

THE BELLS OF SAINT MARY'S



JUNE 2017

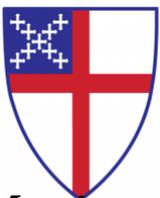
Mission Statement

“Celebrating God’s Love Found in The Word, People and Creation”



Important Parish Meeting and Hospitality

Please plan on staying for hospitality this Sunday, May 28th. In addition to fellowship and all your favorite tasty treats, we will be distributing the results of our Rector Survey which has been compiled by the diocese. Your input and direction are needed as we clarify our desires and narrow down possible priests for St. Mary’s.



Search Committee

The search committee met and discussed the upcoming Parish Meeting. They also ask that the congregation keep them and St. Mary’s in their prayers as they proceed through the search process. The following is a prayer in the Book of Common Prayer.

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a rector for this parish, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Outreach



Donations for the Military

In our parish hall there is a container by the door for donations to the West of the Brazos Military Support Group. Rees Sweeny, a member of our congregation, is involved in this organization. This organization supports all military branches and sends packages throughout the year to our service personnel overseas. Each month we will list specific items to purchase. The items for June are:

sunscreen (highest spf), books (soft covered, new or used), batteries (AA, AAA), disposable razors, shaving cream gel (no aerosols)

You can leave the items in the container at church and Rees will pick them up. Let's make this an ongoing [outreach program](#) for our church.



Community Assistance

If you know of anyone in need, please contact Karen or Tracy.



A SHARING FAITH DINNER

A Sharing Faith Dinner is designed for 8 to 12 people who can share a meal together, get to know one another better, and share stories of their individual faith journey. Hearing others' personal stories of faith and God's presence in their lives brings us all into a deeper relationship with each other and God. If you would be interested in participating in this event on Thursday, June 1st, please let Karen know so she can set a special place for you at her table. Her number is 979-417-4338.



News from the Vestry

The vestry met Sunday, May 21st, after the Sunday service.

Senior Warden's Report: Karen Logue

Karen reported on the Thursday evening Bible Study group. It is going well and the attendance is growing. She also reported that there were 16 people who attended Episcopal Night at Minute Maid Park. Karen also gave information about the "A Sharing the Faith Dinner" which will be on June 1st.

Jr. Warden Report: Dan Roddy

Dan reported that the electrician would be returning to continue work on our electrical problems and needs. He also reported that the KNG board would be having a meeting on Wednesday, May 24th and that he and Ed Logue would be representing the church.

Attendance: Dani Mikel

The average Sunday attendance for April was 39 people which include the 80 worshipers on Easter Sunday. Maundy Thursday had 24 worshipers and Good Friday had 21 worshipers.

Financial Report for February: Dani Mikel

Disbursements

General Expenses: \$19,260.21
Supply Priests: \$1,134.73
Conventions: \$100.00
Miscellaneous: \$50.00

Income

KNG Fund: \$0
Disability Insurance: \$4428.66
Offering Plate/Pledges: \$3475.50
Miscellaneous: \$50.00
Interest (bank): \$4.24

Total: \$20544.94

Total: \$7,958.40

Old Business

The First Responders Appreciation days were discussed. Dan and Marvin are continuing to work on this and finalize the plans to present to the vestry.

New Business

1. The youth will be organizing our many pictures so they can be archived into photo albums and displayed in the parish hall.
2. A youth education program for our junior high students was presented by Dani who will present the final details at the next vestry meeting.
3. The vestry approved the renewal of our computer security service, website subscription and pew bulletins.
4. The vestry voted to have David or Dani Mikel look into purchasing a new printer for the office.

More details about the vestry meeting can be found in the minutes posted on the bulletin board.



Great Big Thanks

For all the sweet little things you do.

Dear St. Mary's,

Susan and I cannot thank you all enough for all you have done for us in the last 17 years and especially your love and support and patience and hard work in the last year. I know that my illness, in these last years, has been a burden to the congregation, but you have held up well and I am proud and grateful for the people of St. Mary's.

The retirement party you gave us and the walking sticks are wonderful. I show off my walking stick at every occasion I can. My first Sunday of retirement I spent on the Nash Prairie greeting visitors for an open preserve day, and everyone loved my walking stick.

I hope that your future only gets better and that the person who comes to be your new pastor is a blessing to you as you have been to me.

Thank you again for all your generosity in our difficult days. You know I did not want to retire, but few get to go out on a high note. And because of your faith and love, I was able to retire on a high note. I believe that St. Mary's is prepared and is and will continue to do wonderful things in the community.

St. Mary's is an incredible congregation. We will miss you dearly, but will always be a part of us and in our hearts.

Love,

Peter and Susan

(The original card from Father Peter and Susan is on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall.)

FOR GOD
has not given us
a Spirit of fear
but of
POWER
LOVE
& self-discipline.
2 Timothy 1:7

PARISH REGISTER

In preparation for our new priest, Dani is working on updating St. Mary's Episcopal Church Registry Book. A form will be mailed to families whose information in the book is incomplete. If you receive a form, please try to complete the missing information if possible. The registry book also includes communicants who may not belong to our church or the Episcopal Denomination. It is still important that we have their information. We also need information from those who were members of St. Mary's but have left. Thank you in advance for helping to update our book.



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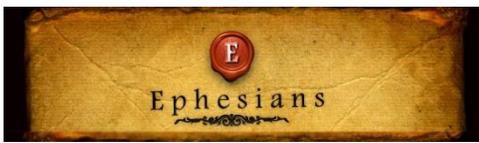
Parish Brunch

A huge thank you to Brian Lane for organizing and cooking our Parish Brunch on Mother's Day. The burgers and sausage were cooked to perfection with many delicious side dishes and desserts, so no one left hungry.



Hospitality

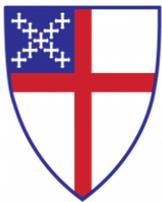
Don't forget to sign up to host our hospitality hour. The sign-up sheet is located at the entrance to the church. We have many summer dates available.



Ephesians Bible Study

(information from Karen Logue)

The book of Ephesians was written by the apostle Paul for the people of Ephesus. It was intended to strengthen the faith of the Christian believers by explaining the nature and purpose of the church, the body of Christ. Have you wondered what God has planned for St. Mary's and what your role in accomplishing this may be? Why not join us on Thursday nights at 6 pm as we study what God's intentions are for each of us as a unified body of believers.



What Do They Mean

In the Episcopal Church there are many specific terms. The **thingamajig** that the ushers carry up to the altar and give to the acolytes has a name as does the **pretty cover on the altar** or the **rope** around the acolytes' waist. Here is a list of terms in ordinary use in the Episcopal Church. Each week, new terms will be presented. The list is neither exhaustive nor definitive. See how many of these words you know.

Altar- a table of stone or wood on which the Holy Eucharist is offered. It is the most important single object in the liturgical church and is traditionally placed at the East end of the nave.

Altar Guild – an association of women and men in a local church organized under the direction of the rector to take care of altars, altar vessels, altar linens, vestments, baptismal font, etc, and to help arrange for the services.

Amen – Hebrew word meaning “so be it” It is said at the conclusion of most prayers.

Anglican Communion – the whole body of churches around the world originally deriving from the Church of England and in communion with it. All Anglicans use a Book of Common Prayer in the local language.

Message From Marvin Miller

Peace and Reconciliation

(From the book "Our Daily Bread")

Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?

Matthew 18:33

When the US Civil War ended in 1865, more than half a million soldiers lay dead, the economy was shattered, and people remained deeply divided politically. The observance of Mothers' Day in the United States began with two women's efforts for peace and reconciliation during this time of anguish. In 1870, Julia Ward Howe called for an International Mothers' Day on which women would unite in opposition to war in all its forms. A few years later, Anna Reeves Jarvis began her annual Mothers' Friendship Day in an effort to reunite families and neighbors alienated by the war.

There is always great suffering when friends and families are fractured and unwilling to forgive. The Gospel of Jesus Christ brings the promise of peace and reconciliation with God and with each other. When Peter asked Jesus how often he should forgive a brother who sinned against him, the Lord surprised everyone with His answer of "seventy times seven" (Matthew 18:21-22). Then He told an unforgettable story about a servant who had received forgiveness and failed to pass it on. (vv. 23-35). As God freely forgives us, so He requires that we extend what we have received to others.

With God's love and power, forgiveness is always possible.

Oh, what joy and peace we forfeit,
When forgiveness we withhold;
Fellowship with God is broken,
And the heart grows hard and cold.

Forgiveness is Christianity in action



The History of Saint Mary's Handmade Kneelers

The kneelers used in the church were made by a group of dedicated parishioners who spent countless hours on stitching the intricate and inspiring designs. The kneelers, each with their own special design and meaning, were dedicated on April 2, 2000. The following information was taken from the service bulletin of the Dedication Service.

COMMUNION RAIL KNEELERS SACRAMENTS

Shell represents Baptism

Stitched by Frances Anderson
Contributors: A.J. and Dani Mikel

Marriage Cross represents Marriage

Stitched by George Grosvenor

Chalice represents Eucharist

Stitched by Fran Neef
Contributors: Hubert and Bobby Wilson
In memory of Fran Neef

Ampulla represents Unction/Healing

Stitched by Cecile Johnson

Hands represent Confirmation

Stitched by Lilian Dickerman,
Vivian Fisher, and George Grosvenor

Dove represents Reconciliation

Stitched by George Grosvenor

Bible represents Ordination

Stitched by Linda Peck and
Venita Harang

*"And now these
three remain:
FAITH, HOPE & LOVE
But the greatest
of these is
Love."
1 CORINTHIANS 13:13*

Susan Conaty's Art Work on Display

Susan left for Chicago where one of her art pieces was chosen for an exhibit entitled "GrassRoots". This is an awesome achievement and well deserved. Congratulations, Susan.

GrassRoots

Group Exhibition juried by Deb Flagel and Pamela Callahan

May 5 - June 17, 2017 | Opening Reception: Friday, May 5 | 6-8 p.m.

CHICAGO —Woman Made Gallery (WGM) is proud to present the exhibition 'GrassRoots,' an exploration of environment. Simultaneously WGM is hosting 'Reunion I,' the first of two group exhibitions featuring WGM artist members in celebration of WGM's 25th Anniversary year.

'GrassRoots,' juried by WGM Executive Director, Deb Flagel, and former WGM Associate Director, Pamela Callahan, includes artworks in all media that expand the definitions of environment and connection. Via painting, photography, video, mixed media and sculpture, 49 artists present ideas of the world and our place in it. Themes explored are vast and intimate spaces, flux and order, ethereal and natural forces, identity, and the systems that define, alter, and form our world(s).

GrassRoots artists include: Colette Wright Adams, Hana L. Anderson, Sharon Bladholm, Cat Bowyer, Jan Brandt, Ruth Burke, Susan Conaty, Michele Corazzo, Renee Couture, Jenni Dickens, Sonja Donnelly, Dorit Jordan Dotan, Lindsey Dunnagan, Jennifer Eicher, Laura Fisher, Sue Goldsmith, Michelle Graves, Amanda E. Gross, Shirley Guay, Karen Gubitz, Pat Guizzetti, Michal Hall, Laurel Hoffer, Lydia Hunn, Kristina Knowski, Rosalie Koldan, Dorothy Krause, Alinta Krauth, Mehves Lelic, Casey Lowry, Bethan McFadden, Jenn Mishler, Al-Qawi Nanavati, Leah Oates, Linnea Pergola, Leyla Puskar, Alice Revelski, Jennifer Rich, Laura Phelps Rogers, Farah Salem, Sabine Senft, Beth Shadur, Amanda VanValkenburg, Tali Weinberg, Cynthia Weiss, Georgia Lang Weithe, Lisa Whiting, Chai Wolfman, and Xiaoqing Zhu.

© Susan Conaty

Yellow Indiangrass, November 2013
acrylic and grass
10 x 10 in.

I am not a trained artist. I started coloring and Zentangles when I started having anxiety attacks after my husband was diagnosed with brain cancer. This led me to art journal books and then to painting on canvas. I am a volunteer land steward for a Gulf Coast Tallgrass Prairie in Texas owned by the Nature Conservancy. I find my peace and home on the Nash Prairie, and I started using grasses in my paintings. Gluing the grasses down on the

canvas and then painting over the top.



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. small bookcase for book exchange library
2. garden statuary for butterfly garden
3. photo albums with individual sleeves for achieving project
4. clipboards and pencil pouches with holes to go in binders for the children

Camp Allen Event



There are many events that take place at Camp Allen. 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.

Upcoming events in June and July

June 2 – 3: Man Camp

July 28 – 30: Summer Camp for Moms



St. Mary's Website

David Mikel has agreed to be our technology advisor and help with the designing and updating of the St. Mary's Website. You can check it out by going to stmaryswestcolumbia.org. One of the sections includes pictures of different parish activities. If you have pictures you would like included on our website, send them to the church email at stmaryswc@centurylink.net. The site is a continuous work in progress, so if there is anything you would like to see added, please let Dani know. Please check the site, and if you see anything wrong or that does not appear on your phone or computer, please let Dani or David know. We want visitors to our site to see the specialness of St. Mary's.



Join the Altar Guild

At present, there are only 4 members of the Altar Guild. It only requires 15 – 20 minutes on Saturday to set up the altar and then clear the altar after the service on Sunday. On Sunday, several people help with this task. You also would clean the linen if needed. There are written instructions and 4 others who are willing to guide you. If you would be interested in joining this group please let Charlotte or Dani know.

Reesie Cantrell received the “End of Year Citizenship” award and the “Honor Roll for the Year” award at the West Columbia Elementary School Award Ceremony. She also was elected Student Council Historian for the 2017-18 school year.

Piper Roddy received an award for the A/B Honor Roll and was one of the top 5 readers for 6th grade at West Columbia Elementary.

Aaron Mikel made the Superintendent Honor Roll for the 2nd semester at Sweeny High School.

Haley Cantrell won first place with her twirling duet partner at the West Columbia Elementary Talent Show. At the West Columbia Elementary Award Ceremony, she received the Principal’s Honor Roll for the year, the Presidential Award, and the “Zero Conduct for the Year” award.

Brayze Schill made the A honor roll for the 2016-17 school year at West Columbia Elementary.

Maddie Lane was elected senior class secretary, NHS secretary, and student body secretary at Columbia High School. She was also on the A honor roll for the 2016-17 school year.

Ashley Weisinger graduated from kindergarten at West Columbia Elementary.

Braylee Schill made the A honor roll for the 2016-17 school year. At the West Columbia Elementary Award Ceremony she received an award for 0 conduct marks and an “Outstanding Effort” award.

Abigail Roddy graduated from Pre-K at West Columbia Elementary.

Trace Roddy completed his T-Ball season with the Giants.

Ally Lane was elected sophomore class vice president for the 2017-18 school year at Columbia High School. She also was on the A honor roll for the 2016-17 school year.



DATES TO REMEMBER

- June 1 – Bible Study (6:00 pm)
- June 4 – Pentecost Birthday Celebration
- June 4 – Brotherhood (7:30 am)
- June 6 – DOK (9:30 am)
- June 8 – Bible Study (6:00 pm)
- June 11 – Trinity Sunday
The Reverend Canon Ryan
- June 15 – Bible Study (6:00 pm)
- June 18 – Brotherhood (7:30 am)
- June 18 – Vestry Meeting
- June 22 – Bible Study (6:00 pm)
- June 29 – Bible Study (6:00 pm)

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Carol Jones – June 21

Jennifer Wallace – June 26



Sr. Warden **Karen Logue**
(kklogue@msn.com)

Jr. Warden **Dan Roddy**
(dkroddy@earthlink.net)

Clerk **Marvin Miller**
(mgminspections@earthlink.net)

Treasurer **Dani Mikel**
(danimikel87@yahoo.com)

Organist **Kathy Molnar**

Church (stmaryswc@centurylink.net)

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

AJ & Dani Mikel – June 6

Jason & Rachel Davidson – June 9

Adam & Jennifer Schill – June 12

Marvin & Theata Miller – June 13

George & Doris Grosvenor – June 16

Craig & Jennifer Landreneau – June 23