

The Bells of St. Mary's



"Christos Anesti! Alithos Anesti!!"
"Christ is risen! Truly, he is risen!!"

My Greek-American brother-in-law brought this Greek custom into our family decades ago when he married my sister. Those with Greek heritage shout this acclamation and response back and forth to one another and to whomever they encounter on Easter Sunday (which usually falls on a different Sunday than our Easter Sunday *but that's a story for another time...*). I watched as my young nephews and niece learned to say these tricky words in a foreign and ancient tongue, knowing that they probably didn't understand what they were saying quite yet, but praying that they would as they grew older.

I think the world...and the Church...have struggled for almost two thousand years to fully understand these words, to fully understand the implications of "Christ is risen!" At the very least, we should be freed from a fatalistic outlook in our lives and in the world around us. We should be able to see resurrection as the natural course of events...in nature, in our lives, in our families, in our society...we should see that in the darkness of the tombs of the experiences of our lives, new life can spring forth. Can you see it? *"Christos Anesti! Alithos Anesti!!"*

Blessings,

Sharron



St. Mary's is Moving Out into the City!!

The leadership of our parish has for some time discerned the call to become more engaged in our city in meaningful ways. One way in which we wanted to move forward is to work alongside other congregations in serving our community. Columbia Methodist Church was approached by city leadership to host a luncheon for volunteers during the City-Wide Cleanup Day on April 14, 2018 and has asked other local churches if they would like to participate in this offering. St. Mary's Vestry has agreed to provide financial support for this meal...but will you be willing to represent St. Mary's and volunteer to help with grocery shopping, cooking, serving, and/or clean-up for this event? Please email your interest to Dani Mikel at stmaryswc@centurylink.net or add your name to the sign-up sheet on the table inside the entrance to the Parish Hall.



Parish Dinner

Our parish dinners seem to be attracting more and more people each month. Maybe it's the longer days due to Daylight Savings Time, the fellowship or perhaps it's just the good food! Maybe all of the above! Thank you to Theata and Marvin for providing their delicious (and famous now) dutch oven lasagna hot off the coals. Everyone provided some awesome side dishes and to round out this heavenly meal, Theata and Marvin treated us to peach cobbler with vanilla Blue Bell ice cream. It doesn't get any better than that and I don't believe anybody went away hungry. Our next dinner is just around the corner. Mark your calendars for **Wednesday, April 18th at 5 pm** when Andrea Anderson will be changing gears and serving up Mexican Casserole. Bring a side dish, salad or dessert and join us for our next parish dinner.



KNOW YOUR HYMNS!

On his old late night show, David Letterman's quirky humor was always on display. He frequently had a sketch entitled "Know Your Meats" where he would pull up innocent audience members, show them a picture of a cut of meat, and they would win prizes if they guessed the correct cut of the meat from four options.

With a nod to Dave, from time to time in this newsletter, we will have a new column, "Know Your Hymns." Rather than being a means of embarrassment and humiliation...or free dinners at nice restaurants in New York City...we want to prep parishioners with the hymns to be sung in upcoming services. If you follow the links next to these hymns on the internet, you will see and hear the variety of church hymnody performance as well as grow more familiar with some of the standards of church music. Please let us know what you think about this new column!

Hymns scheduled for Sunday, April 8:

- Opening Hymn #180 – *He is risen, he is risen!*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jyOSU4M9ksA>

- Gospel Hymn #178 – *Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BSeu12B5Qso>

- Offertory Hymn #193 *This joyful Eastertide*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5tipsbcfuB4>

- Communion Hymn #209 *We walk by faith*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6CLLbf9uLc4>

- Closing Hymn #208 *The strife is o'er, the battle done*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jGVazuJx9Lc>

Hymns scheduled for Sunday, April 15:

- Opening Hymn #182 *Christ is alive!*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CNUGtz_MO4Y

- Gospel Hymn #210 *The day of resurrection!*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mglx_0jhW1Y

- Offertory Hymn #691 *My faith looks up to thee*

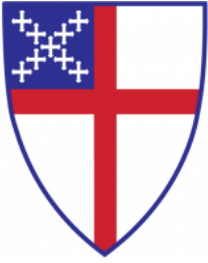
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KYDqEzw1VoQ>

- Communion Hymn #490 *I want to walk as a child of the light*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=of3F5EFvSuM>

- Closing Hymn #410 *Praise, my soul, the King of heaven*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sx1eMwIDFb8>



Diocesan Council

At our last parish dinner, Sharron Cox, Dani Mikel and Jennifer Bridges reported on the Diocesan Council meeting held in Waco from February 15th to the 17th. The Thursday night Eucharist with its spectacular entrance of the Bishops and clergy, the inclusion of the youth as worship leaders and readers, the music led by the choir made of members from different Episcopal churches throughout the diocese and sung by the entire congregation, and the service presented in both English and Spanish was a memorable beginning to the 169th Diocesan Council. The opening worship service along with the daily Bible studies and daily prayer services, made it apparent, that although there is diversity in the Episcopal Church and it is recognized and welcomed, there is still the commonality of the meaning of the worship service and our willingness to serve God.

At the diocesan council we heard from 3 people from 2 different churches who came together from different backgrounds. We discussed how to become community with our neighbors. We learned about solidarity, finding reconciliation, and being in relationship. We were charged with finding what is stopping us from doing the same in our own community, and to begin to reach out to others in the same way.

The actual business of the Council is interspersed through the two days of the gathering. A good deal of the work is formalities...credentialing delegates, declaration of a quorum, introductions, reports, etc. Then there's voting on clergy and lay representation on various councils and boards. Finally, there is the Diocesan Bishop's report. This year Bishop Doyle continued to urge us to begin looking for ways in which to engage our community in relationship. He shared with us growth in missional communities as well as starts of traditional missions. He pointed out the need for trained leaders of these different missions of the church. The Diocese of Texas is hosting this summer's gathering of The Episcopal Church in Austin from **July 5** through **July 13**. And during next year's Diocesan Council, a new Suffragan Bishop will be elected as Bishop Harrison will retire in early 2019.



Easter Service

The Easter Eucharist with Sharron as our celebrant was a very moving and wondrous service. From the release of the Alleluia to the final hymn, our congregation celebrated together the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Following the service, the fellowship in the parish hall, the egg hunt, and the delicious food only added to the specialness of day. We welcomed many visitors and some old friends we had not seen in awhile. We were so glad they could celebrate this joyous day with St. Mary's.



News from the Vestry

The vestry met Monday, March 26, 2018.

Senior Warden's Report: Karen Logue

The 90 day transition plan with Sharron required by the diocese has been completed. The flower bed by the bell tower will be finished by Easter. The Lenten study programs have been very well received.

Junior Warden's Report: Andrea Anderson

A walk through will be conducted by Andrea, Dan, and Sharron to determine what repairs and updates need to be done. A prioritized list will be compiled and presented to the vestry. Dan Roddy presented a report on the electrical problems at the church and an estimate for the cost to repair them. The vestry voted to proceed with the repairs using funds from the KNG account if necessary.

New Business

1. Ritesworship was purchased which will give us the copyright to the Episcopal worship services and the music from the approved hymnals and songbooks. With Ritesworship, we were able to print the complete service for Rees Sweeny's funeral, Palm Sunday, and Easter. Complete service bulletins will be used for special services to help visitors. Dani presented the cost of ink and paper per page.
2. The next parish dinner will be Wednesday, April 18th. Andrea will make Mexican casserole as the main dish.
3. Episcopal Night with the Astros will be July 13th. There was discussion about getting matching shirts for those who attend.

4.

Rector Report

1. Sharron gave the rector report detailing her activities from February 18th to present.
2. The Small Church Network will be meeting at Camp Allen. The price is \$95 per person. Sharron will attend and has asked others to check their schedule so another representative can also attend.
3. Pastor Paul from the United Methodist Church has asked for help with serving lunch during the city wide Clean Up Day. The vestry voted to donate between \$40 and \$50 and place a signup sheet in the parish hall asking for volunteers.
4. Sharron will be taking her vacation from May 31st to June 11th. A supply priest will be contacted for Sunday, June 3rd, and Sunday, June 10th.
5. Thursday, April 26th, there will be a noon lunch meeting at Palmer Memorial for those wanting to do a wellness ministry.

The next meeting will be Monday, April 23rd at 4:00.

Christian One Liners

Thank you, Doris

- The best mathematical equation I have ever seen: 1 cross + 3 nails = 4 given.
- We don't change the message. The message changes us.



Bible Study

The Thursday night Bible Study will wrap up its study of Daniel the last week in April. After completing the study of Ruth, Esther and Daniel, we have decided to return to the New Testament and begin a study of John on May 3. Our bible study begins at 6 pm each Thursday and we would welcome you to join us.

Message from Marvin Miller

Becoming a Go-To Person

(From the book, "Our Daily Bread")

When he heard about Jesus, he sent elders of the Jews to Him, pleading with Him to come and heal his servant. – Luke 7:1

"Would you pray for my sister?" the burly worker asked me awkwardly. I eyed him suspiciously.

Months earlier, muggy August heat intensified emotions in the pre-strike atmosphere of the assembly plant where I was working that summer. Managers drove production at a frenzied pace, and union members resisted. During breaks, we were coached by union officials on slowing down our output. My faith and idealism got me in the doghouse because I didn't think God would accept anything but my best effort. I naively tried to explain.

My co-workers' response was harassment, and the burly worker asking for prayer had been the ring leader. An undesirable task? I got the assignment. Off-color jokes had made me the star.

So now I greeted this prayer request with suspicion. "Why me?" His answer jarred me: "Because she's got cancer," he said gruffly, "and I need someone God will hear." The bitter rancor between us eased as I prayed for his sister.

Like the centurion in Luke 7, people in the storms of life don't waste time or mince words. They go directly to the people whose faith they've tagged as real. We need to be those people. Do our lives mark us as a go-to person in touch with God?

We give to others what they need.
No greater help and care
Than when we intercede for them
And bear them up in prayer.

Even the hardest of souls might ask for help when someone they love is at risk.



What Do They Mean

In the Episcopal Church there are many specific terms. The **thingamajig** that the ushers carry to the altar and give the acolytes has a name as does the **pretty cover on the altar** or the **rope** around the acolyte's waist. Here is a list of terms in ordinary use in the Episcopal Church. Each month, new terms will be presented. The list is neither exhaustive nor definitive. See how many of these words you know.

Narthex: The entrance hall of the church, also known as the foyer.

Nave: The main body of the church between the entrance, narthex, and the sanctuary. It is where the congregation sits.

Sanctuary: The area of the church around the altar.

Sanctus: The hymn that is sung or said at the conclusion of the Preface and begins "Holy, holy, holy ..."



Camp Allen Events

There are many events that take place at Camp Allen during the year. 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.

- **Birds and Blooms May 18 - 20, 2018**



Brayze Schill has qualified for the Texas Region Finals in Bareback. He also made the A honor roll at West Brazos Jr. High School.

Abigail Roddy's cheer team placed first in Nationals. They were also awarded Grand Champions.

Maddie Lane made the A honor roll at Columbia High School.

Aaron Mikel made the A honor roll at Sweeny High School. He also made the finals in high jump at the district meet.

Braylee Schill made the A honor roll at West Columbia Elementary School.

Reesie Cantrell made the A honor roll at West Columbia Elementary School. She was named Student of the Month for March.

Piper Roddy made the Honor Roll at West Brazos Junior High School.

Haley Cantrell made the A honor roll at West Brazos Junior High School. She also competed at the MA Nationals in twirling and placed 2nd in duet, 3rd in solo, and 2nd in group.

There are several items that we would like to have at St. Mary's. If you would like to donate any of these items, you can bring them by the church office or leave them in the parish hall.



1. couch and/or love seat for the parish hall to replace the old ones that are there and in poor shape
2. paint brushes of various sizes to paint and decorate the walls in the Jr. High Christian Formation room
3. Bean bag chairs for the Jr. High Christian Formation room.

A Great Big Thank You

Thank you to Shyanne Roddy, Holly Cantrell, and Karen Logue for providing meals for our Wednesday night Christian Formation classes. If you would like to provide a meal, please get with Dani. There is a sign up sheet at the entrance to the church.

Thank you to Marvin and Theata for the Dutch Oven Lasagna and peach cobbler at our parish dinner.

Thank you to Karen Logue for the flower garden by the bell tower.

Thank you to the men in the ARM group for all the work they are doing around the church.



Don't Forget

Please check the calendar at the entrance to the church and sign up to provide food for Hospitality after church.

Remember to look at the bulletin board in the Parish Hall. New information, cards, news clippings, etc. are added frequently.

The "Take a Book, Share a Book" bookcase is located in the Parish Hall. If you see a book or tape you like, take it. If you have books you would like to donate, add them to the bookcase.

Dates to Remember

**April 4 - Christian Formation
(5:00 pm - 6:30 pm)**

April 5 - Bible Study (6:00 pm)

April 8 - Sunday service (9:00 am)

**April 11 - Christian Formation
(5:00 pm - 6:30 pm)**

April 12 - Bible Study (6:00 pm)

**April 15 - Brotherhood (7:30 am) &
Sunday Service (9:00 am)**

**April 18 - Parish Dinner (5:00 pm)
April 18 - Christian Formation
(5:00 pm - 6:30 pm)**

April 19 - Bible Study (6:00 pm)

April 22 - Sunday service (9:00 am)

**April 25 - Christian Formation
(5:00 pm - 6:30 pm)**

April 26 - Bible Study (6:00 pm)

**April 29 - Brotherhood (7:30 am)
Sunday Service (9:00 am)**

April Birthdays

Saren Case - April 9

Scout Case - April 9

Dana Arana, Jr. - April 16

April Anniversaries

Jim and Debbie Burns - April 18

Wade and Shyanne Roddy - April 24

Changes in Church Directory

Please add the following information to your church directory.

Vestry Members

Sr. Warden: Karen Logue

Jr. Warden: Andrea Anderson

Clerk: Dani Mikel

Charlotte Blount

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.