



The Bells of St. Mary's

August Edition

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



The first two Sundays in August we will be talking a lot about treasure in our gospel readings. While I have an idea that the scriptures will lead us to contemplating our physical and spiritual treasures, it has gotten me thinking about treasure...

So, let me take this time to tell all of you how much I treasure each one of you. Many of us have been going a lot of different directions during these summer months, and I am treasuring the thought of being with many of you again and hearing your stories of the summer. And as people have come and gone, many of you have kept up our ministries and support needed throughout. I treasure those who do so much and give so much of themselves for the benefit of all of us at St. Mary's.

I also treasure this parish which has been entrusted to all of us. Last Saturday, St. Mary's honored the life of one of our founding members, Frances Dodson Anderson. I heard stories from her son Brian of the vibrant ministries and activities which took place in our early decades of life here on the corner of 16th and Clay Street. It is an awesome trust we have been given by those who have gone before us, to steward and support this community of followers of Jesus, raising up new disciples in every generation to learn more about how God would have us live and serve others for the glory of God.

I pray that we are able to treasure the gifts each one of us has and brings to the benefit of our life here at St. Mary's...for they are numerous and necessary for our beloved community to thrive and grow!

Blessings,

Invite Welcome Connect

INVITATION SUNDAY

It's that time of year again..... students and teachers are getting ready to return to the classroom and St. Mary's wants to honor and bless them at this important time. So, mark your calendars for Sunday, August 18th, as we celebrate our teachers and students at our annual Blessing of the Backpacks during the 9:00 worship service. Embracing and supporting our children and youth is one of our most important roles as a worshipping body of believers, so I'd like to encourage everyone to invite your family, friends, and neighbors to join us on August 18th. And don't forget the college kiddos! All you have to say is, "Hey, my church is blessing backpacks this Sunday... would you like to come?" This could be one of the best evangelism opportunities of the year! Remember, all we have to do is plant the seed of invitation and let the Holy Spirit do the rest! Well... it might be a good idea to make any guests that show up feel welcome and comfortable, especially if they are visiting for the first time. But that's easy enough for us at St. Mary's!

- Share the "Peace" with 2-3 new faces
- Make an effort to introduce yourself and your family after the service
- Invite them to join you at Hospitality (it's going to be spectacular!)
- Sit down next to someone sitting by themselves in the Parish Hall

Most importantly, let's enjoy, have fun and let our students, teachers, neighbors and friends know just how much they are loved!

Blessings,

Karen

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

New Teacher Luncheon

The New Teacher Luncheon for CBISD will be held August 6th at Columbia United Methodist Church. For those who signed up to provide food, please deliver it to the Methodist church by 9:00 am.

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 their classroom workday. On August 20th, 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. Individually wrapped cookies, nuts, small candies (chocolate or hard), chips, crackers, granola bars, etc. are needed. 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 between now and Monday, August 19th. Monetary donations can also be made and will be used to purchase additional snacks. The goodies will be delivered to West Columbia Elementary in the morning of Tuesday, August 20th.

School Supplies Drive

Our annual school drive has begun. Columbia Elementary asks that we only get the following items:

- Expo brand black erase markers (low odor)
- Expo brand erase markers (variety of colors, low odor)
- dry erase board eraser
- large box of tissues
- quart or gallon size Ziploc baggies
- notebook paper - wide margin

There are lists available in the Parish Hall and Narthex. We will continue to collect items until Sunday, August 18th, Backpack Sunday. Together let us help those students who cannot afford the supplies they need.

Christian Formation

Now that summer vacations are almost over and our traveling parishioners are headed back to St. Mary's, we are ready for Christian Formation to begin. The first Sunday morning programs for all ages will be September 8th after Hospitality. The Wednesday evening Christian Formation will begin on September 11th. Stay tuned for more details about all the programs.

The beginning of the Wednesday evening Christian Formation also means the need for simple meals for our children. Once again, there will be a sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall for those who can provide food. The meals do not need to be elaborate. Hotdogs, sandwiches, chicken nuggets, pizza, and other kid friendly meals would be perfect. We are grateful for this demonstration of love and care for our youth and children.

Teachers and Aides Needed

As stated in the June edition of *The Bells of St. Mary's*, our Christian Formation for youth and children is changing. In addition to our Sunday morning program, we will have three groups during our weeknight programs. To continue to meet the standards for Safeguarding God's Children, the week day evening youth group under the direction of Colleen Matocha will need one additional adult aide. We will also need an aide for the Wednesday night Christian Formation to help with the children's classes. Just as we did last year, aides will be assigned for the Sunday Godly Play children's program led by Dani Mikel.

A new program for our intermediate elementary students called *Imaginative Prayer* will be during the Wednesday evening Christian Formation. To meet the needs of this new program, at least two volunteers are requested to serve as teachers. The program is well planned out, easy to follow, and does not require a lot of prep time. The volunteers can alternate Wednesday evenings. Rev. Sharron will be leading the first few classes, so the volunteers will be able to see how the program is run.

If you are willing to serve as an aide or teacher to help guide our children and youth through their journey to learn about God's love, the meaning of being a Christian, and how to serve God, the church, and the community, please let Dani know. Remember the person who guided and influenced you. You can be that person in the life of our children and youth.



Parish Dinners

With the end of summer, comes the return of our monthly parish dinners. What a great opportunity for us to gather together, hear about each other's summer, share a wonderful meal, and enjoy each other's company. Our first dinner will be Wednesday, September 18th, at 5:30 with Dan and Donna Roddy providing ham as the entree. A sign-up sheet for the side dishes and drinks will be placed on the table in the Parish Hall on Sunday, September 1st. Mark your calendars now.

Acolyte Training

Acolyte training for those interested in serving as an acolyte and those current acolytes who would like a refresher course will be Sunday, August 25th at 10:30. Please let the church office know if you plan to attend.



News from the Vestry

Gwynne Olson, Clerk

The vestry met Monday, July 15, 2019.

Rector Report: The Reverend Sharron Cox

Rev. Sharron gave an update on the KNG Ranch meeting and future meetings. The meetings will continue conversations about options for the future of the ranch.

Senior Warden's Report: Charlotte Blount

Charlotte stated that a timeline has been established for the stewardship campaign. Three people are needed to speak during the announcements about what they are thankful for at St. Mary's. The first Sunday in October will be the Blessing of the Animals.

Junior Warden's Report: Andrea Anderson

Andrea stated that the air conditioning was fixed in the conference room. J & C Plumbing returned to fix a leak in the ladies' bathroom. Sharron was given approval to seek out an architect to get architectural drawings for updates to St. Mary's restrooms and Narthex.

A copy of the vestry minutes will be placed on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall once approved at the August meeting.

Message from Marvin Miller

TRUE RICHES OF LIFE

By Jim Gentil

It is a fundamental principle of Christianity, and many other religions, that in the afterlife the only real measure of success will be how you have lived your life, not how much money you have accumulated.

Whatever your faith may be, a good rule of everyday behavior is to live your life so that when it is over you can take pride in the knowledge that you have made a difference in the lives of those who have known you. It's easy in the crush of everyday life to lose sight of the true riches of life, the things that really matter.

Psychologist Ilona Tobin defines true success as “giving and receiving love, having physical and mental health, enough wealth to provide you with options, and the time to enjoy them all.”

Whatever your personal definition of success may be, make sure that it includes a healthy measure of the truly important things in life.

*Medals and titles will not count
when you get to heaven,
but you may be looked over carefully
for the sort of deeds you have done.*

Honoring Our Military



For Veteran's Day, we traditionally honor those military personnel listed in the Prayers of the People 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 8 men and their families. Last year we donated a total of \$440. 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, please let Dani know.



Community Assistance

In July, there were two requests for assistance. Funds were provided to help both families with rent. Funds were also used to purchase 50 backpacks for low income students at West Columbia Elementary.

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

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

Hunter Weisinger graduated Air Force Tech School in Fire Protection. He and Cheyenne are stationed at Langley Air Force Base in Hampton, Virginia where he is serving as a Fire Fighter.



Camp Allen Events

Man Camp (August 17-18) is an overnight retreat for men of all ages. This program will include Archery Tag, Adventure Summit, high rope course, waterfront activities, and a craft beer dinner pairing.

Labor Day Family Camp (August 30 - September 1) is a weekend retreat for the whole family. Activity options include Adventure Summit, canoeing, horseback riding, family movie night, and bird and reptile classes.

Gramps Camp (September 20-21) is a chance to spend quality time with your grandchildren in the Piney Woods at a two day one night retreat. Activities include canoeing, guided hikes, giant swing, swimming, orienteering, archery, campfire, fishing, pond studies, and stargazing.

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 bookcases or shelves for the Godly Play 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.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Special thanks and gratitude to:

- Mary Stewart, Marvin Miller, Charlotte Blount, Coleen Matocha, Aaron Mikel, Dani Mikel, and Gwynne Olson for their service during the funeral of Frances Dodson Anderson.
- Wendy Hankins, Karen Logue, Jackie Walker, and Charlotte Blount for providing food for the family and friends of Frances Anderson.
- Colleen Matocha for cutting out and laminating the bookmarks for the teachers and staff of West Columbia Elementary.
- Jackie Walker for helping to prepare the tags for the backpacks.
- Doris Grosvenor for conducting the DOK classes for those who are interested in joining this ministry.

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

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 no longer in need.

Dates to Remember

August 1 - Yoga class (10:00 am)
Bible Study: The Gospel According to Matthew
Chapter 13 (6:00 pm)

August 4 - Brotherhood (7:30 am)
Sunday Service (9:00 am)
Hospitality (10:00 am)

August 5 - DOK (4:15 pm)

August 8 - Yoga class (10:00 am)
New Teacher Luncheon
Bible Study: The Gospel According to Matthew
Chapter 14 (6:00 pm)

August 11 - Sunday Service
Hospitality (10:00 am)

August 15 - Yoga class (10:00 am)
Bible Study: The Gospel According to Matthew
Chapter 15 (6:00 pm)

August 18 - Brotherhood (7:30 am)
Backpack Sunday Service (9:00 am)
Hospitality (10:00 am)
Last day to donate school supplies

August 19 - Vestry meeting (4 pm)
Last day to donate treats for teachers

August 22 - Yoga class (10:00 am)
Bible Study: The Gospel According to Matthew
Chapter 16 (6:00 pm)

August 25 - Sunday Service (9:00 am)
Hospitality (10:00 am)
Acolyte Training and Refresher Course
(10:30 am)

August 29 - Yoga class (10:00 am)
Bible Study: The Gospel According to Matthew
Chapter 17 (6:00 pm)

August Birthdays

Holly Cantrell - Aug. 8

Heather Mikel - Aug. 12

Susan Graham - Aug. 17

Donna Roddy - Aug. 21

Becky Dinsmore - Aug. 29

August Anniversaries

St. Mary's Leadership

Rector

The Reverend Sharron Cox

Vestry

Sr. Warden: Charlotte Blount

Jr. Warden: Andrea Anderson

Clerk: Gwynne Olson

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.