



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.



April 2021 Edition

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

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 April through June, they need 4 boxes of cake mix, all the same, and 2 tubs of compatible icing. 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.

San Jacinto Festival

St. Mary's will host a beverage booth on April 17th and 18th during the San Jacinto Festival. Part of the net proceeds collected from the booth will benefit St. Mary's. All supplies will be provided by the Chamber of Commerce, except the volunteers. We need people to set up at the beginning and pack up at the end as well as man the booth in 2- or 4-hour blocks. Youth can gain service hours for their participation. This is a great way to serve our community and get the word out about St. Mary's. A signup sheet will be available in the Narthex.

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Maundy Thursday – April 1st

The service will begin at 6:00 PM. Maundy Thursday commemorates the first Eucharist, The Last Supper, when Jesus met with his disciples the evening before he was to be crucified. Please come and celebrate this special Eucharist led by Rev. Paul Wehner, as we remember the last days of our Lord Jesus Christ. At the end of the service, the altar guild will strip the altar as a visual reminder of the dark events of Good Friday.

Prayer Vigil - April 1st - April 2nd

(see [Virtual Prayer Vigil](#) article)

As disciples of today, we are the ones that Jesus asks to stay awake and watch as he prays and suffers in his final hours. Our plan is to do this by taking turns throughout the evening to be *virtually* “present” with the sacrament of his Body and Blood. We plan to livestream the first hour of our in-person prayer vigil, and then post it for others to watch as they pray at later hours of the night.

Good Friday – April 2nd

The service will begin at noon. The Good Friday service 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 the Way of the Cross (a.k.a., Stations of the Cross), a moving reenactment of the walk that Jesus took from the place of his sentencing to the cross on Calvary. The service continues with intercession known as the solemn collects, and devotions before the cross. The Eucharist is not celebrated; instead, we will consume all of the reserved sacrament.

Holy Saturday – April 3rd

The morning after the crucifixion, Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus took the body of Jesus and laid him in a new tomb. The liturgy this morning is a short prayer service that reminds us of the contribution of those two secret disciples, and provides an opportunity to reflect on God’s mercy in the quiet of a church that is empty of its usual decorations. The service also offers prayers and encouragement for some of St. Mary’s important disciples behind the scenes – our Altar Guild.



Virtual Prayer Vigil for Maundy Thursday Evening is based on Mark 14.32-37.

Jesus and his followers went to a place called Gethsemane. He said to them, "Sit here while I pray." Jesus took Peter, James, and John with him, and he began to be very sad and troubled. He said to them, "My heart is full of sorrow, to the point of death. Stay here and watch." After walking a little farther away from them, Jesus fell to the ground and prayed that, if possible, he would not have this time of suffering. He prayed, "Abba, Father! You can do all things. Take away this cup of suffering. But do what you want, not what I want." Then Jesus went back to his followers and found them asleep. He said to Peter, "Simon, are you sleeping? Couldn't you stay awake with me for one hour? Stay awake and pray for strength against temptation. The spirit wants to do what is right, but the body is weak."

As disciples of today, we are the ones that Jesus asks to stay awake and watch as he prays and suffers in his final hours. Our plan is to do this by taking turns throughout the evening to be *virtually* "present" with the sacrament of his Body and Blood. We plan to livestream the first hour of our in-person prayer vigil, and then post it for others to watch as they pray at later hours of the night.



Good Friday Offering

During the Good Friday service, the offertory plate will be set out for anyone who would like to contribute to the Good Friday Offering which benefit the dioceses of Jerusalem and the Middle East. Donations can also be mailed to the church, donated through our PayPal account on the website, or put in the mail slot on the Rector's Office door at the church. Make sure you indicate your donation is for the Good Friday Offering.



Flowering of the Cross

The flowering of the cross has been traced back to the 6th century. It is a beautiful way to symbolize the new life that emerges from Jesus's death on Good Friday. When you enter the church on Easter Sunday, the cross will be bare, waiting to be transformed into a new life of beauty and color.

After the opening hymn and salutations, the congregation will be invited to put their flowers on the cross. We ask that everyone, old and young alike, take part in transforming an ugly symbol of death into a glorious sign of vibrant life. Bring your flowers from home, or take several from the baskets in the Narthex – we want our cross to be a magnificent reminder of God's glory.



Eggs Needed

Our annual Easter egg hunt is fun and exciting for all who participate. Once again, we are asking for parishioners to provide plastic eggs filled with goodies (candy, toys, coins, etc.). You can bring the eggs on Easter morning. Children remember to bring your Easter baskets.

Honoring Our Military

Every Sunday, for many years, we have included in the Prayers of the People the names of military personnel who either grew up in our church or are connected to someone in our congregation. These men are currently serving on active duty or are part of the National Guard or Reserves, ready to serve when called.

Instead of honoring them on Veterans' Day 2020, we have moved the time to honor them to Armed Forces Day, the day the United States honors those who are currently serving in one of the 5 branches of the military. Armed Forces Day this year is May 15th.

Donations, which will be used to purchase gift cards for the 6 men on our prayer list, will be accepted from April 11th to May 9th . You can place donations in the offering plate on Sundays, bring or mail your donation to the church office. or make donate through PayPal on our website. Notes thanking them and their families for their service would also be appreciated. Give what you can for those who give so much and continue to pray for them.



Farewell but not Goodbye

Longtime parishioner, Kirby Rapstein, and his wife Mary are moving the first part of April to Bay City. Kirby has been a faithful member of St. Mary's for many years, having been confirmed in 1974. He has served in many leadership roles at the church, but it is his wonderful smile and friendly attitude that will be greatly missed. Kirby's faith showed through in all that he did, and he touched many lives.

We at St. Mary's were also fortunate to know Mary. She often attended our Parish Dinners with Kirby as well as other special events at the church. We are truly blessed to know both of them.

Once Mary has their new address, it will be published in the next newsletter and they would love to hear from us. They may be in a new location, but they will never be forgotten. We wish them the very best and send them off with all our love.

Message from Marvin Miller *"The Resume of Jesus Christ"*

Hello. My name is Jesus -The Christ. Many call me Lord! I've sent you my resume because I'm seeking the top management position in your heart. Please consider my accomplishments as set forth in my resume.

Qualifications:

- a. I founded the earth and established the heavens, (See Proverbs 3:19)
- b. I formed man from the dust of the ground, (See Genesis 2:7)
- c. I breathed into man the breath of life, (See Genesis 2:7)
- d. I redeemed man from the curse of the law, (See Galatians 3:13)
- e. The blessings of the Abrahamic Covenant come upon your life through me, (See Galatians 3:14)

Occupational Background:

- a. I've only had one employer, (See Luke 2:49).
- b. I've never been tardy, absent, disobedient, slothful or disrespectful.
- c. My employer has nothing but rave reviews for me, (See Matthew 3:15-17)

Skills Work Experiences:

- a. Some of my skills and work experiences include: empowering the poor to be poor no more, healing the brokenhearted, setting the captives free, healing the sick, restoring sight to the blind and setting at liberty them that are bruised, (See Luke 4:18).
- b. I am a Wonderful Counselor, (See Isaiah 9:6). People who listen to me shall dwell safely and shall not fear evil, (See Proverbs 1:33).
- c. Most importantly, I have the authority, ability and power to cleanse you of your sins, (See I John 1:7-9)

Educational Background:

- a. I encompass the entire breadth and length of knowledge, wisdom and understanding, (See Proverbs 2:6).
- b. In me are hid all of the treasures of wisdom and knowledge, (See Colossians 2:3).
- c. My Word is so powerful; it has been described as being a lamp unto your feet and a lamp unto your path, (See Psalms 119:105).
- d. I can even tell you all of the secrets of your heart, (See Psalms 44:21).

Major Accomplishments:

- a. I was an active participant in the greatest Summit Meeting of all times, (See Genesis 1:26).
- b. I laid down my life so that you may live, (See II Corinthians 5:15).
- c. I defeated the archenemy of God and mankind and made a show of them openly, (See Colossians 2:15).
- d. I've miraculously fed the poor, healed the sick and raised the dead!
- e. There are many more major accomplishments, too many to mention here. You can read them on my website, which is located at: [www dot - the BIBLE](http://www.dot-theBIBLE.com). You don't need an Internet connection or computer to access my website.

References:

- a. Believers and followers worldwide will testify to my divine healings, salvation, deliverance, miracles, restoration and supernatural guidance

In Summation:

Now that you've read my resume, I'm confident that I'm the only candidate uniquely qualified to fill this vital position in your heart. In summation, I will properly direct your paths, (See Proverbs 3:5-6), and lead you into everlasting life, (See John 6:47).

When can I start?

News from Our Past

The Reverend Canon Edward Arthur Sterling III, who served as rector for St. Mary's from June 16, 1957 to January 2, 1959, recently celebrated his 100th birthday. In honor of this remarkable milestone, Father Sterling gave the sermon at St. Andrew's Tacoma. You can access his sermon, "Reflections on a Century of Service," by going to saintandrewstacoma.org and finding "Sermons" under the "Worship" tab. Scroll down to the March 7th sermon.

Thank You Note

St. Mary's received the following note from one of our college students.

"Thank you Saint Mary's!

Your gifts were greatly appreciated and it came at a great time, right before the freeze! All of the food, candy and gift cards went to good use for sure!

Thanks again
Sabien"

Brayze Schill won the George west CPRA Rodeo in Bareback riding.

Haley Cantrell made the Columbia High School A Honor Roll for the third 9 weeks reporting period.

Braylee Schill placed first in polo vault, the 2400, and the mile team relay as well as second place in the 800 at the Jr. High - zone meet. She qualified for district in all 4 events.

Reesie Cantrell made the Columbia High School A/B Honor Roll for the third 9 weeks reporting period.

Abigail Roddy received first place for ensemble, solo baton and duet; second place in parade majorette and two baton; third place in prettiest costume, modeling and military march; and fourth place in basic strut at the Needville Twirling Competition. She also made the West Columbia Elementary A Honor Roll for the third 9 weeks reporting period.

Travis Prater received his Tenderfoot rank and a merit badge in aviation. He was also elected Patrol Leader of his patrol.

Trace Roddy made the West Columbia Elementary A/B Honor Roll for the third 9 weeks reporting period.

Madeline Roddy received first place for solo baton and prettiest costume at the Needville Twirling Competition.

Congratulations **NICE GOING!**
GREAT! Way to Go!
Yea! **FELICITATIONS**
CHEERS Take A **BEST**
BOW! **WISHES!**



Community Assistance

In March, we helped one family with their electric bill, one family with a water and gas bill, and one family with rent and electricity. We also provided meals from the Senior Citizen Center for one couple.

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



Camp Allen Events

Camp Allen is celebrating its 100th Anniversary on Saturday, May 1st, 2021. One hundred years of faith, fellowship, and fun!!!

They will celebrate with music, light bites, tours, and your favorite camp canteen candy & ice cream! Spend the afternoon perusing our 100 years of historical photos and memorabilia, tour our new Campsite 4, take a dip in the pool, challenge your family to a game of pickleball or horseshoes at the pavilion, outdoor worship, and more! Activities and food will be spread out to allow for social distancing. There will be several anniversary items available for purchase to remember this monumental milestone. These activities are free, but they still require registration. More information and registration can be found on their website (campallen.org).

Camp Allen's summer sessions are filling up quickly. Please go to their website at campallen.org if you are planning on sending your child to Camp Allen this summer. Sessions are available for children and youth who will be in 3rd - 10th grade during the 2021-2022 school year. St. Mary's pays 2/3 of the cost for parishioners. Once your child is registered contact Dani to make arrangements for the remaining balance.

"Searching for a secluded get-a-way this Spring?" Camp Allen has the perfect answer. Hotel room, three meals a day, a variety of optional activities, and a beautiful setting are all included. "Spring Stay" is available April 23-25, and May 28-30. More information can be found on the Camp Allen website.

Horsemanship Day Retreats - May 15 - Camp Allen is offering day retreats for beginner and advanced riders, ages 12-17. The day starts at 9 a.m. and ends at 5 p.m. The morning includes instruction and care of horses followed by a picnic lunch. The afternoon will be spent riding through the Camp Allen trails.

Needlepoint Retreats - June 2-4, September 8-10, December 8-10 - Join fellow crafters in the Piney Woods of Camp Allen for a three day, two night needlepointing retreat. Bring your own projects and acquire some new skills.



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.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Special thanks and gratitude to

- Theata Miller, Dani Mikel, Wendy Hankins, Kendy Hankins, Gwynne Olson, Jennifer Schill, AJ Mikel, Dan Roddy, Colleen Matocha, Travis Prater, Shyanne Roddy, Adam Schill, Haley Cantrell, Marvin Miller, and Abigail Roddy for serving as Worship Leaders during the month of March.
- Amber Prater for setting up the Livestreaming on our Facebook site and especially for her expertise with the Palm Sunday service.
- Donna Roddy, Dan Roddy, Gwynne Olson, and Bill Olson for the new decor in the bathrooms and Parish Hall.
- Father Paul, Dan, Donna, and Gwynne for installing the new Stations of the Cross.
- Brayze Schill, Haley Cantrell, Braylee Schill, Wade Roddy, Shyanne Roddy, AJ Mikel and Dani Mikel for serving as readers of the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.
- The Schill Family for providing the palms for Palm Sunday.
- Braylee Schill for making the palm crosses for Palm Sunday.

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



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.

April Birthdays

Saven Case - April 9

Scout Case - April 9

Kip Olson - April 20

March Anniversaries

Dick and Dorothy McGuire - April 4

Wade and Shyanne Roddy - April 24

Dates to Remember

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

Maundy Thursday service and Good Friday service will be streamed on St. Mary's Facebook Live.

April 1 - Maundy Thursday Service
Holy Eucharist: Rite II with the stripping of the altar (6:00 p.m.)
celebrant - the Reverend Paul Wehner

April 1 -April 2 - Prayer Vigil
(7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.)

April 2 - Good Friday Service with Stations of the Cross (noon)
celebrant - the Reverend Paul Wehner

April 3- Morning Prayer with the Reverend Paul Wehner followed by the altar guild's preparation of the church for Easter

April 4 - Easter Sunday Service
Holy Eucharist: Rite II with the Flowering of the Cross (9:00 a.m.)
celebrant - the Reverend Paul Wehner
Easter egg hunt after the service

April 11 - Sunday Service
Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)
celebrant - the Reverend Paul Wehner
Christian Formation
Children - Godly Play (10:00 a.m.)
Adult/Youth - Bible Journals (10:00 a.m.)
Vestry Meeting (11:00 a.m.)

April 11 - May 9th - donations for our military personnel

April 16 - booth at San Jacinto Festival
(3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.)

April 17 - booth at San Jacinto Festival
(11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.)

April 18 - Sunday Service
Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)
celebrant - the Reverend Jim Abernathy
Christian Formation
Adult/Youth - Bible Journals (10:00 a.m.)

April 25 - Sunday Service
Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)
celebrant - the Reverend Paul Wehner
Christian Formation
Children - Godly Play (10:00 a.m.)
Adult/Youth - Bible Journals (10:00 a.m.)

St. Mary's Leadership

Vestry

Rector: the Reverend Paul Wehner

Sr. Warden: Gwynne Olson

Jr. Warden: Dan Roddy

Clerk: Colleen Matocha

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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.