



The Bells of St. Mary's- June Edition

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Seasons change! And we are really experiencing a massive change of seasons right now! St. Mary's is *still* continuing to welcome me, your new rector, into your lives and hearts and *still* willing to be open to what changes that may entail! St. Mary's just celebrated the graduation of five of our high school seniors on Pentecost Sunday – Ben Anderson, Bradley Gray, Maddie Lane, Aaron Mikel, and Hunter Weisinger. Two more life season changes took place on Pentecost as well – the baptisms of Hannah Michelle Hussey and Travis James Weisinger. And we all are entering into the glorious days of summer with our thermometer's finally hitting the 90s, the school year wrapping up, and vacation plans galore!

But the Church also is changing seasons. Since the Church began a new year with Advent on December 3rd, we have been experiencing the liturgical "high's" of Christmas, Epiphany, Ash Wednesday, Lent, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Sunday, Ascension, Pentecost, and finally Trinity Sunday. Now we enter the longest season of the church year – the Season after Pentecost, or as it is sometimes known, "Ordinary Time."

What a good adjective to describe this long liturgical season, "ordinary." For much of our lives are lived in ordinary time, seasons of our lives where we are just in a routine of work, meals, raising children and hustling them to their activities, taking care of the house, vacations, and more work. The high moments – graduations, new jobs, promotions, new home, birth of a child or grandchild, marriage, etc. – cycle in and around the seasons of our lives. But most of our lives are lived in the ordinary times. Just like the seeds planted each spring by our farmers, the ordinary time of summer is when growth occurs. I find it is in the ordinary time that, in the fertile soil of my life, new growth occurs...*if I stay open and aware to God's spirit working in and around me...*rather than just ride along and get lulled into complacency with the routine that life can sometimes become.

Joan Chittister points out that there is nothing "ordinary" about Ordinary Time. She sees this season as "the extraordinary period of coming to see the world through the eyes of Jesus. It is the period when we determine how we ourselves will act from now on." During the season of Ordinary Time, we hear more about Jesus' ministry in Judea. This is the season where we read the parables of Jesus, those teaching stories whose ancient imagery and language is sometimes confusing to us but, boy, when we "get" what Jesus is trying to teach us, they are challenging to the way we live our lives. Nothin' *ordinary* going on during this season in the Church!

I pray that you are able to embrace the simplicity of this season...yet pay attention to how God may be challenging you to move more and more out of your "ordinary" and into the "extraordinary" lives God has laid out for each of us.

Blessings,
Sharron



Summer Parish Dinners!

Hurray! We agreed to continue our monthly Parish Dinners through the summer...but with a few twists. Since we won't have to worry about time conflicts with our Wednesday evening Youth and Children Formation during the summer, we will push back the beginning of our meals to 5:30. We will also add a little fun element over the next three months. Our June dinner will be a "Build your Own Sub" followed by a game night for all ages. We might do a big Bingo game for everyone....or have different games set up on tables that may interest different ages. Stay tuned for the sign-up sheet for our June dinner, and put all these dates on your calendars!

June 20th @ 5:30 – Build your Own Sub and "Game Night"

July 18th @ 5:30 – Meal and Fun to be determined

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



KNOW YOUR HYMNS!

Know Your Hymns! for June 10th - June 24th

As we move into the season of Pentecost, also known as "Ordinary Time," themes of our hymns range from the Holy Spirit, the Trinity, the Church, and Jesus. But these hymns are far from ordinary! Some of these hymns we have sung in the Easter season; others, we have sung hymns to the same tune but with different words. And we even have a few that may be new to you! Expand your hymn repertoire...and let us sing joyfully to the Lord!

Sunday, June 3 – Said Morning Prayer due to Rector's and Organist's Vacations! Save your chops for next week!

Hymns scheduled for Sunday, June 10:

Opening Hymn – Hymnal #209 *We walk by faith*

You know this tune – but do you know these words??

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

Gospel Hymn – Hymnal #533 *How wondrous and great thy works, God of praise!*

Another familiar tune...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e3P0rNOqhLE>

Offertory – Hymnal #488 *Be thou my vision*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DtDiX2BgC9A>

Communion Hymn – Hymnal #178 *Alleluia, alleluia!*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DyPYJtxu8cE>

Closing Hymn – Hymnal #620 *Jerusalem, my happy home*

You know this tune...it's what we sing the Sanctus to each Eucharist service! What's a Sanctus?? It's the hymn we sing in the middle of the Eucharistic Prayer that begins, "Holy, Holy, Holy..."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uhtc4ocJmfQ>

Hymns scheduled for Sunday, June 17:

Opening Hymn – Hymnal #524 I love thy kingdom, Lord

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CiJ3mOXYrR4>

Gospel Hymn – Hymnal #302 Father, we thank thee who hast planted

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Lp2YixpLX0>

Offertory – Hymnal #7 Christ, whose glory fills the skies

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gPU7OwmKjyo>

Communion Hymn – Hymnal #711 Seek ye first

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xHfzAJS7IRc>

Closing Hymn – Hymnal #525 The Church's one foundation

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S_sk13Q6zGQ

Hymns scheduled for Sunday, June 24:

Opening Hymn – Hymnal #608 Eternal Father, strong to save

Yes, this is the Naval Hymn...but it is a hymn first of all, with slight wording differences! This hymn will fit with the scripture readings today – can you guess what the gospel story will be about?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7o4Ltq_Dz8

Gospel Hymn – Hymnal #559 Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OXmJV4qUQzo>

Offertory – Hymnal #410 Praise, my soul, the King of heaven

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sx1eMwIDFb8>

Communion Hymn – Hymnal #671 Amazing grace!

Come on, you know this one!!!

Closing Hymn – Hymnal #637 How firm a foundation

Modern, upbeat version!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5UvBH9IPU1I>



Episcopal Night at the Ballpark

We still have a few tickets left for the July 13th ballgame as the Astros take on the Detroit Tigers at Minute Maid Ballpark. This year our seats are much better than last year's centerfield tickets. We are on the 3rd base line, so bring your mitts, wear your St. Mary's T-shirt and don't forget your camera as we join Episcopalians across the diocese for Friday night fireworks and lots of fun rooting on our World Champion Astros to another victory! Tickets are \$36 and you must sign up by June 13th, so don't delay. The sign-up sheet for tickets and T-shirts (optional) is located by the door in the Fellowship Hall. If you would like to attend but need a ride or would like to carpool, please see Dani or Karen.



Summer Fine Arts Camp

The Summer Fine Arts Camp will be held June 25 - 29 at St. John the Divine in Houston. According to their brochure, "children will experience professional storytelling and exceptional art projects led by a professional artist as well as extraordinary singing directed by faculty from the Richards Institute of Education and Research." The camp is for children ages 3 to 11. St. Mary's will provide 2/3's of the cost of registration for each child. If you are interested in learning more about this great opportunity for your child, please contact Sharron or Dani.



Pentecost Sunday

On Pentecost Sunday, we welcomed Hannah Michelle Hussey and Travis James Weisinger into membership in God's Church and St. Mary's as they received the sacrament of Baptism. We also honored Maddie Lane, Hunter Weisinger, Ben Anderson, Bradley Gray, and Aaron Mikel as they prepared for their graduation from Columbia High School and Sweeny High School.



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 those in need are very important and we do not want to leave anyone out, but prayers for healing do not need to continue for anyone who is doing well.



Election of a New Bishop Suffragan

Please pray for this process.

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: We thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ, and for the witness of your whole church in his name. We thank you for your Holy Spirit, empowering us for ministry. Guide the hearts and minds of those who shall choose a Bishop Suffragan for the Diocese of Texas and those who will respond to the call, that we may receive a faithful pastor who will care for your people and glorify your name. May our discernment transform our spirits and draw us closer to you, Almighty God; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

General Convention is coming to the Diocese of Texas!

Help us show our Texas hospitality and meet people from all over the country and the world! Many slots have already been filled, but we do still have more than 300 shifts waiting for just the right person. You can sign up directly at

<http://bit.ly/GenConReg2018> (case sensitive). You can check it out on Facebook

at www.facebook.com/general.convention.2018.volunteers. We are looking forward to seeing you in Austin in July!



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 May are: soft covered books, magazines, white socks, undershirts - plain with no tag, nail scrub brush, flip flops for the shower, and Chap Stick with sunblock. They will also accept cash donations.



Community Assistance

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



News from the Vestry

The vestry met Monday, May 21, 2018.

Rector Report

Sharron gave the rector report detailing her activities from April 21st to May 18th..

Senior Warden's Report: Karen Logue

Karen is continuing her weekly meetings with Sharron and going over the 90-day transition plan. She discussed the possibility of a newcomers' ministry in the fall. She and Sharron will map out a stewardship plan this summer.

Junior Warden's Report: Andrea Anderson

Several projects are continuing: the conversion of the lights, the cleaning of the extra lot, trimming the trees and shrubs, and cleaning windows, and installing new blinds in the windows facing the walkway. Extensive electrical work will begin the last week of May. A new termite contract was approved.

Discipleship Report

Sharron, Dani, and Kathy met to go over the music and liturgy for the first part of Pentecost. Sharron presented several projects for the summer: usher guidelines, acolyte customary, lector training, and planning Christian Formation programming for the fall. The next parish dinner will be June 20th with "Build Your Own" subs and games.

Mission Report

Sharron met with Elaine Walters, Coordinator of Community In Schools for West Columbia Elementary, to discuss ways St. Mary's can assist the school. Sharron will be meeting with the mayor of West Columbia at a later date. The vestry discussed t-shirts for St. Mary's and the church signs throughout the community.

Other Business

Sharron is continuing to look for a graphic artist to design our logo.

Calendar

Sharron will be on vacation from May 31st to June 12th.

The next three vestry meetings will be at 3:30 on June 25th, July 23rd, and August 27th.

The next meeting will be Monday, June 25th at 3:30.

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



Bible Study

Bible Study Our Thursday night Bible Study continues through the summer as we study the Book of John. It's never too late to join us at 6pm each Thursday in the Fellowship Hall.

Message from Marvin Miller

Of Pain and Gain

(From the book "Our Daily Bread")

**Many sorrows shall be to the wicked, but he who trusts
in the Lord, mercy shall surround him. Psalm 32-10**

During summer training camp, the coaches on one football team wore T-shirts intended to urge their players to exert maximum effort. The T-shirts bore the motto "Each day you must choose: The pain of discipline or the pain of regret."

Discipline is tough—and something we may try to avoid. But in sports and in life, short term pain is often the only path to long-term gain. In the heat of battle it is too late to prepare. Either you are ready for the challenges of life or you will be haunted by the "what ifs", "if onlys", and "I should'ves" that accompany the failure to be prepared. That's the pain of regret.

One source defines regret as "an intelligent and emotional dislike for personal past acts and behaviors". It's painful to look back at our choices through the lens of regret and feel the weight of our failures. This was the case for the psalmist. After a personal episode of sin and failure, he wrote: "Many sorrows shall be to the wicked; but he who trusts in the Lord, mercy shall surround him". In the clarity of hindsight, he saw the wisdom of a life that strives to honor the Lord, a life that does not need to be marked by regret.

May our choices today not result in regret, but rather be wise and God-honoring.

In you, O Lord, we take delight,
Our every need you can supply,
We love to do what's true and right,
So, Lord, on you we will rely.

Present choices determine future rewards.



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.

Aumbry: a recess or cupboard in the sanctuary in which the Blessed Sacrament is reserved. It is marked by a candle which burns day and night.

Oblators: the people who bring the wine and bread forward to be blessed for the Eucharist

Parish Hall: the large attached building next to the church that contains a kitchen and a hall where many parish events and dinners are held

The Peace: the point in the liturgy when the members of the congregation, the clergy, and all who serve greet each other in the name of Christ



Braylee Schill made the A honor roll for the year at West Columbia Elementary. She was elected Historian for the 2018-2019 Student Council.

Maddie Lane, Hunter Weisinger, Brad Gray, and Ben Anderson graduated from Columbia High School.

Aaron Mikel graduated from Sweeny High School.

Brayze Schill made the A Honor Roll for West Brazos Jr. High and received the Excellence Award for Health.

Reesie Cantrell received the Principal's Award and made the A Honor Roll for the year at West Columbia Elementary School.

At the Columbia High School award ceremony, Maddie Lane received \$9500 in scholarships, a service cord, a cord for attending Girls' State, a cord and medal for being an honor graduate, the Mirabeau B. Lamar medal, and the Les Dix Award.

Ashlie Weisinger received the Excellence Award for Reading and the Excellence Award for Math at West Columbia Elementary.

Aaron Mikel received the All State Academic Award for football, the service cord, the honor graduate cord, the 30 college hours cord, two scholarships, and two grants.

Allly Lane was inducted into PALS.

Haley Cantrell received the Excellence Award for Reading and the Teen Leadership Award from West Brazos Jr. High.



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.

- Brayze Schill, Braylee Schill, Haley Cantrell, Reesie Cantrell, and Piper Roddy will be attending the Camp Allen summer program from June 3rd to June 9th. Please keep them in your prayers.
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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 for the Jr. High Christian Formation room.



A Great Big Thank You

Thank you to Jennifer and Adam Schill, and Tommy and Holly Cantrell for providing meals for our Wednesday night Christian Formation classes.

Thank you to the Brotherhood and DOK for the hotdogs, hamburgers, and Ice cream at our Parish Dinner.



Don't Forget

If you need help from the church between May 31st and June 7th, please contact our Jr. Warden, Andrea Anderson.

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

May 31st - June 12th - Sharron is on vacation

May 31st - June 7th - Dani is on vacation

June 3 - Morning Prayer (9:00 am)

June 5 - DOK Meeting (9:30 am)

June 7 - Bible Study (6:00 pm)

June 10 - Brotherhood (7:30 am) &
Sunday Service with The Rev. Frances and guest
organist, Anthony (9:00 am)

June 12 - Episcopal Night at the Astros money is due
- give to Karen Logue

June 14 - Bible Study (6:00 pm)

June 17 - Sunday service (9:00 am)

June 20 - Parish Dinner and Game Night
(5:30 pm)

June 21 - Bible Study (6:00 pm)

June 24 - Brotherhood (7:30 am)
Sunday Service (9:00 am)

June 28 - Bible Study (6:00 pm)

June Birthdays

Carol Jones - June 21

June 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

Changes in Church Directory

St. Mary's Leadership

Rector: The Reverend Sharron Cox

Sr. Warden: Karen Logue

Jr. Warden: Andrea Anderson

Clerk/Treasurer: Dani Mikel

Charlotte Blount

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.