



# The Bells of St. Mary's

## July Edition

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



July always reminds me of family reunions. When I was young, the generations of the Cox family would gather in the greater Dallas area every couple of summers. To this little girl, there seemed to be hundreds of people in attendance! What I remember most about those gatherings (besides the good food!) were the stories that family members would swap.

Stories seem to draw people together. Stories seem to bridge time and age differences. Stories help us learn more about one another. Stories help build community.

A few Sundays ago, we heard of the man who was healed and wished to follow Jesus. Instead, Jesus told the man to go tell his story, go tell his story of what God has done for him.

As we continue to move through our summers of family gatherings, vacations, and leisure, we will be adding more stories to our story bank. Don't forget to include in that stockpile the stories you will have experienced this summer of what God has done for you!

Blessings,

## Invite Welcome Connect

*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age. Matthew 28:19-20*

Let's talk a moment about the word dreaded most by many Episcopalians.... evangelism! Why is it we find it so difficult to say the word evangelism, much less talk about our faith or invite someone to church? Yet, we answer that with God's help we will proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ as part of our Baptismal Covenant in The Book of Common Prayer. Every Sunday we proclaim our belief in the importance of coming together as a body of Christ to pray, to learn, to question, to share and to explore. We believe that our relationship with Christ is strengthened and nurtured by coming together as a family of faith.

Most of us would agree that our faith in God has seen us through the gloriously joyful times as well as the events in life that leave us sorrowful and lonely. Fortunately, we have our church family for support and love because of the strong common connection we share with God.

That is why the simple act of a personal invitation to attend St. Mary's is important. There are dozens of people within our neighborhoods and community who long to feel a connection with others. Why not invite others into our faith community and let them discover the love of Jesus Christ? Who knows, it just may be the best invitation they ever receive.

Blessings,  
Karen



## Episcopal Night at the Ballpark

For those who have tickets to the game, do not forget Episcopal Night at the Ballpark when the Astros play the Rangers is Friday, July 19th beginning at 7pm. Following the game, there will be a spectacular fireworks display. There will be parking and BBQ hotdogs at Christ Church Cathedral for those who arrive early. Enjoy a great game and fun time with family and friends. GO ASTROS.

# The Mustard Seed Church

## Sowing Seeds in the Community...

### New Teacher Luncheon

St. Mary's will be assisting Columbia United Methodist Church in hosting the New Teacher Luncheon on August 6, 2019. This luncheon is offered to all CBISD new teachers each August during their day-long orientation to the school district. Look for sign-up sheets to be placed on the table in the Parish Hall in the next few weeks if you would like to contribute salads, desserts, or serve as host/hostess on the day of the luncheon!

### School Supplies Drive

No, it is not time for school to begin. There is still six weeks of summer fun, but Walmart has stocked their shelves with school supplies and supply lists have been posted on Facebook. Both are reminders that it is time to set out the basket to collect donations for school supplies to benefit the students at West Columbia Elementary. Beginning Sunday, July 21st, a list of suggested items will be placed in the Parish Hall along with the collection box. We will continue to collect items until Sunday, August 18th, Backpack Sunday. Together let us help those students who cannot afford the supplies they need



## News from the Vestry

Gwynne Olson, Clerk

The vestry met Monday, June 17, 2019.

The vestry had an abbreviated meeting due to a two-hour stewardship coaching session lead by Mandy Neal prior to the meeting. Mandy talked about stewardship as a spiritual disciple emphasizing, "All that I am and all that I have is a gift from God." She suggested needs for the 2020 Stewardship Campaign.

During the vestry meeting, a bid for stained glass repair was reviewed and approved. Rev. Sharron gave an update on the organist position. The interim organist, Susan Graham, is taking a vacation in July and August. Rev. Sharron updated the job description and is pursuing a permanent organist.

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

# The Reverend Jim Morgan Returns

The Reverend Sharron Cox will be on vacation from July 8th to the 14th. The Reverend Jim Morgan will be celebrating the Eucharist on Sunday, July 14th.

## Forward Movement

The August - October edition of is now available in the narthex and Parish Hall. These are provided to the parishioners by the Daughters of the King and the Brotherhood of St. Andrew.

## Message from Marvin Miller

### EINSTEIN STORY

From the book, "Positive Spiritual Living"

Did God create everything that exists? Does evil exist? Did God create evil?

A University professor at a well-known institution of higher learning challenged his students with this question. "Did God create everything that exists?"

A student bravely replied, "Yes he did!"

"God created everything?" The professor asked.

"Yes sir, he certainly did," the student replied.

The professor answered, "If God created everything; then God created evil. And, since evil exists, and according to the principal that our works define who we are, then we can assume God is evil."

The student became quiet and did not respond to the professor's hypothetical definition. The professor, quite pleased with himself, boasted to the students that he had proven once more that the Christian faith was a myth.

Another student raised his hand and said, "May I ask you a question, professor?"

"Of course", replied the professor.

The student stood up and asked, "Professor, does cold exist?"

"What kind of question is this? Of course, it exists. Have you never been cold?"

The other students snickered at the young man's question. The young man replied, "In fact sir, cold does not exist. According to the laws of physics, what we consider cold is in reality the absence of heat. Everybody or object is susceptible to study when it has or transmits energy, and heat is what makes a body or matter have or transmit energy. Absolute zero (-460 F) is the total absence of heat; and all matter becomes

inert and incapable of reaction at that temperature. Cold does not exist. We have created this word to describe how we feel if we have no heat."

The student continued, "Professor, does darkness exist?"

The professor responded, "Of course it does."

The student replied, "Once again you are wrong sir, darkness does not exist either. Darkness is in reality the absence of light. Light we can study, but not darkness. In fact, we can use Newton's prism to break white light into many colors and study the various wavelengths of each color. You cannot measure darkness. A simple ray of light can break into a world of darkness and illuminate it. How can you know how dark a certain space is? You measure the amount of light present. Isn't this correct? Darkness is a term used by man to describe what happens when there is no light present."

Finally, the young man asked the professor, "Sir, does evil exist?"

Now uncertain, the professor responded, "Of course, as I have already said. We see it everyday. It is in the daily examples of man's inhumanity to man. It is in the multitude of crime and violence everywhere in the world. These manifestations are nothing else but evil.

To this the student replied, "Evil does not exist, sir, or at least it does not exist unto itself. Evil is simply the absence of God. It is just like darkness and cold, a word that man has created to describe the absence of God. God did not create evil. Evil is the result of what happens when man does not have God's love present in his heart. It's like the cold that comes when there is no heat, or the darkness that comes when there is no light."

The professor sat down.

The young man's name -- Albert Einstein

## 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 8 men and their families. Last year we donated \$440. 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.

Kendy Hankins was crowned Regency International Little Miss Southern States and will be competing in the International Regency Pageant.

Haley Cantrell competed in the state twirling competition earning a 1st in show twirl, 1st in basic strut, 1st in novice x strut, 5th in one baton, and 3rd in military.

Braylee Schill competed in a 5K in Huron, South Dakota.

Wendy Hankins passed the EC-12 Special Education certification test. She will be the new director of the Bay City High School drill team, the Aristocats, as well as an inclusion teacher at the school.

At the National Junior High Finals Rodeo in South Dakota, Brayze Schill finished 6th in the 1st round of the Bareback Steer Riding. In the 2nd round, he finished 10th. He qualified for the finals, where he placed 8th in the world. Brayze was also part of "Team Texas" which is the National Junior High Finals Rodeo World Champions.

Shane Case, the son-in-law of Mary Stewart, has completed his enlistment tour in the United States Army. Shane, his wife Keri, and their two daughters, Saren and Scout, have returned to Texas to live. We welcome them back to the Lone Star State and thank Shane for his service to our country.

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



## Community Assistance

In June, there was one request for assistance. Funds were provided to help a family with rent.

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



## Camp Allen Events

Summer Camp for Moms (July 19-21) is a time for moms to have a weekend of relaxation, renewal, and adventure. Optional activities include: the Blob, giant swing, Adventure Summit Course, skeet shooting, horseback riding, aquatics, archery, canoeing, paddle-boards, giant water slide, hiking, cooking classes, painting and various crafts.

Man Camp (August 17-18) is an overnight retreat for men of all ages. This program will include Archery Tag, Adventure Summit, high rope course, waterfront activities, and a craft beer dinner pairing.

Labor Day Family Camp (August 30 - September 1) is a weekend retreat for the whole family. Activity options include Adventure Summit, canoeing, horseback riding, family movie night, and bird and reptile classes.

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

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.



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.

- small bookcases or shelves for the Godly Play Room

**THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!**

Special thanks and gratitude to:

- Lou Crutcher, Mary Stewart, and James Wolfe for folding the service bulletins this month.
- Karen Logue for aiding Patricia Frawley, the Safeguarding God's Children trainer.
- Gwynne Olson for organizing the trip to Houston to participate in the "Messy Church" service.

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

July 1 - DOK meeting (4:00 pm)

July 4 - Fourth of July  
Church office will be closed.

July 7 - Brotherhood (7:30 am)  
Sunday Service (9:00 am)  
Hospitality (10:00 am)

July 8 - 14 Rev. Sharron will be on  
vacation.

July 10 - Church office will be closed.

July 11 - Yoga class (10:00 am)  
Bible Study The Gospel According to  
Matthew (6:00 pm)

July 14 - Sunday Service  
The Reverend Jim Morgan will be the  
celebrant (9:00 am)  
Hospitality (10:00 am)

## 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 15 - Vestry meeting (4 pm)

July 18 - Yoga class (10:00 am)  
Bible Study (6:00 pm)

July 19 - Episcopal Night at the Ballpark  
(7:00 pm)

July 21 - Brotherhood (7:30 am)  
Sunday Service (9:00 am)  
Hospitality (10:00 am)

July 25 - Yoga class (10:00 am)  
Bible Study (6:00 pm)

July 28 - Sunday Service (9:00 am)  
Hospitality (10:00 am)

## July Anniversaries

Bonnie and John Cole - July 18

## 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.