



The Bells of St. Mary's



What is General Convention??

Even for some life-long Episcopalians, General Convention may not be something with which they are familiar. But it has been around for a long time, since 1785 in fact! At that time, as the victors of the war of independence from Britain were struggling to develop a vision for a central government to coordinate the common life of thirteen very diverse former colonies, the denomination which had historically been known as “the Church of England” was just struggling to survive! An earlier gathering of clergy and lay members in 1780 assembled in Maryland to deal with the problematic name issue...the former Church of England in the rebellious colonies now became known as the “Protestant Episcopal Church.” Just like the years of transition required to form a more perfect governmental union, so too years and study and communication were required to form a more perfect ecclesiastical union among this denomination in the former colonies. Lay and clergy representatives from seven of the thirteen states met in Philadelphia and, among other tasks, drafted the first American version of the *Book of Common Prayer*, established a constitution, and devised a plan to obtain the consecration of American bishops from England to ensure [apostolic succession](#) remained within the American denomination. The united church began to meet in council on a regular basis, eventually settling into the customary practice of meeting once every three years and sometimes in special session.

Similar to the United States Congress, the General Convention consists of two bodies – an upper House of Bishops, members of which are all active and retired bishops, and a lower House of Deputies which consists of an equal number of lay members and clergy. Legislation, like new or revisions to existing church canons or changes to liturgy or hymnody, is proposed by

either house but must pass both houses. Click [here](#) to see a graphic novel rendition of the legislative process of General Convention.[1]

The 79th General Convention of the Episcopal Church is being hosted by the Diocese of Texas in Austin from July 5 through 13. The Diocese has been encouraging all Texas Episcopalians to volunteer to welcome and assist all General Convention visitors coming from all fifty states in the United States as well as Taiwan, Micronesia, many countries in Central and South America, the Caribbean, Europe, and the U.S. Armed Forces. Six members of St. Mary's have registered to volunteer during General Convention in Austin, a whopping 15% of our active membership! Check out this [map](#) to see the scope of the Episcopal Church. There are many ways in which you can keep up with the proceedings of #GC79, one of which is through the Diocese's coverage [here](#). Presiding Bishop, The Most Reverend Michael Curry, will conduct an Episcopal-style revival Saturday evening, July 7 at 5:30. If you have not heard Bishop Curry preach, click [here](#) for live-streaming coverage to see this event or check out some of his [sermons](#) on YouTube. The three priorities of General Convention – racial reconciliation, evangelism, and care of creation – will be addressed in three separate 90 minute conversations and presentations. Those conversations and other proceedings will be live-streamed [here](#).

Blessings,

Sharron

[1] David L. Holmes, *A Brief History of the Episcopal Church* (Valley Forge, PA: Trinity Press International, 1993), 50-56.



Summer Parish Dinners!

In spite of the rain, we had a great turnout and a fun time building our own sub sandwiches at the last Parish Dinner. After the meal everyone enjoyed Bible Bingo complete with prizes for the winners. Plan on joining us Wednesday, July 18th, for our next Parish Dinner as we “Build our own Tacos.” The meal will begin at 5:30 PM in the Parish hall and the items for building your taco will be provided. Side dishes and desserts are welcomed. Please note what you plan to bring on the sign-up sheet that will be in the Parish Hall the two Sundays prior to our gathering. See you on the 18th for an evening of food, fun and fellowship!

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July 18th @ 5:30 – Build Your Own Tacos

August 15th @ 5:30 – Meal and Fun to be determined



KNOW YOUR HYMNS!

Know your Hymns – Season After Pentecost July+

During this portion of the Season after Pentecost, we will revisit some familiar hymns, familiar tunes, and possibly learn a couple of new hymns along the way. Two Taize hymns are scheduled as Communion Hymns. Taize music is short, meditative, and repetitive – that way when you return to your pew after taking communion you don't have to figure out which verse of the Communion Hymn we are on!!

Hymns Scheduled for Sunday, July 8

Opening Hymn – Hymnal 535 *Ye servants of God* – Written by Charles Wesley, this hymn has been a long favorite in Episcopal quarters. (The choir gets extra points for still singing as they exited the chancel, bowed to the cross, and recessing...I'm assuming...down the center aisle!)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SlrAF6jAunA>

Gospel Hymn – Hymnal 657 *Love divine, all loves excelling* – Whoa! Another hymn composed by John Wesley...how did we get so lucky on one Sunday morning?!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=233EE1w83oc>

Offertory Hymn – Ritesong Insert *Lord, you give the great commission* – You have sung this tune before, but probably not to these lyrics. We're mixing it up a bit for you!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BPQ6zhhOJ08>

Communion Hymn – Ritesong Insert *Bless the Lord my soul* – Here's one of our first songs from the Taize community where Rev. Sharron spent her vacation in early June. We won't have the flute or descant, but it is still a beautiful and peaceful song...but at least you will be singing it in English!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t4Svh-9ohg4>

Closing Hymn – Hymnal 616 *Hail to the Lord's Anointed* – This is a popular Episcopal hymn. Pay attention to the tune...you'll see it again with different lyrics next month!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G3FeBqC1mMY>

Hymns Scheduled for Sunday, July 15

Opening Hymn – Hymnal 372 *Praise to the living God!* – Look! Lyrics! But do we have anyone at St. Mary's that can match this soprano?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s5Gmo1JzbCU>

Gospel Hymn – Hymnal 686 *Come, thou fount of every blessing* – Another hymn from the National Cathedral! (You may just want to listen to this – the photographer is enamored with sight-seeing during the singing of this hymn so you might get a little seasick with the movement of the camera...!)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7IUU7r9gjsw>

Offertory Hymn – Hymnal 470 *There's a wideness in God's mercy* – If you still need to settle your stomach after the last video, here's a lovely shot of the rafters of one unnamed nave...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BmYWS6FkUt4>

Communion Hymn – Hymnal 516 *Come down, O Love divine* – We sang this hymn in May, so everyone should know this by now! The Church of England apparently has an additional verse the Episcopal Church does not sing. This tune was composed by Ralph Vaughan Williams, a prolific English composer.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6HPKL1wOVXk&pbjreload=10>

Closing Hymn – Hymnal 436 *Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates* – This congregation was robbed! They only got to sing two verses of this popular hymn. St. Mary's will sing all five verses! (Hey, this comes from Psalm 24...how a gate can lift up its head? Curious? Ask Rev. Sharron, and she will bore you with miscellanea...)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oNEdDF7TFic>

Hymns Scheduled for Sunday, July 22

Opening Hymn – Hymnal 645 *The King of love my shepherd is* – Do the words sound familiar?? Go to page 612 in the *Book of Common Prayer*....

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n0TGpDE2FJo>

Gospel Hymn – Hymnal 693, v.1-4 *Just as I am* – Long before this hymn became associated with Billy Graham altar calls, it was a staple in the Church of England and Episcopal Church. The composer, Charlotte Elliott, was an Evangelical Anglican and wrote some 150 hymns.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P3PBtPZKC8k>

Offertory Hymn – Hymnal 664 *My Shepherd will supply my need* – Hey, we sang this on Good Shepherd Sunday in April! You got this!!! But here's a lovely choral arrangement to spur you on!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7to6snD49Rg>

Communion Hymn – Hymnal 343 *Shepherd of souls, refresh and bless* – Another we sang in April! Can you guess what the gospel theme might be this Sunday??

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YeuYKPXb4Pg>

Closing Hymn – Hymnal 708 *Savior, like a shepherd lead us* – Why does this tune remind us of Thanksgiving??

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ToQYT_a_bIRE

Hymns Scheduled for Sunday, July 29

Opening Hymn – Hymnal 304 *I come with joy* – Hey! This sounds like our *Sanctus*...sorta!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OxcH-Sn7NeY>

Gospel Hymn – Hymnal 455 *O Love of God, how strong and true* – This may be a new hymn for some, but it is a common tune.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Yda2wajC0U>

Offertory Hymn – Hymnal 390 *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation*– This is a popular hymn in both the Episcopal Church and throughout the Anglican Communion. Here’s the choir from Cambridge University singing the hymn with some wording variations from our hymn.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QhQi4yWTUBY>

Communion Hymn – Hymnal 336 *Come with us, O blessed Jesus* – A simple and beautiful little hymn whose tune was arranged by J. S. Bach.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lekTXA1tp7A>

Closing Hymn – Hymnal 448 *O love, how deep, how broad, how high* – This is a familiar hymn for St. Mary’s!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tNQXxwjOp-A>

Hymns Scheduled for Sunday, August 5

Opening Hymn – Hymnal 522 *Glorious things of thee are spoken* – This tune is familiar because it is the German national anthem, composed by Franz Joseph Haydn. This hymn has long been a favorite in the Church of England and the Episcopal Church.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ODjibvkxx-g>

Gospel Hymn – Hymnal 302 *Father, we thank thee who hast planted* – A sweet two-verse hymn with ancient words.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iivvABRHs-0&list=PLK7f6AGbwGtJNM2MhZ73ODC2ozQVu3JKV>

Offertory Hymn – Hymnal 690 *Guide me, O thou great Jehovah* – Interesting...here’s a guitar rendition of this favorite Welsh hymn!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gcQQ0bnnXt8>

Communion Hymn – Hymnal 321 *My God, thy table now is spread* – You know this tune...now sing it to different verses!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=se2gQkCYUUE>

Closing Hymn – Hymnal 544 *Jesus shall reign* -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pdrCq-rMvCs>



Episcopal Night at the Ballpark

We have 20 parishioners eager to see our World Champion Astros defeat Detroit on Friday, July 13th. Our church has awesome seats reserved on the third base line so bring your mitts and be ready to catch those foul balls! Game time is 7:10 PM and the cathedral is once again offering hot dogs and free parking for this special event so come early and stay late as you won’t want to miss the spectacular firework display following the game. If anybody needs a ride, please see Karen Logue.

Summer Fun

Our children and youth have had an exciting summer attending two camps with the help of St. Mary's through our children and youth scholarship fund. Piper Roddy, Brayze Schill, Haley Cantrell, Braylee Schill, and Reesie Cantrell attended the Diocese of Texas' summer camp, Camp Allen, during the first week of June. Abigail Roddy, Trace Roddy, and Madeline Roddy participated in the Summer Fine Arts Camp at St. John the Divine in Houston during the last week of June.



Haley



Braylee



Brayze



Piper



Reesie



Trace and Abigail



Abigail and Trace

Our Camp Experience

by Braylee Schill and Brayze Schill

Thank you for sending me to Camp Allen again this year. I had a great time. My favorite day was **Wednesday** because we went to Eucharist and then we had ice cream sundaes. I also liked meeting new people and making new friends. I had the same counselor I had my first year at camp again and I really like her. She is super sweet. I love learning all of the songs at worship. I am very thankful that I can go to Camp Allen in the summers.

Thank you

Braylee ♡

This is my fifth year going to Camp Allen and it gets better each year. I had a BLAST! My favorite part was either riding horses or swimming in the lake. This year I made some really good friends. Two boys in my cabin and my counselor are rodeo cowboys, so we had a lot of fun together. We learned a lot about God and ourselves and played a lot of fun games. I won the dance contest when I was there. It was funny. Thank y'all so much for sending me. I really appreciate it.

Thank you,

Brayze



Youth Outing

The Jr. High and High School youth along with our recent graduates are going to Schulman's Movie Bowl Grille in Bay City on Wednesday, July 11th. They will meet at St. Mary's at 1:00 and are welcome to invite a friend. The more the merrier. All they need to bring is money for the activities and socks for bowling. Please let Dani know who will be attending as soon as possible, so she can get a head count and insure we have enough vehicles for our crowd!

Honoring Our Military

For Veteran's Day, we traditionally honor those military personnel listed in the Prayers of the People by sending them a gift card and notes to thank them for their service and let them know they are in our prayers. A basket will be set out in the narthex from July to November for donations. You can give weekly, monthly, or make one donation. Any amount would be greatly appreciated by these 9 men and their families. Last year we donated \$419.58.

By November, we will need the current addresses for these military personnel. If you know this information or have a military person you would like included in the Prayers, please let Dani know.



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 not longer in need.



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 July are: soft covered books, magazines, individual size hand sanitizer, deodorant, shampoo, body lotion, and hand lotion, They will also accept cash donations.



Community Assistance

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

Message from Marvin Miller

THE LAW OF THE GARBAGE TRUCK from "Positive Spiritual Living" by Jim Gentil

One day I hopped in a Uber and we took off for the airport. We were driving in the right lane when suddenly a car jumped out of a parking space right in front of us. My Uber driver slammed on his brakes, skidded, and missed the other car by just inches! The driver of the other car whipped his head around and started yelling at us.

My Uber driver just smiled and waved at the guy. And I mean, he was really friendly. So I asked, 'Why did you just do that? This guy almost ruined your car and sent us to the hospital!' This is when my Uber driver taught me what I now call, "The Law of the Garbage Truck."

He explained that many people are like garbage trucks. They run around full of garbage, full of frustration, full of anger, and full of disappointment. As their garbage piles up, they need a place to dump it and sometimes they'll dump it on you. Don't take it personally. Just smile, wave, wish them well, and move on. Don't take their garbage and spread it to other people at work, at home, or on the streets. The bottom line is that successful people do not let garbage trucks take over their day.

Life's too short to wake up in the morning with regrets,
so... Love the people who treat you right.

Pray for the ones who don't.

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**"Faith is not believing God can, it is knowing that God will.."**

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It's better to light a candle than to curse the darkness. Chinese proverb



News from the Vestry

The vestry met Monday, June 25, 2018.

Rector Report: The Reverend Sharron Cox

Sharron gave the rector report detailing her activities from May 19th to June 21st. She was happy to report that we had two Baptisms and honored five graduates last month.

Senior Warden's Report: Karen Logue

Karen will lead the Stewardship Campaign this fall. She also reported that St. Mary's will begin a Greeter's Ministry. More details will be given as they develop. 20 people will be attending Episcopal Night at the Ballpark.

Junior Warden's Report: Andrea Anderson

The majority of the major electrical work has been completed. The LED conversion is almost completed. Air filters are being replaced. Initial contact has been made with a locksmith to change out the locks. The vestry discussed the need for an Emergency Planning Procedure in the event of a hurricane as well as an Active Shooter situation. Sharron and Andrea are working on the plans.

Discipleship Report

Sharron, Dani, and Kathy will continue meeting to go over the music and liturgy for each season of the church year. Sharron will soon be meeting with all leaders of ministry and will schedule formal training for the acolytes and lectors. High praise was given by the vestry to Maddie, Ally, and Tracy Lane for leading Morning Prayer on June 3rd during Sharron's absence. Dani and Sharron will be meeting to work on Christian Formation for the fall which will include education classes for all ages. The next parish dinner will be July 18th with "Build Your Own Tacos". Ideas for the "fun" activity were solicited.

Mission Report

Sharron met with Elaine Walters, Coordinator of Community In Schools for West Columbia Elementary, to discuss a reading initiative where volunteers read to low performing students on a regular basis during the students' lunchtime. The vestry voted to donate an 8x8 paver to the Park Paver Project in West Columbia. The paver would include the name of our church. Karen suggested we get involved in the Trunk and Treat Project for Halloween. Sharron reported a total of \$17,834.10 in donations has been made through Community Assistance since it began in January 2015.

Other Business

Sharron will be contacting a recent graduate she knows who has a degree in Graphic Arts and is interested in designing a new logo for St. Mary's. This design will be used on letterheads, pew bulletins, and St. Mary's official t-shirt.

Calendar

The next three vestry meetings will be at 3:30 on July 23rd, August 27th, and September 24th.

Daughters of the King meet July 3 at 9:30.

Brotherhood meets July 8th and July 22nd at 7:30 am.

Bible Study continues on Thursdays at 6:00.

Parish dinner will be July 18th at 5:30.

Sharron will be at the General Convention on July 9th and 10th.

The next meeting will be Monday, July 23nd at 3:30.

A copy of the vestry minutes will be placed on the bulletin board in the parish hall.



Bible Study

There's always room at the table for anyone wishing to join our study of John. We meet at 6:00 PM each Thursday evening in the Parish Hall.



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.

Pentecost: the seventh Sunday after Easter, commemorating the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles

Piscina: a drain to the ground in the sacristy used to carry off the water and wine which the priest has blessed in Holy Eucharist or at Holy Baptism

Prayers of the People: a series of intercessory prayers on behalf of the church, world, family and friends, and those who have died

Preface: in the liturgy, the first part of the Great Thanksgiving up to the Sanctus.



Braylee Schill got 2nd in the calf scramble at Stockdale.

Brayze Schill won The Mini Bareback Riding at Stockdale and The Senior Bareback Riding at Sweetwater.

Haley Cantrell competed in the State Twirling Competition and earned 7th in Miss Majorette of Texas, 2nd in beginner solo, and 1st in modeling.

Jennifer Mikel Landreneau passed her certification test for High Risk Neonatal.



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.

- Summer Camp For Moms - July 27-29
- Labor Day Family Camp - August 31 - September 2



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. Paint brushes of various sizes to paint and decorate the walls in the Jr. High Christian Formation room
2. Bean bag chairs or other comfortable chairs for the Jr. High Christian Formation room

A Great Big Thank You

- To Jerry and Sue Davidson for donating the couch and chair in the Parish Hall.
- To the vestry for the fixings to "Build Your Own Sub" at our Parish Dinner. Thank you also to all who came and provided sides, drinks, and desserts.
- To Paula Gentner for the two "coffee table" books that have been placed on the table beside the couch.



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.

Dates to Remember

July 1 - Sunday service (9:00 am)

July 3 - DOK Meeting (9:30 am)

July 5-13 - General Convention in Austin

July 5 - Bible Study (6:00 pm)

July 8 - Brotherhood (7:30 am)
Sunday service (9:00 am)

July 11 - Youth Outing in Bay City

July 12 - Bible Study (6:00 pm)

July 13 -Episcopal Night at the Astros

July 15 -Sunday service (9:00 am)

July 18 - Parish Dinner (5:30 pm)
"Build Your Own Taco"

July 19 - Bible Study (6:00 pm)

July 22 - Brotherhood (7:30 am)
Sunday Service (9:00 am)

July 23 - Vestry meeting (3:30 pm)

July 26 - Bible Study (6:00 pm)

July 29 - Sunday Service (9:00 am)

New Members, Transfers, and Departures

We welcome Gwynne and Bill Olson as new members of St. Mary's Episcopal Church! We are so pleased to have you join our community!

Jennifer Mikel Landreneau has transferred her membership to Christ Episcopal Church in Cedar Park.

Paula and James Gentner have moved to San Antonio.

July Birthdays

Ally Lane - July 2

Shyanne Roddy - July 2

Roy Weisinger - July 8

Lou Crutcher - July 9

Tracy Lane - July 9

Jim Burns - July 16

Mary Stewart - July 22

July Anniversaries

St. Mary's Leadership

Rector: The Reverend Sharron Cox

Sr. Warden: Karen Logue

Jr. Warden: Andrea Anderson

Clerk/Treasurer: Dani Mikel

Charlotte Blount