

The Bells of St. Mary's – May Edition



Many in the church, our Diocesan Bishop Andy Doyle for one, believe that in our secular society our faith communities should be engaging more with their communities. These folks acknowledge that most churches are engaged in outreach to their communities, generally caring for the poor, sick, or needy as best as their financial resources allow, but question how much these parishes are engaging in deep relationship with those in the community around them.

I was reading a blog post by one group who is attempting to engage in deep relationship with their small community over food. This seems to be a common approach to building “missional communities” with those who normally would not even think about entering a church. Food is a natural way in which people come together. There is something intimate about sharing a meal. As a Christian, I see this as eucharistic...whether we are focused on actual participation in a worship of Holy Eucharist or whether we are meeting for coffee, lunch, gathering after Sunday services for hospitality, or coming to our monthly Parish Dinners. I write this during the Easter season where one of our lessons read is the story of the resurrected Jesus walking with some of his followers to Emmaus who did not recognize Jesus until he was seated at a meal table with them and broke the bread. When I dine with others, I sometimes feel that it is Jesus who is sitting across the table from me...or in the empty chair beside me...Jesus who is very present in our sharing of food and lives.

Anyway...back to the blog post. This missional group is drawing closer to their neighbors over meals and are beginning to ask questions like “What are you passionate about? What would you like to see happen in our community? What are you willing to contribute to the well-being of our community?” What amazing questions to move toward greater intimacy with others!

I have begun meeting with members of St. Mary's and, although I haven't asked these questions with this particular wording, I am learning of who you are and what is important to you. I am learning of what your hopes are for your family...and for the family of St. Mary's. Let's continue to listen to one another, share with one another, and pray with one another to begin to understand where God is calling us as a faith community and what God is asking from each of us to fulfill that vision.

Blessings,
Sharron



Parish Dinner: Burgers and Ice Cream

Save the date, Wednesday, May 16th, for our next Parish Dinner because it's going to be, **fun, FUN, FUN**. Hopefully, the weather will cooperate because we plan on moving our gathering outside for burgers and hot dogs followed by an old-fashioned ice cream social. We will have games and a water slide for the little ones to enjoy plus lots of fellowship and plenty of food. Burgers, hot dogs, chips and ice cream will be provided so bring a side dish or dessert and your lawn chair and come join the festivities.



KNOW YOUR HYMNS!

Know your Hymns – May 6th and May 13th

As we near the close of Easter season, here are our hymns for the last two Sundays before we officially close out Easter on Pentecost Sunday...after that, we will put aside our Easter hymns until next year!

Hymns scheduled for Sunday, May 6:

Opening Hymn #400, v. 1-4 – *All creatures of our God and King*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0CTcICIS_XQ

Gospel Hymn #705 – *As those of old their first fruits brought* (Familiar tune but not as familiar words!)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pVccvOzP9N4>

Offertory Come Celebrate #126 – *Alleluia, He is Coming*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5atpjBqOP04>

Communion Come Celebrate #148 – *He is Lord*

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

Recessional Hymn #400, v. 5-7 – Yes! We are spitting our long opening hymn, singing the first few verses to open our worship and the last verses to close! Here's a different version, with slight wording differences than we will sing, but a beautiful acapella version.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GN9C_lu8qzA

Hymns scheduled for Sunday, May 13:

Opening Hymn # 215 – *See the Conqueror mounts in triumph*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CREOTgBhzLU> (Has some wording differences than our hymn...)

Gospel Hymn #707 – *Take my life, and let it be*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DDegoFFX7H4>

Offertory Come Celebrate #161 – *Jesus is Our King*

This hymn was not found online...it is an old renewal song, but St. Mary's archives indicate it is still a favorite. Let us know after this Sunday if this song should be retired!

Communion Hymn #603 – *When Christ was lifted from the earth*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l7DQhd7XEel>

Closing Hymn #477 – *All praise to thee, for thou, O King divine*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G2edonBmuR4>



Graduation Sunday

May 20th is Graduation Sunday at St. Mary's. We will be honoring our five graduating seniors at the 9:00 service and at a reception in the Parish Hall following the service. Please join us as we share in the joy of this special milestone with Aaron, Ben, Bradley, Hunter and Maddie.

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11



Christian Formation

In studying the Israelites journey into the Promised Land and the building of the Temple of God under the leadership of King Solomon, the jr. high youth learned the importance of home and church. They compiled a top 10 list of what makes West Columbia great and what makes St.

Mary's great.

What Makes West Columbia Great

1. There are places to go fishing.
2. We have a good mayor.
3. It was the first capitol of Texas.
4. There is pretty nature.
5. There are good schools.
6. There are places to have fun.
7. It is a small town.
8. Everybody knows everybody.
9. There is not as much traffic.
10. There are no crazy people jumping out of the car on the highway.

What Makes St. Mary's Great

1. It is a cool looking church.
2. We have a good preacher (Ms. Sharron).
3. Our church is close knit and Ms. Sharron is helping the church blossom.
4. It is a great community.
5. Each stained glass window tells a story.
6. Everyone loves one another.
7. We have an excellent youth group and a great teacher.
8. There are amazing doors to welcome you to church.
9. Our church helps with the community.
10. Our parish family has good cooks.

Christian Formation is for children from ages 3 to 9th grade. They meet every Wednesday beginning at 5:00 with a small dinner and fellowship. The classes end at 6:30. Thank you to the teachers, Shyanne and Dani, and all who provide dinner for these groups.

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.



Election of a New Bishop Suffragan

In February 2018, the Diocesan Council of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas called for the election of a Bishop Suffragan, to be held on February 22, 2019. The Episcopal Diocese of Texas is excited to welcome you to the process for the selection of our next Bishop Suffragan for the West Region of the Diocese. This is an exciting time to be a part of God's work in the diocese, and we are honored to partner with you as we listen for God's direction and prepare to elect someone to join the team of bishops in our diocese. If you want further info go to The Episcopal Diocese of Texas Website at www.epicenter.org. Under NEWS click on Diocesan News and scroll down to the article entitled. Application Process Now Open for Bishop Suffragan Election in the Diocese of Texas

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.



Forward Day By Day

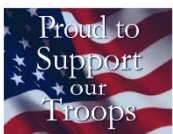
Available in the narthex of the church and the parish hall is the latest edition of Forward Day By Day. According to their website, "Forward Day by Day is a booklet of daily inspirational meditations reflecting on a specific Bible passage, chosen from the daily lectionary readings as listed in the Revised Common Lectionary or the Daily Office from the Episcopal Church's Book of Common Prayer. The meditations are rich in substance and offer a wide range of witness and experiences. Each month's meditation is written by a different author. Inspiring readers since our first issue was published in 1935, Forward Day by Day remains a significant resource for daily prayer and Bible study to more than a half million readers worldwide." (www.forwardmovement.org) Forward Day by Day is given as a gift to St. Mary's by The Brotherhood of St. Andrew and The Daughters of the King.

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ARM

ARM, Army of Retired Men, is a valuable asset to our parish family. They usually meet on Wednesday mornings for fellowship and to do various jobs around the church. They have installed new window blinds in the offices and classrooms, fixed the broken pews in the church, fixed the church sign, built a bookcase, trimmed trees, and so much more. There is nothing they cannot do. If you would like to join them, contact Dan or Ed for more information.



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, sunscreen with the highest spf, dental floss, small packages of Q-tips, toothbrushes, and toothbrush holders. They will also accept cash donations.



Community Assistance

During April, the committee helped two families with rent and provided funds for the West Columbia city wide clean-up luncheon held at our church. If you know of anyone needing assistance, please contact Tracy or Karen.



News from the Vestry

The vestry met Monday, April 23, 2018.

Rector Report

Sharron gave the rector report detailing her activities from March 26th to the present.

Senior Warden's Report: Karen Logue

Karen is continuing her weekly meetings with Sharron and going over the 90-day transition plan. She also reported on the success of the last parish dinner and the details for the next dinner.

Junior Warden's Report: Andrea Anderson

A walk through was conducted by Andrea, Dan, and Sharron to determine what repairs and updates need to be done. A prioritized list will be compiled and presented to the vestry. Electrical work will begin in May. The entrances to the buildings will be re-keyed.

New Business

The agenda was changed to include a Discipleship Report and Mission Report. These items will allow the vestry to focus more on strategic issues and addressing the items listed in the parish survey and less on the day to day functions that can be covered by Sharron and Dani. Sharron is looking into a new logo for the church that will be on the pew bulletins, letter head, newsletter, etc.

Calendar

Graduation Sunday was set for May 20th. Vestry meetings will be the 4th Monday of each month at 3:30 unless there is a conflict. Parish dinners will be the 3rd Wednesday of each month. The Bible study group will continue in the summer, but Christian Formation will end May 23rd.

The next meeting will be Monday, May 21st at 3:30.



Bible Study

Last Thursday evening our group culminated the Book of Daniel with a pot luck gathering filled with fun, fellowship and food. We will now turn our study to the New Testament and begin the book of John on May 3rd. The Gospel of John is an eyewitness account of the person and ministry of Jesus, written so that we may believe in Him as the Christ, and have life in His name. We meet each Thursday evening in the Parish Hall at 6 pm. Everyone is welcome!

Prayer and Praise Worship

Theata Miller's dear friend, Taylor Jones, has invited St Mary's to his Prayer and Praise Concert at West Columbia Baptist Church. The free concert will be at 6 pm on Sunday, May 6th. All ages are welcome.

Christian One Liners

Thank you, Doris

- The Will of God never takes you to where the Grace of God will not protect you.
- He who angers you, controls you!
- There is no greater treasure than a good friend!

Message from Marvin Miller

GOLD METAL EFFORT

Let each of you look out not for your own interests,
But also for the interests of others. – Philippians 2:4

At the 2009 Kansas high school state track championship, an unusual thing happened. The team that won the girls 3,200-meter relay was disqualified. But what happened next was even more unusual. The team that was awarded the state championship by default, turned right around and gave their medals to the team that had been disqualified.

The first school, St. Mary's College, lost first place because judges ruled that a runner had stepped out of her lane as she handed off the baton. That meant the second team, Maranatha's Academy, moved up to first. After receiving their medals, the girls from Maranatha saw the downtrodden looks on the faces of the St. Mary's girls, so they gave them their individual medals.

Why did they do that? As Maranatha's coach, Bernie Zarda, put it: "Our theme for the year was to run not for our glory, but for God's glory." As a result of the girls' action, their story was told throughout Kansas, and God's name was lifted up.

When we set aside our own interests and accomplishments to recognize that it's better to care for the interests of others (Philippians 2:4), we see God's name glorified. Acting with grace and kindness toward others is one of the best ways to point people to God.

Love is not blind but looks
Abroad through others' eyes
And asks not "Must I give?"
But "May I sacrifice?"

When we love God, we will serve people.



Canterbury Choir

On April 6th, six intrepid souls made their way from West Columbia to Houston to be musically transported to Canterbury Cathedral through the voices of the boys and men of the Canterbury Cathedral Choir. After a quick dinner at one of Jim Goode's (a native of Brazoria County) nearby restaurants, St. Mary's contingent enjoyed a glorious Anglican choral performance by this historic choir. Music ranged from that composed in the Renaissance to the 20th century, from Thomas Tallis to Ola Gjeilo. A live concert CD will be available later this summer of the music performed during this seven states tour of the United States at <https://www.cathedral-enterprises.co.uk/Shop/DVDs-and-CDs/Our-Choir-CDs> or possibly at iTunes Store as are other recordings by the choir.



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.

Lay Eucharistic Ministers: members of the congregation who are trained to assist at the altar as Chalice Bearers

Lector: a person who reads one of the lessons, readings from the Old and New Testament, during the Sunday service

Morning Prayer: the service of morning worship in the Book of Common Prayer

Offertory: the offering of the bread and wine, the money offering, and other gifts



Brayze Schill earned second place at the Bandera BuckWild Roughstock Rodeo.

Luke Davidson passed his first Tae Kwon Do test and earned his white and yellow striped belt.

Maddie Lane finished 10th out of 220 students in the 2018 graduating class at Columbia High School.

Ashlie Weisinger received the excellence award at West Columbia Elementary. She was also first runner up in the Little Miss of the Brazos.

Aaron Mikel finished in the top 10 percent of the 2018 graduating class at Sweeny High School.

Travis Weisinger was crowned Little Prince of the Brazos.

Kendy Hankins was crowned Little Miss of the Brazos.

Ally Lane was a member of the Columbia High School golf team that qualified to compete in the Regional Tournament.

Haley Cantrell won her tennis doubles competition against Sweeny Jr. High. She also will be a West Brazos Jr. High twirler for the 2018-2019 school year.



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.

- **Birds and Blooms May 18 - 20, 2018**
- **Men's Retreat - June 1 - 3, 2018**

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.

A Great Big Thank You

Thank you to Theata and Marvin Miller, Jennifer and Adam Schill, and Karen and Ed Logue for providing meals for our Wednesday night Christian Formation classes.

Thank you to Andrea for the Mexican Casserole at our parish dinner.



Don't Forget

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 2 - Christian Formation
(5:00 pm - 6:30 pm)**

May 3 - Bible Study (6:00 pm)

May 6 - Sunday service (9:00 am)

**May 9 - Christian Formation
(5:00 pm - 6:30 pm)**

May 10 - Bible Study (6:00 pm)

**May 13 - Brotherhood (7:30 am) &
Sunday Service (9:00 am)**

**May 16 - Parish Dinner (5:00 pm)
April 16 - Christian Formation
(5:00 pm - 6:30 pm)**

May 17 - Bible Study (6:00 pm)

**May 20 - Sunday service (9:00 am):
honoring the high school
graduates**

**May 23 - Christian Formation
(5:00 pm - 6:30 pm)**

May 24 - Bible Study (6:00 pm)

**May 27 - Brotherhood (7:30 am)
Sunday Service (9:00 am)
Kathy will be on vacation.
Anthony will be our guest organist.**

May 31 - Bible Study (6:00 pm)

**May 31 - June 12 - Sharron will be on
vacation.**

**May 31 - June 8 - Dani will be on
vacation.**

May Birthdays

Debbie Burns - May 8

Reesie Cantrell - May 15

Dane Arana, Sr - May 19

AJ Mikel - May 28

Jasey Hussey - May 30

May Anniversaries

Vestry Members

**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.