

The Bells of St. Mary's

September Edition



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.



My first Christian formation assignment as a rookie ordained person was to teach about saints on All Saints Day. Now if you know me well, you know how “thrilled” I was with that assignment for I am firmly on the more “Protestant-side” of the Episcopal continuum that has stretched across the divide between “Catholic and Ritualistic” and the “Protestant and Biblical.” I grew up thinking saints were in the Roman Catholic Church, not in *my* church!

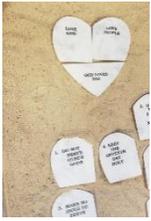
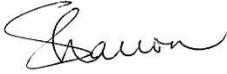
But I was wrong...in more ways than one! Yes, there are Episcopalians and Anglicans that follow the “sanctoral” calendar along with our sisters and brothers in the Roman Catholic Church. Throughout the church year, they honor the lives of exemplary Christians who served God and may have even given their lives in that service.

And then there are the “saints” as referenced in the Bible. But the word “saint” in the New Testament has multiple meanings. Sometimes it refers to the followers of Jesus and the members of the Church, oftentimes defined as “the saints below.” Other times, the use of the word “saint” refers to those who have died and are now with God in everlasting glory, meaning the “saints above.”

In my letter disclosing to you my upcoming departure from St. Mary's, I shared with you a quote from C.S. Lewis who said, “Christians never have to say goodbye.” That's because we are first and foremost, “saints below” who share in the ministry of advancing God's kingdom by sharing Jesus' gospel of love. We are the Church, the Church that is beyond the walls of the holy place on 201 E. Clay Street and is connected to Christians across our community, our state, our nation, and the entire globe. And some day we, too, will become the “saints above” who worship our King and pray for those who continue God's work on earth. It is this communion of the “saints below” and the “saints above” which allows us to never be separated from one another, to never have to say goodbye.

I will miss worshipping and sharing lives with the saints who gather at 201 E. Clay Street in West Columbia. But I will never be separated from any of you because we remain in this incredible communion of the saints of God, in community, wherever we may be!

Grace and peace,



Godly Play

Godly Play lessons will continue through the app "Marco Polo" beginning the week of September 6th. The video is usually posted on Saturday so the first video should be available September 12th. Parents are notified when a new video is available. The children and parents are able to react to the video.

In addition to the Godly Play lesson, if there are any materials or activities that enhance the lesson, they are emailed to the parents for download.

If there are any who have not been receiving these lessons but would like to, please email the office by clicking on the button at the top of the newsletter or call the office (979-345-3456) and leave a message. Godly Play lessons are for children ages 2 years to 5th grade.

This is NOT Sunday School

Even though we cannot physically meet for Christian Formation at St. Mary's, that does not mean we do have an opportunity to "draw closer to Jesus Christ." "That's the aim of a new learning experience called 'This is NOT Sunday School'. (FORMA) "Hosted by *ChurchNext*, this is a new online, weekly, free, and intergenerational way to learn together. Your family-whatever your ages-can gather and learn some of the great stories of the Bible together. "(Forward Today) "This is NOT Sunday School' will launch weekly starting September 16. Each week's session features video teaching by a professional from the Christian formation network, Forma, as well as downloadable lessons and readings." (FORMA) You can find out more by going to the ChurchNext website.

<https://www.churchnext.tv/library/this-is-not-sunday-school/169476/about/>



News from the Vestry

The vestry met Sunday, August 16, 2020.

Rector Report: The Reverend Sharron Cox

Rev. Sharron reported that there is a KNG Zoom meeting scheduled on August 20, 2020. Dan Roddy, Brian Lane, and Rev. Sharron will attend. The online streaming equipment installation in the nave has been completed by John Ahrens. He will come back on a Sunday to make any additional adjustments. Mason Weems visited with Rev. Sharron about wanting to use our empty lots to build a boardwalk to Varner Hogg Ranch.

Senior Warden's Report: Marvin Miller

Marvin reported that he is working on the stewardship campaign. It will be a small campaign due to COVID-19. He is planning on sending out two letters to the parish family and the vestry will make phone calls to each family.

Junior Warden's Report: Charlotte Blount

Rev. Sharron gave the report on Charlotte's behalf. The linoleum for the bathroom hallway has been ordered. Once the linoleum has been laid, the bathroom renovation will be complete. Dan Roddy completed the Round-Up application on the sidewalk cracks.

A copy of the vestry minutes from June will be placed on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall once approved at the August meeting. The next Vestry meeting is Sunday, September 20th at 10:30 a.m.

Message from Marvin Miller

The Ten Commandments in Rhyme

Above all else love God Alone
Bow down to neither wood or stone
God's name refuse to take in vain
The Sabbath rest with care maintain
Respect your parents all your days
Hold Sacred Human life always
Be loyal to your chosen mate
Steal nothing, neither small or great
Report with truth, your neighbor's deed
And rid your mind of selfish greed.

- Author unknown



Community Assistance

In August, we made several donations to the food pantry at Iglesia Centro Cristiano. Donations of hand sanitizers, service wipes, snacks for teachers, and Lice Kits were made to West Columbia Elementary. We also helped two family with their electric bills.

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

Amazing Place Houston

The Amazing Place has “worked with passion and compassion to bring joy and meaning to lives impacted by dementia. We’re implementing programs encouraging active and independent lifestyles. We’re training and educating caregivers, congregations, health professionals and the community to equip them with essential knowledge and tools. We’re building meaningful relationships daily with those living with dementia and everyone in their lives.” (Amazing Place) If you or someone you know would like to know more, look at amazingplacehouston.org.



Camp Allen Events

Camp Allen is opening its hotel and conference center to a maximum of 20 hotel rooms on September 11-13, September 18-20, September 25-27, October 2-4, 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.

Labor Day Family Camp - fun-filled sock hop-themed family retreat - September 4-6, 2020

If you are interested in any of these events call [\(979-345-3456\)](tel: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:

- Dan Roddy for overseeing the renovations of the Parish Hall bathrooms.
- Gwynne Olson for helping with the design decisions in the renovations of the bathrooms.
- John Ahrens of Planet Ahrens and Clay Burns for their work on setting up Live-streaming in the Nave.
- Theata Miller, Dani Mikel, Wendy Hankins, Kendy Hankins, Dan Roddy, Colleen Matocha, Gwynne Olson, Marvin Miller, Mary Stewart, Shyanne Roddy, Aaron Mikel, and AJ Mikel for serving as Worship Leaders during the month of August.
- Abigail Roddy for serving as crucifer for the first time on August 23rd.
- Debbie Burns for her donation of Doc Burns' office furniture to be used in the rector's office.
- 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.

September 2 - Compline on St. Mary's Facebook Live at 8:00 p.m.

September 6 - Sunday Service
Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)

September 9 - Compline on St. Mary's Facebook Live at 8:00 p.m.

September 13 - Sunday Service
Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)

September 16 - Compline on St. Mary's Facebook Live at 8:00 p.m.
This will be the last Compline

September 20 - Sunday Service
Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)
Vestry Meeting (10:30 a.m.)

September 27 - Sunday Service
Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)

September Birthdays

Jason Davidson- September 6

Marvin Miller - September 28

Piper Roddy - September 29

St. Mary's Leadership

Rector

The Reverend Sharron Cox

Vestry

Sr. Warden: Marvin Miller

Jr. Warden: Charlotte Blount

Clerk: Gwynne Olson

September Anniversaries

St. Mary's Episcopal Church, corner of 16th and Clay Street, West Columbia
PO Box 786, West Columbia, Texas 77486
[979-345-3456](tel: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.