

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



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



August – September Edition

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



During the month of August, it is Mosaic in Action's intent to work on residences in West Columbia from the 16 to the 18. If you would like to volunteer or visit with the Mosaic in Action team on the dates listed between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., contact the Construction Supervisor, Marcus George, at 214-914-2646 or [marcus@mosaicinaction.org](mailto:marcus@mosaicinaction.org).

## Donations to West Columbia Elementary

As in the past, St. Mary's made several donations to West Columbia Elementary. This year 24 backpacks, 10 lice kits, and Walmart gift cards to help Community in Schools were donated by the church. Parishioners also donated paper towels, facial tissues, Sharpies, dry erase markers, pencils, and notepads.



## Back to School Sunday

As students, teachers, and all other school personnel prepared to return to the classroom, St. Mary's honored, celebrated, and blessed them during our annual Back to School Sunday service and the Blessing of the Backpacks on Sunday, August 13th.

This year, as in the past few years, there is apprehension, uncertainty, and nervousness; but the teachers, students, and other school personnel are ready to face it with optimism, hope, and adaptability. The Back to School service and The Blessing of the Backpacks reminded all our children, youth, teachers and other school personnel from kindergarten to college, that God is there with them through it all, so they are never alone.

Throughout the year, let us embrace and support our children, youth, and school personnel as we remind them "God's Got Your Back"



## Sunday School for Youth and Adults

Sunday School for youth (6th - 12th grade) and adults will resume on Sunday, September 17th, in the Parish Hall after hospitality. The Reverend Paul Wehner will be continuing the study of the mini series The Chosen. The Chosen is a show that tells the life of Jesus Christ through the eyes of those who know him. It is adapted from the 4 Gospels in The Bible.

## Help With Sunday School and Youth Programs

There will be a meeting for all those interested in helping with the Sunday School and Youth Programs on Sunday, August 27th after hospitality. We have children and youth ranging in age from 1 year to 17 years. In order to provide for their spiritual growth and education, volunteers are needed. You can volunteer as a teacher, aide, youth leader, or chaperone for once a month, every week, special projects, etc. If you cannot attend the meeting but still want to help, please let Dani, Shyanne, or Colleen know. You can make all the difference in our children's and youth's lives.

## Sunday School for Children

Sunday School for Children age 2 years to 5th grade will begin Sunday, September 17th. The children will meet during the service, leaving the sanctuary during the Praise Song and returning during the Peace.

There are two Sunday School classes:

- "Godly Play" and The Path are for our younger parishioners. Godly play is "an imaginative approach to working with children; an approach that supports, challenges, nourishes, and guides their spiritual quest."
- The older children will use a curriculum called "Weaving God's Promise" that "fosters the spiritual formation and growth of our children in Christ's love and mercy, teaches the spirit of forgiveness, and sends our children out into the world as Christ's ambassador."

Volunteers are needed to help with our children's Sunday School. You can help every Sunday or just occasionally. Contact Dani or Shyanne if you would like to volunteer your time and talent to this important ministry.



## Parish Dinner

Our next Parish dinner will be Wednesday, September 21st, catered by White Apron. Chicken fried steak or baked Cornish Hen, green beans, mashed potatoes, roll, salad, dessert and drinks will be served. We will begin gathering in the Parish Hall at 5:30p.m. with dinner served at 5:45.

Sign-up sheets will be placed in the Parish Hall and Narthex for those who will be attending or think they might be able to attend. You can also RSVP by calling the church office (979-345-3456). This will allow us to give an estimated count to White Apron.

Mark your calendars for a wonderful meal, special time with friends, and a laugh or two. It won't be the same without you there.

## The Saint John's Bible

On Saturday, October 7th from 6pm-10pm, Galveston's ArtWalk is hosting an illustrator of The Saint John's Bible that is housed at Trinity Episcopal in Galveston. This beautifully illustrated Bible will be on display, and we will be able to speak with the illustrator. This is a fun night of walking around looking at various art exhibits. We will meet at the church at 4pm and caravan to Galveston, have dinner, and proceed to the ArtWalk, which is a free event. Sign up sheets will be available in the Narthex and Parish Hall. For more information about the Bible, go to <https://www.trinitygalv.org/about-1-1> .



## Bishop Ryan is Coming

Bishop Ryan will be celebrating the Holy Eucharist at St. Mary's on Sunday, November 19, at 9:00 a.m. If you would like to be confirmed, received, or baptized during this service, please let Father Paul know.

## Annual Picnic

Our Annual Picnic, held on July 2nd, was a great success. Those who attended had the opportunity to visit with family and friends, eat delicious hot dogs, sausage, hamburgers, and pull pork, enjoy time on the giant water slide, participate in water balloon fights, and play on the new playground.



## Worship Leaders Needed

Additional worship leaders are always needed. Worship leaders serve on the altar guild, as lector or leader of the Prayers of the People, as acolyte, as usher, and/or as Chalice bearer. Scheduling in on a six week time frame and before anyone is assigned, Dani requests the Sundays or special days you are not available. If you are unable to serve during your scheduled time, there are others who will take your place.

Each person who serves is a special and vital part of the worship service. Please consider serving. St. Mary's needs you. Contact Fr. Paul or Dani for more information or if you would like to serve.

# Message from Marvin Miller

## One Minute Can Change A Life

He almost killed somebody, but one minute changed his life.  
The beautiful story comes from Sherman Rogers' book,  
*Foremen: Leaders or Drivers?*

In his true-life story, Rogers illustrates the importance of effective relationships.

During his college years, Rogers spent a summer in an Idaho logging camp. When the superintendent had to leave for a few days, he put Rogers in charge.

"What if the men refuse to follow my orders?" Rogers asked. He thought of Tony, an immigrant worker who grumbled and growled all day, giving the other men a hard time.

"Fire them," the superintendent said. Then, as if reading Rogers' mind, he added, "I suppose you think you are going to fire Tony if you get the chance. I'd feel badly about that. I have been logging for 40 years. Tony is the most reliable worker I've ever had. I know he is a grouch and that he hates everybody and everything. But he comes in first and leaves last. There has not been an accident for eight years on the hill where he works."

Rogers took over the next day. He went to Tony and spoke to him. "Tony, do you know I'm in charge here today?" Tony grunted. "I was going to fire you the first time we tangled, but I want you to know I'm not," he told Tony, adding what the superintendent had said.

When he finished, Tony dropped the shovelful of sand he had held and tears streamed down his face. "Why he no tell me dat eight years ago?"

That day Tony worked harder than ever before – and he smiled! He later said to Rogers, "I told Maria you first foreman in deese country who ever say, 'Good work, Tony,' and it make Maria feel like Christmas."

Rogers went back to school after that summer. Twelve years later he met Tony again. He was superintendent for railroad construction for one of the largest logging companies in the West. Rogers asked him how he came to California and happened to have such success.

Tony replied, "If it not be for the one minute you talk to me back in Idaho, I keel somebody someday. One minute, she change my whole life."

Effective managers know the importance of taking a moment to point out what a worker is doing well. But what a difference a minute of affirmation can make in any relationship!

One minute. Have you got one minute to thank someone? A minute to tell someone what you sincerely like or appreciate about her? A minute to elaborate on something he did well?

*One minute. It can make a difference for a lifetime.*



Online Virtual Silent Auction  
August 19- Sept 5

<https://brotherstandrew.betterworld.org/auctions/sharing-our-treasures-3>

The Brotherhood of St. Andrew, the men's ministry of the Episcopal and Anglican Community, this year celebrates its 140<sup>th</sup> year since its founding. The ministry will be hosting an online silent auction "Sharing Our Treasures" beginning August 19. Items being auctioned range from trips, to collector artwork, jewelry, sports memorabilia, gift cards, and much more!

All proceeds from this nationwide auction go to support their 7 focus ministries. Log on to the website listed above and place your bid to support this ministry Prayer, Study and Service in the Episcopal and Anglican Community.

# Jesus Loves Me

Many children sing the song "Jesus Loves Me", but the concept that Jesus loves us is not limited to children. This version of the song we all know, shows that even as adults we can sing out joyfully, that Jesus Loves Me.

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Jesus loves me, this I know,  
Though my hair is white as snow  
Though my sight is growing dim,  
Still He bids me trust in Him.

(CHORUS)

YES, JESUS LOVES ME.. YES, JESUS LOVES ME..  
YES, JESUS LOVES ME, FOR THE BIBLE TELLS ME SO.  
Though my steps are oh, so slow,  
With my hand in His I'll go  
On through life, let come what may,  
He'll be there to lead the way.

(verse 2)

When the nights are dark and long,  
In my heart He puts a song..  
Telling me in words so clear,  
"Have no fear, for I am near."

(Verse 3)

When my work on earth is done,  
And life's victories have been won.  
He will take me home above,  
Then I'll understand His love.

(CHORUS)

I love Jesus, does He know?  
Have I ever told Him so?  
Jesus loves to hear me say,  
That I love Him every day.



## 2023 Flower sign up

The forms to sign up for 2023 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.

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

## June - July

Travis Prater hiked and biked in Norway for a week with his Boy Scout Troop. He also achieved the rank of Life Scout.



### New Mailing Address

A new mailbox has been placed at the end of our parking lot, so that mail can now be sent directly to the church. Our new mailing address is 201 East Clay Street, West Columbia, Texas 77486.



### 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.



### 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.

# THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

## Special thanks and gratitude to

- Theata Miller, Dan Roddy, Colleen Matocha, Dani Mikel, AJ Mikel, Marvin Miller, Shyanne Roddy, Abigail Roddy, Trace Roddy, Jasey Hussey, Hannah Hussey, Justin Hussey, Tracy Lane, Sherry Wehner, Jackie Walker, Ouida Thomas, Travis Prater, Kendy Hankins, Wendy Hankins, Jay Wiggins, Vicki Vrazel, Buck Barnes, Gwynne Olson, and Bill Olson for serving as Worship Leaders in June and July.
- Amber Prater for setting up the Livestreaming on our Facebook site, monitoring the feed during the service, and responding to on-line viewers.
- Theata and Marvin Miller for stapling the service.
- Mary Stewart for organizing the children's bags for Sunday service.
- Ouida Thoms, Anne King, Vicki Vrazel, Buck Barnes, Gwynne and Bill Olson, Theata and Marvin Miller, and the Brotherhood for providing hospitality during June and July.
- The Reverend Nan Doerr and the Reverend Mark Crawford for serving as our celebrant when Father Paul was gone.
- Shyanne Roddy for organizing and leading Art in the Park.
- Shyanne, Abigail, Trace, and Madeline Roddy for delivering popsicles to the Columbia United volunteers.
- Dan and Donna Roddy, Shyanne, Abigail, Trace, and Madeline Roddy, Marvin and Theata Miller, Gwynne Olson, and Dani Mikel for helping with the lunches for Mosaic in Action.
- Murray and DeeDee Underwood for donating pull pork and baked beans to the Parish Picnic.
- Dan Roddy, Brian Lane, Marvin Miller, Jay Wiggins, AJ Mikel, and Brent McKelvy for cooking at the Parish Picnic.
- Colleen Matocha, Fr. Paul and Sherry Wehner, Jackie Walker, Wendy Hankins, Bill and Gwynne Olson, Theresa Crawford, Theata and Marvin Miller, Dan and Donna Roddy, AJ and Dani Mikel, Dick McGuire, Meredith and Bo Wright, John and Barbara Rectenwald, and DOK for providing food for the Parish Picnic.

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



## Camp Allen Events

**Needlepoint Retreat - December 4-7:** Join fellow needlepointers for this midweek retreat.

**Labor Day Family Camp - September 1-3:** family weekend which includes adventure activities, lakefront fun, crafts, and hands-on nature experience.

**Fly-fishing Retreat - October 6-8:** co-ed fishing weekend for all levels and abilities - Attend sessions on fly tying, Texas fly fishing, and fly casting.

**Gramps Camp - October 6-7:** Spend quality time with your grandchildren at this one night retreat. Activities include canoeing, hiking, giant swing, archery, orienteering, fishing, pond studies, campfire, and stargazing.



# Thank You

Friends of St. Mary's,

Thank you for your generous gifts from your gardens and kitchens. We enjoyed each and every one of them. We have been touched by the hospitality of St. Mary's.

Yours in Christ,  
Cay Kight

From West Columbia Elementary's Facebook Page:

Thank you St. Mary's Episcopal Church for providing drinks, snacks, and desserts for our Subway Lunch last week. We are so blessed by your support.

## August and September Birthday

Wendy Hankins - August 6

Holly Cantrell - August 8

Theresa Crawford - August 10

Ann Kay - August 17

Donna Roddy - August 21

Kaylea Anderson - August 21

Caroline Culbreath - August 28

Jason Davidson - September 6

Wendy Ray - September 18

Marvin Miller - September 28

Vicki Vrazel - September 28

Piper Roddy - September 29

## August and September Anniversaries

Barbara and John Rectenwald - Aug. 14

The Rev. Paul and Sherry Wehner -  
Sept. 6

Hannah and Justin Hussey - Sept. 14

## **Dates to Remember**

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

**August 6 - Sunday Service - Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)  
celebrant - the Reverend Jeremy Bradley**

**August 6 - Hospitality and Fellowship (10:00 - 10:30 a.m.)**

**August 13 - Brotherhood (7:30 a.m.)**

**August 13 - Sunday Service - Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)  
Back to School Sunday and Blessing of the Backpacks  
celebrant - the Reverend Paul Wehner**

**August 13 - Hospitality and Fellowship (10:00 - 10:30 a.m.)**

**August 13 - Vestry Meeting (10:30 a.m.)**

**August 20 - Sunday Service - Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)  
celebrant - the Reverend Paul Wehner**

**August 20 - Hospitality and Fellowship (10:00 - 10:30 a.m.)**

**August 27 - Brotherhood (7:30 a.m.)**

**August 27 - DOK Meeting (7:45 a.m.)**

**August 27 - Sunday Service - Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)  
celebrant - the Reverend Paul Wehner**

**August 27 - Hospitality and Fellowship (10:00 - 10:30 a.m.)**

**August 27 - Sunday School and Youth Programs meeting (11:00 - 11:30 a.m.)**

**September 3 - Sunday Service - Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)  
celebrant - the Reverend Paul Wehner**

**September 3 - Hospitality and Fellowship (10:00 - 10:30 a.m.)**

**September 8 - Senior Citizen Center Country Store**

**September 9 - Senior Citizen Center Country Store (9 a.m. - noon)**

**September 10 - Brotherhood (7:30 a.m.)**

**September 10 - Sunday Service - Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)  
celebrant - the Reverend Nan Doerr**

**September 10 - Hospitality and Fellowship (10:00 - 10:30 a.m.)**

**September 17- Sunday Service - Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)  
celebrant - the Reverend Paul Wehner  
children's Sunday School during service**

**September 17 - Hospitality and Fellowship (10:00 - 10:30 a.m.)**

**September 17 - Adult and Youth Sunday School (10:30 - 11:45 a.m.)  
Activities for children provided**

**September 17 - Vestry Meeting (11:45 - 1:00 a.m.)**

**September 20 - Parish Dinner (5:30 p.m.)**

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

**September 24 - DOK Meeting (7:45 a.m.)**

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

**September 24 - Hospitality and Fellowship (10:00 - 10:30 a.m.)**

**September 24 - Adult and Youth Sunday School (10:30 - 11:45 a.m.)  
Activities for children provided**

## **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  
201 East Clay St., 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.