



January 2022



Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting is set for Sunday, January 23rd following our church service. During this very important and crucial meeting, we will review 2021 and discuss 2022. Included in the meeting will be the financial report and proposed budget, future projects for the church, and the election of new vestry members and delegates to the Diocesan Council. Mark your calendars now, for your input is very important and valuable.

Yes, breakfast tacos will be provided by The Brotherhood.



Who Will Serve



There are so many ways to serve at St. Mary's. Two new opportunities are available, serving on the vestry and being a delegate to the Diocesan Council.

Although, we have for several years had a vestry with three members, we can have more. The vestry meets at least once a month and works together to support the congregation, make financial decisions based on the approved budget, develop ideas to promote St. Mary's and her mission, and listen to the parishioners' suggestions.

The Diocesan Council is the annual business meeting of the Diocese consisting of delegates from all congregations, college ministries, clergy, and lay heads of congregations. St. Mary's can have up to four delegates representing her at the Diocesan Council. The Diocesan Council will be on Friday, February 25th and Saturday, February 26th at the Woodlands Waterway Marriot Hotel and Convention. The church pays the registration fee and hotel for Friday night.

Before thinking you can't serve, think about all you have to offer and pray for guidance to see if one of these positions is right for you. If you are interested, contact the office, Gwynne Olson, or Father Paul so your name can be presented at the annual meeting. Those who indicated on their pledge card an interest in the vestry or Diocesan Council have been included on the list to be presented.



Valentine Boxes for College Students

There are six students attending college, away from home: Maddie Lane, Aaron Mikel, Ally Lane, Justin Hussey, Kip Olson, and Saben Denbow.

This has been another difficult and unusual year for all six of them as they try to manage classes following continual changes in COVID protocols, possible on-line classes, and never knowing if their school may close. This on top of the normal stresses for a college student.

Once again, we will be sending each of them a valentine box full of goodies and letters of encouragement. In the Narthex and Parish Hall there will be boxes for the donations until Sunday, February 6th. Donations can also be brought to the church office, or you can mail gift cards or monetary donations to PO Box 786, West Columbia, 77486. Please do not donate anything too bulky or heavy.

Help us let Maddie, Aaron, Ally, Kip, Justin, and Saben know we are thinking of them and sending them our prayers.

If there are any other college students from St. Mary's that are not listed, please let the office know as soon as possible.

Possible items - all single servings:

candy

Ramen Noodles

Pens, mechanical pencils

Post-its

small snack packs - cookies, crackers, etc.

gift cards to national fast food restaurants, grocery stores, Walmart, Target, Amazon

lip balm

notes of encouragement

valentine themed items

novelty items

The boxes will be mailed Tuesday, February 8th.

Crockpot Cook-off Winners

Our Christmas Parish Dinner was different this year. We had a challenging, delicious Crockpot Cook-off with 7 entries. There was a great variety and plenty to eat. The following awards were given.

The Filling Award (Sticks to your ribs, no need for seconds) - Marvin Miller

The Creative Award (Who would have thought you could do it in a crockpot) - Shyanne Roddy

The Looks Great Award (Looks aren't everything. It is delicious Too!) - Dan Roddy

The Tasty Award (Finger-Lickin' Good) - Theata Miller

The Cheater Award (They didn't use a crockpot.) - AJ Mikel, Wade Roddy

The Best Overall Award (Can't be Beat) - Gwynne Olson

Message from Marvin Miller

THE INTERVIEW WITH GOD

I dreamed I had an interview with God.

“So you would like to interview me?” God asked.

“If you have the time” I said.

God smiled. “My time is eternity.”

“What questions do you have in mind for me?”

“What surprises you most about humankind?”

God answered... “That they get bored with childhood, they rush to grow up, and then long to be children again.”

“That they lose their health to make money...and then lose their money to restore their health.”

“That by thinking anxiously about the future, they forget the present, such that they live in neither the present nor the future.”

“That they live as if they will never die, and die as though they had never lived.”

God’s hand took mine and we were silent for a while.

And then I asked... “As a parent, what are some of life’s lessons you want your children to learn?”

“To learn they cannot make anyone love them. All they can do is let themselves be loved.”

“To learn that it is not good to compare themselves to others.”

“To learn to forgive by practicing forgiveness.”

“To learn that it only takes a few seconds to open profound wounds in those they love, and it can take many years to heal them.”

“To learn that a rich person is not one who has the most, but is one who needs the least.”

“To learn that there are people who love them dearly, but simply have not yet learned how to express or show their feelings.”

“To learn that two people can look at the same thing and see it differently.”

“To learn that it is not enough that they forgive one another, but they must also forgive themselves.”

“Thank you for your time,” I said humbly.

“Is there anything else you would like your children to know?”

God smiled and said, “Just know that I am here... always.”

- Author unknown



Message From The Brotherhood

The Christmas Tamale Sale was a raving success. Thanks to all who participated!

The Brothers



Community Assistance

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



2022 Flower sign up

The forms to sign up for 2021 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.

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

Brayze Schill finished fourth at the JR World Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas.

Wendy Hankins received the Distinguished Service Award at the Texas Dance Educators' Association convention.



Special Letter Remembering Robert "Rees" Sweeny

Season's Greetings,

Recently, I was going through paperwork, trying to get organized, when I came upon the adoption paperwork for one of our 3 labs. At the time of adoption, I didn't pay too close of attention but this time I came across the name of the previous owner and that he had passed away, the reason for the need to rehome our dog.

We've always been curious about what her life before us was like so I looked up the owner's name and found his obituary. How surprised I was to see a picture of Robert Sweeny with our dog happily sitting on his lap. It is unmistakable as the dog in the picture has a crinkly right ear. Our dog has a crinkly right ear from an injury, as noted in her adoption papers. It is Aggie.

Robert sounds like he was a remarkable man who contributed so much. To honor the love and care he gave Aggie we'd like to make a contribution to the causes he was passionate about. Aggie brings so much joy to our lives and we feel so blessed she came to be part of our family. We hope Robert knows how much we love her and how grateful we are for the home he gave her.

The local shelter gets a lot of transfers from Texas. The shelter renames them for some reason and they had renamed her Susie. Her real name was on her papers and given she was 7 years old, we opted to stick with the name she knew. After hearing Robert was a diehard Aggie fan, we're happy we stuck with it.

Thanks for the work you do to help others. We hope our contribution helps your mission and honors the memory of Robert Sweeny.

God Bless,
Patty and Gordon Cromwell
Loveland, Colorado

Thank You Cards

Dear Friends:

Our church wishes to acknowledge your generous help fund the Thanksgiving baskets. It is donations from generous people like you that help to make this community service possible.

Your generous donation is greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,
Patsy Avirett, Administrator
Columbia United Methodist Church



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.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Special thanks and gratitude to

- Theata Miller, Sherry Wehner, Travis Prater, Tracy Lane, Gwynne Olson, Mary Stewart, Jackie Walker, Colleen Matocha, Abigail Roddy, Trace Roddy, Maddie Lane, Dani Mikel, Adam Schill, Bill Olson, Shyanne Roddy, Haley Cantrell, Reesie Cantrell, Jennifer Schill, AJ Mikel, and Brayze Schill for serving as Worship Leaders during the month of December.
- Amber Prater for setting up the Livestreaming on our Facebook site, monitoring the feed during the service, and responding to those viewing on-line.
- Theata and Marvin Miller for providing treats for our December Hospitality and Fellowship.
- Bo Wright, Abigail Roddy, Trace Roddy, Madeline Roddy, Braylee Schill, Maddie Lane, Amber Prater, Travis Prater, and Jasey Hussey for participating in the Nativity Pageant.
- Shyanne Roddy, Maddie Lane, and Dani Mikel for helping the children and youth with the Nativity Pageant.
- Mary Stewart for helping with the costumes for the Nativity Pageant.
- Gwynne Olson and Dani Mikel for leading the services while Father Paul was on vacation.

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



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.

January Anniversaries

Donna and Dan Roddy - Jan. 3
Gwynne and Bill Olson - Jan. 17

January Birthdays

Hannah Hussey - January 1
Abigail Roddy - January 6
the Reverend Paul Wehner - January 20
Luke Davidson - January 28

Dates to Remember

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

January 2 - Brotherhood (7:30 a.m.)

January 2 - Sunday Service
Morning Prayer (9:00 a.m.)
officiant - Gwynne Olson

January 3 - 6
Strengthen with Prayer
Exercise Program (8:00 - 9:00 a.m.)

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

January 9 - Vestry Meeting (11:00 a.m.)

January 10 - 13
Strengthen with Prayer
Exercise Program (8:00 - 9:00 a.m.)

January 16 - Brotherhood (7:30 a.m.)

January 16 - Sunday Service
Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)
celebrant - the Reverend Nann Doerr
Children's Sunday School

January 17 - 20
Strengthen with Prayer
Exercise Program (8:00 - 9:00 a.m.)

January 23 - Sunday Service
Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)
celebrant - the Reverend Paul Wehner
Children's Sunday School

January 23 - Annual Meeting
after the service

January 24 - 27
Strengthen with Prayer
Exercise Program (8:00 - 9:00 a.m.)

January 30 - Brotherhood (7:30 a.m.)

January 30 - Sunday Service
Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)
celebrant - the Reverend Paul Wehner
Children's Sunday School

January 30 - Youth & Adult
Sunday School (10:30 - 11:15 a.m.)

St. Mary's Leadership

Vestry

Rector: the Reverend Paul Wehner

Sr. Warden: Gwynne Olson

Jr. Warden: Dan Roddy

Clerk: Colleen Matocha

St. Mary's Episcopal Church, corner of 16th and Clay Street, West Columbia
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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.