

THE BELLS OF SAINT MARY'S



MAY 2017

Mission Statement

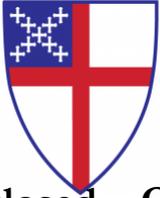
“Celebrating God’s Love Found in The Word, People and Creation”



Retirement of Father Peter Conaty

The retirement reception for Peter and Susan was a great success. Many people came from all over to celebrate and wish them both a wonderful retirement. They have truly touched so many lives. The walking sticks, a gift from the congregation of St. Mary’s, was a special surprise and one they both appreciated. Thank you to all who helped with the food, decorations, setup, serving, and cleanup. Not only has Peter been our priest, but he and Susan have been our friends and will always be a part of our church family.





Search Committee

The Rector Profile Surveys have been submitted and the link is now closed. Once the diocese tallies the results, they will be sent to the search committee. The results will also be shared with the congregation during our hospitality hour.

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 this month are:

writing tablets, pens, crossword puzzles, and playing cards.

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.



News from the Vestry

The vestry met Sunday, April 9th, after the Sunday service.

Senior Warden's Report: Karen Logue

Karen reported on the Little Church Club at Camp Allen. Those who went were able to meet with others from small churches all over the diocese. Episcopal night at the Ball Park was discussed with the deadline set for May 1st. Game night was planned for April 19th. If successful, it will become a regular event. There is a Bible Study Group meeting every Thursday in the Parish Hall at 6:00.

Jr. Warden Report: Dan Roddy

Dan reported on the critters in the church and his plans for removing the problems.

Attendance: Dani Mikel

The average Sunday attendance for March was 29.5 people.

Financial Report for February: Dani Mikel

Disbursements

General Expenses: \$12,298.50
Camp Allen Scholarships: \$1648.00
Supply Priests: \$888.24
Miscellaneous: \$221.00

Total: \$15,055.74

Income

KNG Fund: \$0
Disability Insurance: \$4000.08
Offering Plate/Pledges: \$2310.50
Flower Fund: \$250.00
KNG Investment Income: \$2193.73
Interest (bank): \$3.92
Total: \$8,758.23

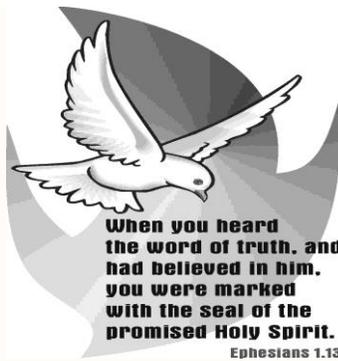
Old Business

Final plans were discussed for the Retirement reception for Father Peter and Susan. The final preparations for Holy Week were made and Easter service will include a program by the children.

New Business

1. There will be a Mother's Day Brunch on Sunday, May 14th. A signup sheet will be placed at the entrance beginning April 30th. Brian Lane is in charge. There will also be a Baptism that day.
2. Our church website is being updated. David Mikel is our new technology guru and is designing the site. He is also helping teach Dani how to add the information.
3. There was discussion concerning First Responders Appreciation Day.

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



PARISH REGISTER

In preparation for our new priest, Dani is working on updating St. Mary's Episcopal Church Registry Book. An information form will be mailed to each family to complete and return in the self-addressed envelope. Please make every effort to complete as much of the information you can, but do not worry if you cannot find all the information. 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



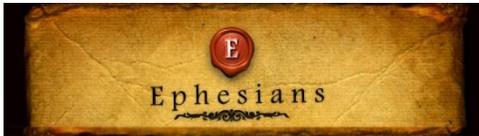
Episcopal Night with the Astros

This year's Episcopal Night at Minute Maid Stadium will take place on Friday, May 19th. Christ Church Cathedral will host a free hotdog cookout from 5 – 6:30 pm. St. Mary's has 16 parishioners signed up to see the Astros take on the Cleveland Indians. If you enjoy baseball, don't miss this opportunity for an exciting evening of fellowship with other Episcopal churches in our diocese. Tickets are \$31 each and this includes tax. Parking is available in the garage on San Jacinto St. across from the Cathedral. Please let Karen or Dani know by April 30th if you have an interest in attending.



Prayer Garden

As many of you know, Susan has tirelessly and lovingly tended our Prayer Garden throughout the year. Upon Peter's retirement, Susan is willing to continue caring for the Garden as long as she can, but will need help. If you love gardening and feel led to take on this task as your ministry to St. Mary's, please let a vestry member know. The Prayer Garden continually changes as it brings beauty to our church and is a reminder of God's amazing creation.



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. Our next Bible Study will be held May 4th as we study and discuss Chapter 2.



Message From Marvin Miller

A Mother's Love

By HELEN STEINER RICE

A Mother's love is something
that no one can explain,
It is made up of deep devotion
and of sacrifice and pain,
It is endless and unselfish,
and enduring come what may
For nothing can destroy it
or take that love away ...
It is patient and forgiving,
when all others are forsaking,
And it fails or falters
even though the heart is breaking ...
It believes beyond believing
When the world around condemns,
And it glows with all the beauty
of the rarest, brightest gems ...
It is far beyond defining,
it defies all explanation,
And it still remains a secret
like the mysteries of creation ...
A many splendid miracle
man cannot understand
And another wondrous evidence
of God's tender guiding hand.

*The gifts we offer to the Lord
Are by His standards measured:
Our sacrifices and lives of praise---
Such gifts are highly treasured.*



The History of Saint Mary's Stained Glass Windows (Part 4)

This information is taken from **A Sermon In Glass** given during the dedication of the windows on Sunday, December 16, 1973.

The Chancel Windows

The four Clerestory windows over the organ form a smooth pattern of the continuation of life as it was, as it is, and as it will be. The colors are symbolic of the seasons of the church year and of Mary the mother of Jesus for who our Church was named. The gold is the primary color for the major festivals of the church year. The Red is symbolic of the blood of the martyrs and the coming of the Holy Spirit. Violet is the color of penitence and expectation. Green indicates hope, life, and nature. Blue is the color of Mary.

How We Got Our Windows

The idea of stained glass windows came about as we were seeking a way to utilize the memorial contributions given in memory of Mrs. S. D. Gupton. It was decided that we take that money and place several windows in the church as the beginning of a project which would over the years enable other persons to donate windows as memorials to loved ones or as thank offerings. The Vestry was polled and agreed to begin such a project. But it seemed that people didn't want to wait that long in order to complete this project and individuals agreed to donate windows or parts of windows.

The Rector and various members of the church then began to investigate different types of stained glass as well as various manufacturers. Finally after discussing the merits of each kind and each manufacturer, the Orco Co. of San Antonio was asked to submit designs based on a series of ideas given them by the Rector. In August of this year (1973), the Vestry approved the contracts and the windows were installed in late November.



GAME NIGHT

Last Wednesday, several of us gathered for our first game night. It was well attended and enjoyed by all! We had 10 adults and 4 children in attendance. Eight of the adults played a rousing game of Mexican Tran with the boys taking on the girls in a tight competition until the very end. The boys ended up claiming victory with the girls vowing revenge at our next gathering. The children had a great time learning a few new games. There was also a group playing BuzzWord. Overall the evening was a success and it will become a weekly event, beginning Wednesday, May 3rd. Plan on coming out and joining us for fellowship, food, and fun.

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 May and June

May 16: Lunch and Learn - Gardening

May 19 – 21: Birds and Blooms – a conference for all nature and bird lovers

June 2 – 3: Man Camp

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. We want visitors to our site to see the specialness of St. Mary's.

Heather Mikel will have her ribbon cutting ceremony for her new boutique, Emboldened Elegance Boutique, on May 27th.

Reesie Cantrell made the honor roll at West Columbia Elementary. She is a member of the West Brazos Swim Team.

Piper Roddy was named Student of the Month at West Columbia Elementary. Her senior cheer team got first place and her junior cheer team got first place at the World Cheerleading Championship in San Antonio.

Aaron Mikel received three first place medals and one third place medal at the District Track Meet.

Haley Cantrell made Columbia Jr. High twirler for the 2017 – 2018 school year. She also is on the principal's honor roll at West Columbia Elementary.

Brayze Schill was named Student of the Month for West Columbia Elementary.

Maddie Lane competed in the Regional Golf Tournament with the Columbia High School Team.

Ashley Weisinger was First Runner Up for Little Miss of the Brazos for 2017.

Braylee Schill completed her reign as Little Miss of the Brazos.

Jasey Hussey was First Runner Up for Little Princess of the Brazos for 2017.

Abigail Roddy completed her reign as the 2016 Little Belle of the Brazos.

Trace Roddy plays T-Ball for the Giants.



DATES TO REMEMBER

- May 2 – DOK (9:30 am))
May 3 – Game Night (6:30 pm))
May 4 – Bible Study (6:00 pm)
May 7 – Brotherhood (7:30 am)
May 10 – Game Night (6:30 pm)
May 11 – Bible Study (6:00 pm)
May 14 – Baptism and Parish Brunch
May 17 – Game Night (6:30 pm))
May 18 – Bible Study (6:00 pm)
May 21 – Brotherhood (7:30 am)
May 21 – Vestry Meeting
May 24 – Game Night (6:30 pm))
May 25 – Bible Study (6:00 pm)
May 31 – Game Night (6:30 pm))

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- Debbie Burns – May 8th
Reesie Cantrell – May 15th
Dane Arana, Sr. – May 19th
Rick Wallace, Jr – May 22nd
AJ Mikel – May 28th
Carter Wallace – May 29th
Jasey Hussey – May 30th



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

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

Clerk **Marvin Miller**
(mgm inspections@earthlink.net)

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

Organist **Kathy Molnar**

Church (stmaryswc@centurylink.net)

MAY ANNIVERSARIES