



*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.



September 2021

## Christian Formation - Youth and Adults

**That the World May Know**, Ray Vander Laan

### Introduction

While the scriptural message from God is eternal and unchanging, the specific circumstances and conditions of the people of the Bible are unique to their times in history. As we write the current chapter in God's narrative that began thousands of years ago, we look to scripture for guidance in our lives. And we most clearly understand God's truth for us when we know the cultural context within which God spoke and interacted with the people to whom he was communicating. These DVD's take us back to the land of the first believers and utilize the latest archaeological research to help us better appreciate the *who*, *what*, and *where* of the Bible stories.

The Bible is filled with concrete images to help the understanding of its readers; therefore, to better understand the bible, we need to better know the perspective of the people that thought and spoke in terms of those images in their daily lives. Whereas Westerners tend to collect information to find the right answer, Hebrew thought stresses the process of discovery as well as the answer. As we go through this study, we hope it will deepen our understanding of who God is – thereby bringing us closer in our relationship with God.

### DVD 1 -The Promised Land

Sunday, September 12: *Standing at the Crossroads*

We visit Tel Gezer, one of the greatest tels in Israel. To stand on this mound is to stand on the ruins of as many as five thousand years of human history. In ancient times, Gezer was a bustling crossroads; therefore, its artifacts provide much information about the culture, trade and travel of those times.

Sunday, September 19: *Wet Feet*

We will see and learn about the Jordan River, which to the Israelites was a barrier – an obstacle to be crossed in order to reach the land promised to them by God. After a 40-year trip, the Israelites finally stood on the east side of the Jordan. In this session, we'll explore the significance of their miraculous crossing – for both Jews and Christians today.

### **Sunday, September 26: *First Fruits***

In this video, we will discover some of the fascinating history of Jericho, the oldest city in the world. During Bible times, Jericho was on a major trade route and was the first obstacle that the Israelites had to overcome in order to possess the Promised Land that God had promised to them.

### **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 might warrior, Goliath to fight the one appointed by God to face him – a young shepherd boy named David.

## **Christian Formation for Children**

Christian Formation for Children age 2 years to 5th grade will begin Sunday, September 12th. The children will meet during the service, leaving the sanctuary during the Praise Song and returning during the Peace.

Instead of one group, the children will be divided into two groups.

- Godly Play and The Path are for our younger parishioners from age 2 to first grade under the direction of Miss Dani. Godly play is “an imaginative approach to working with children, an approach that supports, challenges, nourishes, and guides their spiritual quest.”
- Miss Shyanne will be leading the 2nd graders through 5th graders. They will continue with lessons from the Bible as well as doctrine from the Episcopal Church.

Maddie Lane has also volunteered to help with Christian Formation.

## **Christian Formation Needs You**

In the Narthex there is a form that you can fill out indicating what you will do to help Christian Formation. Please take one, fill it out, and return it to Dani, Colleen, or Shyanne.



## Parish Dinners are Back!

Mark your calendar! Wednesday, September 15<sup>th</sup> is our Regathering Dinner! We will gather at 5:30pm in the Parish Hall and begin eating at 5:45pm. Talk About Good from Freeport is catering our meal. The menu will include Fried Catfish and King Ranch Chicken.

We need an estimated headcount, so please let the office know by Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, how many are coming and your entrée preference. You can call the office (979-345-3456), make your entree selection in the poll on the front page of our website (<https://www.stmaryswestcolumbia.com>) or email the church ([stmaryswc@centurylink.net](mailto:stmaryswc@centurylink.net)).

Bring a friend or two! All you have to do is show up and fellowship with our church family!



## Charlotte Blount

The funeral service for Charlotte Blount will be Tuesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 p.m. at St. Mary's Episcopal Church with the Committal to follow at Old Columbia Cemetery. There will be a reception in the Parish Hall.

The visitation is Monday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, at Baker's Funeral Home from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Give to the departed eternal rest and let light perpetual shine upon them.

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

### Blessing of the Animals

The Blessing of the Animals will be Sunday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 4:00 p.m.. The Schills will be heading up this special event but need the entire congregation to help. Two years ago, we had 30 or more parishioners participating. If you want to help in any way with the preparations, planning, or the day of the event please contact the office. We need everyone for this to be as spectacular as it has in the past.

### Clothes Needed

Mary Stewart's stepdaughter's house was destroyed in Hurricane Ida. The family has relocated to Matagorda and are staying with family. The children are starting school on Wednesday. Clothes are needed for the children. You can bring your donations to the church office or call Mary directly. They have received some donations, but can always use more, since everything is gone.

Sizes for the 4 children:

1. men's pants size 34/32, men's shirt medium, men's shoes 10 1/2
2. girl's size 8/9, older girl's shoe size 3
3. girl's size 6/7, young girl's shoe size 13
4. girl's size 2T

## Episcopal Relief & Development

On Sunday, August 29, sixteen years after Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast, Hurricane Ida made landfall in the same region. This Category 4 storm brought flooding and damaging winds that caused a loss of water to hundreds of thousands and a loss of electricity to over 1 million people. Episcopal Relief & Development is working closely with the Diocese of Louisiana and other regional partners in what will be a long-term response. Your generous gift will help alleviate suffering for the most vulnerable residents impacted by Hurricane Ida. Please visit [episcopalrelief.org/hurricane-relief](https://episcopalrelief.org/hurricane-relief) to make a gift today. Donations can also be placed in the offering plate or brought to the office. We will send them to the Episcopal Relief and Development. Please indicate your donation is for Hurricane Ida Relief.

## Message from Marvin Miller A Lesson in Heart

A lesson in “heart” is my little 10-year-old daughter, Sarah, who was born with a muscle missing in her foot and wears a brace all the time. She came home one beautiful spring day to tell me she had competed in “field day” – that’s where they have lots of races and other competitive events.

Because of her leg support, my mind raced as I tried to think of words of encouragement for my Sarah, things I could say to her about not letting this get her down – things I have heard many famous coaches tell the players when they were faced with defeat – but before I could get a word out, she looked up and said, “*Daddy, I won two of the races!*”

I couldn’t believe it! And then Sarah said, “*I had an advantage.*” Ahh, I knew it. I thought she must have been given a head start...some kind of physical advantage. But again, before I could say anything, she said, “*Daddy, I didn’t get a head start...my advantage was I had to try harder!*”

That’s heart! That’s my Sarah.

- From Chicken Soup for the Soul



## 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.



## Community Assistance

In August, the committee approved one request: partial rent for one household.

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

Father Paul and Sherry Wehner are celebrating 52 years of marriage on September 6th.

The Roddy children will be very active this school year. Piper is a member of the Brazoswood High School Choir, Trace is playing soccer for the West Brazos Soccer League, Abigail is taking twirling and dance from Jana's School of Dance, and Madeline is taking dance from Jana's School of Dance.

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

Reesie Cantrell is involved with FFA at Columbia High School and dances Hip Hop at Jana's School of Dance.

Braylee Schill, as a Freshman, is on the Varsity Cross Country Team at Columbia High School.

Kendy Hankins is on the Cross Country Team and in the choir at Bay City Jr. High.

Brayze Schill is taking college classes at Brazosport College while still attending Columbia High School.

Haley Cantrell is taking college classes at Brazosport College while still attending Columbia High School.



## Camp Allen Events

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](http://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

- Brayze Schill, Braylee Schill, Adam Schill, Haley Cantrell, Theata Miller, Colleen Matocha, Mary Stewart, Shyanne Roddy, Abigail Roddy, Trace Roddy, Gwynne Olson, Marvin Miller, Sherry Wehner, Travis Prater, Maddie Lane, Bill Olson, Dan Roddy, Tracy Lane, Dani Mikel and AJ Mikel for serving as Worship Leaders during the month of August.
- Amber Prater for setting up the Livestreaming on our Facebook site, monitoring the feed during the service, and responding to those viewing on-line.
- Shyanne and Wade Roddy, Sherry and Father Paul Wehner, Theata and Marvin Miller, and Gwynne and Bill Olson for providing treats for our August Hospitality and Fellowship.
- Kendy Hankins for her volunteer work in the church office and Godly Play room.
- Dan Roddy and Father Paul Wehner for helping John Abrens install the new cords for the live-streaming.
- 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.

September 1 through 12 - Please RSVP for the Regathering Dinner

September 5 - Sunday Service  
Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)  
celebrant - the Reverend Nan Doerr

September 6 - Charlotte Blount's  
Visitation - Baker's Funeral Home  
(5:00 - 7:00 p.m.)

September 7 - (2:00 p.m.)  
Memorial Service in Celebration of the Life  
of Charlotte Blount  
Committal Old Columbia Cemetary  
Reception

September 12 - Brotherhood (7:30 a.m.)

September 12 - Sunday Service  
Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)  
celebrant - the Reverend Paul Wehner

September 12 - Vestry Meeting  
(11:30 a.m.)

September 15 - Regathering Dinner in  
the Parish Hall (5:30 p.m.)

September 19 - Sunday Service  
Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)  
celebrant - the Reverend Paul Wehner

September 26 - Brotherhood (7:30 a.m.)

September 22 - Sunday Service  
Holy Eucharist: Rite II (9:00 a.m.)  
celebrant - the Reverend Nan Doerr

## September Birthdays

Jason Davidson - September 6

Marvin Miller - September 28

Piper Roddy - September 29

## September Anniversaries

The Rev. Paul & Sherry Wehner -  
September 6

Hannah & Justin Hussey - September 14

## St. Mary's Leadership

### Vestry

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

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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.