

# The Bells of St. Mary's

## July Edition



*St. Mary's*  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
The Mustard Seed Church

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



**This is my favorite time of the year. Maybe it's a hold-over from my childhood, a childhood when mothers sent all their children out of the house for the day, giving us a sense of freedom, a sense that the sun itself slowed down and the days could last forever. We had been cooped up all school year...now our time was our own, and we could create new games or entire worlds, limited only by our imagination. There generally was a family vacation and reunions scheduled here and there throughout those summer months, where we would visit new places and see dear faces of our loved ones. Ah...the freedom we felt, the freedom we experienced.**

**We have been cooped up for many months, have we not? Be sure to enjoy these summer months, to relish our freedom. But be careful about the imaginary worlds or games we create for ourselves. For this novel coronavirus doesn't seem to care if it is summer, winter, spring, or fall. See new places and visit dear faces, but please stay diligent with all the precautions we have grown familiar with over the last several months to prevent from catching and spreading this virus.**

**I will be taking a little over a week of vacation beginning July 2nd. And St. Mary's will continue to worship in my absence, both in-person and on-line. Please join us when you can during these weeks of July and beyond as we celebrate our life together, called by God to give God thanks and praise for the blessings we have been given and the challenges we may face.**

**Blessings,**



## Service in the Church

Our first two in-person services went very well. For those in attendance, it felt good to be back in the church. Things were definitely different, but many things were the same, and it felt like home. The music our organist, Grace Culbreath, provided was beautiful and her solos were breathtaking. We were also able to have the service over Facebook Live and welcomed all who were with us. We were worshipping together no matter where we were, and that is a blessing.

Special thanks to our worship ministers during these services. On June 21st, Theata Miller, Jackie Walker, and Mary Stewart served on the altar guild, Haley Cantrell was the crucifer, Gwynne Olson was the lector, and AJ and Dani Mikel served as ushers. On June 28th, Colleen Matocha and Dani Mikel served on the altar guild, Ally Lane was the crucifer, Maddie Lane was the lector, and Marvin Miller served as usher. And of course, thank you to Rev. Sharron for her leadership and guidance. Their positiveness and adaptability with the changes and precautions were greatly appreciated.

## Service on July 5th

Sunday, July 5th, we will be celebrating the Liturgy of the Word since Rev. Sharron will be on vacation. we will have in-person service beginning at 9:00 a.m. and the service will be streaming on Facebook Live as usual. Dani Mikel will be leading the service.

## Quarterly Financial Reports Going Out Soon

The second quarter financial reports will be mailed the week of July 5 - 11, Because the Diocese of Texas had suggested a reduction in mail due to the possibility of cross contamination, the first quarter reports were not sent. Please let the office know by Monday, July 6th, if you would like your quarterly financial report for the 1st and 2nd quarters by email instead. You can contact the office by email ([stmaryswc@centurylink.net](mailto:stmaryswc@centurylink.net)) or phone (979-345-3456). There is also a direct link to the church email at the top of newsletter.



## Community Assistance

In June, we made several donations to the food pantry at Iglesia Centro Cristiano. We also helped one family with their electric bill.

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



## News from the Vestry

Gwynne Olson, Clerk

The vestry met Sunday, June 28, 2020.

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

Rev. Sharron reported on her Church Corporation Zoom meeting on June 17th. The Diocese of Texas has given out COVID-19 related grants, loans, and emergency aid to parishes and Diocesan programs or entities totaling \$3.5M as of June 1st. The May investment report indicated the funds had recovered about half of the first quarter loss due to positive results in both April and May. She also gave an update on the KNG ranch. Sharron also suggested relooking at last month's decision to not replace the outdoor carpet on the front steps and breezeway.

### ***Senior Warden's Report: Marvin Miller***

Marvin did not have anything to report.

### ***Junior Warden's Report: Charlotte Blount***

Charlotte stated that the restroom renovation is going well, and it is anticipated that the renovation will be complete in a couple of weeks. Granite, linoleum, and faucet selections are needed. Pastor Sharron and Gwynne said that all but the linoleum of those selections have been made. Fire ant and Roundup treatments have been completed.

A copy of the vestry minutes will be placed on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall once approved at the August meeting. There will be no vestry meeting in July. The next Vestry meeting is Sunday, August 16th at 11:00 a.m.



## Camp Allen Events

"Camp Allen is celebrating its 100th year-Centennial milestone in 2021. We hope you will make plans well in advance to attend the official celebration at camp on May 1st 2021." (Camp Allen)

**Summer Camp for Moms - a weekend for moms filled with adventure, relaxation, and craft workshops - July 17-19, 2020**

**Labor Day Family Camp - fun-filled sock hop-themed family retreat - September 4-6, 2020**

If you are interested in any of these events call (979-345-3456) or email (stmaryswc@centurylink.net) the office for more information. There is also a direct link to the church email at the top of newsletter.

# Message from Marvin Miller

## The Way Home

I have a friend who tells a heartwarming story about a little girl who walked home from school every day. The quickest way home for her was through the town's cemetery. It was her favorite time of day. She loved to feel the breeze in her hair and to watch the birds. Sometimes she just threw herself on the soft, green grass and watched the clouds turn into castles and angels and great white stallions. As she skipped around gravestones, she whistled her favorite tune or sang a song. Other times, she liked to kneel down and read the names and dates on gravestones, and to glide her fingers across the engraved lettering. She particularly enjoyed those peaceful walks through the beautiful graveyard.

Still, her friends asked, "Why do you walk through the cemetery after school?"

"That's easy," she would always reply. "Because it's the way home."

In an ultimate sense, that is true, isn't it? The way home is always through the cemetery. The Shawnee warrior and chief Tecumseh may have said it best: "When it comes your time to die, be not like those whose hearts are filled with the fear of death, so that when their time comes they weep and pray for a little more time to live their lives over again in a different way. Sing your death song and die like a hero going home."

You *are* going home. You have been away a long time, and you are finally going home.

It does not have to be a fearful passage at all, this way that leads home. And don't worry about getting lost. Your heart knows the way.

- Steve Goodier

Daniel Mikel has been accepted into the graduate school at Lamar University. He will be seeking a Master's Degree in Industrial Psychology. Daniel graduated from Lamar University in December 2019 with a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology.

Braylee Schill and her team of four completed the Grit Ultra Endurance Challenge by running 100 miles in 10 days.

Cheyenne and Hunter Weisinger welcomed their new baby girl. Paisley Weisinger was born on May 24, 2020.

Brayze Schill won the novice bareback riding in Tolar, Texas to qualify for the Jr. World Finals in Las Vegas in December 2020.

Kendy earned a community service award from Regency International. She is the current Jr. Miss Southern States.

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



## Don't Forget

For those that are working at home and having to use their printer, 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:

- Grace Culbreath for her inspiring music and solos during our online and in-person services.
- Theata Miller, Jackie Walker, Wendy Hankins, Colleen Matocha, Dani Mikel, and Mary Stewart for volunteering to serve on the altar guild from June 21st to July 16th.
- Haley Cantrell, Ally Lane, Kendy Hankins, and Reesie Cantrell for volunteering to serve as crucifer from June 21st to July 16th.
- Gwynne Olson, Maddie Lane, Dani Mikel, Shyanne Roddy, Wendy Hankins, and Colleen Matocha for volunteering to serve as lector and reader from June 21st to July 16th.
- AJ Mikel, Marvin Miller, Mary Stewart, Jackie Walker, and Dan Roddy for volunteering to serve as ushers from June 21st to July 16th.

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.

## Dates to Remember

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

July 1st - Compline on St. Mary's  
Facebook Live at 8:00 p.m.

July 5th - Sunday Service  
Liturgy of the Word (9:00 a.m.)

July 12th - Sunday Service  
Holy Eucharist: Rite II(9:00 a.m.)

July 15th - Compline on St. Mary's  
Facebook Live at 8:00 p.m.

July 19th - Sunday Service  
Holy Eucharist: Rite II(9:00 a.m.)

July 22nd - Compline on St. Mary's  
Facebook Live at 8:00 p.m.

July 26th - Sunday Service  
Holy Eucharist: Rite II(9:00 a.m.)

July 29th - Compline on St. Mary's  
Facebook Live at 8:00 p.m.

## July Birthdays

Ally Lane - July 2

Shyanne Roddy - July 2

Roy Weisinger - July 8

Lou Crutcher - July 9

Tracy Lane - July 9

Bill Olson - July 9

Madeline Roddy - July 17

Mary Stewart - July 22

## July Anniversaries

Bonnie and John Cole - July 18

## St. Mary's Leadership

### Rector

The Reverend Sharron Cox

### Vestry

Sr. Warden: Marvin Miller

Jr. Warden: Charlotte Blount

Clerk: Gwynne Olson

St. Mary's Episcopal Church, corner of 16th and Clay Street, West Columbia  
PO Box 786, West Columbia, Texas 77486  
979-345-3456 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.