Luke the Evangelist
7	Birgitta of Sweden, Mystic and Prophetic Witness, 1373	19	Henry Martyn, Priest and Missionary, 1812
9	Vida Dutton Scudder, Educator, 1954	23	Saint James of Jerusalem, Brother of Our Lord Jesus Christ
11	Philip, Deacon and Evangelist	25	Tabitha (Dorcas) of Joppa
14	Samuel Isaac Joseph Schereschewsky and Channing Moore Williams, Bishops and Missionaries, 1906 and 1910	26	Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Scholar and Social Reformer, 1902
15	Teresa of Avila, Mystic and Monastic Reformer, 1582	28	Saint Simon and Saint Jude, Apostles
		29	Mary of Qidun, Monastic, 4th century

Interim Priest's Corner

Dear St. George's:

I that recall around 10 years ago, I was at a clergy leadership meeting in Philadelphia, and one afternoon I received a scheduled phone call from a Warden named Rob Blech at St George's, Austin. He wanted to talk to me about our Associate Rector at St. Matthew's, Kevin Schubert, under consideration for the rector position at St. George's. So here we are in God's world where we experience unexpected turns and sometimes truly lovely serendipity. It is a pleasure and a privilege to follow Kevin Schubert at St. George's, if only for three months.



I will be your Interim Priest from October 1 to December 31, working 20 hours per week. I will be the officiant and preacher on Sundays and will give regular support to the staff, Vestry, and Day School. It is my hope and intention to maximize these three months we have together – for us to have warm and uplifting online Sunday services, some thoughtful Christian Education opportunities, and a memorable Advent and Christmas season. I look forward to working with Melissa Brackin and the Vestry and will take routine direction from them about how to use my work time with you all.

My wife Crystal and I, with our two children Patrick and Caroline, moved to Austin from Mississippi back in the summer of 2002 for me to become the rector of St. Matthew's in NW Austin. Our kids are grown and on their own and I retired from St. Matthew's on September 30, 2019. I have enjoyed a good year of retirement, and I look forward to this challenge and gift to me – the opportunity to serve with you all in this season of change at St. George's. Change, however unwelcome in some situations, is inevitable. *But growth is optional.* I want this to be a time of growth for me, and hopefully for the people of St. George's, God helping all of us!

My first Sunday with you all will be October 4. Please be patient with me as it will likely take me a few Sundays to get oriented, but know that I am ready and excited to be with you all!

Faithfully,

Merrill Wade

Interim Priest



Senior Warden's Corner



Dear St. George's Family:

Fall Greetings to you and your family! Thanks to all of you who were able to join one of our virtual Parish Get-togethers last month. We were able to provide a few updates, including information regarding our interim priests, the ongoing work of improving our virtual Sunday services, and activities around the St. George's campus. We did some brainstorming on ways for all of us to continue our connections as a community during this challenging time. The vestry received some great feedback and suggestions for future gatherings, and everyone enjoyed being able to see and catch up with each other even for a short time. If you were not able to join us, don't worry – we have scheduled more virtual gatherings for October. And if you were able to join us, please do so again! (See the article on page 6 for more information.) In the meantime, please feel free to reach out to me or other vestry members with any questions.

The Vestry invites you to join us in reaching out to fellow members of our congregation while we are not able to meet in person. Specifically, we encourage you to make a phone call to the people (or families) listed above and below you in the St. George's Parish Directory and just check in with each other. (If you do not have a copy of the current directory, please email the church office at stgeorgeaustin@gmail.com to request one.) We believe that these types of contacts are important in maintaining our wonderful St. George's parish community. A quick check-in can make a big difference in a person's day!

The vestry is excited to welcome the Rev. Merrill Wade as our Interim Priest. Merrill has introduced himself in his first Interim Priest's Corner above, and he will begin officiating services on Sunday, October 4th. He is enthusiastic about his call to St. George's, and I know that we will enjoy his warm personality and getting to know him over these few months.

Please join me in thanking Deacon Jim Enelow and the Rev. Susan Dolan-Henderson for stepping up to fill in on Sundays in August and September. I especially enjoyed Jim's and Susan's sermons over the last couple of weeks (available on the [Online Worship](#) page of our website). We are fortunate to have both of them in our St George's family!

October brings our annual stewardship season; this year's theme is Faith Filled Generosity. (See the article on page 6 for more information.) We hope that you will prayerfully consider God's blessings and care for you and for our beloved church as you make a financial commitment to St. George's for 2021.

Yours in peace and love,

Melissa Brackin

Senior Warden

Deacon's Corner

Dear St. George's Family:

I'm writing this article for the October Banner on a beautiful fall day here in Austin. One person I know said that there are two seasons in Austin – summer and January – so I'm delighted to be enjoying this traditional fall day.



I have been busy this past month handing out bus passes all over town, as well as HEB gift cards and “expired food” from Whole Foods. Our Senior Warden asked me if I have worn a St. George's T-shirt but, alas, the only one I have is too small for my widening waistline, which has increased since I got married this past May. I would love to wear a St. George's T-shirt as I travel around town, so if any of you have a medium or a large that you can spare, I would be grateful.

Representing St. George's, I have handed out bus passes at Trinity Center, First Methodist Church, University Methodist Church, Sunrise Church, University Baptist Church, and the state campground out near the airport. It has also been my pleasure to preach three times in the last six weeks, and I'm very grateful to Susan Dolan-Henderson for sharing the preaching and officiating duties in this interim period before Merrill Wade comes onboard. I am also grateful to Brad Dieringer for taking over the audio-visual duties and making sure our Sunday broadcasts are heard and seen by all of you. From what I have been told, the quality has improved a great deal from our humble beginnings back in March.

COVID-19 has impacted all our lives in many ways. I hope that we all can keep in touch during this period of isolation. I have been encouraged by our virtual get-togethers this past month and hope that we continue to provide opportunities for us to remain in touch. I'm sure our new interim will have ideas on this subject. Until then, may God's peace be yours, now and always.

Peace and Blessings,

The Rev. Jim Enelow

November Banner Deadline

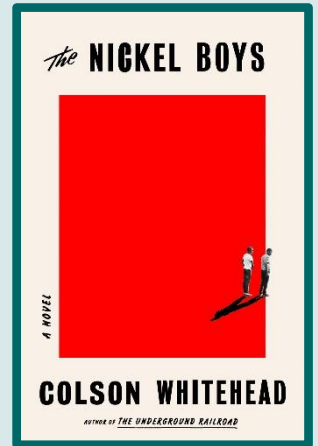


The deadline for news for the November issue of *The Banner* is Tuesday, October 27th.

Please email news and articles you would like included in the next issue to stgeorgeaustin@gmail.com.

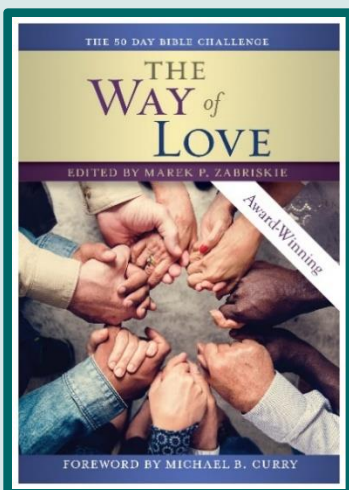
Women's Book Group

Please join us for our next meeting on **Saturday, October 10th**, from **3:00 to 5:00 pm**, via **Zoom**. We will discuss *The Nickel Boys*, by **Colson Whitehead**. 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. Happy reading!



Wednesday Weavings

Last month, St. George's Wednesday Weavings adult discussion group completed its series on racism and systemic injustice. Over the course of the series, we read articles and watched videos to foster our discussion. To conclude the series, we each shared something we had learned, something we want to do, or something we want to know more about in response to what we had read and heard. During the course of the series, we also brainstormed ideas and suggestions for ways to move the conversation forward in our individual and common lives. You are invited to review our ideas at this link on Google Drive: [Brainstorming for Justice and Equality](#).



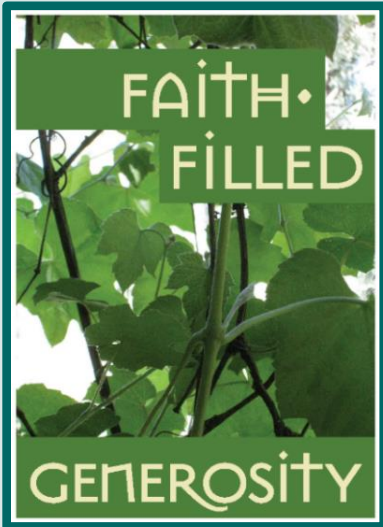
This month, Wednesday Weavings will meet via Zoom on **October 14th and 28th**, from **7:00 to 8:00 pm**. We are just beginning our new study of *The Way of Love*, a Forward Movement publication edited by Marek Zabriskie. The book offers 50 meditations, each consisting of a Scripture reading, reflection, 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.

Photo Sessions

Support the school by booking a photo session! Our own Madeleine Landry will use her photography skills to take family and individual photos in the Butterfly Garden in Mueller. Social distancing guidelines will be followed, and if necessary, masks will be worn. Slots are available all day on Saturdays, **October 10th** and **October 17th**. (Use the links to sign up or get more information.) This is a great opportunity to raise a little money for the school and get a great family photo!



Stewardship



On **October 11th**, we will begin our annual season of stewardship at St. George's, culminating on Generosity Sunday, November 15th. 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 in the upcoming weeks will reflect this theme, particularly focusing on stewardship as a spiritual practice and an act of faithful generosity. We will also hear from some parishioners about their personal approaches to giving. An insert in the bulletin each week will address a different way that we as individuals and as a community can live more fully with a spirit of generosity. Pledge cards will be mailed out and sent by email. You can pledge online or by mailing your pledge cards to the church office up until **Generosity Sunday, November 15th**, 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.

Virtual Parish Get-Togethers

The Vestry hosted three virtual parish get-togethers in the month of September. Many thanks to those of you who participated; it was a great opportunity to ask and answer questions and get feedback about online worship and other events in the life of the parish. We would like to continue these get-togethers on a monthly basis, so that we continue to stay connected with one another.

In October, the focus of these meetings will be getting to know our new Interim Priest, the Rev. Merrill Wade. 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:

- Saturday, October 17, 10:00 am
- Tuesday, October 20, 1:00 pm
- Thursday, October 22, 7:00 pm

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



Hands for Hope

HANDS FOR HOPE

El Buen Samaritano's annual **Hands for Hope** meal drive will look different this year due to the pandemic, but it will happen! In fact, because of increased use of their food pantry over the last six months, they anticipate an even greater need than usual and are expanding their efforts. A representative from El Buen will be joining us at our Zoom Coffee Hour after the service on **Sunday, October 18th**, to talk about what the program will look like this year and how St. George's can be involved. Watch the bulletin and the November *Banner* for details on how to participate.

Outreach

Many thanks to those of who who contributed to Outreach Virtual Fundraiser in September – we raised a total of \$630! In the coming weeks, we will be deciding how to spend the funds we've raised.

Thanks also to those of you have have signed up to deliver Christopher House Baskets. We now have people signed up to deliver baskets through November, so we're all set for the next couple of months. If you have signed up to deliver a basket but don't have a basket, please contact Alice Nelson at mzlsnlsn@gmail.com to make arrangements to get one. And if you're not sure if or when you're signed up, check the [Online Christopher House Basket Calendar](#).



You have done so much to support St. George's Outreach projects over the years. It can be difficult to find ways to continue our important work during this pandemic, but it is more needed than ever. If you have any questions about these or any other Outreach projects, or would like to volunteer to help out, please contact Alice Nelson (mzlsnlsn@gmail.com) or Sarah Campbell (cowmarket2@gmail.com).

Congratulations!



Congratulations (slightly belatedly) to Martha Paull and Ed Crawford on the celebration and blessing of their marriage here at St. George's on Thursday, August 6th.

*Grant that their wills may be so knit together in your will,
and their spirits in your Spirit, that they may grow in love
and peace with you and one another all the days of their life.*

Amen.

News from the School



Rain and comfortable temperatures are just what we all needed! October is here, so the school is turning its attention to fun fall activities. Because of a generous donation from the son of one of our teachers, the school will have pumpkins for their classrooms this year.

The school also received a lovely compliment from the mother of one of our recently graduated Pre-K students that I would like to share with you. Her son is now in a kindergarten class with a few other St. George's alums, and according to the teacher, they've all exceeded expectations. They know all their letters and letter sounds and can count to 100. His teacher went on to say that her pupils do not typically enter her class with these information and abilities. The mom said, "It's so fun watching the kids take these skills and build on them – spelling and reading are coming along very quickly. Thank you and all of the St. G's teachers for the exceptional education and environment you provided over the years."

The school will soon have a virtual tour video available on our website. We will share it once it's available, and we encourage all of you to share it with your friends and family.

Once again, we're featuring two teachers in the *Banner* this month for you to get to know.

Meet Hilary Cook

Hi everyone, I'm Ms. Hilary. This is my sixth year at St. George's. I was a lead in the Blue Room for my first three years, and I've been in the wonderful Rainbow Room for the past three years. I love St. George's for so many reasons. The biggest reason is the people – the families, kids, teachers, and administrators. I have made so many wonderful connections over the years here and feel at home. I adore the outdoor environment that we've created; the children thrive with the natural additions. St. George's pushes teachers to be always growing and to never stop learning – I appreciate that so much and am a better teacher day after day because of it.



Meet Mary Jane Faz

Hi, I'm Mary Jane. I've been employed at St. George's for five years now. I'm so pleased to work with such amazing families within this community. This school and community have given me the passion and drive to continue educating young children.



Respectfully,

Jerri Thompson

Head of School



October Birthdays & Anniversaries

We wish the following parishioners a happy birthday:

Matthew Jones (Oct 5)	Sara Scarborough (Oct 18)
Carolyn Moreau (Oct 12)	Madison McGonigle (Oct 22)
Sandra Villalaz-Dickson (Oct 14)	Adam Moreau (Oct 23)
Mikail McIntosh-Doty (Oct 16)	Mark Casstevens (Oct 24)
Nella Ibsen (Oct 17)	Leo Maki (Oct 26)
Dylan Kadas (Oct 17)	Samantha Stevens (Oct 27)

And a happy anniversary to:

Terry O'Donnell & Ramón Treviño (Oct 12)
Jeff Maki & Jen Spencer (Oct 15)
Margaret & Bailey Tipps (Oct 18)
Laura & Joel McAlister (Oct 21)
Susan & August Dolan-Henderson (Oct 27)
Madeleine & Kyle Landry (Oct 27)

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](#)