

# The Bells of St. Mary's

## June Edition

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



Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness...God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. *Genesis 1:16, 31*

Theologians and Biblical scholars have spent several millennia attempting to explain how humans reflect the likeness of God. Is it a physical likeness? Or a spiritual likeness? Or maybe it is because, unlike other members of creation, humans have an intellect or consciousness.

What gets missed in this unanswerable debate is the *universality* of this “likeness.” All humans are created in the image of God. Not just some. Not just those who believe a certain way, act a certain way, look a certain way. All humankind is created in the image of God. And it seems that God delights in every human, having endowed humankind with such incredible diversity.

Why is it so hard for us to believe this? Why is it so hard for us to live this?

Our country has erupted over the last week. Perhaps it is because we have been pent up for the last three months, social distancing and self-quarantining to keep ourselves and others safe. Perhaps it is because others’ voices and fears have been dismissed for too long. Perhaps some have painted others created in the image of God into boxes for too long.

Yes, it could be all these things and more. For, fundamentally, we are witnessing a failure to love on multiple levels. To love as God loves...extravagantly. Without reservation, without assessment of worthiness.

Yes, we should pray. Yes, we should pray for our leaders. Yes, we should pray that the peaceful voices will be heard. Yes, we should pray protection from all who take advantage of discord to sow seeds of anarchy and terror. Yes, we should pray for change to come.

But our baptismal vows require us to do more than pray. We are called to “seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbor as ourselves.” We are to “strive for

justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being.” (*Book of Common Prayer*, 305)

There’s that word again, “all.” And its partner, “every.”

I don’t have any answers for you. There are smarter people than me running this country, this state, and our community. But I do know one thing. I answer first to God. And so I need to learn to love all people who are created in the image of God better. And that means listening to them, walking with them, recognizing and promoting their value to be equal to that of my own.

Oh how I wish that the way in which humans were created in the image of God was by our ability to love...

God’s peace and mercy,



## Service in the Church

Rev. Sharron has contacted many of St. Mary's parishioners and discussed what to expect when we return to face to face service. There are several things that must be in place, which are being worked on now. The projected date for returning to our church building is June 21st, although it could change. Please watch your emails for up-to-date information.

## Watch Out for Possible Scam

As we continue to attempt to return back to our “normal” lives there are lots of scams to be on the look-out for, some might even be masquerading as coming from St. Mary's office or the rector. You will never be asked to send the church or rector your credit card information or bank account information over the internet.

If you receive an email from the church asking this information or any email from the church that looks suspicious, please do not respond to it. Contact the church office directly by phone or by sending a separate email message.

## **Safeguarding God's People and God's Children**

As a small church with big plans the need for everyone's involvement is crucial. We need to be prepared when called to serve. One way to be prepared is to be certified in Safeguarding God's People and Safeguarding God's Children.

Safeguarding God's People (SGP) certification and Safeguarding God's Children (SGC) certification are, for now, available virtually (online). SGP is scheduled for 2 and a half hours and SGC is scheduled for 3 hours, although, they may not last that long. If you can only take one, Safeguarding God's Children is more important, since they have changed the requirements of who must have it.

If you are interested in either or both trainings or have questions, please contact Dani Mikel, and she will get you started.

## **Quarterly Financial Reports**

The second quarter financial reports will be available the first two weeks of July. 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 if you would like your quarterly financial report for the 1st and 2nd quarters by email or by postal service. You can contact the office by email ([stmaryswc@centurylink.net](mailto:stmaryswc@centurylink.net)) or phone (979-345-3456).

## **Forward Day by Day**

The new Forward Day by Day: Daily Devotions for Disciples for the months of May through July are available. Since they will not be put in the Narthex or Parish Hall, if you usually pick up a copy or would like one, please let the office know by email ([stmaryswc@centurylink.net](mailto:stmaryswc@centurylink.net)) or calling (979-345-3456) and it will be delivered to you. These books are provided by the Daughters of the King and Brotherhood of St. Andrew.



## **Community Assistance**

In May, we made several donations to the food pantry at Iglesia Centro Cristiano.

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, May 17, 2020.

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

She also went over the EDOT's requirements for returning to in-person worship. She gathered input from the vestry for a plan that must be submitted and approved by Bishop Ryan before services can resume.

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

Marvin did not have anything to report.

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

Charlotte stated that the A/C in the offices is not working properly. The restroom renovation is going well. Dan and Ed treated for ants and sprayed Roundup where necessary.

A copy of the vestry minutes will be placed on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall once approved at the June meeting. The next Vestry meeting is Sunday, June 28th at 11:00 a.m.



## Prayer List and Prayer Request

The Prayer List for St. Mary's will be emailed weekly. The email is updated weekly and includes those needing healing (physically, mentally, spiritually), those in the military, and those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries. Please remember to keep these people in your prayers.

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.

## **Message from Marvin Miller**

### **Sometimes God Uses Regular People**

I was driving home from a meeting this evening about 5, stuck in traffic on Colorado Blvd., and the car started to choke and splutter and die - I barely managed to coast, cursing, into a gas station, glad only that I would not be blocking traffic and would have a somewhat warm spot to wait for the tow truck. It wouldn't even turn over. Before I could make the call, I saw a woman walking out of the "quickie mart" building, and it looked like she slipped on some ice and fell into a Gas pump, so I got out to see if she was okay.

When I got there, it looked more like she had been overcome by sobs than that she had fallen; she was a young woman who looked really haggard with dark circles under her eyes. She dropped something as I helped her up, and I picked it up to give it to her. It was a nickel.

At that moment, everything came into focus for me: the crying woman, the ancient Suburban crammed full of stuff with 3 kids in the back (1 in a car seat), and the gas pump reading \$4.95.

I asked her if she was okay and if she needed help, and she just kept saying "don't want my kids to see me crying," so we stood on the other side of the pump from her car. She said she was driving to California and that things were very hard for her right now. So I asked, "And you were praying?" That made her back away from me a little, but I assured her I was not a crazy person and said, "He heard you, and He sent me"

I took out my card and swiped it through the card reader on the pump so she could fill up her car completely, and while it was fueling, walked to the next door McDonald's and bought 2 big bags of food, some gift certificates for more, and a big cup of coffee. She gave the food to the kids in the car, who attacked it like wolves, and we stood by the pump eating fries and talking a little.

She told me her name, and that she lived in Kansas City. Her boyfriend left 2 months ago and she had not been able to make ends meet. She knew she wouldn't have money to pay rent Jan 1, and finally in desperation had finally called her parents, with whom she had not spoken in about 5 years. They lived in California and said she could come live with them and try to get on her feet there.

So she packed up everything she owned in the car. She told the kids they were going to California for Christmas, but not that they were going to live there.

I gave her my gloves, a little hug and said a quick prayer with her for safety on the road. As I was walking over to my car, she said, "So, are you like an angel or something?"

This definitely made me cry. I said, "Sweetie, at this time of year angels are really busy, so sometimes God uses regular people."

It was so incredible to be a part of someone else's miracle. And of course, you guessed it, when I got in my car it started right away and got me home with no problem. I'll put it in the shop tomorrow to check, but I suspect the mechanic won't find anything wrong.

Sometimes the angels fly close enough to you that you can hear the flutter of their wings...

- Anonymous

Wendy Hankins, Holly Cantrell, Colleen Matocha, and Shyanne Roddy completed a unique year of teaching, particularly the last 3 months amid COVID19. You are a true inspiration to your students.

Luke Davidson, Jasey Hussey, Trace Roddy, Abigail Roddy, Ashlie Weisinger, Kendy Hankins, Braylee Schill, Reesie Cantrell, Haley Cantrell, Piper Roddy, Brayze Schill, Kip Olson, Ally Lane, Aaron Mikel, and Maddie Lane completed a difficult and unusual semester with online classes. Your perseverance, commitment, and positiveness were amazing.

Andrea Anderson earned her Trauma Certified Registered Nurse certification from the Board of Certification for Emergency Nursing.

Ally Lane graduated magna cum laude from Columbia High School with National Honor Society recognition, Service Cord, and Brazosport College Dual Credit Cord. She also received the Prosperity Bank Scholarship. She will attend Texas A&M University in the fall.

Kip Olson graduated magna cum laude from both Robert Turner High School in Pearland and Alvin Community College with an Associates of Arts/General Studies. He will attend Lamar University in the fall.

Braylee Schill was awarded the Highest Average in Writing for the year at West Brazos Jr. High. She also finished the year with all A's.

Luke Davidson graduated kindergarten with all A's at Westside Elementary in Angleton.

Abigail Roddy was awarded Academic Achievement for AB Honor Roll, Wonderful Wildcatter for conduct, and Top 5 in Second Grade Science for the year at West Columbia Elementary.

Maddie Lane has completed enough college hours at Texas A&M University to order her Aggie ring.

Trace Roddy was awarded Academic Achievement for I-Ready and Wonderful Wildcatter for conduct at West Columbia Elementary.

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



## 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)



### 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:

- Karen Logue, Maddie Lane, Shyanne Roddy, Andrea Anderson, and Colleen Matocha for reading the scriptures during our Facebook Live services in May.
- Karen Logue and Dani Mikel for providing scripture reading handouts for the food pantry at Iglesia Centro Cristiano.
- Dan Roddy for supervising the construction of the new bathrooms and rector's office.
- Marvin Miller, Gwynne Olson, and Charlotte Blount for their continued work and dedication to St. Mary's as members of our vestry during this difficult time.
- Ed Logue and Dan Roddy for taking care of our church grounds by spraying the ant beds and removing the weeds on the sidewalks.

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



## **Dates to Remember**

**Sundays: Liturgy of the Word on St. Mary's  
Facebook Live at 9:00 a.m.**

**Wednesdays: Compline on St. Mary's  
Facebook Live at 8:00 p.m.**

**June 21st: Possible return to worship in  
the church at 9:00 a.m. (Please keep  
checking emails for updates.)**

**June 28th: Vestry Meeting at 11:00 a.m.**

## **June Birthdays**

**Carol Jones - June 21**

**John Cole - June 29**

## **June Anniversaries**

**Dani and A.J. Mikel - June 6**

**Rachel and Jason Davidson - June 9**

**Wendy and Kurt Hankins - June 10**

**Jennifer and Adam Schill - June 12**

**Theata and Marvin Miller - June 13**

**Doris and George Grosvenor - June 16**

**St. Mary's Leadership  
Rector  
The Reverend Sharron Cox**

**Vestry  
Sr. Warden: Marvin Miller  
Jr. Warden: Charlotte Blount  
Clerk: Gwynne Olson**

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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.