

The Bells of St. Mary's



As humans, the quest to figuring out who we are seems to be a never-ending project. We begin that journey as children, understanding what it means to be a boy or a girl in this particular family, sometimes with an older or younger sibling. It then seems we have to start over again in our adolescence as old identities give way to something new, and we begin to test our independence and what that means for who we think we are. Then, it is young adulthood, trying to figure out who we are when we are no longer defined just as being someone else's child. This re-crafting of identity seemingly goes on and on throughout our lives as we face each major milestone, each major turn.

Organizations, too, have an identity. Perhaps they are identities carefully crafted to sell products to consumers. Maybe it is some service the organization provides for others. But organizations and institutions seem to have a personality, an identity. And, just like their human counterparts, organizational identities are frequently expanded and redefined as time goes by, reflecting new purpose, new products, or new relevance to those around them as they continue to tell the story of who they are.

When St. Mary's search committee met with me in Waco last fall, I asked them what was it that the parish longed for, what were their hopes for the future. Among other ideas relayed, I was told St. Mary's wanted to become more engaged in the community. Someone admitted that they often wondered if the citizens of West Columbia even knew St. Mary's existed!

Sounded to me like an identity problem. Who are we? How are we to engage in the community around us? What is our purpose...other than to be a place of worship for a few people?

The vestry and I have embarked on a project to help our congregation begin to develop an identity in this community, a narrative through which we can tell our story and share with others who St. Mary's is and what we are about. To begin that process, we chose to develop an updated logo. It is hoped that through a simple design we will be able to grow in understanding who God is calling us to be as we share this story with our neighbors and friends.

We will be sharing this new and exciting logo to St. Mary's at our next Parish Dinner on August 15th at 5:30. We hope you are able to be there! Come help us write the story behind this beautiful illustration, a story that God is writing in our hearts as we move forward into the future God sets before us!

Blessings,
Sharron



Summer Parish Dinners!

In an old Norman Rockwell painting, the family is gathered around the dinner table all smiles, laughing and talking. We think of that as times of old, but it's not. Family dinners are an opportunity to share good times, relax from the pressures of the day, enjoy the company of those dear to us, and of course eat.

We are all part of our church family and our next dinner together will be Wednesday, August 15th, at 5:30 in the Parish Hall. Come join us as we share a great meal with a Baked Potato Bar including chopped beef from Smokin' R and all the trimmings. Along with the food, let's share a laugh or two, hear a tale, a yarn, the latest scoop, and spend time with "our family". After dinner, Sharron has a surprise she won't reveal until then. It will be worth the wait. Bring a side dish, dessert, or drink to go with the meal. There is a signup sheet in the Parish Hall if you know what you want to bring. Of course, the unexpected surprises are just as special. Also bring a friend or two or three. As the saying goes "the more the merrier."

Since our family parish dinners are the third Wednesday of the month, go ahead and mark your calendar for September 19th. The details will be given later.



KNOW YOUR HYMNS!

Know your Hymns – Season After Pentecost August +1

About halfway through Ordinary Time in Year B of the Revised Common Lectionary, our gospel is all about bread! See if you can pick up the "bread" theme in many of the hymns ahead for us in August!

Hymns Scheduled for Sunday, August 5

Opening Hymn – Hymnal 522 Glorious things of thee are spoken – This tune is familiar because it is the German national anthem, composed by Franz Joseph Haydn. This hymn has long been a favorite in the Church of England and the Episcopal Church.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ODjibvkxx-g>

Gospel Hymn – Hymnal 302 Father, we thank thee who hast planted – A sweet two-verse hymn with ancient words.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iivvABRHs-0&list=PLK7f6AGbwGtJNM2MhZ73ODC2ozQVu3JKV>

Offertory Hymn – Hymnal 690 Guide me, O thou great Jehovah – Interesting...here's a guitar rendition of this favorite Welsh hymn!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gcQQ0bnnXt8>

Communion Hymn – Hymnal 321 My God, thy table now is spread – You know this tune...now sing it to different verses!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=se2gQkCYUUE>

Closing Hymn – Hymnal 544 Jesus shall reign -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pdrCq-rMvCs>

Hymns for Sunday, August 12

Opening Hymn – Hymnal 48 *O day of radiant gladness* – An old Episcopal favorite!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kli2dCOhB2o>

Gospel Hymn – Hymnal 371 *Thou, whose almighty word* - This is a familiar tune!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IhZGS7otB4s>

Offertory Hymn – Hymnal 593 *Lord, make us servants of your peace* – These are the familiar words considered the “Prayer of St. Francis,” and the tune is used frequently with other hymns.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dFePI5ioYQo>

Communion Hymn – WLP 831 *Ubi caritas* – This is one of the songs from Taize that Rev. Sharron warned we would be singing once she returned from her visit to Taize! The hymn merely repeats, *Ubi caritas*, over and over so that all may join in the hymn in progress upon returning from the communion rail. Translated into English, it is “Where true charity and love abide, God is there.” For those who did not study Latin, here is an approximate phonetic pronunciation of the words in this hymn: “Ew-bē, car ē toss, et ah ah more, ew-bē, car ē toss, day ews ē bē es.”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GX7tAZIAWbE>

Closing Hymn – Hymnal 335 *I am the bread of life* – This is a familiar hymn! The video has a few wording differences, but it is a lovely rendition of exemplary acoustic guitar playing.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CEXiL591ero>

Hymns for Sunday, August 19

Opening Hymn – Hymnal 594 *God of grace and God of glory* – Another favorite!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8cGYKN20Hc4>

Gospel Hymn – Hymnal 488 *Be thou my vision* – Lovely performance of this beautiful and familiar hymn!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GM6bx6xEYJA>

Offertory Hymn – Hymnal 379 *God is Love* – This is that familiar tune, *Abbot’s Leigh*, which we frequently sing but with different lyrics.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1S5dVFK3Fpw>

Communion Hymn – Hymnal 325 *Let us break bread together*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XpoaYI1DaKI>

Closing Hymn – Hymnal 420 *When in our music God is glorified* – Familiar tune, different words.

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

Hymns for Sunday, August 26

Opening Hymn – Hymnal 460 *Alleluia! Sing to Jesus* – This is a St. Mary’s favorite!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AcD8r3UOMrM>

Gospel Hymn – Hymnal 686 *Come, thou font* – This is a beautiful chamber performance of this well-loved hymn.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zVk7cJM-1Fc>

Offertory Hymn – Hymnal 558 *Faith of our fathers* – A short video of this hymn played by church bells!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E0q-AGQadF8>

Communion Hymn – WLP 791 *Peace before us* – A simple, repetitive hymn for post-communion.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pevH0Ez6bms>

Closing Hymn – Hymnal 524 *I love thy kingdom, Lord* – From the National Cathedral!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CiJ3mOXYrR4>

Hymns for Sunday, September 2

Opening Hymn – Hymnal 423 Immortal, invisible – Sung at Palmer Memorial Episcopal Church, one of our neighbors up north of us in Houston!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IYw2Kgj71a8>

Gospel Hymn – Hymnal 707 Take my life, and let it be – Guess the videographer wanted all to know this hymn was sung at an Episcopal Church!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BqAzNF_Cv8M

Offertory Hymn – WLP 782 Gracious Spirit, give your servants – Here is a recording of the familiar tune, *Abbot's Leigh*, but we will sing new lyrics to this dear music.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IRA3edFjXA4>

Communion Hymn – Hymnal 508 Breathe on me, Breath of God

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Zt1UKaBzKY>

Closing Hymn – Hymnal 344 Lord dismiss us with thy blessing – Familiar tune, but no shepherd this time!

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

Fall 2018 Christian Formation

In May 2017, St. Mary's gathered to outline and identify their hopes for the future. Through a survey conducted at that meeting, the parish overwhelmingly identified that there is a thirst for spiritual growth for and by all ages of its members.

In response, last fall Dani Mikel and Shyanne Roddy coordinated educational programming for our youth and children on Wednesday nights. This has been a successful and well-attended ministry over the last year, allowing children who have extracurricular activities on weekends to receive Christian education at a time when all are able to attend. We will continue to offer this opportunity for growth and spiritual development for our youth and children beginning on Wednesday, September 12th at 5:00. This Wednesday evening programming will be led by Shyanne Roddy and Colleen Matocha, with support and guidance from Dani Mikel.

This fall, beginning on September 9th, St. Mary's will be expanding its Christian formation offering in response for the desire to have education for all ages. On Sunday mornings following our service, we will offer our children Godly Play led by Dani Mikel. Ms. Dani has been leading a shortened version of Godly Play during our worship service for several years and looks forward to being able to offer our young children the full scope of this wonderful educational program that helps children explore their faith through the stories in the Bible and through play. Colleen Matocha is excited to be leading the Sunday morning youth program in addition to the Wednesday evening offering. Additional aides are needed for both of these classes with the hope we can have many of our adult members rotating in and out one Sunday a month or every other month. If you are interested in helping, please contact Dani.

Adult Christian formation will also begin on September 9th. After 15-20 minutes of our hospitality time, the Rev. Sharron Cox will gather adults in the Parish Hall, coffee and Danish in hand, for a time of teaching and conversation. Titled, "Life in Christ – Life in Community", this course will explore more deeply what it means to be joined together with and in Christ in community.

All Sunday morning programming is designed to be completed by 10:45-11:00 each week – plenty of time for those ardent Houston Texan and Dallas Cowboy fans to grab their lunch and be home in time for their football games!



The Blessing of the Backpacks

As students and teachers prepare for school by buying clothes, supplies, and making the most of those last days of summer vacation, there is one preparation that should not be overlooked... The Blessing of the Backpacks. This is the outward sign of the inward belief that God is with them. School can be exciting and wonderful, but also stressful and dramatic. The Blessing of the Backpacks remind all our children from kindergarten to college, that God is there with them

through it all, so they are never alone. It also comforts the parents who cannot be there with their children while they are at school. Bring your backpacks, book bags, supplies, etc. to church on Sunday, August 12th for the Blessing of the Backpacks. The backpacks and supplies the church and parishioners are donating to West Columbia Elementary will also be blessed. We will let it be known that "God's Got Your Back".



Treats for Teachers, Snacks for Staff

The teachers and staff at West Columbia Elementary will spend countless days and hours preparing for the new school year and the students they will inspire. St. Mary's wants to show our appreciation for all they do by providing snacks for one of their inservice days. On August 14th and 15th, teachers and staff will be working at the school, so treats they can eat on the run or during a quick break would be wonderful. Cookies, brownies, homemade goodies are great, but so are nuts, small candies, chips, crackers, etc. We are not providing a meal, just something that will satisfy that sweet tooth or crunch craze and will be available all day. If you would like to provide something, bring it to the church on Monday, August 13th, between 8:30 and 11:00 or 2:30 to 5:00. The goodies will be delivered to West Columbia Elementary in the morning of Tuesday, August 14th.

Our Camp Experience

by Haley Cantrell, Reesie Cantrell, and Piper Roddy

Dear St. Mary's,

Thank you so much for helping send me to camp again this year. I had a fabulous time and was able to meet some really kind people. We exchanged numbers and now talk all the time. My favorite part of camp was the horseback riding and the canoeing in the lake. My canoe got flipped in the water by accident but it definitely made for a good story. I hope to continue to get to go to Camp Allen in the future and thank you for helping make that happen.

Love,
Haley

DEAR ST. MARYS

Thank y'all so much for sending me to Camp Allen. I had so much fun and met so many new friends. I made TONS of amazing new memories. My favorite part was singing at Eucharist and the color run. This was my first time ever doing a color run and it was a blast. Thanks so much for helping send me to camp. I can't wait until next year.

With gratitude,
love~ Reesie

Thank you for sending me to Camp Allen, I had the best time while I was there. My favorite activities were the zip line and swimming. At camp I learned that we are all family, and no matter where you are, God is with you.

From:
Piper

Education Through Music Summer Fine Arts Camp

by Shyanne Roddy

I attended Education through Music Summer Fine Arts Camp at St. John the Divine, developed by the Richards Institute. Education through Music is the study of artful teaching and the process of learning through song and play. Each day was broken into three sections. Music was where the children and I learned classic folk songs. Abigail and Trace's favorite was Pop Goes The Weasel. They then went to art where they were given simple objects that they used and spent the whole week constructing their masterpieces. Abigail made a unicorn named Butterfly, while Trace built an octopus boat that shoots fish from a cannon. Story time was the last section where they heard classic folklore from all over the world. It was a truly amazing experience that my children loved and I am thankful for St. Mary's and St. John the Divine to experience along with them.

Honoring Our Military

For Veteran's Day, we traditionally honor those military personnel for whom our parish prays each Sunday by sending them a gift card and notes to thank them for their service and let them know they are in our prayers. A basket will be set out in the narthex from July to November for donations. You can give weekly, monthly, or make one donation. Any amount would be greatly appreciated by these 9 men and their families. Last year we donated \$419.58. By November, we will need the current addresses for these military personnel. If you know this information or have a military person you would like included in the Prayers of the People each Sunday, please let Dani know.



Prayer Request

If you or someone you know is in need of prayers, you can fill out a prayer request card found in the pews or notify the office directly. 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 not longer in need.



Donations for the Military

In our parish hall there is a container by the door for donations to the US Troops Not Forgotten. This organization supports all military branches and sends packages throughout the year to our service personnel overseas. Each month specific items will be listed to purchase. The items for August are: paperback books, adult coloring books, coloring pencils, small sewing kits, nail clippers, and mice/rat traps (glue preferred). They will also accept cash donations to help with mailing expenses.



Community Assistance

During July, the Community Assistance funds were used to purchase 50 backpacks and 10 lice kits which will be given to West Columbia Elementary School before the start of the new school year.

If you know of anyone needing assistance, please contact Tracy or Karen.



News from the Vestry

The vestry met Monday, July 23, 2018.

Rector Report: The Reverend Sharron Cox

Sharron gave the rector report detailing her activities from June 22nd to July 19th, which included volunteering at the General Convention. She noted that Bill and Gwynne Olson have joined the church. She also pointed out that Dani is working on the Parish Registry so it will be current and reflecting the present membership.

Senior Warden's Report: Karen Logue

Karen reported that she will be on vacation but she had made arrangements for the Thursday Bible Study to continue and had set up a schedule for watering the garden. She would like to update the guidelines of the Community Assistance program and will meet with Tracy when she returns.

Junior Warden's Report: Andrea Anderson

The major electrical work has been completed and was under the estimated cost.

Discipleship Report

Sharron reported on the 4th of July service. The Blessing of the Backpacks will be Sunday, August 12th. This will include the 50 backpacks, 10 lice kits, and school supplies donated by Community Assistance fund and parishioners. Sharron and Dani presented the plans for Christian Formation in the fall. Shyanne Roddy will be the children's teacher on Wednesday, Colleen Matocha will be the youth director on Wednesday and Sunday, and Dani Mikel will be the Godly Play leader on Sunday. Volunteers are needed as aides during the Sunday classes. The adult education will be lead by Sharron. Christian Formation will begin on Sunday, September 9th and Wednesday, September 12th. Sharron passed out the Diocese of Texas' Alcohol Policy. The matter was briefly discussed and will be brought up again at the next meeting once the vestry members have had a chance to look over the policy. Karen and Sharron will be meeting to map out the 2018 Stewardship Campaign later this summer. The next Parish Dinner will be Wednesday, August 15th at 5:30 with a Baked Potato Bar. The vestry will provide the potatoes, meat, and fixings.

Mission Report

Community Assistance funds were used to purchase 50 backpacks and 10 lice kits for West Columbia Elementary. Sharron used discretionary funds to assist two needy individuals who did not live in West Columbia.

Other Business

The vestry reviewed the logo drafts from Scout Wingate, requesting minor edits.

Calendar

The next three vestry meetings will be at 3:30 on August 27th, September 24th, and October 29th.

Daughters of the King meet August 7th at 9:30

Brotherhood meets August 5th and August 19th at 7:30 am.

Bible Study continues on Thursdays at 6:00.

Parish dinner will be August 15th at 5:30.

Rector's Time Off - August 22nd and 23rd

The next meeting will be Monday, August 27th at 3:30.

A copy of the vestry minutes will be placed on the bulletin board in the parish hall.

Message from Marvin Miller

WILL I HAVE TO TELL?

(From the book "Our Daily Bread")

If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. – 2 Corinthians 5:17

Jim was sharing the gospel with Keri. He told her that she was separated from a holy God because of her sin, and that Jesus had died and risen for her salvation. She kept coming up with one reason not to believe: "But if I do receive Him, I won't have to tell other people about it, will I? I don't want to do that." She said that didn't fit her personality; she didn't want to tell other people about Jesus.

Jim explained that promising to witness about Jesus wasn't a requirement before receiving Him. But he also said that once she came to know the Lord, Keri would become His ambassador to the world (2 Corinthians 5:20).

After talking a little longer, Keri acknowledged her need for salvation through Christ. She went home excited and at peace. Then a funny thing happened – within twenty-four hours, she told three people about what God had done in her life.

Because we have been reconciled to God, through Jesus, we now have "the ministry of reconciliation" (v. 18). We are His ambassadors and therefore we implore people "on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God" (v. 20).

When we're thankful, we want to share what God has done.

I love to tell the story,
For some have never heard
The message of salvation
From God's own holy word

There's no better news than the gospel – spread the word!



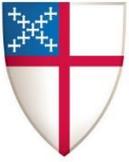
Bible Study

There's always room at the table for anyone wishing to join our study of John. We meet at 6:00 PM each Thursday evening in the Parish Hall.



Trip to Brookwood

Christmas is 5 months away, but the poinsettias have been ordered so ladies mark your calendar for our annual December trip to Brookwood. We will leave on Thursday, December 20th, with the time to be determined. The trip includes shopping at the spectacular store with its Christmas decorations as well as the garden center full of breathtaking plants, eating lunch at the elegant restaurant, and most importantly picking up the poinsettias that will enhance the beauty of our church during our Christmas Eve Service. No need to commit now, just wanted to get you prepared. This is definitely something you don't want to miss.



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.

Presiding Bishop: the elected head of the Episcopal Church in America; the chief administrator and spiritual head (Bishop Michael Curry is our current Presiding Bishop.)

Priest: a person called to serve and minister to a congregation as its practical and spiritual leader, who is ordained by the Episcopal church and authorized to perform sacred rites and rituals

Procession, To Process: that point in the liturgy when the choir, acolytes, clergy, and LEMs enter the church and proceed to the altar

Psalm: a sacred poem of worship from the Old Testament



Ally Lane passed her driving test and is now a licenced driver.

Aaron Mikel recieved the Marian Loep Endowed Scholarship from the Texas State University Family Association.



Camp Allen Events

This summer our conference center is bustling and the campsites are full of happy campers... and there are more opportunities on the horizon for you to take part in the joy that Camp Allen provides. Join us for one of our upcoming events!

Rosalums

Rosalums is a brand new Camp Allen Alumni community for anyone and everyone who has come in contact with Camp Allen Summer Camp. That's right, campers, counselors, Sr. Staff, Directors, Arts & Crafts, or designated blobbers, all (ages 22+) are welcome! Rosalums offers the opportunity to reconnect with old friends, meet new ones at social and fundraising events, and most importantly, give back and support the future of Camp Allen. We hope you feel encouraged to join and be part of shaping this alumni organization from the beginning. Share and invite your camp friends too, and join us as the alumni of Camp Allen rally together to do incredible things!

Labor Day Family Camp - August 31- September 2

Grab your grass skirts and leis, it's tiki time for the whole family at Camp Allen! Our packages include two-night hotel accommodations, six buffet meals, and activities for all ages. Activity options: rock climbing, giant swing, canoeing, Adventure Summit Course, swimming, massages, horseback riding, Discovery Dome theater, Sunday worship service, giant water slide, family movie night, live bird classes, live reptile classes, guided hikes, fishing lessons, hayrides, moon jump, archery, and themed crafts. Register at campallen.org.

Gramps Camp - September 21-22

Spend quality time in the piney woods with your grandchildren in the piney woods at this two day, one night retreat! Register at campallen.org.

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.

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.

- Small to medium straw or plastic baskets for the Godly Play room
- Area rug for the children's chapel room
- Paint brushes of various sizes to paint and decorate the walls in the Jr. High Christian Formation room
- Bean bag chairs or other comfortable chairs for the Jr. High Christian Formation room





Don't Forget

Please check the table when entering the parish hall. The Hospitality calendar and other important information can be found there.

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 2 - Bible Study (6:00 pm)

August 5 - Brotherhood (7:30 am)
Sunday service (9:00 am)

August 7 - DOK meeting (9:30 am)

August 9 - Bible Study (6:00 pm)

August 12 - Sunday service (9:00 am)
Blessing of the Backpacks

August 15 - Parish Dinner (5:30 pm)
Baked Potato Bar

August 16 - Bible Study (6:00 pm)

August 19 - Brotherhood (7:30 am)
Sunday Service (9:00 am)

August 22nd - 23rd - Sharron will be out of town

August 23 - Bible Study (6:00 pm)

August 26 - Sunday Service (9:00 am)
Commissioning of the Lay Ministries

August 27 - Vestry meeting (3:30 pm)

August 30 - Bible Study (6:00 pm)

August Birthdays

Holly Cantrell - August 8

Heather Mikel - August 12

Donna Roddy - August 21

August Anniversaries

St. Mary's Leadership

Rector

The Reverend Sharron Cox

Vestry

Sr. Warden: Karen Logue

Jr. Warden: Andrea Anderson

Clerk: Marvin Miller

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.