



*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 2022

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

### Service Project During Lent

Palm Sunday, April 10th, will be the last day St. Mary's will collect canned goods and non-perishable items including toilet paper, paper towels, and diapers, to benefit the Food Pantry at Columbia United Methodist Church. When out shopping, pick up a few extra items and drop them on Sunday in the basket in the Narthex.

Let us share with others who have so little.

### San Jacinto Festival

St. Mary's will once again be participating in the San Jacinto Festival held on April 22 and 23. We will be having a game booth in the Kid'Zone. There are sign-up sheets for the 2-hour shifts on Friday (3:00 to 7:00) and Saturday (11:00 to 7:00). If possible, we would like two or more people per shift.

This is a great way to serve our community and get the word out about St. Mary's.

### Strengthen with Prayer

"This is the last month for Strengthen with Prayer. Our last class is on April 28<sup>th</sup> since we will transition to the water aerobics class at the city pool in May. It has been a great time of strength training and spending time in prayer with our concerns and celebrations for loved ones, the West of the Brazos community, and the world. A big thank you goes out to St. Mary's for allowing us to meet in the Parish Hall." (Gwynne Olson)

### Humanitarian Support for Ukraine

Support Episcopal Relief & Development in providing humanitarian aid in response to the crisis in Ukraine. By donating to the Ukraine Crisis Response Fund, you will help meet critical needs for people fleeing the violence including food, cash, blankets and hygiene supplies. Visit [episcopalrelief.org/ukraine-crisis](http://episcopalrelief.org/ukraine-crisis).

There are also contribution forms in the Narthex. You can mail the form directly, or place the form with your contribution in the offertory plate and the office will mail it for you.

## Donation to Central EMS



During their March meeting, the vestry made a donation to the Central EMS. Representing CEMS were Cathy Greiner and Janel McCallister.

The following Thank You was received by St. Mary's.

Dear Friends,

We would like to thank you for your very generous gift. This gift will be used to help equip our medics so that they may be able to continue to offer top notch medical assistance to the members of our community. We are so blessed to be a part of this generous and caring community.

Again, many thanks!

Central EMS

## Adult Sunday School: That the World May Know

Sunday, April 10: No class – Palm Sunday

Sunday April 17: No class – Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 24: *Roll Away the Stone (Jesus is Alive!)*

Jesus' death and resurrection are the defining events in the New Testament. During this session, we will further explore the significance of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection and what his sacrifice means to Christians today. While we are very familiar with the biblical facts surrounding those events, this session presents cultural details that heighten their meaning to us.

Sunday, May 1: *Power to the People (Empowered by the Holy Spirit)*

Returning to Jerusalem for today's lesson – we consider Jesus' resurrection appearances to the disciples and the mighty acts of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. We will consider again the instructions that Jesus gave to his apostles to go out into the whole world to spread the good news of God's love and forgiveness to all.

Sunday, May 8: no class – Mother's Day

Sunday, May 15 - Sunday, June 5 - Bible Study led by Gwynne Olson  
More information will be in the May newsletter.



## Parish Dinner

Our next Parish dinner will be Wednesday, April 20th. We will begin gathering around 5:30 p.m. with dinner to be served no later than 6:00. On the menu is chicken fried chicken, buttered potatoes, and green beans catered by Smokin'R. Desserts and drinks will be provided by the vestry.

Come join us for another delicious meal, special time with friends, and a laugh or two. It won't be the same without you there.



## EASTER FLOWERS

The deadline for donating to the Easter Flowers is approaching. The suggested donation is \$15 per plant. Flowers can be dedicated to the memory of loved ones or thanksgiving. 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. Forms are also available in the Narthex.

**Deadline to order is April 13th.**

I wish to order \_\_\_\_\_ Easter Flowers. I enclose \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Dedications: To the Glory of God and

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

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

## HOLY WEEK



## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### **Palm Sunday – April 10**

The Palm Sunday service will begin at 9:00 AM in the St. Mary's Prayer Garden beside the church. Following the Liturgy of the Palms, the congregation will process into the church, waving palm fronds and making joyful noises. Once most of us are inside, the processional hymn, *All Glory Laud and Honor* will begin. The service includes the traditional reading of the Passion of Christ by members of our congregation.

### **Maundy Thursday – April 14**

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 14 - April 15**

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 present in church with the sacrament of his Body and Blood. There will be a sign up sheet with different times from 7:00pm to 7:00am.

## Good Friday – April 15

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 16

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.

After the service, the Altar Guild will set up the church for Easter.



### Common Cup

St. Mary's will once again have the sharing of the common cup beginning on Maundy Thursday. As always, you also have the option of dipping your wafer or not receiving the wine.



### Good Friday Offering

"On Good Friday 2022, April 15, we commemorate the 100th anniversary of acts of unselfish generosity and kindness by Episcopalians in our Good Friday Offering. The Good Friday Offering offers us the opportunity to celebrate and rejoice in the hope and opportunity for the very young and the very old, for needy families, students, and many others in the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East. For 10 decades we have provided an opportunity for every parish throughout our church to connect with the ministry of love and compassion carried out by our Anglican sisters and brothers throughout the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East.

The self-giving way of love and generosity makes a difference. That is what becoming a church that looks and acts like Jesus does." (from a letter by The Most Rev. Michael Curry)

During the Good Friday service, the offertory plate will be set out for anyone who would like to contribute to the Good Friday. 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. Make sure you indicate your donation is for the Good Friday Offering.



## **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 am on Easter Sunday, April 17th. Please bring flowers for the traditional flowering of the cross. Following the service, we will have hospitality in the parish hall provided by the vestry and our annual Easter egg hunt.**



### **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 Palm Sunday, anytime during Holy Week, or Easter morning. Children remember to bring your Easter baskets.**



### **Seder Meal**

**On Wednesday, April 13th, Columbia United Methodist Church will be having a Seder Meal beginning at 6:00 p.m. The Seder is the traditional Passover meal that includes readings, special foods and drinks, and other Passover traditions.**

**CUMC have invited the parishioners of St. Mary's to the Seder Meal. If you are interested in attending, please let the office know by Monday, April 11, so we can give the Methodist church an approximate attendance count.**

## 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.

We will honor the six dedicated military personnel on our prayer list on Armed Forces Day, May 21<sup>st</sup>, the day the United States honors those who are currently serving in one of the 5 branches of the military. Gift cards and letters will be sent to them, with our prayers, in appreciation of their service and sacrifices.

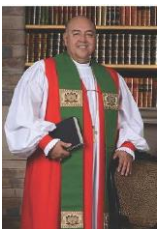
Donations for the purchase gift cards will be accepted from April 18<sup>th</sup> to May 14<sup>th</sup>. You can place donations in the offering plate on Sundays using the envelopes in the Narthex, bring or mail your donation to the church office. Or donate through PayPal on our website. Notes thanking them and their families for their service would also be appreciated.

During these uncertain times, these men and their families need to know they are not forgotten. Give what you can for those who give so much and continue to pray for them.

## Workday

Dan Roddy, our Junior Warden, has scheduled a workday for St. Mary's on Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, from 8:00 a.m. to noon. Donuts, pigs in the blanket, coffee, juice, milk and water will be served before the work begins.

Mark your calendar, so we can get the church and grounds looking their best for Bishop Monterroso's visit.



## Bishop Monterroso is Coming

Bishop Monterroso will be celebrating the Holy Eucharist at St. Mary's on Sunday, June 12, at 9:00 a.m. If you or anyone you know would like to be confirmed, received, or baptized during this service, please let Father Paul know.

## Confirmation Classes

Confirmation is the sacramental rite in which the candidates express a mature commitment to Christ, make a public affirmation of their faith, recommit themselves to the responsibilities of their baptism, and receive strength from the Holy Spirit through prayer and the laying on of hands by a bishop. (Book of Common Prayer)

The Reverend Paul Wehner will conduct 4 confirmation classes for those who are interested in being confirmed. The four classes will be after hospitality and fellowship on the following Sundays; May 8, May 15, May 29, and June 5.

## Message from Marvin Miller

### LEAVE NOTHING FOR LATER

"Barely the day started and it's already six in the evening.  
Barely arrived on Monday and it's already Friday.  
.. and the month is already over.  
.. and the year is almost over.  
.. and already 40, 50 or 60 years of our lives have passed.  
.. and we realize that we lost our parents, friends.  
.. and we realize it's too late to go back.  
So.. Let's try, despite everything, to enjoy the remaining time.  
Let's keep looking for activities that we like.  
Let's put some color in our grey.  
Let's smile at the little things in life that put balm in our hearts.  
And despite everything, we must continue to enjoy with serenity this time we have left.  
Let's try to eliminate the afters.  
I'm doing it after.  
I'll say after.  
I'll think about it after.  
We leave everything for later like "after" is ours.  
Because what we don't understand is that:  
Afterwards, the coffee gets cold.  
Afterwards, priorities change.  
Afterwards, the charm is broken.  
Afterwards, health passes.  
Afterwards, the kids grow up.  
Afterwards parents get old.  
Afterwards, promises are forgotten.  
Afterwards, the day becomes the night.  
Afterwards, life ends.  
And then it's often too late.  
So.. Let's leave nothing for later.  
Because still waiting to see later, we can lose the best moments, the best experiences, best friends, the best family.  
The day is today. The moment is now.  
We are no longer at the age where we can afford to postpone what needs to be done right away."  
It Looks Like An Eternity, But It's A Short Trip,  
Enjoy Life And Always Be Kind.  
(Jim Gentil)

## Calendar of Upcoming Events and Services

On St. Mary's website under the "Calendar" tap there are events and services under 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.  
Our website is [stmaryswestcolumbia.com](http://stmaryswestcolumbia.com).



## Community Assistance

During the March, the committee approved funds for 1 family's electric bill. If you know of anyone needing assistance, please contact Tracy Lane or Jackie Walker.



## 2022 Flower sign up

The forms to sign up for 2021 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.

## In March

Kendy Hankins made cheerleader for 2022-23 at Bay City Junior High.

Abigail Roddy made the A-B Honor Roll for the 3rd nine weeks at Bess Brannon Elementary in Lake Jackson.

Jasey Hussey received the Wildcatter award at West Columbia Elementary.

Trace Roddy made the A-B Honor Roll for the 3rd nine weeks at Bess Brannon Elementary in Lake Jackson.



## 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, Sherry Wehner, Shyanne Roddy, Travis Prater, Tracy Lane, Gwynne Olson, Jackie Walker, Colleen Matocha, Dani Mikel, Bill Olson, AJ Mikel, Dan Roddy, Marvin Miller, Abigail Roddy, Haley Cantrell, and Reesie Cantrell for serving as Worship Leaders during the month of February.
- 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 and AJ and Dani Mikel for providing treats for our January Hospitality and Fellowship.
- Matthew Burris for the work he did in the storage room.
- all who contributed to the Food Drive.

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 and May Birthdays

Saren and Scout Case - April 9

Kip Olson - April 20

Ressie Cantrell - May 15

Dane Arana, Sr. - May 19

AJ Mikel - May 28

Jasey Hussey - 30

### April and May Anniversaries

Dorothy & Dick McGuire - April 4

Shyanne and Wade Roddy - April 24

### Dates to Remember

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

April 3 - Sunday Service Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)  
celebrant - the Reverend Mark Crawford Children's Sunday School

April 3 - Youth and Adult Sunday School (10:30 - 11:15 a.m.)

April 3 - 126th Anniversary - Founding of Grace Episcopal Church in Alvin  
service and reception (3:00 p.m.)

April 4 - 7 - Strengthen with Prayer Exercise Program (8:00 - 9:00 a.m.)

April 10 - Last Sunday for Food Drive Benefiting CUMC Food Pantry

April 10 - Brotherhood (7:30 a.m.)

April 10 - Palm Sunday Service Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)  
celebrant - the Reverend Paul Wehner meet in the Prayer Garden

April 11 - 14 - Strengthen with Prayer Exercise Program (8:00 - 9:00 a.m.)

April 13 - last day for donations for the Easter flowers

April 14 - Maundy Thursday Service Holy Eucharist: Rite II (6:00 p.m.)  
Stripping the Altar celebrant - the Reverend Paul Wehner

April 14-15 - Prayer Vigil (7:00 p.m. - 7:00 a.m.)

**April 15 - Good Friday Service and Stations of the Cross**

**April 16 - Holy Saturday Service and set up the church for Easter (9:00 a.m.)**

**April 17 - Easter Sunday Service Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)  
Flowering of the Cross celebrant - the Reverend Paul Wehner**

**April 17 - Easter Egg Hunt after the service**

**April 18-21 - Strengthen with Prayer Exercise Program (8:00 - 9:00 a.m.)**

**April 20 - Parish Dinner Gather at 5:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:00 p.m.**

**April 24 - Brotherhood (7:30 a.m.)**

**April 24 - Sunday Service Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)  
celebrant - the Reverend Paul Wehner Children's Sunday School**

**April 24 - Youth and Adult Sunday School (10:30 - 11:15 a.m.)**

**April 24 - Vestry Meeting (11:15 a.m. - 1:15p.m)**

**April 25 - 28 - Strengthen with Prayer Exercise Program (8:00 - 9:00 a.m.) last week**

**April 30 - Workday (8:00 am - noon)**

**May 1 - Sunday Service Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)  
celebrant - the Reverend Mark Crawford Children's Sunday School**

**May 1 - Youth and Adult Sunday School (10:30 - 11:15 a.m.)**

## **St. Mary's Leadership**

### **Vestry**

**Rector: the Reverend Paul Wehner**

**Sr. Warden: Gwynne Olson**

**Jr. Warden: Dan Roddy**

**Clerk: Colleen Matocha**

**Member: Jackie Walker**

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

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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.