



The Bells of St. Mary's

November Edition



One of the distinctive aspects of the Episcopal Church is the centrality of bishops. The Episcopal Church did not invent that office, for mention of the role of bishops in the church can be seen in the early church as recorded in some of the epistles, particularly 1 Timothy. Our sisters and brothers in other Christian denominations may have the position of a bishop with the job entailing either more authority than given to an Episcopal bishop or less. When the remnants of the Church of England began to arise from the ashes of the American Revolutionary War throughout the thirteen colonies, the Church had to almost reinvent itself, with one of the first tasks being coming up with a new name!! They landed on "The Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States of America." By including the word "Episcopal" in the Church's title, our forebearers affirmed the role of the bishop in the Church because the Greek word for bishop is *episkopos*, or "overseer."

The duties of a bishop are to "represent Christ and his Church, particularly as apostle, chief priest, and pastor of a diocese; to guard the faith, unity, and discipline of the whole Church; to proclaim the Word of God; to act in Christ's name for the reconciliation of the world and the building up of the Church; and to ordain others to continue Christ's ministry." (*The Book of Common Prayer*, 855) Bishops are required to make regular "visitations" to each parish, ensuring that appropriate oversight by clergy and lay people is taking place and providing pastoral services like Baptism and Confirmation. Large dioceses like our own have assisting bishops as we do in the case of Suffragan Bishops Dena Harrison and Jeff Fisher and Assistant Bishop Hector Monterroso.

On November 25th, St. Mary's will receive a visit from Bishop Monterroso. In addition to confirming new members of St. Mary's, the Bishop will also celebrate and preach. We will host a reception for him following our service that morning for he is eager to meet all of us. This will be Bishop Monterroso's first visit to St. Mary's and West Columbia, having joined the Diocese of Texas in 2017 after leading the Episcopal Church in Costa Rica for fourteen years.

Let's give Bishop Monterroso our warm St. Mary's welcome!

Gratefully,

Postscript – The vestry of St. Mary's has affirmed its desire to support and encourage me in complying with a directive all clergy in the Diocese of Texas received from Bishop Doyle at Clergy Conference in October. Bishop Doyle has asked clergy to begin instructing their congregations to conform to the spirit of the "Passing of the Peace" which was instituted in the 1979 Book of Common Prayer. This is best demonstrated by giving and receiving the peace to those in surrounding pews rather than attempt, and fail, to pass the peace with everyone in the Nave. The first ten minutes or so of the adult Christian Formation class on November 4th will be allocated to discussing the ethos and the role of the "Peace" in the Eucharist service. If you are not able to attend or would like to speak with me more about this impending change, please feel free to contact me to schedule a meeting.



KNOW YOUR HYMNS!

Know your Hymns – The End of the Season After Pentecost!

The hope behind this regular newsletter item has been to help expand St. Mary's repertoire of hymns as we began to try out some hymns with which many may not be familiar. We have begun to repeat some hymns and some tunes of hymns during this long season after Pentecost as many of us grew more familiar with our hymns.

Thus, we will shift gears and begin to just identify those hymns that are new to us, rather than continue reporting all hymns.

In November, special note should be given to the celebration of the Feast of All Saints on November 4th – many hymns scheduled to be sung that Sunday are particular hymns for that feast day, but they are all very familiar hymns in the Episcopal hymn cycle.

Please note at the end of this article a new piece of worship music we will use during the season of Advent, beginning on December 2nd. In place of the *Gloria*, we will sing an ancient hymn, the Trisagion, repeating it three times. By the end of Advent, you should have this one down cold!!

Hymns for Sunday, November 4, the Feast of All Saints

Opening Hymn – Hymnal 287 *For all the saints* (Verses 1-4,7-8)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1OaBgaMcOvM>

Offertory Hymn – Hymnal 293 *I sing a song of the saints of God*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oA1eR3-LPVc>

Closing Hymn – Hymnal 618 *Ye watchers and ye holy ones*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qYMv_Z-iJrc

Hymns for Sunday, November 11

Gospel Hymn – Hymnal 656 *Blest are the pure in heart*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hpnU2auc3Rk>

Offertory Hymn – Hymnal 718 *God of our fathers, whose almighty hand*

A patriotic hymn in honor of our veterans!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V8V6VJLIC6M>

Hymns for Sunday, November 25

Opening Hymn – Hymnal 494 *Crown him with many crowns*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3kPkjghup8E>

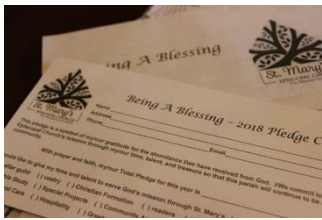
Offertory Hymn – Hymnal 433 *We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l6gAE_ODosM

Alert! Alert! Service Music Change During Advent...

Instead of singing the *Gloria*, Hymn S-280, after we pray the Collect for Purity, we will be singing the ancient hymn, the *Trisagion*, Hymn S-102. Here is a video with just the music – the words are given the first time through of this short hymn which is repeated a total of three times.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h38YyASf_C4



Harvest Sunday

November always seems to bring to mind the harvest season. Farmers in our warm climate are able to harvest crops almost year-round. Perhaps we think of harvest this month because our nation has long celebrated Thanksgiving in November, a holiday that recalls the first successful harvest of the Pilgrims in New England.

After many weeks of prayerful consideration and discernment, it is time to draw our stewardship season to a close so that your vestry can begin to work on a budget for 2019. Come to worship on Sunday, November 11th as we “harvest” our pledge cards and our longing to adequately acknowledge our gratitude to God for the abundant blessings God has given to us, especially the blessing of this parish. As we come forward to receive communion we will drop our envelopes into a basket which will later be brought forward and blessed as we close the service and this time of personal and familial discernment. Any pledge cards mailed in or delivered prior to November 11th will be included in this basket to be blessed.

Thank you for “Being a Blessing” in so many ways throughout the year to this parish family of St. Mary’s.

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

Thanksgiving Partnership. St. Mary’s has longed to become more engaged with the West Columbia community. A request was made by Columbia United Methodist Church (CUMC) to partner with them in providing a Thanksgiving meal and additional food for the long weekend for families in need. The vestry has agreed to provide a check to help CUMC with the purchase of these food items. CUMC has welcomed us to help with the assembly and distribution of these baskets – please note the following dates and times and consider participating in this worthy project.

- **Assembly of Baskets** – Wednesday, November 14th, 6:30 in CUMC’s Fellowship Hall (following St. Mary’s November Parish Dinner which begins at 5:30)
- **Distribution of Baskets** – Come help distribute these baskets to families who will pick them up at CUMC’s Fellowship Hall between 12:00-1:00 on Friday, November 16th.

Christmas Partnership. Many of our local churches help families in need experience the joy of Christmas each year. The vestry of St. Mary’s has decided that we will take five families from West Columbia Elementary School and supply food items for this long holiday as well as provide gifts for their children. These families will be identified by school authorities. Please stay tuned for a list of food items we will be collecting in early December for these families and the opportunity to purchase gifts for their children.

Report from Our Youth Program

by Colleen Matocha

This adventure that I have embarked on with our youth group has been amazing this fall. I would like to thank the parents for sharing your kid's personalities with me on Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings.

This November will be fun for our youth group. We are currently working on homemade cards for our Veterans from the church. If you have anyone that you would like for us to send a Veterans' Day card to besides the active members we are praying for, please let me know so I can make sure we have plenty. Also, on Veterans' Day the youth will be ringing the bells at 11:00 am in honor of the men and women that have lost their lives for our freedom. The bell ringing will symbolize the 21-gun salute to those we have lost.

November 11th, we will be baking cakes and decorating them in the kitchen of the Parish Hall for our Senior Citizens Meals on Wheels Program. (We might run over a little with time on this Sunday as we have so much to accomplish).

On November 14th we will be helping with the Food Baskets at the Methodist church after the parish dinner.

We will also be having a bake sale at the end of November to raise funds for our Christmas outreach. The kids had the option of reaching out during the holidays and they chose to do a program that is very interesting. The program is through Episcopal Relief & Development called *Gifts for Life*. It was a magazine with different options from giving school items, vaccines, water, and a whole lot of other choices that would help a needy village. The youth flipped through the magazine of options and chose to purchase a live animal (goat) and a bike to give to a foreign country. For both of them, it is about \$200 which will be our goal. We will be accepting donations for baked goods and I will let you know as soon as I have a firm date for the bake sale.



Braylee, Reesie, and Brayze present The Reverend Sharron Cox with a gift from the youth in honor of Rector Appreciation Month

Blessing of the Animals

Thank you to all who helped with the Blessing of the Animals on October 7th. It was very well received by the community with over 80 people in attendance. A special thanks to Dr. Huebner and his staff for joining us on this special day.





The lemonade stand run by the children and youth at the Blessing of the Animals was very successful. With the \$130 they raised, they were able donate dog and cat food to the animal shelter at the West Columbia Police Department. Accepting for the Animal Shelter is Officer Becerra.

Message from Marvin Miller”

Learning to hear God's Whispers

From the book “Positive Spiritual Living”

Individuals need an extended time reflecting on a devotional reading, meditating on a selected passage and being alone with God. People plant themselves in different parts of our house, walk the neighborhood, or sit on a pew in the local church. The objective of this time is to be quiet and free of distraction, to enter into the story of His word and learn to hear from God. We feel that if there is just one thing we can do to help growing emerging leaders, it would be to grow together in learning how to hear God’s voice.

Meditating on the story of Elijah in the cave on Mt. Horeb and standing on the mountain, Elijah encountered God. But God was not found in the powerful great wind that passed by . . .Nor was He found in the earthquake that followed . . .And He was not in the fire. Next came a sheer silence and Elijah encountered God. Elijah heard God’s still small voice . . . God’s whispers.

Whispering magnifies the picture of intimacy in drawing close to one another. When God whispers, we need to be quiet if we want to hear. When God whispers, we need to draw close. If our lives are too noisy or if we are too busy, we may miss hearing His voice. Elijah felt completely wiped out - all alone - and fearful after his encounter with the priests of Baal and pursuit by Jezebel. In this place up on the mountain, Elijah heard and felt God’s voice of love and care. God reveals to Elijah His plans and the next step for Elijah. How much we need to hear God’s voice of love and care, how much we need to hear God’s plans in the midst of our busy and noisy lives. When Elijah hears God’s words, he is refreshed and then he obeys.

Learning to really listen to God’s whispers means learning to follow and obey His commands.



Trip to Brookwood

Christmas is almost here, and the poinsettias have been ordered, so ladies mark your calendar for our annual December trip to Brookwood. We will leave on Thursday, December 20th, with the time to be determined. The trip includes shopping at the spectacular store with its Christmas decorations as well as the garden center full of breathtaking plants, eating lunch at the elegant restaurant, and most importantly picking up the poinsettias that will enhance the beauty of our church during our Christmas Eve Service. Please let Dani know by November 12th if you will be able to go, so she can make reservations for lunch. At this time of year, the times available fill up quickly. You are welcome to invite your friends as well.

Prayer Request

If you or someone you know is in need of prayers, you can fill out a prayer request card found in the pews or notify the office directly. 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.



Donations for the Military Personnel

With Veterans' Day being in November, this is the perfect time to remember the military personnel serving in the most unimaginable conditions both physically and mentally. These are the men and women serving in Korea, Afghanistan, and other foreign areas away from their families and the luxuries we take for granted. We don't know their names, just as they don't know ours, but they are there for us.

We have the opportunity to give monthly to *US Troops Not Forgotten* which is based in Sweeny. Each month specific items are listed that can be donated. The donations are then sent to troops that are serving in foreign countries. When you're out shopping, please remember to pick up some of these items.

The items for November are: writing tablets, pens, mechanical pencils with refills, Sharpies, and disposable razors. They will also accept cash donations to help with mailing expenses. In our parish hall, there is a container by the door for donations as well as reminder cards you can put in your wallet or purse.



Community Assistance

In October, two different households were helped with the payment of their electric bills. Another household was aided with the payment of rent. Donations were also made to the West Columbia Volunteer Fire Department and the West Columbia Central EMS.

If you know of anyone needing assistance, please contact Tracy or Karen.



News from the Vestry

The vestry met Monday, October 29, 2018.

Rector Report: The Reverend Sharron Cox

Rev. Sharron gave the rector report detailing her activities from September 22nd to October 27th. In addition to her regular responsibilities, she has conducted training, visited several parishioners, met with vestry leaders, had discussions with community and other church leaders, and attended conferences and workshops.

Senior Warden's Report: Karen Logue

The Stewardship Campaign is going well.

Junior Warden's Report: Andrea Anderson

Andrea reported that Dan will be fixing the storm drain in the parking lot. The thermostat in the office was replaced and the installation of the LED lights is continuing. She with the help of others is developing a long-range plan for the maintenance and improvements of the church.

Discipleship Report

The Lay Eucharist Ministers were trained. Rev. Sharron gave the quarterly report on the Average Sunday Attendance. Bishop Hector Monterosso's visit was discussed. Rev. Sharron presented information from the Clergy Conference including directives from Bishop Doyle. The Sunday morning adult and children Christian Formation classes have been well attended as has the Wednesday evening youth and children classes. The Blessing of the Animals was very successful. A survey about the Blessing of the Animals was conducted and the results will be given once all surveys are completed.

Mission Report

There were discussions on the Volunteer Luncheon for the Fall West Columbia Clean-up Day on October 27th, on the Thanksgiving Baskets project with Columbia United Methodist Church, and on Christmas assistance for five families.

Financial Support

Karen presented recommendations by the Community Assistance Committee for new guidelines for the program. The new guidelines were approved. Rev. Sharron gave a report on the Community Assistance given during the month of October.

Evangelism

A report on the "Messy Church" program attended by Karen, Gwynne Olson, and Rev. Sharron was given.

Calendar

- The next two vestry meetings will be on November 26th at 3:00 and December 17th at 3:00.
- Parish Dinner will be November 14th at 5:30 with a Turkey Dinner and December 19th.
- Bishop's visit will be on November 25th at the 9 am service.
- The Annual meeting will be January 27th.

A copy of the vestry minutes will be placed on the bulletin board in the parish hall.



TEBS (Thursday Evening Bible Study)

by Karen Logue

Our TEBS group is studying the gospel of Luke. We meet each Thursday at 6:00pm in the fellowship hall and everyone is welcome to attend! Come join us and learn how Luke's gospel differs from the other two synoptic gospels of Matthew and Mark.



Are You Smarter Than An Acolyte

In the training conducted by Rev. Sharron, the acolytes learned the names of the implements used during Holy Communion, the parts of the church, the items worn by the acolytes, and other correct terminology in the Episcopal Church. Below are four pictures. Can you match the correct name to each picture? The word choices are **Gospel Book, sacristy, nave, credence table, pectoral cross, processional cross**



A. _____



B. _____



C. _____



D. _____

Piper Roddy's choir ensemble received an excellent rating at the UIL Junior High Solo and Ensemble Contest.

Haley Cantrell received several awards in the Brazoria County Fair Baton Twirling Contest. She placed first in Prettiest Costume, Miss Fair Twirler, Two Baton, Duet, Dance Twirl, Junior High Line, and Ensembles. She placed second in One Baton and third in Modeling. At West Brazos Jr. High, Haley made the A/B Honor Roll for the first nine weeks.

Brayze Schill placed 1st in Bareback and 2nd in Chute Dogging at the Jr. High Rodeo in Gonzales. He placed 4th overall in the Conquer the Gauntlet in Katy. At West Brazos Jr. High, Brayze made the A/B Honor Roll for the first nine weeks.

In the Brazoria County Fair Baton Twirling Contest, Abigail Roddy placed 5th in modeling and her ensemble group placed 2nd. She also competed in the Mutton Busting Contest. At West Columbia Elementary School, she received the zero conduct marks and perfect attendance awards.

Reesie Cantrell made the A/B Honor Roll at West of the Brazos Jr. High.

Braylee Schill won the Chute Roping at the Wharton Chute and Barrel Rodeo. During the award ceremony at West Columbia Elementary, she received the Perfect Attendance award, Good Conduct award, Principal Honor Roll, and the M&M Kid award. At the Brazoria County Fair Art Show, her drawing received third place. Braylee was 2nd in the Girl's Division at the Conquer the Gauntlet competition in Katy.

Kendy Hankins ensemble dance group placed 3rd at the Brazoria County Fair Talent Show. She also received the Perfect Attendance Award, the Zero Conduct Marks Award, and the Principal's Honor Roll.

Trace Roddy participated in the Mutton Busting contest at the Brazoria County Fair.

Ally Lane was inducted into the National Honor Society at Columbia High School.

Ashlie Weisinger was Student of the Month at West Columbia Elementary School. She also received the Wildcatter Award for zero conduct marks.

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



Dan and Marvin are ready to serve the hot dogs at the luncheon for the volunteers from the West Columbia City-wide Clean-up day.



Camp Allen Events

Glory in the Stable **November 30-December 2**

Join us this advent to study C.S. Lewis and the Gifts of **Christmas**! This retreat led by Christin Ditchfield Lazo and Andrew Lazo, promises powerful moments of timely encouragement, as well as space for personal reflection and prayer during the joyful, often busy, Advent season. Participants will also find opportunities to enjoy Camp Allen's 1,100 pristine acres and outdoor activities. Adult & children's program available.

Holiday Steak Dinner **December 5**

When **Thanksgiving** leaves you tired of cooking and eating leftover turkey, join us for Holiday Steak Dinner at Camp Allen. Our halls will be decked with boughs of holly, and a cash bar will be available. This is a perfect opportunity to enjoy the **Christmas** season with a holiday gathering for friends, family, or clients.

Holiday in the Pines **December 14-16**

Get ready for a rustic- classic Christmas at Camp Allen's Holiday in the Pines family weekend! Enjoy two nights of hotel lodging, six delicious meals, and activities for all! Activity options: blown snow, sledding, rock climbing, giant swing, boating, Adventure Summit Course, Swimming, massages, horseback riding, Discovery Dome theatre, **Sunday** worship service, campfire with s'mores, ladies tea, photos with Santa, family movie night, live bird & reptile classes, guided hikes, fishing lessons, hayrides, moon jump, archery, holiday-themed crafts, and more!

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.



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.

- outdoor canvas folding chairs for the youth room
- small bookcases for the Godly Play Room



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.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Special thanks and gratitude to:

- Sue Davidson for donating the area rug for the children's room, containers for the Godly Play Room, and paint brushes for the youth room.
- Jackie Walker for donating art supplies for the children.
- Karen Logue for the border on the bulletin boards.
- the DOK and all who set up for, cooked, served, and cleaned up after the lunch for the West Columbia City-wide Clean-up Day volunteers.
- Karen Logue and Charlotte Blount for organizing the Blessing of the Animals and the Lemonade Stand.
- the Brotherhood for cooking the hotdogs at the Blessing of the Animals.
- all who brought food to the Blessing of the Animals dinner.

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

Dates to Remember

November 1 - Bible Study (6:00 pm)

November 4 - Sunday service (9:00 am)
Christian Formation (10:20 am)

November 6 - DOK (9:30 pm)

November 7 - Christian Formation (5:30)

November 8 - Rev. Sharron will be on
vacation

Bible Study (6:00 pm)

November 11 - Brotherhood (7:30 am)

Sunday Service - Harvest Sunday
(9:00 am)
Christian Formation (10:20 am)

November 14 - Parish Dinner (5:30 pm)
organizing Thanksgiving Baskets
Christian Formation

November 15 - Bible Study (6:00 pm)

November 18 - Sunday Service (9:00 am)
Christian Formation (10:20 am)

November 22 - Thanksgiving Day

November 25 - Brotherhood (7:30 am)
Sunday Service with
Bishop Monterroso and
Confirmation (9:00 am)
Reception following the service

November 26 - Vestry meeting (3:00 pm)

November 28-Christian Formation (5:30 pm)

November 29 - Bible Study (6:00 pm)

November Birthdays

Charlotte Blount - November 1

Haley Cantrell - November 6

Robert Mikel - November 6

Brandi Weisinger - November 7

Brayze Schill - November 15

David Mikel - November 18

Hunter Weisinger - November 22

Gwynne Olson - November 22

Ryan Logue - November 26

November Anniversaries

Heather & David Mikel - November 7

St. Mary's Leadership

Rector

The Reverend Sharron Cox

Vestry

Sr. Warden: Karen Logue

Jr. Warden: Andrea Anderson

Clerk: Marvin Miller

Charlotte Blount

Answers to Are You Smarter Than An Acolyte?

A. credence table..... B. sacristy..... C. processional cross..... D. Gospel Book

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