

# Matt's Missive

July 2025

## Cursillo

The Rev. Barbara Duffield

November seems like a long way off, but time is flying by this summer! Here's something for your thinking caps. Have you ever considered looking into Cursillo for an opportunity to examine your spiritual walk? A Cursillo retreat, also known as a "Cursillo de Cristianidad" (short course in Christianity), is a three-day weekend experience designed to help Christians deepen their faith and become more active in their communities. It's a structured program with talks, discussions, prayer, and fellowship, led by a team of both lay people and clergy.

I cannot recommend this opportunity to you highly enough. It was a strong part of my faith walk and spiritual growth, and I am looking forward to serving on the team November 6-9. It is respectful and spirit-filled, with lay leaders and clergy providing talks in small group settings, and with plenty of fun and music opportunities to go around.

If you are interested in learning more about this retreat, please talk with Fr. Cristopher or Mother Barbara to have your questions answered and see if it might be a good fit for you this fall.

### PLEASE JOIN US!

**Dining Out on Thursday, July 31th, at 6:30 p.m.**

**Noli's Vite Italian Kitchen**

**170 Buffalo Pl., Cibolo, TX 78108**

**RSVP by July 29th to Arlene Stalvey for Kathy & Bill 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.

# HAVEN FOR HOPE SUMMER DONATION CAMPAIGN

By Tarawanda Howard

You still have time to contribute to our Summer Donation Campaign for Haven for Hope. A donation collection bin is in Creasy Hall, where you can drop off your contributions. A suggested list of clothing and other items critical for San Antonio's Haven for Hope mission are listed below.

**Please note that only travel size toiletry items are accepted at Haven for Hope.**

- \*New men's boxer shorts in (all sizes)
- \*New women's underpants and bras (all sizes)
- \*New undershirts (men & women) (all sizes)
- \*New or gently used jeans for men and women
- \*New men under T-shirts (all sizes)
- \*New Women's low-cut socks (white)
- \*New children's clothing, all sizes (boys & girls)
- \* Razors for Men & Women
- \*Stick Deodorant
- \*Toothpaste
- \*Individually wrapped toothbrushes (medium bristles)
- \*Shampoo
- \*Conditioner
- \*Body Wash Soap
- \*Feminine Hygiene Products (tampons/pads)
- \*Adult Incontinence Underwear products (men & women)
- \*Sunscreen
- \*Insect repellent

Should you need additional information, please contact Melissa Mudge or Tarawanda Howard. Thank you for considering supporting this campaign.

## Education for Ministry (EfM) Graduate Kristina Robinson

On Sunday, June 29th, Richard Wallace and Mark Mutz, (EfM Mentors at the Church of the Resurrection, Windcrest) presented Kristina Robinson with her diploma for completing the four-year course work of Education for Ministry.



Richard, Kristina, and Mark



## RACAP NEWS

By Kathy Ercoline

**RACAP PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S CORNER:** "Like always, the summer months prove to be a very busy time for RACAP. The children are home from school and eating their way through the house. RACAP has been able to bless many families in need because of the amazing donations we have received from our community.

We are still collecting school supplies for our upcoming Back to School Program. It's always wonderful to bless parents with a big bag of school supplies. In addition, we help with groceries... sometimes we help with a utility bill or rent. Every little bit helps. It can truly lighten the burden off their shoulders. **We will be handing out school supplies from July 21st through August 22nd**"

**Lisa Loftus**  
**RACAP Director**

**ST MATTHEW'S CONGREGATION:** *There is still time to donate school supply bags. Examples of the bags are in the Narthex and on the RACAP table in Creasy Hall. The list of supplies needed is posted. Please bring the school supply bags to Creasy Hall no later than July 31st.*

**A THANK-YOU FROM AN APPRECIATIVE RACAP CLIENT** "I just really wanted to say thank you to your organization for assisting me when I had no other way. There was a lady who prayed with me that day I picked up the assistance. I forgot her name. I have finally secured a 'work from home' job! As gratitude for my appreciation, I would like to donate a \$25 Walmart gift card when I receive my first paycheck. You are a God Send and a blessing to me and my family."

### **Current Pantry Needs:**

Jelly	Meat Helpers	Pasta Meals	Muffin Mix
Cat & Dog Food	Feminine Hygiene Pads		Brown Paper Grocery Bags

**ATTENTION GARDENERS:** If your harvest is too big for you and you would like to share it with RACAP clients, please feel free to donate any surplus fruits or vegetables you grow to RACAP. They will be included in each client's grocery order. RACAP is open and available for donation drop-off Monday-Friday, 1-3 p.m., 307 Pfeil St., Schertz, TX 78154.

### **RACAP Month in Review**

#### **June 2025 Assistance Results**

# of Families Assisted 86 ~ # People 219  
# of Pantry Visits 59 ~ # of People Fed 163  
Estimated Value of Food Given: \$16,062.00

*"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. Celebrations in the Parish Hall fill our hearts with joy. Thanks to the many hands that make these celebrations a memorable occasion.

## 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!
- ♦ Kitchen Clean-up in Progress: ALMOST DONE!! Thanks to some hardworking volunteers – we have tackled refrigerators, stoves, microwaves, tables and chairs, drawers, and coffee service tables. Still working on walls and baseboards, polishing chrome, washing trash cans and carts. Cleaning supplies are available but bring your own gloves. Check the sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall to see what still is needed. Thanks.

## Give it – To Go

Take another look. Still a work in progress, however, please add to the collection so we can make new giveaway 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 new packs of black socks for adults.

Bin 3 is for sweatshirts, jackets, and coats, especially with hoods. All previously donated clothes were taken to Haven for Hope.

Once toiletry articles are collected, more giveaway 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.*

Reminder: Our Hospitality Committee is organizing a Summer Donation Campaign for Haven for Hope during July. See the article on page 2 for more information.

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## Hospitality Notes *(Continued)*

### Special Days/Events

- ♦ **August 1—Feast Day of Joseph of Arimathea.**
- ♦ **August 6—International Day “Physicians of the World for Peace.”** This date was chosen to commemorate the atomic bombing of Hiroshima in 1945, serving as a reminder of the devastating consequences of war and the critical role physicians play in advocating for peace and preventing future conflicts.
- ♦ **August 7—Celebrating John Mason Neale.** A priest of many talents, contributing six original hymns, and more than thirty translations of Latin and Greek hymns to the *Hymnal 1940*. As a priest, he gave active support to the Oxford Movement in its revival of medieval liturgical forms. As a humanitarian, he founded the Sisterhood of St. Margaret for the relief of suffering women and girls. (Source: *Lesser Feasts and Fasts*)
- ♦ **August 14—Celebrating Jonathan Myrick Daniels.** As a civil rights activist and Episcopal seminarian, Jonathan Daniels lost his life shielding a teen from a sheriff’s gunfire. He chose the sacrificial servant path. And the teen? She went on to preach the gospel through her non-violent advocacy of human and civil rights.
- ♦ **August 18—Feast Day of Artemisia Bowden.** A humanitarian, educator, Christian, leader, advocate, and fundraiser. Dr. Artemisia Bowden was called to the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas by the Rt. Rev. James S. Johnston, Second Bishop of West Texas, to lead and develop a local school for women. Under decades of her faithful leadership it grew and developed into today's St. Philip's College, a strong part of the Alamo Colleges District in San Antonio. (<https://www.dwtx.org/blog/commemorating-a-saint-dr-artemisia-bowden-educator>)
- ♦ **August 30—International Day of the Disappeared.** An observance dedicated to raising awareness about the global issue of enforced disappearances, where individuals are secretly abducted or imprisoned by state authorities or other groups, and their whereabouts are kept unknown. This day focuses on the plight of those who have disappeared, the suffering of their families, and the need for justice and accountability. It also highlights the importance of upholding human rights and preventing future disappearances. (<https://www.awarenessdays.com/awareness-days-calendar/international-day-of-the-disappeared-2025/>)
- ♦ **August 31—The Beheading of John the Baptizer.**



*Happy 101st  
Birthday Jinny!*



## **A Message From Our Bishops Diocesan Response to Hill Country Flood**

Dear Family of West Texas,

Grace to you and Peace. We write to you today to give you an update on the tragic flooding which struck the Texas Hill Country on July 4, and the on-going response of the Diocese of West Texas.

As you know from continuing news coverage, search teams continue to comb the riverbanks and debris piles for those who are missing. Almost daily we hear announcements that more of the lost have been found. Yet, the number of those still missing staggers our imaginations.

Several congregations in West Texas have lost members of their extended church families. St. Peter's in Kerrville has lost at least seven parishioners. Christ Church in San Antonio buried a husband and wife this week. The Rev. Robert McAllen (Ret.) and his wife Margaret, who reside in Weslaco, lost their grandson. St. David's School in San Antonio lost a former student. This tragedy has revealed the web of relationships that connects congregations, schools, camp communities, and extended families. These connections reach across our diocese and beyond to adjoining dioceses and adjoining states. So many in our congregations have lost a home, or a loved one, or know someone who has.

Our connectedness as members of the Body of Christ is a gift from God. We wish you could read all the messages of love, prayer, financial contributions and support we have received: From our Presiding Bishop and leaders in the Anglican Communion; from bishops, priests and deacons around the country; from altar guilds and Sunday Schools; from vestries and Bishop's Committees inside and outside West Texas. We are reminded that we are surrounded by the great Communion of Saints. Our hearts are lifted by their love and generosity, and their prayers are tangibly felt.

The Diocese of West Texas is responding directly and strategically to the needs in the Kerrville, Hunt and Ingram area. We have centered our efforts at St. Peter's Church, Kerrville and are in daily communication with their clergy and lay leaders. St. Peter's has added staff and volunteers to organize relief and recovery efforts. A RV has been purchased by the diocese to create a satellite location in Hunt for worship, pastoral care, counseling of search teams, and ministry support. Shipping containers have been purchased to store donated supplies. With help from diocesan staff, St. Peter's hosted a community VBS for 90 children this week. Short-term and long-term plans are being made for grief counseling and mental health support for children, families and first responders.

We are deeply grateful for the outpouring of generous financial contributions by congregations and individuals. Today, Bishop Cortiñas delivered a \$200,000 check to St. Peter's to support recovery efforts. The diocese has also received a \$24,000 grant

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## **A Message From Our Bishops** *(Continued)*

from Episcopal Relief and Development to meet the immediate needs of those impacted by the flooding.

At this time, St. Peter's is not collecting donated items like clothing, water, and cleaning supplies. The city has more than it needs. The best thing you can do to help is to continue to pray, and to make financial contributions. In the weeks and months ahead there will be other needs and a need for volunteers. St. Peter's has created a website to register those who wish to volunteer, and to share information about recovery efforts. You may find it at [www.stpeterskerrville.com/floodrelief](http://www.stpeterskerrville.com/floodrelief). The Diocese of West Texas continues to invite and receive financial contributions. You may make contributions [here](#) or by mailing a check to the Diocese of West Texas at 111 Torcido Dr., San Antonio, TX 78209.

One of the post-communion prayers we say together in worship reminds us that in Christ we are members of the "mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs through hope" of the everlasting kingdom of our God who assists us daily with God's grace. (BCP p. 339). We thank you for your outpouring of prayers and generosity and ask for your continued prayers for the families of the missing, those who mourn, those who have lost homes and livelihoods, and for the clergy and people of St. Peter's Church as we continue this journey of recovery knowing Jesus, our Good Shepherd, is with us.

Peace,

+David Read  
The Rt. Rev. Dr. David G. Read, D.D.  
Bishop of West Texas

+Angela Cortiñas  
The Rt. Rev. Angela Cortiñas  
Bishop Suffragan of West Texas

## **DWTX in the Hill Country Flood News**

*From Episcopal News Services*

West Texas prepares for long-term response almost two weeks after deadly floods by Shireen Korkzan.

Click [here](#) to read article.

*From Episcopal News Services*

Episcopal congregation opens its doors to Texas community hit hardest by deadly floods by David Paulsen.

Click [here](#) to read article.

*From The Washington Post*

Sunday worship after Texas floods filled with sorrow and fear by Molly Hennessey-Fiske.

Click [here](#) to read article.

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## **DWTX in the Hill Country Flood News** (Continued)

*From Episcopal News Services*

Episcopalians among dozens dead in Texas floods as church leaders call for prayers, donations by David Paulsen.

Click [here](#) to read article.

*From the Living Church*

Prayers, Support Offered to Texas Flood Victims by Caleb Maglaya Galaraga.

Click [here](#) to read article.

*From Episcopal Relief & Development*  
Responding to Deadly Texas Hill Country Flooding.

Click [here](#) to read article.

Channel 3 News, Corpus Christi  
Port Aransas church raises funds for flood victims.

Click [here](#) to watch the news story.

## **August Birthdays**

*I praise you, because I am fearfully and  
wonderfully made; your works are  
wonderful, I know that full well.  
(Psalm 139:14)*

Ben McClain	Brittney Cooksey
Jacqueline Hoskins	Luke Crouch
Chuck Swanberg	Sally Bynum
Sue Bushey	Frank DePasquale
Bob Dooling	Liz Sampson
Kenneth Smith	Terrie Bradlaw
Tom Palmer	Kimberley Erwin
Francine Baskin	Angela Vaticalos
Carmen Perez	



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

**Fishin' for Mission:** September 12-13 in Rockport, Texas.

St. Peter's, Rockport, and St. Helena's, Boerne, will host their annual fishing tournament, Fishin' for Mission, benefitting World Missions, on the Texas coast. The cost is \$85 per angler and \$35 for anglers under age 17.

**Cursillo #297:** October 9-12 at Mustang Island Conference Center.

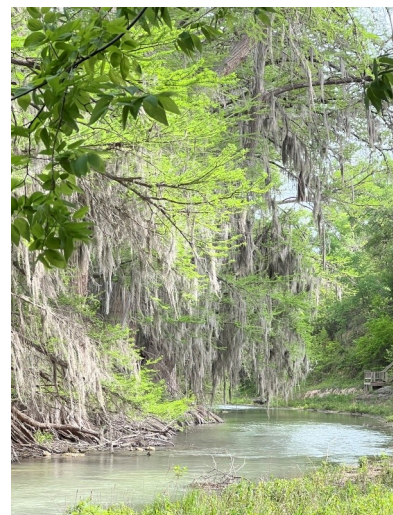
Cursillo is patterned on Jesus' own example. He searched out and called groups of potential leaders, trained them and sent them out to the world.

### **20th Annual Bishop's Golf**

**Tournament:** November 3 at The Club at Sonterra in San Antonio. The tournament benefits camp scholarships. Early Birdie registration will open soon so start building your team.

**Discovery Weekend #2:** April 24-26, 2026 at Mustang Island Conference Center. Registration for Discovery Weekend #2 is now open. Discovery Weekend #1 is full.

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







## From the Blog

### **Here am I, God. Send me . . . but please go with me.**

Read a reflection from Tami Woods, Director of College + Young Adult Ministries, and learn more about their upcoming fall retreat at Camp Capers in their summer newsletter [here](#).

### **Visit Cathedral Park this summer**

You're invited to set aside the fast-paced culture of today and step into the quiet and beauty of God's creation at Cathedral Park. Spend a few minutes or a few hours wandering along the trails or sit on a bench to pray or meditate, all among the sounds of calling birds and bubbling fountains. Many people come to Cathedral Park to enjoy nature and for quiet meditation and relaxation.

Learn more and download the self-guided Meditation Walk to connect with God through the magnificence of his creation [here](#).

### **Tri-History Conference – 2025** **Caminemos con Jesús (Let's Walk with Jesus): History of Latino Ministry in the Episcopal Church**

The Rt. Rev. Angela Maria Cortiñas, Bishop Suffragan of West Texas and Flor Saldivar, Director of Immigration + Refugee Ministries, traveled to the 2025 Tri-History Conference at Saint Alban's Episcopal Church in Washington, D.C. on June 17 - 20. View video [here](#).

### **Diocese of West Texas Bishops appointed to The Episcopal Church Groups**

The Rt. Rev. Dr. David G. Read, D.D. has been appointed to the Advisory Group for Church Planting. The Rt. Rev. Angela Maria Cortiñas was appointed to the Design Team for the House of Bishops.

### **All Are Welcome, LGBTQ+ in the Episcopal Church**

*"The next General Convention, in 1976, adopted resolutions stating that "homosexual persons are children of God who have a full and equal claim with all other persons upon the love, acceptance, and pastoral concern and care of the Church" (1976-A069), and that they "are entitled to equal protection of the laws with all other citizens" (1976-A071).*

In 2026 the Episcopal Church will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the 1976 resolution at General Convention. The work continues today as we remember the struggles, the joy, and strength of our LGBTQ+ siblings in Christ. Learn more [here](#).

### **DWTX in the News**

On Flag Day, June 14, All Saints, San Benito fed more than 100 first responders from across the county including EMTs, law enforcement, and fire fighters.

*From the San Benito News* "The congregation and everyone came together," said Church Vicar Stepheya George, standing near multiple tables where dozens of sack lunches sat ready for the grabbing. "We started yesterday and finished today." Dominguez later stated that participation exceeded expectations, as the church scrambled to purchase additional supplies to feed the growing number of first responders. He added that the church plans to organize a similar event every year due to the success they experienced this year. Read more [here](#).

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

AUGUST CALENDAR						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 <b>Worship</b> 8 & 10am (C) <b>Sunday School</b> 9:15am (L)	4 <b>Staff Meeting</b> 9am (L) <b>Prayer Meeting</b> 12pm (L) <b>AA Meeting</b> 8-9pm (CH)	5	6	7 <b>Private Event</b> 9am-4pm (CH) <b>Eucharist</b> 11am (ARC) <b>Music Fun</b> 2-3pm (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 <b>Vestry Meeting</b> 6pm (CH)	13	14 <b>Eucharist</b> 11am (ARC) <b>Music Fun</b> 2-3pm (C) <b>AA Meeting</b> 8-9pm (CH)	15	16 <b>Private Event</b> 9am-4pm (CH)
17 <b>Worship</b> 8 & 10am (C) <b>Sunday School</b> 9:15am (L)	18 <b>Staff Meeting</b> 9am (L) <b>Prayer Meeting</b> 12pm (L) <b>AA Meeting</b> 8-9pm (CH)	19	20 <b>HOME Open House</b> 11am-1pm (CH)	21 <b>Eucharist</b> 11am (ARC) <b>Music Fun</b> 2-3pm (C) <b>AA Meeting</b> 8-9pm (CH)	22	23
24 <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	28 <b>Eucharist</b> 11am (ARC) <b>Music Fun</b> 2-3pm (C) <b>Dining Out</b> 6:30pm (TBD) <b>AA Meeting</b> 8-9pm (CH)	29	30
31 <b>Worship</b> 8 & 10am (C) <b>Sunday School</b> 9:15am (L)						
C – Church; CH – Creasy Hall; VEB – Vellom Ed Building; L – Library ARC – Army Residence Community						

## AUGUST 2025 SUNDAY MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Ministry	August 3	August 10	August 17	August 24	August 31
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Pat Clarke-Kempf Diane Woods	Janet Clere Suzanne Milton	Maggie Barnes Stephenie McBride	Tarawanda Howard Suzanne Milton	Cindy Hull Diane Woods
<b>8 AM Reader</b>	Joan McClain	Jayne Dunlap	Suzi Hopkins	Max Hopkins	Joan McClain
<b>8 AM Greeter/Usher</b>	Shawn Cooksey	Ben McClain	Max Hopkins	Ron Dunlap	Suzi Hopkins
<b>8 AM Coffee</b>	Tarawanda Howard	Joan McClain	Jayne Dunlap	Suzi Hopkins	Tarawanda Howard
<b>10 AM Server</b>	Sean Francis	Sean Keane-Dawes	Wayne Mudge	Terry May	Mendell Morgan
<b>10 AM Reader</b>	Melissa Mudge	Susan Brown	Sean Keane-Dawes	Sean Francis	Maribeth Likins
<b>10 AM Greeter/Usher</b>	Arlene Stalvey	Bill Ercoline	Diane Woods	Melissa Mudge	Suzanne Milton
<b>Prayers of the People</b>	Maribeth Likins	Liz Sampson	Susan Brown	Sean Keane-Dawes	Janet Clere
<b>Newcomer Visits</b>	Terry May Diane Woods	Ellen Yelverton	Terry May Diane Woods	Ellen Yelverton	Terry May Diane Woods
<b>Home Communion</b>	Janet Clere	No Home Communion	Mendell Morgan	No Home Communion	Ellen Yelverton
<b>Prayer Ministry</b>	Mendell Morgan	Maribeth Likins	Ellen Yelverton	Mendell Morgan	Maribeth Likins
<b>10 AM Coffee</b>	Kathy Ercoline	Colleen Hubberd	Melissa Mudge	Diane Woods Terry May	Kathy Ercoline
<b>Audio Visual</b>	Wayne Mudge	Terry May	Kristina Robinson	Wayne Mudge	Terry May
<b>Lockup/Security</b>	Terry May	Arlene Stalvey	Richard Guerrero	Janet Clere	Ellen Yelverton

### A Morning Resolve

I will try this day to live a simple, sincere, and serene life, repelling promptly every thought of discontent, anxiety, discouragement, impurity, and self-seeking; cultivating cheerfulness, magnanimity, charity, and the habit of holy silence; exercising economy in expenditure, generosity in giving, carefulness in conversation, diligence in appointed service, fidelity to every trust, and a childlike faith in God.

In particular I will try to be faithful in those habits of prayer, work, study, physical exercise, eating, and sleep, which I believe the Holy Spirit has shown me to be right.

And, as I cannot, in my own strength, do this, nor even with a hope of success, attempt it, I look to thee. O Lord God, my father, in Jesus my savior, and ask for the gift of the Holy Spirit.

*(Forward Day by Day May-June-July 2025)*

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