

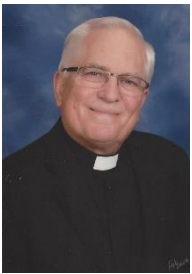


St. Mary's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
The Mustard Seed Church

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



October 2021



Message from Father Paul

On the Celebration of Halloween

Like me, you have probably heard many versions of the relationship between Halloween and the church. As Halloween falls on a Sunday this year, it is important to have a clear understanding of the origin and purpose of All Hallows Eve in our church. The following article was written a couple of decades ago, but I have faithfully saved it to read every year as Halloween approaches.

Fr. Paul+

The Custom of celebrating the feast of "All Hallow" or " All Saints" Eve is a tradition going back to at least the 9th century AD. It began as the autumn-time Christian feast day in the Celtic Christian church of Ireland and Britain, taking the place of an ancient pagan harvest feast. It has long been the feast day in the western Christian Church for remembering the communion of saints - those of every generation who have gone before us; those saints in our midst today; and all of the faithful who will come after us.

The "Eve" or evening before the feast day of All Hallows came to be known as Halloween or the eve (een) of All Hallows. In the evening before the great feast day, the people would come together in church to ask for God's blessing and protection from evil in the world and to seek strength and courage to live out the gospel. Some of the people would dress as evil spirits, thus depicting the battle between good and evil in the world. Late at night, the people would go to the church cemetery for a service of remembrance for the saints (the baptized) who had gone before them in life and death. A great "bone" fire of All Hallows eve would be lit and the bones of the poor who had died during the previous year for whom there were no grave sites would be thrown into the fire. From the word "bone" fire comes our term "bonfire".

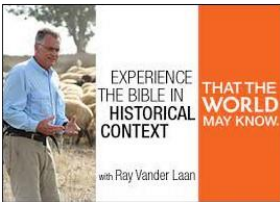
Halloween is a traditional Christian feast day, not just some recent "hallmark" holiday or some commercial fall festival or even the devil's night. It is a feast day of the church and certainly not a night for "tricks" or anything harmful to people or property. It is an evening before All Saint's Day when we give thanks for all the saints of every generation who have battled evil in order to strengthen our faith in Jesus Christ.

*The Rev. Canon Bill King
The Diocese of Alabama*



Sunday Service on Halloween

Halloween falls on a Sunday this year. As they did the last time this happened, the children, youth, and those young at heart are welcomed to wear their costumes to the 9:00 a.m. service. Please do not wear a Halloween face covering or any costume that is not appropriate in church.



Christian Formation Youth and Adults

That the World May Know, Ray Vander Laan

Sunday, October 3: *Confronting Evil*

The ancient city of Beth Shemesh stood like a guardhouse over the Sorek valley, which was often a battleground between the Philistines and Israelites. The Philistines controlled the area for many years, until God prepared a Nazirite named Samson to confront the evil culture of the Philistines.

Sunday, October 10: *Iron of Culture*

The city of Azekah was another strategically important city in the Israelites struggles with the Philistines. It was near Azekah that the Philistines sent their mighty warrior, Goliath to fight the one appointed by God to face him – a young shepherd boy named David.

DVD 3 -Life and Ministry

Sunday, October 17: *In the Shadow of Herod*

Beginning with this lesson, our focus will be the land and the culture in which Jesus lived. Herod the Great was king of Israel when Jesus was born. He was ruthless and powerful and remembered for and his relentless suppression of all resistance. Herod was also known for his magnificent building programs, of which the most extravagantly spectacular was the Herodion complex. The Herodion included 45 acres of buildings on 200 acres of palace grounds. Built on a high hill, the Herodion literally cast a shadow across the landscape of Israel's history and people.

Sunday, October 24: *My Rock and My Fortress*

The ruins of Masada, another one of Herod the Great's spectacular fortress-palaces, stand high above the Dead Sea in the mountainous Judea Wilderness. He intended it to be a refuge in case he ever had to flee Jerusalem. Ironically, it was used by about 1,000 Jewish Zealots to escape the Roman's destruction of Jerusalem around AD 70.

Sunday, October 31: *The Time had Fully Come*

In 1947, Bedouins discovered the ancient Dead Sea Scrolls that had been hidden in caves surrounding the Essene community of Qumran. The scrolls provided new insights into the theological beliefs and expectations of people who lived during Jesus' time. This lesson will examine the faith and practices of the Essene community.

The Mustard Seed Church

Sowing Seeds in the Community...



Trunk or Treat

On Sunday, October 31, St. Mary's will be joining First Baptist Church and Columbia United Methodist Church in hosting Trunk or Treat. What is Trunk or Treat? It is another way for children to go trick or treating in a safe environment and a way for our church members to celebrate Halloween together in a unique way. Participants will bring their cars to the church and back up into a designated parking space so the trunk of the car is facing the sidewalk. The trunk is opened, decorated for Halloween, and bowls of candy are placed inside. If you don't want to decorate your car, bring a small table and decorate it to hold the bowls of candy. Kids walk from vehicle to vehicle, collecting candy the way they would from house to house.

The event runs from 5 to 7p.m. Plan on arriving by 4:30 to get your spot and set everything up. Don't forget your lawn chairs. If you plan on joining the fun, please notify the church office, so we know how many spaces to make available.



Donation to the Warriors Refuge

A donation was made to the Warriors Refuge to help with roof and plumbing repairs. The picture shows the Vestry making the presentation to John Blackstock, Director of Operations. You may also recognize Rich Tillman, a former parishioner, in the picture.

"The Warriors Refuge, a 501©3 non-profit, is a Veterans Homeless Shelter, Counseling and Resource/Training Center. We have served approximately 380 men and women over our organization's history. We currently have over 50 men and women in our facility. According to the VA, close to 100,000 veterans, both men and women, are currently homeless in America. They go on to tell us that 1.5 million are on the verge of becoming homeless. We are working to make as big of a dent in the homeless numbers and working toward helping those who are at the verge of being homeless, through temporary housing, counseling, and case management." John Blackstock



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 _____



Lou Crutcher

Lou Crutcher, a long time parishioner and friend of St. Mary's passed away Wednesday, September 29th. Details about funeral arrangements are pending. Please keep her family and those who loved her in your prayers.

May her soul, and the soul of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. And let light perpetual shine upon her.



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. Although we should always be aware of God in our lives and show our gratitude for all God has done for us through prayer, reflection, and service, St. Mary's has set aside six weeks for Stewardship Season. The theme for this year is "Every Perfect Gift" and will begin on October 17th. Commitment Sunday will be November 21st.

"Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above.." James 1:17, NRSV



Trip to Brookwood

The Christmas poinsettias have been ordered, so it is time to plan our ladies' trip to Brookwood. We will leave on Wednesday, December 22, with the time to be determined. This is a great opportunity for us to share a delicious meal in their elegant restaurant, pick up those last-minute gifts from their gift shop and garden center, and enjoy each other's company. Of course, we will also pick up the poinsettias. That's the whole purpose of the trip. Right?

If you have never gone to Brookwood, this will be a wonderful experience. Because reservations fill up quickly and because of COVID there is limited seating, please let the office know you will be attending by **Sunday, October 17th**. You are welcomed to invited friends and family members. The more the merrier.



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

An Old Man and a Bucket of Shrimp

It happened every Friday evening, almost without fail, when the sun resembled a giant orange and was starting to dip into the blue ocean.

Old Ed came strolling along the beach to his favorite pier.

Clutched in his bony hand was a bucket of shrimp. Ed walks out to the end of the pier, where it seems he almost has the world to himself. The glow of the sun is a golden bronze now.

Everybody's gone, except for a few joggers on the beach. Standing out on the end of the pier, Ed is alone with his thoughts...and his bucket of shrimp.

Before long, however, he is no longer alone. Up in the sky a thousand white dots come screeching and squawking, winging their way toward that lanky frame standing there on the end of the pier.

Before long, dozens of seagulls have enveloped him, their wings fluttering and flapping wildly. Ed stands there tossing shrimp to the hungry birds. As he does, if you listen closely, you can hear him say with a smile, 'Thank you. Thank you.'

In a few short minutes the bucket is empty. But Ed doesn't leave. He stands there lost in thought, as though transported to another time and place.

When he finally turns around and begins to walk back toward the beach, a few of the birds hop along the pier with him until he gets to the stairs, and then they, too, fly away. And old Ed quietly makes his way down to the end of the beach and on home.

If you were sitting there on the pier with your fishing line in the water, Ed might seem like ‘a funny old duck,’ as my dad used to say. Or, to onlookers, he’s just another old codger, lost in his own weird world, feeding the seagulls with a bucket full of shrimp.

To the onlooker, rituals can look either very strange or very empty. They can seem altogether unimportantmaybe even a lot of nonsense.

Old folks often do strange things, at least in the eyes of Boomers and Millennials.

Most of them would probably write Old Ed off, down there in Florida... That’s too bad.

They’d do well to know him better.

His full name: Eddie Rickenbacker. He was a famous hero in World War I, and then he was in WWII. On one of his flying missions across the Pacific, he and his seven-member crew went down. Miraculously, all of the men survived, crawled out of their plane, and climbed into a life raft.

Captain Rickenbacker and his crew floated for days on the rough waters of the Pacific. They fought the sun. They fought sharks. Most of all, they fought hunger and thirst. By the eighth day their rations ran out. No food. No water. They were far from land and no one knew where they were or even if they were alive.

Every day across America millions wondered and prayed that Eddie Rickenbacker might somehow be found alive.

The men adrift needed a miracle. That afternoon they had a simple devotional service and prayed for a miracle.

They tried to nap. Eddie leaned back and pulled his military cap over his nose. Time dragged on. All he could hear was the slap of the waves against the raft. Suddenly Eddie felt something land on the top of his cap. It was a seagull!

Old Ed would later describe how he sat perfectly still, planning his next move. With a flash of his hand and a squawk from the gull, he managed to grab it and wring its neck. He tore the feathers off, and he and his starving crew made a meal of it – a very slight meal for eight men. Then they used the intestines for bait. With it, they caught fish, which gave them food and more bait....and the cycle continued. With that simple survival technique, they were able to endure the rigors of the sea until they were found and rescued after 24 days at sea. Eddie Rickenbacker lived many years beyond that ordeal, but he never forgot the sacrifice of that first life-saving seagull. And he never stopped saying, ‘Thank you.’ That’s why almost every Friday night he would walk to the end of the pier with a bucket full of shrimp and a heart full of gratitude.

Reference: (Max Lucado, “In The Eye of the Storm,” pp...221, 225-226)



Community Assistance

In September, the committee approved three requests; partial payment of an electric bill, electricity reconnection, and a Walmart gift card for a family who lost everything in Hurricane Ida.

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!**

Tracy and Brian Lane welcomed their grandson, Cooper Xavier Lane, on August 30, 2021.

Maddie Lane got her Certified Nurse's Aide certification and passed her state test to become a licensed Certified Nurse's Aide.

Thank You Cards

St. Mary's,

Thank you all so much for the amazing reception after Mom's service. We appreciate each and every one of you. The desserts were delicious, the hall was decorated beautifully. We know you all put in a lot of work from set up to clean up and we appreciate our Church family more than you know.

Love,
The Charlotte Blount family

Dear St. Mary's,

I just wanted to take the time to let each of you know that I truly appreciated the Amazon gift card. I used it to buy supplies for my classroom. My students will be thankful that their teacher has the supplies that they need to be successful. Thank you!

Colleen Matocha

Scam Alert

Last week several of our Parishioners and former Parishioners received a text message that looked like it came from Father Paul. It turned out to be a scam. Once it was brought to the office's attention, the congregation and others on our contact list were notified.

Scams seem to be happening more and more. If you ever receive a text or email from St. Mary's, a member of the vestry, Father Paul, or Dani and question its legitimacy, please contact the office immediately. We will verify it and take immediate action if it is a scam.



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

- Jennifer Schill and Mary Stewart for helping to notify the congregation of the text scam received by some of our parishioners.
- Daniel Mikel for clearing the sidewalks after the hurricane.
- Father Paul Wehner, Mary Stewart, Gwynne and Bill Olson, Reagan Blount, Brayze Schill, AJ and Dani Mikel, Dan and Donna Roddy, Colleen Matocha, Theata and Marvin Miller, Adam Schill, Holly Cantrell, Jackie Walker, Tracy Lane, Debbie Walters, Vanessa Lazarine, and Sue Davidson for serving as worship leaders, helping with setting up, serving, and cleanup, and providing desserts for the funeral of Charlotte Blount.
- Brayze Schill, Braylee Schill, Adam Schill, Jennifer Schill, Haley Cantrell, Reesie Cantrell, Theata Miller, Colleen Matocha, Mary Stewart, Abigail Roddy, Trace Roddy, Gwynne Olson, Marvin Miller, 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.
- Sherry and Father Paul Wehner, Theata and Marvin Miller, and Colleen Matocha for providing treats for our August Hospitality and Fellowship.
- Shyanne Roddy, Maddie Lane, Dani Mikel, Father Paul Wehner, and Gwynne Olson for serving as Sunday School teachers and Christian Formation leaders.
- The Reverend Nan Doerr for being our celebrant during Father Paul's vacation.

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 - Sunday Service

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

October 3 - Blessing of the Animals
(4:00 p.m.)

October 10 - Brotherhood (7:30 a.m.)

October 10 - Sunday Service

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

October 17 - Sunday Service

Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)
celebrant - the Reverend Paul Wehner
Stewardship, "Every Perfect Gift"

October 17 - Vestry Meeting (11:30 a.m.)

October 19 - Stewardship letters are
mailed

October 24 - Brotherhood (7:30 a.m.)

October 24 - Sunday Service

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

October 31 - Sunday Service

Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)
celebrant - the Reverend Paul Wehner
you can wear your Halloween costume

October 31 - Trunk or Treat (5-7 p.m.)
set up 4:30 p.m.

St. Mary's Episcopal Church, corner of 16th and Clay Street, West Columbia
PO Box 786, West Columbia, Texas 77486
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.

October Birthdays

Justin Hussey - October 1

Colleen Matocha - October 9

Rachel Davidson - October 9

Wade Roddy - October 10

Aaron Mikel - October 13

Dorothy McGuire - October 19

Thomas Culbreath - October 27

Sherry Wehner - October 31

Andrea Anderson - October 31

October Anniversaries

Sydney and Robert Mikel - October 30

St. Mary's Leadership

Vestry

Rector: the Reverend Paul Wehner
Sr. Warden: Gwynne Olson
Jr. Warden: Dan Roddy
Clerk: Colleen Matocha