

THE BANNER



St. George's Episcopal Church

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

September 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](#)

Melissa Brackin
Senior Warden

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

Ed Crawford
Junior Warden

Samantha Stevens
Financial Secretary

Ashley Carrera
Treasurer

Brad Dieringer
Clerk

Ed Crawford
School Board Liaison

Mark Your Calendars

Wed 9/2 Wednesday Weavings

Sun 9/6 New School Year Blessing
Labor Day Blessing

Sat 9/12 Women's Book Group

Mon 9/14 Vestry Meeting

Tue 9/15 Choir Meet-up

Wed 9/16 Wednesday Weavings

Thu 9/17 Parish Get-together

Sat 9/19 Parish Get-together

Mon 9/21 School Board Meeting

Tue 9/22 Parish Get-together

Tue 9/29 Choir Meet-up

Wed 9/30 Wednesday Weavings

Click on the following links to find:

[Activities Calendar](#)

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Feast Days

2 The Martyrs of New Guinea, 1942
3 Phoebe, Deacon
4 Paul Jones, Bishop, 1941
5 Katharina Zell, Church Reformer and Writer, 1562
6 Hannah More, Religious Writer and Philanthropist, 1833
7 Kassiani, Poet and Hymnographer, 865
8 The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
9 Constance, Thecla, Ruth, Frances, Charles Parsons, and Louis Schuyler, Martyrs, 1878
10 Alexander Crummell, Priest, 1898
12 John Henry Hobart, Bishop, 1830
14 **Holy Cross Day**
15 Catherine of Genoa, Mystic and Nurse, 1510

17 Hildegard of Bingen, Mystic and Scholar, 1179
18 Edward Bouverie Pusey, Priest, 1882
21 **Saint Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist**
23 Thecla of Iconium, Proto-Martyr among Women, c.70
24 Anna Ellison Butler Alexander, Deaconess and Teacher, 1947
25 Euphrosyne/Smaragdus of Alexandria, Monastic, 5th century
26 Lancelot Andrewes, Bishop, 1626
28 Paula and Eustochium of Rome, Monastics and Scholars, 404 and c.419
29 **Saint Michael and All Angels**
30 Jerome, Priest and Scholar, 420

Senior Warden's Corner



Dear St. George's Family:

As Kevin has moved to a new parish with our blessing and best wishes, we find ourselves in transition. The Canon to the Ordinary and the Transition Minister for the Diocese of Texas attended our August vestry meeting and explained to us the general process for getting an interim rector and finding a new rector (and they provided us with a much-appreciated checklist!). The diocese has just connected us with potential interim rectors and I hope to meet with them this week, along with other members of the vestry's executive committee (our junior warden, Ed Crawford, and our clerk, Brad Dieringer) so that we have an interim in place by the end of the month.

Our first step in finding a new rector will be the vestry's creation of a search committee that will conduct a self-study and create a parish profile, likely with the help of a vendor recommended by the diocese. The purpose of these activities is to help us clarify our goals and identify our specific needs for a rector. All members of the parish will be invited to participate in this process. Once the parish profile has been submitted, the diocese will work with our search committee to provide the profile to clergy throughout the Episcopal Church and to identify potential candidates. The search committee will interview candidates and make a recommendation to the vestry. This full process can take up to a year, because it is important that we make a thorough search and thoughtful decision in choosing a rector.

Our Regathering Task Force is also working hard to improve our virtual Sunday services and prepare for in-person services. The Task Force will continue to monitor COVID-19 data, and we look forward to having in-person services again when it is safe. We will continue our on-line services even after that time, since we know that not everyone will be comfortable coming in-person, so we are investing in new audio-visual equipment that will greatly improve our sound and video quality. We hope to have our new system in place by Sunday, September 13th! Please join me in thanking our new Media Manager, Brad Dieringer, for his hard work on this. (And no, he did not get a raise with that promotion.)

The members of the vestry and Regathering Task Force have been looking for more ways for all of us to connect as a community during this challenging time. Some of the regular parish activities are taking place virtually – Wednesday Weavings, Women's Book Group, Choir, and Outreach Committee meetings are wonderful opportunities to spend some time with fellow parishioners. Meeting virtually allows more of us to participate, and newcomers to these groups are always welcome! And if you want to start a new group, please let me know and we can make the St. George's Zoom account available.

The vestry will also be hosting several virtual get-togethers in September, in order to share information about our activities and plans and get feedback from the congregation. (See the article on page 5 for more information.) We hope everyone will be able to participate!

In the meantime, please feel free to reach out to me at MelissaAEason@gmail.com or 512-415-7721 with any questions.

Peace,

Melissa Brackin

Senior Warden

Deacon's Corner

Dear St. George's Family:

It's hard to believe Kevin is gone. I received a call today about a couch stuffed in our dumpster, and I realized that Kevin is no longer here to take care of such things. I miss him!

I've been pretty busy this past month doing outreach work with the homeless. Besides working at the Micah 6 Drop-In Center for street kids and at and Trinity Center, handing out breakfasts to street folks, I've been passing out bus passes at the state campground near the airport and at several other locations. In addition, my beautiful bride Cynthia has cooked dinner for the Micah 6 street kids, which I helped make and serve.

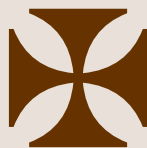
I continue to find joy in ministering to the homeless. Whether it's across the street from St. George's or out at the state campground, I am exhilarated by the ministry I do. I take St. George's with me wherever I go. Today I attended a Zoom meeting as a board member of the Religious Coalition to Assist the Homeless, and every time a new grant seeker joined the meeting, I was introduced as being from St. George's. We have a long history of commitment to social justice, and I am honored to play a role in maintaining that tradition.

In this time of COVID, it's hard to know what will happen next. But whatever that may be, I know that there will always be needy folks whom we can serve and there will always be St. George's people to serve them. Whenever I am out doing ministry with the homeless, I am reminded of what Jesus said in Matthew 25: "Whatever you did for one of the least of these, you did for me." How true.

Peace and Blessings,



The Rev. Jim Enelow



October Banner Deadline



The deadline for news for the October issue of *The Banner* is Thursday, September 24th. Please email news and articles you would like included in the next issue to stgeorgeaustin@gmail.com.

Wednesday Weavings

St. George's adult discussion group will meet via Zoom on **September 2nd, 16th, and 30th**, from **7:00 to 8:00 pm**. This month, we will wrap up our summer conversation on race, inequality, and systemic injustice and discern our next course of study for the fall and into next year. 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 to the group's email list before each meeting. 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. There is plenty of room on the Zoom screen for all who want to join us!



New School Year Blessing



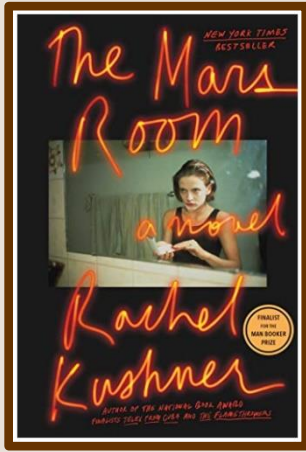
The beginning of the school year brings with it even more anxieties than usual this year. Whether and when students, teachers, and staff will be going back to school in person is still an open question, but one way or another, school will start. All those involved in making school happen need our prayers more than ever – not only that school will be an enriching experience for everyone involved, but also that they will be able to work together to protect everyone's safety, especially those who are most vulnerable. We won't be able to have our children bring forward their backpacks for a blessing as in previous years, but our liturgy on **Sunday, September 6th** will include a blessing for a healthy, educational, enjoyable, and safe new school year. (This blessing was originally scheduled for August 23rd, before AISD postponed the start of the school year until September 8th.)

Labor Day Blessing

On the Sunday of Labor Day Weekend, it is our tradition is to pause and remember the contributions that we all make to the building up of God's kingdom in the world and to renew our understanding of each of our particular vocations as a partnership with God. On **Sunday, September 6th**, the service will include a special prayer to sanctify the offerings of our time and talents that we make to God in our daily lives.

Not all of us have paid employment, especially in this time of pandemic and economic uncertainty, and even for those who do, their job may not be their primary vocation. Spend some time reflecting on what your vocation at this time of your life is, what God is calling you to do or be – it may be related to what you are paid to do, what you are studying or learning, what you do to care for others, or something else entirely.





Women's Book Group

Please join us for our next meeting on **Saturday, September 12th**, from **3:00 to 5:00 pm**, via **Zoom**. We will discuss *The Mars Room*, by **Rachel Kushner**. 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!

Virtual Parish Get-Togethers

The Vestry would like to invite all St. George's members to participate in a virtual parish get-together during the month of September. These meetings are designed to give parishioners a chance to gather, receive and share information, and give feedback. We will provide updates on the rector search, improvements to our livestreaming capabilities, activities on campus, etc. (For example, those driving by the church over the next month may notice new fencing and gates to improve our security and that of the school.) We have currently scheduled three such get-togethers; please choose the date and time that best fits your schedule:



- Thursday, September 17, 7:00 pm
- Saturday, September 19, 10:00 am
- Tuesday, September 22, 1:00 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!

Join the Choir



Even though we are unable to rehearse together during the pandemic, the St. George's Choir members get together on Zoom for conversation and fellowship every other Tuesday evening (September 15th and 29th) from 7:30 to 8:30 pm. This provides an opportunity to connect with St. George's in the middle of the week and is a great way to get to know the choir members. Through the wonders of technology, we have been able to present three hymns for the congregation, and we are working on two more. We would love to have more voices participate in these musical offerings, even if you've never been in the choir. Contact Music Minister Mi-Young Kim at 860-804-2911 (text or call) or sgmusicminister@gmail.com for more information or for the Zoom link. All are welcome!

Outreach Updates

The Outreach Committee had a very productive online meeting on August 11th. Here are some highlights:

- **Virtual Fundraiser:**

Outreach will hold a virtual fundraiser during the month of September. The money will be used to fund projects like shopping for Any Baby Can food bags, supporting the St. George's Court account at Central Texas Food Bank, and other potential projects such as work with the homeless community or COVID-19 relief. Please consider making a donation to support



our church's outreach program. Because the office is closed much of the time, a paper check can be a slow way to donate. If possible, please donate online at [St. George's Online Donation page](#), indicating the amount of your donation next to "Undesignated Outreach." (You may also mail a check made out to St. George's with "Outreach" in the memo line to the church office, but it may be up to a month before your check is deposited.) You are always so generous – even in these uncertain times, we know we can count on your support.

- **Any Baby Can Food Bags:**

Since 1980, our church has been supporting emergency food relief through Any Baby Can and the predecessor nonprofit CEDEN. We provide bags of approved, nutritionally balanced food that does not require a lot of preparation. This service has been on hold during the pandemic since case workers were not making in-person visits. ABC is hoping to resume home visits by the end of October. When that time comes, we will need shoppers who can volunteer once a month or once every other month to take a prescribed list, buy the groceries, sort them into 10 bags, and deliver the bags to the ABC headquarters. Funds for the food have been allocated, and shoppers submit receipts to the church treasurer for reimbursement.

- **Christopher House Baskets:**

On March 8th, we held a very successful basket sale – talk about the last minute! The world changed very shortly afterwards, and one change is that because of the social distancing being enforced, Christopher House only wants one basket delivered per week rather than two. Since many parishioners purchased two baskets, planning to deliver them both at the same time, that leaves many of you with an undelivered basket! In order to sign up to deliver a basket – whether or not you already have one – please visit the [Online Christopher House Basket Calendar](#), which runs from September 2020 through February 2021. Type your name next to the available week of your choice, and indicate whether or not you already have a basket. If you do not have a basket, contact Alice Nelson at mzlsnlsn@gmail.com to make arrangements to get one. Because of uncertain numbers of patients, Christopher House has requested that no perishable items be included in the basket.

- **Holiday Outreach:**

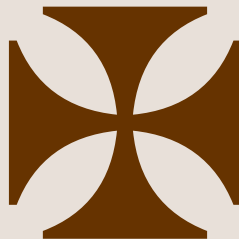
Carolyn Moreau has agreed to be the St. George's liaison for the Hands for Hope Thanksgiving distribution coordinated by El Buen Samaritano. We have no information at this point about the shape of the program because of the pandemic, but Carolyn will keep us informed as the time draws closer.

For Christmas, we will once again have an Angel Wreath with a stocking containing a gift card from HEB for each resident of St. George's Court. We will also provide money for phone cards to Casa Marianella to help its resident stay in touch with family and friends over the holidays. Martha Paull has contributed the handmade stockings, and Jennifer Bigbee has agreed to coordinate construction of the wreath. The exact details of how the stockings will get decorated and how distribution will be handled are not yet clear. We will provide further information as the time is closer.

- **SAFE Comfort Bag Delivery:**

Thanks to efforts by many parishioners, we were able to deliver 75 beautiful comfort bags to SAFE, even though we couldn't get together for a sew-in or bag assembly. Holly Bowles, our SAFE contact, joined us for online services and the blessing of the bags on August 16th, and she spoke a few moving words about the impact that this gift has on recipients when they are at their most vulnerable. Gayle Wall and Patsy Chandler made all the bags, and in addition, Gayle provided a handmade mask for each bag. Herb and Sandra Dickson made sure that we had a handwritten note for each bag, and Frances Rickard coordinated the contribution and delivery of the many items that go into each bag. The donation response by our members was truly inspiring. Holly and our friends at SAFE will let us know when more bags are needed. For now we say thank you so much for your gifts.

Many thanks to all of you who 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 any of these projects or would like to volunteer to help out, please contact Alice Nelson (mzlsnlsn@gmail.com) or Sarah Campbell (cowmarket2@gmail.com).



News from the School



What joy to see the many children back on campus and playing with their friends. We had new families and returning families join us for the new school year. The school had a wonderful virtual Parent Orientation and Back to School Zoom meeting. On the first day, I simply smiled as I went out to the playground and was greeted by children who have not been here since March. One little guy looked up and said, “Hi, Ms. Jerri, remember me?” Another mom said her that her daughter said, “Mom, go faster, it’s taking a long time to get to school!” Needless to say, the school had many happy returning children – Praise God!

During this unusual school year, we are focused on keeping a sense of community with our families and parishioners and keeping staff morale high, as we continue to navigate through this interesting time. At the School Board training we discussed ways that parishioners could financially support the school. Someone had the great idea to share a list of classroom supplies we need. If you would like to help out and can purchase one of these items, we would be very grateful! Just click on our [Amazon Wish List](#) and choose one or more items to purchase and donate to the school. On behalf of the school, I thank you for any donation you choose to provide.

As part of our “News from the School” article, we’re going to start featuring two of our teachers each month, so that all of you can get to know our remarkable staff.

Meet Jeanne Combs

Hi! I’m Ms. Jeanne, and I teach in the Yellow Room with our 2½ to 3-year-olds. St. George’s is not just a school, it is a family. It is a learning community. The teachers here love what they do, and it shows through their work. Walking into a classroom makes anyone want to take a moment from their busy world and sit down at the table and do the activities laid out. I have never felt more at home in a school than I do here.



Meet Cindy Boyle

Hello, I am Ms. Cindy. I have been with St. George’s for over 16 years and couldn’t imagine working anywhere else. The staff and families welcomed me with open arms from the first moment I came onboard. St. George’s prides itself on building community and teaching the whole child. My two daughters both attended St. George’s. The relationships and experiences from their time at St. George’s helped shape them into the caring and confident young ladies they are today.



As we pray for one another, let us all be grateful for what we have and how we can be a light for each other.

Respectfully,

Jerri Thompson
Head of School

September Birthdays & Anniversaries



We wish the following parishioners a happy birthday:

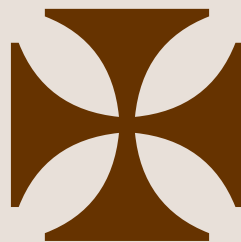
Michele Blood (Sep 6)
Spencer Gordon (Sep 6)
Kosmos Ibsen (Sep 6)
Gladys Dykes (Sep 10)
Eisen Schuster (Sep 11)
Jim Enelow (Sep 12)
Jennifer Long (Sep 15)
Anna Rae Rozell (Sep 15)

Suzette Puckett (Sep 16)
Divesh Manohar (Sep 20)
Colin O'Donnell (Sep 23)
Ramón Treviño (Sep 24)
Kent Ibsen (Sep 25)
Pia Ibsen (Sep 26)
Kirk Hoffman (Sep 28)
Hollie Gordon (Sep 30)

And a happy anniversary to:

Jennifer & Walter Long (Sep 21)
David & Stephanie Savage (Sep 23)

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](#)