



The Bells of St. Mary's

June Edition



As May made way for June, we experienced some endings and new beginnings. Long-time organist, Kathy Molnar, retired, and St. Mary's will be graced through the end of June with the musical gifts of Susan Graham while we begin our search for new musical leadership. The school year ended, and we discovered that faithful Discovery Camp coordinator, Holly Heble, has taken a job at a new school but left us in the superb hands of teacher Hillary Lemonds. Hunter Weisinger, who St. Mary's watched grow up into adulthood and now service in the Air Force, married his high school sweetheart, Cheyenne Kirkpatrick. And Bill Bullard, our seminarian for the past nine months, preached his last sermon at St. Mary's before graduating from the Iona School of Ministry and ordination to the diaconate later this month at Christ Church Cathedral in Houston.

As I report all these changes that have taken place over the last few weeks, I am reminded of that often-quoted bit of wisdom from an ancient Greek philosopher that "The only *constant* in life is *change*." How very true...

The Church knows a little bit about change. Much has changed since the birth of the Church on the Day of Pentecost almost two thousand years ago. In those early days, the *ecclesia* (the word for church in Greek, the language of the New Testament) gathered primarily in private homes. Eventually, because of its growth, the Church moved to larger private venues until Christianity was legalized and buildings began to be erected for worship and educational purposes.

Beyond constant change in the *structure* of the Church, the Church has always been about supporting the personal transformation of its members. Personal growth and transformation are the objects of all Christians. This is fostered through prayer, Bible study, worship, service, and fellowship. Sometimes personal spiritual growth is experienced in leaps and bounds; more often than not, personal transformation is imperceptible, a gradual awakening to God's presence in our ordinary, day-to-day lives.

As we enter another season of Ordinary Time in the Church, the season after Pentecost, be aware and attentive to the extraordinary ways God enters your lives, calling all of us to growth and transformation more and more into the likeness of Christ. For it is that for which we were made, for that which we were placed in this particular place at this particular time. How is God calling you into new growth during this Ordinary Time?
Blessings,

Invite Welcome Connect

There are a multitude of reasons people attend church. I'm interested in knowing why you worship at St. Mary's. Perhaps it's the church home you've always attended. Maybe it's a compelling sermon you come to hear. What about the people you worship alongside each **Sunday**?

Why do you attend St. Mary's?

What is it about our service that feeds you?

Has your faith in Christ changed since you began attending St. Mary's?

How do you see God working through us?

These are questions we should get comfortable answering as we begin the process of welcoming newcomers into our midst. It provides our guests with a snapshot of who we are as God's church. It can also serve as an opportunity to share how St. Mary's is a blessing and a gift in our lives and those around us. I hope you'll take a moment to think about these questions and even let me know your thoughts. Let's have a conversation!

Blessings,
Karen

Bill Bullard



A reception for Bill Bullard was held on Sunday, **June 2nd**. He has been a blessing to St. Mary's since he joined us in September. Although he will be greatly missed, we want to wish him the very best as he finishes his studies at the Iona School of Ministry and continues to serve God.

Bill will graduate from the Iona School of Ministry the weekend of **June 7th** at Camp Allen. His Deacon Ordination will be **June 22nd** at 10:00 am at Christ Church Cathedral in Houston. If you are interested in attending his ordination, please let the office know so we can coordinate carpooling. His Ordination to the Priesthood will be in December or January. We will have more information about that service closer to the date.



Episcopal Night at the Ballpark

Episcopal Night at the Ballpark is Friday, **July 19th** when the Astros play the Rangers. Following the game, there will be a spectacular fireworks display. 20 seats are reserved for St. Mary's at \$52 a ticket. The game begins at 7 pm. There will be parking and BBQ hotdogs at Christ Church Cathedral for those who arrive early. A sign-up sheet is available in the Parish Hall for those who are interested in attending. Karen Logue is organizing this event and will need the money and final headcount by **June 15th**. Come out for a great game and fun time with family and friends. **GO ASTROS.**

Wednesday Evening Christian Formation for Children and Youth

Before summer begins, it is good to reflect on the wonderful year the youth and children had in Christian Formation. On **Wednesday** evenings, 15 or more would gather together for a meal before splitting off into their groups. Under the inspiring leadership of Shyanne Roddy and Colleen Matocha, these young people learned about God, grew spiritually, and saw opportunities to serve others. In addition to their **Wednesday** evening activities, they raised money through a bake sale and lemonade stand to help a village in a third world country, provide a bicycle for a local resident, and supply food for the city animal shelter. They also participated in the Christmas pageant, a special service for the "Burying of the Alleluias", the national ringing of the bells for Veteran's Day, the stuffing of Thanksgiving boxes for needy families, and the making of palm crosses for Palm **Sunday**.

After celebrating the past, we should look toward the future. Next year, more teachers will be needed. Because of the range in ages of the children and youth and the desire to provide the best age appropriate Christian education, it will be necessary to have four separate groups. Over the summer, with prayer and self-reflection, see if this is a ministry that you could provide. Remember when our children were baptized the priest asked, "Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?" Perhaps God is calling you to fulfill this charge by assisting with the education of our children and youth.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Special thanks and gratitude to:

- Jennifer Schill for donating labels for our "Welcome" bags.
- The Reverend Sharron Cox, Shyanne Roddy, Colleen Matocha, and Dani Mikel for teaching the Christian Formation classes on Wednesdays and Sundays.
- Karen Logue, Mary Stewart, Jennifer Bridges, Andrea Anderson, David Mikel, Jennifer Schill, and Jackie Walker for helping with the Christian Formation classes.
- Dan Roddy, Ed Logue, Bill Olson, Marvin Miller, Theata Miller, Brian Lane, and Kirby Rapstein for grilling the delicious hot dogs and hamburgers for our May Parish Dinner.
- Jackie Walker and Wendy Hankins for providing the meals for the **Wednesday** Christian Formation.

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



News from the Vestry

Gwynne Olson, Clerk

The vestry met **Tuesday, May 21, 2019.**

Rector Report: The Reverend Sharron Cox

Rev. Sharron stated that she is working with Columbia United Methodist Church to secure a permanent organist. The substitute organist is taking vacation in July and August. Rev. Sharron attended CREDO, which is continuing education for priests. Rev. Sharron stated that her summer projects include cleaning out file cabinets, map out Christian Formation, and create a St. Mary's event calendar for the 2019-2020 year.

Senior Warden's Report: Charlotte Blount

Charlotte stated that she, Rev. Sharron, and Dani attended the second Stewardship Co-Hort meeting. She said that our congregation needs to believe in our mission in order to share our mission to family and friends. She also stated that we should invite the shelter that attends the Peach Street Farmer's Market to the Blessing of the Animals in the fall. Invite, Welcome, and Connect had a good meeting after the Parish dinner.

Junior Warden's Report: Rev. Sharron Cox

Rev. Sharron gave the report due to Andrea Anderson's absence. After a significant leak in the ladies' restroom, it is obvious the restroom pipes are disintegrating. It's time to consider remodeling the bathrooms. Rev Sharron will speak with the staff person at the Diocese who helps parishes prepare for remodeling. Painters are coming back to complete the painting.

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

Message from Marvin Miller

SHAY'S DAY

By Jim Gentil

At a fundraising dinner for a school that serves learning-disabled children, the father of one of the students delivered a speech that would never be forgotten by all who attended. After extolling the school and its dedicated staff, he offered a question: "When not interfered with by outside influences, everything nature does is done with perfection. Yet my son, Shay, cannot learn things as other children do. He cannot understand things as other children do. Where is the natural order of things in my son?"

The audience was stilled by the query.

The father continued. "I believe that when a child like Shay, physically and mentally handicapped comes into the world, an opportunity to realize true human nature presents itself, and it comes in the way other people treat that child."

Then he told the following story:

Shay and his father had walked past a park where some boys Shay knew were playing baseball. Shay asked, "Do you think they'll let me play?" Shay's father knew that most of the boys would not want someone like Shay on their team, but the father also understood that if his son were allowed to play, it would give him a much-needed sense of belonging and some confidence to be accepted by others in spite of his handicaps.

Shay's father approached one of the boys on the field and asked (not expecting much) if Shay could play. The boy looked around for guidance and said, "We're losing by six runs and the game is in the eighth inning. I guess he can be on our team and we'll try to put him in to bat in the ninth inning."

Shay struggled over to the team's bench and, with a broad smile, put on a team shirt. His Father watched with a small tear in his eye and warmth in his heart. The boys saw the father's joy at his son being accepted. In the bottom of the eighth inning, Shay's team scored a few runs but was still behind by three. In the top of the ninth inning, Shay put on a glove and played in the right field. Even though no hits came his way, he was obviously ecstatic just to be in the game and on the field, grinning from ear to ear as his father waved to him from the stands. In the bottom of the ninth inning, Shay's team scored again. Now, with two outs and the bases loaded, the potential winning run was on base and Shay was scheduled to be next at bat.

At this juncture, do they let Shay bat and give away their chance to win the game? Surprisingly, Shay was given the bat. Everyone knew that a hit was all but impossible because Shay didn't even know how to hold the bat properly, much less connect with the ball.

However, as Shay stepped up to the plate, the pitcher, recognizing that the other team was putting winning aside for this moment in Shay's life, moved in a few steps to lob the ball in softly so Shay could at least make contact. The first pitch came, and Shay swung clumsily and missed. The pitcher again took a few steps forward to toss the ball softly towards Shay. As the pitch came in, Shay swung at the ball and hit a slow ground ball right back to the pitcher.

The game would now be over. The pitcher picked up the soft grounder and could have easily thrown the ball to the first baseman. Shay would have been out and that would have been the end of the game.

Instead, the pitcher threw the ball right over the first baseman's head, out of reach of all team-mates. Everyone from the stands and both teams started yelling, "Shay, run to first!"

Run to first!" Never in his life had Shay ever run that far, but he made it to first base. He scampered down the baseline, wide-eyed and startled.

Everyone yelled, "Run to second, run to second!" Catching his breath, Shay awkwardly ran towards second, gleaming and struggling to make it to the base. By the time Shay rounded towards second base, the right fielder had the ball. The smallest guy on their team who now had his first chance to be the hero for his team. He could have thrown the ball to the second baseman for the tag, but he understood the pitcher's intentions so he, too, intentionally threw the ball high and far over the third-baseman's head.

Shay ran toward third base deliriously as the runners ahead of him circled the bases toward home.

All were screaming, "Shay, Shay, Shay, all the Way Shay"

Shay reached third base because the opposing shortstop ran to help him by turning him in the direction of third base, and shouted, "Run to third! Shay, run to third!"

As Shay rounded third, the boys from both teams, and the spectators, were on their feet screaming, "Shay, run home! Run home!" Shay ran to home, stepped on the plate, and was cheered as the hero who hit the grand slam and won the game for his team.

"That day," said the father softly with tears now rolling down his face, "the boys from both teams helped bring a piece of true love and humanity into this world."

Shay didn't make it to another summer. He died that winter, having never forgotten being the hero and making his father so happy, and coming home and seeing his Mother tearfully embrace her little hero of the day!

May your day, be a Shay Day!!!



Community Assistance

In May, 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.

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.

Cheyenne Kirkpatrick and Hunter Weisinger were married on Saturday, June 1st, at the Live Oak Haven in West Columbia.

David Mikel completed the in IN-NAM in the Namibian desert, located in Africa. In six days, he ran 52 miles, mountain biked 131 miles, and climbed the 8000 foot Brandberg Mountain.

Abigail Roddy earned the Excellence in Math and the Excellence in Reading awards at West Columbia Elementary.

Haley Cantrell placed third and her 8th grade golf team placed first at the District Golf Tournament. She was also awarded the 2019-2020 Twirling Scholarship at Jana School of Dance.

Trace Roddy was named Student of the Month at West Columbia Elementary.

Reesie Cantrell's 7th grade golf team placed 3rd in the District Golf Tournament.

Braylee Schill finished 2nd in the 2 mile Competitive Spartan in Burnet. She also earned the following awards during the end of the year award assembly at West Columbia Elementary: Principal's Honor Roll, Top 5 Science Average, PE Award, The President's Education Award, zero conduct marks for the year, and 3rd most running club miles.

Brayze Schill is the 2019 Texas Junior High Reserve Champion in Bareback Steer Riding. At the end of June, he will represent Texas at Nationals in South Dakota.

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



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, paddleboards, 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.

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.



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



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.

June Birthdays

Carol Junes - **June 21**

John Cole - **June 29**

June Anniversaries

AJ and Dani Mikel - **June 6**

Jason and Rachel Davidson - **June 9**

Adam and Jennifer Schill - **June 12**

Marvin and Theata Miller - **June 13**

George and Doris Grosvenor - **June 16**

Dates to Remember

June 2 - Sunday Service (9:00 am)
Reception for Bill Bullard (10:00 am)

June 4 - DOK meeting (4:00 pm)

June 6 - Yoga class (10:00 am)
Bible Study- The Gospel According to
Matthew (6:00 pm)
"Messy Church" service (5:30 pm)
Cohort "Zoom" meeting (7:00 pm)

June 9 - Brotherhood (7:30 am)
Sunday Service (9:00 am)
Hospitality (10:00 am)
Safeguarding God's Children training (2:00
pm)

June 13 - Yoga class (10:00 am)
Bible Study (6:00 pm)

June 15 - money due for the Astros
Game

June 16- Sunday Service (9:00 am)
Hospitality (10:00 am)

June 17 - Stewardship Coaching
(4:00 pm)
Vestry meeting (6:00 pm)

June 20 - Yoga class (10:00 am)
Bible Study (6:00 pm)

June 22 - Bill Bullard's
Deacon Ordination (10:00 am)

June 23 - Brotherhood (7:30 am)
Sunday Service (9:00 am)
Hospitality (10:00 am)

June 27 - Yoga class (10:00 am)
Bible Study (6:00 pm)

June 30- Sunday Service (9:00 am)
Hospitality (10:00 am)

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.