

The Bells of St. Mary's

January 2020



The mission of St. Mary's is to unite all people into a relationship with God and each other in Christ.



Happy 2020!! Despite many of us still trying to recover from college-bowl-game-viewing comas, we are setting forth into a new year...and possibly a new decade...depending upon how you define a decade! Regardless, the 2020s are roaring in, and I, for one, am ready for them! How about you? What are your hopes for you and your family in these next ten years ahead? What are your hopes for St. Mary's?

We have had a timeline set up in the Parish Hall over the last few months as we have been sharing our stories of St. Mary's and in anticipation of beginning the 2020s this month. A few of you have taken time to share your stories with the rest of us from over the last seven decades by adding them to the timeline. Between now and the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 26th, start thinking and praying what your hope is for St. Mary's during the 2020s. We will have some time during the Annual Meeting to add those thoughts, hopes, and dreams to the timeline.

My hope for St. Mary's this year and into the years ahead is that we can grow in love for one another and for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ...and also grow in our love for both neighbor and stranger.

But I also have one very specific hope for St. Mary's – new restrooms! When I arrived almost two years ago, I read through many years of vestry minutes to learn more about the life of this parish. In those minutes, one consistent theme was the “shape” of our restrooms in the Parish Hall. However, each time this project was discussed, decisions to take action were pushed into the future. To see a representation of our restrooms’ condition, check out the picture following my letter showing a corroded pipe from the women’s restroom which was replaced in 2019 after a series leak.

Estimates for renovation of both men's and women's restrooms in the Parish Hall are being put together as I write this letter to you. This is a major expenditure, requiring a significant withdrawal from our small endowment. This decision will need to be made by the entire congregation at our annual meeting on January 26th. Please be in prayer about this and St. Mary's until then... and I encourage everyone to be in attendance at this important meeting as we review the past year, elect our leaders, and look ahead to the future!



Blessings,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sharron".

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

Reading Program at West Columbia Elementary

We have a new opportunity to serve the community of West Columbia. West Columbia Elementary has started a reading program where volunteers will read to select students. Studies show that children who are read to out loud become better readers themselves. Volunteer readers are needed on Thursdays from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. beginning in late January. If you are interested, please contact Rev. Sharron so she can give you more details as well as the information from Columbia Brazoria ISD on getting a background check.

Honoring Our Military Personnel

The following "thank you" messages were sent by Alexander Molnar and Ricky Wallace, two of the military personnel who received gift cards and messages from St. Mary's.

St. Mary's,

Thank you for all of the gift cards and support over the years. It really helps over the holidays and is comforting to know that I am in your thoughts and prayers. I think about the church often and hope everybody is doing well. I wish everybody a blessed and happy holiday season.

God Bless,
Ricky

Dear St. Mary's Congregation,

Thank you for your holiday wishes. I appreciate your kindness and generosity sending the gift card. I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Very Respectfully,
Alexander Molnar



Bill Bullard's Ordination

Bill Bullard, who served as our seminarian from September 23, 2018 to June 1, 2019, will be ordained on Wednesday, January 22nd, at 6:00 pm. The service will take place at St. John's Episcopal Church in Palacios, Texas. Let the church office know if you are interested in attending, so car pools can be organized.



Annual Meeting and Parish Brunch

Our Annual Meeting and Parish Brunch is set for Sunday, January 26th immediately following our church service. At this very important and crucial meeting, we will review 2019 and discuss 2020, including the need for renovations. Mark your calendars now, for your input is very important and valuable.



News from the Vestry

Gwynne Olson, Clerk

The vestry met Monday, December 16, 2019.

Rector Report: The Reverend Sharron Cox

Rev. Sharron stated that the Diocesan Council representatives needed to be chosen prior to the St. Mary's Annual Meeting because the Diocese moved up their deadline to submit representatives prior to our Annual Meeting date. The Vestry voted to make Bill and Gwynne Olson our representatives. Rev. Sharron also stated that the Reading Project at West Columbia Elementary School is moving forward, and volunteers are needed to read to the children. And regarding the potential restroom renovations, we are getting cost estimates for the project.

Due to a Vestry Executive Session on 2020 compensation, the Senior Warden and Junior Warden did not give their respective reports.

A copy of the vestry minutes will be placed on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall once approved at the January meeting.



Community Assistance

In December, 3 families were helped with their rent.

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

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.

Message from Marvin Miller

DID YOU KNOW?

From the book "Positive Spiritual Living"

The song "It Is Well With My Soul" was written by a successful Christian lawyer, Heratio Spafford.

His only son died at age 4 in 1871. In 1872, the great Chicago fire wiped out his vast estate, made from a successful legal career. In 1873 he sent his wife & 4 daughters over to Europe on a summer trip on the ill-fated SS Ville du Havre. Since he had a lot of work to do, he planned to follow them later. The Ship sank and he lost his 4 daughters with the wife being the only survivor. She sent him a famous telegram which simply read, "SAVED ALONE...." On his return home, his Law firm was burned down and the insurance company refused to pay him. They said "It's an Act of God". He had no money to pay for his house and no work, he also lost his house. Then while sitting and thinking what's happening to him, being a spiritual person, he wrote a song - "Whatever, my Lord, You have taught me to say - It is well, it is well with my soul".

My dear friend, a good attitude will determine your altitude. When you look at your life, career, job or family life, what do you say? Do you praise God? Do you blame the devil? A good attitude towards God makes Him move on your behalf. Just sit down and say, "Today, God, it is well with my soul, I am thankful I had a peaceful sleep, I am thankful I am alive with possibilities, I am thankful I have a roof over me, I am thankful I have a job, I am thankful that I have Family and Friends. Above all, I am thankful that I have the Lord Jesus Christ on my side. Be blessed and don't be envious or shocked when others are prospering because you don't know what they have been through to get there (test, trials and tribulation) so thank God for what you have. "Little is much when God is in it. It Is Well With My Soul!"

Abigail Roddy got first place for her group twirling and 3rd place for her twirling solo at the MA Competition.

Brayne Schill placed 15th in Senior Bareback at the Junior World Finals Rodeo held in Las Vegas

Trace Roddy received first place in calf roping in the stick horse rodeo.

Braylee Schill competed in the Spartan Kids World Championship in Castaic, California.

David Mikel and Jennifer Landreneau completed a 50 mile race at Brazos Bend State Park.

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

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Special thanks and gratitude to:

- all in the congregation who through their ministries helped with Jimmy "Doc" Burns' funeral and supported the family.
- all involved in the Angel Tree Project. Karen Logue and Jackie Walker were co-chairmen, Shyanne Roddy, Karen Logue, Jackie Walker, Mary Stewart Kendy Hankins, Wendy Hankins, and Dani Mikel packed the gifts and food, and Mary Stewart, Karen Logue, Jackie Walker, and Dani Mikel distributed the contributions to the families.
- those who provided gifts, food, and monetary donations to the Angel Tree Project.
- Grace Culbreath and Andrew Seigrist for the special offertory song during the Sunday service on December 15th.
- Shyanne Roddy for leading *Advent Illustrated* and introducing us to the art of Bible journaling.
- Karen Logue for organizing and hosting the Advent Book Study.
- Shyanne and Wade Roddy for providing the chicken pablano soup for our December Parish Dinner.
- Gwynne Olson for leading the Christmas carols at the December Parish Dinner.
- Shyanne Roddy, Colleen Matocha, Rachel Davidson, Wendy Hankins, Abigail Roddy, Trace Roddy, Madeline Roddy, Wade Roddy, Kendy Hankins, Luke Davidson, Dan Roddy, Gwynne Olson, Jackie Walker, Maddie Lane, and Ally Lane for presenting the Nativity Pageant on Christmas Eve.
- Adam and Jennifer Schill for providing the hay for the manger.
- Mary Stewart, Karen and Ed Logue, Theata and Marvin Miller, Donna and Dan Roddy, and Dani and AJ Mikel for providing hospitality during the month of December.

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



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.



Don't Forget

Bring your empty ink cartridges to the Parish Hall for recycling.

Through Office Depot's Ink Cartridge Recycle Program, we can turn in up to 10 used cartridges each month for a credit of \$2 per cartridge. All brands and types are welcomed. This will help defray the cost of our office supplies.

Please check the table when entering the Parish Hall. Important information can be found there.

The bulletin board in the Parish Hall contains information, cards, news clippings, etc. that are frequently updated.

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

**January 4 - Stewardship Cohort meeting
(10:00 am to 2:00 pm) at Grace Episcopal
in Alvin.**

**January 5 - Brotherhood (7:30 am)
Sunday Service (9:00 am)
Hospitality (10:00 am)**

January 6 - DOK meeting (5:30 pm)

January 9 - Yoga class (10:00 am)

**January 12 - Sunday Service (9:00 am)
Hospitality (10:00 am)
Christian Formation (10:20 am)**

January 16 - Yoga class (10:00 am)

**January 19 - Brotherhood (7:30 am)
Sunday Service (9:00 am)
Hospitality (10:00 am)
Christian Formation (10:20 am)**

January 20 - Vestry meeting (4:00 pm)

**January 22 - Bill Bullard's ordination
(6:00 pm) at St. John's Palacios**

January 23 - Yoga class (10:00 am)

**January 26- Sunday Service (9:00 am)
Brunch and Annual Meeting (10:15 am)
No Christian Formation**

January 30 - Yoga class (10:00 am)

January Birthdays

Hannah Hussey - Jan. 1

Megan Hussey - Jan. 2

Abigail Roddy - Jan. 6

the Reverend Sharron Cox - Jan. 7

Luke Davidson - Jan. 28

December Anniversaries

Michael and Charlotte Blount - Jan. 2

Dan and Donna Roddy - Jan. 3

Bill and Gwynne Olson - Jan. 17

St. Mary's Leadership

Rector

The Reverend Sharron Cox

Vestry

Sr. Warden: Charlotte Blount

Jr. Warden: Andrea Anderson

Clerk: Gwynne Olson

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.