

The Bells of St. Mary'



Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund

Hurricane Harvey and the flooding after had a devastating effect on all of us. The unknown, the evacuating, and the unraveling of our lives had an impact on everyone. But through it all God was there and still is. We see him in the faces of those who greeted us at the hotels and restaurants or opened their homes during the evacuation. We hear him in the words spoken by family, friends, and strangers "We are here to help?". We feel him in the outpouring of love and concern by those who donated their time to clean houses, serve meals, work at distribution centers, and donate the much needed items. Those who are helping others also feel God's presence as he has called them to serve.

As Senior Warden, Karen Logue, contacted Mayor Kincannon to see how St. Mary's could help directly. Mayor Kincannon suggested we send gift cards to the people of West Columbia who had damage or lost homes due to the hurricane and flooding. Many other sources are providing clean up items, food, personal hygiene items, and clothing. A gift card will allow them to buy things they may need now or in the future, once they start building. Several parishioners have already contributed. If you would like to donate to the Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund, you can send a check to the church (PO Box 786, West Columbia, 77486) or place your donation in the basket at the entrance to the church or the offering plate. Please make sure the check is marked for the relief fund.



Memorial Service for Father Peter Conaty

The Memorial and Committal for Father Peter Conaty were both beautiful, spiritual services remembering our very special priest and friend. The Reverend Canon Carol Petty, The Reverend Dr. Michael Gemignani, The Reverend Martha Frances, and the Reverend David Nelson celebrated the Eucharist which was attended by over 137 friends and family. The Committal at the Nash Prairie was very moving and meaningful as Father Peter's ashes were placed on the Wedding Mound, where he performed his last service at the Nash Prairie. Thank you to all who were part of the service, provided refreshments for the reception, or cleaned up afterwards.

Memorials may be made in Father Peter's name to St. Mary's Episcopal Church or to the Nature Conservancy of Texas for the Nash Prairie.



Diocesan Report

The vestry of St. Mary's and the Episcopal Diocese of Texas are in need of information that we hope you will take the time to provide. The Diocese is collecting information about Hurricane Harvey and those who may have been affected by this catastrophic storm. For the next few Sunday's surveys will be available for parishioners to complete and return. Each person or family only needs to submit one survey and your name will remain anonymous. Our church is only asking for your name so we know who has and hasn't responded. If you prefer, you can complete the survey at home and mail it to: St. Mary's Episcopal Church PO Box 786 West Columbia, Texas 77486. You can also complete it online and email it back to the church. The online survey will be available and emailed out on Sunday, October 1st.



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

It is time, once again, for our annual Stewardship campaign. Pledge cards will be passed out Sunday, November 5th or sent through the mail during that week. We will have an in-gathering and blessing of the pledges on November 19th. You may place your pledge in the offertory plate any Sunday or you may mail them to the church at PO Box 786, West Columbia, 77486. Your financial pledge is a personal matter and only our church treasurer will see you card.

Stewardship is not only the pledging of money but also an opportunity to give of our time and talent to the service of God. It is our way of thanking God for all His many blessings. There are several ways you can devote your time and talent to Saint Mary's and so many do. No devotion to this church is too small or meaningless, and all are appreciated. We have parishioners serve as worship leaders, readers, greeters, vestry members, committee members, and youth leaders. We also have others who offer special prayers, supply our kitchen and altar guild needs, send cards to parishioners, offer a helping hand, cook, sew and are always there to offer assistance when needed. If you would like to give of your time and talent, please write what you would like to do on your pledge card or see Karen or Dani. We welcome any new ideas that you may have to help our church grow and thrive as God's body of Christ.



Wednesday Night Christian Formation

The Jr. High Christian Formation class will begin Wednesday, October 4th at 6:00 in the Kitty Nash Groce Parish Hall. At the same time, there will be a Christian Formation class for our youth in grades pre-k to 6th grade. The parish hall will be opened at 5:30 for those who want to arrive early. A snack will be served. The classes will end at 7:15.

Dani will be leading the Jr. High group using the Episcopal based program "Weaving God's Promise". Shyanne will be leading the younger group.



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 October are: paperback books, white socks, plain undershirts with no tags, individual size hand sanitizer, and nail scrub brush. They will also accept cash donations.

You can leave the items in the container at church and Rees will pick them up. Let's make this an ongoing outreach program for our church.



Community Assistance

During the month of August and September, we provided a gift card to help with a family who had major medical expenses, donated 50 backpacks to West Columbia Elementary, paid an electric bill, and provided the food for the First Responders' Breakfast.

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



News from the Vestry

The vestry met Sunday, September 10th after the Sunday service.

Senior Warden's Report: Karen Logue

The Community Assistance Committee's recommendations for October were presented and approved by the vestry. Karen is going to contact the mayor of West Columbia and see how St. Mary's can help those impacted by Hurricane Harvey and the flooding.

Junior Warden's Report: Dan Roddy

Dan checked on the church during and after the storm. There was no damage to report. The Fall Workday has been postponed until the spring.

Attendance: Dani Mikel

The average Sunday attendance for July was 23.6 people. For the three Sundays in August, the average attendance was 26.

Old Business

The First Responders' Breakfast has been postponed until further notice. It was decided that cookies would be delivered to the Fire Department, Police Department, and EMS to thank them for all they did before, during, and after Hurricane Harvey.

New Business

It was reported that during and after the hurricane, the vestry kept in contact with individual families of the congregation through emails or phone calls. Some members were not able to be reached.

The vestry created a new part-time position at the church, Office Manager, and hired Dani Mikel to fill the position.

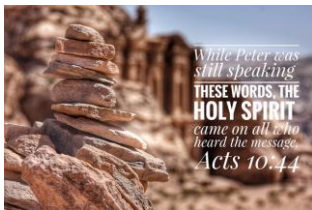
The service for Father Peter was discussed.

Karen will organize a Nominating Committee.

Dani will organize the Stewardship Campaign.

The Youth Christian Formation program for Jr. High students will start in October. The vestry approved the purchase of "Weaving God's Promise" for the youth.

The next vestry meeting will be Sunday, October 15th.



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.



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 others would know or you may be singing a solo. Let's make a joyful noise unto the Lord.

Christian One Liners

Thank you, Doris

- The good Lord didn't create anything with a purpose,
But mosquitoes come close.
- Peace starts with a smile.
- Be you fishers' of men. You catch 'em, He'll clean them.

Message from Marvin Miller

FISHING WHERE THEY AIN'T

(From the book "Our Daily Bread")

One of the Pharisee's asked {Jesus} to eat with him. And He went to the Pharisee's house, and sat down to eat. – Luke 7:36

I have a good friend I fish with now and then. He's a very thoughtful man. After climbing into his waders and boots and gathering up his gear, he sits on the tailgate of his truck and scans the river for fifteen minutes or more, looking for rising fish. "No use fishing where they ain't", he says.

This makes me think of another question: "Do I fish for souls where they ain't?" It was said of Jesus that He was "a friend of tax collectors and sinners" (Luke 7-34). As Christians, we are to be unlike the world in our behavior, but squarely in it as He was. So we have to ask ourselves: Do I, like Jesus, have friends who are sinners? If I have only Christian friends, I may be fishing for souls "where they ain't."

Being with nonbelievers is the first step in "fishing." Then comes love – a heart-kindness that sees beneath the surface of their offhand remarks and listens for the deeper cry of the soul. It asks, "Can you tell me about that?" and follow up with compassion. "There is much preaching in this friendliness," George Hebert (1593 – 1633), pastor and poet, said.

Such love is not a natural instinct. It only comes from God. And so we pray: "Lord, when I am with nonbelievers today, may I become aware of their cheerless voice, the weary countenance, or the downcast eyes that I, in my natural pre-occupation, could easily overlook. May I have a love that springs from, and is rooted in your love. May I listen to others, show your compassion, and speak your truth today."

We are to be channels of God's truth – not reservoirs.



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.

Bishop: the highest rank in the Sacred Ministry. They are chief pastors of the flock and chief executives of the dioceses.

Blessing: a prayer (or sign of the cross) asking the favor of God on a person or a thing

Book of Common Prayer: Originally published by the Church of England in 1549, it is the collection of liturgies authorized for use in the Anglican/Episcopal Church. In the Episcopal tradition, we employ "liturgical prayer" instead of making up our own, as a sign of the truth that worship is common to the people and belongs not to an individual, but to the entire faith community.

Cassock: a long garment reaching to the ankles worn by everyone involved in the service around the altar



Reesie Cantrell is the Student Council historian at West Columbia Elementary.

Brayze Schill is playing 7th grade football for West Brazos Junior High. He has also qualified for the Jr. National Finals Rodeo in Saddle Bronc Riding to be held in Las Vegas in December.

Ally Lane is serving as the Sophomore class vice president at Columbia High School. She is also a member of the yearbook staff.

Braylee Schill was elected to the student council at West Columbia Elementary School.

Haley Cantrell is a twirler at West Brazos Junior High. She is also a member of the 7th grade volleyball team.

Piper Roddy had a blast learning all things horse at Camp Allen Horsemanship Camp. She also plays volleyball at West Brazos Jr. High.



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

October 13th - 15th - Endurance

November 3rd - 5th - Fishers Weekend

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

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. photo albums or scrapbooks with individual sleeves for an archiving project
3. small and medium plastic containers with drawers for the Godly Play room (these are the ones that sit on a shelf)

Thank you to the Logue family for donating containers for Godly Play.



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 October 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

October - Collection for Harvey Relief Fund

October - Collection every Sunday for active military and family

October 1 - Brotherhood (7:30 pm)

October 3 - DOK (9:30 am)

October 4 - Jr. High Christian Formation (6:00 pm)

October 5 - Bible Study (6:00 pm)

October 11- Christian Formation (6:00 pm)

October 11 - Church Dinner (6:00 pm)

October 12 - Bible Study (6:00 pm)

October 15 - Brotherhood (7:30 am)

October 18- Jr. High Christian Formation (6:00 pm)

October 19 - Bible Study (6:00 pm)

October 22 - Vestry Meeting

October 25- Jr. High Christian Formation (6:00 pm)

October 26 - Bible Study (6:00 pm)

October 29 - Brotherhood (7:30 am)

October 29 - Baptism: Madeline Roddy

November 1-Jr. High Christian Formation (6:00)

November 2 - Bible Study (6:00 pm)

September/October Birthdays

Jason Davidson - September 6

Rees Sweeny - September 26

Marvin Miller - September 28

Piper Roddy - September 29

Justin Hussey - October 1

Colleen Matocha - October 9

Rachel Davidson - October 9

Wade Roddy - October 10

Ashley Weisinger - October 12

Aaron Mikel - October 13

Susan Conaty - October 22

Frances Anderson - October 22

Andrea Anderson - October 31

Bill Hosford - October 31

September/October Anniversaries

Ed & Karen Logue - September 13

Justin & Hannah Hussey - September 14

Livingston & Marglet Arana-Sept. 23

Roy & Brandi Weisinger - September 28

Changes to the Directory

Jim and Deborah Burns
Email addresses

Doc - jcb1dcb2@att.net

Debbie - dcb1jcb2@att.net

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)