



The Bells of St. Mary's



Former Bishop of the Diocese of Texas, the Rt. Rev. Don Wimberly, foresaw troubled times ahead. Like many bishops, he knew that the budgets as well as the sizes of many congregations in small towns and rural areas were shrinking. He charged his staff with developing the means to train both bi-vocational priests and vocational deacons. Both ordained roles had been the means in other dioceses to advance God's mission in the world and serve parishes. Bishop Wimberly knew it was time for the vast and diverse Diocese of Texas to look into these leadership options as three-year residential seminary training grew more out of reach for many parishes and those called to ordained ministry.

In 2004, the Diocese of Texas opened the Iona School for Ministry to train bi-vocational priests and vocational deacons. Bi-vocational priests are those ordained to the priesthood who will serve small, underfunded parishes while working a full-time job in a secular environment or are retired. Vocational deacons are those individuals called to a "servant's ministry," working under the direction of their bishop and oftentimes focused on the needs of the poor and needy in their community. Meeting monthly for ten months each year, Iona students undergo an intense three-year period of academic study and vocational preparation. In 2016, a "lay" track was added to Iona which allows individuals not called into one of the ordination tracks to study in a theological environment to prepare for a deeper commitment to lay ministry in the church.

Late this summer, St. Mary's was asked by leadership of the Iona School for Ministry to be a training site for bi-vocational priests. With the enthusiastic support of your vestry, we agreed to take a student this academic year. On [September 23](#), Bill Bullard from St. Mark's, Bay City, will join us in ministry, fulfilling an Iona requirement to perform field work in a parish during his last year in Iona. Bill will join us most Sundays, filling in various roles when he is not at Camp Allen one weekend each month for his coursework.

I urge you to welcome Bill in our midst. We have been asked to assist him in gaining experience in the spectrum of priestly ministerial responsibilities. I ask your permission in advance to allow me to bring Bill into a variety of ministerial opportunities this year, whether it be tasks like teaching or accompanying me on pastoral visits.

In response to this request from the Iona School, one of your vestry members declared, "The mustard seed is already germinating!" Let's continue to be a blessing to others, starting with Bill!

Gratefully,



Parish Dinners!

Another delicious Parish Gathering is in the works! We will be having a good old fashioned pot roast dinner on **September 19th**. Gwynne and Bill Olson will be providing the main course. Bring a salad, a delicious side dish, bread, or Grandma's favorite dessert to share, but whatever you do, don't forget to mark those calendars, set an alarm and get to the Parish Hall for a remarkable evening of great food and fellowship. There's always plenty of food so bring your next door neighbor to join in the fun. A sign up sheet is in the Parish Hall. See you **Wednesday, September 19th** at 5:00.

In lieu of our regular **third Wednesday in October**, we will instead have a pot luck after the Blessing of the Animals on **October 7th**. The details will be given later.



KNOW YOUR HYMNS!

Know your Hymns – Season After Pentecost September +1

Everyone is ready for new school year, new season, and new hymns! Here are upcoming hymns for September and one to grow on for October! We have some "regulars" and a few new hymns with a few Taize hymns thrown in for good measure!

Hymns for Sunday, September 9

Opening Hymn – Hymnal 493 *O for a thousand tongues to sing* – We sang this a couple of months ago, you got this!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f9NhtiGjXIU>

Gospel Hymn – Hymnal 1 *Father, we praise thee* – Here's a version on the piano, but no choir...can you catch the melody?

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

Offertory Hymn – Hymnal 602 *Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love* – Sung by a children's choir!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= Mlvxs44P4w>

Communion Hymn – WLP 827 *O Lord hear my pray'r* – Another hymn from the Taize Community!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f51n-yb11dY>

Closing Hymn – Hymnal 375 *Give praise and glory unto God* – This is an old familiar Episcopal hymn!

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

Hymns for Sunday, September 16

Opening Hymn – Hymnal 448 *O love, how deep, how broad, how high* – This is a St. Mary's regular!

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

Gospel Hymn – Hymnal 482 *Lord of all hopefulness* – A familiar hymn tune!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=emsTpiGw5QM>

Offertory Hymn – Hymnal 474 *When I survey the wondrous cross* – We sang this hymn last spring...hear it sung by King's College Cambridge!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z9eCUqz_x5A

Communion Hymn – Hymnal 654 *Day by day*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cm4hQllk9kg>

Closing Hymn – Hymnal 525 *The Church's one foundation* – We sang this familiar hymn in the early summer...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OQv4EAwMFoQ>

Hymns for Sunday, September 23

Opening Hymn – Hymnal 477 *All praise to thee* – This is a familiar hymn and tune for other hymns!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nCpDjti6Z_g

Gospel Hymn – Hymnal 480 *When Jesus left his Father's throne* – Interesting viewpoint of the video...!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xGCIJhsaWt4>

Offertory Hymn – Hymnal 178 *Alleluia, alleluia!* Listen to this guitar version!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cqMgfBXaD5g>

Communion Hymn – Hymnal 660 *O Master, let me walk with thee* - We haven't sung this in a while but it is a familiar tune.

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

Closing Hymn – Hymnal 390 *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* – Neat...subtitles...but a few different lyrics than what we will be singing.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0QQezNMfaL4>

Hymns for Sunday, September 30

Opening Hymn – Hymnal 359 *God of the prophets, bless the prophets' heirs!* – We have sung hymns to this same tune, but new lyrics!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u3-ACKkpLuk>

Gospel Hymn – Hymnal 574 *Before thy throne, O God, we kneel* – This is an easy hymn to pick up!

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

Offertory Hymn – Hymnal 321 *My God, thy table now is spread* – Familiar tune...and hymn!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=URnU1OqOmlo&t=3s>

Communion Hymn – WLP *Bless the Lord my soul* – Another Taize hymn...in English!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t4Svh-9ohg4>

Closing Hymn – Hymnal 509 *Spirit divine, attend our prayers* – Interesting setting!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_8rea5vT_2Q

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>

Fall 2018 Christian Formation

What we have been longing for at St. Mary's is finally here. The beginning of Christian Formation for all ages will be Sunday, September 9th, after hospitality. The Rector will lead the adults on topics related to "Life in Christ - Life in Community". They will meet in the Parish Hall. The youth under the guidance of Miss Colleen will meet in the youth room at the top of the stairs. They will be using the Episcopal based curriculum "Weaving God's Promise" as well as other resources relevant to the youth of **today**. Godly Play for our younger parishioners will take place in the Godly Play room as the children are guided by Miss Dani on their spiritual quest.

The Wednesday evening Christian Formation for St. Mary's youth and children will begin on **September 12th** at 5:30. This time may change depending on the activities of our youth. Just as we did last year, a meal will be served first along with a chance for fellowship. The children and youth will then be divided into 2 groups with Miss Shyanne leading the pre-school through 5th grade group and Miss Colleen guiding the youth. Miss Dani will also be available to assist both groups.

If you would like to provide a meal for the **Wednesday** evening Christian Formation groups, please sign up on the sheet in the Parish Hall. The meal does not need to be elaborate. Plan on between 12 and 15 people.



The Blessing of the Animals

The Episcopal Church, like its mother church, the Church of England, has always shown a certain ambivalence to the feast days of saints. Some parishes have always recognized and faithfully honored the saints of the Church, while other parishes gave scant attention.

One saint who has always received attention across Christian denominations has been St. Francis of Assisi. During Francis' lifetime, he was primarily known for his deep identification with the poverty and suffering of Christ. He and his followers lived by a strict rule of poverty. But even within his lifetime, stories began to surface of Francis' almost mystical connection to creation, particularly animals. Stories abound of Francis preaching to birds and befriending rabbits and crickets.

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. Once all 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...and invite your friends and neighbors!



Commissioning Ceremonies

Commissioning is to charge someone with a task, giving them authority to do something in an official capacity. Two commissioning ceremonies were held at St. Mary's. On **August 12th**, Sharron commissioned the Christian Formation teachers and aides with the task of "leading those whom they teach to the knowledge and love" of God through their word and example.

The worship leaders: acolytes, organist, those who administer the sacraments, altar guild, usher captain, ushers, and lectors, were commissioned on Sunday, **August 26th**. Both individuals and groups were given the task to serve God with love, reverence, devotion, and holiness. Please keep these people in your prayers as they perform their service to God and St. Mary's.



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.

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 not longer in need.



Donations for the Military

In our parish hall there is a container by the door for donations to the US Troops Not Forgotten. This organization supports all military branches and sends packages throughout the year to our service personnel overseas. Each month specific items will be listed to purchase. The items for September are: paperback books, magazines, toilet paper, individual drink packets, small peanut and sunflower seed packets, Ramen Noodles, and Slim Jims. They will also accept cash donations to help with mailing expenses.

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.



Community Assistance

If you know of anyone needing assistance, please contact Tracy or Karen.



News from the Vestry

The vestry met Monday, [August 27th](#).

Rector Report: The Reverend Sharron Cox

Sharron gave the rector report detailing her activities from [July 20th](#) to [August 21st](#). She met with the West Columbia Elementary 5th grade teachers concerning the Discovery Program. The vestry approved her proposal to join West Columbia First United Methodist Church in distributing [Thanksgiving](#) Baskets. The congregation present at the August parish dinner approved the new logo with the tag line "The Mustard Seed Church". The vestry approved a request from The Iona School for Ministry that St. Mary's be a mentor site for one of their third-year students.

Senior Warden's Report: Karen Logue

Karen gave a report on Stewardship in general and made specific suggestions for St. Mary's. She and Sharron are finalizing the Fall Stewardship Campaign for St. Mary's. She also reported the need for a mission statement and vision statement. The Community Assistance Committee is surveying local churches to learn their policies on helping people in the community.

Junior Warden's Report: Andrea Anderson

Andrea was not present, but Sharron was able to give her report. There was some air conditioning work done this month. The vestry discussed the need for improvements on the parking lot and upgrading the fire alarm system.

Discipleship Report

On [August 26th](#), Sharron officially commissioned the lay ministers. There was formal training of the acolytes. A Home Communion Kit was gifted to St. Mary's. Karen and Dani are certified to bring communion to parishioners' homes.

Mission Report

Karen presented an outreach project to help the local Meals on Wheels. Sharron discussed the [Thanksgiving](#) Basket Project in conjunction with the First United Methodist Church. Karen noted there is a need for adult tutors at West Columbia Elementary.

Financial Support

The Community Assistance Committee is surveying other local churches to learn their policies for giving financial aid to those in need. They will use the information to develop a plan for St. Mary's

Evangelism

The vestry discussed West Columbia's Halloween Trunk or Treat Program.

Calendar

The next three vestry meetings will be on [September 24th](#) at 4:30, [October 29th](#) at 3:30, and [November 26th](#) at 3:30.

Daughters of the King meet [September 4th](#) at 9:30

Brotherhood meets [September 2nd](#), 16th, and 30th at 7:30 am.

Bible Study continues on Thursdays at 6:00.

Parish dinner will be [September 19th](#) at 5:00.

Blessing of the Animals will be on [October 7th](#) at 4:30.

Bishop's visit will be on [November 25th](#).

The next meeting will be Monday, [September 24th](#) at 4:30.

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

Message from Marvin Miller

Thanks God

by Jim Gentil – Mr. Positive
Speaker – Author - Magician

She hated herself because she was blind. She hated everyone, except her loving boyfriend. He was always there for her. She told her boyfriend, 'If I could only see the world, I will marry you.' One day, someone donated a pair of eyes to her. When the bandages came off, she was able to see everything, including her boyfriend. He asked her, 'Now that you can see the world, will you marry me?' The girl looked at her boyfriend and saw that he was blind. The sight of his closed eyelids shocked her. She hadn't expected that. The thought of looking at them the rest of her life led her to refuse to marry him. Her boyfriend left her in tears and days later wrote a note to her saying: 'Take good care of your eyes, my dear, for before they were yours, they were mine.'

This is how the human brain often works when our status changes. Only a very few remember what life was like before, and who was always by their side in the most painful situations.

Life Is a Gift

by Jim Gentil – Mr. Positive
Speaker – Author – Magician

Today before you say an unkind word -
Think of someone who can't speak.

Before you complain about the taste of your food - Think of someone who has nothing to eat.

Before you complain about your husband or wife -
Think of someone who's crying out to GOD for a companion.

Today before you complain about life -
Think of someone who went too early to heaven.

*Before you complain about your children -
Think of someone who desires children but they're barren.*

Before you argue about your dirty house someone didn't clean or sweep -
Think of the people who are living in the streets.

Before whining about the distance you drive
Think of someone who walks the same distance with their feet.

And when you are tired and complain about your job -
Think of the unemployed, the disabled, and those who wish they had your job.

But before you think of pointing the finger or condemning another -
Remember that not one of us is without sin and we all answer to one MAKER.

And when depressing thoughts seem to get you down -
Put a smile on your face and thank GOD you're alive and still around.

God Bless You.

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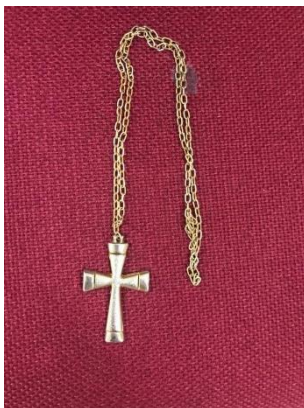
## Bible Study

We will soon come to the end of our study of John and what a beautiful study it has been. We will culminate and celebrate the book of John with a special dinner on **Thursday, October 18th**. If you think you may be interested in joining the **Thursday** evening Bible Study, please feel free to join us for our fellowship meal, learn more about TEBS (**Thursday** Evening Bible Study) and help us decide on our next study. Everyone is welcome! More details to follow. Stay tuned!



## Are You Smarter Than An Acoloyte

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 *sacristy*, *cincture*, *sanctuary*, *credence table*, *alb*, and *pectoral cross*.





Braylee Schill earned third place in the Grit Fitness Games.



## Camp Allen Events

### Gramps Camp - September 21-22

Spend quality time in the piney woods with your grandchildren in the piney woods at this two day, one night retreat! Register at [campallen.org](http://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
- Bean bag chairs or other comfortable chairs for 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

September 4 DOK meeting (9:30 am)

## September Birthdays

Jason Davidson - September 6

**September 6 Bible Study (6:00 pm)**

**Marvin Miller - September 28**

**September 9 Sunday service (9:00 am)**  
Christian Formation begins

**Piper Roddy - September 29**

**September 12 Christian Formation (5:30)**  
**September 13 Bible Study (6:00 pm)**

**September 16 Brotherhood (7:30 am)**  
**Sunday Service (9:00 am)**  
Christian Formation

## September Anniversaries

**Ed & Karen Logue - Sept. 13**

**September 19 Parish Dinner - Pot Roast**  
Christian Formation

**Justin & Hannah Hussey - Sept. 14**

**September 20 Bible Study (6:00 pm)**

**Livingston & Marglet Arana - Sept. 23**

**September 23 Sunday Service (9:00 am)**  
Christian Formation

**Roy and Brandi Weisinger - Sept. 28**

**September 24 Vestry Meeting (4:30)**

**September 26 Christian Formation**

**September 27 Bible Study (6:00 pm)**

**September 30 Brotherhood (7:30 am)**  
**Sunday Service (9:00 am)**  
Christian Formation

## St. Mary's Leadership

### Rector

**The Reverend Sharron Cox**

### Vestry

**Sr. Warden: Karen Logue**

**Jr. Warden: Andrea Anderson**

**Clerk: Marvin Miller**

**Charlotte Blount**

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.