

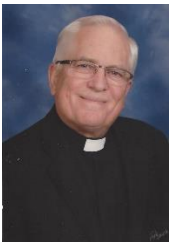


St. Mary's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
The Mustard Seed Church

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



November 2021



Message from Father Paul

In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken. (Isaiah 40.3-5)

Dear people of St. Mary's,

In these busy times of over-commitment and multi-tasking, it seems that I am always behind on my list of things that I hope to get done. And my guess is that the same is true for many of you—that we are constantly running from one thing to the next, without taking the time to fully savor the special people and the little things in our lives.

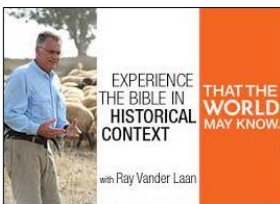
The Church's answer for our busyness is to give us seasons of preparation, in which we are to spend time in anticipation and planning for the big events to come. Lent is the preparation for Easter, and of course, Advent is the preparation for Christmas. Our gospel readings on the second Sunday of Advent always refer to the above exhortation from Isaiah, in which the prophet challenges the people to prepare their hearts for the One who is to come. I pray that we will all take heed of the prophet's call and use the season of Advent to "prepare the way of the Lord and make his paths straight" in our lives and hearts. To help you do that, we are providing activities during Advent to facilitate our preparation for the Messiah's arrival. Christmas is much more meaningful and special when we take time to truly reflect on the magnitude of the Christmas gift that we are given by God; please use the weeks of Advent to do just that.

In the calendar following this letter, you will see a list of our plans for the Sundays in Advent. Be sure to come to the parish hall after the service on Sunday, November 28th to make your family Advent wreath. We will provide everything you need to make a beautiful wreath to light at mealtime. Other Advent activities include greening the church, cookie making, making Nativity candle holders, our Children's Christmas pageant, tree decorating, and a crockpot cookoff for our parish Christmas lunch on Sunday, December 19.

May God bless you and keep you always,
Fr. Paul+

Advent and Christmas at St. Mary's Episcopal Church

Sunday, Nov. 28 @ 9:00AM	1st week of Advent - Advent Wreath Making in the Parish Hall after the service
Sunday, Dec. 5 @ 9:00AM	2nd week of Advent – decorating Christmas Cookies after the service
Sunday, Dec. 12 @ 9:00 AM	3rd week of Advent – making Nativity candles after the service
Sunday, Dec. 19 @ 9:00 AM	4th week of Advent—Christmas Pageant Decorating the Christmas tree and caroling after the service
Friday, Dec. 24 Christmas Eve	Family Christmas Service at 6:30 PM
Saturday, Dec. 25 - Christmas Day	No service
Sunday, Dec. 26 @ 9:00 AM	1st Sunday after Christmas—Liturgy of the Word
Sunday, Jan. 2 @ 9:00 AM	Service of Morning Prayer
Sunday, Jan. 9 @ 9:00AM	Baptism of Our Lord



Christian Formation Youth and Adults

That the World May Know, Ray Vander Laan

Sunday, November 7: *No Greater Love*

We visit the beautiful hillside overlooking the Sea of Galilee, which we know as ‘Mount of the Beatitudes.’ The ruins of Korazin are just a few miles to the north and provide insights into the cultural background of Galilee at the time of Jesus. This glimpse into the world in which Jesus lived and taught will help us better understand his illustrations about heaven and our eternal relationship with God.

Sunday, November 14: The Rabbi

The city of Gamla was founded in about 150 BC by Jews from Babylon that returned to their homeland after the Maccabees had won it back from the Greeks. At the time of Jesus, Gamla was a city of Zealots, who were fiercely independent and were committed to serving God and God alone. They had long awaited a conquering Messiah to free all of Israel, but Jesus did not fit their expectation.

Sunday, November 21: Language of Culture

The ancient city of Sepphoris gives us a picture of a sophisticated Jewish city during Jesus' time. As we talk about the wide variety of people that lived in such a city, we learn how Jesus used his understanding of the culture of the day to teach about God in a clear and powerful way to a wide variety of people.

CHRISTMAS TAMALES 2021

Once again, the Brotherhood is taking orders for Christmas Tamales from Ramirez in Brazoria. The four varieties of tamales are: Chicken – hot or mild, and Pork – hot or mild. This year, Ramirez is offering a new product, salsa, red or green. The tamales are \$10 per dozen (same price as in 2018 & 19), and the salsa is \$10 per jar. Please get an order form from any Brotherhood member. All orders and money must be received by 10:30 AM on Sunday, December 5th, 2021. Tamales and salsa will be distributed at 10:30 AM on Sunday, December 12th, 2021 in the Parish Hall.

Get you some! You'll love 'em!

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



**STRENGTHEN
WITH PRAYER**

Begins November 1st



St. Mary's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
The Mustard Seed Church



Monday - Thursday
8 am to 9am
St. Mary's Episocopal Church

Bring hand weights and
a yoga mat

All levels are welcome!

Blessing of the Animals

The Blessing of the Animals was a great success with over 20 people and over 40 dogs present. Of course, the highlight of the day was the beautiful service and blessings given to the animals by Father Paul.

Special thanks to Adam, Jennifer, Brayze, and Braylee Schill for all their hard work in organizing the event. They did an amazing job. Thank you also to all the volunteers; West Columbia Vet Clinic, AJ Mikel, Marvin Miller, Theata Miller, Donna Roddy, Dan Roddy, Bill Olson, Gwynne Olson, Dani Mikel, Jackie Walker, Mary Stewart, Abigail Roddy, Trace Roddy, Piper Roddy, Haley Cantrell, Reesie Cantrell, Holly Cantrell, Amber Prater, Travis Prater, Sherry Wehner, and Father Paul Wehner for without you this event could not have happened.



Father Paul led the Blessing of the Animals service.



The West Columbia Vet Clinic provided information and gifts for those that were present.



The lemonade stand raised \$180 which was used to buy supplies for the local dog pound.



ALL SAINTS DAY PRAYERS FOR THE DECEASED

All Saints Sunday is November 7 this year. On that day, we read the names of those we love but see no longer. The names are read at the altar prior to Holy Eucharist and the Eucharist is dedicated to their memory. Use this form to provide the names of your loved ones that you would like to have read. Extra forms are also available in the Narthex and Parish Hall.

Deadline is November 2.

Name _____

In Memory of _____

Every Perfect Gift



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. The stewardship theme for this year is "Every Perfect Gift". "Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above.." James1:17, NRSV

"Giving Cards" will be mailed the first part of November. Commitment Sunday will be November 21st. Please bring your "Giving Card" to church that day to place on the altar. If you will not be present on November 21st, you can bring your "Giving Card" to the church before or after that date.

INVITATION FROM THE BROTHERHOOD

Have you ever been to a "Wine Tasting"? How about a Tamale Tasting"? On Sunday, December 12th, 2021, right after church services, the Brotherhood will sponsor a FREE "Tamale Tasting" event. You will be able to sample each of the four varieties of tamales made by Ramirez in Brazoria. Try each of them; Pork – hot or mild, and Chicken – hot or mild. Also try their salsa – green or red. All you need to do is show up at the Parish Hall at about 10:30 AM on Sunday, December 12th, 2021.

See you there!

The Brotherhood



Episcopal Church Calendar



The office will be ordering the 2022 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 21st. You can pay at the time you order or when the calendar arrives.

Message from Marvin Miller SOLOMON

We all wish we had the necessary wisdom and knowledge to conduct ourselves properly in every situation,
to make the right decisions,
to do everything right everytime.

In fact, we all wish we had “the wisdom of Solomon. But, “the wisdom of Solomon” is much more than a time-worn expression. The wisdom contained in Ecclesiastes is ageless and eternal.

The following verses have guided the lowly and the great for centuries:

To everything there is a season,
and a time to every purpose under heaven:
A time to be born, and a time to die;
A time to plant and a time to pluck up that which is planted;
A time to kill, and a time to heal;
A time to break down and a time to build up;
A time to weep and a time to laugh;
A time to mourn and time to dance;
A time to cast away stones and a time to gather stones together;
A time to embrace and a time to refrain form embracing;
A time to get and a time to lose;
A time to keep and a time to cast away;
A time to rend and a time to sew;
A time to keep silence and a time to speak;
A time to love and a time to hate;
A time of war and a time of peace.

The wisdom of Solomon suggest that we would be wise to live one day at a time; to take one step at a time; to live each hour for its total worth; to make the most of each year.

Be like Solomon!

Jim Gentil – Mr. Positive



Community Assistance

In October, the committee approved help with rent for two separate families.

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



2021 Flower sign up

The forms to sign up for 2021 flower offerings are in the Narthex.

Please stop by and sign up to honor or celebrate special days in your life.

The cost is \$50, to be paid in advance.

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

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

Brayze Schill finished 2nd in bareback in the Average at the CPRA finals in Angleton. He also made the all A honor roll for the first nine weeks at Columbia High School.

Kendy Hankins made the sale with her rabbits at the fair. She also made the AB honor roll for the first six weeks at Bay City Junior High School.

Braylee Schill's Columbia High School cross country team finished 3rd in district and qualified for the regional meet in Corpus Christi. She also made the all A honor roll for the first nine weeks.

Haley Cantrell made the A honor roll at Columbia High School.

Amber Prater is in charge of the sound system for the fall theater production at The Briarwood School.

Reesie Cantrell made the A honor roll at Columbia High School.

Thank You Cards

Dear St. Mary's Church Members,

On behalf of West Columbia Elementary School and Communities In School, I would like to personally thank you for your generous school donation for our 2021-2022 school year. Your donation assists us in providing needed items to many of our students throughout the school year.

We depend on valued partners such as yourself for our programs' success. Again, thank you for your continued support and commitment to our students at West Columbia Elementary!

Kindest regards,
Elaine Walters
Community In Schools



Camp Allen Events

Thanksgiving Celebration 2021 - Thursday, November 25th - Make reservations for Camp Allen's Thanksgiving Celebration. Worship service in All Saints' Chapel begins at 10 a.m. followed by a Thanksgiving Buffet served from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The menu includes turkey and ham with all the trimmings, dressing, baked rolls, vegetables, and assorted pies. Overnight stays at the Camp Allen Hotel are also available.

Needlepoint Retreat - December 8-10 - Join fellow crafters in the Piney Woods of Camp Allen for a three day, two night needlepointing retreat. Bring your own projects and acquire some new skills.

Contact the office or go to the Camp Allen website: campallen.org.



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

- Brayze Schill, Braylee Schill, Adam Schill, Jennifer Schill, Theata Miller, Colleen Matocha, Mary Stewart, Shyanne Roddy, Abigail Roddy, Trace Roddy, Gwynne Olson, Marvin Miller, Jackie Walker, Sherry Wehner, Travis Prater, Maddie Lane, Bill Olson, Tracy Lane, Dani Mikel and AJ Mikel for serving as Worship Leaders during the month of September.
- Amber Prater for setting up the Livestreaming on our Facebook site, monitoring the feed during the service, and responding to those viewing on-line.
- Theata and Marvin Miller, Shyanne Roddy, and Gwynne and Bill Olson for providing treats for our October Hospitality and Fellowship.
- Travis Prater for setting up the DVD for the Youth and Adult Sunday School each Sunday.
- Amber Prater for helping with the children's activities during the Youth and Adult Sunday School.

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.

November Birthdays

Robert Mikel - November 6

Haley Cantrell - November 6

Hayden Culbreath - November 12

Brayze Schill - November 15

David Mikel - November 18

Travis Prater - November 20

Hunter Weisinger - November 22

Gwynne Olson - November 22

November Anniversaries

Heather & David Mikel - Nov. 7

Grace & Thomas Culbreath - Nov. 18

Dates to Remember

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

November 6 - End of Daylight Savings Time - set clocks back one hour before going to bed

November 7 - Brotherhood (7:30 a.m.)

November 7 - Sunday Service
Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)
celebrant - the Reverend Paul Wehner

November 7 - Vestry Meeting
(11:30 a.m.)

November 14 - Sunday Service
Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)
celebrant - the Reverend Mark Crawford

November 21 - Brotherhood (7:30 a.m.)

November 21 - Sunday Service
Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)
Commitment Sunday - "Every Perfect Gift" -
bring "Giving Card" to the altar
celebrant - the Reverend Paul Wehner

November 28 - Sunday Service
Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)
celebrant - the Reverend Paul Wehner
First Advent activity - Make Advent Wreaths

St. Mary's Leadership

Vestry

Rector: the Reverend Paul Wehner

Sr. Warden: Gwynne Olson

Jr. Warden: Dan Roddy

Clerk: Colleen Matocha

St. Mary's Episcopal Church, corner of 16th and Clay Street, West Columbia
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979-345-3456 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.