



# The Bells of St. Mary's

## January 2019 Edition

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.



Most of us are probably still sweeping out the confetti from every nook and cranny of our homes and lives as we celebrated the end of 2018 and ushered in the new year of 2019 over the last few days. Out with the old, and in with the new. Hopefully those of us who made New Year's Resolutions haven't drifted away quite yet from all our good intentions for the year ahead. Yes, change is in the air...

That's something we at St. Mary's are getting use to – change. The parish called me to serve among you as Rector this past year. We re-installed Sunday morning Christian formation as most of you longed for opportunities for learning and growth. We celebrated the lay ministers in our midst. We were asked to serve as a field education site by the Iona School for Ministry and welcomed our first seminarian, Bill Bullard. We took a fresh look at what stewardship means to us as a parish and as individuals. We took on new projects – serving lunches for local community volunteers, baking cakes for the Senior Citizens Center, holding a Bake Sale to fund local and international giving, putting together Thanksgiving baskets and supplying families and their children with gifts and food for the Christmas holiday. We longed for, prayed for, and have begun to work for change and growth in our parish and in our own lives as well.

As we look ahead to 2019, January holds two important gatherings for St. Mary's. The first is the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 27 following the 9:00 service. Not only will we elect new representatives to Diocesan Council and the vestry, your leaders will outline a process they are recommending that will need everyone's active involvement in crafting a vision of change and growth for St. Mary's. Please be sure to attend the annual meeting on January 27<sup>th</sup>.

The second gathering in January important to the life of this parish is the formal installation of me as your rector by Bishop Andy Doyle on Tuesday, January 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. And no, this service is not for me, but for all of us, as we make commitments to serve alongside one another for the benefit of St. Mary's and the community of West Columbia all for the glory of God. Your presence and participation in this service is important for our parish.

An ancient Greek philosopher said, "Life is change." That may be the case for all of us. If so, that is what we will face in 2019. But I don't want to do it without you! Come be a part of these important times for our community on January 27 and 29!

Blessings,

*Sharon*



## Celebration of a New Ministry

Our rector, The Reverend Sharron L. Cox, will have her formal installation as rector of St. Mary's Episcopal Church on Tuesday, January 29th, beginning at 6:30. The Right Reverend Andy Doyle will be presiding at the ceremony and Holy Eucharist. Following the service there will be a catered bar-be-que dinner by Ernie French and desserts from Cakes by Jeanette Hlavaty. Please plan on attending this very special celebration of a new ministry for not only Reverend Sharron but for St. Mary's as well.

We would like for you to RSVP by January 15th to the church office, so we can get a headcount to the caterer. You can contact the church by email ([stmaryswc@centurylink.net](mailto:stmaryswc@centurylink.net)) or telephone (979-345-3456)

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

### Angel Tree Program

The Angel Tree program was a great success thanks to the generosity of our parishioners who donated food, gifts, and their time. We were able to help five families including eleven children for Christmas with presents, stockings, turkey dinner, and food for additional meals. A special thank you to the Daughters of the King for overseeing the project and to our special elves, AJ, Dani, Tracy, Mary, Charlotte, and Vicki, who helped load the cars for the families.



## Feast of Lights - Epiphany

Epiphany is the manifestation of Christ to the peoples of the earth. The Feast of Lights is a "service of darkness and light showing how the message of Jesus spread throughout the world and throughout the ages to the present day. " On Sunday, January 6th at 9:00 am, St. Mary's will celebrate Epiphany with the Feast of Lights. More than 20 parishioners will be involved in this very special service.



## Bill Bullard

Our seminarian, Bill Bullard, has been with us since September as he prepares for ordination through the Iona School for Ministry. On Monday, January 7th through January 9th, Bill will be taking his canonical exams. These exams are very intense with written essays and verbal presentations. Please keep Bill in your prayers during this time as he takes this next step in his journey.

## Annual Meeting and Parish Brunch



Our next Parish Dinner will actually be our annual meeting. Mark your calendars and plan on attending on Sunday, January 27th immediately following our church service. The Brotherhood of St. Andrew will be providing breakfast tacos. Others are encouraged to sign-up to bring other breakfast treats or beverages. We will be voting on our new vestry members and delegates to the diocesan convention, reviewing 2018 and discussing 2019. Please do not miss this crucial meeting. Your input is very important and valuable.



## Wellness Ministry - Yoga Class

St. Mary's will be sponsoring a weekly yoga class beginning Thursday, January 3rd at 10:00 am. Sheila Conner will lead the class. There is a suggested fee of \$3 per class, but the first class is free so you can try it out!

All levels of ability are welcome. Bring a yoga mat, wear comfortable clothing, and join the fun.



## Valentine Boxes for College Students

As we have done in the past, Saint Mary's will be sending valentine boxes full of goodies and encouragement to our six college students. If you would like to participate in this project, please bring any items to the church on or before Sunday, February 11th. A container will be placed in the Parish Hall for all donations. Below is a list of possible items. Please do not send anything too heavy.

### Students

- Justin Hussey .....Megan Hussey
- Hannah Hussey .....Maddie Lane
- Daniel Mikel..... Aaron 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 12<sup>th</sup>.



## Confirmation

On Sunday, November 25<sup>th</sup>, St. Mary's was blessed with a visit by Bishop Hector Monterroso who celebrated the Holy Eucharist and confirmed Gwynne Olson and James Wolfe. Shown here are the confirmands with Bishop Monterroso, the Rector, and St. Mary's seminarian, Bill Bullard, serving as the Bishop's Chaplain.

Following the service there was a reception for Bishop Monterroso and the new confirmands. Both the service and the reception were wonderful with Bishop Moterroso taking the time to visit with many of our parishioners.



## Christmas Eve Service

Our Christmas Eve service was glorious and well attended by parishioners, family, and visitors alike. The children and youth did a wonderful presentation of the story of Jesus' birth followed by an inspirational service. It was a wonderful and joyful evening for all in attendance.



## TEBS (Thursday Evening Bible Study)

by Karen Logue

Are you looking for a New Year's resolution you may actually keep? Me too! I also wanted my resolution to match my priorities, so I googled Christian New

Year's Resolutions and found a few ideas that struck my fancy. Check them out. • Devote 15-20 minutes each day to reading your Bible • Attend church regularly • Set aside 15 minutes each day to pray • Join a Bible Study • Volunteer • Ask a friend to church Which leads me to item #4....Join a Bible Study. The TEBS meets Thursday evenings at 6 pm in the St. Mary's fellowship hall. We'd love to have your company around the table as we discuss the book of Luke. We resume our study with Chapter 10 on January 3rd. Our study culminates with the death, resurrection and ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ just in time for Easter. Come be a part Luke's glorious gospel.

## Message from Marvin Miller

### PEACE

(From the book "Our Daily Bread")

In the days of Adam and Eve, peace was lost. As soon as they ate the forbidden fruit, and realized their nakedness, they started blaming each other, and introduced conflict to God's peaceful planet. (Genesis 3:12-13). Sadly, all of their descendants, including us, have followed their bad example. We blame others for our own bad choices, and become angry when no one will accept the guilt. Blaming others for our unhappiness breaks apart families, churches, communities, and nations. We can't make peace because we're preoccupied with placing the blame.

Christmas is the season of peace. The Old Testament tells the story of how God set the stage to introduce the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:61). Jesus came to break the cycle of sin and blame by making peace for us with God "through the blood of His cross" (Colossians 1:20). Instead of blaming us for all the trouble we cause, He bore the blame for all of us. He now is recruiting followers who, having received His forgiveness, want others to receive it as well.

When we accept forgiveness from God, we lose our desire to withhold it from others. We can both give and receive the gift of peace this Christmas.

At Christmas we celebrate  
The coming of the Prince of Peace;  
Though our world is locked in strife,  
One day He'll make all conflict cease.

Jesus took our place to give us His peace.



## **Community Assistance**

In December, one household was helped with a rental payment. A donation was also made to support the Angel Tree Program.

If you know of anyone needing assistance, please contact Tracy or Karen.



## **News from the Vestry**

**The vestry met Monday, December 17, 2018**

***Rector Report: The Reverend Sharron Cox***

Rev. Sharron discussed her visit with JoAnn Saylor, Canon for Mission Amplification for the Diocese of Texas, and conversation with Mary McGregor, former Canon and present consultant to the diocese. She also presented two people who had agreed to be delegates to the Diocesan Council where a new Bishop will be elected.

***Senior Warden's Report: Karen Logue***

Karen will begin to develop a new Greeters' Ministry after Christmas.

***Junior Warden's Report: Andrea Anderson***

Andrea reported that she was unable to get recommendations and prices for repairs to the parking lot. The matter will be pursued in 2019.

#### *Financial Report: Dani Mikel*

Dani gave the final report on the 2019 Stewardship Campaign pledges. The number of pledges increased 58% and the amount pledged increased 76%. Rev. Sharron and Dani presented the proposed 2019 budget. After discussion and adjustments, the vestry developed a draft budget which will be finalized at the January vestry meeting.

#### Discipleship Report

The Christmas Eve service and Epiphany's Feast of Lights were discussed. Rev. Sharron presented the date of her installation ceremony which will be officiated by Bishop Andy Doyle. Rev. Sharron presented her plans for the adult spring semester class which will focus on discipleship.

#### Mission Report

St. Mary's new Wellness Ministry will be hosting yoga classes in the Parish Hall beginning Thursday, January 3rd at 10:00.

#### Calendar

- The next three vestry meetings will be on January 21st at 3:00, February 18th at 3:30, and March 18th at 3:30.
- The Annual meeting will be January 27th and will include a meal.
- Rev. Sharron will be on vacation from December 26th through January 1st.

A copy of the vestry minutes will be placed on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall.



## *Are You Smarter Than An Acolyte*

In the training conducted by Rev. Sharron, the acolytes learned the names of the implements used during Holy Communion, the parts of the church, the items worn by the acolytes, and other correct terminology in the Episcopal Church. Below are four pictures. Can you match the correct name to each picture? The word choices are **nave, stacked chalice, lavabo towel, paten, altar, and Sanctus.**



A. \_\_\_\_\_



B. \_\_\_\_\_

*Celebrant and People*  
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

C. \_\_\_\_\_



D. \_\_\_\_\_

**Reesie Cantrell was selected to be a member of The J Company at Jana's School of Dance.**

**Braylee Schill was named Student of the Month for November at West Columbia Elementary School. She also won first place in the 6th grade girls' division of the West Columbia Elementary Reindeer Dash. She has been selected to participate in Power Grid sponsored by Columbia High School Power Set.**

**Abigail Roddy was named Student of the Month for November at West Columbia Elementary School.**

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

Kendy Hankins received the A/B Honor Roll Award, the Wonderful Wildcatter Award, and the Perfect Attendance Award at the November Award Ceremony held at West Columbia Elementary. Her dance ensemble won 3rd place at the Brazoria County Fair Talent Show. As a mini ambassador for the Miss Texas organization, Kendy volunteered at the Ripley House.

Ally Lane was named Student of the Month for November at Columbia High School.

Haley Cantrell won 2nd place with her solo at the MA Twirling Competition.

Hanna Hussey made the Dean's List at Sul Ross State University.

Maddie Lane was accepted as a volunteer at CHI St. Joseph's Hospital in College Station.

Brayze Schill placed 14th in the world at the Jr. NFR /Mini Bareback World Championship in Las Vegas.

Jackie Walker has a new grandson, Connor Jack Rhodes, born December 15th. His parents are Cory and Jessica Rhodes. Conner has a big brother named Cooper Craig.



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.

- outdoor canvas folding chairs for the youth room
- small bookcases 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:

- all who decorated for, provided food for, served at, and cleaned up after the reception honoring Bishop Moterroso, Gwynne, and James.
- the DOK for organizing the Angel Tree Program and for all who donated to it.
- Colleen Matocha and the youth for raising the money to donate to the Episcopal Relief and Development Fund and to purchase a bike for a local resident.
- the youth and children who participated in the Nativity Story on Christmas Eve.

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

January 3 - Yoga Class (10:00 am)  
Bible Study (6:00 pm)

January 6 - Brotherhood (7:30 am)  
Epiphany Sunday service  
with Feast of Lights (9:00 am)

January 10 - Yoga class (10:00 am)  
Bible Study (6:00 pm)

January 13 - Sunday Service - (9:00 am)

## January Birthdays

Hannah Hussey - January 1

Megan Hussey - January 2

Abigail Roddy - January 6

The Reverend Sharron Cox - January 7

Luke Davidson - January 28

Christian Formation (10:20 am)  
Lector/Readers Training (11:00 am)

## January Anniversaries

January 14 - DOK Meeting (9:30 am)

January 16 - Christian Formation (5:30)

January 17 - Yoga class (10:00 am)  
Bible Study (6:00 pm)

January 20 -Brotherhood (7:30 am)  
Sunday Service (9:00 am)  
Christian Formation (10:20 am)

January 21 - Vestry meeting (3:00 pm)

January 23 - Christian Formation (5:30)

January 24 - Yoga class (10:00 am)  
Bible Study (6:00 pm)

January 27 - Sunday Service (9:00 am)  
Annual Meeting (10:00 am)

January 29 - Installation Ceremony for  
The Reverend Sharron Cox (6:30 pm)

January 30 - Christian Formation (5:30)

January 31 - Yoga class (10:00 am)  
Bible Study (6:00 pm)

Michael & Charlotte Blount - January 2

Dan and Donna Roddy - January 3

Bill and Gwynne Olson - January 17

## St. Mary's Leadership

### Rector

The Reverend Sharron Cox

### Vestry

Sr. Warden: Karen Logue

Jr. Warden: Andrea Anderson

Clerk: Marvin Miller

Charlotte Blount

Answers to Are You Smarter Than An Acolyte?

A. altar..... B. lavabo towel..... C. Sanctus..... D. stacked chalice