

The Bells of St. Mary's

October 2020



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!

Well, we had a really nice, 2-1/2 year, run with our Rector, Sharron Cox. A ton of very good and important things have happened around here under her leadership. But now, Sharron has transferred to a church in Houston, so she can be closer to her ailing mother. We wish her the greatest success and happiness in the future. So now, your vestry, with plenty of help from the diocese, is in the beginning stages of transitioning to a new rector. We will keep you informed as the process moves along. If you have some thoughts, or suggestions, please share them with Charlotte, Gwynne, or myself.

In the meantime, it is already, once again, Stewardship time. This year, due to the pandemic, we will have a low key, letter driven, Stewardship Campaign. "Low key" does not mean less important. Now, maybe more than ever, St. Mary's needs your time, talent, and resources. So, please read, and consider, those Stewardship letters, and share what you think is right.

These are exciting times at "The Mustard Seed Church!" Stay tuned!

Have a great month, and God Bless You!

**Marvin Miller
Senior Warden**



Farewell Lunch with Rev. Sharron

Since we were unable to celebrate in person with Rev. Sharron on her last Sunday of worship, the vestry and Rev. Sharron have come up with Plan B.

There will be a Farewell Lunch this Saturday, October 3rd at noon. Bring your own lunch, beverage, and lawn chairs or blankets, so we can gather safely outside St. Mary's for a good old-fashioned picnic. We will maintain social distancing, and facemasks will be worn except when we are eating.

Let's all get together to thank Rev. Sharron for her service to St. Mary's, to wish her well at St. Martin's, and to say farewell. This is also a great opportunity to see each other and visit with our church family.

Altar Guild Directress

St. Mary's would like to express our sincere gratitude to Charlotte Blount who has served as the Altar Guild Directress for over three years. Charlotte has decided to retire from this position, but the position is not vacant.

Mary Stewart has answered the call and will serve as the new directress. Join St. Mary's in giving your support, thanks, and encouragement to Mary as she undertakes this important ministry.



As Marvin mentioned in his letter, St. Mary's is beginning its Stewardship Campaign. Stewardship is not only the giving of one's monetary donation, but also the giving of one's time and talent. On the giving card that was mailed out on September 28th, there is a list of different ways to participate in the life of St. Mary's. There is a brief description of the ministries and organizations that were on the card along with a contact person, in parenthesis, if you want more information. Together we show the strength, compassion, and love that is St. Mary's.

Ministries and Organizations

Altar Guild - set up the altar on Friday or Saturday; on Sunday, clear the altar, verify the offertory, clean the worship vessels, place the dust cover on the altar- two people serve each week (Mary Stewart)

Acolyte - assist the priest on Sundays and special services - open to children, youth, and adults (Dani Mikel)

Brotherhood - Saint Mary's Chapter of The Brotherhood of St. Andrew is dedicated to sharing fellowship and studying scripture. The members, of various denominations, meet for a home cooked breakfast at 7:30 AM every other Sunday before church service. (Marvin Miller)

Pastoral Care - visit the parishioners in need; if desired, may be trained to serve as a Lay Visiting Minister and take communion to those unable to come to church (Dani Mikel)

Greeter - greet visitors and make them feel welcome; provide help to visitors during the service if requested; greet people who join the service on-line (the church office)

Vestry - elected by the congregation to represent them in all matters; work with the rector; meet monthly - this is a three year commitment (Marvin Miller)

Chalice - (Lay Eucharist Minister) - assist the priest during Sunday and special services; serve the Chalice with the Blood of Christ to the congregation (Dani Mikel)

Daughters of the King - DOK is a spiritual sisterhood of women dedicated to a life of Prayer, Service and Evangelism. They meet once a month. (Tracy Lane)

Hospitality - provide refreshments after the service on Sunday; wipe the tables and put everything away after Hospitality (the church office)

Social Media - help with Facebook posts, the website, Livestreaming; help develop new uses for Social Media and technology (the church office)

Christian Formation - teach or be an aide for Godly Play or the intermediate classes; help with the youth group (Dani Mikel, Colleen Matocha)

Readers and Prayers of the People - read the lessons and Prayers of the People during Sunday and special services; the readings and Prayers of the People will be sent to the readers ahead of time (Dani Mikel)

Choral Ensemble - sing for special services (Gwynne Olson)

Youth Board - design programs and activities for our youth (Colleen Matocha, Gwynne Olson)

Bible Study - organize, lead or participate in a Bible Study (the church office)

Parish Dinners and Special Projects - organize or volunteer to help with Parish Dinners or special projects; develop new community projects (the church office)

Community Assistance - serve on the committee that decides the use of community assistance funds- information about an individual's request is sent via text and decisions are made via text (Tracy Lane, Jackie Walker)

Newsletter - write articles; edit; organize on Constant Contact (Dani Mikel)

Delegate to the Diocesan Council - attend the Diocesan Council and give a brief report to the congregation (the church office)

Army of Retired Men (ARM) - help with minor repairs at the church - you do not need to be retired (Dan Roddy)

Coordinator of Blessing of the Animals - chair a committee to organize activities for this event for the community; assist the priest with any needs concerning this event (the church office)

Audit Committee - audit the treasurer's books and financials; fill out form for the diocese (the church office)

Ushers - welcome all to the church; assist with directing parishioners and visitors; count and report the number of parishioners present at the service - this was not on the card, so just write it in if you are interested in this ministry (Marvin Miller)



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 October 20th. You can pay at the time you order or when the calendar arrives.



News from the Vestry

The vestry met Sunday, September 20, 2020.

Rector Report: The Reverend Sharron Cox

Rev. Sharron gave an update on the KNG ranch. Marvin Miller will represent St. Mary's on the Participating Funds call on October 1st. Rev. Sharron gave the vestry a contact for the Narthex renovation. Gwynne will contact him and will report back next vestry meeting.

Senior Warden's Report: Marvin Miller

Marvin presented the 2021 Stewardship Campaign's schedule of events. The vestry divided up the list of St. Mary's parishioners for stewardship phone calls. Marvin stated that he had a call with Canon to the Ordinary, Christine Faulstich regarding the next steps in finding a new priest.

Junior Warden's Report: Charlotte Blount

Rev. Sharron reported for Charlotte and stated various HVACs had been fixed over the last few weeks. We are still awaiting the linoleum for the restroom hallway. This is the last item needed to complete the restroom renovation.

A copy of the vestry minutes from September will be placed on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall once approved at the October meeting. The next Vestry meeting is Sunday, October 18th at 10:30 a.m.

Message from Marvin Miller

Think about it

Moses and the people were in the desert, but what was he going to do with them? They had to have food, and feeding 2 or 3 million people requires a lot of food. According to the Quartermaster General of the Army, Moses would have to have 1,500 tons of food each day. And to get it there it would take two freight trains a mile long each day.

Besides you must remember, they are out in the desert and they all have to have firewood to use to cook the food. This would take 4,000 tons of wood and a few more freight trains, each a mile long, just for one day. And just think they were in transit for forty years. Oh yes, they would have to have water. If they only had enough to drink and wash a few dishes, it would take 11 million gallons each day, and a freight train with tank cars 1,800 miles long just to bring water! And then another thing: They had to get across the Red Sea in only one night. If they went on a narrow path, double file, the line would be 800 miles long and require 35 days and nights to get through. So there had to be a space in the Red Sea, 3 miles wide so they could walk 5,000 abreast to get across in one night.

But then another problem: Each time they camped at the end of the day, a campground two-thirds the size of the state of Rhode Island was required, or a total of 750 square miles long. Think of it! This space just for nightly camping.

Do you think Moses figured all this out before he left Egypt? I think not! You see, Moses believed in God. God took care of these things for him.

Now, do you think God has any problem taking care of all your needs?

Jim Gentil – Mr. Positive

Thank You Card

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

"Thank you for the Bible graduation gift. I can use the Bible throughout my life for whenever I need the word of God and Jesus. The thoughtfulness of your gift is appreciated.

Sincerely,
Kip Olson"



Community Assistance

In September, we made several donations to the food pantry at Iglesia Centro Cristiano. We also helped three family with their electric bills.

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

Maddie Lane received her Aggie ring and celebrated her "Ring Dunk".

Braylee Schill placed 1st in the Angleton Invitational Cross Country Meet. She also was the first ever West Brazos Jr. High student to win an FFA jacket for reciting the entire FFA Creed by memory.

Colleen and Clint Matocha have purchased a new home.

Brayze Schill won his first high school rodeo of the season and placed 2nd at his second high school rodeo. Brayze competes in bareback riding.

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



Camp Allen Events

Camp Allen is opening its hotel and conference center to a maximum of 20 hotel rooms on October 9-11, and October 16-18.

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 events 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 Sharron Cox for serving as our rector from February 2018 to October 2020.
- Colleen Matocha, Abigail Roddy, Gwynne Olson, Trace Roddy, Marvin Miller, and Mary Stewart for serving as Worship Leaders during the month of September.
- Trace Roddy for serving as crucifer for the first time on September 13th.
- Gwynne Olson for leading on September 27th the Liturgy of the Word on Facebook Live.
- Mary Stewart and Karen Logue for providing the scripture readings included in the weekly food distribution at Iglesia Centro Cristiano's food pantry.

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.

October 3 - Farewell Lunch with Rev. Sharron on the church grounds (noon)

October 4 - Sunday Service
Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)
celebrant - the Reverend Paul Wehner

October 11 - Sunday Service
Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)
celebrant - the Reverend James Morgan

October 18 - Sunday Service
Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)
celebrant - the Reverend Paul Wehner
Vestry Meeting (10:30 a.m.)

October 25 - Sunday Service
Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)

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

Andrea Anderson - October 31

October Anniversaries

St. Mary's Leadership

Rector

The Reverend Sharron Cox

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.