



*St. Mary's*  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
The Mustard Seed Church

The mission of St. Mary's is to invite all people into a relationship with God and each other in Christ.



November 2022

## The Mustard Seed Church Sowing Seeds in the Community...



During the month of November, it is Mosaic in Action's intent to work on residences in West Columbia on November 14-18, 21, and 28-30. A 12-person AmeriCorps NCCC team will be joining Mosaic from November 6th through December 16th. This team is made up of young adults who volunteer to serve around the country for at least a year.

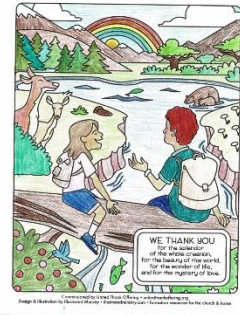
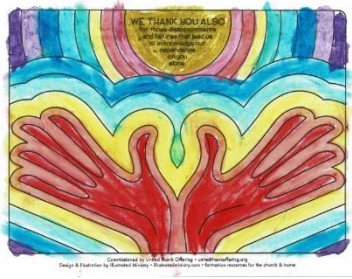
Mosaic also received a \$15,000 roofing grant from Week of Compassion and plan to work on 3 - 4 roofs in West Columbia.

If you would like to volunteer or visit with the Mosaic in Action team on the dates listed above between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., contact Marcus George, Construction Supervisor, at 214-914-2646 or [marcus@mosaicinaction.org](mailto:marcus@mosaicinaction.org).

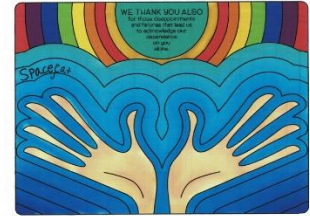
### Cakes for Meals on Wheels

St. Mary's is once again providing boxes of cake mix and tubs of icing for the Meals on Wheels program in West Columbia. Meals on Wheels provides inexpensive, healthy meals to individuals who are unable to prepare their own meals. Every week from October through December, they need 4 boxes of cake mix and 2 tubs of icing. Each cake that is made by their baker takes 2 cake mixes and 1 tub of frosting. If you are able to help this worthy cause, please bring the cake mixes and icing to the church anytime and they will be delivered to the Senior Citizen Center which runs the Meals on Wheels program.

## UTO Boxes



pictures from our parishioners for the National UTO Campaign



The UTO boxes handed out on Pentecost, will be collected and blessed on All Saints Day, Nov. 6th. You can also bring your boxes before or after that Sunday, if you are not planning on being at church. Envelopes will be available if you would rather make a monetary donation or write a check. New boxes will be handed out and due on Pentecost Sunday, May 28, 2023.

UTO National is entrusted to receive the offerings, and to distribute 100 percent of what is collected to support mission and ministry throughout The Episcopal Church and Provinces of the Anglican Communion. Please help to make St. Mary's contribution a substantial one.

**STRENGTHEN WITH PRAYER**  
Begins October 31st




Monday - Thursday  
8 am to 9am  
St. Mary's Episcopal Church

Bring hand weights and a yoga mat

All levels are welcome!

In November, there will be no Strengthen with Prayer from Monday, November 14th to Thursday, November 24th. They will resume on Monday, November 27th.



## Christmas Parade

Once again, St. Mary's is spreading its branches into the community. We will be participating in the 2022 West Columbia Christmas Parade held Saturday, December 3rd beginning at 7 p.m. Bill Olson will be chairing our entry, but he needs help from all parishioners. He will need donated items, people to help build and decorate the float, and of course parade participants. Sign up sheets will be placed in the Narthex and Parish Hall with all that is needed. There is something for everyone.

Have you been wondering what to do with the leftover Halloween candy. Bring it to the church and it will be used during the parade. Bags of fresh candy can also be donated. There will be containers in the Narthex and Parish Hall for candy donations.



## Parish Thanksgiving Dinner

Our Parish Thanksgiving Dinner is Wednesday, November 16, at 5:30 in the Parish Hall. White Apron will again be catering the meal of turkey, gravy, dressing, potatoes, green beans, salad, rolls, dessert and beverage. Please RSVP by November 5th. There are sign-up sheets in the Narthex and Parish Hall. You can also contact the office.



## George Grosvenor

The funeral service for George Grosvenor will be Saturday, November 19th, at 10:00 a.m. at St. Mary's Episcopal Church. There will be a reception following the service in the Parish Hall.

Give to the departed eternal rest and let light perpetual shine upon them.



## Loree Edge

The funeral service for Loree Edge, mother of Donna Roddy, will be Sunday, November 13th, at 2:00 p.m. at St. Mary's Episcopal Church. There will be a reception following the service in the Parish Hall.

Give to the departed eternal rest and let light perpetual shine upon them.

# Advent and Christmas at St. Mary's Episcopal Church

Sunday, Nov. 27 @ 9:00AM 1st week of Advent  
Advent Wreath Making in the Parish Hall after the service and placing Wreaths in the church

Sunday, Dec. 4 @ 9:00AM 2nd week of Advent  
making Christmas cards in the Parish Hall after the service

Sunday, Dec. 11 @ 9:00AM 3rd week of Advent  
decorating Christmas cookies in the Parish Hall after the service

Sunday, Dec. 18 @ 9:00AM 4th week of Advent  
Nativity Program during the service  
Christmas tree decorating and Caroling  
Crockpot Cookoff - Parish Christmas Lunch

Saturday, Dec. 24 Christmas Eve - Family Christmas Service @ 6:30 PM

Sunday, Dec. 25 Christmas - Liturgy of the Word @ 9:00 a.m.



## CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

It is time to order the Christmas Poinsettias that add to the beauty of our church at Christmas. The suggested donation is \$15 per plant. Please return this form with your check to the church office or drop in the alms basin on Sunday. Call Dani at the church office with questions. (979) 345-3456.

**Deadline to order is Tuesday, December 20.**

I wish to order \_\_\_\_\_ Christmas Poinsettias. I enclose \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Dedications: To the Glory of God and

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In Thanksgiving for \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## Traveling Mary and Joseph

No, we are not trying to rush Christmas and bypass Thanksgiving, but Mary and Joseph will begin their travels to St. Mary's on November 27, the First Sunday of Advent. As we have traditionally done, Mary and Joseph will visit the homes of those who sign-up in the Parish Hall or Narthex. If you are unable to be at church to sign up but would still like them to visit your home, call or email the church.

The Holy Family will stay with you for 2-5 days. While they are with you, please take a picture of them and email it to the church or text it to Dani. The family that has them on December 24th, will bring them to the church for the Christmas Eve service and place them near the altar. Unlike the inn keeper, please consider welcoming into your home our weary travelers.

## Message from Marvin Miller

### Grieving Fathers

By Jim Gentil

A doctor entered the hospital in hurry after being called in for an urgent surgery. He answered the call asap, changed his clothes and went directly to the surgery block. He found the boy's father pacing in the hall waiting for the doctor. On seeing him, the dad yelled: "Why did you take all this time to come? Don't you know that my son's life is in danger? Don't you have any sense of responsibility?"

The doctor smiled & said: "I am sorry, I wasn't in the hospital and I came as fast as I could after receiving the call..... And now, I wish you'd calm down so that I can do my work"

"Calm down?! What if your son was in this room right now, would you calm down? If your own son dies now what will you do?" said the father angrily.

The doctor smiled again and replied: "I will say what Job said in the Holy Book "From dust we came and to dust we return, blessed be the name of God". Doctors cannot prolong lives. Go and intercede for your son, we will do our best by God's grace"

"Giving advises when we're not concerned is so easy" murmured the father.

The surgery took some hours after which the doctor went out happy, "Thank goodness!, your son is saved!" And without waiting for the father's reply he carried on his way running. "If you have any question, ask the nurse!!"

"Why is he so arrogant? He couldn't wait some minutes so that I ask about my son's state," commented the father when seeing the nurse minutes after the doctor left.

The nurse answered, tears coming down her face: "His son died yesterday in a road accident, he was in the burial when we called him for your son's surgery. And now that he saved your son's life, he left running to finish his son's burial."

**Moral - Never judge anyone.....  
because you never know how their life is and what they're going through.**



Stewardship is a time to reflect on God's gifts to us and how we can show our gratitude for these gifts and share them with others through our time, talent, and offering. The stewardship theme for this year is "More Than Enough" and it comes from the end of Luke's version of the feeding of the five-thousand. By the miracle of faith and the action of Love, there was more than enough to feed all.

"Giving Cards" will be mailed in November. Commitment Sunday will be November 27th. Please bring your "Giving Card" to church that day to place on the altar. If you will not be present on November 27th, you can bring your "Giving Card" to the church before or after that date.



## Episcopal Church Calendar

The office will be ordering the 2023 Episcopal Church Calendar at the end of the November. This wall calendar shows the colors of the church year as well as listing the special holidays. On the back of each month's calendar sheet are printed the lessons and psalms for each Sunday and major feast day, along with other suggestions and notes. Each calendar is \$5.00. If you would like to order one, please notify the office by November 27th. You can pay at the time you order or when the calendar arrives.

## Cookies Needed

On December 18th, the third Sunday of Advent, we will be decorating sugar cookies after the service in the Parish Hall. Sugar cookies are needed. There will be sign-up sheets and cookie cutters in the Narthex and Parish Hall for those who can make a dozen sugar cookies. This will be a fun, delicious activity for the entire family.

## St. Mary's Website

Have you had a chance to check out St. Mary's website? There are several features you might find interesting.

Under the "Calendar" tap there are events and services listed for each month. The calendar is kept up-to-date and edited as new events and services are added. If you click on the event or service, more details will pop up.

The most recent Upcoming Events will now be featured on the front page of the website. This will make it easier to remember what will be happening, so you don't miss anything.

A new Photo Gallery has been added and will continually be updated with the latest pictures. Check out what has been going on since the beginning of Advent 2021.

Our website is [stmaryswestcolumbia.com](http://stmaryswestcolumbia.com). You can access it using the link below or at the top of the newsletter.

[Visit our website](http://stmaryswestcolumbia.com)



## Community Assistance

During October, the committee approved funds to help 1 family with gas for their car and 1 family with a week stay in a hotel.

If you know of anyone needing assistance, please contact Tracy Lane or Jackie Walker.



## 2022 Flower sign up

The forms to sign up for 2022 flower offerings are in the Narthex. Please stop by and sign up to honor or celebrate special days in your life. The cost is \$50, to be paid in advance.

For more information call the church office at 979-345-3456.



## October

Jasey Hussey earned the Perfect Attendance award and the Wonderful Wildcatter award for the first 9 weeks at West Columbia Elementary.

Sydney and Robert Mikel are expecting their first child, a boy, in April. This will also be the first grandchild for Dani and AJ Mikel.

Abigail earned the Wonderful Wildcatter Award at West Columbia Elementary for the first nine weeks by earning 0 conduct marks, perfect attendance, and the A Honor Roll. She also placed third in the school pumpkin decorating contest.

Braylee Schill was part of the Columbia High School Cross Country Team that won district and qualified for regionals. She earned all As during the first 9 weeks at Columbia High School.

Kendy Hankins had a wonderful two weeks at the Brazoria County Fair. She placed 36th with her pen of bunnies. Her Shorthorn earned 2nd place in the Steer division and made the sale. She had the Shorthorn Breed Champion with Diamond in Breeding Beef and won a buckle with Ruby in the Breed Champion-Breeding Beef. In the Open Beef Division, Kendy won the small division and another buckle for first place overall.

Ally Lane has completed 90+ hours at Texas A&M University, is classified as a Senior, and earned her Aggie ring. She will be interning this spring at the accounting firm FORVIS in Houston.

Madeline Roddy was the 2022 Brazoria County Fair Association High Point Winner in twirling on the pre-primary division.

Brayze Schill earned all As during the first 9 weeks at Columbia High School. He also finished 2nd in the average at the Cowboys Professional Rodeo Association finals in Angleton. He finished 3rd in the average at United Professional Rodeo Association finals in Dallas at the Texas State Fair.

Trace Roddy earned the 0 Conduct Marks and AB Honor Roll awards for the first nine weeks at West Columbia Elementary.





**THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!**

Special thanks and gratitude to

- Theata Miller, Gwynne Olson, Bill Olson, Dan Roddy, Vicki Vrazel, Buck Barnes, Hannah Hussey, Justin Hussey, Colleen Matocha, Dani Mikel, AJ Mikel, Marvin Miller, Shyanne Roddy, Abigail Roddy, Trace Roddy, Wendy Hankins, Jasey Hussey, Jay Wiggins, Travis Prater, Tracy Lane, Sherry Wehner, Brayze Schill, Braylee Schill, and Adam Schill for serving as Worship Leaders in October.
- Amber Prater for setting up the Livestreaming on our Facebook site, monitoring the feed during the service, and responding to those viewing on-line.
- Gwynne and Bill Olson, Marvin and Theata Miller, Sherry and Father Paul Wehner, and the Brotherhood for providing treats for our August Hospitality and Fellowship.
- Theata Miller for stapling the service bulletins.
- Mary Stewart for organizing the children's bags for Sunday service.
- Hannah Hussey for joining the children's Sunday school program.
- all who have already donated cakes and icing for Meals on Wheels.
- all who donated candy for Trunk or Treat.
- Jennifer, Adam, Brayze, and Braylee Schill, Sherry Stratton, AJ and Dani Mikel, Bill and Gwynne Olson, Dan and Donna Roddy, Father Paul and Sherry Wehner, Travis Prater, Amber Prater, and Jackie Walker for participating in Trunk or Treat.
- Tracy Lane, Sherry and Father Paul Wehner, Dani and AJ Mikel, Marvin and Theata Miller, Shyanne Roddy, Dan Roddy, Jackie Walker, Wendy Hankins, Jennifer Schill, and Carol Jones for providing food for and helping with the reception following the Memorial Service for Dorothy McGuire.
- AJ Mikel, Travis Prater, Dani Mikel, Bill Olson, Dan Roddy, Theata Miller, and Marvin Miller for serving as Worship Leaders for the Memorial Service for Dorothy McGuire.
- Susan Graham for playing the organ during the Memorial Service for Dorothy McGuire.
- the Reverend Susanne Hebert for serving as celebrant while Father Paul was gone.

You are awesome, and St. Mary's greatly appreciates all you do.



## Don't Forget

Remember to keep your empty print cartridges for St. Mary's. All brands and types are welcomed. We have been turning in 10 cartridges a month, earning a \$20 credit. This greatly helps defray the cost of our office supplies.



## Camp Allen Events

**Needlepoint Retreats - September 12-16, and December 5-9 - Join fellow needlepointers for a three day, two night retreat.**

**Fly Fish Retreat - November 4-5 - Grab your rod and reels for this weekend co-ed fishing retreat. All levels and abilities are invited to attend sessions on fly fishing, Texas fly fishing, and fly casting.**

**Gramps Camp - November 4-5 - Spend quality time with your grandchildren at this two day, one night retreat. Activities include canoeing, hiking, giant swing, swimming, archery, orienteering, fishing, pond studies, a campfire, and stargazing.**

**Birds and Blooms - November 11-13 - Enjoy camp's 1,100 acres, attend expert led workshops and hike scenic trails with experienced guides. Presentations include: wildlife photography, Audubon presenters, live owl and hawk demos, birding identification and more.**

**Holiday in the Pines - December 9-11 - This family Christmas weekend includes activities such as sledding, rock climbing, giant swing, zip line, massages, horseback rides, Discovery Dome theatre, campfire, Holiday tea, photos with Santa, family movie night, live bird & reptile classes, hiking, fishing, hayrides, moon jump, archery, gingerbread houses, and arts & crafts.**



## Prayer Request

If you or someone you know is in need of prayer, please notify the office by email or phone. The prayer list will be updated each month, so if prayers need to continue for an individual person, please fill out a new card or let Dani know. Prayers for the sick and those in need are the joyful duty of the Christian community. Help us keep our parish prayer list current by notifying us of those in need of prayer and when those listed are no longer in need.

## **Dates to Remember**

**Sunday services are streamed on St. Mary's Facebook Live at 9:00 a.m.**

**November 1 - 3 - Strengthen with Prayer Exercise Program (8:00 a.m.)**

**November 6 - Brotherhood (7:30 a.m.)**

**November 6 - Daylight Savings Time - set your clocks back one hour before going to bed on Saturday.**

**November 6 - All Saints Sunday - Holy Eucharist: Rite II and Baptism (9:00 a.m.)  
celebrant - the Reverend Paul Wehner**

**November 6 - Bring UTO boxes to church.**

**November 7-10 - Strengthen with Prayer Exercise Program (8:00 a.m.)**

**November 8 - Vestry meeting (5:15 p.m.)**

**November 13 - Sunday Service - Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)  
celebrant - the Reverend Paul Wehner  
Children's Sunday School**

**November 13 - Youth and Adult Sunday School and children activities  
(10:30 - 11:15 a.m.)**

**November 13 - Memorial Service celebrating the life of Loree Edge with Holy Eucharist. A reception will follow. (2:00 p.m.)**

**November 16 - Thanksgiving Parish Dinner (5:30 p.m.)**

**November 19 - Memorial Service celebrating the life of George Grosvenor with reception to follow (10:30 a.m.)**

**November 20 - Brotherhood (7:30 a.m.)**

**November 20 - Sunday Service - Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)  
celebrant - the Reverend Nan Doerr  
Children's Sunday School**

**November 20 - Youth and Adult Sunday School and children activities  
(10:30 - 11:15 a.m.)**

**November 24 – Thanksgiving**

**November 27 - Sunday Service - Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)**  
celebrant - the Reverend Paul Wehner  
Children's Sunday School  
Commitment Sunday - bring your Giving Card

**November 27 - Advent 1 Activity - Make Advent wreaths. Hang Christmas wreaths in the church.**

**November 27 - Mary and Joseph begin their journey to the homes of St. Mary's parishioners.**

**November 28 - December 1 - Strengthen with Prayer Exercise Program (8:00 a.m.)**

## **November Birthdays**

**Robert Mikel - Nov. 6**

**Haley Cantrell - Nov. 6**

**Cesylie Guizar - Nov. 6**

**Hayden Culbreath - Nov. 12**

**Brayze Schill - Nov. 15**

**David Mikel - Nov. 18**

**Travis Prater - Nov. 20**

**Gwynne Olson - Nov. 22**

**Anne King - Nov. 24**

## **Nov. Anniversaries**

**Heather and David Mikel - Nov. 7**

**Grace and Thomas Culbreath - Nov. 18**

# St. Mary's Leadership

## Vestry

**Rector: the Reverend Paul Wehner**

**Sr. Warden: Gwynne Olson**

**Jr. Warden: Dan Roddy**

**Clerk: Colleen Matocha**

**Outreach Chair: Jackie Walker**

**New email address for St. Mary's - [stmaryswestcolumbia@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryswestcolumbia@gmail.com)**

St. Mary's Episcopal Church, corner of 16th and Clay Street, West Columbia  
PO Box 786, West Columbia, Texas 77486  
979-345-3456 [stmaryswc@centurylink.net](mailto:stmaryswc@centurylink.net)

The Bells of St. Mary's is a monthly newsletter for members and friends of St Mary's Episcopal Church. Submissions for publication should be sent to the church office on or before the 25th of the month prior to the publication.