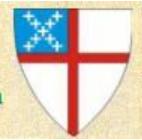


St. Mary's Episcopal Church

"Celebrating God's Love Found in The Word, People and Creation"



The Bells of St. Mary's



Search Committee News

As per instructions from the diocese, we now have our new website up and running as well as a new Facebook page. If you haven't had a chance to look at our new website you are in for a pleasant surprise. With the help of Kevin Thompson, from the Diocese, and Dani's tireless efforts, we now have an awesome site that showcases St. Mary's love for Christ, His people and creation.

In addition, make sure you follow our new Facebook page and check in often for current events happening at St. Mary's. With the completion of these projects, we are hoping to soon become a parish that is actively seeking a new rector.

We continue to ask the congregation to keep St. Mary's and our search committee in your prayers as we proceed through the search process. The following is a prayer from our Book of Common Prayer.

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a rector for this parish, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



Prayer Garden

Created as a quiet sanctuary for meditation, prayer, inspiration and renewal, the Prayer Garden at St. Mary's provides a tranquil and relaxing atmosphere to find inner peace as one connects with God. Our Prayer Garden welcomes all to enjoy God's presence through His glorious creation.

A special "Thank You" to Ed and Karen Logue for all the loving care and time they devoted to the Prayer Garden as well as Mary's Garden.



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.

Each month we will list specific items to purchase. The items for August are: paperback books, toothbrushes, toothbrush holders, gel or bar soap, soap containers for bar soap, towels, and wash clothes.

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.



First Responders' Breakfast

On July 20th, The Brotherhood hosted breakfast for the West Columbia First Responders. It was enjoyed by 5 men from the West Columbia Volunteer Fire Department and 2 from the West Columbia Police Department. St. Mary's did an excellent job of providing a delicious and hearty meal that was appreciated by all in attendance. They plan on hosting this event monthly. Our next Breakfast will be Thursday, August 17th from 7 - 9 am. If you weren't able to attend the last breakfast, please plan on joining the men next month. It's a great way to fellowship while showing our gratitude to these generous men and women who give of their time and talents.



Community Assistance

During the month of July we provided a gift card to help with family expenses following the death of their mother. We also provided the food for the First Responders' Breakfast.

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



News from the Vestry

The vestry met Sunday, July 23 after the Sunday service.

Senior Warden's Report: Karen Logue

The Community Assistance Committee's recommendations for July were presented and approved by the vestry. Karen also reported that the "Community Services" notebook was being updated. The new Facebook page and Website are completed and published. There are a few glitches that still need to be corrected. Positive reports were given concerning the Thursday Night Bible Study and First Responders Breakfast.

Junior Warden's Report: Dan Roddy

Many of the electrical concerns have been addressed and fixed. There are just some minor concerns with the one outlet in the office and one in the Godly Play room. There are some areas in the interior of the church that need painting. Dan is going to get an estimate for the work.

Attendance: Dani Mikel

The average Sunday attendance for June was 22.5 people. This is slightly down from June, 2016.

Financial Report for June: Dani Mikel

Disbursements

General Expenses: \$5335.28

Supply Priests: \$751.20

Total: \$6086.48

Income

KNG Fund: \$50,000.00

Reimbursement: \$2967.84

Offering Plate/Pledges: \$3415.50

Interest (bank): \$7.40

Investment Income: \$1580.68

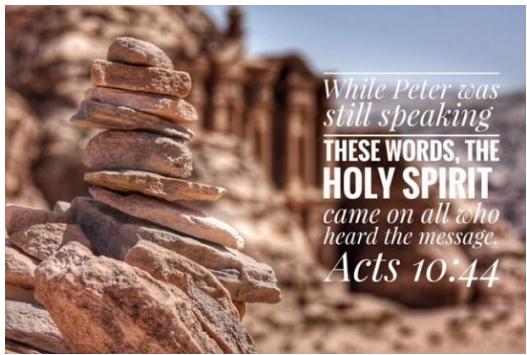
Total: \$57,971.42

Old Business:

The Fall Workday was discussed. The date is tentatively set for Saturday, October 7th.

New Business:

The "School Supply Drive" is set for August 6th through August 20th. The vestry voted to advertise the church in *The County News* and *Welcome to the West Brazos*. St. Mary's ad in the local phone book was updated.



Bible Study

If you haven't been able to join us for Bible Study on Thursday yet, it's never too late! Come journey through the Book of Acts as we learn about the spread of Christianity, Paul's conversion, and ultimately Paul's imprisonment in Rome. Everyone is welcome! We meet each Thursday from 6- 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall.



Annual School Supply Drive

Can you believe that summer is almost over? That means it is time, once again, for our annual School Supply Drive at St. Mary's. Each August we provide supplies for West Columbia Elementary School students who can't afford to purchase the items necessary for a successful school year. We will begin collecting supplies on Sunday, August 6th, and we will continue collecting items each Sunday through August 20th. The school supply list will be in your pew bulletin and also at the church entrance. Let's help our West Columbia kiddos get a good start at school this year by donating to our drop off box at the church entrance.



Blessing of the Backpacks

Sunday, August 20th, we will have our annual Blessing of the Backpacks. This is when a special blessing is said for the students and teachers who are going back to school. Sweeny ISD begins August 17th and Columbia Brazoria ISD begins August 22nd. Students may bring their backpacks with their supplies to church that day.



Music and Hymns

The church has purchased a copyright license to over 300,000 hymns, which means we are not limited to the hymns in The Hymnal or Come Celebrate. If you know a hymn you would like included in the worship service, give the name to Dani. She will check to see if it is on the copyright list and try to get a copy of it to print for Kathy and the congregation. Please try to make it a hymn others would know or you may be singing a solo. Let's make a joyful noise unto the Lord.

Christian One Liners

Thank you, Doris

- **Don't let your worries get the best of you; Remember, Moses started out as a basket case.**
- **When you get to your wit's end, you'll find God lives there.**
- **People are funny. They want the front of the bus, the middle of the road and the back of the church.**

Message from Marvin Miller

CONTROVERSY OF THE CROSS

(From the book, "Our Daily Bread")

The message of the cross is . . . the power of God

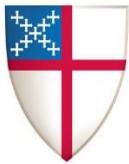
1 Corinthians 1:18

A case before the Supreme Court focused on whether a religious symbol, specifically, a cross, should be allowed on public land. Mark Sherman, writing for the Associated Press, said although the cross in question was erected in 1934 as a memorial to soldiers who died in World War I, one veterans' group that opposed it called the cross "a powerful Christian symbol", and "not a symbol of any other religion."

The cross has always been controversial. In the first century, the Apostle Paul, said that Christ sent him "to preach the gospel, not with wisdom or words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect. For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us that are being saved, it is the power of God. (1 Corinthians 1:17-18). As followers of Christ, we see the cross as more than a powerful Christian symbol. It is the evidence of God's power to free us from the tyranny of our sin.

In a diverse and pluralistic society, the controversy over religious symbols will continue. Whether the cross can be displayed on public property will likely be determined by the courts. But displaying, the power of the cross through our lives will be decided in our hearts. Christ takes each sin, each pain, each loss,
And by the power of His cross,
Transforms our brokenness and shame
So that our lives exalt His name.

Nothing speaks more clearly of God's love than the cross.



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.

Apostle Creed: the ancient baptismal confession of the Church

Ascension Day: the day marking the ascension of Christ into heaven

Ash Wednesday: the first day of Lent, so called from the ancient practice of placing ashes on the forehead as a reminder of man's mortal nature

Aumbry: a cupboard or recess in the sanctuary in which the Blessed Sacrament is reserved. It is marked by a candle which burns day and night. At St. Mary's the aumbry is called "The Bird House".

Baptismal Font: a large bowl or receptacle which contains the water used in Holy Baptism

Madeline Jane Roddy was born August 17, 2017 at 3:45 pm. She weighed 8 pounds and was 20.5 inches. We welcome the newest member to St. Mary's family. Congratulations to her parents, Wade and Shyanne Roddy, big sisters, Piper and Abigail, big brother, Trace, grandparents Dan and Donna Roddy, and Aunt Andrea Anderson.

Brayne Schill has had an awesome summer. He won the rodeos in Dalhart, Texas and Liberal, Kansas. He placed 6th in the National tour in Bryan, Texas. He made it to the short go in Salt Lake City Utah. In addition to his outstanding performances, he was picked up by a sponsor, Better Just Ride, a rodeo clothing company out of Utah.

Justin Hussey completed his duty in the Navy on June 9th. He was an Aviation Electrician ... 3rd Class Petty Officer. We thank him for his service and wish him, Hannah, and Jasey all the best.

Ally Lane has her driver's permit.

Braylee Schill placed in the top 10 at the Brazoria County Summer Series.

Karen and Ed Logue volunteered at The Beacon by washing, drying, and folding clothes for Houston's Homeless. The Beacon is where Father Jim Morgan works.

Ryan Logue, Son of Karen and Ed Logue, completed the 267 mile Texas Water Safari canoe race. He and his canoe partner came in 7th place in the novice division.

Maddie Lane and the Columbia High School Varsity Cheerleaders participated in the Texas A&M UCA Camp. They received 2nd place in Game Day Performance, 3rd place in Extreme Dance, Overall Game Day Winner, Most Creative Home Dance, and Spirit Award.





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.

Upcoming Events

September 1 - 3: Labor Day Family Camp

September 22 - 23: Gramps' Camp

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. photo albums or scrapbooks with individual sleeves for an archiving project
2. small and medium plastic containers with drawers for the Godly Play room (these are the ones that sit on a shelf)

Thank you to the Mikel family for donating othe bookcase and to Paula Gentner for donating the white dry erase board and calendar board.



Don't Forget

Please check the calendar at the entrance to the church and sign up to provide food for Hospitality after church. We still have openings in August and the rest of the months after that.

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

- August 1 - DOK (9:30 am)
- August 3 - Bible Study (6:00 pm)
- August 6 - 20 - School Supply Drive
- August 10 - Bible Study (6:00 pm)
- August 13 - Brotherhood (7:30 am)
- August 17 - First Responders' Breakfast (7:00 - 9:00 am)
- August 17 - Bible Study (6:00 pm)
- August 20 - Blessing of the Backpacks
- August 24 - Bible Study (6:00 pm)
- August 27 - Brotherhood (7:30 am)
- August 27 - Vestry Meeting
- August 31 - Bible Study (6:00 pm)

August Birthdays

- Holly Cantrell - August 8
- Craig Landreneau - August 10
- Heather Mikel - August 12
- Donna Roddy - August 21

August Anniversaries

Changes to the Directory

**Jim and Deborah Burns
430 Spindrift Circle
Richmond, Texas 77469**

**Home Phone
281-232-7221**

Vestry Members

Sr. Warden	Karen Logue kklogue@msn.com
Jr. Warden	Dan Roddy dkroddy@earthlink.net
Clerk	Marvin Miller mgminspections@earthlink.net
Treasurer	Dani Mikel danimikel87@yahoo.com
Church	stmaryswc@centurylink.net