

## The Season of Lent

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Lenten Season. The date for Ash Wednesday is determined by the moveable date of Easter Day which is always the first Sunday after the full moon that falls on or after March 21. It cannot occur before March 22 or after April 25 (Book of Common Prayer page 15). Beginning on page 882 of the prayer book is a table which lists Easter Day for every year from 1900 through 2089. The season of Lent is 40 days excluding Sundays.

This season has its roots in a period in the early church of intense preparation through instruction, prayer, and fasting of baptismal candidates. They were preparing for baptism at the Easter Vigil. As we enter Lent on Ash Wednesday ashes are used as a sign of our own mortality. In the liturgy for Ash Wednesday, just before the imposition of ashes, we are encouraged "to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word." As a symbol of this time of repentance and meditation we use pottery, glass, and wood for our Eucharistic vessels instead of silver. There is no veil on the chalice for the celebration of the Eucharist. The flower stand is empty and a purple veil adorns the processional cross.

The final week of Lent is Holy Week. It begins with Palm Sunday. We remember Jesus's triumphal entry into Jerusalem followed by His devastating execution. Our Holy Week services will begin with our 8 and 10 a.m. services on Palm Sunday, March 24. On Thursday, March 28, at 7 p.m. we will have a Maundy Thursday service with Eucharist, foot washing, and stripping of the altar. Stations of the Cross will be observed at 12 p.m. on Good Friday, March 29.

As we go through this season of self-examination and repentance remember the story of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane when His disciples fell asleep while he prayed. Do you think He felt disappointed and/or abandoned? Ask yourself, "How do I overcome disappointments?" "When I feel abandoned how do I find Christ?"

### PLEASE JOIN US!

**Dining Out on Thursday, February 29th, at 6:30 p.m.**

**Pompeii Italian Grill**

**16109 Nacogdoches Rd., San Antonio, TX 78247**

**RSVP by February 27th to Bill & Kathy Ercoline**



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Our Mission: We serve Jesus Christ as a community rich in the Episcopal tradition by welcoming the seeker, providing a caring family, encouraging spiritual growth, and reaching into our neighborhood and world.

# Hospitality Notes

By Melissa Mudge

## Many Thanks

Thank you, people of St. Matthew's! What a great Fat Tuesday. Pancakes and bacon and sausage enjoyed by all. Thanks to the many hands that prepared, served, blessed, and cleaned up.

## On-Going Hospitality

- ◆ Morning Coffee Fellowship after each Sunday Service.

**8:00 Service**—morning coffee and snacks will be ready about 8:45.

**10:00 service**—coffee and snacks will be ready about 10:45.

The second service would welcome a fourth host to have a turn in the Coffee Hour rotation. Let me know if you are interested. Thanks host families. You make every Sunday a special occasion in the Parish Hall. The snacks are delightful and the conversations compelling. Every Sunday is something shared.

- ◆ Hospitality Committee – Volunteers are needed to prepare food, set up, serve, and clean-up at some of our church related activities. If you would like to be “hospitality on call,” please let me know.

## Give it – To Go

Please pick up a bag to give away to someone who needs it. These bags can travel in your car and then be given as you like.

Finished bags are available in Creasy Hall with a water bottle, snacks, a wash cloth, soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, and black socks.

There is room to add anything else, such as: long sleeved tee shirt/sweatshirt, sunscreen, feminine hygiene products, an additional pair of socks, or a gift card to a fast-food establishment. The person to whom you might give this bag is experiencing difficult times and has limited resources, so think about portability.



If you are cleaning out closets in the next few weeks, some gently used adult sized sweatshirts would make great additions to the bags. Thanks so much.

## Special Events (Some dates to look forward to)

- ◆ March 1—World Day of Prayer.
- ◆ March 10—Start Daylight Saving Time.
- ◆ March 19—First Day of Spring.
- ◆ March 24 – 30—Palm Sunday and the start of Holy Week.
- ◆ March 31—Easter Sunday with Easter Egg Hunt and Finger Food Luncheon. More information coming soon.

## RACAP NEWS

by: Kathy Ercoline

Thank you to those who participated in the “RACAP SOUPER BOWL”. So many in our St. Matthew’s congregation donated soup, fruit, and cash, and for that, I am truly grateful... again, thank you so much! Your generosity is always needed and very much appreciated.

St. Matthew’s congregation is once again participating in the “**40 Cans for Lent**” Program. The program started on Ash Wednesday (February 14<sup>th</sup>) and will continue through Good Friday (March 29<sup>th</sup>).

“**40 CANS FOR LENT**” is a program designed to help fight hunger. It is an opportunity for you to make a small sacrifice, which in turn makes a big difference in the lives of others. The program began in 2010, and since then it has developed into an international program to fight hunger. Our contributions will be donated to RACAP to help families in our local area. Please donate **one non-perishable item of food or paper product per day** during the 40 days of Lent, which began on Ash Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, and will end on Good Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>. Then we will have a special in-gathering of **one extra food item** on Easter Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup>.

The donations will be delivered to the RACAP pantry throughout the Lenten season, so bring your forty items at any time during Lent. In addition to canned foods, any non-perishable food items, hygiene products, and paper products will be accepted. And, as always, **monetary donations are welcomed and appreciated**. If you choose to contribute money, make your checks out to St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church and in the memo line write “40 Cans for Lent”. If you are donating cash...put your name on an envelope, label it specifically for RACAP “40 Cans for Lent Program” and place the cash inside the labeled envelope. You can drop your donation in the offering plate on Sunday or take it to the office during the week.

### Current Pantry Needs:

Spaghetti Sauce	Spaghetti Pasta	Jelly	Jell-O
Muffin Mix	Dry Beans	Hamburger/Tuna Helpers	Hygiene Products
Dish Soap	Pet Food	Large Brown Grocery Bags	

\*\*\*From time to time the RACAP pantry runs out of specific items. When it happens, the RACAP director sends out an emergency plea (via email) to all churches. Then a blast is sent out to the congregations. Thank you for your attention to this.

January’s RACAP assistance data is currently unavailable. It will be included in a future Matt’s Missive.

During Lent, we are reminded of the great sacrifice Christ made for us, and our obligation to follow his teachings: “***For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in.***” (Matthew 25:35)

*“Thank you for helping us help others.”*

## Lenten Preparation

In this time of preparing, we lift our prayers to Thee,  
That from guilt and confusion, our hearts may be set free.  
Dearest Lord, while you fasted and were tempted in the wild,  
You prepared; Lord, help prepare Your child.

Jesus, You were born of a simple loving woman.  
You spent Your life in Galilee. You listened and You grew,  
And then You were baptized by John in the river Jordan.  
Your Father sent His dove to You, and so it all began.

In this time of preparing, we lift our prayers to Thee,  
That from guilt and confusion, our hearts may be set free.  
Dearest Lord, while you fasted and were tempted in the wild,  
You prepared; Lord, help prepare Your child.

Even then, Lord, You knew of the pain that would be coming,  
So to the wilderness You went to be with Your God.  
You prayed and You fasted, You a man with no sin.  
So lowly sinners such as we must spend our time of Lent.

In this time of preparing, we lift our prayers to Thee,  
That from guilt and confusion, our hearts may be set free.  
Dearest Lord, while you fasted and were tempted in the wild,  
You prepared; Lord, help prepare Your child.

We all live in a world that is filled with fear and hatred.  
We each have our share of troubles; we each cause another pain.  
As the devil tempted You, Lord, so he lives here by us.  
And he wins all too often, though he never won with You.

In this time of preparing, we lift our prayers to Thee,  
That from guilt and confusion, our hearts may be set free.  
Dearest Lord, while you fasted and were tempted in the wild,  
You prepared; Lord, help prepare Your child.  
You prepared; Lord.... help prepare Your child.

Janet Clere  
© February 21, 1985

### How to Dispose of Your U.S. Flags

Just fold your worn flag, put it in a bag, label it "Susan K. Brown ", and leave it on the Narthex table or in the office. She'll take the flags to the VFW Post 4676's Flag Retirement ceremonies held throughout the year.



**MARCH 10**  
**Don't Forget to SPRING**  
**forward!**

The submission **DEADLINE** for the Missive is the 15th of the month. Any late submissions will be in the next month's issue.

## Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

A great big THANK YOU to Melissa Mudge for organizing our annual pancake supper on Shrove Tuesday! Everyone enjoyed the pancakes, sausage, and bacon along with all of the yummy toppings available. No one left hungry. Melissa organized but she could not do it alone. Many THANKS to all who contributed pancake mix, bacon, sausage, syrup, juice, fruit, and all of the other goodies! THANK YOU also to everyone donated their time to set up, cook, and clean up after. Every one of you made this event possible and enjoyable!



## Dining Out

Dining Out Group needs Host volunteers to organize our monthly Dining Out. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex and on the receptionist's desk for anyone willing to be a **host**. The responsibilities for hosting the dining out include securing a restaurant for the meal and taking reservations.

This year we will NOT have a dining-out in March since the last Thursday in March is Maundy Thursday.

## MAKING PALM CROSSES

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Liz Sampson graciously agreed to organize and show everyone interested how to make the palm crosses for our Palm Sunday services. Please join her in Creasy Hall at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 23. All you need is your willingness to help and a pair of scissors.



## March Birthdays

*May you be like the tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever it does prospers. (Psalm 1:3)*

Roy Leonard	Paulette Schwoebel
Tony Regist	Flip Bushey
Pam Calvert	Jim Greer
Anne Blake	Danielle Langford
Annette Regist	





## *Happenings Around The Diocese*

**Cursillo #291: March 14 – 17**, at Camp Capers. Engage in study, reflection, fellowship, and worship. Cursillo gives church members the tools and "rules of life" to enthusiastically share the joys of knowing Christ with others in their everyday environments. Cursillo is patterned on Jesus' own example. He searched out and called groups of potential leaders, trained them, and sent them out to bring the world to Him.

**Episcopal Church Women's Spring Gathering, "Rekindling the Gift of God Within":** March 8 – 9 at Mustang Island Conference Center. Refresh your spirit and rekindle your God-given gifts at the Spring Gathering for women. Our featured speaker for the weekend is the Rt. Rev. Gary Lillibridge, Ninth Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas. Come join us for fellowship and fun!

**The Good, the True, & the Beautiful Retreat:** April 5 – 7 at Camp Capers. This is a storytelling and spirituality retreat hosted by the Rt. Rev. David M. Reed, tenth bishop of West Texas and the Rt. Rev. Dr. David G. Read. Participants will have the opportunity to explore the restorative power of storytelling, songwriting, and creativity through the lens of faith. You're also invited to extend your stay on Sunday Night. On Monday, April 8, Camp Capers will host an Eclipse Fest. A limited number of lodgings are available to extend your stay over Sunday night and view the solar eclipse.

*You can find more information and registration on these and other events at <https://www.dwtx.org/events>*



EPISCOPAL  
DIOCESE  
of West Texas

## From the Blog

### **A Message from our Bishop: Announcing the Retirement of Dr. Marthe Curry, Director of World Missions**

The Rt. Rev. Dr. David G. Read, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas, extends his heartfelt thanks to Dr. Marthe Curry, Director of World Missions, upon her announcement of retirement at the end of February 2024. Bishop Read states, "To say we are sad to see Marthe leave is an understatement. Her legacy will live on in the thriving World Missions Ministry." Read more [here](#).

### **Studying the Acts of the Apostles**

As announced in the 2024 Pre-Council meetings the Rt. Rev. Dr. David G. Read invites the diocese to study Acts. He states, "The Acts of the Apostles is the first book of the New Testament following The Gospels of Jesus Christ." The diocesan Christian Formation Committee has put together recommended studies to be used during Sunday school, mid-week formation, or anytime a church gathers to study the Bible together. Read more [here](#).

### **DWTX Announcements**

The diocesan office at the Bishop Jones Center will close in support of the 120th Council February 21 and reopen on February 27. If needed, the staff email directory is available online, at [dwtx.org/staff](https://www.dwtx.org/staff).

Make plans to attend Good Sam Spurs Night at the Frost Bank Center on March 23 at 7:00 p.m. Good Sam will be honored during halftime and every ticket purchased will include a food voucher and provide a \$5 donation to Good Sam. [Click here](#) for more information and to purchase your tickets for the San Antonio Spurs vs. Phoenix Suns game.

## MARCH CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 <b>Worship</b> 8 & 10am (C) <b>Sunday School</b> 9:15am (L) <b>Kiwanis</b> 5-6pm (CH)	4 <b>Staff Meeting</b> 9am (L) <b>Prayer Meeting</b> 12pm (L) <b>AA Meeting</b> 8-9pm (CH)	5	6 <b>HOME</b> 10am-3:30pm (CH, C, VEB) <b>Eucharist</b> 11am (ARC) <b>Lenten Study</b> 6pm (CH)	7 <b>Choir Practice</b> 5pm (C) <b>AA Meeting</b> 8-9pm (CH)	8	9
10 <b>Worship</b> 8 & 10am (C) <b>Sunday School</b> 9:15am (L)	11 <b>Staff Meeting</b> 9am (L) <b>Prayer Meeting</b> 12pm (L) <b>AA Meeting</b> 8-9pm (CH)	12	13 <b>HOME</b> 10am-3:30pm (CH, C, VEB) <b>Eucharist</b> 11am (ARC) <b>Lenten Study</b> 6pm (CH)	14 <b>Choir Practice</b> 5pm (C) <b>AA Meeting</b> 8-9pm (CH)	15	16
17 <b>Worship</b> 8 & 10am (C) <b>Sunday School</b> 9:15am (L) <b>Kiwanis</b> 5-6pm (CH)	18 <b>Staff Meeting</b> 9am (L) <b>Prayer Meeting</b> 12pm (L) <b>AA Meeting</b> 8-9pm (CH)	19 <b>Vestry Meeting</b> 6pm (CH)	20 <b>HOME</b> 10am-3:30pm (CH, C, VEB) <b>Eucharist</b> 11am (ARC) <b>Lenten Study</b> 6pm (CH)	21 <b>Choir Practice</b> 5pm (C) <b>AA Meeting</b> 8-9pm (CH)	22	23 <b>Making Palm Crosses</b> 10am (CH)
24 <b>Palm Sunday</b> <b>Worship</b> 8 & 10am (C) <b>Sunday School</b> 9:15am (L)	25 <b>Staff Meeting</b> 9am (L) <b>Prayer Meeting</b> 12pm (L) <b>AA Meeting</b> 8-9pm (CH)	26	27 <b>HOME</b> 10am-3:30pm (CH, C, VEB) <b>Eucharist</b> 11am (ARC)	28 <b>Maundy Thursday</b> 7pm (C) <b>AA Meeting</b> 8-9pm (CH)	29 <b>Stations of the Cross</b> 12pm (C)	30
31 <b>Easter Sunday</b> <b>Worship</b> 8 & 10am (C) <b>Easter Egg Hunt &amp; Finger Food Bruncheon</b> 11am (CH)						

C – Church; CH – Creasy Hall; VEB – Vellom Ed Building; L – Library  
ARC – Army Residence Community

## MARCH 2024 SUNDAY MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Ministry	March 3	March 10	March 17	March 24 Palm Sunday	March 31 Easter Sunday
Altar Guild	Tarawanda Howard Diane Woods	Terry May Diane Woods	Janet Clere Suzanne Milton	Terry May Suzanne Milton	Tarawanda Howard Diane Woods
8 AM Reader	Jayne Dunlap	Suzi Hopkins	Joan McClain	Max Hopkins	Jayne Dunlap
8 AM Greeter/Usher	Shawn Cooksey	Suzi Hopkins	Joan McClain	Ron Dunlap	Max Hopkins
8 AM Coffee	Jayne Dunlap	Suzi Hopkins	Tarawanda Howard	Joan McClain	Jayne Dunlap
Server	Sean Keane-Dawes	Mendell Morgan	Wayne Mudge	Sean Francis	Terry May
10 AM Reader	Diane Woods	Maribeth Likins	Sean Keane-Dawes	Wayne Mudge	Sean Francis
10 AM Greeters/Ushers	Melissa Mudge Wayne Mudge	Kathy Ercoline Bill Ercoline	Diane Woods Terry May	Maribeth Likins Arlene Stalvey Ted Whittier	Melissa Mudge Wayne Mudge
Prayers of the People	Ted Whittier	Bill Ercoline	Maribeth Likins	Liz Sampson	Susan Brown
Newcomer Visits	Ellen Yelverton	Terry May Diane Woods	Ellen Yelverton	Terry May Diane Woods	Ellen Yelverton
Home Communion	Sean Keane-Dawes	No Home Communion	Janet Clere	No Home Communion	Mendell Morgan
Prayer Ministry	Mendell Morgan	Maribeth Likins	Ellen Yelverton	Mendell Morgan	Maribeth Likins
10 AM Coffee	Melissa Mudge	Kathy Ercoline	Diane Woods	Diane Woods	Kathy Ercoline
Audio Visual	Terry May	Wayne Mudge	Kristina Robinson	Terry May	Wayne Mudge
Lockup/Security	Jayne Dunlap	Maribeth Likins	Terry May	Arlene Stalvey	Janet Clere

### Easter Services and Flowering of the Cross

8 a.m. and 10 a.m. *Bring cut flowers to help flower the cross.*

Easter Egg Hunt for the children will follow the 10 service.

Finger-food reception following the 10 service in Creasy Hall.

(No Sunday School)



## JANUARY 2024 FINANCIAL REPORT

Monthly	Pledge	Plate	Other	Total	2024 YTD	Pledge	Plate	Other	Total
Operating Income Received	\$15,642	\$1,297	\$485	\$17,424	Operating Income Received	\$15,642	\$1,297	\$485	\$17,424
Operating Income Budgeted	\$13,869	\$1,652	\$380	\$15,901	Operating Income Budgeted	\$13,869	\$1,652	\$380	\$15,901
	Monthly	YTD				Monthly	YTD		
Overall Operating Expenses	\$19,052	\$19,052			Outreach	\$2,545	\$2,545		
Budgeted Operating Expense	\$18,224	\$18,224							

**ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
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 210-658-5956      [www.stmatts-uc.org](http://www.stmatts-uc.org)