



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.



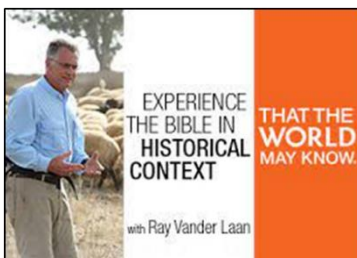
August 2021

Message from Our Church Leadership

We are excited to announce a new Christian Formation study series for the Fall. We will be using the very popular video series, *That the World May Know*, taught by noted bible scholar and lecturer, Ray Vander Laan. Our Fall series begins with the journey of the Israelites to the Promised Land. From there, we learn about the early history of Jesus' birthplace, with help from the many artifacts that have been recovered from their ancient homeland.

See below for additional details of our study, and follow this link for short previews of the videos.

<https://www.thatttheworldmayknow.com/promised-land>



Christian Formation (6th Grade – Adults) *That The World May Know Series*

Join us on a trip to ancient times, places, and customs with trusted Bible scholar Ray Vander Laan as your fun and engaging tour guide. Filmed in Israel, Egypt, Turkey, and Greece, these powerful videos explore what it meant to follow Jesus in the first century—and what it means to follow him today. Each of class provides visually stunning video sessions as well as an easy-to-follow discovery guide that illuminates Jesus' teachings and helps us understand the context in which he lived and preached.

Classes begin Sunday, September 12
After church in the Parish Hall
10:30 – 11:15

Each Class begins with a 20 minute video, followed by 20 minutes of discussion.
(Led by Fr. Paul and Gwynne Olson)

Christian Formation for Children

Christian Formation for Children age 2 years to 5th grade will begin Sunday, September 12th. The children will meet during the service, leaving the sanctuary during the Praise Song and returning during the Peace.

Instead of one group, the children will be divided into two groups.

- Godly Play and The Path are for our younger parishioners from age 2 to first grade under the direction of Miss Dani. Godly play is “an imaginative approach to working with children, an approach that supports, challenges, nourishes, and guides their spiritual quest.”
- Miss Shyanne will be leading the 2nd graders through 5th graders. They will continue with lessons from the Bible as well as doctrine from the Episcopal Church.

Maddie Lane has also volunteered to help with Christian Formation.

Youth Group Returns

Colleen Matocha will again be leading the youth group, 6th grade through 12th grade. Once she has contacted all our youth and their families, she will send out the first meeting date. The youth will meet in the newly renovated youth room at the top of the stairs in the Parish Hall.

Christian Formation Needs You

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.

If you cannot commit on a regular basis, there is still opportunities to help with Christian Formation. You can be a guest reader, provide snacks for the youth group, help with the children's/youth's productions, make items needed for a lesson - cut, color, staple, or make or provide larger items needed in the classroom. Just let Dani know you are interested. There are endless possibilities.



On Sunday, August 15th, we will have our very special Back to School service. Teachers, students, school personnel, and Christian Formation volunteers will be honored. Bring your backpacks, school bags, and supplies for a special blessing. What a great way to start the school year.

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

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 17th, 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. The church is going to provide some snacks, but if you would like to provide homemade items such as cookies, cupcakes, brownies, trail mix, etc. they would be greatly received. 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 Sunday, August 15th, or from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Monday, August 16th. The goodies will be delivered to West Columbia Elementary in the morning of Tuesday, August 17th.

School Supplies Drive

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

Supply List

1. dry erase markers
2. paper towels
3. ear buds
4. Zip Lock baggies – variety of sizes
5. new children's socks – variety of sizes
6. new children's underwear – variety of sizes

There is a basket in the Narthex for donations along with lists of the supplies needed and envelopes for those who would like to leave a monetary donation. Donations will be accepted until Sunday, August 15th, Backpack Sunday. Together let's help the students and teachers get started on a wonderful new school year.

Volunteer Opportunity - Habitat for Humanity

We received the following letter from Habitat for Humanity of Southern Brazoria County:

Habitat for Humanity of Southern Brazoria County pictures a world where everyone has a decent place to live. We build homes for qualified families who take out an interest-free mortgage to "buy" their house. Since 1991, we've helped over 112 families achieve "first time" home ownership.

While we are best known for building homes, it takes a lot of behind-the-scenes volunteerism to get us ready to pour a slab and put up walls. We use volunteers to help us staff our ReStore (where proceeds are used to fund houses), help with part-time office work, locate property, serve as board and committee members, and more. Even during construction, not all volunteers are building. Some are working in our hospitality tent, some are signing in volunteers, some help plant flower beds, and some are providing meals for construction volunteers.

We need volunteers to become a part of our family to serve with us as we build homes, communities, and hope. It is exciting and rewarding to see a family beaming with pride as they move into a new, safe shelter, and know you helped get them there.

You can contact Habitat for Humanity for Southern Brazoria County by either email hfhbc@gmail.com or calling their office 979-285-2800.

Hospitality

Hospitality and Fellowship, a time to visit and enjoy a special treat, has returned to the Parish Hall. Come over after the service to catch up on the latest news, swap a story or two, and enjoy the company of our St. Mary's family.

If you would like to provide a small snack or treat for our Hospitality time, there is a sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall. It does not need to be a great feast. Just something simple and enjoyable.

August is covered, but treats are needed for September and beyond.



Traveling Mary

Another trip for St. Mary. She traveled with Madeline, Abigail, and Trace Roddy to Austin.

Remember to take her with you during any of your summer activities. You can fold her and place her in your purse, suitcase, carry-on bag, beach bag, or pocket. Take one picture and email it to the church (stmaryswc@centurylink.net) or text it to Dani. That's all there is to it.

Message from Marvin Miller

(This is a great article. Please take the time to read it. - Dani)

PARENTING AND CHILDREN

"When you first have children they talk about the challenges of parenting....the struggles of a baby waking in the night, the toddler who won't stay in their bed, the cost of childcare, injuries from sports. Having to take off work to pick them up from school when they don't feel well, helping them with homework, a messy house, the never ending laundry, the cost to buy school clothes, packing their lunches....

You watch their eyes light up on Christmas morning....and try to soak in the magic of those moments.

You coach them in sports, rushing to practices and ballgames...and tote them all over the country to let them play the game they love...no matter how exhausting or expensive it becomes.

Life is just so busy that you rarely even stop to think what the end of those days look like.

In fact, it's not really even something you can wrap your mind around.

You go into it thinking that 18-20 years sounds like a long time....

Then suddenly hours turn into days...days into months...and months into years.

That little person that used to crawl up next to you in bed and cuddle up to watch cartoons...suddenly becomes this young adult who hugs you in the hallway as they come and go.

And the chaos and laughter that used to echo throughout your home....gets filled with silence and solitude.

You've learned how to parent a child who needs you to care for and protect them....but have no clue how the whole "letting go" thing is supposed to work.

So you hold on as tight as you can...wondering how time passed so quickly...feeling guilty that you missed something....

Because even though you had 20 years.....it just somehow doesn't seem like it was enough.

You ask yourself so many questions...

Did you teach them the right lessons?

Did you read them enough books as a child?

Spend enough time playing with them?

How many school parties did you have to miss?

Do they really know how much you love them?

What could I have done better as a parent?

.....When it's time for them to go, it all hits you like a ton of bricks.

Parenting is by far the most amazing experience of your life....that at times leaves you exhilarated....while others leave you heartbroken.

But one thing is certain.....it's never enough time...💔

So for all the parents with young children...whose days are spent trying to figure out how to make it through the madness...

Exhausted day in and day out...

Soak. It. All. In.

Because one day....all those crazy days full of cartoons, snuggles, sleep overs, Christmas morning magic, ballgames, practices and late night dinners...

All come to an end.

And you're left hoping that you did enough right, so that when they spread their wings....

They'll fly...*****

- Credit to the Amazing Author: @MistyBrewerLee



Community Assistance

In July, the committee approved three requests; rent for two households and gasoline for one individual.

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



2021 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.

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

Brayze Schill was part of the Texas Team that won the National Championship at the National High School Rodeo Finals in Lincoln, Nebraska. The Texas Boys Team also won the National title. In two other rodeos, Brayze competed in Bareback in Eldorado placing first and in Lampasas placing 2nd.

Travis Prater recently earned the boy Scout rank of Second Class. Travis also successfully completed Merit Badges for American Heritage, Citizenship in the Community, Citizenship in the World, Communication, Cooking, Rifle Shooting, Space Exploration, and Swimming.

Braylee Schill was a member of the 2nd place team in the Team Competition at the Grit Games.



Camp Allen Events

Labor Day Family Camp 2021 - September 3-5

This is a retreat in the piney woods for the entire family. Package includes two-night hotel stay, six buffet meals, and activities such as rock climbing, canoeing, zipline, swimming, horseback riding, family movie night, fishing, and much more. There will also be a Sunday worship service.

Needlepoint Retreats - September 8-10, December 8-10 - Join fellow crafters in the Piney Woods of Camp Allen for a three day, two night needlepointing retreat. Bring your own projects and acquire some new skills.

Contact the office or go to the Camp Allen website: campallen.org.



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.

Cards and Notes

We received the following card from St. Andrews Episcopal Church, Pearland

*Grace to you
and peace...*

*On July 25th, Prayers were offered for:
the life, mission and ministry of St. Mary's
at the altar of Saint Andrews Episcopal Church
Jim+*

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Special thanks and gratitude to

- Theata Miller, Colleen Matocha, Mary Stewart, Shyanne Roddy, Abigail Roddy, Gwynne Olson, Marvin Miller, Sherry Wehner, Travis Prater, Maddie Lane, Bill Olson, Dan Roddy, Tracy Lane, Dani Mikel and AJ Mikel for serving as Worship Leaders during the month of July.
- Amber Prater for setting up the Livestreaming on our Facebook site, monitoring the feed during the service, and responding to those viewing on-line.
- Grace Culbreath for arranging for Steve DeLeon to play his bagpipes during our service.
- Steve DeLeon for playing the bagpipes during our service.
- Dan Roddy, Marvin Miller, Bill Olson, AJ Mikel, and Jay Wiggins for grilling the delicious hamburgers, hotdogs, and sausage for our 4th of July picnic.
- Donna Roddy, Theata Miller, Sherry Wehner, and Gwynne Olson for preparing the sides and setting up the service line for the 4th of July picnic.
- Colleen Matocha for providing snow cones and water balloons for the 4th of July picnic.
- Dan and Donna Roddy, Marvin and Theata Miller, and Dani and AJ Mikel for providing treats for our July Hospitality and Fellowship.
- Mary Stewart for fixing all the tags for the backpacks for Back to School Sunday and for attaching tags to the backpacks St. Mary's is donating to West Columbia Elementary.
- Shyanne Roddy for creating, organizing and leading the Art in the Park series.

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.

Dates to Remember

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

August 1 - Brotherhood (7:30 a.m.)

August 1 - Sunday Service
Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)
celebrant - the Reverend Paul Wehner

August 1 - August 15 - School Supplies Drive

August 8 - Sunday Service
Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)
celebrant - the Reverend Nan Doerr

August 15 - Brotherhood (7:30 a.m.)

August 15 - Sunday Service
Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)
celebrant - the Reverend Paul Wehner

August 17 - Vestry meeting (5:15 p.m.)

August 22 - Sunday Service
Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)
celebrant - the Reverend Nan Doerr

August 29 - Brotherhood (7:30 a.m.)

August 29 - Sunday Service
Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)
celebrant - the Reverend Paul Wehner

August Birthdays

Wendy Hankins - August 6

Holly Cantrell - August 8

Heather Mikel - August 12

Donna Roddy - August 21

Kaylea Anderson - August 21

Caroline Culbreath - August 28

August Anniversaries

St. Mary's Leadership

Vestry

Rector: the Reverend Paul Wehner

Sr. Warden: Gwynne Olson

Jr. Warden: Dan Roddy

Clerk: Colleen Matocha

St. Mary's Episcopal Church, corner of 16th and Clay Street, West Columbia
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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.