

The Bells of St. Mary's

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And serve each other according to the gift each person has received, as good managers of God's diverse gifts. 1 Peter 4:10

The theme for Stewardship this year is Journey to Generosity. It is not just meaning the giving generously of our treasure, but also of our time and talent. Each Sunday in October, a different article has been included with the pew bulletin which reflects on the theme and the meaning of stewardship. We have also had several parishioners speak on what St. Mary's means to them and why they give of their time, talent and treasure to support the church and its mission to serve God.

Asking for money is a difficult and dreaded task, but the church does have expenses and without knowing what is expected as income, it is impossible to plan a budget. Our parishioners have been very generous in their Sunday offerings, but the budget can only be planned using the pledge offerings. An estimate of the plate offerings is included in the budget, but it is low since it is the unknown.

Pledge cards will be handed out Sunday, November 5th or mailed during the week. Included on the card will not only be a place to indicate your monetary pledge but also how you can serve God with your time and talent. After prayerful consideration on what you can give, please return the card before or on December 3rd. You can place it in the offertory plate any Sunday or mail it to the church (PO Box 786). On Sunday, December 3rd, we will have a dedication of the pledge cards. Of course, the vestry will also accept any cards after that date.



Parish Supper

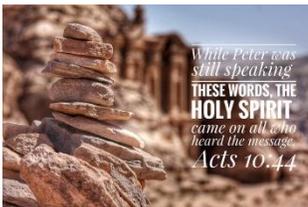
If you weren't able to join us for the parish supper October 18th, make plans to attend November 15th. Dinner and fellowship will begin at 5 pm. Bring a side dish or dessert to share. AJ is making his famous chicken noodle soup. Don't miss out.



DOK Excursions

The Daughters of the King have several "trips" planned for November and December and would love to have any interested ladies join the fun. Our first event is scheduled for Tuesday, November 14th, as we meet at St. Mary's and carpool to The Strand in Galveston to visit Heather Mikel's new shop, Emboldened Elegance. Before returning, we will enjoy a lunch together on the island. If you are interested, meet at St. Mary's at 9 am.

December wouldn't be complete without a trip to the Brookwood Community. Once again, we will travel to Brookwood for lunch and shopping. If you weren't able to join the group last December or before Easter, make plans to join us on Thursday, December 21st. We will meet at the church at 9 am and should return by 3 pm. If you have not already RSVP'd with Dani, please let her know as soon as possible so she can contact Brookwood.

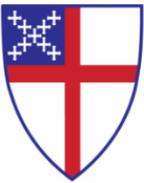


Bible Study

If you haven't been able to join us for Bible Study on Thursday yet, it's never too late! Come journey through the Book of Acts as we learn about the spread of Christianity, Paul's conversion, and ultimately Paul's imprisonment in Rome. Everyone is welcome! We meet each Thursday from 6- 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

"Kairos" Prison Ministry

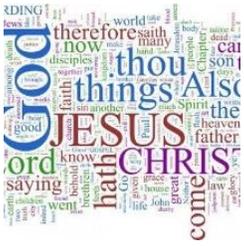
Kairos Prison Ministry is a lay-led, interdenominational Christian ministry in which men and women volunteers bring Christ's love and forgiveness to prisoners. The word, Kairos, is a Greek word meaning in "God's Special Time", indicating an opportunity for prisoners who face violence, anger, gangs, and loneliness daily to learn that they are worthy of God's love, light and grace. That no matter who they are or what they have done, God forgives them. Kairos Prison Ministry volunteers hold a 3 1/2 day weekend, with the majority of participants made up primarily of negative leaders within the prison walls. Through talks, discussions, and chapel meditations, lives are changed, and prisoners are led to God. Please be in prayer for the Kairos team of volunteers and the prisoners as they participate in their 3 1/2 day retreat November 9 - 12.



Donation for Our Military Personnel

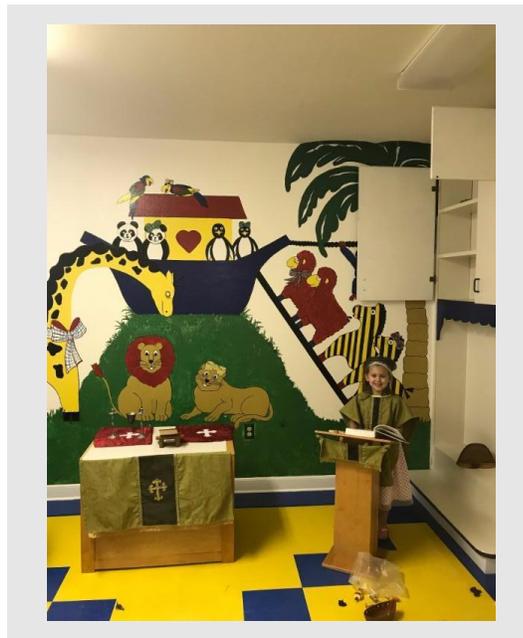
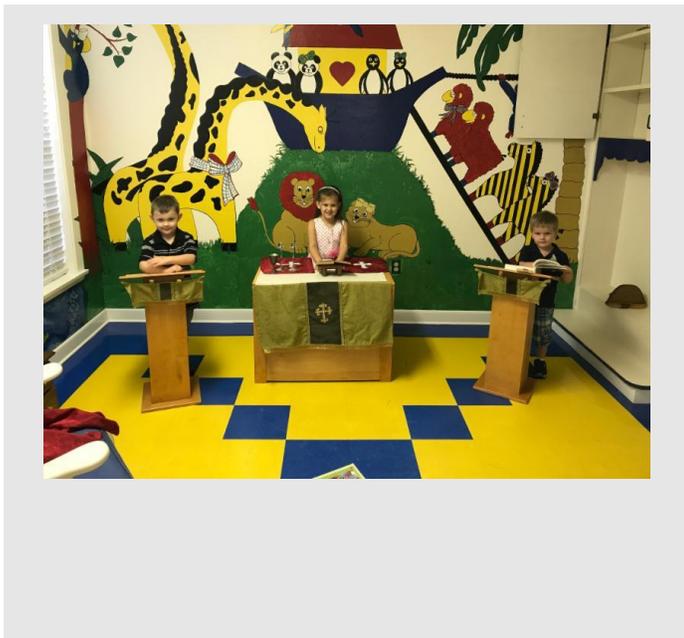
For the last several months, we have been collecting donations for the 8 military personnel who are on our prayer list each week. Along with the gift cards we will be sending to them, we would like to send cards or notes from our parish family thanking them for their service and letting them know they are in our prayers. Please bring cards, notes, and donations to the church on November 5th and place them in the basket at the entrance to the church. The gift cards and notes will be mailed on November 6th or 7th to arrive in time for Veteran's Day on October 11th.

The eight military servicemen are John Brockway, Shane Case, Kyle Ledlie, Luis Casells, Dusty Stuart, Alex Molnar, and Ricky Wallace.



Wednesday Night Christian Formation

The Wednesday Night Christian Formation Groups are off to a great start with attendance ranging from 8 to 13 youth. There have been several positive comments about the two programs from both the children and parents. Thank you to those who have provided a snack or meal for the groups. They are greatly appreciated. If you would like to provide food on Wednesday, please see Dani to select a date.



Godly Play Room

Through the generous donation by Holy Comforter Episcopal Church in Angleton of their Godly Play materials, a Godly Play Room has been setup in the Kitty Nash Groce Parish Hall. The children are able to explore the many aspects of the Episcopal Church service including the altar, vestments, lectern, chalice, Book of Common Prayer, and much more. Holy Comforter also donated other Godly Play materials which will be used during the children's lessons in church. We are truly grateful and appreciative of Holy Comforter's generosity in helping enhance our Christian Education program.



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 November are: paperback books, flip flops for the shower, deodorant, shampoo, Chap Stick with sunblock, and nail clippers. They will also accept cash donations. You can leave the items in the container at church and Rees will pick them up. This an ongoing outreach program for our church.



Community Assistance

Community Assistance will be providing funds to the families in West Columbia and our parishioners effected by Hurricane Harvey.

If you know of anyone in need, please contact Karen or Tracy.



Music and Hymns

The church has purchased a copyright license to over 300,000 hymns, which means we are not limited to the hymns in The Hymnal or Come Celebrate. If you know a hymn you would like included in the worship service, give the name to Dani. She will check to see if it is on the copyright list and try to get a copy of it to print for Kathy and the congregation. Please try to make it a hymn other would know, or you may be singing a solo. Let's make a joyful noise unto the Lord.



News from the Vestry

The vestry met Sunday,
October 15th after the Sunday service.

Senior Warden's Report: Karen Logue

The Annual Meeting was set for January 28th. The Pastor Search Committee is active and making progress. The Stewardship Campaign will begin the first week of October and will include parishioners speaking to the congregation. Cards will be sent out November 6th and blessed December 3rd.

Junior Warden's Report: Dan Roddy

General maintenance needs to be done around the church including replacing light bulbs, replacing smoke detector batteries, and power washing the outdoor carpet.

Attendance: Dani Mikel

The average Sunday attendance for September was 28. The church was not opened on September 3rd because of Hurricane Harvey.

Financial Report for August: Dani Mikel

Disbursements

General Expense: \$7033.32
Community Assistance: \$1,823.12
Supply Priests: \$581.05
Total: \$9437.49

Income

Plate/Pledge Offering \$3,576.00
Community Assistance Donations (Hurricane Relief): \$372.38
Bank interest \$7.10
Miscellaneous income: \$20.26

Total: \$3975.74

Financial Report for September: Dani Mikel

General Expense: \$4,604.01
Community Assistance: \$124.78
Supply Priests: \$846.15
Total: \$5,574.94

Income

Plate/Pledge Offering \$3,118.00

Community Assistance Donations (Hurricane Relief): \$2084.00

bank interest \$8.05

Parish Hall Rental: \$120.00

Total: \$5330.05

Old Business

Karen will be asking parishioners to serve on the Nominating Committee. Dan and Marvin have completed their terms on the vestry. An updated funeral pamphlet was discussed. The revised pamphlet will be presented at the next meeting.

New Business

An Emergency Plan from the Diocese was presented.

The next vestry meeting will be Sunday, November 12th.



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.

Catholic: universal

Celebrant: the bishop or priest who officiates at the altar during the celebration of the Eucharist

Celebration: the word used to designate the solemn performance of divine worship, especially the Holy Eucharist

Chasuble: the poncho-shaped vestment worn by the celebrant at the Holy Eucharist.

Message from Marvin Miller

Wearing Yourself Out

You will surely wear yourselves out. Exodus 18:18

My friend Jeff was asked by his daughter to officiate at her wedding. This would be a great joy as they traveled to an exotic and romantic location for the ceremony. But there was one major problem. Because the wedding party was very small, Jeff would have to perform three separate roles that could be in conflict. He would be the officiating officer, the father of the bride, and the wedding photographer!

Have you ever felt as if you were wearing too many hats? Jethro thought his son-in-law, Moses was (Exodus 18). Leading the Israelites, arbitrating personal disputes, and handing down legal judgements for a great multitude were taking their toll. Finally, Jethro approached Moses telling him “This thing is too much for you; you are not able to perform it by yourself” (v.18). He wisely counseled Moses to delegate smaller disputes to other advisors and take the more challenging cases himself (v. 22).

Whether you are a mother with small children, an overwhelmed business executive, or an overworked church volunteer, you too can take a lesson from Moses. Why not prayerfully discern if there may be tasks you can delegate to others, or even discontinue – so that you don’t wear yourself out.

Father, we need your help with priorities. Teach us to understand
What’s most important and needs to be accomplished and
To let go of what we can so that we are at our best for you.

If we don’t come apart and rest awhile,
We may just plain come apart.

Christian One Liners

Thank you, Doris

- Opportunity may knock once, but temptation bangs on the front door forever.
- We are called to be witnesses, not lawyers or judges.
- Coincidence is when God chooses to remain anonymous.



Reesie Cantrell made the A/B Honor Roll at West Columbia Elementary School. She also received an award for zero conduct marks during the first nine weeks of school.

Brayze Schill is made the A honor roll at West Brazos Jr. High. He has also qualified for the Jr. National Finals Rodeo in Bareback and in Saddle Bronc to be held in Las Vegas in December.

Maddie Lane has been accepted to Texas A&M University in the fall of 2018.

Braylee Schill made the A Honor Roll at West Columbia Elementary School. She also received a good conduct award.

Haley Cantrell competed in twirling at the Brazoria County Fair. She placed first in one baton, marching, and duet, and third in show twirl. In the talent show at the fair, she placed first in duet. She also made the A honor roll at West Brazos Jr. High.

Abigail Roddy was named Student of the Month for September at West Columbia Elementary

Aaron Mikel was elected secretary for INTERACT, a service organization at Sweeny High School.



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.

Upcoming Events

November 3rd - 5th - Fishers Weekend

November 7th - Lunch and Learn - Mastering the Art of Thanksgiving Dinner

November 23 - Thanksgiving Celebration

December 6 - Holiday Steak Dinner

December 8 - 10 - Holiday in the Pines



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. lab boards for the Jr. High Christian Formation
4. Bean bag chairs for the Jr. High Christian Formation room

Thank you to the Davidson family for photo albums and containers.



Don't Forget

Please check the calendar at the entrance to the church and sign up to provide food for Hospitality after church. We still have openings in November and the rest of the months after that.

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

November 1 - Christian Formation
(5:00 - 6:30)

November 2 - Bible Study (6:30 pm)

November 5 - Pledge cards are sent

November 8 - Jr. High Christian
Formation (5:00 - 6:30)

November 9 - Bible Study (6:00 pm)

November 12 - Brotherhood (7:30 am)

November 14 - Ladies' trip to Galveston
(9:00 am)

November 15 - Church Dinner (5:00 pm)

November 15 - Christian Formation
(5:00 - 6:30)

November 16 - Bible Study (6:00 pm)

November 26 - Brotherhood (7:30 am)

Changes to the Directory

John and Bonnie Cole
142 S. 13th Street
West Columbia, Texas 77486
mingtoy@embarqmail.com

November Birthdays

Charlotte Blount - November 1

Robert Mikel - November 6

Haley Cantrell - November 6

Brandi Weisinger - November 7

Brayze Schill - November 15

David Mikel - November 18

Hunter Weisinger - November 22

Ryan Logue - November 26

November Anniversaries

Heather and David Mikel – Nov. 7

Vestry Members

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

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

Clerk Marvin Miller
(mgminspections@earthlink.net)

Treasurer Dani Mikel
(danimikel87@yahoo.com)

Church (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.