

October 2012 + Issue 12-10 + Pentecost

ST. GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

4301 North IH 35

Austin, TX 78722

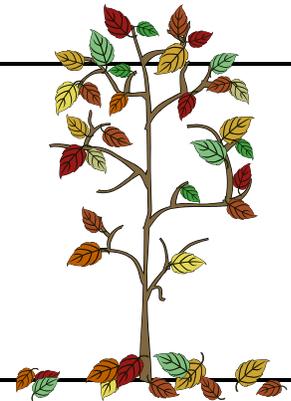
Church office: 512.454.2523

Fax: 512.454.2524

Church website: www.sgchurch.org

E-mail: stgeorgeaustin@gmail.com

Church office hours: Monday – Thursday, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.



+ THE RECTOR'S CORNER

October is a very special month in the life of St. George's. It's the time in which we thoughtfully and prayerfully consider our financial commitments to St. George's for 2013. Each of our annual pledges is essential to the ministry, maintenance, and mission of the church. The budget committee of the vestry meets in December to determine the budget for the following year. That annual budget is primarily based upon the amounts received through member's pledges. Here at St. George's we are doing exceptional things and would love to continue them as well as initiate new opportunities for the community. In order to maintain a healthy, vibrant community we are dependent on the financial commitments of members of the church. It truly takes each and every one of us to give what we can in order for our church to be a viable community in Austin and the world.

In the weeks to come you will be receiving a pledge card in the mail. There will also be an opportunity to pledge online at our website. As you consider your pledge for 2013 please prayerfully and thoughtfully discern the importance of St. George's in your life. I know for Heather and I, we are deeply devoted to this community, and along with our time and talents, we strive to give as much as possible financially. During the service on All Saints' Sunday we will have our ingathering; a special liturgy that involves offering our financial commitments. We will approach the altar to place our pledge cards and dedicate our service and giving to God.

As Paul wrote in 1 Peter 4:10, "Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received." Throughout life we receive blessings upon blessings from God. Here at St. George's we strive to share those blessings with the world around us. I pray that you commit to dedicating a portion of your earnings so that we may be able to abundantly share God's blessings to the world.

If you have any questions concerning the budget process, financial stewardship, or any other concern please do not hesitate to ask either myself or our financial stewardship co-chairs, Mary Stewart Miller and Rob Blech. Lastly, I encourage everyone that made a financial pledge to St. George's in 2012 to continue in fulfilling your pledge. God bless you and your willingness to serve God through our beautiful family of God, St. George's Episcopal Church!

Peace, The Rev. Kevin LJ Schubert

Wednesdays 6:30 - 8:00 pm

October 3, 10, 17, & 24

St. George's Episcopal Church

Kleberg Hall

4301 N. IH-35 Austin, TX 78722

www.sgchurch.org 512-454-2523

Dr. Scott Bader-Saye:
Seminary of the Southwest,
Helen & Everett H. Jones Professor
of Christian Ethics & Moral Theology

Professor Bader-Saye's academic interests include theology and culture, social ethics, postmodern/postliberal political theology, emerging church and Jewish-Christian dialogue. His publications include *Following Jesus in a Culture of Fear*, *Church and Israel After Christendom: The Politics of Election*, contributions to *The Blackwell Companion to Christian Ethics* and *The Cambridge Companion to the Gospels*, and articles in journals such as *The Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics*, *Modern Theology*, *Studies in Christian Ethics*, *Pro Ecclesia*, *Cross Currents* and *Christian Century*. A.B., Davidson College, MDIV, Yale Divinity School, Ph.D., Duke University



2012 St. George's Episcopal Church

Grace Series

Christian Faith in an Election Year

How does Christian faith shape the way we participate in political life and negotiate the election season? Join the conversation as we discuss the nature of politics, the witness of scripture, and the possibility of bridging our divides to serve the common good.



The Grace Series consists of four lectures centered around pertinent questions concerning life, faith, culture, and society. We gather in Kleberg Hall, beginning with a potluck meal, followed by a lecture. St. George's rector, The Rev. Kevin LJ Schubert will present the first lecture on Wednesday, October 3rd, followed by Dr. Bader-Saye presenting the following three weeks.

+ FALL LIFELONG LEARNING CLASS - SUNDAYS, SEPTEMBER 9TH – NOVEMBER 4TH

All ages of the parish are invited to participate in our Lifelong Learning series held in Kleberg Hall fifteen minutes after the 10:30 service concludes during coffee hour. This 30 to 45 minute class will look closely at the traditions, liturgy, theology, polity, and history of the Episcopal Church. The class will be preparation for Sunday, November 11, when our Diocesan Bishop, The Right Reverend C. Andrew Doyle, will celebrate the Eucharist with us. At the service Bishop Doyle will confirm and receive those persons who are interested in becoming members of the Episcopal Church. He will also reaffirm the Christian service of current members. The lifelong learning classes are intergenerational and nursery care will be available for younger children.

+ HALLELUJAH HOUR! – TUESDAYS, OCTOBER 9TH AND 23RD

On the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month (**October 9 and 23**) from **5:00-6:00pm**, the Evangelism Committee will host Hallelujah Hour at the **Draught House Pub & Brewery** (4112 Medical Pkwy #100, 78756). This event serves our community as a social gathering to know one another better outside the church walls. All are welcome to attend!

+ WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP - WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10TH, 7:00 PM

The book we have selected for October is "*The Weird Sisters*" by *Eleanor Brown*. *We will join Eleanor who will be reading and signing the paperback at Book People on October 10th, Wed at 7 p.m.* Book People is located at **603 N. Lamar, Austin TX 78703 (just north of 6th street)**. **This event is free and open to the public. In order to have anything signed at a BookPeople event a copy of the event book must be purchased from BookPeople (\$15.00). If you purchase your book from BookPeople in advance of the event, please save your receipt and present it at the event.** Those who are interested can stick around for a drink afterwards. **Also, if you want to sit together come a bit early! For more information, contact carolynmoreau@austin.rr.com**

+ PRAYER AND DEVOTIONAL GROUP - THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11TH, 10:00 AM

The Prayer and Devotional Group will meet at Gayle Wall's house (9407 Dallum Dr., 78753) at 10am on Thursday, Oct. 11th. Pat Shoop will be leading the group in a teaching from the book of Ruth.

+ PARISH RECIPES

Just a reminder that we are gathering recipes for the wonderful food the St. George's parish family shares throughout this year -- at pot-lucks, coffee hour, and other parish events. We had a wonderful 5th Sunday pot-luck lunch in September and we'll be breaking bread together again at the Grace Series on Wednesday evenings in October. Certainly, there are some great recipes yet to be gathered! If you would like to share a recipe, e-mail it to Frances Rickard at jrickard9x@aol.com or place it in the recipe basket that will be available in Kleberg Hall this month. Recipes will be compiled and available to the parish in early 2013. Thanks!

+ TGIF POOL PARTY – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26TH

When the last Friday of the month rolls around, plan to celebrate with your church family! **On Friday, October 26**, the congregation is invited to gather from 5 to 8 p.m. at the pool in Sandra and Herb Dickson's town home complex in Hyde Park. In the same spirit as Hallelujah Hour, this is an opportunity for the people of St. George's to get to know one another outside of church. Bring your own beverages and snacks (no glass around the pool -- you can transfer drinks from glass bottles into plastic cups on Sandra and Herb's patio). Those who would like to swim should bring bathing suits and towels, plus any water toys you might like (small floats, noodles, water wings, etc.). Herb and Sandra will have dominoes, cards and scrabble for those who don't want to swim. Sandra and Herb's address is 400 Towne Park Trail (78751), and the pool is just two town homes over from them. Hope to see you there! If weather does not permit swimming, we may change the event - so keep an eye out for updates in the Sunday bulletin!

+ DAY OF THE DEAD ALTAR – SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH



The “Day of the Dead” may sound like a horror movie title to some, but Día de los Muertos is a holiday celebrated in Mexico and in some parts of South America and the U.S. At St. George's we celebrate the day on All Saints' Sunday (this year, **November 4**) with a special altar at the front of the church.

It is a time to remember our friends and relatives who have died, but still live on in our hearts. It is a day of the year when the distance between them and us is shortened, the veil between us and the afterlife is thinner. It is a day when we can feel a closer connection to them.

We will be “building” the altar on Saturday, **November 3rd**, from **9:00 to 11:00 AM**. Everyone is invited to come and participate for the whole time or any part.

Please bring pictures and/or mementos of loved ones to church on Sunday to place on the altar. Also part of the tradition is to place on the altar some object that is familiar to that person, like a favorite book, playing cards, can of soda, etc.

+ SAY IT LOUD, SAY IT PROUD, “GOD IS LOVE!”

Austin Pride recently asked everyone on their Facebook page to name their favorite Pride moment this year. One person posted: **“Seeing so many churches holding supportive signs during the parade got me choked up. That was awesome.”** On behalf of the St. George's and St. Hildegard's Pride Team, **thanks to everyone** who participated in this year's Austin Pride parade. **It was truly awesome.** Whether you marched or helped make signs or donated generously or supported this effort in countless other ways, **you all were witnesses to God's love** for many people who often do not feel that love from the churches. **Thanks be to God who blessed our efforts** with a happy, beautiful, funny and loving moment of grace. See you next year! Happy Pride 2013!

+ ST. GEORGE'S ANNUAL PARISH RETREAT - NOVEMBER 16TH - 18TH

Each Fall, St. George's gathers for a time of rest, relaxation, and community building at the beautiful Well Spring Retreat Center on Wessendorff Ranch in the Texas Hill Country. This year's retreat will be held from **Friday, November 16 - Sunday, November 18**. You can register online through the St. George's website at <http://www.sgchurch.org/events2.asp>

The retreat is dedicated to enriching our communal bonds as we enjoy times of worship, family and individual recreation, social activities, community building activities, and great food! There will be plenty of dedicated free time to enjoy the beautiful scenery of the Texas Hill Country, including the spectacular sight of the famous 'narrows.' Accommodations for families with children will be in motel style rooms with a dormitory arrangement for others when the motel rooms fill up. There are no single occupancy rooms. The cost of the retreat includes sleeping accommodations and all meals. Scholarships are available; please contact Kevin Schubert for more information. Come and enjoy a relaxing weekend in a loving restful environment!

Retreat Cost Breakdown (Family Maximum cost is \$125)

Friday - Sunday	Adults:	\$45
Friday - Sunday	Children:	\$25
Saturday Only	Adults:	\$15
Saturday Only	Children:	\$10

+ VESTRY NOTES

This month, you will notice new directional signs on St. George's Church and School campus! The signs are a joint project of the vestry and school board in response to frequent comments from visitors who are uncertain about where to go when they arrive. Signs will direct visitors to the church office, school office, the library, the church, the Wright House, and Kleberg. If you've ever been to a new place and can't figure out where to go, you know the importance of good signage. This is an essential step for us to take as we prepare for growth and become more intentional about our hospitality to newcomers. Cost for the signs is being shared by the church and the school. The church's share comes from money set aside after the sale of the rectory in 2010. Thanks especially to parishioner and former school board member Terry O'Donnell for his hard work on this project!

In addition to our weekly worship services and other regularly scheduled events, St. George's has lots going on in the weeks ahead, including the Fall Lifelong Learning classes, the Fall Grace Series, our celebration of All Saints', confirmation with Bishop Doyle, and the parish retreat. The vestry hopes you will be a part of all that you can!

We are truly grateful for all the ways that you support St. George's--your presence, your time, your talents, your creativity, and your financial support. The next vestry meeting is October 8th at 7 pm, and parishioners are always welcome to attend our meetings. We begin with a devotional in the church and then move to Kleberg for the business meeting.

- Blessings, Frances Rickard, Senior Warden

+ *Hildegard's Illumination: Her Prophetic Gift*

Instead of writing a summary of Hildegard's gifts for this article, I've decided to spread them out during the year and focus on the gift of prophecy this month. As we learned more about her gifts our focus was on how we are living out these same gifts in our own lives. Hildegard wrote "Who are the prophets? They are a royal people, who penetrate mystery and see with the spirit's eyes. In illuminating darkness they speak out." In his book *Prophetic Imagination* Walter Brueggemann connects the prophetic with our capacity of being human, of experiencing grief and pain rather than being numb. Injustice can only stay in place through cutting us off from our own hearts.

In late August St. Hildegard's Community helped welcome the Caravan for Peace with Justice and Dignity as it made a stop in Austin on its way to Washington DC. We contributed outreach money, and volunteers helped with hospitality and housing. The caravan was composed of about 100 family members whose sons/daughters, brothers/sisters had either been murdered or disappeared. Many wore t-shirts with pictures of one or more beloved ones. Juan, Chris and Sarah, Mason and Wy were there. Judith R, Pat, Gretchen Stolfo and I made it to the rally on the south steps of the Capitol. It was eerie to see all these beautiful faces on t-shirts and know they were dead or missing. Some shirts had 4 pictures. The people of this caravan were those who were in the darkness of tragedy and there found the light of courage. This movement rose up because they couldn't keep silent. They saw with the spirit's eyes. They even saw the humanity of the corrupt police and those caught up in the drug culture. They came to the American people believing us to be caring people who just don't realize what is happening and so they must speak out.

Mexican poet, Javier Sicilia, whose innocent son was murdered, spoke eloquently of the suffering of Mexican families and society, caused in large-part by the US government's failed drug war. He told us that more than 60,000 people have been killed by drug-related violence in Mexico over the last few years. More than 10,000 people have disappeared and over 160,000 displaced because they've had to leave their own homes. One man told a heart-breaking story of a group of police breaking into his mother's home late in the evening, threatening to kill her and everyone else and finally leaving with his brother whom he's never seen again. In a moment of illumination he recognized a label on something and knew these men were the police. US aid has gone to bolster police for the drug wars and yet with the corruption, the police themselves were menacing innocent families. He told of the irony of thinking he should call the police and knowing these *were* the police; there was no one to call and no help would be forthcoming. And now his brother's picture is on his t-shirt and he's on the caravan speaking out.

Silent prayers of protest and outrage rose in me. "Oh God! Hear the pain of these people. How can this travesty be stopped? What is this madness for violence? Is this what we want happening with our dollars? Hear my pain as I let in this reality!" A woman spoke and I listened more to her spirit than to her words. Her voice contained anguish but also courage and determination. My heart rose feeling energized and wondering what I could do besides waking up. I felt such admiration and respect for her. On this day we were simply to wake up and open our hearts to our brothers and sisters. We were to let ourselves feel the human

connection and experience empathy and seeds of compassion.

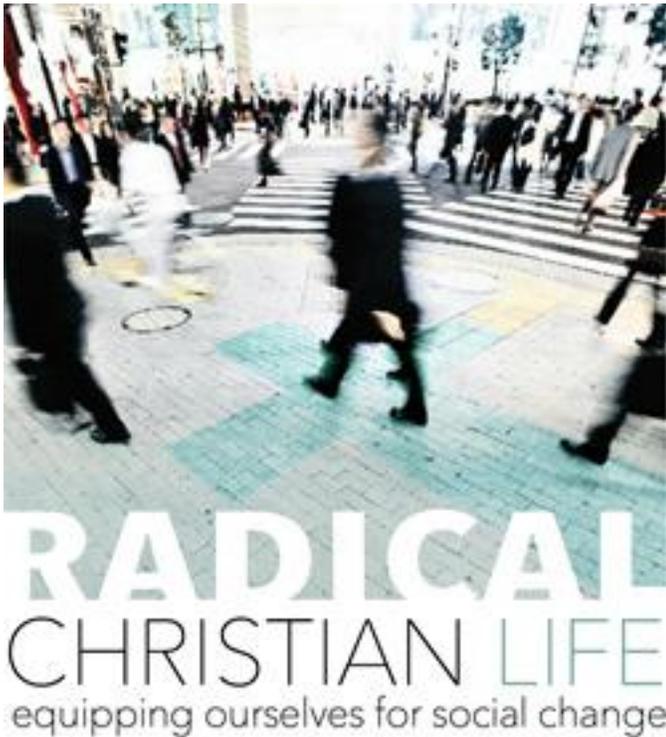
Gretchen Stolfo made connections with three women from Mexico as she offered hospitality and transportation to the home where they were staying. They had warmly embraced in parting and a couple of emails had gone back and forth. Now our community is joining Gretchen in praying for these women and their family members. Lety wrote Gretchen a reply which Josefina translated: "I'm very happy to receive this message. I know that through this pilgrimage for peace God sent us his light to continue with this sad task. And you are that light. We are fortunate to have known you. My greatest request is to find my daughter Georgina Ivonne and that she is well; to find Tere's sister and Maria's son and all those who are in search of our children, all the participants in the Caravan, for Javier Sicilia. Thanks. A big hug to you all and may God keep you all to continue offering this light that we need so much. We'll keep in touch." We invite the St. George's Community to join us in praying for these three women and their loved ones as well as for a change in U.S. policy and an end to drug-related violence in Mexico.

I believe all moments in which we choose to be human we are being prophetic. I feel that something wonderful has happened in Gretchen's ongoing connection with the three women from the caravan. We are being asked to engage in prophecy with our prayers and actions that may arise. I was grateful that Lety felt light and caring through Gretchen and that Gretchen had reached out to Lety through facebook instead of turning away from the pain of it all. Abraham Heschel writes that the prophet's role is to "intensify the people's capacity for suffering, to rend the veil that lies between life and pain."

Something similar is happening when Francesca talks with Jeff and hears his cries for help from Pakistan. She is our contact with both priests who worshipped with us when they attended the Seminary of the Southwest. We've been praying as the violence has escalated and an Anglican church burned. We'll have to be led by the Spirit as we are in darkness of knowing if there is anything we can do. I find myself thinking of those who sheltered Jews in Europe. What moved in the hearts of those who hid families in their attics at the risk of their own life or carried food to those in hiding? A sense of common humanity and connection was there and they couldn't do otherwise. We want to embody prophecy in our lives by refusing to be numb to the pain of the world and by speaking out when we can.

Peace,
Judith

P. S. We're so grateful to those of you who worshipped with us in September when we celebrated Hildegard Season. It gave you a chance to know us first hand and also gave our members the great opportunity of getting to know some of your wonderful parish leaders. We had more visitors from St. George's in one month than in all the past sixteen years. It meant so much to us! If you had wanted to come but didn't have time our welcome mat is always out. This month we are celebrating Francis and Claire and learning more about Franciscan spirituality. We also had a small contingent join you for the Pride Parade. They enjoyed doing this together and loved the experience of bringing love and acceptance from our combined church community to the LGBTQ community. It's wonderful to see our bonds of connection and friendship growing.



NOVEMBER 9-11, 2012

St. Hildegard's Community in Austin, Texas is one of 55 official partner sites in the US and Canada for Trinity Institute's 42nd National Theological Conference featuring Joan Chittister, OSB, as plenary speaker and Richard Rohr, OFM, as preacher. *Radical Christian Life: Equipping Ourselves for Social Change* will be held November 9-11, 2012 in New York City and shared with the partner sites. Our Austin event is limited to 80 participants, with registration on a first come, first served basis. In addition to the plenaries there are three creative work sessions in smaller groups that allow us to make and deepen connections with others as well as explore how we will respond in our own lives. It's a great opportunity to be participate with Episcopalians across the country. There is daily worship including a commissioning service Saturday afternoon and a Eucharist Sunday afternoon.

Joan Chittister, OSB returns to Trinity Institute for a conference that will offer tools for making the vital connection between contemplation and social action. The creative workshops have been carefully designed to complement the speakers and will be offered in New York and the partner sites. Fr. Richard Rohr, OFM, author, teacher, and founder of the Center for Action and Contemplation, will preach at the conference Eucharist Sunday morning in New York and his video sermon will be part of our Eucharist Sunday afternoon.

As a Contemplative-Active community St. Hildegard's is especially happy to bring this event to Texas. This is a fund-raising event for us as well. Please join us and help spread the word. This local event will be a great way to get to know those in other congregations so that we can work together to bring Christ's love into the world.

For more information and to register:

www.hildegard-austin.org

512-524-5145

+ NEWS FROM ST. GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL DAY SCHOOL

The school year has gone so smoothly so far! The children have loved getting back into the routine of our more structured school day along with the Spanish, Music Together and Dance classes that are included in the curriculum. Chapel on Thursdays is also a wonderful part of our week when we all gather in the church and spend time together as a community. We sing, we pray, we celebrate birthdays, we bless donated birthday books, and we learn about God. Father Kevin's message always ends the same way, "God loves you, God has a plan for you, and you never, ever have to worry." Visitors are always welcome during chapel at 9am sharp! You never know quite what you will hear when the children respond to questions from Father Kevin!

We also have an extensive after-school optional enrichment class schedule. We have art classes through Art and Soul on Mondays and Thursdays, Soccer Shots on Tuesdays, and Mariposas Spanish classes on Fridays. These classes are offered on campus after the regular school day in an effort to keep parents from having to drive all over town for these enrichment activities. Students can take these classes at school allowing parents to focus on quality time together when the children are picked up from school. We have had amazing responses for each and every one of these classes.

- Laura Colangelo, Head of School

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

1 - Les Carnes

4 - Georgia E. Woods

10 - Asher Sikes

14 - Sandra Villalaz

18 - Sara Liang Scarborough

23 - Adam Moreau

26 - Kat Hernandez

30 - Will Boston

1 - Navin Manohar

5 - Matthew Jones

12 - Carolyn Moreau

16 - Mikail McIntosh-Doty

20 - Audrey Sayer

23 - Mary Spies-Maxwell

27 - Samantha Stevens

3 - Paul Pew

10 - Thomas Sikes

13 - Donna Parker

18 - Cassandra Church

20 - Claire Puckett

24 - Mark Casstevens

28 - Suzie Keith



OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

17 - Rick & Heather Rodgers Price
27 - Susan & August Dolan-Henderson

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\](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



COFFEE HOUR HOSTS



October 7 - Outreach

October 14 - Altar Guild

October 21 - Women's Book Group **October 28** - KidsWord / EYC

November 4 - Vestry

CHRISTOPHER HOUSE BASKET DELIVERY

September 30 - October 6: Ellen Thibodeaux

October 7 - 13: Jody Chang

October 14 - 20: Belinda McGhee

October 21 - 27: Martha Paull

October 28 - November 3: Alice Nelson

The next issue of **THE BANNER** will go out by **November 1st**. Deadline for news is **Monday, October 22nd**. Please e-mail information you would like included in next month's edition to stgeorgeaustin@gmail.com.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- October 3 Grace Series, 6:30-8:00pm (Kleberg Hall)
- October 8 Vestry Meeting, 7:00pm (Kleberg Hall)
- October 9 Hallelujah Hour, 5-6:00pm (Draught House Pub & Brewery)
- October 10 Grace Series, 6:30-8:00pm (Kleberg Hall)
- October 10 Women's Book Group, 7:00pm (BookPeople)
- October 11 Prayer & Devotional Group, 10:00am (Home of Gayle Wall)
- October 17 Grace Series, 6:30-8:00pm (Kleberg Hall)
- October 22 Deadline to submit *Banner* news
- October 23 Hallelujah Hour, 5-6:00pm (Draught House Pub & Brewery)
- October 24 Grace Series, 6:30-8:00pm (Kleberg Hall)
- October 26 TGIF Pool Party, 5-8:00pm (Home of Sandra & Herb Dickson)
- November 3 Building the altar for Day of the Dead, 9-11:00am (Church)
- November 4 All Saints' Sunday with Day of the Dead altar
- November 9-11 *Radical Christian Life* Conference hosted by St. Hildegard's
- November 11 Bishop Doyle's Visit
- November 16-18 Annual Parish Retreat (Well Spring Retreat Center)

The Rev. Kevin LJ Schubert

Rector

The Rev. Judith Liro

*Associate Rector and Minister to
St. Hildegard's Community*

Susanna Brosseau

Seth Olson

Seminarians

Paul Pew *Music Minister*

Becca Meaders *Office Administrator*

Laura Colangelo *Day School Director*

Vestry

Patsy Chandler

Herb Dickson

Ralph Hausser

Scott Hoffman

David McGhee

Mary Stewart Miller

Trevor Thompson

Ramón Treviño

Frances Rickard *Senior Warden*

Herb Dickson *Junior Warden*

Patsy Chandler *Financial Secretary*

Stephen Linam *Treasurer*

Ramón Treviño *Clerk*

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

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