

# Matt's Missive

April 2025

## **“Alleluia! Christ is Risen!” An Easter Reflection**

The Gospel reading appointed for Easter Sunday this year is from John 20. John tells us there was much running on Easter morning. Mary Magdalene finds the tomb empty, with the stone rolled away. She ran to tell Simon Peter and the beloved disciple. Peter and the beloved disciple take off running to see the tomb for themselves. They both entered the tomb, but Mary stood outside weeping. After the disciples returned to their homes, Mary Magdalene first encountered two angels who asked, “Why do you seek the living among the dead?” Then she encountered Jesus himself – very much risen and very much alive.

On Easter morning, Mary Magdalene’s heart was transformed. Upon finding the tomb empty, her heart was filled with shock, unanswered questions and deep sorrow. Moments later, when her risen Lord called her by name, that fear and despair was transformed into joy and hope. Mary then went and shared that joy and hope with Jesus’ followers.

Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we too, shall be raised. As the Easter hymn proclaims, “death is conquered, we are free, Christ has won the victory.” Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we are liberated from fear, sin, guilt, and all in our past that weighs us down. Like Mary Magdalene, our hearts are filled with joy and hope at the presence of our risen Lord.

We live in a time when the world around us needs a lot of joy and hope. Just this last week our newsfeeds have been filled with stories of stock market tumbles, a hospital

*(Continued on next page)*

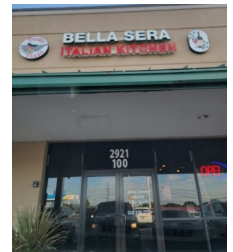
### **PLEASE JOIN US!**

**Dining Out on Thursday, April 24th, at 6:30 p.m.**

**Bella Sera Italian Restaurant**

**2921 Pat Booker Rd. #100, Universal City, TX 78148**

**RSVP by April 22th to Tarawanda Howard & Ellen Yelverton**



---

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.

## “Alleluia! Christ is Risen!” *(Continued)*

bombing in Gaza, and much to bring us despair. On Easter morning we rise to sing “Jesus Christ is risen today!” celebrating that death does not have the final say, and God’s love is greater than anything this world can throw at us.

I pray this Easter that like those early disciples, we will feel like running. I pray that we will rise on Easter morning to don running shoes instead of dress shoes. I pray we will feel impatient to run and share the good news of hope and joy that we find in Christ Jesus. I pray that with hearts transformed by the power of God’s love we joyfully proclaim, “Alleluia! Christ is Risen!”

Peace,

+David

The Rt. Rev. Dr. David G. Read, D.D.

Bishop of West Texas

## A Day At The Ball Park

It was a beautiful afternoon at Missions Baseball Academy for the doubleheader between Our Lady of the Lake Saints and Louisiana Christian University Wildcats. We provided lunch (hoagie sandwiches, chips, pickles, fruit, cookies, Gatorade) between the games for both teams, coaches, umpires, and our members in attendance—there was enough for parents, too! The Saints won both games: 6-4 and 5-4 on Saturday, March 29th.



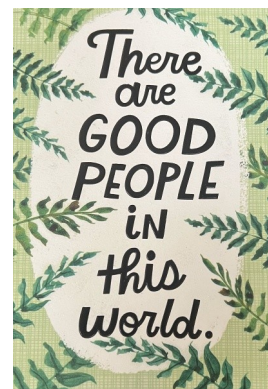
Watching the game is Bill Ercoline (top row), Terry May, Kathy Ercoline, Wayne Mudge (2nd row from bottom), Lisa Weatherspoon with her grandson, Nathan (bottom row) & her granddaughter, Harmonee, under the umbrella.



Fr. Christopher in his Saints uniform.



Melissa Mudge taking a break in the shade, waiting to serve lunch.



Thank you card from the team.

Maribeth Likins, Arlene Stalvey, & Diane Woods somehow escaped the camera.

## RACAP NEWS

By Kathy Ercoline

**THANK YOU** to all who participated in the “**40 Cans for Lent Program**”. As of April 14<sup>th</sup>, St. Matthew’s congregation **contributed over 600 lbs.** of food items to the pantry during the Lenten season. The program continues through Good Friday. In addition to the 40 food items, please bring an extra offering (food or cash) to church on Easter Sunday. All items will be delivered to the RACAP pantry on Easter Monday. A final summary of the food and cash contributions will be included in the May Missive.

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, not only during the time of Lent, but also the entire year. Without the generosity of our churches, we would not be able to feed the many families who come to the pantry. RACAP’s mission makes difference in peoples’ lives.

**With that in mind...RACAP NEEDS CONTINUOUS SUPPORT 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:**

Tomato Products	Meat Helpers	Jelly	Cereal
Tomato Sauce	Toothpaste	Toothbrushes	Laundry Soap
Feminine Hygiene Products	Cat & Dog Food		

Please check the EXPIRATION DATE on all foods donated to RACAP.

### **RACAP Month in Review**

#### **March 2025 Assistance Results**

Total # of Clients Assisted: 53 / Total # of People Assisted: 107

Total # of Pantry Visits: 41 / Total # of People Fed: 86

Total # Clients Assisted with Rent: 7

Total # Clients Assisted with Utilities: 24

Total Groceries: \$9,251.00

Total Paid in Pledges Other than Groceries: \$3,800.25

Thank you all for your very generous and continued support of RACAP!

**Have a Happy and Blessed Easter Season.**

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

# Hospitality Notes

By Melissa Mudge

## Many Thanks

Thank you, people of St. Matthew's. Whatever the need, you are there with unique skills, willing spirit and helping hands to complete our tasks.

Exciting baseball, sunshine, and teamwork all the way around – A good day at the park. Thanks, Fr. Cristopher, for the invitation and the opportunity to see you at work with your team. Thanks to the sandwich heroes for purchasing the ingredients, and putting together delicious sandwiches for the nourishment and strength of both teams, and a lunch break for staff members and families. I think it was a hit!

## 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.  
Thanks, host families, for the love that goes into planning, preparation, and serving of our coffee snacks (and more) each week.
- ♦ 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. I have a list!
- ♦ On-going Kitchen Clean-up – Loving hearts, helping hands. Remember to Wash Those Hands when you enter the kitchen to prepare any kind of snacks, feasts, and yes, even coffee. Thanks.

## Give it – To Go

Take another look. There are bins located by the windows in the Parish Hall. Please add to the collection so we can make new give away bags for those who travel this earth with us, but just need help sometimes.

Bin 1 is for toiletry articles – shampoo, deodorant, lotion, toothpaste. Regular size, but not too big to carry around.

Bin 2 is for sturdy shoes in good shape, fit for a person whose mode of transportation is mainly walking. Also clean, new packs of black socks for adults.

Bin 3 is for sweatshirts and jackets especially with hoods and coats. Outerwear will be taken regularly to Haven for Hope.

Once toiletry articles are collected, more give away bags can be assembled.

*Pray for all poor and neglected people whom it would be easy for us to forget: the homeless and the destitute, the old and the sick, and all who are broken in body or spirit. Turn their sorrow into joy.*

*(Continued on next page)*



## Hospitality Notes *(Continued)*

### Special Days/Events

- ♦ **May 2—National Day of Prayer.** President Harry S. Truman proclaimed a National Day of Prayer to be observed on July 4, 1952. Each year since that date, Americans have observed the day in their own way. The observance moved to the first Thursday in May by President Ronald Reagan.
- ♦ **May 11—Mother's Day.**
- ♦ **May 18—Armed Forces Day.**
- ♦ **May 20—World Bee Day.** To raise awareness of the importance of pollinators, the threats they face, and their contribution to sustainable development, the United Nations designated May 20th as World Bee Day. Bees and other pollinators, such as butterflies, bats and hummingbirds, are increasingly under threat from human activities. Pollination is, however, a fundamental process for the survival of our ecosystems.

### Spring Clean Up and Making Palm Crosses



Taking a much needed break!



Crosses almost ready for Sunday!

### Hosts Needed For St. Matthew's Dining Out

By Kathy Ercoline

St. Matthew's Dining Out group meets at a local restaurant on the **last Thursday of the month** for food, fellowship, and fun. Thank you to those who have agreed to host our Thursday Night Dinner Group. **We still a need host for August.** Please sign up in Creasy Hall if you are willing to be a host. The sign-up sheet is on the table under the window in the lobby, across from the receptionist's desk.

#### RESPONSIBILITIES FOR HOSTING THE DINING OUT:

1. secure a restaurant for the dining out by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month
2. notify the church office as soon as a restaurant is secured \*\*\*\*
3. take reservations
4. call the restaurant the day before to give them the final reservation count

\*\*\*The dining out information which includes the name and address of the restaurant, and the contact information of the host should be sent to the church office as soon as the restaurant is secured. Notices will be put in the church bulletin and eblasts will be sent out.

Our next dining out is April 24th, 6:30 p.m., at Bella Sera Italian Restaurant on Pat Booker Rd. Ellen Yelverton and Tarawanda Howard are hosts. Please see them for information and to RSVP. Thank you and Bon appetite'.



## ***Happenings Around The Diocese***

**Cursillo #296:** May 1-4 at Mustang Island Conference Center.

**Spiritual Retreats in Recovery #123:** May 2-5 at Camp Capers. At Spiritual Retreats in Recovery, consolidated and dedicated group meetings, on-site services, topical spiritual insight, and pastoral care are provided. Ample time is set aside for break-out workshops and individual exploration. All friends in recovery are welcome – here we seek a *spiritual solution* to our *spiritual malady*. Although grounded in Episcopal liturgy, this is not a specifically denominational event, and no church affiliation is required

**Meditative Yoga Retreat:** May 9-11 at Mustang Island Conference Center. 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.

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

### **From The Episcopal Church**

The House of Bishops gathered March 19-24 at Camp McDowell in Nauvoo, Alabama, for its annual spring retreat, which centered on discussions of witnessing to the Gospel amid today's contentious political climate and The Episcopal Church's future in a secular society. This was the first in-person House of Bishops gathering Rowe led as presiding bishop of The Episcopal Church and president of the house. Read more [here](#).



EPISCOPAL  
DIOCESE  
of West Texas

## **From the Blog**

**Mother's Day Collection Benefitting the Manos de Dios Ministry in Honduras** Be on the lookout in the next couple of weeks for information about the annual World Missions Mother's Day collection for this year's recipient, the Manos de Dios ministry. Donors will be able to make a donation to the ministry in honor of a loved one and World Missions will send a postcard on their behalf. Stay tuned.

**E-MAIL & TEXT SCAM** In light of recent e-mail scams, please remember - if you receive an email or text that looks like it is from your bishops or diocesan staff member requesting a "favor" and instructing you to reply, do not reply, and delete the email. If you are still unsure whether the request is legitimate: Notify the person being impersonated to confirm whether the request is legitimate. Do not reply to the email; mark it as Spam or Junk and delete it.

**Formation Resources for Easter and Beyond** Suzanna Green, Christian Formation Director has curated a list of formation resources for Easter and beyond. Learn more [here](#).

**Don't Miss the Spring Issue of laVentana** Sign up today to receive the Spring 2025 issue of *laVentana*, The Church News of West Texas by mail or digitally. Subscribe [here](#). Please email [communications@dwtx.org](mailto:communications@dwtx.org) Church Milestones or Anniversaries to be included in this issue.

The **DEADLINE** to submit Missive articles is the 15th of the month. Any late articles will be in the next month's issue.

## MAY CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Choir Practice 4:30-5:30pm (C) AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH)	2	3
4 Worship 8 & 10am (C) Sunday School 9:15am (L)	5 Staff Meeting 9am (L) Prayer Meeting 12pm (L) AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH)	6	7 HOME 10am-3:30pm (CH, C, L, VEB) Eucharist 11am (ARC)	8 Choir Practice 4:30-5:30pm (C) AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH)	9 HOME Piano Recital 7pm (C)	10
11 Worship 8 & 10am (C) Sunday School 9:15am (L)	12 Staff Meeting 9am (L) Prayer Meeting 12pm (L) AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH)	13 Vestry Meeting 6pm (CH)	14 HOME 10am-3:30pm (CH, C, L, VEB) Eucharist 11am (ARC)	15 Choir Practice 4:30-5:30pm (C) AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH)	16 HOME Concert 5:30-9pm (C)	17
18 Worship 8 & 10am (C) Sunday School 9:15am (L)	19 Staff Meeting 9am (L) Prayer Meeting 12pm (L) AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH)	20	21 HOME 10am-3:30pm (CH, C, L, VEB) Eucharist 11am (ARC)	22 Choir Practice 4:30-5:30pm (C) AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH)	23	24
25 Worship 8 & 10am (C) Sunday School 9:15am (L)	26 Staff Meeting 9am (L) Prayer Meeting 12pm (L) AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH)	27	28 HOME 10am-3:30pm (CH, C, L, VEB) Eucharist 11am (ARC)	29 Choir Practice 4:30-5:30pm (C) AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH)	30	31

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

## MAY 2025 SUNDAY MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Ministry	May 4	May 11	May 18	May 25
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Maggie Barnes Stephenie McBride Diane Woods	Tarawanda Howard Suzanne Milton	Cindy Hull Diane Woods	Pat Clarke-Kempf Diane Woods
<b>8 AM Reader</b>	Jayne Dunlap	Suzi Hopkins	Joan McClain	Max Hopkins
<b>8 AM Greeter/Usher</b>	Ben McClain	Joan McClain	Max Hopkins	Jayne Dunlap
<b>8 AM Coffee</b>	Suzi Hopkins	Tarawanda Howard	Joan McClain	Jayne Dunlap
<b>10 AM Server</b>	Wayne Mudge	Terry May	Sean Francis	Sean Keane-Dawes
<b>10 AM Reader</b>	Maribeth Likins	Janet Clere	Melissa Mudge	Sean Francis
<b>10 AM Greeter/Usher</b>	Bill Ercoline	Melissa Mudge	Diane Woods	Suzanne Milton
<b>Prayers of the People</b>	Bill Ercoline	Maribeth Likins	Liz Sampson	Susan Brown
<b>Newcomer Visits</b>	Ellen Yelverton	Terry May Diane Woods	Ellen Yelverton	Terry May Diane Woods
<b>Home Communion</b>	No Home Communion	Ellen Yelverton	No Home Communion	Sean Keane-Dawes
<b>Prayer Ministry</b>	Maribeth Likins	Ellen Yelverton	Mendell Morgan	Maribeth Likins
<b>10 AM Coffee</b>	Diane Woods	Kathy Ercoline	Colleen Hubberd Maribeth Likins	Melissa Mudge
<b>Audio Visual</b>	Kristina Robinson	Wayne Mudge	Terry May	Kristina Robinson
<b>Lockup/Security</b>	Tarawanda Howard	Terry May	Arlene Stalvey	Robert Guerrero

*O God, you have bound us together in a common life. Help us, in the midst of our struggles for justice and truth, to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## FEBRUARY 2025 FINANCIAL REPORT

Monthly	Pledge	Plate	Other	Total	2025 YTD	Pledge	Plate	Other	Total
Operating Income Received	\$13,233	\$951	\$904	\$15,088	Operating Income Received	\$37,565	\$2,024	\$1,954	\$41,543
Operating Income Budgeted	\$15,595	\$1,445	\$353	\$17,393	Operating Income Budgeted	\$31,189	\$2,890	\$631	\$34,710
	Monthly	YTD				Monthly	YTD		
Overall Operating Expenses	\$25,024	\$55,051			Outreach	\$100	\$200		
Budgeted Operating Expenses	\$25,456	\$46,486							

ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
810 Kitty Hawk Road, Universal City, Texas 78148  
210-658-5956 [www.stmatts-uc.org](http://www.stmatts-uc.org)