



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 2022

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



Mosaic In Action

Mosaic in Action's primary focus is disaster relief and recovery within Brazoria County. The non-profit organization was founded in 2014 by the Rev. Jim Liberatore and Debbie Allensworth, both of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Pearland. In the ensuing years, Mosaic in Action has repaired over 400 homes damaged by hurricanes, tropical storms, major wind events, seasonal flooding, and even a winter storm. St. Mary's has committed to help support that work in West Columbia - both financially and with volunteers!

For October, Mission Days in West Columbia would be every Monday and Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 1 p.m. Skilled or unskilled volunteers ages 6th grade and up are welcomed. Those interested should contact the Construction Supervisor, Mr. Marcus George, at 214-914-2646 or marcus@mosaicinaction.org.

Learn more about Mosaic in Action at their website: <https://www.mosaicinaction.org>

Cakes for Meals on Wheels

St. Mary's is once again providing boxes of cake mix and tubs of icing for the Meals on Wheels program in West Columbia. Meals on Wheels provides inexpensive, healthy meals to individuals who are unable to prepare their own meals. Every week from October through December, they need 4 boxes of cake mix and 2 tubs of icing. Each cake that is made by their baker takes 2 cake mixes and 1 tub of frosting. If you are able to help this worthy cause, please bring the cake mixes and icing to the church anytime and they will be delivered to the Senior Citizen Center which runs the Meals on Wheels program.



Walk the Block - Trunk or Treat

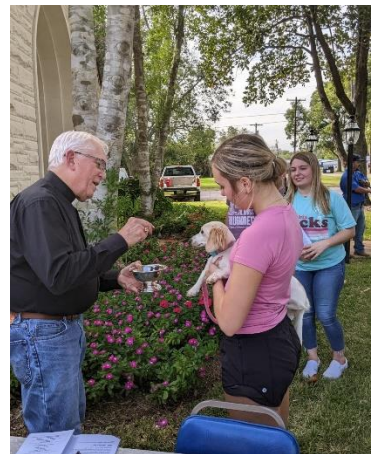
It is time to start thinking about Trunk or Treat. Once again, St. Mary's will participate with the Methodist Church and possibly the Baptist Church in "Walk the Block". Last year, our church had 11 cars and tables participating, so get your ideas flowing for decorations (Google if necessary) and mark your calendars for Monday, October 31st from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Let's plan on beating last year's number.

This year, we are providing a free photo booth from Kat's Corner of Fun. Each person or group who poses for a picture will get 3 pictures to take home.

There are sign-up sheets in the Narthex and Parish Hall so we can get an idea of how to space our vehicles or tables. If you are not able to participate on Halloween but still want to do something, there are containers for donated bags of candy. Last year over 200 trick or treaters came by, and some people ran out of candy.



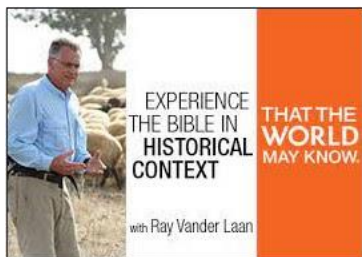
Blessing of the Animals



The Blessing of the Animals service was a wonderful event with an inspiring service, great food, informative veterinarians and staff, gifts, beautiful weather, and loads of fun. The event was attended by 56 people and 26 animals: 23 dogs, 2 rabbits, and one stuffed tiger. The lemonade stand made \$167 which will be used to buy supplies for the local pound. Sincere thanks to the Schill Family, Jennifer, Adam, Brayze, and Braylee, for organizing everything. Thank you also to the many volunteers. There is nothing St. Mary's can't do when we all work together.

Monetary Donations Made in September

In addition to our regular support of our community and those needing assistance, St. Mary's made two sizeable donations to the Columbia Christian Senior Citizen Center to help with the new center they are building and to Mosaic in Action to help with any projects in West Columbia.



Sunday School (6th Grade – Adults) *That The World May Know Series*

This fall, we will continue *That the World May Know series*. Join us on a trip to ancient times, places, and customs with trusted Bible scholar Ray Vander Laan as your fun and engaging tour guide.

Filmed in Israel, Egypt, Turkey, and Greece, these powerful videos explore what it meant to follow Jesus in the first century—and what it means to follow him today. Each of class provides visually stunning video sessions as well as an easy-to-follow discovery guide that illuminates Jesus' teachings and helps us understand the context in which he lived and preached.

Sunday, October 9, Lesson 3: *Finger of God: The Plagues*

Egypt was the land of plenty and an empire at the peak of its power at the time of the exodus of the Israelites. It is inconceivable to historians that a revolt by slaves would have any chance of success at that time; Egypt was too strong and powerful for unarmed slaves to escape, no matter how many their number. It was simply impossible. Impossible, that is, unless God intervened and actually accomplished what the Bible says that he did. Our study today assumes that God acted so powerfully and dramatically through the ten plagues that there could be no mistake about who he is. The study will explore God's intent and purpose for the plagues, and how they sent a powerful message to anyone who would hear – even the Pharaoh.

Sunday, October 16, Lesson 4: *Watch with Me: Israel Leaves Egypt*

As the tenth and final plague neared, God gave the Hebrews an active role that required them to take steps of faith. God instituted a new Passover ritual that would always be a reminder of how the Hebrews were spared from the final plague. As the death angel passed over Egypt, the only households that were spared were those marked with the blood of the Passover lamb. Before the night was over, the Pharaoh himself urged Moses and the Hebrews to leave as fast as they could.

Sunday, October 23, Lesson 5: *The Lord Reigns: The Red Sea*

Crossing the Red Sea and fleeing from Egyptians was an incredible event, fraught with all the danger and drama of a miraculous escape. But that incredible night was just the beginning! The Israelites were no longer idol-worshiping slaves that cried out in anguish to an invisible God They were now free people who were beginning to know and appreciate the love and promises that their God offered. As they looked back from the other side of the Red Sea and danced and celebrated their redemption, they had no idea about the magnitude of the journey that lay ahead of them. They only knew that God's kingdom had somehow come to earth and saved them. The good news of God's kingdom that Jesus proclaimed was also shaped by the exodus experience. When we stand with the Israelites and seek to understand their deliverance as they experienced it, we will appreciate more fully the grace-filled message and work of Jesus the Messiah.

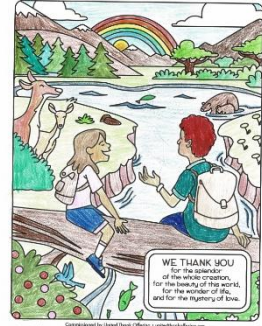
UTO Boxes



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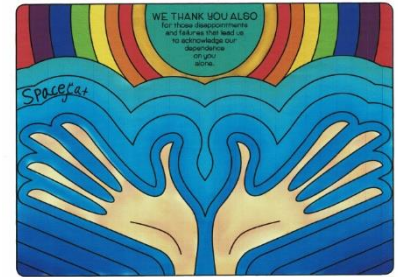


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pictures from our parishioners for the National UTO Campaign



The UTO boxes handed out on Pentecost, will be blessed on All Saints Day, Nov. 6th. Bring your filled box(es) that day. You can also bring them before or after that Sunday, if you are not planning on being at church. Envelopes will be available if you would rather make a monetary donation or write a check. New boxes will be handed out and due on Pentecost Sunday 2023. UTO National is entrusted to receive the offerings, and to distribute 100 percent of what is collected to support mission and ministry throughout The Episcopal Church and Provinces of the Anglican Communion. Please help to make St. Mary's contribution a substantial one.

ALL SAINTS DAY PRAYERS FOR THE DECEASED

All Saints Sunday is November 6 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 1.

Name _____

In Memory of _____

New Worship Leaders

Two more parishioners have joined our group of worship leaders. Vicki Vrasel will be joining the altar guild and Buck Barnes will be an usher.

More are still needed. If you would like to serve as an acolyte, usher, altar guild member, lector, leader of the Prayers of the People, or Lay Eucharistic Minister (server of the chalice) please let Father Paul or Dani know.



Trip to Brookwood

The Christmas poinsettias have been ordered, so it is time to plan our ladies' trip to Brookwood. We will leave on Thursday, 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, please let the office know you will be attending by Sunday, October 16th. You are welcomed to invited friends and family members. The more the merrier.

Message from Marvin Miller

From a Prospective Teacher

Let me see if I've got this right

You want me to go into that room with all those kids and fill their every waking moment with a love of learning. And I'm supposed to instill a sense of pride in their ethnicity, modify their disruptive behavior, observe them for signs of abuse and even censor their T-shirt messages and dress habits.

You want me to wage a war on drugs and sexually transmitted diseases, check their backpacks for weapons of mass destruction, and raise their self-esteem.

You want me to teach them patriotism, good citizenship, sportsmanship and fair play, how and where to register to vote, how to balance a checkbook, and how to apply for a job.

I am to check their heads for lice, maintain a safe environment, recognize signs of antisocial behavior, offer advice, write letters of recommendation for student employment and scholarships, encourage respect for their elders and future employers.

And I am to communicate regularly with the parents by letter, telephone, newsletter and report card.

All of this I am to do with just a piece of chalk, a computer, a few books, a bulletin board, and a big smile AND on a starting salary that qualifies my family for food stamps.

You want me to do all of this and you expect me NOT TO PRAY?

St. Mary's Website

Have you had a chance to check out St. Mary's website? There are several features you might find interesting.

Under the "Calendar" tap there are events and services listed for each month. The calendar is kept up-to-date and edited as new events and services are added. If you click on the event or service, more details will pop up.

The most recent Upcoming Events will now be featured on the front page of the website. This will make it easier to remember what will be happening, so you don't miss anything.

A new Photo Gallery has been added and will continually be updated with the latest pictures. Check out what has been going on since the beginning of Advent 2021.

Our website is stmaryswestcolumbia.com. You can access it using the link below or at the top of the newsletter.



Community Assistance

During September, the committee approved funds to help 2 families or individuals with water and sewer bill and electric bill.

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



2022 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!**

September

Ally Lane received her senior ring from Texas A&M University.

Luke Davidson scored five goals in a recent soccer game. He got credit for "a hat trick" which is 3 goals.



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

- Theata Miller, Gwynne Olson, Jackie Walker, Colleen Matocha, Dani Mikel, AJ Mikel, Marvin Miller, Haley Cantrell, Reesie Cantrell, Wendy Hankins, Jasey Hussey, Jay Wiggins, Travis Prater, Tracy Lane, Brayze Schill, Jennifer Schill, and Adam Schill for serving as Worship Leaders in 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.
- Marvin and Theata Miller, Dan and Donna Roddy and the Brotherhood for providing treats for our August Hospitality and Fellowship.
- Theata Miller for stapling the service bulletins.
- the Reverend Nan Doerr for being our celebrant when Father Paul was gone.
- Jackie Walker, Bill Olson, Shyanne Roddy, Colleen Matocha, AJ Mikel, Jennifer Schill, and Tracy Lane for serving on the rector search committee.
- Gwynne Olson for her service to the rector search committee as Senior Warden.
- all who have already donated cakes and icing for Meals on Wheels.
- Jennifer, Adam, Brayze, and Braylee for chairing the Blessing of the Animals.
- Marvin Miller, Theata Miller, Dan Roddy, Donna Roddy, Vicki Vrazel, Buck Bartnes, Jackie Walker, the Reverend Paul Wehner, Sherry Wehner, Amber Prater, Travis Prater, Justin Hussey, Hannah Hussey, Jasey Hussey, Cesylie Guizar, Shyanne Roddy, Abigail Roddy, Trace Roddy, Kaylea Anderson, Holly Cantrell, Haley Cantrell, Reesie Cantrell, Dani Mikel, AJ Mikel, Gwynne Olson, Bill Olson, and Ouida Thomas for helping before, during, and/or after the Blessing of the Animals.
- Shirley Harvell of White Apron for the delicious food at the Parish Dinner in September.
- all who decorated for and cleaned up after the Parish Dinner.

You are awesome, and St. Mary's greatly appreciates all you do.



Camp Allen Events

Needlepoint Retreats - September 12-16, and December 5-9 - Join fellow needlepointers for a three day, two night retreat.

Fly Fish Retreat - November 4-5 - Grab your rod and reels for this weekend co-ed fishing retreat. All levels and abilities are invited to attend sessions on fly fishing, Texas fly fishing, and fly casting.

Gramps Camp - November 4-5 - Spend quality time with your grandchildren at this two day, one night retreat. Activities include canoeing, hiking, giant swing, swimming, archery, orienteering, fishing, pond studies, a campfire, and stargazing.

Birds and Blooms - November 11-13 - Enjoy camp's 1,100 acres, attend expert led workshops and hike scenic trails with experienced guides. Presentations include: wildlife photography, Audubon presenters, live owl and hawk demos, birding identification and more.

Holiday in the Pines - December 9-11 - This family Christmas weekend includes activities such as sledding, rock climbing, giant swing, zip line, massages, horseback rides, Discovery Dome theatre, campfire, Holiday tea, photos with Santa, family movie night, live bird & reptile classes, hiking, fishing, hayrides, moon jump, archery, gingerbread houses, and arts & crafts.

Thank You Cards

September 14, 2022

Dear St. Mary's members,

On behalf of Communities In Schools and West Columbia Elementary, I would like to personally thank you for your generous donation to Communities In Schools at West Columbia Elementary.

We depend on valued community partners, such as yourself, to meet the various needs of our students. Your donation will be used wisely to assist our students and families throughout this school year.

May you be richly blessed for your generosity and thoughtfulness!

Kindest regards,
Elaine Walters
Communities In Schools



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.

October Birthdays

Justin Hussey - Oct. 1

Dorothy McGuire – Oct. 19

Colleen Matocha - Oct. 9

Thomas Culbreath – Oct. 27

Rachel Davidson - Oct. 9

Sherry Wehner – Oct. 31

Wade Roddy - Oct. 10

Andrea Anderson – Oct. 31

Aaron Mikel - Oct. 13

October Anniversaries

Sydney and Robert Mikel - Oct. 30

Dates to Remember

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

**October 2 - Sunday Service - Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)
celebrant - the Reverend Paul Wehner**

**October 2 - Blessing of the Animals (4:00 p.m.)
celebrant - the Reverend Paul Wehner**

October 9 - Brotherhood (7:30 a.m.)

**October 9 - Sunday Service - Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)
celebrant - the Reverend Susanne Hebert
Children's Sunday School**

**October 9 - Youth and Adult Sunday School and children activities
(10:30 - 11:15 a.m.)**

October 11 - Vestry meeting (5:15 p.m.)

**October 16 - Sunday Service - Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00a.m.)
celebrant - the Reverend Paul Wehner
Children's Sunday School**

**October 16 - Youth and Adult Sunday School and children activities
(10:30 - 11:15 a.m.)**

October 23 - Brotherhood (7:30 a.m.)

**October 23 - Sunday Service - Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)
celebrant - the Reverend Paul Wehner
Children's Sunday School**

**October 23 - Youth and Adult Sunday School and children activities
(10:30 - 11:15 a.m.)**

**October 30 - Sunday Service - Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)
celebrant - the Reverend Paul Wehner
Children's Sunday School**

**October 30 - Youth and Adult Sunday School and children activities
(10:30 - 11:15 a.m.)**

October 31 - Walk the Block - Trunk or Treat (5:00 - 7:00 p.m.)

St. Mary's Leadership

Vestry

Rector: the Reverend Paul Wehner

Sr. Warden: Gwynne Olson

Jr. Warden: Dan Roddy

Clerk: Colleen Matocha

Outreach Chair: Jackie Walker

New email address for St. Mary's - stmaryswestcolumbia@gmail.com

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.