



*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.**



## **May Edition**

### **Message from Our Senior Warden**

Gwynne Olson

I always love the Easter season. It's a time for renewal, from the blooming plants to the renewal of my soul. I also feel a renewal around St. Mary's which began with the Holy Week services at the beginning of April. I was spiritually moved with the Maundy Thursday Service which ended with a prayer vigil lasting through Friday morning, the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, the Saturday morning service honoring the Altar Guild, and Easter morning! The renewal continued as St. Mary's served at a beverage booth during San Jacinto Days. And the renewal continues in the Bell Tower and Sacristy in May, with new flooring, as well as the Sanctuary pews being repaired. We will end May with a visit with Bishop Doyle on May 30. Stay tuned for details regarding a reception. Please pray for the vestry as real estate contracts come in for the KNG ranch. The vestry plans to ask Bishop Doyle for ideas to assist the West Columbia community with the proceeds from the ranch. It's an exciting time to be part of St. Mary's!

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

#### **Cakes for Meals on Wheels**

St. Mary's is once again providing boxes of cake mix and tubs of icing for the Meals on Wheels program in West Columbia. Meals on Wheels provides inexpensive, healthy meals to individuals who are unable to prepare their own meals. We have provided for April and most of May, so we only need 20 boxes of cake mix and 10 tubs of icing. If you are able to help this worthy cause, please bring the cake mixes and icing to the church anytime and they will be delivered to the Senior Citizen Center which runs the Meals on Wheels program.



## Honoring Our Military

Sunday, **May 9th**, is the last day to donate to the gift cards for our military personnel. All of these men have close connections to St. Mary's. Luis Cassells, the grandson of Marglet Arana, and Ricky Wallace served this congregation as acolytes. Shane Case is the son-in-law of Mary Stewart and John Brockway is the nephew of AJ and Dani Mikel. Brandon Davidson served with Colleen Matocha's husband. Kyle Ledlie is the son of Ray Ledlie, an active member of our church until he moved to Houston.

You can place donations in the offering plate on Sundays, bring or mail your donation to the church office. or donate through PayPal on our website. Notes thanking them and their families for their service would also be appreciated. Give what you can for those who give so much and continue to pray for them.

## Church Clean-Up Day

Time to prepare for Bishop Doyle's visit. Let's gather for a Church Clean-Up Day at 8 a.m. on May 15<sup>th</sup>. Many hands make light work! Wear something comfortable that you're not afraid to get dirty in. It shouldn't take long for us to get the church looking spic and span for the Bishop's visit on May 30<sup>th</sup>.

Breakfast will be provided. We hope to see you there!



## Take Mary With You This Summer

This summer while you are on vacation, taking a weekend trip, or staying home, have St. Mary join you. In the Narthex, there are St. Marys ready to go with you. You can take one that is already colored and laminated or you can take one to decorate. They can be folded to easily fit into a suitcase, camera case, beach bag, purse, or pocket. Take a picture of St. Mary at one of your summer activities (yes even the grocery store or gas station) with or without you in the picture. Send the picture to the church's email address ([stmaryswc@centurylink.net](mailto:stmaryswc@centurylink.net)) or text it to Dani. It will be placed in the newsletter under the article "Traveling Mary". You may send one picture or as many as you want.

St. Mary can be mailed to you. Contact the office if you would like one.

Please join in this fun activity. Who wouldn't want St. Mary as a traveling companion? (The picture shows St. Mary in AJ's garden.)



## Renovations Have Started

The renovations to the upstairs rooms in the Parish Hall, the Bell Tower room, and the sacristy have begun. Please be careful in these areas.



## Worship Leaders

Because of COVID, several of our worship leaders are not available. With summer coming on, the availability of parishioners to serve in the different positions will be limited. If you are able to help on the altar guild, as a lector or leader of the Prayers of the People, as an acolyte, as an usher, or as a Chalice bearer, let Dani know.

Each person who serves is a special and vital part of the worship service. Please consider serving. St. Mary's needs you.

## Pentecost Sunday

Sunday, May 23rd, is Pentecost Sunday. This is the Sunday we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit to the Apostles and earlier followers of Jesus. Remember to wear **red** to church that day.

## Updated Directories

St. Mary's parishioner directory has been updated. If you would like a copy, please contact the office. They can be mailed to you or given to you on **Sunday**.

## Message from Marvin Miller

### A FLORIDA COURT SETS ATHEIST HOLY DAY

In Florida, an atheist created a case against Easter and Passover Holy days. He hired an attorney to bring a discrimination case against Christians and Jews and observances of their holy days. The argument was that it was unfair that atheists had no such recognized days. The case was brought before a judge. After listening to the passionate presentation by the lawyer, the judge banged his gavel declaring, "Case dismissed!"

The lawyer immediately stood and objecting to the ruling saying, "Your honor, How can you possibly dismiss this case? The Christians have Christmas, Easter and others.

The Jews have Passover, Yom Kippur and Hanukkah, yet my client and all other atheists have no such holidays..."

The judge leaned forward in his chair saying, "But you do. Your client, counselor, is woefully ignorant."

The lawyer said, "Your Honor, we are unaware of any special observance or holiday for atheists."

The judge said, "The calendar says April 1st is April Fool's Day. Psalm 14:1 states, 'The fool says in his heart, there is no God.' Thus, it is the opinion of this court, that, if your client says there is no God, then he is a fool. Therefore, April 1st is his day.

Court is adjourned.

Jim Gentil

## Good Friday Offering

Thank you to those who contributed to the Good Friday Offering which benefit the dioceses of Jerusalem and the Middle East. St. Mary's collected and sent \$240. This was our largest contribution.



## Community Assistance

There were no requests made during April.

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

**Brayze Schill finished the year second at Texas High School Region 5 Rodeo and is headed to Abilene for State in June.**

**Haley Cantrell earned Academic All District and District Honorable Mention for high school varsity soccer.**

**Braylee Schill made the A honor roll at West Brazos Jr. High for the 3rd nine weeks. Braylee also placed 4th in the 2400, 6th in the mile relay, and 6th in the 800 at the Jr. High District Track Meet.**

**Abigail Roddy was crowned Little Miss of the Brazos at the San Jacinto Festival.**

**Kendy Hankins made Bay City Junior High Honor Choir.**

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

## Camp Allen Events



"Searching for a secluded get-a-way this Spring?" Camp Allen has the perfect answer. Hotel room, three meals a day, a variety of optional activities, and a beautiful setting are all included. "Spring Stay" is available May 28-30. More information can be found on the Camp Allen

website.

**Horsemanship Day Retreats - May 15 - Camp Allen is offering day retreats for beginner and advanced riders, ages 12-17. The day starts at 9 a.m. and ends at 5 p.m. The morning includes instruction and care of horses followed by a picnic lunch. The afternoon will be spent riding through the Camp Allen trails.**

**Needlepoint Retreats - June 2-4, September 8-10, December 8-10 - Join fellow crafters in the Piney Woods of Camp Allen for a three day, two night needlepointing retreat. Bring your own projects and acquire some new skills.**



## 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, Jennifer Schill, Braylee Schill, Travis Prater, Aaron Mikel, David Mikel, Gwynne Olson, Shyanne Roddy, AJ Mikel, Dan Roddy, Dani Mikel, Wendy Hankins, Marvin Miller, Abigail Roddy, Haley Cantrell, and Adam Schill for serving as Worship Leaders during the month of April.
- Amber Prater for setting up the Livestreaming on our Facebook site, monitoring the feed during the service, and responding to those viewing on-line. Thank you also to Amber for filming the Stations of the Cross during the Good **Friday** service.
- John Ahrens of Planet Ahrens for setting up the sound system in the church to accept streaming of music.
- Travis Prater for helping Father Paul put up the black draping for Good **Friday**.
- Theata Miller, Dani Mikel, Jennifer Schill, Shyanne Roddy, and Braylee Schill for setting up the altar and church for Easter.
- Jasey Hussey, Kendy Hankins, Abigail Roddy, Travis Prater, and Trace Roddy for participating in the "Resurrection of the Alleluia" and the children's program during the Easter service.
- Sherry Wehner for providing extra flowers for the Flowering the Cross and assisting with the placement of flowers on the cross.
- Donna Roddy, Dan Roddy, Gwynne Olson, Theata Miller, and Marvin Miller for preparing the Parish Hall for Easter.
- Dan Roddy, Dani Mikel, Jay Wiggins, Theata Miller, Marvin Miller, Jennifer Schill, Brayze Schill, Braylee Schill, Shyanne Roddy, Donna Roddy, Gwynne Olson, and Bill Olson for helping at St. Mary's booth during the San Jacinto Festival.
- Gwynne Olson for designing the new banner for St. Mary's.
- all who brought plastic filled eggs for the Easter egg hunt.

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.

## Dates to Remember

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

May - June - Cake mixes and tubs of icing for Meals on Wheels

May 2 - Sunday Service  
Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)  
celebrant - the Reverend Paul Wehner  
Christian Formation  
Children - Godly Play (10:00 a.m.)  
Adult/Youth - Bible Journals (10:00 a.m.)

May 9 - last day to donate to the military personnel gift cards

May 9 - Mother's Day

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

May 9 - Sunday Service  
Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)  
celebrant - the Reverend Paul Wehner  
Christian Formation  
Adult/Youth - Bible Journals (10:00 a.m.)  
Confirmation class (10:00 a.m.)

May 11 - Vestry Meeting (5:15 p.m.)

May 15 - Church clean-up (8:00 a.m.)

May 16 - Sunday Service  
Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)  
celebrant - the Reverend Jim Abernathey  
Christian Formation  
Adult/Youth - Bible Journals (10:00 a.m.)

May 17 - 26 - Dani Mikel, office manager, is on vacation.

May 23 - Brotherhood (7:30 a.m.)

May 23 - Sunday Service  
Pentecost Sunday - wear red  
Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)  
celebrant - the Reverend Paul Wehner  
Christian Formation  
Adult/Youth - Bible Journals (10:00 a.m.)  
Confirmation class (10:00 a.m.)

May 30 - Sunday Service  
Holy Eucharist: Rite II with  
Baptism and Confirmation (9:00 a.m.)  
celebrant - the Right Reverend Andy Doyle,  
Bishop of the Diocese of Texas  
The Reverend Paul Wehner  
reception following the service

## May Birthdays

Reesie Cantrell - [May 15](#)

Dane Arana, Sr. - [May 19](#)

AJ Mikel - [May 28](#)

Jasey Hussey - [May 30](#)

## May Anniversaries

## St. Mary's Leadership

### Vestry

Rector: the Reverend Paul Wehner  
Sr. Warden: Gwynne Olson  
Jr. Warden: Dan Roddy  
Clerk: Colleen Matocha

St. Mary's Episcopal Church, corner of 16th and Clay Street, West Columbia  
PO Box 786, West Columbia, Texas 77486  
[979-345-3456](tel:979-345-3456) [stmaryswc@centurylink.net](mailto: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.