

Matt's Missive

March 2026

From Your Vestry Wardens...

The Diocesan Council we attended at the end of February was eye-opening! Lots of mission ideas to pursue locally or globally. Opportunities to express God's Love to neighbors near and far abounded. The vestry will be considering several ideas for outreach in a new or expanded way however, have no fear!! We sometimes think our parish is small, but we think bigger than the box we're in. Care for St. Matthew's will not be forfeited or forgotten, including rehab for the Vellom Education Building, reimagining the previous Lunch Bunch, and solving the parking lot lighting problem. Imagine with us how to extend beyond these holy walls reaching into the surrounding communities of Universal City and Live Oak, from northern Schertz to southern Converse. You will see news of Vestry progress in future Missives, and chances to work with the Vestry as we deliberate on the several visions that come before us. Share your idea to move St. Matthew's forward in spreading God's kingdom of love. Imagine yourself as a kernel of popcorn, add a bit of Holy Spirit flame, and experience what will happen!!

Thank you for your support,

Arlene Stalvey, Senior Warden, and Tarawanda Howard, Junior Warden



PLEASE JOIN US!

Dining Out on Thursday, March 26th, at 6:30 p.m.

Noli's Vite Italian Kitchen

170 Buffalo Place, Cibolo, TX 78108

RSVP by March 23rd to Barbara Duffield



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.

Annual Spring Clean-Up 2026 Continues

Fellow Parishioners,

Our annual Spring Clean-Up is underway. Many of the chores have been completed or volunteers have signed up to complete them. We appreciate all who have volunteered to help. We have a few chores that we still need volunteers to complete and they are listed below:

- ◆ Clean up nursery/kitchen area in education building.
- ◆ Clean up sink floor and sink area in janitor's closet.
- ◆ Weeding and turning mulch in the church garden area.
- ◆ Assist with replacing damaged floor tiles in education bldg.
- ◆ Washing playground equipment.
- ◆ Spreading mulch around the playground equipment.

If you would like to help, please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex or at the front desk in Creasy Hall. Contact Tarawanda Howard or Wayne Mudge if you have questions.

Thank you for your support!

Tarawanda C. Howard
Junior Warden

5th Sunday in Lent

How did they feel, my Jesus,
The sins that you took from me?
I know that I have so many
And surely they're not all the same...
So how did they feel, oh Savior,
As you hung on the cross that noon?
They must have been painful, my Lord God,
Representing the bad things I've done.
By word, or by deed, or by leaving alone,
When my actions might save someone's life,
And my sins were multiplied millions of times
As you took on the whole of the world.

God gave you darkness to suffer your pain
Away from our eyes and our hearts.
We feared for our lives, and knew you were gone,
Until the ninth hour when you cried, from the cross
"Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani" – My God, my God, why have you deserted me?
Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.

JC²
March 21, 2021
San Antonio, TX

Take me out to the ball game...

Brothers and sisters,

It's a new season of baseball and we're organizing another parish outing to support my Saints. Come join your fellow parishioners for an afternoon of fun and fellowship and meet the players and families from my 'other congregation!'

We picked Saturday, April 18th, for a doubleheader against the visiting LSU-Alexandria. The first pitch of game 1 (7 innings) will be at noon. Game 2 (9 innings) will start 30 minutes after game 1, which is usually approximately 2:30pm. Our hospitality folks will be feeding the team in between games, and volunteers to assist are welcome. (Last year we made sub sandwiches; I'm not sure what the menu will be this year.) Following the second game will be the "senior day" celebration for graduating players.

The Saints from Our Lady of the Lake University play our home games at Missions Baseball Academy (MBA), which is on the southwest side of San Antonio at 5707 Highway 151, 78227. MBA is a tournament facility with a small concession stand and exposed bleacher seating. Hats, sunglasses, umbrellas to shield the sun, and clothing appropriate to being outside are **HIGHLY** recommended. (On the plus side, frequent USAF flyovers are pretty much guaranteed.)

I hope you'll come out and cheer on my Saints. Information about preparing the food and feeding the team will be publicized soon.

Fr. Cristopher

St Matthew's Safety Awareness Program

Please support our safety awareness program. The program is straightforward, and together we can ensure the campus remains safe and welcoming for study, hospitality, and worship.

We ask if you are the last person to enter or leave any building on campus, you follow the safety suggestions listed below:

- Turn off the lights and electrical appliances when leaving any campus room or building, and close curtains or blinds
- When leaving buildings on campus, close interior and exterior doors. Make sure before you leave, the doors are truly locked.
- Watch your step when entering or leaving your vehicle or campus buildings
- If you see something that's unsafe, please report it as soon as possible.

If you have questions or concerns, contact Arlene Stalvey, Tarawanda Howard, or call the Parish Secretary at (210) 658-5956.

Thank you for your support!

Tarawanda C. Howard
Junior Warden

Hospitality Notes

By Melissa Mudge

Many Thanks

Thank you, people of St. Matthew's – You make the events of our lives special and meaningful occasions. So much food and fellowship at the pancake supper! Thanks to the hands that peeled, chopped, flipped, and washed-up. The memorial service for a beloved mother added to the beautiful memories of her life. Prayers are lifted daily for the well-being, happiness, safety, and healing of those we love.

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 ever-evolving goodness that comes out of our kitchen.

- ◆ 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 – Thanks for keeping our kitchen clean and sanitary. This keeps our parish family safe, healthy, and happy.

Give it – To Go

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.

Special Days/Events

March 28—Please join in on St. Matthew's Cross Making and Final Spring Clean-up/Freshen up Day. Sign up sheet is available. Tasks can be completed at your convenience or show up on this Saturday morning.

April 2—Maundy Thursday. Join us at 7:00 p.m. for our Maundy Thursday service. The word “maundy” comes from the Latin *mandatum*, which means “commandment.” Jesus, on His final night, gave us the commandment to remember Him; to serve each other; and in verse 34: “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved, you also should love one another.”

April 2—Good Friday. Join us at 12:00 p.m. for Stations of the Cross.

April 5—Easter Sunday. Easter Egg Hunt and Finger Food luncheon following the 10:00 service. Sign up sheet coming soon.

April 18—Parish Outing to Our Lady of the Lake University Game Day. Join us for a fun day watching baseball. Information and sign up to feed the players coming soon.

RACAP NEWS

By Kathy Ercoline

St. Matthew's Lenten program, "40 CANS FOR LENT" continues until Good Friday (April 3rd). Our contributions are being donated to RACAP to help families in our local area. Thank you to those who donated. If you have not already done so, please donate **one can of food per day** (40 items). Bring your cans of food and/or paper products to Creasy Hall at any time throughout the Lenten Season, and they will be delivered to RACAP. **We will have a special in-gathering of one extra can per person on Easter Sunday, April 5, 2025.**

Cash donations to RACAP are always welcomed and appreciated. Make your checks payable to St. Matthew's Episcopal Church and write "40 Cans for Lent" in the memo line. If you care to donate cash, please put it in an envelope and label it specifically for RACAP, "40 Cans for Lent" Program.

REMINDER...Please check the "best if used by" and/or the expiration dates of the food items you donate to RACAP. Out-of-date items will be discarded.

Current Pantry Needs:

Canned Tomato Products	Dry Pasta	Canned Pasta Meals
Meat Helpers	Dry Beans and Rice	Jelly
Shampoo	Pet Food (cat and dog)	

St Matthew's Congregation...Your support and very generous contributions to RACAP are making a difference in people's lives...**THANK YOU!**



RACAP Month in Review

January 2026 Assistance Results

of Families Assisted 57

of People Assisted 127

of Pantry Orders Prepared 48

of People Fed 105

Estimated Value of Food Given: \$10,335.00

\$3,651.02 Paid towards Utility Bills

\$2,149.02 Towards Rental Assistance

"Thank you for helping us help others."

April Birthdays

*Because you are my help,
I sing in the shadow of your wings.
(Psalm 63:7)*

Arlene Stalvey	David Tidwell
Greg Coolidge	Samuel Waldron
Suzi Hopkins	Brian Crouch
Patricia Clarke-Kempf	Fr. Chuck Woehler
Alethia Dooling	Shawn Cooksey
Kyle Cooksey	Cathy Oakley
Billy Baskin	

Highlights from the 122nd Council of the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas

Council 2026 Recap

Council 2026 convened in-person February 26 - 28, at the Hillard Center in Corpus Christi, Texas. Clergy and lay delegates assembled to hear ministry reports, conduct the annual business of the diocese, worship together, participate in workshops, and share fellowship.

The Bishop's Address to the 122nd Council of the Diocese

On Friday, February 27, the Rt. Rev. Dr. David G. Read, D.D. addressed Council attendees. He spoke of why he chose the theme; *Let Love be Genuine* from Romans 12:9, sharing, "According to Paul, God's deep and reckless love of us is the beginning of holy living. We love genuinely because God first loved us genuinely, authentically and justly." Bishop Read discussed how clergy and congregations can demonstrate genuine love in diocesan communities. Click [here](#) to watch the Bishop's Address.

The Bishop Suffragan's Address to the 122nd Council of the Diocese

On Saturday, February 28, the Rt. Rev. Angela Maria Cortiñas addressed Council attendees. She reflected on her first year as our Suffragan Bishop, new clergy initiatives, and gave updates on Christian Formation and Latino + Immigration Ministries. She also preached on our diocesan theme, "Let Love be Genuine" during our Council Eucharist on Friday, February 27. Click [here](#) to watch the Bishop Suffragan's Address and [here](#) to watch her Sermon.

Videos from Council 2026

Click [here](#) to watch all our Council videos and the Livestream from each day.

Completion of Elections

Congratulations to those elected to serve as leaders of the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas by its 122nd Annual Council. Click [here](#) to read the full list.

Spiritual Retreat in Recovery #125

May 1-3, 2026

Bringing the 11th Step to Life



They are like trees planted along a riverbank, with roots that reach deep into the water. Such trees are not bothered by the heat or worried by long months of drought. Their leaves stay green, and they never stop producing fruit.

Jeremiah 17:8

Spiritual Retreats in Recovery provide a safe place to deepen one's spiritual journey – open to all in recovery from alcoholism or other abuses, as well as to families and friends affected by the disease of addiction. Members of various twelve-step programs (AA, Al-anon, NA, CA, ACA, *etc.*) share their experience, strength, and hope with each other in a community of love and support, exploring *what it was like, what happened, and what we are like now.*

Retreat Leader will be Father Bill W – Episcopal priest, podcaster and author, founder of Austin Recovery and Friends of Dr. Bob, with over forty years of experience in addiction treatment. He will guide us through the retreat theme, *Bringing the 11th Step to Life.* The Ven. Mike Besson, Archdeacon of the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas, will be Spiritual Leader, providing worship services and pastoral care. Saturday offers break-out sessions and ample time for individual exploration. All friends in recovery are welcome, and no church affiliation is required.



Idyllic Camp Capers offers accommodations in comfortable Lodge rooms or in the Cabins used for youthful summer campers (with AC/heating and indoor plumbing!). Come enjoy warm hospitality, comfortable lodging, delicious food, and thoughtful presentations in this beautiful hill country setting along the Guadalupe River.

"Recovery happens in community. At this retreat, I enjoyed the awesome presence of God through others in recovery – and in a beautiful setting. It doesn't get any better!"

† † †

"A great, relaxing weekend. I experienced the spiritual healing of the group, and enjoyed quiet time with my Higher Power in one of His most wondrous creations. In comfort with great food!"

Pricing includes 2 nights accommodations and 5 meals (Fri-Sun): Lodge, **\$450** for single occupancy, **\$255** per person for double; Cabin, **\$165** per person (4-6); Commuter day rate (no lodging), **\$105** per person. Registration information can be found at dwtx.org/events, scrolling down to the Spiritual Retreats in Recovery dates.

Registration opens Tuesday, March 24 and closes Sunday, April 26.

Limited scholarship funds are available based on need on a first-come-first-served basis.

Scholarship recipients will be expected to contribute a portion of their own funds to this program.

Contact Registrar David Coburn: (726) 228-9662 / david.coburn@gmail.com





Happenings Around The Diocese

Mustang Island Beautification

Weekend: April 10-12 at Mustang Island Conference Center. A service-oriented weekend for adults to help Mustang Island Conference Center and experience an enjoyable weekend away. Projects will be coordinated by the staff to match the volunteer skills and what is most needed at that time.

Nails & Prayers Service Retreat: April 10-12 at Camp Capers. This special service-oriented weekend is an opportunity to give back and beautify Camp Capers. It is a great opportunity for high school students to earn service hours. Projects will be coordinated by the staff to match the volunteer skills and what is most needed at that time.

The Good, the True, & the Beautiful Retreat: April 17-19 at Camp Capers. Explore the restorative power of storytelling, songwriting, and creativity through the lens of faith. Featuring well-known musicians, Danny Myrik and Megan Linville. Tap into your creativity through art, poetry, music, and nature.

Diocesan Discovery Weekend #2: April 24-26 at Mustang Island Conference Center. Join us for our second Discovery Weekend in the Diocese of West Texas. We will explore the act of discernment as it applies to both lay and ordained persons. Whether this is a first step toward learning more or the tenth step along your journey with discernment, this weekend is open to you and anyone who is interested in learning and discovering more!

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



From the Blog

World Missions Catalog of Giving Opportunities.

Download the 2026 catalog of opportunities to partner by prayer, financial contributions or in-person ministry with many of the ministries supported by the World Missions Department at the Diocese of West Texas. *(Please note the ministries listed in the catalog are ministries supported by more than one church in the diocese. It is not a complete list of all the ministries supported by the diocese.)* Download [here](#).

Save the Date for Council '27, February 18 - 20, 2027.

We are excited to be back in the Rio Grande Valley in 2027 and give thanks to St. John's, McAllen, who will serve as our Host Church. Click [here](#) to watch the video.

DWTX in the News

‘Through Storm and Time’ of Seguin, Texas | Guadalupe County Living | March 2026.

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Seguin was recently featured in an article in Guadalupe County Living, providing a historical perspective (pgs. 16-21). Read the article [here](#).



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

APRIL CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 HOME 10am-3:30pm <i>(CH, C, L, VEB)</i> Lenten Study 6-8pm <i>(CH)</i>	2 Eucharist 11am <i>(ARC)</i> Choir Practice 2-3pm <i>(C)</i> Maundy Thursday 7pm <i>(C)</i> AA Meeting 8-9pm <i>(CH)</i>	3 Good Friday Stations of the Cross 12pm <i>(C)</i>	4
5 Easter Sunday Worship 8 & 10am <i>(C)</i> Sunday School 9:15am <i>(L)</i> Easter Egg Hunt & Finger Food Luncheon 11am <i>(CH)</i>	6 Office Closed No Staff or Prayer Meeting AA Meeting 8-9pm <i>(CH)</i>	7	8 HOME 10am-3:30pm <i>(CH, C, L, VEB)</i>	9 Eucharist 11am <i>(ARC)</i> Choir Practice 2-3pm <i>(C)</i> AA Meeting 8-9pm <i>(CH)</i>	10	11
12 Worship 8 & 10am <i>(C)</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 Vestry Meeting 6pm <i>(CH)</i>	15 HOME 10am-3:30pm <i>(CH, C, L, VEB)</i>	16 Eucharist 11am <i>(ARC)</i> Choir Practice 2-3pm <i>(C)</i> AA Meeting 8-9pm <i>(CH)</i>	17	18 Day at the Ball Park 12pm <i>(Missions Baseball Academy)</i>
19 Worship 8 & 10am <i>(C)</i> Sunday School 9:15am <i>(L)</i>	20 Staff Meeting 9am <i>(L)</i> Prayer Meeting 12pm <i>(L)</i> AA Meeting 8-9pm <i>(CH)</i>	21	22 HOME 10am-3:30pm <i>(CH, C, L, VEB)</i>	23 Eucharist 11am <i>(ARC)</i> Choir Practice 2-3pm <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 Staff Meeting 9am <i>(L)</i> Prayer Meeting 12pm <i>(L)</i> AA Meeting 8-9pm <i>(CH)</i>	28	29 HOME 10am-3:30pm <i>(CH, C, L, VEB)</i>	30 Eucharist 11am <i>(ARC)</i> Choir Practice 2-3pm <i>(C)</i> Dining Out 6:30pm <i>(TBD)</i> AA Meeting 8-9pm <i>(CH)</i>		

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

APRIL 2026 SUNDAY MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Ministry	April 5 Easter Sunday	April 12	April 19	April 26
Altar Guild	Tarawanda Howard Suzanne Milton	Maggie Barnes Stephenie McBride	Cindy Hull Diane Woods	Janet Clere Diane Woods
8 AM Reader	Jayne Dunlap	Suzi Hopkins	Jian McClain	Max Hopkins
8 AM Greeter/Usher	Ron Dunlap	Shawn Cooksey	Max Hopkins	Jayne Dunlap
8 AM Coffee	Suzi Hopkins	Tarawanda Howard	Joan McClain	Jayne Dunlap
10 AM Server	Terry May	Wayne Mudge	Sean Francis	Arlene Stalvey
10 AM Reader	Melissa Mudge	Oliver Laxson	Janet Clere	Sean Francis
10 AM Greeter/Usher	Diane Woods	Arlene Stalvey	Melissa Mudge	Suzanne Milton
Prayers of the People	Bill Ercoline	Maribeth Likins	Ellen Yelverton	Janet Clere
Newcomer Visits	Terry May Diane Woods	Terry May Diane Woods	Terry May Diane Woods	Terry May Diane Woods
Home Communion	No Home Communion	Ellen Yelverton	No Home Communion	Janet Clere
Prayer Ministry	Maribeth Likins	Ellen Yelverton	Maribeth Likins	Ellen Yelverton
10 AM Coffee	Melissa Mudge	Kathy Ercoline	Colleen Hubberd	Melissa Mudge
Audio Visual	Wayne Mudge	Terry May	Jay Barnes	Wayne Mudge
Lockup/Security	Tarawanda Howard	Terry May	Arlene Stalvey	Cindy Hull

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.* (Book of Common Prayer, page 824)

JANUARY 2026 FINANCIAL REPORT

Monthly	Pledge	Plate	Other	Total	2026 YTD	Pledge	Plate	Other	Total
Operating Income Received	\$21,791	\$1,182	\$620	\$23,593	Operating Income Received	\$21,791	\$1,182	\$620	\$23,593
Operating Income Budgeted	\$14,025	\$1,445	\$278	\$15,748	Operating Income Budgeted	\$14,025	\$1,445	\$278	\$15,748
	Monthly	YTD				Monthly	YTD		
Overall Operating Expenses	\$17,695	\$17,695			Outreach	\$150	\$150		
Budgeted Operating Expenses	\$21,232	\$21,232							

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