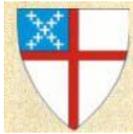


March 2018



St. Mary's Episcopal Church

"Celebrating God's Love Found in The Word, People and Creation"



The Bells of St. Mary's



Message from
The Reverend Sharron Cox



I have never received such a warm welcome anywhere as I did from St. Mary's last week! From visits with food and offers of help with putting together bookshelves, I felt embraced by this wonderful parish even before I entered the Nave on **Sunday** morning! And then to see a warm crowd in the pews and coffee hour...thank you so much!

As I shared with you on **Sunday**, I am excited to see where God wants to lead St. Mary's...and I am so grateful that all of you will be riding in that raft along with me!

Blessings,
Sharron



Welcome Sharron

Reverend Sharron Cox, officially celebrated Eucharist as Saint Mary's new rector this past Sunday, February 25th. A reception in her honor was held after the service in the Fellowship Hall where she was welcomed and greeted by parishioners. As a courtesy to Sharron, please remember to wear your name tag each Sunday as she begins to get to know each of us. The tags are located at the entrance of the church.



Canterbury Cathedral Choir

One rich aspect of being an Episcopalian is our tradition's heritage of liturgical chant and choral music. One of the oldest and most renown Anglican choirs is the Canterbury Cathedral Choir which will celebrate its 600th anniversary in 2020. Consisting of both adults and boys between the ages of 8 and 13 years old, the Canterbury Cathedral Choir spans hundreds of years of choral history to share music with worshipers and audiences of today.

Can't get to England to hear this angelic music? You are in luck! The Canterbury Cathedral Choir will be performing for one night only at The Church of St. John the Divine in Houston on April 6, 2018. You will need to reserve your ticket online by going to: <http://www.sjd.org/events/canterbury-cathedral-choir-concert/135/1522990800/> .

General admission tickets are available for \$15, tickets for those with a student ID are \$10, and children 10 years and under are \$5.

Please notify the Church Office once you have made your reservations if you would like to share a ride – St. Mary's will organize a caravan for those interested in carpooling together and perhaps going to dinner prior to the concert! No internet access? Contact St. Mary's Church Office with your credit card number, and we will be happy to help you order your ticket!



Back by Popular Demand

Our next Parish Dinner will be held on Wednesday, March 21st at 5:00 pm. Due to the rave reviews Marvin received for his Dutch Oven Lasagna, he has kindly agreed to an encore presentation. You're our hero Marvin! Bring a side dish or dessert if you are so inclined. Garlic bread and salad will be provided. Honestly folks....this is a Parish Dinner you will not want to miss!



Lenten Study

The response has been overwhelming for our Lenten Bible Study. Our study focuses on Living Well Through Lent by Loving with all your Heart, Soul, Strength and Mind. There are two days to choose from; a luncheon study on Tuesday at 11:00 am and an evening study on Wednesday's beginning at 6:30 pm. The first session of each study was very inspiring and thought provoking. There is still room for more, so If you are interested please contact Karen or the church office.



Rees Sweeny

The funeral services for Rees Sweeny will be Saturday, March 17th at 10:00 am at St. Mary's Episcopal Church with the Committal of Ashes to follow in Sweeny. His niece, Jennifer (Jenny) Hamlin, will be attending and would like to meet Rees' church family and friends. There will be a small reception in the parish hall prior to the funeral. More details will be sent out once everything is finalized. Jenny has also asked for people who knew Rees to jot down a memory of him on a small card. She would like to know more about her uncle's life in Sweeny. There will be cards available for you to take at the entrance of the church beginning this Sunday. Give to the departed eternal rest and let light perpetual shine upon them.



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 March are: disposable razors, non-aerosol shaving cream (gel), AA and AAA batteries, activity books such as crossword puzzles, word search, Sadako, etc., playing cards. They will also accept cash donations.



Please welcome our newest member to St. Mary's

We are pleased to welcome Ms. Jennifer Bridges as our newest St. Mary's member.

Jennifer is a long time West

Columbia resident. Raised Baptist she attended and was baptized at First Baptist of West Columbia. She later attended Christ Church Cathedral in Houston and was confirmed there in November of 2012. Jennifer recently attended the Diocesan Council in Waco as a St. Mary's delegate and found the experience very interesting. She particularly liked seeing what went on behind the scenes and was impressed with how spirit led, biblical and democratic the process was.

WELCOME Jennifer!

Easter Lilies and Trip to Brookwood

We are now accepting donations for the Easter Lilies that will be placed in the church for our Easter service. If you would like to make a donation, envelopes will be available at the entrance to the church and can be placed in the offertory plate any Sunday before Easter. Donations can also be mailed to or dropped off at the church office.

The lilies are once again being purchased at Brookwood, so who is up for another day of lunch and shopping? We will leave at 9:00 on Wednesday, March 28th, so if you would like to attend, please let Dani know this week so she can make the initial reservations. Invite your friends and let's have a great **Ladies Day Out**.

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday – March 25th

The Palm Sunday service will begin at 9:00 in the Prayer Garden beside the church. Following the Liturgy of the Palms, the congregation will process into the church.

Maundy Thursday – March 29th

The service will begin at 6:00. Maundy Thursday commemorates the first Eucharist, The Last Supper, when Jesus met with his disciples the day before he was to be crucified. Please come and celebrate this special Eucharist led by Reverend Sharron Cox as we remember the last days of our Lord Jesus Christ. At the end of the service, the altar guild will strip the altar and prepare it for Good Friday.

Good Friday – March 30th

The service will begin at noon. Good Friday is the day on which the church commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus, the day when our Lord Jesus Christ suffered “death upon the cross so that we might be saved and become heirs with him of everlasting life.” The liturgy of the day includes John’s account of the Passion gospel, a solemn form of intercession known as the solemn collects, and devotions before the cross. The Eucharist is not celebrated, but Holy Communion will be administered from the reserved sacrament.

(Book of Common Prayer and episcopalchurch.org)



Flowering of the Cross

Article by Michael K. Marsh / May 2, 2014

One of the great Easter traditions is the flowering of the cross. People bring and place colorful fresh flowers on a drab wooden cross. What's behind this? Is it just a pretty decoration? Well, it does look beautiful but there are also some beautiful traditions and meanings associated with the flowering of the cross. The sixth century hymn (#166) we sing on Good Friday celebrates this beauty with these words:

“Faithful cross! Above all other, one and only noble tree!

None in foliage, none in blossom, none in fruit they peer may be.”

The tree of life in the Garden of Eden has often been seen as a prefiguring of the cross. Some legends even say that the wood of Christ's cross came from the tree of life or from a tree that grew from seeds of the tree of life. There is another legend that says at Christ's death the cross burst into blooming flowers. Art work from the sixth century shows a flowering cross.

I don't know if any of this really happened but I know it all to be true. The point in all this is that the cross of Christ is the new tree of life and every cross now flowers with new life. Death has been defeated and Christ is risen. Alleluia!



Easter Alleluia, Christ is Risen. The Lord is Risen Indeed Alleluia

Our Easter service, the celebration of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, will begin at 9:00 on Easter Sunday, April 1st. Please bring flowers for the traditional flowering of the cross. There will be a special children's lesson involving all the youth. Following the service we will have hospitality in the parish hall and our Easter egg hunt.



Eggs Needed

Following the Easter service, the children will have an Easter egg hunt. Please bring plastic eggs filled with goodies (candy, toys, coins, etc.) on Palm Sunday or Easter morning. The teenagers will hide the eggs in two areas, one for our younger children, and one for the older children. Children remember to bring your Easter basket on Easter Sunday.



Community Assistance

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



News from the Vestry

The vestry met Monday, February 12th.

Junior Warden's Report: Dan Roddy

A new group was formed called ARM, Army of Retired Men. Their purpose is to complete minor jobs and repairs around the church. The painters completed their work. The water heater in the kitchen had to be replaced.

Old Business

Annual meeting was reviewed. Marvin presented the list of ushers. Eleven parishioners have signed up and many will be taking the next Safe Guarding God's People training. The Lenten Study will be presented on Tuesdays at 11:00 am and Wednesdays at 6:30 pm.

New Business

Name tags have been made and will be placed at the entrance to the church. The March Parish Dinner will be Wednesday, March 21st. The vestry approved one meal for the diocesan delegates.

The next meeting will be Monday, March 26th at 3:30.

Message from Marvin Miller

Holy Fruit From the book "Our Daily Bread"

If these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.—2 Peter 1:8

Billy Graham told about the conversion of H.G. Morrison, the founder of Ashbury Theological Seminary. He said that Morrison, a farm worker at the time, was plowing in a field one day when he saw an old Methodist preacher coming by on his horse. Morrison knew the elderly gentleman to be a gracious and godly man. As he watched the old saint go by, a great sense of conviction of sin came over Morrison and he dropped to his knees. There between the furrows in his field, alone, he gave his life to God.

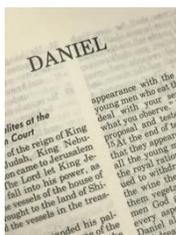
When he concluded the story, Billy Graham earnestly prayed. "Oh, God, make me a holy man."

Augustine said, "Do you wish to be great? Then begin by being." True and lasting greatness stem from what we are. Though we may seem to be doing nothing at all, we can be doing everything worthwhile if our lives are being styled by God's grace. Even if we are set aside through old age, sickness or seclusion, we can still be productive. Are you bedridden or housebound? Your holy life can still bear fruit.

This can happen only if we stay in close relationship with Jesus (John 15:1-11). Only then will we have the fruit that "remains" (vs. 16).

I lived so that all whom I met could see
His Holy Spirit shining through me;
O friend, is this what our hearts can say
As we sit and think at the close of day?

The most powerful testimony is a holy life.



Bible Study

The Thursday Bible Study group will continue their study of the Old Testament book of Daniel. Come journey with them as they learn the struggles of Daniel and his friends, Shadrach, Meshack, and Abednego, as they navigate between the demands of Nebuchadnezzar and their own religious principles. The study begins at 6:00 pm in the Kitty Nash Groce Parish Hall.



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.

Epiphany: The season following Christmas, beginning January 6th, that marks the Three Wise Men's visit to the infant Jesus. Epiphany is Greek for "Shining Lord".

Episcopal: of or pertaining to a bishop: we are called Episcopal because we have bishops.

Episcopalian: name given to a person who is a member of the Episcopal Church. To describe a person as an "Episcopal" is incorrect.

Epistle: Generally, a letter, and for Christians, those books of the New Testament that were written as letters to congregations to encourage and shape them in their faith.

Christian One Liners

Thank you, Doris

These are actual announcements that have been published in church bulletins.

(not ours of course)

- Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community.
- A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music to follow.



Brayze Schill has qualified for the Texas Jr. High School State Finals in Chute Dogging. The finals will be the last week in May.

Abigail Roddy's cheer team placed first in Nationals. They were also awarded Grand Champions.

Piper Roddy's cheer team placed first in Nationals.

Haley Cantrell earned 2nd place in basic strut and third place in show twirl at her recent twirling competition. Her team placed 2nd in the group competition.



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.

- **It is time to register for summer camp. The church provides 2/3s of the cost, so once you have registered your child and made the downpayment, let Dani know and she will send in the remaining balance.**
- **Abundant Living - three day annual conference for seniors, their families, and caregivers - March 12 – 14**

A Great Big Thank You

Thank you to Sue Crutcher, Holly Cantrell, and Shyanne Roddy for providing meals for our Wednesday night Christian Formation classes. If you would like to provide a meal, please get with Dani. There is a sign up sheet at the entrance to the church.



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. couch and/or love seat for the parish hall to replace the old ones that are there and in poor shape
2. paint brushes of various sizes to paint and decorate the walls in the Jr. High Christian Formation room
3. Bean bag chairs for the Jr. High Christian Formation room.

Thank you to Sue Crutcher for donating a file cabinet to be used in the office.



Don't Forget

Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 11th at 2 am. Set your clocks forward one hour before you go to bed on Saturday.

Please check the calendar at the entrance to the church and sign up to provide food for Hospitality after church.

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

March 4 - Brotherhood (7:30 am) & Sunday service (9:00 am)

March 6 -Lenten Study (11:00 am)

March 7 - Christian Formation (5:00 pm - 6:30 pm) & Lenten Study (6:30 pm)

March 8 - Bible Study (6:00 pm)

March 10 – set your clocks forward before you go to bed.

March 11 - Sunday Service (9:00 am)

March 13 - Lenten Study (11:00 am)

March 14 - Lenten Study (6:30 pm)

March 15 - Bible Study (6:00 pm)

March 18 - Brotherhood (7:30 am) & Sunday service (9:00 am)

March 20 -Lenten Study (11:00 am)

March 21 - Christian Formation (5:00 pm - 6:30 pm) & Lenten Study (6:30 pm)

March 22 - Bible Study (6:00 pm)

March 25 - Palm Sunday Service (9:00 am)

March 27 -Lenten Study (11:00 am)

March 28 - Trip to Brookwood (9:00 am)

March 28 - Christian Formation (5:00 pm - 6:30 pm) & Lenten Study (6:30 pm)

March 29 - Maundy Thursday Service (6:00 pm)

March 30 - Good Friday Service (noon)

April 1 - Easter Service (9:00 am) with flowering of the cross and egg hunt

March Birthdays

Marglet Arana - March 6

Ed Logue - March 9

Doris Grosvenor - March 20

Tommy Cantrell - March 22

Theata Miller - March 24

Braylee Schill - March 28

Maddie Lane - March 30

RM Blount - March 31

March Anniversaries

Changes in Church Directory

Please add the following information to your church directory.

Vestry Members

Rector: Sharron Cox (rectorsmec@centurylink.net)

Sr.Warden: KarenLogue
(kklogue@msn.com)

Clerk: Dani Mikel
(danimikel87@yahoo.com)

Jr. Warden: Andrea Anderson
(al_anderson90@hotmail.com)

Charlotte Blount
(cblount50@embarqmail.com)

Treasurer: Dani Mikel
(danimikel87@yahoo.com)

Church
(stmaryswc@centurylink.net)

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.