



St. Mary's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
The Mustard Seed Church

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



March 2023

**The Mustard Seed Church
Sowing Seeds in the Community...**



During the month of February, it is Mosaic in Action's intent to work on residences in West Columbia on the 25th. If you would like to volunteer or visit with the Mosaic in Action team on the dates listed above between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., contact Marcus George, Construction Supervisor, at 214-914-2646 or marcus@mosaicinaction.org.



Service Project During Lent

Beginning Sunday, February 26, and running through Sunday, April 9th, St. Mary's will be collecting canned goods and non-perishable items including toilet paper, paper towels, and diapers, to benefit the Food Pantry at Columbia Methodist Church. When out shopping, pick up a few extra items and drop them on Sunday in the basket in the Narthex or Parish Hall.

Let us share with others who have so little.



San Jacinto Festival

St. Mary's will be participating in the San Jacinto Festival held on April 21 and 22. We will be having a game booth in the Kid'Zone. There are sign-up sheets in the Narthex and Parish Hall for the various times. We will work in two hour shifts with at least two people per shift. You can sign up for more than one shift.

Right now, a co-chairman is needed for our booth. Dani may not be in town on April 21 and 22, so someone is needed to help make sure everyone knows their shifts and be a contact person. The person does not need to stay at the festival all day.

This is a great way to serve our community and get the word out about St. Mary's.



Play Ball

Opening Day Ceremony for West Columbia Little League will be Saturday, March 25th, at 9:30. Standing on the pitcher's mound, throwing out the first pitch, representing St. Mary's will be Coach Wade Roddy. Catching for Wade, also representing St. Mary's, will be his son, Trace Roddy. Members of St. Mary's are also invited onto the field behind Wade when he throws the first pitch. The West Columbia Little League wishes to honor and thank St. Mary's for their donation to the new batting cages. Come join us for this special ceremony.



Children's Choir

Beginning Sunday, March 5, Gwynne Olson will be leading a choir program for children and youth. There is no age limit as long as they have a desire to sing. They will meet right after church in the classroom upstairs for 15 minutes.

They will learn the basics of singing and will perform for the church on designated Sundays. Gwynne will have more details during the first class.



EASTER FLOWERS

It is time to order the Easter flowers that add to the beauty of our church at Easter. The suggested donation is \$15 per plant. Please return this form with your check to the church office or drop in the alms basin on Sunday. Call Dani at the church office with questions. (979) 345-3456

Deadline to order is April 2nd.

I wish to order _____ Easter Flowers. I enclose \$_____.

Name _____

Dedications: To the Glory of God and

In Memory of _____

In Thanksgiving for _____

Attach extra sheets if necessary. You can print this form and fill it out. Additional forms will be available in the Narthex or church office

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday – April 2nd (9:00 a.m.)

The Palm Sunday service will begin in the St. Mary's Prayer Garden beside the church. Following the Liturgy of the Palms, the congregation will process into the church, waving palm fronds and making joyful noises. Once most of us are inside, the processional hymn, *All Glory Laud and Honor* will begin. The service includes the traditional reading of the Passion of Christ by members of our congregation.

Maundy Thursday – April 6th (6:00 p.m.)

The service will begin at 6:00 PM. Maundy Thursday commemorates the first Eucharist, The Last Supper, when Jesus met with his disciples the evening before he was to be crucified. Please come and celebrate this special Eucharist led by Rev. Paul Wehner, as we remember the last days of our Lord Jesus Christ. At the end of the service, the altar guild will strip the altar as a visual reminder of the dark events of Good Friday.

Prayer Vigil - April 6th- April 7th

(7:00 p.m. - 7:00 a.m.)

As disciples of today, we are the ones that Jesus asks to stay awake and watch as he prays and suffers in his final hours. Our plan is to do this by taking turns throughout the evening to be present in church with the sacrament of his Body and Blood. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex with different times.

Good Friday – April 7th (noon)

The service will begin at noon. The Good Friday service 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 the Way of the Cross (a.k.a., Stations of the Cross), a moving reenactment of the walk that Jesus took from the place of his sentencing to the cross on Calvary. The service continues with intercession known as the solemn collects, and devotions before the cross. The Eucharist is not celebrated; instead, we will consume all of the reserved sacrament.

Holy Saturday – April 8th (9:00 a.m.)

The morning after the crucifixion, Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus took the body of Jesus and laid him in a new tomb. The liturgy this morning is a short prayer service that reminds us of the contribution of those two secret disciples, and provides an opportunity to reflect on God's mercy in the quiet of a church that is empty of its usual decorations. The service also offers prayers and encouragement for some of St. Mary's important disciples behind the scenes – our Altar Guild.

After the service, the Altar Guild will set up the church for Easter.

Easter - April 9th (9:00 a.m.)

Easter is the celebration of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Our service will include the Flowering of the Cross, so bring fresh cut flowers or use the ones in the basket in the Narthex. Following the service, we will have hospitality and our annual Easter egg hunt for the children.



Good Friday Offering

"On Good Friday 2022, April 15, we commemorate the 100th anniversary of acts of unselfish generosity and kindness by Episcopalians in our Good Friday Offering. The Good Friday Offering offers us the opportunity to celebrate and rejoice in the hope and opportunity for the very young and the very old, for needy families, students, and many others in the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East. For 10 decades we have provided an opportunity for every parish throughout our church to connect with the ministry of love and compassion carried out by our Anglican sisters and brothers throughout the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East.

The self-giving way of love and generosity makes a difference. That is what becoming a church that looks and acts like Jesus does." (from a letter by The Most Rev. Michael Curry)

During the Good Friday service, the offertory plate will be set out for anyone who would like to contribute to the Good Friday Offering. Donations can also be mailed to the church, donated through our PayPal account on the website, or put in the mail slot on the Rector's office door. Make sure you indicate your donation is for the Good Friday Offering.



Flowering of the Cross

The flowering of the cross has been traced back to the 6th century. It is a beautiful way to symbolize the new life that emerges from Jesus's death on Good Friday. When you enter the church on Easter Sunday, the cross will be bare, waiting to be transformed into a new life of beauty and color.

After the opening hymn and salutations, the congregation will be invited to put their flowers on the cross. We ask that everyone, old and young alike, take part in transforming an ugly symbol of death into a glorious sign of vibrant life. Bring your flowers from home, or take several from the baskets in the Narthex – we want our cross to be a magnificent reminder of God's glory.



Eggs Needed

Our annual Easter egg hunt is fun and exciting for all who participate. Once again, we are asking for parishioners to provide plastic eggs filled with goodies (candy, toys, coins, etc.). You can bring the eggs on Palm Sunday, anytime during Holy Week, or Easter morning. Children remember to bring your Easter baskets.



Training for Our Defibrillator

The church has purchased and installed a defibrillator in the Parish Hall. A class on the use of the defibrillator will be held on Sunday, April 23rd, after church during the Youth and Adult Sunday School. All are encouraged to attend this training led by Breanna Smith, Sweeny Hospital.

Senior Citizen Center Monthly Country Store

The Senior Citizen Center which provides Meals on Wheels, weekday lunches at the center, Bingo, special events, and craft activities for the senior citizens in our area has a Country Store the first of each month. As many of you may know, their Country Store downtown, which was their main source of income, was sold and all their items went into storage. The new Senior Citizen Center that is being build will have the Country Store, but until it is completed, the Center has decided to open their doors on the first Friday and Saturday of each month and sell the items they have in storage along with any new donated items. The times are Friday 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Because of Easter, they will be open Friday, March 31st, and Saturday, April 1st. The Center is located at 629 E. Bernard St., West Columbia. Please help support this organization which is completely self-funded.

Message from Marvin Miller

I've learned...

...that the best classroom in the world is at the feet of an elderly person.
...that just one person saying to me, "You've made my day!" makes my day.
...that being kind is more important than being right.
...that you should never say no to a gift from a child.
...that I can always pray for someone when I don't have the strength to help him in some other way.
...that sometimes all a person needs is a hand to hold and a heart to understand.
...that life is like a roll of toilet paper. The closer it gets to the end, the faster it goes.
...that we should be glad God doesn't give us everything we ask for.
...that money doesn't buy class.
...that it's those small daily happenings that make life so spectacular.
...that to ignore the facts does not change the facts.
...that when you plan to get even with someone, you are only letting that person continue to hurt you.
...that the easiest way for me to grow as a person is to surround myself with people smarter than I am.
...that everyone you meet deserves to be greeted with a smile.
...that no one is perfect until you fall in love with them.
...that opportunities are never lost; someone will take the ones you miss.
...that one should keep his words both soft and tender, because tomorrow he may have to eat them.
...that a smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks.
...that I can't choose how I feel, but I can choose what I do about it.
...that everyone wants to live on top of the mountain, but all the happiness and growth occurs while you're climbing it.
...that it is best to give advice in only two circumstances; when it is requested and when it is a life-threatening situation.
I've learned....that the less time I have to work with, the more things I get done.

- Author Andy Rooney

In God We Trust

St. Mary's Website

St. Mary's website has several continually updated tabs.

Under the "Calendar" tap there are events and services listed for each month. The calendar is kept up-to-date and edited as new events and services are added. If you click on the event or service, more details will pop up.

The most recent Upcoming Events will now be featured on the front page of the website. This will make it easier to remember what will be happening, so you don't miss anything.

The service bulletin for the upcoming Sunday service can be found under the Worship tab.

A new Photo Gallery has been added and will continually be updated with the latest pictures. Check out what has been going on since the beginning of Advent 2021.

Our website is stmaryswestcolumbia.com. You can access it using the link below or at the top of the newsletter.



Community Assistance

During February, the committee approved funds to help 1 family or individual with an electric bill, one family with materials to build a new meter box, and 1 individual with part of the electric and water bills.

If you know of anyone needing assistance, please contact Tracy Lane or Jackie Walker.

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

February

Ally Lane started a 3 month tax internship at Forvis Accounting Firm in Houston.

Jennifer Landreneau passed her National Neonatal Nurse Practitioner examine. She is serving 13 weeks as a traveling nurse in Virginia before starting as a licensed Nurse Practitioner in Austin.

Grace Culbreath is the choir director for the Tidehaven Choir. Under her leadership they received 20 Superior Solo Ratings, 2 Superior Ensemble Ratings, and 1 Excellent Ensemble Rating at the UIL Region Solo and Ensemble Contest. Nine students qualified to compete at the Texas State Solo and Ensemble Contest

Aaron Mikel is working for Alamo Cement Co. in their electrical department.



2023 Flower sign up

The forms to sign up for 2023 flower offerings are in the Narthex. Please stop by and sign up to honor or celebrate special days in your life. The cost is \$50, to be paid in advance.

For more information call the church office at 979-345-3456.



Don't Forget

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

- Theata Miller, Dan Roddy, Colleen Matocha, Dani Mikel, AJ Mikel, Marvin Miller, Shyanne Roddy, Abigail Roddy, Trace Roddy, Wendy Hankins, Jasey Hussey, Hannah Hussey, Justin Hussey, Jay Wiggins, Tracy Lane, Sherry Wehner, Brayze Schill, Braylee Schill, Jennifer Schill, Jackie Walker, Ouida Thomas, Reesie Cantrell, and Adam Schill for serving as Worship Leaders in February.
- Amber Prater for setting up the Livestreaming on our Facebook site, monitoring the feed during the service, and responding to those viewing on-line.
- Ouida Thomas, Anne King, Theata and Marvin Miller, and the Brotherhood for providing treats for our February Hospitality and Fellowship.
- Theata and Marvin Miller for stapling the service bulletins.
- Mary Stewart for organizing the children's bags for Sunday service.
- Barbara and John Rectenwald, Dan and Donna Roddy, Theata and Marvin Miller, AJ and Dani Mikel, Jackie Walker, Dick McGuire, and Colleen Matocha for helping with the Pancake Supper.
- Travis Prater, Wendy Hankins, Jennifer Schill, Dan Roddy, AJ Mikel, and Dani Mikel for serving at the Ash Wednesday service.
- Travis Prater for assisting Father Paul with Ashes to Go.
- Grace Culbreath for her beautiful music and talent on Ash Wednesday and every Sunday.
- Gwynne Olson, Ouida Thomas, and the Reverend Paul Wehner for serving as our delegates at the Diocesan Council.
- The Reverend Nan Doerr for serving as our celebrant when Father Paul was gone.

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



Prayer Request

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.



Camp Allen Events

Summer Camp - June 4 - July 29: Applications are now being accepted for Camp Allen summer camp. St. Mary's pays 2/3 of the cost for camp. Once you have registered your child, let Dani Mikel know. If you need more information visit the Camp Allen website or contact Dani. A schedule of the camp sessions is on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

Abundant Living - March 27-29: Hosted with UTMB's Center for Spirituality of Aging, this conference is designed for seniors and caregivers. Learn from field experts and enjoy outdoor activities, good food, and workshops. Experience music, nature and labyrinth walks, yoga, and the gifts of friendship and hospitality.



Don't forget to set your clocks forward one hour before you go to bed on Saturday. You wouldn't want to miss church.

March and April Birthdays

Marglet Arana - Mar. 5
Kurt Hankins - Mar. 12
Jackie Walker - Mar.17
Tommy Cantrell -Mar. 22
Theata Miller - Mar. 24
Braylee Schill - Mar. 28
Maddie Lane - Mar. 30
Emilea Anderson - Apr. 7
Saren and Scout Case - Apr. 9
Kip Olson - Apr. 20

March and April Anniversaries

Shyanne and Wade Roddy - Apr. 24

Dates to Remember

Sunday and special services are streamed on St. Mary's Facebook Live at 9:00 a.m.

March 5 - Sunday Service - Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)
celebrant - the Reverend Paul Wehner
First Communion Class

March 5 - Hospitality and Fellowship (10:00 - 10:30 a.m.)

March 5 - Children's Choir (10:15 - 10:30 a.m.)

March 5 - Youth and Adult Sunday School and children activities
(10:30 - 11:15 a.m.)

March 11 - Daylight Savings Time starts tomorrow. Remember to set your clocks forward one hour before you go to bed.

March 12 - Brotherhood (7:30 a.m.)

March 12 - Sunday Service - Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)
celebrant - the Reverend Mark Crawford
First Communion Class

March 12 - Hospitality and Fellowship (10:00 - 10:30 a.m.)

March 12 - Children's Choir (10:15-10:30 a.m.)

March 19 - Sunday Service - Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)
celebrant - the Reverend Paul Wehner
First Communion Class

March 19 - Hospitality and Fellowship (10:00 - 10:30 a.m.)

March 19 - Children's Choir (10:15 - 10:30 a.m.)

March 19 - Youth and Adult Sunday School and children activities (10:30 - 11:15 a.m.)

March 21 - Vestry Meeting (5:15 p.m.)

March 26 - Brotherhood (7:30 a.m.)

March 26 - Sunday Service - Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)
celebrant - the Reverend Paul Wehner
Children Sunday School and First Communion Class

March 26- Hospitality and Fellowship (10:00 - 10:30 a.m.)

March 26 - Children's Choir (10:15-10:30 a.m.)

March 26 - Youth and Adult Sunday School and children activities (10:30 - 11:15 a.m.)

March 31 - Senior Citizen Country Store - (1:00 - 4:00 p.m.)

April 2 - Palm Sunday Service - Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)
the service starts in the Prayer Garden
celebrant - the Reverend Paul Wehner
First Communion Class

April 2 - Hospitality and Fellowship (10:00 - 10:30 a.m.)

April 2 - Children's Choir (10:15 - 10:30 a.m.)

April 2 - Youth and Adult Sunday School and children activities (10:30 - 11:15 a.m.)

April 6 - Maundy Thursday Service (6:00 p.m.)

April 6-7 - Prayer Vigil (7:00 p.m. - 7:00 a.m.)

April 7 - Good Friday Service and Stations of the Cross (noon)

April 8 - Holy Saturday Prayer Service - (9:00 a.m.) After the service, the altar guild will prepare the church for Easter.

April 9 - Brotherhood (7:30 a.m.)

April 9 - Easter Sunday Service - Holy Eucharist: Rite II and Flowering of the Cross (9:00 a.m.)
celebrant - the Reverend Paul Wehner

April 9 - Hospitality and Fellowship (10:00 - 11:00 a.m.)

April 9 - Easter Egg Hunt (10:30 a.m.)

St. Mary's Leadership

Vestry

Rector: the Reverend Paul Wehner

Sr. Warden: Gwynne Olson

Jr. Warden: Dan Roddy

Clerk: Colleen Matocha

Outreach Chair: Jackie Walker

New email address for St. Mary's - stmaryswestcolumbia@gmail.com

St. Mary's Episcopal Church, corner of 16th and Clay Street, West Columbia
PO Box 786, West Columbia, Texas 77486
979-345-3456 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.