

# THE BELLS OF SAINT MARY'S



APRIL 2017

## Mission Statement

**“Celebrating God’s Love Found in The Word, People and Creation”**



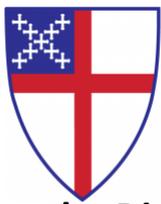
## Retirement of Father Peter Conaty

On March 5<sup>th</sup>, Father Peter announced his retirement from St. Mary’s Episcopal Church effective May 1<sup>st</sup>. Father Peter has served as our priest for 17 years. During his time with us, Father Peter has touched so many of our lives. Whether through the celebration of the Eucharist, observance of Holy Days, Baptisms, marriage ceremonies, Confirmations, pastoral care, and burial rites, he has been our spiritual leader guiding us to a closer relationship with God. His lasting legacy to our community will be his preservation of God’s creation through the Prayer Garden and the Nash Prairie. Not only has Peter been our priest, but he and Susan have been our friends and will always be a part of our church family.



## Love Offering and Retirement Reception

Every Sunday until April 19<sup>th</sup>, we will be collecting a love offering for Peter and Susan. St. Mary’s will also be hosting a retirement reception for them on April 23<sup>th</sup> from 2 to 4. This will be a come and go affair. A cake has been ordered but there will be a signup sheet at the entrance to the church for additional refreshments.



## Meeting with Reverend Young

The vestry met with Reverend Francene Young, the Transition Minister for the Diocese of Texas on Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup>. Plans were initiated for the search of a new priest for St. Mary's. Because we have been without a priest for a year, the Diocese has decided to expedite the process. The Diocese appointed the vestry as the search committee. The first step in the process is a parishioner survey to get your input as to what type of priest St. Mary's needs to prosper both spiritually and physically. As soon as we receive the survey from Reverend Young, we will send it out via email; but if you would prefer a printed copy, one will be provided. A survey needs to be completed by all parishioners 12 years or older. The survey will be returned to the Diocese who will compile the results and find candidates that meet our needs. The search committee urges everyone to ask for God's spiritual guidance as you complete this important survey. Also keep the search committee and St. Mary's in your prayers as we move forward in the process of selecting a new priest.

## Outreach

*Shrove Tuesday  
Pancake Dinner*



### Shrove Tuesday

Our Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper was well attended. Thank you to The Brotherhood for organizing the event and to all who set up, cooked, served, and cleaned up afterwards. Our church family came together in a wonderful outreach event that benefited our community.

## Donations for the Military



In our parish hall there is a container by the door for donations to the West of the Brazos Military Support Group. Rees Sweeny, a member of our congregation, is involved in this organization. This organization supports all military branches and sends packages throughout the year to our service personnel overseas. Please consider picking up a few extra items in your weekly shopping to donate to this worthy cause. You can leave the items in the container at church and Rees will pick them up. Let's make this an ongoing outreach program for our church. There is a list of items on the bulletin board above the container. Please take one. Cash donations are also accepted.



# News from the Vestry

The vestry met Sunday, March 19th, after the Sunday service.

## Senior Warden's Report: Karen Logue

Dani Mikel, AJ Mikel, Karen Logue, and Ed Logue will be attending the Little Church Club at Camp Allen on April 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup>. Reverend Francene Young, Transition Minister from The Episcopal Diocese of Texas, requested a meeting with the vestry. The meeting was set for 9:00 on Saturday, March 25.

## Jr. Warden Report: Dan Roddy

Dan reported on the Nash Ranch LLC Board meeting. An electrician has been hired to do some repairs on the electrical problems of the church.

## Attendance: Dani Mikel

The average Sunday attendance for February was 30.5 people

## Financial Report for February: Dani Mikel

### Disbursements

General Expenses: \$11,667.43  
Discovery Program: \$28,593.00  
Supply Priests: \$765.24  
Community Assistance: \$809.91

### Income

KNG Fund: \$50,000.00  
Disability Insurance: \$4428.66  
Offering Plate/Pledges: \$3776.50  
Flower Fund: \$160.00

Total: \$41,834.91

Total: \$58,488.08

## Old Business

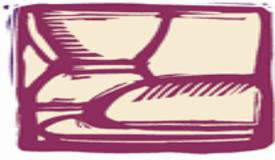
The Pancake Supper was discussed. Earlier advertising and the distribution of invitations would be done next year to promote the event.

## New Business

1. Holy Week services
2. Good Friday Plate Offering
3. Purchase of a Copyright License for Christian Music
4. Upcoming events: Father Peter's Retirement, Game Night, Mother's Day Brunch, Confirmation at St. Timothy's
5. Someone is needed to help take care of the Prayer Garden.

More details about the vestry meeting can be found in the minutes posted on the bulletin board.

# HOLY WEEK



## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### Palm Sunday – April 9th

The Palm Sunday service will begin at 9:00 in the Prayer Garden beside the church. Following the Liturgy of the Palms, the congregation will process into the church. The Reverend Eileen O'Brien will be celebrating the Eucharist with us.

### Maundy Thursday – April 12th

The service will begin at 6:00. Maundy Thursday commemorates the first Eucharist, The Last Supper, when Jesus met with his disciples the day before he was to be crucified. Please come and celebrate this special Eucharist led by Father Preston Weatherly as we remember the last days of our Lord Jesus Christ. At the end of the service, the altar guild will strip the altar and prepare it for Good Friday.

### Good Friday – April 13th

The service will begin at noon. Good Friday is the day on which the church commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus, the day when our Lord Jesus Christ suffered "death upon the cross so that we might be saved and become heirs with him of everlasting life." The liturgy of the day includes John's account of the Passion gospel, a solemn form of intercession known as the solemn collects, and devotions before the cross. The Eucharist is not celebrated, but Holy Communion will be administered from the reserved sacrament. Reverend Virginia Brown will be leading the Good Friday Service. (Book of Common Prayer and [episcopalchurch.org](http://episcopalchurch.org))



# EASTER

ALLELUIA, CHRIST IS RISEN.  
THE LORD IS RISEN INDEED. ALLELUIA

Our Easter service, the celebration of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, will begin at 9:00. Father Jim Morgan will be celebrating the Holy Eucharist with us. Please bring flowers for the traditional flowering of the cross. During the service, the children will be presenting a special program in place of the children's lesson. Following the service we will have hospitality in the parish hall and our Easter egg hunt.



## *Flowering of the Cross*

Article by Michael K. Marsh / May 2, 2014

One of the great Easter traditions is the flowering of the cross. People bring and place colorful fresh flowers on a drab wooden cross. What's behind this? Is it just a pretty decoration? Well, it does look beautiful but there are also some beautiful traditions and meanings associated with the flowering of the cross.

The sixth century hymn (#166) we sing on Good Friday celebrates this beauty with these words:

*“Faithful cross! Above all other, one and only noble tree!  
None in foliage, none in blossom, none in fruit they peer may be.”*

The tree of life in the Garden of Eden has often been seen as a prefiguring of the cross. Some legends even say that the wood of Christ's cross came from the tree of life or from a tree that grew from seeds of the tree of life. There is another legend that says at Christ's death the cross burst into blooming flowers. Art work from the sixth century shows a flowering cross.

I don't know if any of this really happened but I know it all to be true. The point in all this is that the cross of Christ is the new tree of life and every cross now flowers with new life. Death has been defeated and Christ is risen. Alleluia!

## Eggs Needed



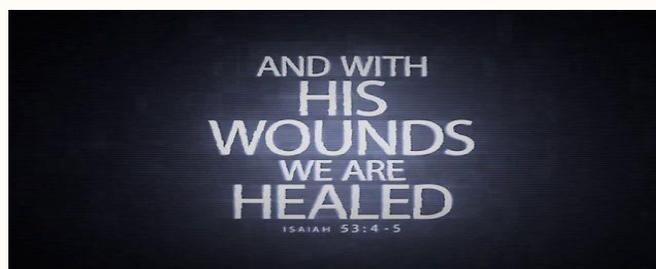
Following the Easter service, the children will have an Easter egg hunt. Please bring plastic eggs filled with goodies (candy, toys, coins, etc.) on Palm Sunday or Easter morning. The teenagers will hide the eggs in two areas, one for our younger children, and one for the older children. Children remember to bring your Easter basket on Easter Sunday.



## Good Friday Offering

The vestry decided to have a special offertory at the Good Friday Service to support the Good Friday Offering. We had received a letter from Bishop Michael Curry, our Presiding Bishop, requesting the support of this offering.

**The history of the Good Friday Offering reaches back to 1922 when, in the aftermath of World War I, The Episcopal Church sought to create new relationships with and among the Christians of the Middle East. From these initial efforts which focused on a combination of relief work and the improvement of ecumenical and Anglican relations, the Good Friday Offering was created. Through the years many Episcopalians have found the Good Friday Offering to be an effective way to express their support for the ministries of the four dioceses of the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East. Pastoral care, education and health care continue to be primary ministries through which the reconciling spirit of the Christian faith serves all in need. Participation in this ministry is welcome. The generous donations of Episcopalians help the Christian presence in the Land of the Holy One to be a vital and effective force for peace and understanding among all of God's children.**





## GAME NIGHT

St. Mary's will host Game Night on Wednesday, April 19<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6:30 pm. Bring your favorite games, a snack to share, and your family and friends. A movie will be provided for the little ones. Please mark your calendars for an evening of fun and fellowship for everyone.



## Episcopal Night with the Astros

This year's Episcopal Night at Minute Maid Stadium will take place on Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup> as the Astros face the Cleveland Indians. Christ Church Cathedral will host a free hotdog cookout from 5 - 6:30 pm. St. Mary's has reserved a block of 20 tickets in Section 156, Rows 6 and 7 which is located in center field. If needed, we can get more tickets. Tickets are \$31 each and this includes tax. Parking is available in the garage on San Jacinto St. across from the Cathedral. Please let Karen know by April 23<sup>rd</sup> if you have an interest in attending.



## Prayer Garden

As many of you know, Susan has tirelessly and lovingly tended our Prayer Garden throughout the year. Upon Peter's retirement, Susan is willing to continue caring for the Garden as long as she can, but will need help. If you love gardening and feel led to take on this task as your ministry to St. Mary's, please let a vestry member know. The Prayer Garden continually changes as it brings beauty to our church and is a reminder of God's amazing creation.



# Message From Marvin Miller

## Virtuoso

(From the book "Our Daily Bread")

A major US newspaper has called Christopher Parkening "the leading guitar virtuoso of our day, combining profound musical insight with complete technical mastery of his instrument." There was a time, however, when Parkening gave up playing the guitar professionally. At the height of his career as a classical guitarist, he retired at age thirty, bought a ranch in Montana, and spent his days fishing. But early retirement did not bring him the satisfaction he had hoped for.

Then, during a visit to California, he was invited to a church where he heard a clear presentation of the Gospel. Of this he wrote: "That night I lay awake, broken over my sins . . . I had lived very selfishly and it had not made me happy . . . It was then that I asked Jesus Christ to come into my life, to be my Lord and Savior. For the first time, I remember telling Him, "Whatever You want me to do with my life, Lord, I'll do it."

One of Parkening's favorite verses is 1 Corinthians 10:31, "Therefore . . . whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." He has taken up the guitar again, but this time with the motivation to glorify God.

Each of us has been given gifts: and when we use them for God's glory, they bring satisfaction and joy.

*The gifts we offer to the Lord  
Are by His standards measured:  
Our sacrifices and lives of praise---  
Such gifts are highly treasured.*

We were created to give God the glory.



## **The History of Saint Mary's Stained Glass Windows (Part 4)**

This information is taken from **A Sermon In Glass** given during the dedication of the windows on Sunday, December 16, 1973.

### **The Nave Windows – East Side**

#### **Tenth Window – The Resurrection of Christ**

The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him; and where He is killed, after three days, He will rise. Mark 9:31

The Resurrection window is composed of three outstanding symbols of Christ's victory over death. The banner is the sign of God's victory, the butterfly and lily are signs of new life.

#### **Eleventh Window – The Pentecost**

And when Jesus was baptized . . . the heavens were opened and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove. Matthew 3:16

When the day of Pentecost had come . . . and they were filled with the Holy Spirit . . . Acts 2:1,4

The Dove symbolizes the Holy Spirit and the window represents the Pentecost event which is the beginning of the Christian Church.

#### **Twelfth Window – The Church Today**

The ship at sea has long been a symbol of the Christian Church. It symbolizes not only the promises of the ark but also the fact that Christians of this and every generation are a part of God's salvation history.

#### **Thirteenth Window – The End**

I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end. Revelation 22:13

The Omega is the last letter of the Greek alphabet and is thus the symbol of the end of all time. The crown represents the Lordship of Christ and the victory of God at the end.

## Church Directory

UPDATE



Our new church directory has been distributed. Since its printing, Colleen and Clint Matocha have bought a house. Please make the following update to your directory.

Clint and Colleen Matocha  
848 Buffalo Trail  
Angleton, Texas 77515



### Community Assistance

If you know of anyone in need, please contact Karen or Tracy.

### Camp Allen Event



There are many events that take place at Camp Allen. When the church office receives information about an event, it will be posted on the bulletin board. If you are interested in something posted, let Dani know and she will get you more information.

Upcoming events in May and June

May 19 – 21: Birds and Blooms – a conference for all nature and bird lovers

June 2 – 3: Man Camp



### St. Mary's Website

David Mikel has agreed to be our technology advisor and help with the designing and updating of the St. Mary's Website. You can check it out by going to [stmaryswestcolumbia.org](http://stmaryswestcolumbia.org). One of the sections includes pictures of different parish activities. If you have pictures you would like included on our website, send them to the church email at [stmaryswc@centurylink.net](mailto:stmaryswc@centurylink.net). The site is a continuous work in progress, so if there is anything you would like to see added, please let Dani know. We want visitors to our site to see the specialness of St. Mary's.

**Andrea Anderson completed her Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing on March 19<sup>th</sup>.**

**Heather Mikel opened her new store, Emboldened Elegance Boutique, on the strand in Galveston. They specialize in women's clothing, gift and home décor.**

**Reesie Cantrell made the honor roll at West Columbia Elementary.**

**Piper Roddy made the honor roll at West Columbia Elementary.**

**Aaron Mikel was inducted into the National Honor Society at Sweeny High School. He made the superintendent's honor roll.**

**Abigail Roddy, Trace Roddy, Brayze Schill, and Braylee Schill had the honor of riding in the opening ceremonies for the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo as they represented West Columbia Chamber of Commerce.**

**Haley Cantrell made Columbia Jr. High twirler for the 2017 – 2018 school year. She won 1<sup>st</sup> place in twirling youth solo at the MA Nationals in Fort Worth. She also is on the principal's honor roll at West Columbia Elementary.**

**Ally Lane is on the superintendent's honor roll at Columbia High School.**

**Brayze Schill made the A honor roll at West Columbia Elementary.**

**Maddie Lane will represent Columbia High School at Girls' State. She made cheerleader for the 2017 – 2018 school year. She also is on the superintendent's honor roll.**

**Ashley Weisinger made Student of the Month for kindergarten at West Columbia Elementary.**

**Braylee Schill made the A/B honor roll at West Columbia Elementary.**



## *DATES TO REMEMBER*

April 2 – Confirmation at St. Timothy's (10:30)

April 9 – Brotherhood (7:30 am)

April 9 – Palm Sunday

April 9 – Children's practice for Easter

April 9 – Vestry meeting

April 12 – trip to Brookwood (9:00 am)

April 13 – Maundy Thursday (6:00 pm)

April 14 – Good Friday (noon)

April 16 – Easter Service/ Flowering the Cross

April 16 – Children's Easter egg hunt

April 19 – Game Night (6:30 – 8:30)

April 23 – Brotherhood (7:30 am)

April 23 – Retirement reception for Peter and Susan (2:00 – 4:00)

## *APRIL BIRTHDAYS*

*Paul Hattaway – Apr. 14*

*Dan Arana, Jr. – Apr. 16*



**Rector**                      **Peter Conaty**

**Sr. Warden**                **Karen Logue**  
([kklogue@msn.com](mailto:kklogue@msn.com))

**Jr. Warden**                **Dan Roddy**  
([dkroddy@earthlink.net](mailto:dkroddy@earthlink.net))

**Clerk**                        **Marvin Miller**  
([mgm inspections@earthlink.net](mailto:mgm inspections@earthlink.net))

**Treasurer**                **Dani Mikel**  
([danimikel87@yahoo.com](mailto:danimikel87@yahoo.com))

**Organist**                   **Kathy Molnar**

## **FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES**

Jerry & Sue Davidson – Apr. 14

Jim & Debbie Burns – Apr. 18

Wade & Shyanne Roddy – Apr. 24