

Bishop Suffragan Election

Dear People of the Diocese of West Texas,

Greetings from your Standing Committee, and Alleluia, the Lord is risen!

It is our hope that your Easter celebrations have been filled with, as Bishop Read wrote in his Easter letter, love, joy, peace, and shouts of Alleluia!

Since Council in February, your Standing Committee has begun setting the foundation for the process to answer Bishop Read's call for a Bishop Suffragan to serve the Diocese of West Texas. As you may remember the words of our Standing Committee in 2022, this is a discernment process that ends in an election. Once again, we are not simply calling for the election of a Bishop, we are issuing the call for the next Bishop Suffragan of the Diocese of West Texas.

So, what happens next? Your Standing Committee is calling you to pray. Start praying now.

- ◆ Pray that God will lead and guide our diocese and we will hear God through our prayer and discernment.
- ◆ Pray for your own discernment as you may recognize a call to discuss nomination with a priest you have known and loved.
- ◆ Pray for those who discern a call to enter the nomination process and for their families.
- ◆ Pray for the churches that will offer up their clergy and support them through this process.
- ◆ Pray for your Nominating Committee as we set out to do the work that has been given us to do.

(Continued on next page)

PLEASE JOIN US!

Dining Out on Thursday, April 25th, at 6:30 p.m.

Montana Mike's Steakhouse

1153 Oasis St., New Braunfels, TX 78130

RSVP by April 23rd to Maribeth Likins



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.

Bishop Suffragan Election (*Continued*)

I will introduce you to your Nominating Committee (reflected at the close of this email) so you can begin praying for us by name. The Nominating Committee is made up of the Standing Committee joined by an additional 3 clergy and 3 lay persons from around our diocese. Working together with our consultant, the Very Rev. Ron Clingenpeel, we will set out a calendar for the process and keep the Diocese informed of the progress.

Names of those discerning a call to this process will be received **starting on May 28th and nominations will close on June 12th.**

The election will take place on Saturday, October 19 at Good Shepherd in Corpus Christi. Those eligible to vote in this election are the clergy and lay delegates that served at Council in February 2024. The election will take place in person and no absentee voting is permitted. Delegations will have the opportunity to replace a missing delegate with one of their elected alternates if necessary.

To keep you updated, the Nominating Committee will be sending regular communications throughout the election process. Please look out for these communications.

God's Peace be with you,

The Rev. Carrie Guerra

President of the Standing Committee

A Prayer for the Election of a Bishop Suffragan

Almighty and everliving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present as we discern who you would call to serve as Bishop Suffragan of the Diocese of West Texas. Teach us in all things to seek first your honor and glory. Guide us to perceive what is your will, and grant us both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Bishop Nominating Committee

The Standing Committee Members

The Rev. Carrie Guerra, St. Francis, San Antonio & President

Dr. Liz Manning, Holy Spirit, Dripping Springs

Susan Alwais, St. George, San Antonio

The Rev. James Derkits, Trinity by the Sea, Port Aransas

Libby Templeton, St. Michael and All Angels, Blanco

The Rev. Jonathan Wickham, All Saint's, Corpus Christi

The Assisting Members

Lorena Rojas, St. John's, McAllen

The Rev. Mike Woods, St. Elizabeth, Buda

Lory Zimmerman, St. Philip's, Uvalde

The Rev. Betsy Stephenson, Grace, Llano

Dorcas Sampson, Church of the Resurrection, Windcrest

The Rev. Michael Koehler, Trinity, Victoria

Spring Cleanup



We are grateful for all who participated in our annual spring cleanup. Many completed their tasks before the Saturday cleanup so our camera didn't catch them. These are photos of just a few of the workers.



Making Palm Crosses

Thank you to Liz Sampson for showing us how to make Palm Crosses for our Palm Sunday celebration. She had a team of helpers who made quick work of over 200 crosses.

OUR EASTER CELEBRATION



Flowering the Cross



OUR EASTER CELEBRATION (Continued)



Easter Egg Hunt



Fingerfood Luncheon

Fellowship and yummy food enjoyed by all including Jayne's "Chicks" deviled eggs.





The Rt. Rev. Dr. David G. Read
Bishop of West Texas
along with the Wardens, Vestry, and Parishioners of
St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Universal City, Texas
request your prayers and presence for the

**Celebration of New Ministry and Installation of
the Rev. Cristopher Robinson
as Rector
of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church.**

Tuesday, the thirtieth day of April
Two Thousand Twenty-Four
at six in the evening

810 Kitty Hawk Rd.
Universal City, TX 78148

*Join the Diocese in offering prayers of thanksgiving on this joyous occasion.
Clergy are invited to vest with red stoles; reception to follow.*

Priest's Point of View

Dear Brothers and Sisters at St. Matthew's,

About two years ago, the city approached us with a request to purchase a strip of land that the church has owned since we were founded. After appropriate consultation with the diocesan offices, we agreed. It has taken quite a while, but the sale has been recently completed.

So, as we begin a new chapter in the life of the congregation with the service called A Celebration of a New Ministry, we do it with excitement and a hopeful future. We have a prime location in a growing city, some underused land, and at least one underutilized building, and thanks to the sale of the portion of our land we have some seed capital with which to possibly begin a new ministry or extend something we've been doing for a while. (It should be noted that the vestry has already decided to complete some long-overdue maintenance work, but even after that there will be some money left over.)

When God called Abram (Genesis 11), Abram was told: "I will bless you, and you will bless the world." There's a sense in which that is still the basic mission of God's people. This month, during worship, I called the congregation to start praying for the future of the ministry at St. Matthew's. I invite the whole extended parish family to join in a time of prayer and conversation about what we think God is calling us to do and be in the years to come. Please give some consideration to what the needs are of the people around us (either in Universal City or further away), and how we might bless the world in God's name.

Peace be with you,
Cristopher+

Mother's Day Offering for Diocese of West Texas and World Missions: May 12, 2024

Join World Missions and the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas as we wish a happy Mother's Day to all the mothers, mentors, and friends who enrich our lives.

On Sunday, May 12, the Rt. Rev. Dr. David G. Read invites congregations to take up a special World Missions Mother's Day Offering, focusing on the global impact of this gift and raising awareness of the mission partnerships supported by the local church and the Diocese. The annual World Missions Mother's Day Offering is an opportunity to recognize the women in our lives who nurture, teach, and lead with a gift in their honor or memory.

In honor of Mother's Day, World Missions and the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas is taking up a collection for *Mision de Jesucristo*, a ministry that has worked to serve the poorest of the poor in Piedras Negras, Mexico for several years. Their projects include housing a Battered Women and Children's Shelter, providing a Food Pantry and conducting a Sewing & Construction ministry at El Buen Pastor and Church of the Resurrection.

To learn more about the ministry needs or to donate click [here](#).

RACAP NEWS

By Kathy Ercoline

A big **THANK YOU** to all who participated in the “40 Cans for Lent” Program. St. Matthew’s congregation **contributed a ‘record number’ of cash and food** items to the pantry during Lent. **We donated an estimated 1500 pounds of food this year!**

Your “40 Cans for Lent” donations are used to help stock the pantry that serves the many RACAP clients in our local community who need assistance. The support that RACAP’s clients receive from the member churches is greatly appreciated, during Lent and throughout the year. We would not be able to feed the many families who come to the pantry without the generosity of our churches. RACAP’s mission makes a difference in a peoples’ lives.

Just a reminder...RACAP’S NEEDS CONTINUE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. The pantry is open five days a week for food distribution. **Any non-perishable foods, cash, and hygiene and paper products are accepted to fill the shelves.** All donations and contributions are greatly appreciated.

Current Pantry Needs:

Canned Soup Meat Helpers Cereal Tomato Sauce

Jelly Pull-Ups Toilet Paper Diapers

*Cat & Dog Food

**Many RACAP clients have furry companions that need to eat too!*

As always...please remember to check the EXPIRATION DATE on all foods you donate to RACAP.

For those of you who have gardens: If your harvest is more than you need, please consider donating your surplus fruits or vegetables to RACAP. The pantry is available for donation drop offs Monday-Friday 1-3 p.m. at 307 Pfeil St., Schertz, TX, phone (210) 658-1613.

The **March 2024 Pantry Assistance** numbers were not available. They will be reported in next month’s Matt’ Missive.

To the members of St. Matthew’s...thank you for your continued and generous support for so many years.

“Thank you for helping us help others.”

Wednesday Evening Bible/Book Study Resumes After Memorial Day

Our Wednesday evening bible/book study completed a Lenten Study in March and we are taking a short break. We plan to gather again after Memorial Day for a summer study. The study has not yet been selected—suggestions are welcome (see Diane Woods). Everyone is invited to join us on Wednesday evenings in Creasy Hall. More information is coming soon.

Hospitality Notes

By Melissa Mudge

Many Thanks

Thank you, people of St. Matthew's. Great Easter Day. Hallelujah!

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 stimulating. 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)

- ◆ April 26—Arbor Day 2024 is all about ensuring our earth and the trees upon it are all happy, healthy, and growing to be as strong as they possibly can be! They can't talk, but no doubt the trees will thank you for keeping the planet clean and green!
- ◆ April 30—Celebration of a New Ministry. Service at 6:00 p.m. with The Rt. Rev. Dr. David G. Read presiding. Following the service there will be a blessing for the very new (little) (free) sycamore tree out front and the celebration continues with a Taco Tuesday dinner in the Parish Hall. Create your own taco and enjoy celebration cake. Please volunteer to provide taco fixings and sides.

“Everliving God, strengthen and sustain Cristopher Robinson, that with patience and understanding he may love and care for your people; and grant that together they may follow Jesus Christ, offering to you their gifts and talents; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. *Amen.*”

- ◆ May 2—National Day of Prayer

From Hospitality Notes:

Christianity can sometimes be confusing,
But the way of Jesus was pretty clear.

Move toward the poor
Empower the woman
Create space at the table
Throw parties
Widen the family boundaries
Poke holes in oppressive systems
Don't retaliate with violence
Forgive your enemy
Don't store up wealth
Be present with people

Heal
Announce
Push back darkness
The Kingdom of God is near.

~Dan Sadlier



May Birthdays

The Lord is my strength and shield; my heart trusts him and I am helped. My heart leaps for joy and will give thanks to him in song. (Psalm 28:7)

Bud Erwin	Patricia Francis
Susan Greer	Amanda Bryant-Wood
Devin Bradlaw	Angela Evans
Marcella Kenealy-O'Connor	



Happenings Around The Diocese

Cursillo #292: May 2 - 5 at Mustang Island Conference Center.

Join Libby Templeton from St. Michael and All Angels, Blanco, the Lay Rector, and Spiritual Directors Fr. Matthew Bloss from St. John's, New Braunfels and Fr. Ernest Buchanan from St. James, Hebbronville, for a weekend of study, reflection, fellowship, and worship.

Spiritual Retreat in Recovery #121 "Spiritual Solutions for Emotional Sobriety": May 3 – 5 at Camp Capers. Our Retreat Leader will be Joan Ellis Thompson, M.A., LPC, LCDC of San Antonio with the Rev. Bryn Caddell, Vicar of St. Michael and All Angels' Episcopal Church in Blanco, acting as Celebrant for worship services, as well as providing topical spiritual insight and pastoral care. All friends in recovery are welcome; no church affiliation is required.

Mustang Island Meditative Yoga Retreat: May 10 - 12.

Escape to your island home for a weekend centered on the healing, rejuvenating, life-giving practices of yoga, meditation, and contemplative Christian prayer. This retreat is open to all, no matter your yoga or meditation experience.

Mustang Island Beautification Weekend: May 17 – 19.

A service-oriented weekend for adults to help Mustang Island Conference Center and experience an enjoyable weekend away. Work projects may include grounds clean-up, boardwalk maintenance, storage construction, or gardening.

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



From the Blog

Plaza de Paz Receives Donation from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Plaza de Paz, the respite center of the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas' Immigration and Refugee Ministries, received an \$87,500 donation from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Church of Jesus Christ) for the purchase of a mobile shower trailer. Read more [here](#).

"In the Darkness, Fire is Kindled:" Bishop Read's 2024 Easter Message

The Rt. Rev. Dr. David G. Read, Bishop of West Texas, offers an Easter letter to the Diocese. He writes, "The resurrection of Jesus means that God's love for us cannot be contained – even by death or a dark tomb. Sin and death do not have the last word over humanity. God does." He continues, "With the resurrection of Jesus, death is conquered. Jesus is raised and we who follow him are raised to new and eternal life with him." Read more [here](#).

Discovering Mission Work.

The Ven. Mike Besson shared what it's like to be on the receiving end of mission work after his community at St. John's in La Porte had to rebuild after Hurricane Ike during World Mission's monthly prayer meeting. Watch full video [here](#).

PLEASE NOTE: THE SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR THE MAY MISSIVE WILL BE MAY 10TH.

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

DWTX In The News

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has announced nearly \$18 million in funding to support migrant response needs in San Antonio through the Shelter and Services Program (SSP). The Episcopal Diocese of West Texas Immigration & Refugee Ministries received \$1,041,370. Read more [here](#).

'Loving the City' of Seguin, Texas by Weston Curnow from The Living Church. St. Andrew's works to be visible in the community through "a willingness to open the doors and be a part of it," Rector Stephen Shortess said. "When we open our doors, we love this city. It is important for me to be out and about in our community." Read more [here](#).

Episcopal-affiliated Texas Water Mission continues long-term support for safe drinking water, hygiene education projects in Honduras. (Episcopal News Service) "The Texas Water Mission team is doing a great job, and my heart goes out to them for responding to the needs of my fellow brothers and sisters," Honduras Bishop Lloyd Allen said. "They're complying with the fulfillment of the kingdom of God." Read more [here](#).

From The Episcopal Church

Slate of 4 bishops announced for 28th presiding bishop of The Episcopal Church. The Episcopal Church's next presiding bishop will be chosen this June from a slate of four nominees, whose names were released April 2: Nebraska Bishop J. Scott Barker, Pennsylvania Bishop Daniel G.P. Gutiérrez, Northwestern Pennsylvania Bishop Sean Rowe and Atlanta Bishop Robert Wright. Read more [here](#).

MAY CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 HOME 10am-3:30pm <i>(CH, C, VEB)</i> Eucharist 11am <i>(ARC)</i>	2 Choir Practice 5pm <i>(C)</i> AA Meeting 8-9pm <i>(CH)</i>	3	4
5 Worship 8 & 10am <i>(C)</i> Sunday School 9:15am <i>(L)</i> Kiwanis 5-6pm <i>(CH)</i>	6 Staff Meeting 9am <i>(L)</i> Prayer Meeting 12pm <i>(L)</i> AA Meeting 8-9pm <i>(CH)</i>	7	8 HOME 10am-3:30pm <i>(CH, C, VEB)</i> Eucharist 11am <i>(ARC)</i>	9 Choir Practice 5pm <i>(C)</i> AA Meeting 8-9pm <i>(CH)</i>	10 HOME Piano Recital 7pm <i>(C)</i>	11 Live Oak Humane Society 2-10pm <i>(CH)</i>
12 Worship 8 & 10am <i>(C)</i> Mother's Day Muffins for Moms <i>(CH)</i> Sunday School 9:15am <i>(L)</i>	13 Staff Meeting 9am <i>(L)</i> Prayer Meeting 12pm <i>(L)</i> AA Meeting 8-9pm <i>(CH)</i>	14	15 HOME 10am-3:30pm <i>(CH, C, VEB)</i> Eucharist 11am <i>(ARC)</i>	16 Choir Practice 5pm <i>(C)</i> AA Meeting 8-9pm <i>(CH)</i>	17 HOME Orchestra Concert 5pm <i>(C)</i>	18
19 Worship 8 & 10am <i>(C)</i> Sunday School 9:15am <i>(L)</i> Kiwanis 5-6pm <i>(CH)</i>	20 Staff Meeting 9am <i>(L)</i> Prayer Meeting 12pm <i>(L)</i> AA Meeting 8-9pm <i>(CH)</i>	21 Vestry Meeting 6pm <i>(CH)</i>	22 Eucharist 11am <i>(ARC)</i>	23 Choir Practice 5pm <i>(C)</i> AA Meeting 8-9pm <i>(CH)</i>	24	25
26 Worship 8 & 10am <i>(C)</i> Sunday School 9:15am <i>(L)</i>	27 <i>Memorial Day</i> <i>Office Closed</i> <i>No Prayer</i> <i>Meeting</i> AA Meeting 8-9pm <i>(CH)</i>	28	29 Eucharist 11am <i>(ARC)</i>	30 Choir Practice 5pm <i>(C)</i> AA Meeting 8-9pm <i>(CH)</i>	31	

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

MAY 2024 SUNDAY MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Ministry	May 5	May 12	May 19 Pentecost	May 26
Altar Guild	Diane Woods Tarawanda Howard	Terry May Diane Woods	Janet Clere Suzanne Milton	Terry May Suzanne Milton
8 AM Reader	Joan McClain	Max Hopkins	Jayne Dunlap	Suzi Hopkins
8 AM Greeter/Usher	Jayne Dunlap	Ron Dunlap	Max Hopkins	Ben McClain
8 AM Coffee	Suzi Hopkins	Tarawanda Howard	Joan McClain	Jayne Dunlap
Server	Wayne Mudge	Sean Francis	Sean Keane-Dawes	Terry May
10 AM Reader	Ted Whittier	Wayne Mudge	Sean Francis	Susan Brown
10 AM Greeters/Ushers	Maribeth Likins Arlene Stalvey Ted Whittier	Kathy Ercoline Bill Ercoline	Diane Woods Terry May	Melissa Mudge Wayne Mudge
Prayers of the People	Maribeth Likins	Liz Sampson	Susan Brown	Sean Keane-Dawes
Newcomer Visits	Ellen Yelverton	Terry May Diane Woods	Ellen Yelverton	Terry May Diane Woods
Home Communion	No Home Communion	Janet Clere	No Home Communion	Mendell Morgan
Prayer Ministry	Mendell Morgan	Maribeth Likins	Ellen Yelverton	Mendell Morgan
10 AM Coffee	Diane Woods Terry May	Kathy Ercoline	Melissa Mudge	Diane Woods Terry May
Audio Visual	Kristina Robinson	Terry May	Wayne Mudge	Kristina Robinson
Lockup/Security	Arlene Stalvey	Janet Clere	Richard Guerrero	Jayne Dunlap

For Guidance

(Book of Common Prayer page 832)

O God, by whom the meek are guided in judgment, and light *riseth* up in darkness for the godly: Grant us, in all our doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what *thou wouldst* have us to do, that the Spirit of wisdom may save us from all false choices, and that in *thy* light we may see light, and in *thy* straight path may not stumble; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

MARCH 2024 FINANCIAL REPORT

Monthly	Pledge	Plate	Other	Total	2024 YTD	Pledge	Plate	Other	Total
Operating Income Received	\$11,562	\$2,113	\$591	\$14,266	Operating Income Received	\$41,520	\$4,417	\$1,705	\$47,642
Operating Income Budgeted	\$13,869	\$1,652	\$1,064	\$16,585	Operating Income Budgeted	\$41,608	\$4,955	\$1,899	\$48,462
	Monthly	YTD				Monthly	YTD		
Overall Operating Expenses	\$21,504	\$55,881			Outreach	\$300	\$2,845		
Budgeted Operating Expense	\$18,264	\$58,652							

ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
810 Kitty Hawk Road, Universal City, Texas 78148
210-658-5956 www.stmatts-uc.org