

THE BELLS OF SAINT MARY'S



FEBRUARY 2017

Mission Statement

“Celebrating God’s Love Found in The Word, People and Creation”



Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting was held on Sunday, January 22, with Canon Kai Ryan as our guest. Father Peter opened the meeting with a prayer, followed by Senior Warden Karen Logue’s welcome and introduction of Canon Ryan. Canon Ryan then spoke and said she had come to celebrate who Saint Mary’s was and not give us a list of things we should be doing. She and the Diocese are impressed with the success of our Discovery Program and our coming together as a community during Father Conaty’s disability leave.

The following reports were given by the vestry.

1. Senior Warden – Karen Logue – Our attendance is up 11% from last year. We also had 5 Baptisms, 3 Confirmations, and 2 Receptions.
2. Jr. Warden – Dan Roddy – There were no major repairs this year. The concern for 2017 will be the electrical system.
3. Treasurer’s Report – The income was down this year due to a reduction in the offerings and less money taken out of the Kitty Nash Endowment Fund. The expenses were also down due to cuts the Vestry was able to make. The Vestry was able to make additional cuts for 2017.

The vestry had requested and received permission from Bishop Doyle to have Dani Mikel serve on the vestry for an additional two years. The parishioners present gave their approval. The parishioners also elected Karen Logue and Dani Mikel as representatives to the Annual Diocesan Conference.

A special thanks to The Brotherhood and Karen Logue for providing the meal.



Message from Marvin Miller

DAVID'S PRAYER

King David has just turned over the throne of Israel to his son Solomon, and commissioned him to build the great temple to God. David gave his personal fortune, worth billions of dollars, toward the construction of the temple. The other officers and leaders also gave their personal fortunes, also worth billions of dollars toward the construction. Everybody is happy. David is happy. Solomon is happy. The leaders are happy, and the countrymen are happy because they know that what their leaders are doing is right. They knew that all their success as a nation, and all this wealth, was due only because of the grace of God.

In many ways, our church, St. Mary's Episcopal, and our country, the USA, are in a similar situation as David's kingdom; as we enter a new era with high hopes that our leaders will act in a way that will earn God's grace.

And, in the midst of this large gathering, David gives this prayer:

David's Prayer (1 Chronicles 29:10-13)

- ¹⁰ David praised the LORD in the presence of the whole assembly, saying,
"Praise be to you, O LORD,
God of our father Israel,
from everlasting to everlasting.
- ¹¹ Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power
and the glory and the majesty and the splendor,
for everything in heaven and earth is yours.
Yours, O LORD, is the kingdom;
you are exalted as head over all.
- ¹² Wealth and honor come from you;
you are the ruler of all things.
In your hands are strength and power
to exalt and give strength to all.
- ¹³ Now, our God, we give you thanks,
and praise your glorious name.

*Shrove Tuesday
Pancake Dinner*



Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday

Our Annual Pancake Supper will be Shrove Tuesday, February 28th, at 5:00 and go until the food runs out. Just as last year, this event is one of the outreach programs sponsored by The Brotherhood and is open to the public without any charge. Our Ash Wednesday Service will be March 1st at 6:00. Father Preston Weatherly will be here to celebrate the Holy Eucharist. Please plan on attending both these events as we prepare for the Lenten Season.



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. Please consider picking up a few extra items in your weekly shopping to donate to this worthy cause. 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. There is a list of items on the bulletin board above the container. Please take one. Cash donations are also accepted.

A FEW SUGGESTED ITEMS

writing tablets, pens, disposable razors, hand lotion, small packages of Q-tips, wash cloths, Chap Stick with sun block, toilet paper, magazines, soap bars, crossword puzzles, white socks



Burying the Alleluia

(information from the Episcopal Diocese of Texas)

Why do we bury the alleluia? The omission of alleluia during Lent goes back at least to the fifth century in the western church. The association of alleluia with Easter led to the custom of intentionally omitting it from the liturgy during the season of Lent, a kind of verbal fast which has the effect of creating a sense of anticipation and even greater joy when the familiar word of praise returns. We do not use it at church. We let it rest, as it were, during Lent, so that when it reappears on Easter, we may hear it anew. The custom of actually bidding it farewell developed in the Middle Ages in Babylon.

Sunday, February 26th, will be the last Sunday before Lent. As part of the service we will be celebrating Alleluia by including it in all the hymns we sing. At the end of the service, the youth will bury the Alleluia, where it will stay until its joyful return on Easter Sunday.

Psalm 136:2 Give thanks to the God of gods. His love endures forever.



The History of Saint Mary's Stained Glass Windows (Part 3)

This information is taken from **A Sermon In Glass** given during the dedication of the windows on Sunday, December 16, 1973.

The Nave Windows – West Side

Fourth Window – Tablets of the Law

You have seen what I did to the Egyptians and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. Now therefore, if you will obey my voice and keep my commandments, you shall be my own possession among all the peoples of the earth . . . Exodus 19: 4-5

The two tablets of the Law symbolize God's covenant with the Hebrew people following their exodus from Egypt. These were the commandments God gave to Moses for His people then and today.

Fifth Window – The Star of David

This window marks the bringing together of all the nomadic tribes of Israel under a monarchy under David and Solomon. Under these leaders the nation of Israel reached its zenith!

Sixth Window – The Broken Wall and the Scroll of the Law

You see the trouble we are in, how Jerusalem lies in ruins with its gates burned. Come let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer suffer disgrace. Nehemiah 2:17

The broken wall describes the eventual quarrels and deterioration of the nation of Israel when it was split in two parts and finally fell under the domination of the Babylonians when many of its citizens were carried off into exile. Years later, when the Jews were allowed to return home the restoration of the wall was begun and the scroll represents the rededication of the people to God and His law.



Community Assistance

We did not have any requests for assistance during January. If you know of anyone in need, please contact Karen or Tracy.

Piper Roddy made the AB Honor Roll at West Columbia Elementary. At the State Cheer Championship in San Antonio, her junior team placed first and her senior team placed second.

Haley Cantrell placed 2nd in Show Twirl the twirling competition in The Woodlands. She also made the A Honor Roll at West Columbia Elementary.

Aaron Mikel made the A Honor Roll at Sweeny High School.

Abigail Roddy's cheer team received a trophy for their performance at the State Cheer Championship in San Antonio.

Ally Lane made the A Honor Roll at Columbia High School.

Reesie Cantrell placed 6th in Dictionary Skills at the District UIL meet. She also made the A Honor Roll at West Columbia Elementary.

Braylee Schill made the A Honor Roll at West Columbia Elementary.

Maddie Lane made the A Honor Roll at Columbia High School. She also made an A for the semester in Speech at Brazosport College.

Brayze Schill made the A Honor Roll and placed 5th in Social Studies at the District UIL meet.



Notes From The Brotherhood



The Brotherhood donated \$200 to St. Timothy's Brotherhood Chapter to help with the weekend retreat they hold for the Brotherhood Chapter inside the Wayne Scott Prison in Angleton. They also donated \$200 to the Senior Citizen Center.

DATES TO REMEMBER

February 5 - EYC (5:00)
February 5 – Confirmation Class
February 7 – DOK (9:30 am)
February 12 – Brotherhood (7:30 am)
February 12 – Confirmation Class
February 12 - EYC (5:00)
February 14 – 17 - Discovery Program (Reesie Cantrell will be attending)
February 19 – Confirmation Class
February 19 – EYC (5:00)
February 21 – 24 – Discovery Program
February 26 – Brotherhood (7:30 am)
February 26 – Alleluia Service and Burying
The Alleluia
February 26 – Confirmation Class
February 26 – EYC (5:00)
February 28 – Pancake Supper (5:00)
March 1 – Ash Wednesday Service (6:00)

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Karen Logue – Feb. 2
Mike Blount – Feb. 4
Daniel Arana – Feb. 10
Brian Lane – Feb. 13
Rick Wallace Sr. – Feb. 25
Dan Roddy – Feb. 27



Rector	Peter Conaty
Sr. Warden	Karen Logue (kklogue@msn.com)
Jr. Warden	Dan Roddy (dkroddy@earthlink.net)
Clerk	Marvin Miller (mginvestigations@earthlink.net)
Treasurer	Dani Mikel (danimikel87@yahoo.com)
Organist	Kathy Molnar

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES