

SEPTEMBER 2023 ISSUE

The Banner

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
ST. GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
AUSTIN, TX





St. George's Episcopal Church

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

Office Hours

Mon. - Wed.: 11 am -4 pm

Thurs.: Noon - 5 pm

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The Rev. Dr. Matt Boulter

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Mark Casstevens

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John Rickard

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Ramón Treviño

Sandra Villalaz

In This Issue

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Sunday Schedule

10:30 am Holy Eucharist Rite II

11:45 am Coffee Hour

Sunday Bulletin

September Events

St. George's Pub Club

SEP. 4, AT B.D. RILEY'S
6-8 PM

BRING A FRIEND!

Jonah:

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY
LED BY FATHER MATT

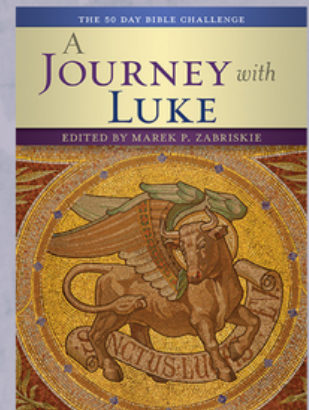
7:45-9:15 AM
SEP. 5 - ZOOM
SEP. 19 - KERBY LANE

Wednesday Weavings

6:30-8 pm

Sep. 6

Sep. 20



FR. MATT'S BOOK GROUP

6-7:30 pm

Sep. 7 - Batch

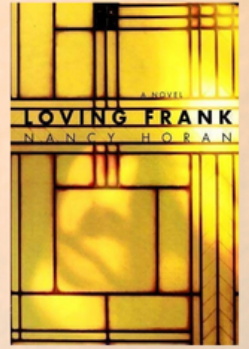
Sep. 21 - Zoom



Women's Book Group

3-5 pm

Sep. 9



Reweaving the Fabric

St. George's Stewardship 2024



Choir Practice

Every Tuesday
from 7-8:30 pm



St. George's Nursery

*For crawlers through four's
from 10am - 12pm on Sundays.*

*Follow the signs on campus, and please
register children via the QR code!*



[St. George's Events Page](#)



Feast Days

September 2023

- 1** - David Pendleton Oakerhater, Deacon & Missionary of the Chyenne, 1931
- 2** - The Martyrs of New Guinea, 1942
- 4** - Paul Jones, Bishop & Peace Advocate, 1941
- 9** - Constance, Nun & her Companions, 1878
- 12** - John Henry Hobart, Bishop of New York,
- 13** - Cyprian, Bishop & Martyr of Carthage, 258
- 14** - Holy Cross Day
- 16** - Ninian, Bishop in Galloway, c. 430
- 18** - Edward Bouverie Pusey, Priest, 1882
- 19** - Theodore of Tarsus, Archbishop of Canterbury, 690
- 20** - John Coleridge Patteson, Bishop of Melanesia, & his Companions, Martyrs, 1871
- 21** - St. Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist
- 25** - Sergius, Abbot of Holy Trinity, Moscow, 1392
- 26** - Lancelot Andrewea, Bishop of Winchester, 1626
- 27** - Vincent de Paul, Priest, 1660
- 29** - St. Michael & All Angels
- 30** - Jerome, Priest, & Monk of Bethlehem, 420



Letter from the Rector

REV. DR. MATT BOULTER

“Reweaving the Fabric” (Stewarding our Relationships)

Great things are happening at St. George’s! Please take a moment to see what’s coming up and start thinking about ways you can be involved in our beloved community!

Faithfully,

Matt+

The Rev. Dr. Matt Boulter

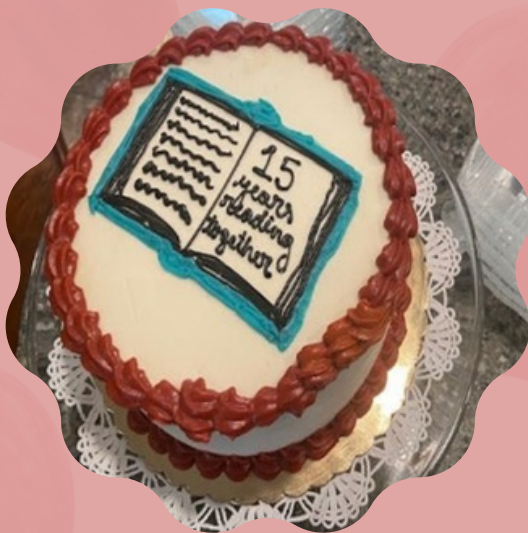
- **Rally Day** – Join us in coffee hour on **Sep. 10** to learn more about the various ministries offered at St. George’s! How is the lord calling you to use your gifts? Come and see!
- **Reweaving the Fabric (Stewardship 2024)** – Get ready to make your promises/pledges! On **Sep. 17**, we will begin our annual promise drive, “Reweaving the Fabric”! Be sure to check out our YouTube page to see the [Reweaving the Fabric story videos!](#)
- **Confirmation Prep.** – On **Sunday, Dec 19**, Bishop Doyle will be with us for the apostolic ministry of the laying on of hands. You are invited to consider being confirmed, received, or reaffirmed. Preparations for this important step (a.k.a., “confirmation preparation”) will begin on **Sep. 24, at 11:45** in the Wright house. For more information on Youth and Teen confirmation prep, please contact Tommy Moreland at 903-303-9209. For more information on adult confirmation prep, please contact Fr. Matt (matt@saintgeorgesAustin.org) or the church office (admin@saintgeorgesAustin.org).



Parish Updates and Announcements

Joyful 15th Anniversary Celebration

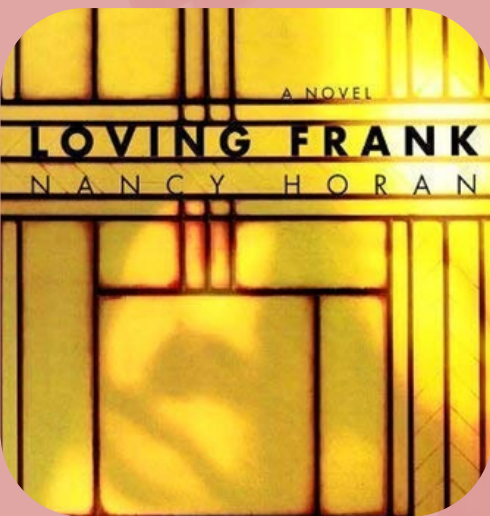
The Women's Book Group marked 15 years of reading together and our deepening friendships with a festive celebration during the August meeting.



Women's Book Group

The women's book group will be hosted by Stephanie Savage and by Sandra Villalaz on September 9 from 3-5 pm at Sandra's home 400 Towne Park Trail. The book is *Loving Frank* by Nancy Horan. All women of St. George's are welcome at this gathering, even if you haven't finished the book.

For more information, contact Alice Nelson at mzlsnlsn@gmail.com or Sarah Campbell at cowmarket2@gmail.com



Wednesday Weavings

A robust group of St. George's parishioners meets on the first and third Wednesdays of the month for a shared meal, conversation on a selected reading, and evening worship. In September, we will meet from **6:30 to 8 p.m. on Sept. 6 at James and Gayle Wall's home and on Sept. 20 at Jan Phillips's home.** Come join us if you can!

We continue reading from our new book, *A Journey with Luke*, part of the series of Forward Movement's 50-day Bible challenges. Each week's reading stands on its own, so you don't miss anything but the good company and conversation if you can't come one week. Everyone is asked to contribute to the simple salad bar meal (for example, cheese, veggies, or crunchy toppings). For more information or for a copy of the book, contact Frances Rickard at fajrickard@gmail.com.

El Buen Samaritano Needs Fall Education Program Volunteers

- **Youth Academic Volunteer** – Provide academic support in math, literacy, science, and social studies for elementary and middle school students. This afterschool position meets a minimum of twice weekly from 4 – 6 pm, either in person or virtually, from Sep. 5 – Dec 21.
- **Bilingual Digital Literacy Volunteer** – instructor needed for a 15-week course on computer skills.
 - Computer Basics meet in person on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 am-noon (in person).
 - Computer Intermediate meets virtually Thursday from noon – 1:30 pm, Sep. 5 – Dec. 21.

For more information, please visit [El Buen's volunteer website](#).

KidsWord is Back

Beginning on September 3, children, age five to grade five, are invited to process at the beginning of the Sunday service, with the KidsWord banner to the front of church, for a blessing from Fr. Matt. Then we'll head to Kleberg Hall for some worship and learning. We'll return to church and our families in time for the Peace.

So what is KidsWord? It's scripture lessons for kids. That means while adults and older youth are in church, hearing lessons for the day and a sermon that reflects on those lessons, younger children are in their special place in Kleberg Hall, to hear one of the same stories. It's presented in a way that is more accessible and appropriate for a younger age. But instead of a sermon we have questions that invite kids into the story, so they may ponder a meaning or an impression to take with them when they return to church.

Parents are always welcome to accompany their children to KidsWord, and especially if their children are shy about coming for the first time. Questions? contact Jan Phillips: janphillips62@gmail.com

We look forward to seeing you on September 3!



St. George's Episcopal School

A long-time vision has been fulfilled!

Back in 2014, when I arrived at St. George's School and saw the incredible playground space, I started dreaming of creating an outdoor learning environment. There was so much potential to create the type of environment I remembered growing up in. I think my tomboy side came back to life, and so I put into place a vision to create an outdoor space where children would thrive.

How do you remember playing as a young child?

Most people, when answering this question, have memories of playing outside (running, climbing trees, swinging, sliding, rolling, discovering nature, and exploring). Growing up in the Texas Hill Country, I remember the beautiful rivers and limestone boulders. The common ingredient in all these memories is free, unstructured play.

This type of open-ended play is one of the ways in which children learn to think both cognitively and emotionally. So many skills are developed when children have the freedom to venture out and explore what nature has to offer. Their understanding of how things work and the peace they feel when connecting to nature is unmistakable.

Oftentimes, when I tour families or potential new staff, I end the tour with this question, "Did anything stand out to you?" And the answer I receive is, "Yes, the children and staff are so happy here." I am convinced that a big part of that answer has to do with our outdoor learning environment.

Engaged children are happy children, and happy children make happy teachers. Our indoor curriculum is robust and engaging for children, as is our outside curriculum. There are many obvious benefits of outdoor play, such as physical fitness and gross motor development, but what about the not-so-obvious?

Outdoor learning environments:

- Improve self-regulation by reducing stress and mental fatigue. It also increases attention span and decreases feelings of fear and anger. Children are more likely to follow instructions when they are connected to something or someone and don't feel boxed in with a bunch of "nos and don'ts."
- Promote cognitive development by increasing children's level of interest and focus. A rich outdoor learning environment also encourages a lot of math, science, and vocabulary.
- Promote imaginative and collaborative play because of the increased opportunities to negotiate with others and use items found in nature in creative ways.
- Promote self-confidence because many of the features involve taking risks and seeking out adventure. It's also noted that increased concentration and resistance to sudden impulses are seen in children who play outdoors.
- Promote environmental stewardship by shaping children's respect for nature at a very early age. When teachers explain to children what plants they can and can not pick, children learn to value plants.

The Outdoor Learning Environment movement points out key features that promote cognitive, physical, emotional, social, and spiritual development. These features are:

- More than 2 gross motor activity elements
- Trees, shrubs, vines, plants
- Topographic variations such as mounds, terraces, and slopes
- A variety of ground surfaces, i.e., mulch, grass, rocks, boulders, wood chips, and logs
- Looping pathways for riding bikes and push toys
- Garden plants and vegetables
- Water features

And I'm pleased to say we have now incorporated all of these recommended features into both of the playgrounds.

This vision would not have happened without the help of professionals who are as keen on providing spaces for children to thrive in as I am. As luck would have it, I was introduced to an amazing team of people through Marc Opperman, who now works for Maas Verde. When starting this project back in 2017, Marc was helping the original designer of our outdoor learning environment, but life took her in a different direction. The vision, I thought, was lost because very few really understand the complexity of creating an outdoor learning environment. But again, as luck would have it, Marc and I crossed paths, and the project was given new life. Marc, now working with Maas Verde, a family-owned and operated company, knew how to get the job done.

It takes a great deal of creativity and knowledge about early childhood playground regulations to incorporate all the key features for children ages 3 months-5 years. I can't say enough about the ingenuity and thoughtfulness that went into each feature. The Maas Verde team has been incredible to work with. And without this team of dedicated people who clearly have a vision to "build community through landscape," my vision might not have happened. So, thank you from the bottom of my heart for helping this 9-year-old vision come to fruition.



Jerri Thompson, M.Ed.

Head of School

St. George's Episcopal School

4301 N. IH 35

[Instagram](#) [Facebook](#)



Let's Celebrate

Birthdays

Michele Blood (Sep 6)
Spencer Gordon (Sep 6)
Kosmos Ibsen (Sep 6)
Gladys Dykes (Sep 10)
Jennifer Long (Sep 15)
Anna Rae Rozell (Sep 15)
Suzette Puckett (Sep 16)
Matt Boulter (Sep 19)
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)

Anniversaries

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

BANNER DEADLINE

The deadline for news and article submissions for the September issue of *The Banner* is

Thurs., Sep. 21

please email your submissions to
admin@saintgeorgesAustin.org

LINKS

St. George's Episcopal Church

St. George's Episcopal School

St. George's Court

The Episcopal Diocese of Texas

The Episcopal Church, USA

The Lectionary

Camp Allen

Episcopal Relief and Development