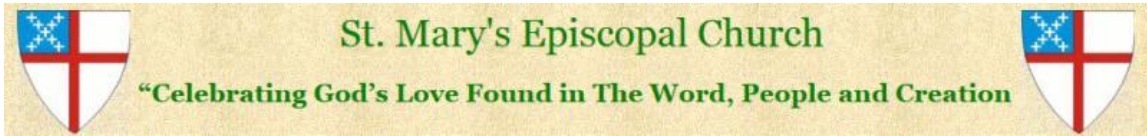


February 2018



The Bells of St. Mary's

[Visit our Website](#)



Since May, St. Mary's has been without a rector and for almost two years has relied on supply priests to celebrate the Holy Eucharist. That will change on February 25th when our new priest, Reverend Sharron Cox, will conduct her first service with us. Please plan on attending church to help welcome Sharron into our family. A new era is beginning for St. Mary's.



Annual Meeting

This year's annual meeting was well attended due, in part, to the breakfast tacos and cinnamon rolls that reigned supreme once again.

Father Jim Morgan opened and closed with prayer, followed by a report detailing the highs and lows of 2017 by Senior Warden, Karen Logue. These included:

- Retirement and passing of Father Peter
- Discovery Program Outreach & outreach for flood victims
- New Christian Formation classes for children, youth and adult
- New website
- Confirmations, Baptisms and Funerals
- Search for our new Priest
- Outings: Astros, Ladies trips to Brookwood and The Strand, St. Timothy's for Lessons & Carols
- Parish Dinners

Junior Warden, Dan Roddy, gave a report which detailed the many projects undertaken to keep our church operational and in good shape.

Dani Mikel gave us a Treasury Report and went over the 2018 budget.

Marvin Miller conducted the election of 2 new vestry members and 2 delegates and an alternate to attend the Diocesan Convention in Waco. Andrea Anderson and Charlotte Blount were elected to the vestry and Jennifer Bridges and Dani Mikel were elected as delegates with AJ Mikel elected as an alternate.

The floor was opened to discussion and suggestions. Theata asked that we wear name tags in church and pointed out that it would not only benefit the parishioners but would be helpful to Reverend Sharron Cox when she arrived. The idea was put to a vote and passed unanimously.

Marvin gave a few closing remarks and the meeting was adjourned.

Shrove Tuesday
Pancake Dinner



Shrove Tuesday

St. Mary's Episcopal Church will host its annual Pancake Supper on Tuesday, February 13th beginning at 5:00. 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. It will include pancakes, sausage, juice, and coffee. Food will continue to be served until it runs out. Come join us and invite your friends for a great meal and warm and friendly fellowship. This will also be our monthly parish dinner.



Our Ash Wednesday Service will be February 14th at 6:00. Father Preston Weatherly will be here to celebrate the Holy Eucharist. Ash Wednesday is named for the custom of placing blessed ashes on the foreheads of worshipers at Ash Wednesday services. The ashes are a sign of penitence and a reminder of mortality, and may be imposed with the sign of the cross. It is also the beginning of Lent, the time of reflection and penitence leading up to Easter Sunday. Penance is an act of religious devotion performed to show sorrow for having committed a sin. We do this to improve our relationship with God and others. The Church suggests three special practices of penance for Lent: *Pray*, *Fast*-(going without food or eating less. It can also mean giving up a certain food or treat) and *Almsgiving*-(doing good for others.)



Rees Sweeny

Rees Sweeny, a long time parishioner of St. Mary's, passed away last week. He will forever be remembered for his friendliness, his knowledge on a variety of topics, and his unwavering support and commitment to our active military. Many were fortunate to spend time talking with him during hospitality as he shared his interest in flying, history, and his wonderful dogs. There will be a memorial service at St. Mary's in March, although the details have not been finalized by his niece, Jennifer Hamlen, who lives in Virginia.

Rees was dedicated to his work with the military support group, US Troops Not Forgotten, formerly known as West of the Brazos Military Support Group. This has for the last year been one of our outreach projects. In Rees' honor, we will continue our donations to this worthy cause which supports our active military personnel stationed overseas.

Rees' other love was for his dogs which are with Brazoria County Animal Control in Angleton. If you know of anyone who would like to adopt one of these dogs, please let Dani know and she will get the information needed.

Give to the departed eternal rest and let light perpetual shine upon them.



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 February are: paperback books, writing tablets, pens, Sharpies, mechanical pencils and refills, and canned food with a pop top such as soup, ravioli, spaghetti, and chili. They will also accept cash donations.



Valentine Boxes for College Students

Saint Mary's has three college students, so we are planning on sending them a valentine box full of goodies and encouragement. The children will decorate the boxes. If you would like to participate in this project, please bring all items to the church on or before Sunday, February 11th. A basket will be placed at the entrance of the church. Below is a list of possible items. Please do not send anything too heavy.

Students

Justin Hussey

Hannah Hussey

Daniel Mikel

Possible items – all single servings

Candy

Ramen Noodles

Instant soup

Pens, mechanical pencils

Post-its

small snack packs – cookies, crackers, etc.

gift cards to national fast food restaurants (McDonalds,
Burger King, Pizza Hut, Subway, Starbucks, Chick-fi-la)

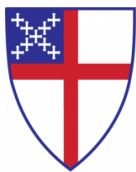
Sample sized personal care items like lip balm

Chewing gum

Notes of encouragement

Anything a college student would like

The boxes will be mailed Monday, February 12th.



General Convention

From June 29th to July 13th, the Episcopal General Convention will be held and attended by Episcopalians from across the United States. This convention is held every three years with the last one taking place in Utah. Presiding Bishop Michael Curry will be speaking. All churches throughout Texas are asked to send volunteers to help with this very special event. You can find out more information by going to:

Online Volunteer Registration

Link:<https://79genconvepiscopalchurch2018volreg.my-trs.com/>

Facebook Page (registration link is on our FB

page)<https://www.facebook.com/general.convention.2018.volunteers/>



News from the Vestry

The vestry met Sunday, January 21st after the Sunday service.

Senior Warden's Report: Karen Logue

The parish dinner was well attended and the next one will be the Pancake Supper on Shrove Tuesday, February 13th. Reverend Sharron Cox is scheduled to be here the end of February.

Junior Warden's Report: Dan Roddy

Photo cell switches were installed in the exterior lights so they turn on at dusk and off at daylight. Dan is developing a long range plan for large maintenance items so they can be budgeted when needed.

Average Daily Attendance: Dani Mikel

The average Sunday attendance for December was 36.83 and the year average was 30.75.

Old Business

Marvin presented a tentative list of responsibilities for the ushers. Information about being an usher will be included in the annual meeting and on the survey.

New Business

A new chasuble was ordered for the church to match our new frontal and stole. The vestry voted to purchase a new altar book using money from the Memorial Fund. Final preparations were made for the Annual Meeting. A survey was discussed to let the vestry know what the congregation wants in respect to the church operation and activities. The Ash Wednesday service was scheduled for 6:00.

The next meeting is scheduled for 3:30 on Monday, February 12, 2018. Dan and Marvin will attend in an advisory capacity to help the new vestry members.



Community Assistance

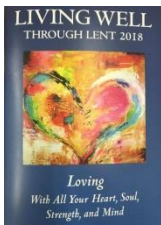
St. Mary's mailed a Walmart Gift Card in the amount of \$100 to one of our former parishioners whose house was destroyed in Hurricane Harvey. We also helped a man with a portion of his hotel payment.

If you know of anyone in need, please contact Karen or Tracy.



Bible Study

The Thursday evening Bible study group has just finished the books of Ruth and Esther. On February 8th, we will begin the Old Testament book of Daniel. Come journey with us as we learn the struggles of Daniel and his friends, Shadrach, Meshack, and Abednego, as they navigate between the demands of Nebuchadnezzar and their own religious principles. Our study begins at 6:00 pm in the Kitty Nash Groce Parish Hall.



Lenten Study

The response has been overwhelming for our Lenten Bible Study. In fact, we will be offering a luncheon study on Tuesday at 11:00 am and an evening study on Wednesday's beginning at 6:30 pm. Our study will focus on Living Well Through Lent by Loving with all your Heart, Soul, Strength and Mind. If you are interested in attending this 6 week study, or would like more details, please see Karen or Dani.

Christian One Liners

Thank you, Doris

These are actual announcements that have been published in church bulletins.

(not ours of course)

- Don't let worry kill you. Let the church help.
- Thursday night is Potluck Supper. Prayer and medication to follow.
- For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Message from Marvin Miller

A Child's Potential

From the book "Our Daily Bread".

READ PROVERBS 22:1-6

Train up a child in the way he should go, and when
He is old he will not depart from it.

Louis Armstrong was well known for his smiling face, raspy voice, white handkerchief, and virtuoso trumpet playing. Yet his childhood was one of want and pain. He was abandoned by his father as an infant and sent to reform school when he was only twelve. Surprisingly, this became a turning point.

Music professor Peter Davis, regularly visited the school and provided musical training for the boys. Soon Louis excelled on the cornet and became the leader of the boys' band. His life trajectory seemed to have been reset to become a world-famous trumpet player and entertainer.

Louis's story can be an example for Christian parents. The Proverb, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Can apply to more that the spiritual and moral aspects of our children's lives. We should also realize that a child's giftedness will often determine his or her area of interest. In the case of Louis, a little training in music resulted in a virtuoso trumpet player.

As we lovingly provide our children with godly instructions from God's Word, we should encourage them in their interests and giftedness so that they might become all that God has planned for them to be.

Our children are a gift from God
On loan from heaven above,
To train and nourish in the Lord,
And guide them with His love.

Save a child, save a life.



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.

Creed: statements of our basic beliefs about God that are said in unison by the congregation and clergy. Nicene Creed and Apostles' Creed are found in the Book of Common Prayer

Crucifix: a curved, molded, or sculptured representation or image of our Lord hanging from the cross

Diocese: a geographical designation of a collection of Episcopal parishes under the direction and guidance of a bishop.

Easter: the single most important feast day in the Christian Year: Easter is the annual celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.



Reesie Cantrell made the Principal's Honor Roll at West Columbia Elementary.

Brayze Schill made the A Honor Roll at West Brazos Jr. High. He got first in Saddle Bronc and 3rd in Bareback Riding at the Rock You Youth Rodeo in New Carney.

Abigail Roddy's cheer team placed 2nd at the state competition in San Antonio.

Braylee Schill placed 6th in the UIL Social Studies District Meet. She is on the A Honor Roll at West Columbia Elementary. At the Rock You Youth Rodeo in New Carney, she placed first in Dummy Roping.

Piper Roddy made the A-B Honor Roll at West Brazos Jr. High. Her cheer team placed first at the state competition in San Antonio.

Ashlie Weisinger received the Widcatter Award at West Columbia Elementary School for 0-5 conduct marks.

Luke Davidson at the age of 4 is already learning to read.

Maddie Lane was named Student of the Month at Columbia- Brazoria High School.



Camp Allen Events

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.

- **It is time to register for summer camp. The church provides 2/3s of the cost, so once you have registered your child and made the downpayment, let Dani know and she will send in the remaining balance.**



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.

1. couch and/or love seat for the parish hall to replace the old ones that are there and in poor shape
2. paint brushes of various sizes to paint and decorate the walls in the Jr. High Christian Formation room
3. Bean bag chairs for the Jr. High Christian Formation room.

Thank you to the Mikel Family for donating clipboards for the Jr. High Christian Formation room.

A Great Big Thank You

Thank you to Jennifer Schill and Theata Miller for providing meals for our Wednesday night Christian Formation classes. If you would like to provide a meal, please get with Dani. There is a sign up sheet at the entrance to the church.



Don't Forget

Please check the calendar at the entrance to the church and sign up to provide food for Hospitality after church.

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

February 4 - Brotherhood (7:30 am)

February 4 - Reverend Steve Ferguson
Valentine Box donations

February 6 - DOK (9:30 am)

February 7 - Christian Formation
(5:00 pm - 6:30 pm)

February 8 - Bible Study (6:00 pm)

February 11 - Reverend Frances

February 12 - Vestry Meeting (3:30 pm)
February 13 - Pancake Supper (5:00 pm)

February 14 - Ash Wednesday Service
(6:00 pm)

February 15 - Bible Study (6:00 pm)

February 18 - Reverend Frances

February 20 - Lenten Study (11:00 am)

February 21 - Christian Formation
(5:00 pm - 6:30 pm))

February 21 or 22 (exact date to be
determined) - Evening Lenten
Study(6:30 pm)

February 22 - Bible Study (6:00 pm)

February 25 - Reverend Sharron Cox
(our new rector)

February 27 - Lenten Study (11:00 am
and 6:30 pm)

February 28 - Christian Formation
(5:00 pm - 6:30 pm))

March 1 - Bible Study (6:00 pm)

February Birthdays

Karen Logue - February 2

Mike Blount - February 4

Daniel Arana - February 10

Brian Lane - February 13

Rick Wallace, Sr. - February 25

Dan Roddy - February 27

February Anniversaries

Vestry Members

Sr. Warden Karen Logue
(kklogue@msn.com)

Jr. Warden Dan Roddy
(dkroddy@earthlink.net)

Clerk Marvin Miller
(mgminspections@earthlink.net)

Treasurer Dani Mikel
(danimikel87@yahoo.com)

Church (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.