



The Bells of St. Mary's – October Edition



Almost like clockwork, the first cold front of the fall season snuck its way into Southeast Texas. You missed it, you say? Well, the first one is generally easy to miss...no major decrease in temperature or number of mosquitos! What the first cold front seems to do for us is give us a hint of what lies ahead, putting behind us the hot and humid summer days and eagerly looking forward to a change in seasons.

For some reason, the Church has always used this season of the year to seek out and ask its members to wrestle with how they will assist the Church with its mission in the year ahead. Most organizations do begin working on budgets for the next calendar year this fourth quarter. And the Church is no different. But making a pledge to our congregation is different, isn't it? It requires us to step out in faith, write a number on a card that we submit and then try to honor in the year ahead. But how to come up with that number? How do we balance the demands on our household income with a desire to live faithfully and generously to the parish to which we have committed to being a part? How do we determine a "number" that adequately expresses our gratitude to God for God's generosity to us?

Pledging is not just about enabling your elected leaders to develop a budget for the upcoming year. Pledging is about our own faith formation, about our growth in faith that, when we stick our necks out in faith, we believe God is not going to chop them off!

Beginning in mid-October, St. Mary's will begin to hear from members on what this parish means to them, how it has helped them grow in faith, and how they have been able to experience the presence of Jesus in and through St. Mary's. We will have teaching on stewardship of time, talent, and treasure during this time. And on Harvest Sunday, November 11th, we will bless the 2019 pledge cards brought that day or mailed in earlier as we look ahead with excitement and gratitude to God for what God will be bringing about in our midst in the year ahead.

Gratefully,



KNOW YOUR HYMNS!

Know your Hymns – Season After Pentecost: October +1

We are nearing the home-stretch of the season of Pentecost, and our worship through music will be trying out a few new hymns, practicing some we have tried before, and a smattering of a few crowd favorites...enjoy!

Hymns for Sunday, October 7

Opening Hymn – Hymnal 450 *All hail the power of Jesus' name!* – We won't be able to have cymbals like St. Bartholomew's, but we can sing this hymn with equal gusto!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6nxml9plrhl>

Gospel Hymn – Hymnal 336 *Come with us, O blessed Jesus* – A composition by the master, J.S. Bach!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lekTXA1tp7A>

Offertory Hymn – Hymnal 657 *Love divine, all loves excelling* – This hymn was sung during the National Acolyte Festival at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=233EE1w83oc>

Communion Hymn – C-148 *He is Lord* – An oldie but a goodie!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OTbhnTeF4yE>

Closing Hymn – Hymnal 376 *Joyful, joyful, we adore thee* – Another rock-star composer – Beethoven!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eXfYlpA-cmo>

Hymns for Sunday, October 14

Opening Hymn – Hymnal 615 *“Thy kingdom come!”* – Familiar tune with different words.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vi3AfKPD7_c

Gospel Hymn – Hymnal 655 *O Jesus, I have promised* – Here is the familiar tune to this hymn!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QxUJWRz5FZ8>

Offertory – C-167 *Glorify your name* – This is an old renewal song!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QltVKW6wXdo>

Communion – WLP 831 *Ubi Caritas* – Here again is that hymn written in Latin from Taize we sang during the summer! We did so well we're trying it again before we forget how to sing in Latin!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G2o27qpvfUc>

Recessional – Hymnal 680 *O God, our help in ages past* – This is an old Anglican hymn sung by an oh so Anglican choir – King's College Cambridge!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H4WCLIC-LLs>

Hymns for Sunday, October 21

Opening Hymn – Hymnal 483 *The head that once was crowned with thorns is crowned with glory now* –

This is a new hymn...but it is familiar to most Episcopalians!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3g_ryz_A848

Gospel Hymn – Hymnal 455 *O Love of God, how strong and true* – This was a new hymn for us last summer, but we managed to do it justice! Listen to it again to refresh your memory!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J5h8Z8rxpys>

Offertory – Hymnal 7 *Christ, whose glory fills the skies* – Here's the music to this beloved hymn!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6nhIPt8SHJM>

Communion – Hymnal 508 *Breathe on me, Breath of God* – This is a St. Mary's favorite...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Zt1UKaBzKY>

Recessional – Hymnal 690 *Guide me, O though great Jehovah* – This is a very traditional Episcopal hymn but sung by Welsh non-Anglican worshippers with a bit of Welsh at the end!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wT4n1hGjDDg>

Hymns for Sunday, October 28

Opening Hymn – Hymnal 410 *Praise, my soul, the King of heaven* – Who is willing to try the descant on the 4th verse??

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sx1eMwIDFb8>

Gospel Hymn – Hymnal 375 *Give praise and glory unto God* – One of the original praise songs!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=50XajVSJ74g>

Offertory – Hymnal 671 *Amazing grace! how sweet the sound* – You've got this!

Communion – WLP 825 *Bless the Lord my soul* – You should have come to the Taize worship service in Houston on Friday!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t4Svh-9ohq4>

Recessional – Hymnal 460 *Alleluia! sing to Jesus!* – This is one of St. Mary's favorites...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pQPwv9Xo6Pw>

Hymns for Sunday, November 4

Opening Hymn – Hymnal 287 *For all the saints, who from their labors rest* – It's All Saints Sunday...or at least we are observing the Feast of All Saints this day!

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

Gospel Hymn – Hymnal 232 *By all your saints still striving* – Familiar tune but it's all about saints this day, although we will only sing verses 1-2 & the verse for All Saints Day!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QxUJWRz5FZ8>

Offertory – Hymnal 293 *I sing a song of the saints of God* – It's not All Saints Sunday unless we sing this traditional hymn!

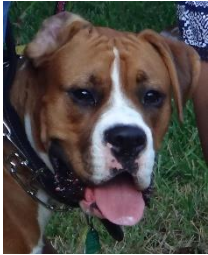
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oA1eR3-LPvc>

Communion – Hymnal 620 *Jerusalem, my happy home* – A St. Mary's favorite...the tune will sound very familiar!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uhtc4ocJmfQ>

Recessional – Hymnal 618 *Ye watchers and ye holy ones* – Last song about the saints above and the saints below on All Saints Sunday!

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



The Blessing of the Animals

St. Mary's will honor the feast day of Francis of Assisi on the first Sunday in October, October 7th at 4:30, with a Blessing of the Animals. We will gather on the lawn, share a short liturgy, and then Rev. Sharron will move from pet-to-pet and animal-to-animal brought for a blessing.

The youth and children of St. Mary's will operate a lemonade stand, proceeds of which will go to the local pound. There will be a photo area set up for picture opportunities of the pets, animals, and their owners. Dr. Dennis Huebner, a veterinarian at Brazoria Veterinary Clinic and West Columbia Veterinary Clinic, will be available.

Once the animals have been blessed, we will invite all members and guests to join us for a pot-luck dinner with the Brotherhood of St. Andrew cooking hot dogs for all! Please be sure to sign up to bring a side dish. Also, if you can help setup or assist after the service with serving, helping the guests, working at the photo area, or anything else that is needed that day, please let Karen or the office know.

Come join us for this special occasion and invite your friends and neighbors!

Small Church Network

by Gwynne Olson

Sharron and I went to the Small Church Gathering at Camp Allen this past week. I had the opportunity to meet Bishop Doyle and Bishop Fisher, as well as talk to other small churches in our Diocese. A couple of interesting things to note are that one church has chef led cooking classes for families and another has a luncheon that feeds 120-150 people.

I really enjoyed Bishop Doyle's session. He said that to be happy you need to have hope. He also said for us to cast a vision and march into a future. My interpretation is to be happy, be hopeful and when doing new things, be hopeful and brave.

If I keep one thing from the seminar, it is what I learned from listening to Bishop Doyle speak. Honor people and show them gratitude. Thank you for the opportunity to go to this gathering and represent St. Mary's, the Mustard Seed Church.

Fall Music Road Trip!

Last spring, members of St. Mary's headed to Houston for dinner and a musical road trip to hear the Canterbury Cathedral Choir. And it's time to get on the road again!

On Friday, October 26th, there will be a Taizé Prayer service at the Villa de Matel Chapel in Houston. The rector visited the Taizé Community in France this past summer, a Christian community which formed in the waning days of World War II. It has become known around the world as a place to engage in conversation about faith, reconciliation, and prayer. Young adults have been flocking to Taizé for more than sixty years. As young people return to their lives, they take the Taizé music and contemplative style of worship back home with them.

Friends of Taizé and the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word are offering a Taizé Prayer service at the Villa de Matel Chapel beginning at 7:30 on October 26th. If you are interested in experiencing this style of quiet worship centered around meditative song, scripture, and prayer, please notify the Church Office if you would like to attend. We will caravan to Houston together, going a little early to find a good Mexican food restaurant in east Houston before attending the prayer service!

Message from Marvin Miller

THE MERCY OF GOD

From the book "Our Daily Bread"

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am in trouble; my eye waters away with grief, yes, my soul and my body! –
Psalm 31:9

Today marks the anniversary of the terrorists' attacks in the US on September 11, 2001. It's hard to think about that date without mental images of the destruction, grief and loss that swept over America and the world following those tragic events. The loss of thousands of lives was compounded by the depth of loss felt corporately – a lost sense of security as a country. The sorrow of loss, personal and corporate, will always accompany the memory of the events of that day.

Those horrific events are not the only painful memories of September, 11th. It also marks the anniversary of my father-in-law's death. Jim's loss is felt deeply within our family.

No matter what kind of sorrow we experience, there is only one real comfort – the mercy of God. David, in his own heartache, cried to his heavenly Father, "Have mercy on me O Lord, for I am in trouble; my eye waters away with grief, yes, my soul and my body!" (Psalm 31:9) Only in the mercy of God can we find comfort for our pain and peace for our troubled hearts.

In all losses, we can turn to the true shepherd, Jesus Christ, who alone can heal our brokenness and grief.

When God permits suffering, He also provides comfort.



Ink

With the increase in programs and pew bulletins, the inclusion of hymns outside the 1982 Hymnal, the addition to our services, the desire to make our worship more meaningful so it can reach more people and their needs, St. Mary's is now using more printer ink. To help with the cost, we are part of Office Depot's Ink Cartridge Recycle Program. Each month, we can turn in up to ten used ink cartridges for a credit of \$2 per cartridge. This allows us to save \$20 a month on new ink. To aid with this ongoing recycling program, please donate any used ink cartridges to the church. All brands and types are welcomed, including refurbished ink. There will be a container for them in the Parish Hall. Thank you for helping defray the cost of ink and also for helping the environment by recycling.

Honoring Our Military

For Veteran's Day, we traditionally honor those military personnel for whom our parish prays each Sunday by sending them a gift card and notes to thank them for their service and let them know they are in our prayers. A basket will be set out in the narthex from July to November for donations. You can give weekly, monthly, or make one donation. Any amount would be greatly appreciated by these 9 men and their families. Last year we donated \$419.58. By November, we will need the current addresses for these military personnel. If you know this information or have a military person you would like included in the Prayers of the People each Sunday, please let Dani know.



Donations for the Military Personnel

Imagine being in a foreign country away from family and friends. Imagine living without the comforts we have and enjoy daily. Imagine living with uncertainty, never knowing what might happen, never knowing when you will face danger. Now imagine, receiving a package. The items inside are not as important as the fact that someone cared. A stranger understood what you were going through, that you were there for him, defending the principles of this country. That stranger thought of you and the others serving with you, enough to send you a package of items that bring memories of home and the simple comforts of life.

We have the opportunity to be that stranger by donating monthly to *US Troops Not Forgotten*. Each month specific items are listed that can be donated. These items are then sent to troops that are serving in foreign countries.

The items for October are: paperback books, magazines, canned soup, spaghetti, ravioli, or chili, Cup of Soup, trail mix, 1# containers of coffee, and small packages of Sweet N Low, Splenda, ketchup, hot sauce, or other condiments. They will also accept cash donations to help with mailing expenses. In our parish hall, there is a container by the door for donations.



News from the Vestry

The vestry met Monday, September 24, 2018.

Rector Report: The Reverend Sharron Cox

Sharron gave the rector report detailing her activities from August 22nd to September 21st. She gave information on a Messy Church workshop she and several parishioners will be attending on October 13th.

Senior Warden's Report: Karen Logue

Karen reported she and Sharron are finalizing the stewardship campaign. Pledge cards along with a letter from Karen will be distributed October 14th. Personal testimonies will be given during the month of October.

Junior Warden's Report: Andrea Anderson

Andrea reported that the surface water drain in the parking lot is poorly designed. Since the city will not fix it, Dan is planning on repairing it.

Discipleship Report

Altar Guild training was conducted on September 22nd with all members present. Training for Lectors and Chalice Bearers will be conducted in the future. Sharron gave the quarterly report on the Average Sunday Attendance with an explanation of any variables. Christian Formation has begun on both Sunday and Wednesday with good attendance. The Blessing of the Animals is scheduled for October 7th and will coincide with our monthly Parish Dinner. Sharron gave information on the Taize Prayer Villa De Mattel in Houston on October 26th and seeing who might be interested in a "road trip".

Mission Report

Dorothy McGuire and Sharron met with West Columbia Methodist Church to discuss the Thanksgiving Basket Distribution Program. The vestry approved making a donation to help with this project. There was a request from members of the community to allow our facility to be used for an organized exercised program. More information is being sought before a decision is made.

Financial Support

The Community Assistance Committee helped two households with rent and utility bills for a total of \$812. The Community Assistance Committee is developing a set of guidelines for the distribution of funds.

Calendar

The next three vestry meetings will be on October 29th at 3:30, November 26th at 3:30, and December 17th at 3:30.

Parish Dinners will be October 7th, November 14th with a Turkey Dinner, and December 19th.

Bishop's visit will be on November 25th at the 9 am service.

Annual meeting will be January 27th.

The next meeting will be Monday, October 29th at 3:30.

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



Community Assistance

In September, two different households were helped with rent and utilities. If you know of anyone needing assistance, please contact Tracy or Karen.



TEBS (Thursday Evening Bible Study)

The bible study group will finish John's gospel on October 18th. Upon completion of a study, our group has a tradition of enjoying a meal and fellowship together as we collectively decide where our study will take us next. If you have an interest in participating in the TEBS group, please join us on Thursday, the 18th of October at 6:00pm for a pot luck meal and fellowship. Together we will decide where our next journey in the Bible takes us as we grow in the knowledge and love of Christ.

Outreach Project

If you are looking for a great way to serve our community, the Senior Citizen Center has just the opportunity! Preheat your oven and don your aprons because the center is looking for volunteers that can provide four 13x9 baked cakes each Monday morning from October through December. If you aren't able to bake cakes, you can still help by signing up to provide 4 boxed cake mixes along with 2 canned frostings.

Baked cakes or unbaked cake mixes and frostings should be delivered to the Senior Citizen Center on Monday morning. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall for anyone wishing to help. Let's help the Meals on Wheels program as they continue to provide delicious, hot meals to our friends who rely on this valuable service.

Fall, Winter, and Spring Youth Calendar

The Diocese of Texas offers many opportunities for our youth to join others "to have a transforming encounter with Jesus Christ so that they can grow in their relationship with Him and share Jesus' love in their everyday lives" (epicenter.org/youth) St. Mary's will help with the expense of these events and the Diocese of Texas has scholarship available. If you would like more information, please contact Dani.

Fall 2018 - Spring 2019 Schedule

Y.E.S. (6th - 8th grade) - November 16 - 18 and April 26 - 28
Happening (9th - 12th grade) - November 16 - 18, January 18 - 19, and April 26 - 28
Midwinter Retreat (9th - 12th grade) - December 27 - 29
Jr, High (6th - 8th grade) and Intermediate (4th - 6th grade) Retreats - March 1 - 3

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.



Are You Smarter Than An Acolyte

The acolytes recently went through training with Sharron which included learning 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 **narthex**, **chalice**, **torches**, **pectoral cross**, **crucifix**, **lavabo bowl**, **nave** (The answers are at the end of the newsletter.)



A. _____



B. _____



C. _____



D. _____

Haley Cantrell was inducted into SOAR (Jr. High National Honor Society) at West Brazos Jr. High. She is also on the volleyball A team.

Brayze Schill was inducted into SOAR (Jr. High National Honor Society) at West Brazos Jr. High. He also qualified in Senior Bareback for the Jr National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas.

Abigail Roddy received a medal for completing the Brazoria County Library Summer Reading Program.

Reesie Cantrell is the volleyball manager at West Brazos Jr. High.

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

Braylee Schill was elected Historian for the Student Council at West Columbia Elementary School. She also finished first place in the mile at West Columbia Elementary for the 6th grade girls and 3rd place overall of the 6th graders.

Brian and Tracy Lane are going to be grandparents. Their son, Taylor, and his wife, Natalie are expecting their first child.

Andrea Anderson is going to be a grandmother again. Her daughter, Tori, and her husband, Jarrod, are expecting a son.

Meredith Wright, daughter of Dick and Dorothy McGuire, is opening her new shop, Wintle and Co., on October 3rd. The shop located at 111 S. Broad Street has very unique merchandise. Dick built the interior to look like the old mercantile store of the pioneer west.

Trace Roddy received a medal for completing the Brazoria County Library Summer Reading Program. He also won a prize in the reading program drawing.

Ally Lane was a member of the Columbia High School Homecoming Court as the Junior Class representative.



Camp Allen Events

Glory In The Stable -November 29 - December 2

"Join us this Advent to study C.S. Lewis and the Gifts of Christmas! This retreat 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, outdoor activities, Christmas crafts and wreath-making. Register at campallen.org.

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.

- Small to medium straw or plastic baskets for the Godly Play room
- Area rug for the children's chapel room
- Paint brushes of various sizes to paint and decorate the walls in the Jr. High Christian Formation 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.

Dates to Remember

October 2 DOK meeting (9:30 am)

October 3 Christian Formation (5:30)

October 4 Bible Study (6:00 pm)

October 7 Sunday service (9:00 am)
Christian Formation (10:20 am)

October 7 Blessing of the Animals
(4:30 pm) and Parish Dinner (5:00 pm)

October 10 Christian Formation (5:30)

October 11 Bible Study (6:00 pm)

October 14 Brotherhood (7:30 am)
Sunday Service (9:00 am)
Christian Formation (10:20 am)

October 17 Christian Formation (5:30)

October 18 Bible Study (6:00 pm)

October 21 Sunday Service (9:00 am)
Christian Formation (10:20 am)

October 24 Christian Formation (5:30)

October 25 Bible Study (6:00 pm)

October 28 Brotherhood (7:30 am)
Sunday Service (9:00 am)
Christian Formation (10:20 am)

October Birthdays

Justin Hussey - October 1

Colleen Matocha - October 9

Rachel Davidson - October 9

Wade Roddy - October 10

Ashlie Weisinger - October 12

Aaron Mikel - October 13

Dorothy McGuire - October 19

Susan Conaty - October 22

Frances Anderson - October 22

Andrea Anderson - October 31

Bill Hosford - October 31

October Anniversaries

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. lavabo bowl

B. torches

C. crucifix

D. narthex

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.