

## Sample Press Release

### **St. Mary's, Cypress, to host Addiction & Recovery Worship Service on Sept. 17**

St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Cypress, Texas, is holding its first-ever addiction and recovery worship service at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 17, 2016. The service, which is open to all from any faith tradition, seeks to honor those recovering from any addiction and those who support them in their recovery.

The innovative service incorporates the 12 Step recovery program with Holy Scripture and the ancient Christian liturgical tradition. The result aims to be both moving and liberating, celebrating the victory of God's eternal grace over the brutal power of addiction.

The service will feature a diverse mix of both secular and sacred music, from artists as varied as Hank Williams and John Lennon. The Rev. Jim Liberatore, rector of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Pearland, Texas, will deliver the sermon.

The worship service is an open-door, come-as-you-are opportunity to celebrate sobriety and support those struggling with addictions in themselves or their loved ones. One of St. Mary's core beliefs is valuing all people, without exception.

"Church classrooms and basements have long been places of welcome for 12-step groups," says the Rev. Beth Fain, Rector of St. Mary's. "Our desire is that this worship service opens the door and highlights the church as a place for reconciliation, and replace the concept of a hidden basement with the reality of an open sanctuary."

The Episcopal Church's relationship with 12 Steps programs began in 1935, when Episcopal priest Dr. Samuel Shoemaker worked with Bill W. and Dr. Bob S. to develop the organization known today as Alcoholics Anonymous. The Recovery Ministries of The Episcopal Church provide more details on the group's work with 12 Steps and other recovery programs online at [www.episcopalrecovery.org](http://www.episcopalrecovery.org).

Every September, the Substance and Mental Health Services Administration sponsors Recovery Month to increase awareness and understanding of mental and substance use issues and celebrate the people who recover. More information is available at [www.recoverymonth.gov](http://www.recoverymonth.gov).

St. Mary's Episcopal Church is a Christ-centered community welcoming all those seeking loving acceptance, spiritual growth, and sacred beauty. The church is located at 15415 N. Eldridge Parkway, Cypress, Texas 77429. Learn more at [www.stmaryscypress.org](http://www.stmaryscypress.org).