

The Bells of St. Mary's November Edition



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.

Message from the Senior Warden

Hello family!

Are you wondering where we stand in regards to locating a new full time rector? Well, as of this writing, 10/29/20, here is where we stand:

Dani has done a magnificent job in contracting really good supply priests for us. They all have different personalities, and they all bring a different perspective to our worship, and they all treat St. Mary's like their own family. It's a pleasure to worship with them.

The diocese has a prospect to serve as our interim rector, and that prospect is in his/her "discernment" phase to determine if this is the place God wants him/her to be. No decisions made yet.

The process of a search for a full-time rector has not begun. We have been cautioned over and over, "Do not be anxious".

So, that is where we stand with that. In case you haven't heard my earlier plea, this pandemic has made it obviously clear that we are in need of a volunteer IT person to keep our webpage up to date, and to keep our Facebook and twitter business running right. If you are interested, let Dani or the vestry know.

Have a great month!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marvin".

**Marvin Miller
Senior Warden**

Message from the Vestry Clerk

We are coming down the home stretch of 2020! What a year it has been! From COVID, to the Parish Hall restrooms renovation, to supply priests. Before we know it, it will Advent and the Christmas season. Then we roll into 2021 with our annual meeting in January. Marvin and Charlotte will wrap up their terms in January, leaving only one person on the vestry - me! I need your help to ensure St. Mary's rich history remains intact. It only takes anywhere from 1 to 2 1/2 hours out of a 720 hour month. Please prayerfully consider joining the vestry. Contact Marvin if you are interested on becoming a part of the vestry.

Gwynne Olson
Clerk

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

Angel Tree Project

For two years, St. Mary's has been sponsoring the Angel Tree Project by providing a joyous Christmas to low income families through the generous donations of food, gifts, and stockings. Three families, identified by West Columbia Elementary, will be helped by us this year.

Jackie Walker has agreed to chair this project once again, but she is in need of a co-chair. If you can help her organize this service project to our community, please contact the office or Jackie directly.

Because some parishioners may not feel comfortable buying the items during COVID, this year cash donations will be accepted. Donations can be sent to the church (PO Box 786, West Columbia), made through our PayPal account on our website, or dropped in the offering plate. Please designate it is for the Angel Tree Project and whether it is for food or gifts.

More information about the families and the Angel Tree Project will be sent later this month. Please watch your emails.

Honoring Our Military

On Sunday, November 8th, we will be honoring our veterans. If you served in the military, please notify the office, so you can be included in our Prayers of the People.

We have not forgotten those men and women connected to our St. Mary's family who are bravely serving in the military. Usually we send them gift cards for Veterans' Day, but the day that has been set aside to pay tribute to and honor members of the military in the United States is Armed Forces Day. Armed Forces Day is May 15, 2021. Prior to that date, we will collect donations for our military personnel, so that we can send a gift card and thank you notes to them and their families.

We realize this is very early notification, but we didn't want anyone to think we had forgotten the men and women on our weekly prayer list.

Volunteers

As we prepare for a new priest, there are small but significant things that must be completed. If you have 30 minutes, one hour, a day, etc. that you can give to St. Mary's, there is a volunteer job for you. Help is needed in the office to go through outdated files and historical documents and pictures, and place labels on file folders. If you love gardening, volunteers are needed to weed and trim the rose garden. This is also a perfect opportunity for students who need volunteer hours for school or organizations. Contact the church office by email or telephone (979-345-3456). No amount of time is insignificant, and any amount of time would be greatly appreciated.



News from the Vestry

The vestry met Sunday, October 18, 2020.

Senior Warden's Report: Marvin Miller

Marvin reported that he attended a webinar with Hall Capital Investments and attended a Zoom meeting sponsored by Texas Diocese Mission Amplification for Diocese Senior Wardens. He emphasized that our church needs to be using electronic communication and ensure the website is up-to-date.

Junior Warden's Report: Charlotte Blount

Charlotte reported that the restroom renovation is nearing final completion. Grace reported to Dani that two keys needs be repaired on the organ.

Clerk's Report: Gwynne Olson

Yard signs for parishioners have been ordered. St. Mary's will purchase chronological Bible reading journals for parishioners' use in 2021.

A copy of the vestry minutes from October will be placed on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall once approved at the November meeting. The next Vestry meeting is Sunday, November 15th at 10:30 a.m.



Episcopal Church Calendar



The office will be ordering the 2021 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 \$4.95. If you would like to order one, please notify the office by November 10th. You can pay at the time you order or when the calendar arrives.

Message from Marvin Miller

The Barber & God

This is one of the best explanations of why God allows pain and suffering that I have seen. It's an explanation other people will understand.

A man went to a barbershop to have his hair cut and his beard trimmed. As the barber began to work, they began to have a good conversation. They talked about so many things and various subjects.

When they eventually touched on the subject of God, the barber said:
"I don't believe that God exists."

"Why do you say that?" asked the customer.

"Well, you just have to go out in the street to realize that God doesn't exist. Tell me, if God exists, would there be so many sick people? Would there be abandoned children? If God existed, there would be neither suffering nor pain. I can't imagine a loving a God who would allow all of these things."

The customer thought for a moment, but didn't respond because he didn't want to start an argument. The barber finished his job and the customer left the shop. Just after he left the barbershop, he saw a man in the street with long, stringy, dirty hair and an untrimmed beard. He looked dirty and unkempt.

The customer turned back and entered the barber shop again and he said to the barber:
"You know what? Barbers do not exist."

"How can you say that?" asked the surprised barber. "I am here, and I am a barber. And I just worked on you!"

"No!" the customer exclaimed. "Barbers don't exist because if they did, there would be no people with dirty long hair and untrimmed beards, like that man outside."

"Ah, but barbers DO exist! What happens is, people do not come to me."

"Exactly!"- affirmed the customer. "That's the point! God, too, DOES exist! What happens, is, people don't go to Him and do not look for Him. That's why there's so much pain and suffering in the world."

Jim Gentil – Mr. Positive

Thank You Card

St. Mary's received a thank you card from Rev. Sharron with the following message:

Dear friends of St. Mary's,

I am so grateful for the plaque given me telling me of your love and gratitude for the life I shared with all of you over these last few years. Although my time with you was shorter than I expected or perhaps you expected, I know God called us for this season to grown in love for God and one another. And it will be that love from God and from all of you that will sustain me as I take my leave from you. Please know each of you will never leave my heart or my prayers!

**Grace and peace,
Sharron**

Goodbye to Dear Friends

Former parishioners, Karen and Ed Logue, have moved to New Braunfels. Their friendship, spiritual support, and contribution to St. Mary's will never be forgotten.

Karen was Senior Warden when Father Peter Conaty retired and before Rev. Sharron became our rector. Under her guidance, leadership, support and encouragement, St. Mary's thrived. New ministries were started, the newsletter and website were developed, and a new priest was found. Members of our congregation became involved in volunteer services to our community, and the gardens became a place of beauty and tranquility.

Ed contributed greatly to St. Mary's with his involvement in ARMS and Brotherhood. There is not a project, improvement, or repair that did not involve Ed. But his service did not stop at St. Mary's. His leadership in the Prison Ministry touched so many lives and brought so many men closer to God.

We wish Ed and Karen the very best. St. Mary's was truly blessed to have had them as part of our church family.

Robert Mikel and Sydney Hale were married in a private ceremony in Central Park, New York City on Friday, October 30th.

Brayze Schill won the Founders High School Invitational Rodeo in Hallettsville in bareback riding. He also earned a place on the A/B Honor Roll at Columbia High School for the first nine weeks.

Trace Roddy received the M&M Award, the A Honor Roll Award, the No Conduct Marks Award, and Perfect Attendance for the first nine weeks at West Columbia Elementary School.

Haley Cantrell made the all A's Honor Roll for the first nine weeks at Columbia High School.

Luke Davidson earned the A Honor Roll Award and the Perfect Attendance Award at Westside Elementary in Angleton.

Braylee Schill was part of the West Brazos Jr. High Cross Country Team that placed 3rd in district. She also earned the A Honor Roll Award at West Brazos Jr. High for the first nine weeks.

Reesie Cantrell made the A/B Honor Roll at Columbia High School for the first nine weeks.

Abigail Roddy earned the M&M Kid Award, the A/B Honor Roll Award, the No Conduct Marks Award, and the Perfect Attendance Award at West Columbia Elementary School.

Kendy Hankins made the performance team at Lynn Bates Dance Studio. She is one of 9 Jazzettes.

Heather and David Mikel have purchased a new home in Lake Jackson.

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



Community Assistance

In October, we made several donations to the food pantry at Iglesia Centro Cristiano. We also helped two families with their rent. Donations were made to the Central EMS and the West Columbia Volunteer Fire Department.

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



Camp Allen Events

Camp Allen is opening its hotel and conference center to a maximum of 20 hotel rooms on November 6-8 and November 20-22. The stay includes 2 nights lodging, dining room with private table, hike/bike trails, 2 lakes, outdoor activities, Saturday Night burger bash with outdoor movie, and

much more.

If you are interested in any of these dates call (979-345-3456) or email (stmaryswc@centurylink.net) the office for more information. There is also a direct link to the church email at the top of newsletter.



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

- the Reverend Paul Wehner, the Reverend Jim Morgan, and the Reverend Jim Abernathey for serving as our celebrants during the month of October.
- Colleen Matocha, Mary Stewart, Theata Miller, Wendy Hankins, Shyanne Roddy, Abigail Roddy, Kendy Hankins, Gwynne Olson, Marvin Miller, and Dan Roddy for serving as Worship Leaders during the month of October
- the anonymous person who donated a laptop to St. Mary's.

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.

November 1 - Sunday Service
All Saints' Day

Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)
celebrant - the Reverend Jim Morgan

November 8 - Sunday Service

Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)
celebrant - the Reverend Jim Abernathy

November 15 - Sunday Service

Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)
celebrant - the Reverend Paul Wehner
Vestry Meeting (10:30 a.m.)

November 22 - Sunday Service

Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)
celebrant - the Reverend Paul Wehner

November 29 - Sunday Service

Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)
celebrant - the Reverend Jim Abernathy

November Birthdays

Charlotte Blount - November 1

Robert Mikel - November 6

Haley Cantrell - November 6

Brandi Blount - November 7

Brayze Schill - November 15

David Mikel - November 18

Hunter Weisinger - November 22

Gwynne Olson - November 22

Vicki Tepera - November 27

November Anniversaries

Heather and David Mikel - November 7

St. Mary's Leadership

Vestry

Sr. Warden: Marvin Miller
Jr. Warden: Charlotte Blount
Clerk: Gwynne Olson

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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.