

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



*St. Mary's*  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
The Mustard Seed Church



**November - December 2023**

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



During the month of November, it is Mosaic in Action's intent to winterize homes in the area. The dates will vary. If you would like to volunteer or visit with the Mosaic in Action team contact the Construction Supervisor, Marcus George, at 214-914-2646 or [marcus@mosaicinaction.org](mailto:marcus@mosaicinaction.org).

## Blessing of the Animals

Special thank you to Justin and Megan Hussey for chairing the Blessing of the Animals. They and the other volunteers; Gwynne and Bill Olson, Dick McGuire, AJ and Dani Mikel, Vicki Vrazel, Jasey Hussey, Donna and Dan Roddy, Father Paul Wehner, Amber Prater, Travis Prater, Leesa Osborne, Marvin Miller, and Dr. and Mrs. Hueber, provided the West Columbia communi with a btiful setting to have their animals blessed during this annual service.



## Walk the Block - Trunk or Treat

Once again our Walk the Block - Trunk or Treat was a great success. We had six cars participate and lots of candy to give to our over 200 Trick or Treaters. Thank you Gwynne and Bill Olson, Jackie Walker, Jennifer Schill, Sherry Stratton, AJ and Dani Mikel, and Father Paul, Sherry Wehner, Travis Prater, and Amber Prater. Also thank you for those who donated candy for the event.





## Bishop Ryan is Coming

The Rt. Rev. Kathryn Ryan will be celebrating the Holy Eucharist at St. Mary's on Sunday, November 19, at 9:00 a.m. Tonya Hagaman and Wendy Ray will be baptized and confirmed, Buck Barnes, Hannah Hussey, and Kendy Hankins will be confirmed, Jay Wiggins will be received, and Theresa Crawford will be renewing her baptismal vows.

Please join us in the Parish Hall after the service for a reception in honor of Bishop Ryan and in celebration of the honorees.



## Stewardship Campaign

Stewardship is a time to reflect on God's gifts to us and how we can show our gratitude for these gifts and share them with others through our time, talent, and offering. Commitment Sunday is November 12th. Please bring your Giving Card to be placed on the altar during the Offertory.



## Parish Thanksgiving Dinner

Our Parish Thanksgiving Dinner is Wednesday, November 15, at 5:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. White Apron will again be catering the meal of turkey, gravy, dressing, potatoes, green beans, salad, rolls, dessert and beverage. Join us as we celebrate the many blessings of St. Mary's.



## Cotton Matocha

Meet the newest member of our church family. Cotton Matocha was born on October 12th to Colleen and Clint Matocha. He was 19 inches long and weighed 6lb and 11oz. Mom, Dad and baby are doing wonderful.



## Christmas Parade

Once again, St. Mary's is spreading its branches into the community. We will be participating in the 2023 West Columbia Light Up the Capital Christmas Parade held Saturday, December 2nd. Bill Olson will be chairing our entry, but he needs help from all parishioners. He will need people to help build and decorate the float, and of course parade participants. Sign up sheets will be placed in the Narthex and Parish Hall.

Have you been wondering what to do with the leftover Halloween candy. Bring it to the church and it will be used during the parade. Bags of fresh candy can also be donated. There will be containers in the Narthex and Parish Hall for candy donations.



## Advent and Christmas at St. Mary's Episcopal Church

**Saturday - Dec. 2 – West Columbia Lighted Christmas Parade**  
Come decorate and ride St. Mary's float!

**Sunday, Dec. 3 @ 9:00AM 1st week of Advent Advent: Wreath Making in the Parish Hall after the service and placing Wreaths in the church**

**Sunday, Dec. 3 – Mary and Joseph begin their visits to the home of the parishioners as they travel to St. Mary's for Christmas Eve service.**

**Sunday, Dec. 1@ 9:00AM 2nd week of Advent: making Christmas cards in the Parish Hall after the service**

**Sunday, Dec. 17 @ 9:00AM 3rd week of Advent: Nativity Program during the service  
Christmas tree decorating and Caroling Crockpot Cook-off -Parish Christmas Lunch**

**Sunday, Dec. 24 @ 9:00AM 4th week of Advent: Holy Eucharist**

**Sunday, Dec. 24 Christmas Eve - Family Christmas Service @ 8:00 PM**

**Monday, Dec. 25 Christmas Day – no service**

**Sunday, December 31 @ 9:00AM – Morning Prayer or Liturgy of the Word**





## Nativity Pageant and Tree Decorating

Our traditional Nativity Pageant will be on the 3rd Sunday of Advent, December 17th, during the service. The children and youth will tell the story of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

After the service, we will continue our tradition of decorating the Christmas tree in the Parish Hall. Please bring an ornament to decorate the tree, adding a part of your family to your church family. We will also have our Christmas lunch provided by the participants in the Crockpot Cookoff.



## Crockpot Cookoff

It's time for our third annual "Crockpot Cookoff". Participants will cook their favorite one pot meal and after church the judges (parishioners) will decide on the winners. If you would like to show off your culinary talent, there is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex and Parish Hall. The church will provide rolls and drinks. If you don't want to compete but still want to bring something, desserts would be appreciated. Come join in the fun of this friendly competition.

## Christmas Eve Service



Our Christmas Eve service will be at a different time this year, 8:00 p.m. Father Paul Wehner will celebrate the Holy Eucharist and our organist, Grace Culbreath, will provide beautiful and inspiring music for the service.

For those who prefer to stay at home, the Christmas Eve service will be Livestreamed on our Facebook site just as it is every Sunday.

Whether in-person or on-line, join us as we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.



## CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

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

Deadline to order is Tuesday, December 19.

I wish to order \_\_\_\_\_ Christmas Poinsettias. I enclose \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Dedications: To the Glory of God and

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In Thanksgiving for \_\_\_\_\_



## Traveling Mary and Joseph

No, we are not trying to rush Christmas and bypass Thanksgiving, but Mary and Joseph will begin their travels to St. Mary's on December 3rd, the First Sunday of Advent. As we have traditionally done, Mary and Joseph will visit the homes of those who sign-up in the Parish Hall or Narthex. If you are unable to be at church to sign up but would still like them to visit your home, call or email the church.

The Holy Family will stay with you for 2-5 days. While they are with you, please take a picture of them and email it to the church or text it to Dani. The family that has them on December 24th will bring them to the church for the Christmas Eve service and place them near the altar. Unlike the inn keeper, please consider welcoming into your home our weary travelers.



## Episcopal Church Calendar

The office will be ordering the 2024 Episcopal Church Calendar at the end of the November. This wall calendar shows the colors of the church year as well as listing the special holidays. On the back of each month's calendar sheet are printed the lessons and psalms for each Sunday and major feast day, along with other suggestions and notes. Each calendar is \$5.00. If you would like to order one, please notify the office by November 28th. You can pay at the time you order or when the calendar arrives.

## Message from Marvin Miller

### WHO STARTED CHRISTMAS

This morning I heard a story of a woman who was out Christmas shopping with her two children. After many hours of looking at row after row of toys and everything else imaginable and after hours of hearing both her children asking for everything they saw on those many shelves, she finally made it to the elevator with her two kids.

She was feeling what so many of us feel during the holiday season time of the year. Overwhelming pressure to go to every party, every housewarming, taste all the holiday food and treats, getting that perfect gift for every single person on our shopping list, making sure we don't forget anyone on our card list, and the pressure of making sure we respond to everyone who sent us a card.

Finally the elevator doors opened and there was already a crowd in the car. She pushed her way into the car and dragged her two kids in with her and all the bags of stuff. When the doors closed she couldn't take it anymore and stated, "Whoever started this whole Christmas thing should be found, strung up and shot."

From the back of the car everyone heard a quiet calm voice respond, "Don't worry. We already crucified him." For the rest of the trip down the elevator it was so quiet you could have heard a pin drop.

Don't forget this year to keep the One who started this whole Christmas thing in your every thought, deed, purchase, and word. If we all did it, just think of how different this whole world would be.

Author Unknown

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

## October

Trace Roddy received perfect attendance at West Columbia Elementary and got a stripe on his belt at Jiu Jitsu.

Ouentin Culbreath made First Chair Bass in Junior High Regional Honor Choir.

Abigail Roddy made the AB Honor Roll at West Brazos Jr. High. She received various 1st and 2nd place finishes in the twirl competition at the Brazoria County Fair.

Madeline Roddy received a first place ribbon for her art at the Brazoria County Fair. She also won first for her age division at the Brazoria County Fair twirl competition. She was Student of the Month for first grade at West Columbia Elementary.

Kendy Hankins did very well at the 2023 Brazoria County Fair: 3rd place - Lightweight Steer - Steer Show - AOB; 3rd place in class - Commercial Heifer Show - Non Brahman; 1st place - Class 4 and Class 6 - Shorthorn Heifer Open Show; 2nd place - Class 6 - Shorthorn Heifer Open Show; 1st place - Class 4 - Shorthorn Heifer Breeding Beef Show; 1st place - Class 6 and Reserved Grand Champion - Shorthorn Heifer Breeding Beef Show; and 2nd place - Class 6 - Shorthorn Heifer Breeding Beef Show.

## Thank You Notes

To the Congregation of St. Mary's Church,

I would like to say Thank You to everyone. You have been such a huge source of support, love, and help in my 2 years here. I've never before felt so loved.

Thank You and God Bless Everyone,  
Theresa Crawford

Central Emergency Medical Service gratefully acknowledges a donation given by St. Mary's Episcopal Church. Your support helps us to provide the highest quality emergency care.



# Flower Sign-up

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

Beginning in December, the 2024 altar flower donation form will be available.

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

**THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!**

Special thanks and gratitude to

- Theata Miller, Dan Roddy, Dani Mikel, AJ Mikel, Marvin Miller, Abigail Roddy, Tracy Lane, Sherry Wehner, Jackie Walker, Ouida Thomas, Travis Prater, Kendy Hankins, Wendy Hankins, Jay Wiggins, Vicki Vrazel, Gwynne Olson, Dick McGuire, and Braylee Schill for serving as Worship Leaders in October.
- Amber Prater for setting up the Livestreaming on our Facebook site, monitoring the feed during the service, and responding to on-line viewers.
- Theata and Marvin Miller for stapling the service bulletin.
- Mary Stewart for organizing the children's bags for Sunday service.
- Theata and Marvin Miller, Gwynne and Bill Olson, Wendy Hankins, and the Brotherhood for providing hospitality during October.
- The Reverend Nan Doerr and the Reverend Mark Crawford for serving as our celebrant when Father Paul was gone.
- Hannah and Justin Hussey for chairing the Blessing of the Animals.
- The Schill Family for providing hay for the Blessing of the Animals.
- Vicki Vrazel, Dan and Donna Roddy, Gwynne and Bill Olson, Dani and AJ Mikel, Jasey Hussey, Dick McGuire, Leesa Osborne, Father Paul, Amber Prater, and Travis Prater for helping with the Blessing of the Animals.
- Bill and Gwynne Olson, Father Paul and Sherry Wehner, AJ and Dani Mikel, Justin and Hannah Hussey, Dan and Donna Roddy, and Ouida Thomas for providing food for the Blessing of the Animals.
- Dr. and Mrs. Hueber of Brazoria and West Columbia Veterinary Clinic for setting up a table at the Blessing of the Animals.
- The Wehner Family, the Mikels, Sherry Stratton, the Olsons, Jackie Walker, and Jennifer Schill for participating in Trunk or Treat.

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



## 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.





## 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

Needlepoint Retreat - December 4-7: Join fellow needlepointers for this midweek retreat.

Registration is not open for summer camp sessions at Camp Allen.

## Nov. - Dec. Anniversaries

Grace & Thomas Culbreath - Nov. 18

Holly and Tommy Cantrell - Dec. 2

Colleen & Clint Matocha - Dec. 19

Tracy and Brian Lane - Dec. 29

## Nov. - Dec. Birthday

Barbara Rectenwald - Nov. 4

Robert Mikel - Nov. 6

Hayden Culbreath - Nov. 12

David Mikel - Nov. 18

Anne King - Nov. 21

Trace Roddy - Dec. 6

Jennifer Schill - Dec. 12

John Rectenwald - Dec. 17

Dani Mikel - Dec. 22

Grace Culbreath - Dec. 24

Haley Cantrell Nov. 6

Cesylie Guizar - Nov. 6

Brayze Schill - Nov. 15

Travis Prater - Nov. 20

Gwynne Olson - Nov. 22

Adam Schill - Dec. 10

Kendy Hankins - Dec. 15

Daniel Mikel - Dec. 21

Brooke Willson - Dec. 22

Ben Anderson - Dec. 25

## **Dates to Remember**

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

**November 5 - All Saints Sunday Service - Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)**  
celebrant - the Rev. Paul Wehner  
children's Sunday School during the service

**November 12- Commitment Sunday Service - Holy Eucharist: Rite II(9:00 a.m.)**  
celebrant - the Rev. Paul Wehner  
children's Sunday School during the service

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

**November 12 - Adult and Youth Sunday School (10:30 - 11:15 a.m.)**  
Activities for children are provided.

**November 12 - Vestry Meeting (11:30 a.m.)**

**November 13 - Strengthen With Prayer Exercise Program (8:00 - 9:00 a.m.)**  
Parish Hall - bring yoga mat and hand weights

**November 15 - Thanksgiving Parish Dinner (5:30 p.m.)**

**November 19 – Brotherhood (7:30 a.m.)**

**November 19 - Sunday Service - Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)**  
includes Baptism, Confirmation, Receiving, and Renewing  
celebrant - the Rt. Rev. Kathryn Ryan  
rector - the Rev. Paul Wehner  
no children's Sunday School during the service

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

**November 23 - Thanksgiving Day**

**November 26 - DOK Meeting (7:45 a.m.)**

**November 26 - Sunday Service - Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)**  
celebrant - the Rev. Paul Wehner  
no children's Sunday School during the service

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

**November 26 - Adult and Youth Sunday School (10:30 - 11:15 a.m.)**  
Activities for children are provided.

**November 27 - 30 - Strengthen With Prayer exercise program (8:00 - 9:00 a.m.)**  
Parish Hall - bring a yoga mat and hand weights

**November 28 - Batting Cages Ribbon Cutting Ceremony (10:00 - 11:00 a.m.)**

**December 2 - Light-up the Capital Christmas Parade**

**December 3 – Brotherhood (7:30 a.m.)**

**December 3 - Sunday Service – Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)**  
celebrant - the Rev. Mark Crawford  
children's Sunday School during the service

**December 3 - Hospitality and Fellowship (10:00 - 11:30 a.m.)**

**December 3 - Advent 1 Activity (10:30 - 11:15 a.m.)**

**Advent Wreath Making and hanging the wreaths in the church**

**December 10 - Sunday Service - Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)**  
celebrant - the Rev. Paul Wehner  
children's Sunday School during the service

**December 10 - Hospitality and Fellowship (10:00 - 10:30 a.m.)**

**December 10 - Advent 2 Activity (10:30 - 11:15 a.m.)**  
Christmas Card Making

**December 17 – Brotherhood (7:30 a.m.)**

**December 17 - Sunday Service - Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)**  
celebrant - the Rev. Paul Wehner  
Nativity Pageant

**December 17 - Advent 3 Activity (10:00 a.m.)**  
Crockpot Cook-off and Parish Brunch  
Decorating the Christmas tree

**December 17 - Vestry Meeting (5:00 p.m.) - the Wehner home**

**December 20 - Pick up poinsettias at Brookwood (9:00 a.m.)**

**December 24 - Sunday Service - Holy Eucharist Rite II (9:00 a.m.)**  
celebrant - the Rev. Paul Wehner  
no children's Sunday School

**December 24 - Christmas Eve Service - Holy Eucharist - Rite II (8:00 p.m.)**

**December 25 - Christmas Day - no service**

**December 31 - Brotherhood meeting (7:30 a.m.)**

**December 31 - DOK meeting (7:45 a.m.)**

**December 31 - Liturgy of the Word or Morning Prayer (9:00 a.m.)**

**December 31 - Hospitality and Fellowship (9:30 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](mailto:stmaryswestcolumbia@gmail.com)**

**New mailing address - 201 E. Clay Street, West Columbia, TX 77486**

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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.