



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.



December 2022 Edition

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



The Reverend Jim Liberatore, Marcus George, and the 12-person Ameri-Corps NCCC team joined St. Mary's for our Thanksgiving Parish Dinner. The young adults ranging in age from 18 to 26 that make up the Ameri-corps NCCC team were enthusiastic, appreciative, and very respectful. It was an honor to have met them.

During the month of December, it is Mosaic in Action's intent to work on residences in West Columbia on December 9th and 10th. The 12-person AmeriCorps NCCC team will be joining Mosaic from November 6th through December 16th.

If you would like to volunteer or visit with the Mosaic in Action team on the dates listed above between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., contact Marcus George, Construction Supervisor, at 214-914-2646 or marcus@mosaicinaction.org.

Cakes for Meals on Wheels

Thanks to the generosity of St. Mary's parishioners, we completed our commitment for cakes and icing to the Meals on Wheels program a month early. This program continues to grow as more meals are delivered each week. The Columbia Christian Senior Citizen Center is very appreciative of our donation to this very worthy program.

UTO Boxes

Through the money collected by parishioners in their "Little Blue Boxes", St. Mary's donated \$314.64 to the United Thank Offering. 100 percent of our donation will be used to support mission and ministry throughout The Episcopal Church and Provinces of the Anglican Communion.

Christmas Parade



Advent and Christmas at St. Mary's Episcopal Church

Sunday, Nov. 27 @ 9:00AM 1st week of Advent
Advent Wreath Making in the Parish Hall after the service and placing Wreaths in the church

Sunday, Dec. 4 @ 9:00AM 2nd week of Advent
making Christmas cards in the Parish Hall after the service

Sunday, Dec. 11 @ 9:00AM 3rd week of Advent
decorating Christmas cookies in the Parish Hall after the service

Sunday, Dec. 19 @ 9:00AM 4th week of Advent
Nativity Program during the service
Christmas tree decorating and Caroling
Crockpot Cookoff - Parish Christmas Lunch

Saturday, Dec. 24 Christmas Eve @ 6:30 PM - Family Christmas Service

Sunday, Dec. 25 Christmas @ 9:00 AM - Liturgy of the Word

Sunday, January 1 @ 9:00 AM - Service of Morning Prayer

Sunday, January 8 @ 9:00 AM - Baptism of Our Lord



Christmas Cookies

On Sunday, December 11th, be creative as you decorate Christmas cookies. Everything will be provided to turn a plain, homemade cookie into a work of art. Of course, they will also be delicious.



Nativity Pageant and Tree Decorating

Our traditional Nativity Pageant will be on the 4th Sunday of Advent, December 18th, during the service. The children and youth will tell the story of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

After the service, we will continue our tradition of decorating the Christmas tree in the Parish Hall. Please bring an ornament to decorate the tree, adding a part of your family to your church family. Along with singing Christmas carols, we will have our Christmas lunch provided by the participants in the Crockpot Cookoff.



Crockpot Cookoff

It's time for our second annual "Crockpot Cookoff". Participants will cook their favorite one pot meal and after church the judges (parishioners) will decide on the winners. If you would like to show off your culinary talent, there is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex and Parish Hall. The church will provide rolls and drinks. If you don't want to compete but still want to bring something, desserts would be appreciated. Come join in the fun of this friendly competition.

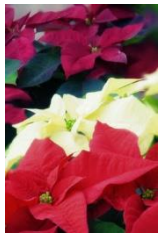


Christmas Eve Service

Our Christmas Eve service will begin at 6:30 pm. Father Paul Wehner will celebrate the Holy Eucharist and our organist, Grace Culbreath, will provide beautiful and inspiring music for the service.

For those who prefer to stay at home, the Christmas Eve service will be Livestreamed on our Facebook site just as it is every Sunday.

Whether in-person or on-line, join us as we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

It is time to order the Christmas Poinsettias that add to the beauty of our church at Christmas. The suggested donation is \$15 per plant. Please return this form with your check to the church office or drop in the alms basin on Sunday. Call Dani at the church office with questions. (979) 345-3456.

Deadline to order is Tuesday, December 20.

I wish to order _____ Christmas Poinsettias. I enclose \$_____.

Name _____

Dedications: To the Glory of God and

In Memory of _____

In Thanksgiving for _____

Traveling Mary and Joseph

Mary and Joseph have begun their travels to the homes of our parishioners as they make their way to St. Mary's. The first family they visited was Ben, Brooke, Kaylea, and Emilea.



Message from Marvin Miller

Mary Did You Know
By Mark Lowry

Mary, did you know
that your Baby Boy would one day walk on water?
Mary, did you know
that your Baby Boy would save our sons and daughters?
Did you know
that your Baby Boy has come to make you new?
This Child that you delivered will soon deliver you.
Mary, did you know
that your Baby Boy will give sight to a blind man?
Mary, did you know
that your Baby Boy will calm the storm with His hand?
Did you know
that your Baby Boy has walked where angels trod?
When you kiss your little Baby you kissed the face of God?
Mary did you know
The blind will see.
The deaf will hear.
The dead will live again.
The lame will leap.
The dumb will speak
The praises of The Lamb.
Mary, did you know
that your Baby Boy is Lord of all creation?
Mary, did you know
that your Baby Boy would one day rule the nations?
Mary, did you know
that your Baby Boy is heaven's perfect Lamb?
The sleeping Child you're holding is the Great, 'I Am'.

St. Mary's Website

St. Mary's website has several continually updated tabs.

Under the "Calendar" tap there are events and services listed for each month. The calendar is kept up-to-date and edited as new events and services are added. If you click on the event or service, more details will pop up.

The most recent Upcoming Events will now be featured on the front page of the website.

This will make it easier to remember what will be happening, so you don't miss anything.

The service bulletin for the upcoming Sunday service can be found under the Worshp tab.

A new Photo Gallery has been added and will continually be updated with the latest pictures. Check out what has been going on since the beginning of Advent 2021.

Our website is stmaryswestcolumbia.com. You can access it using the link below or at the top of the newsletter.



Community Assistance

During November, the committee approved funds to help 4 families or individuals with their electric bills.

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



2022 Flower sign up

The forms to sign up for 2022 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.



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.

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

November

Hailey Cantrell was accepted into Texas A&M University for Fall 2023.

Travis Prater participated in the Flags Across The Brazos, "a community service and fundraising scouting program in which scouts place flags" during six national patriotic holidays "in the yards of residents who subscribe to the service." Boy Scout troops 1000 and 100 placed over 1700 flags along 25 routes in the Greatwood and Pecan Grove areas.

Reesie Cantrell was inducted in the Columbia High School National Honor Society and the WIT program.

Amber Prater operated the sound board during Briarwood School's fall production of Twelve Angry Men.

Aiden Vrazel, son of Vicki Vrazel, has been accepted to the Chiropractic Program at Texas Chiropractic College.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Special thanks and gratitude to

- Theata Miller, Gwynne Olson, Bill Olson, Dan Roddy, Vicki Vrazel, Buck Barnes, Hannah Hussey, Justin Hussey, Colleen Matocha, Dani Mikel, AJ Mikel, Marvin Miller, Shyanne Roddy, Abigail Roddy, Trace Roddy, Wendy Hankins, Kendy Hankins, Jasey Hussey, Jay Wiggins, Travis Prater, Tracy Lane, Sherry Wehner, Brayze Schill, Braylee Schill, Jennifer Schill, Jackie Walker, and Adam Schill for serving as Worship Leaders in November.
- Amber Prater for setting up the Livestreaming on our Facebook site, monitoring the feed during the service, and responding to those viewing on-line.
- Vicki Vrazel, Buck Barnes, Marvin and Theata Miller, and the Brotherhood for providing treats for our November Hospitality and Fellowship.
- Theata Miller for stapling the service bulletins.
- Mary Stewart for organizing the children's bags for Sunday service.
- Kendy Hankins for volunteering during her Thanksgiving break in the church office.
- all who donated cakes and icing for Meals on Wheels.
- all who helped with the Memorial Service and reception for Loree Edge.
- all who helped with the Memorial Service and reception for George Grosvenor.
- Susan Graham for playing the organ during the Memorial Service for Loree Edge and George Grosvenor.
- the Reverend Nan Doerr for serving as celebrant while Father Paul was gone.

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



Camp Allen Events

Needlepoint Retreats - December 5-9 - Join fellow needlepointers for a three day, two night retreat.

Holiday in the Pines - December 9-11 - This family Christmas weekend includes activities such as sledding, rock climbing, giant swing, zip line, massages, horseback rides, Discovery Dome theatre, campfire, Holiday tea, photos with Santa, family movie night, live bird & reptile classes, hiking, fishing, hayrides, moon jump, archery, gingerbread houses, and arts & crafts.



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.

December Birthdays

Trace Roddy - Dec. 6

Adam Schill - Dec. 10

Jennifer Schill - Dec. 12

Kendy Hankins - Dec. 15

Daniel Mikel - Dec. 19

Dani Mikel - Dec. 22

Brooke Wilson - Dec. 22

Grace Culbreath - Dec. 24

Ben Anderson - Dec. 25

Dec. Anniversaries

Holly and Tommy Cantrell - Dec. 2

Colleen and Clint Matocha - Dec. 19

Tracy and Brian Lane - Dec. 29

Dates to Remember

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

December 3 - Christmas Parade

December 4 - Brotherhood (7:30 a.m.)

December 4 - Sunday Service - Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)
celebrant - the Reverend Paul Wehner
Children's Sunday School

December 4 - Advent Activity - making Christmas cards after the service

December 5-8 - Strengthen with Prayer Exercise Program (8:00 a.m.)

December 11 - Sunday Service - Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)
celebrant - the Reverend Paul Wehner
Children's Sunday School

December 11 - Advent Activity - decorating cookies after the service

December 12 - 15 - Strengthen with Prayer Exercise Program (8:00 a.m.)

December 18 - Brotherhood (7:30 a.m.)

December 18 - Sunday Service - Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)
celebrant - the Reverend Paul Wehner
Nativity Pageant

December 18 - Advent Activities - Crockpot Cookoff, decorating Christmas tree, Parish Brunch.

December 18 - Vestry Meeting

December 19 - 22 Strengthen with Prayer Exercise Program (8:00 a.m.)

December 22 - Brookwood - meet at church at 9:15 a.m.

December 24 - Christmas Eve Service - Holy Eucharist: Rite II (6:30 p.m.)
celebrant - the Reverend Paul Wehner
Mary and Joseph arrive at the church

December 25 - Christmas Service - Liturgy of the Word
leader - Dani Mikel

December 25 - January 3 - Father Paul on vacation

January 1 - Sunday Service - Morning Prayer

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

St. Mary's Episcopal Church, corner of 16th and Clay Street, West Columbia
PO Box 786, West Columbia, Texas 77486
979-345-3456 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.