

The Bells of St. Mary's



St. Mary's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
The Mustard Seed Church

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



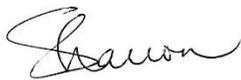
Over this past year, St. Mary's has been talking a lot about stories and sharing our stories. Early in the year, we developed a mission statement, a simple sentence that we agreed identifies who we are and what our story is as a community of Christ's. Over the spring and summer, our gospel readings from Luke covered many of Jesus' stories, the parables he used to teach his disciples and the constant crowd of others who followed him. Over the summer we entertained the idea that evangelism is merely sharing our stories with others of how much God has done for us. After hearing stories from a couple of people who grew up in St. Mary's and are now active in living their faith elsewhere, we set up a timeline by decade in the Parish Hall to encourage all of us to add their stories or memories of life shared here at St. Mary's.

But what has been particularly moving to me lately and to others I have spoken with are the stories that have been shared during our fall stewardship program, "Growing in Gratitude." Guided by our able Senior Warden and Stewardship Chair, Charlotte Blount, each week members of our community have eloquently told their stories of St. Mary's encouragement, teaching, and support. Charlotte shared of how she and Mike took a risk last year in pledging and have experienced unexpected financial blessings this year. Gwynne Olson spoke of a yearning to find a new church home after about two years of searching and how both she and Bill felt like they had come home when they visited St. Mary's. Marvin Miller compared church involvement with school, that *attending* church is like doing the basic schoolwork required by teachers to pass classes but that *ministry* in the church is like the extracurricular activities of school that give our school years such meaning. Finally, high school freshman Brayze Schill shared how grateful he is of St. Mary's support of his venturing into rodeo and how his parents have taught him to tithe a portion of his rodeo winnings to St. Mary's. All of these stories from our beloved members have inspired us to look more deeply at our annual stewardship decision of time, talent, and treasure.

“Harvest Sunday” is this coming Sunday, November 10th, when we close out our formal stewardship season for this year. Bring your completed “Giving Card” on Sunday so that your prayerful intentions of service and financial support can be blessed at the close of our worship that morning. Any completed and returned cards received over the last few weeks will also be added to the basket on Sunday. Know that these “Giving Cards” do not set your commitment in concrete – should your financial situation or work-life balance change in 2020, all you need to do is talk with me, and we will make adjustments. Note that the cards asked what ministry you could help with in 2020 in addition to your current ministries – as life and programming expands at St. Mary’s, more help is needed in all areas. Many of those ministries listed do not require significant time commitments. Again, check with me if you need more information.

But most of all, keep in mind that stewardship is not *fund-raising*, but instead is *faith-raising*.

Blessings,



Jamie Martin Currie

On Sunday, November 17th, Jamie Martin Currie will visit St. Mary’s to preach and lead a discussion in the Christian Formation class in the Parish Hall following the service. It’s no secret -- many congregations are growing older and smaller as younger generations check out from church. Based on studies of more than 250 of the nation’s leading congregations, Growing Young provides a strategy to involve and retain young people ages 15 to 29 - spiritually, emotionally, missionally, and numerically. Jamie Martin Currie, Missioner for Christian Formation for the Episcopal Diocese of Texas, will set the stage for how we can use this exciting new approach to reach the church’s future right here and right now. Known nationally for her innovative approach to youth and family ministries, Martin-Currie serves as the Missioner for Christian Formation for the Episcopal Diocese of Texas. As she offers her expertise to parishes and develops new youth and family ministers across the Diocese, she is also on the faculty of The Iona School. She previously served as the Director of Children’s Ministry at St. Martin’s in Houston and St. Bartholomew’s in New York City.

For more information about *Growing Young*, see www.fulleryouthinstitute.org/growingyoung

The Mustard Seed Church

Sowing Seeds in the Community...

Thanksgiving Baskets

St. Mary's Episcopal, Columbia United Methodist, and Bethel Presbyterian are joining together to provide Thanksgiving Food Baskets. Our commitment is to provide 30 Thanksgiving Food Baskets on November 22nd to families identified by Communities in Schools for Columbia Brazoria ISD. The baskets will include food for a special Thanksgiving meal and items to supplement the family while the children are out of school for the week of November 22nd-29th.

Following is a list of items needed. A monetary donation can also be made. There will be a container in the Narthex. Please bring your donations to the church by Sunday, November 17th. We will be assembling the baskets on Wednesday, November 20th, at Columbia United Methodist after our Parish Dinner.

Items for a special Thanksgiving meal:

pre-cooked ham
5 pound bag potatoes
canned green beans
canned corn
family-size Mac & Cheese
dressing mix
gravy
rolls
pie
pudding cups

Items for a week out of school:

1 gallon milk
cereal
bread
1 pound lunchmeat
peanut butter
jelly
chips
Mac & Cheese (single serving)
Chef Boyardee (microwavable)



Blessing of the Animals

What a beautiful, glorious day we had for the Blessing of the Animals. Although the turnout from the public was not as anticipated, the number involved from St. Mary's was amazing. Over half of our parishioners participated in some way with this annual blessing by either helping with the setup, advertising, cooking, working the booths, contacting Dr.

Huebner's office and Pet Tribe, providing items for the photo area, and staying to cleanup. We had the opportunity to visit, serve the community, and take part in a special service resulting in the blessing of our beloved pets.



Animal Shelter

The lemonade stand at Blessing of the Animals was once again a success. The \$98 raised was used to buy food and supplies for the West Columbia Animal Shelter.

Angel Tree

Last year through the generosity of our parishioners, St. Mary's was able to provide 5 families with a joyous Christmas by donating food, gifts, and stockings. The DOK will once again be overseeing The Angel Tree Project. Five families, identified by West Columbia Elementary, will be helped by us this year. More information about The Angel Tree Project will be made available later this month.

Giving Card

A Proportional Giving Chart is provided below if you would like to use it in determining your annual giving. Remember "Harvest Sunday" is November 10th.

Proportional Giving Chart

Annual Income	1%	3%	5%	7%	10%	15%
\$10,000	\$100	\$300	\$500	\$700	\$1,000	\$1,500
\$15,000	\$150	\$450	\$750	\$1,050	\$1,500	\$2,250
\$20,000	\$200	\$600	\$1,000	\$1,400	\$2,000	\$3,000
\$30,000	\$300	\$900	\$1,500	\$2,100	\$3,000	\$4,500
\$40,000	\$400	\$1,200	\$2,000	\$2,800	\$4,000	\$6,000
\$50,000	\$500	\$1,500	\$2,500	\$3,500	\$5,000	\$7,500
\$75,000	\$750	\$2,250	\$3,750	\$5,250	\$7,500	\$11,250
\$100,000	\$1,000	\$3,000	\$5,000	\$7,000	\$10,000	\$15,000
\$150,000	\$2,250	\$4,500	\$7,500	\$10,500	\$15,000	\$22,500



Advent Adventures

Advent is "a time of preparation and expectation for the coming celebration of our Lord's nativity, and for the final coming of Christ 'in power and glory'." (An Episcopal Dictionary of the Church). To help make our Advent preparation more meaningful, Sunday, November 24th, we will have Advent Adventures. What are Advent Adventures? They are activities for all ages. Five areas will be set up in the Parish Hall (Advent wreath, Advent Candle, prayer cards, Nativity creation, and sugar cookie decorating) to prepare us for Advent.

For the sugar cookie activity, pre-made sugar cookies are needed in the shape of stars or angels. If you are willing to make 1 or 2 dozen plain, undecorated sugar cookies, please contact Dani in the church office. Cookie cutters can be provided for you.

Empty toilet paper rolls or paper towel rolls are also needed. A box will be available in the Parish Hall beginning Sunday, November 3rd, for your donations.

There will be no Christian Formation classes on November 24th, but all are encouraged to stay for this unique experience.



Parish Dinners

Our next Parish Dinner will be Wednesday, November 20th, beginning at 5:30 pm. Although it will be the week before Thanksgiving, our church family will gather together for turkey, dressing, and all the sides. Charlotte and Mike Blount and Marvin and Theata Miller will be providing the turkeys. A sign-up sheet will be in the Parish Hall for those wishing to provide a side dish, dessert, or beverage. We have so much to be thankful for, including great food, warm fellowship, and a loving family. Remember, your friends and family are always welcomed.



Daughters of the King Installation

On Sunday, November 24th, Jackie Walker, Andrea Anderson, Colleen Matocha, Wendy Hankins, and Shyanne Roddy will be installed into the Daughters of the King during the 9:00 am service. Please join us for this very special ceremony. A reception for our newest Daughters will follow the service.



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. As we have traditionally done, Mary and Joseph will visit the homes of those who sign-up in the Parish Hall. They will stay with each family for 2-5 days. 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.



Trip to Brookwood

The Christmas poinsettias have been ordered, so it is time to plan our ladies' trip to Brookwood. We will leave on Friday, December 20th, with the time to be determined. This is a great opportunity for us to share a delicious meal in their elegant restaurant, pick up those last-minute gifts from their gift shop and garden center, and enjoy each other's company. Of course, we will also pick up the poinsettias. That's the whole purpose of the trip. Right?

If you have never gone to Brookwood, this will be a wonderful experience. Please let the office know you will be attending by Tuesday, November 12th. You are welcomed to invited friends and family members. The more the merrier.

Message from Marvin Miller

MY MASTER IS IN THERE!

An elderly man went to visit his family doctor. As he was preparing to leave the patient said, "Doctor, I am afraid to die. Tell me what lies on the other side."

Very quietly, the doctor said, "I don't know."

The man then quickly responded: "You don't know? You are a man of God and you do not know what is on the other side?"

The doctor was holding the handle of the door. On the other side came a sound of scratching and whining, and as he opened the door, a dog sprang into the room with an eager show of gladness.

Turning to the patient, the doctor said, "Did you notice my dog? He didn't know what was inside this room. He knew nothing except that his master was here. When the door opened, he sprang in with gladness and without fear."

"I know little of what is on the other side of death. But I do know one thing, I know my Master is there, and that is enough."

~ Author Unknown ~



News from the Vestry

Gwynne Olson, Clerk

The vestry met Monday, September 21, 2019.

The Reverend Sharron Cox was at clergy conference, so she did not attend the Vestry meeting. The Vestry reviewed the Rector's Report, noting that Rev. Sharron attended the Youth Reboot Retreat, met with contractors on future renovations, led the Blessing of the Animals, and attended the Small Church Network.

Senior Warden's Report: Charlotte Blount

Charlotte stated that we are on target for this year's Stewardship Campaign mentioning that Marvin Miller was to speak during the service on October 27th and Brayze Schill will speak at the November 3rd service.

Junior Warden's Report: Andrea Anderson

Andrea stated that there are no major repairs at this time.

A copy of the vestry minutes will be placed on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall once approved at the November meeting.

Honoring Our Military



Thank you to all who gave so generously as well as to those who took the time to write a special message. We were able purchase a gift card for each of our 9 service personnel in the amount of \$57. We also sent \$11 to each one in cash because of a contribution that came after the cards were purchased. You gave to honor those who give.

Episcopal Church Calendar

The office will be ordering the 2020 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. Each calendar is \$4.95. If you would like to order one, please notify the office by November 27th. You can pay at the time you order or when the calendar arrives.

Brayze Schill earned 2nd place in Bareback at the Central Region Qualifier.

Ally Lane has been accepted to Texas A&M University. She was elected to the Columbia High School Homecoming Court and currently serves as vice president for the Columbia High School student body.

Trace Roddy earned the Wildcatter Award for excellent behavior and the Perfect Attendance Award at West Columbia Elementary School.

Braylee Schill placed 5th in the Junior High District Cross Country Meet. Her West Brazos Jr. High 7th grade team placed 2nd in the same meet. Braylee won the 2-mile competitive Spartan Kids Race in Glen Rose.

Luke Davidson made all 100s on his first report card.

Reesie Cantrell was a member of two dance teams that completed in the talent show at the Brazoria County Fair. Her teams received 2nd place and 3rd place trophies. Reesie made the A/B Honor Roll at West Brazos Jr. High.

Piper Roddy made the A/B Honor Roll.

Haley Cantrell earned the high point award in the junior division at the Brazoria County Fair twirling competition. In UIL twirling, she received a Division 1 rating for her solo and her team also received a Division 1 rating. Haley made the A/B Honor Roll at Columbia High School.

Abigail Roddy earned the Wildcatter Award for excellent conduct and the Academic Award at West Columbia Elementary School. She also earned first place for her "Troll" solo at the Brazoria County Fair twirling competition.

Jason Davidson started his new job as manager of Halliburton's Maner Lake.

James Wolfe has started his new job at Walmart.

Saren Case, Mary Stewart's granddaughter, is reading above grade level.

Ashlie Weisinger made the A honor roll, received the Wonderful Wildcatter award, earned the official M&M Kid award, and had perfect attendance at West Columbia Elementary School.

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

Diocesan News

The Diocese of Texas has a new app. In the app store on your cell phone, type in Episcopal Diocese of Texas or EDOT in the search bar.



Camp Allen Events

Camp Allen Thanksgiving (November 28) - Leave your aprons and dirty dishes behind and make reservations with your friends and family for Camp Allen's Thanksgiving Celebration! There will be a worship service in All Saints' Chapel followed by a Thanksgiving Buffet with roasted turkey, ham, and all the trimmings.

Holiday in the Pines (December 13-15, 2019) - Join us for a fun-filled family weekend at Camp Allen. Packages include two nights of hotel style lodging, six buffet meals, and camp activities for the whole family.

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.



Don't Forget

Bring your empty ink cartridges to the Parish Hall for recycling. Through Office Depot's Ink Cartridge Recycle Program, we can turn in up to 10 used cartridges each month for a credit of \$2 per cartridge. All brands and types are welcomed. This will help defray the cost of our office supplies.

The Hospitality calendar and other important information can be found on the table at the entrance to the Parish Hall.

The bulletin board in the Parish Hall contains information, cards, news clippings, etc. that are frequently updated.

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:

- everyone who brought food to the gathering of family and friends before Bill Hosford's funeral, helped set up prior the service, served during the funeral, and helped with the reception and cleanup after the funeral.
- the men in the ARM for replanting the Prayer Garden and cleaning out the flower beds.
- to Grace Culbreath and Andrew Seigrist for the beautiful, spiritual music they provided at our service on October 13th.
- to Charlotte Blount, Gwynne Olson, Marvin Miller, and Brayze Schill for sharing with the congregation their stories about how St. Mary's is special to them.
- Jennifer Schill, Brayze Schill, Braylee Schill, Gwynne Olson, Colleen Matocha, Dani Mikel, and The Reverend Sharron Cox for being St. Mary's representatives on the Reboot Youth Leadership Team.

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

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.

November Birthdays

Charlotte Blount - Nov. 1

Haley Cantrell - Nov. 6

Robert Mikel - Nov. 6

Brandi Weisinger - Nov. 7

Brayze Schill - Nov. 15

David Mikel - Nov. 18

Hunter Weisinger - Nov. 22

Gwynne Olson - Nov. 22

Ryan Logue - Nov. 26

Vicki Tepera - Nov. 27

November Anniversaries

David and Heather Mikel - Nov. 7

Allan and Becky Dinsmore - Nov. 21

St. Mary's Leadership

Rector

The Reverend Sharron Cox

Vestry

Sr. Warden: Charlotte Blount

Jr. Warden: Andrea Anderson

Clerk: Gwynne Olson

Dates to Remember

**November 3 - Daylight Savings Time
(2 am)**

**November 3 - Sunday Service (9:00 am)
Hospitality (10:00 am)
Christian Formation (10:20 am)
Last day to donate to our military
personnel**

**November 4 - DOK meeting (5:30 pm)
Reboot Youth Team meeting (6:00 pm)**

November 7 - Yoga class (10:00 am)

**November 10- Harvest Sunday
Brotherhood meeting (7:30 am)
Sunday Service (9:00 am)
Hospitality (10:00 am)
Christian Formation (10:20 am)**

**November 14 - Yoga class (10:00 am)
Reboot Youth Team meeting (6:00 pm)**

**November 17 - Brotherhood (7:30 am)
Sunday Service (9:00 am)
Hospitality (10:00 am)
Christian Formation (10:20 am) with Jamie
Martin Currie**

November 18 - Vestry meeting (4:00 pm)

**November 20 - Parish Dinner (5:30 pm)
Assemble Thanksgiving Baskets at CUMC
(6:30 pm)
Possible Reboot Youth Team meeting (6:30
pm)**

November 21 - Yoga class (10 am)

**November 24- Sunday Service
with DOK installation (9:00 am)
Hospitality/Reception (10:00 am)
Advent Adventure (10:20 am)**

November 28 – Thanksgiving

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.