

Matt's Missive

May 2024

Celebration of a New Ministry

On April 30th, the Rt. Rev. Dr. David G. Read joined with us and the clergy of the diocese for a Celebration of New Ministry and the Installation of the Rev. Cristopher Robinson as our new rector. It was an amazing spirit-filled and joyous event. Many parishioners, friends, and family came to celebrate with us as we collectively turned a page and began a new chapter in our history. Mariachis greeted everyone on the patio and entertained them in Creasy Hall. A fun fiesta and Taco Tuesday was enjoyed by all!



PLEASE JOIN US!
Dining Out on Thursday, May 30th, at 6:30 p.m.
Salsalito Cantina
14535 Nacogdoches Rd., San Antonio, TX 78130
RSVP by May 28th to Liz Sampson



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.

More Photos of the Celebration of a New Ministry



More Photos of the Celebration of a New Ministry



Our Rector Legacy (left-right):
Current Rector Fr. Cristopher
Photo of first Rector Fr. Bob above Jayne
Second Rector Fr. Tim

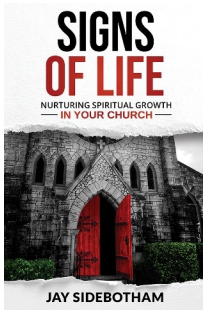


Our amazing kitchen volunteers!!



Wednesday Evening Book/Bible Study Resumes in June

By Diane Woods



Please join us in a new 8-week study beginning June 5th in Creasy Hall. The book we've chosen is "**Signs of Life: Nurturing Spiritual Growth in Your Church**" written by Jay Sidebotham. There is a free companion study guide from Forward Movement which we will also use.

Amazon provides this description of the book: "Signs of Life offers a clear-eyed consideration of the challenges facing congregations as well as a celebration of practices that contribute to spiritual vitality in congregations. These best practice principles—signs of life—emerge from a ministry called RenewalWorks, a concerted effort to make spiritual growth a priority in congregations and to build cultures of discipleship within them. The book is written free from the illusion that there is a quick fix. Nor does it propose a prescriptive focus on programmatic solutions. What you have in this book is an exploration of the catalysts and best practices for spiritual growth—and the hopeful confidence that it can happen. After all, with God all things are possible."

Our plan is to begin each Wednesday with a heavy hors d'oeuvres/light meal at 6:00 p.m. in Creasy Hall. Our discussion will start at 6:30 p.m. We will share leading the discussion with the group as well as providing a light meal. Several books were ordered from Forward Movement for \$14 each. Please pay Diane Woods for your book. If you prefer, you can purchase the Kindle book from Amazon.com for \$9.99. The companion study guide can be picked up with your book. A sign-up sheet will be available in the Narthex, or you can call the office during the week.



Military Outreach Ministry

By Susan K. Brown
(For Arlene Stalvey)



The entire month of May honors Military Caregivers and is National Military Appreciation Month. It is customary to thank a military person for their service when you see him or her.

1st: Silver Star Service Day: recognizes those awarded the Silver Star that is the third highest military decoration for valor in combat.

8th: VE Day – Victory Day in Europe. Nazi Germany unconditionally surrendered to the Allied Forces of World War II in Europe, although the war continued in the Pacific Theater of Operations.

10th: Military Spouse Appreciation Day

27th: Memorial Day: we remember those who gave their lives to protect the freedoms we in the U.S. enjoy today.

Please observe 1 minute of silence at 3pm local time.

RACAP NEWS

By Kathy Ercoline

The “**RACAP School Supplies Program**” for the 2024-2025 school year starts now and continues until the end of June. RACAP will again provide basic school supply packets to school-age children who apply for them.

Please consider donating these school supply packets for **Elementary School** and **Middle/Junior/ High School** containing the following items:

Elementary School

#2 Pencils
Pens
Colored Pencils
Washable Markers
Ruler
Crayons
Scissors
Glue sticks
1-Pkg. Wide Rule Notebook Paper
2-Wide Rule Spiral Notebooks
2-Wide Rule Composition Books

Middle/ Junior/ High School

#2 Pencils
Pens
Colored Pens
1-Pkg. College Rule Notebook Paper
2-College Rule Spiral Notebooks
2-College Rule Composition Books

Completed school supply list packets should be put into clearly marked **Jumbo Size zip lock bags**. Please bring your filled bags to Creasy Hall, and they will be delivered to RACAP. In addition to the school supply packets, donations of **toothbrushes**, **toothpaste**, and cash contributions will be collected.

During the summer months, RACAP reminds contributors that their clients’ children are eating most of their meals at home. Please consider donating peanut butter, jelly, cereal, macaroni and cheese, spaghetti, noodles, and soups. Look for other specific food items listed in the Sunday bulletin and/or Email blasts. The support for RACAP from our congregation has been exceptional! Thank you all so much and know that all cash and food items are greatly appreciated.

Current Pantry Needs

Shampoo
Toothpaste
Diapers sizes 4, 5, & 6
Cornbread Mix
Soup
Jelly
Jell-o

Month in Review

April 2024 Results

of Families assisted: 107
of People assisted: 331
of Pantry orders prepared: 80
of People fed: 246
Estimated value of food given: \$19,235.00

“Thank you for helping us help others.”

Hospitality Notes

By Melissa Mudge

*You may think that you are completely insignificant in this world.
But someone drinks coffee from the favorite cup that you gave them.
Someone heard a song on the radio that reminds them of you.
Someone reads the book that you recommended and plunges headfirst into it.
Someone smiles after a hard day of work,
because they remember the joke that you told them today.
Someone loves themselves a little bit more, because you gave them a compliment today.
Never think that you have no influence whatsoever.
Your touch, word, and good deed which you leave behind cannot be erased.
~Unknown to me~*

Many Thanks

Thank you, people of St. Matthew's. The *Celebration of Our New Ministry* was just a great day. The many hands that helped create this new beginning were fabulous – from searchers, to planners, to shoppers, to decorators, to cooks, to servers, to cleaner-uppers. And especially the prayerful – you kept us focused for many months on the solemnity as well as the joy.

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.
- A fourth host to take a turn in the Coffee Hour rotation after 10:00 a.m. service is still needed. Let me know if you are interested. Thanks host families. You are the best. Every Sunday after church is a delightful surprise. Great snacks, stimulating conversation; 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 water bottles, snacks, 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.

(Continued on next page)

Hospitality Notes (Continued)

Special Events (Some dates to look forward to)

- ◆ May 12—We celebrated our mothers in style. Thanks for the lovely breakfast.
Please bless our mothers. Ease their worry for the families you entrust to them, guide them in times of doubt, and hold them close when they are overwhelmed by both joy and sorrow. May they know our deep gratitude for giving us life and love. In union with Mary, we ask this through Jesus Christ, your Son. Amen.
- ◆ Feast Day of the First book of Common Prayer—celebrated on a weekday following the Day of Pentecost.
Almighty and everliving God, who through the Book of Common Prayer restored the language of the people in the prayers of your church: Make us always thankful for this heritage; and help us so to pray in the Spirit and with understanding, that we may worthily magnify your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.
- ◆ June 5—Evening Bible study begins. More information on page 4.
- ◆ June 14—Flag Day
- ◆ June 16—Fathers Day
Lord, thank you for our father, for their sacrifices and their love for us. When our dads are tired, overwhelmed, or feeling weak, Lord give them the strength to continue loving and working. Lord, give them the courage to stand strong. Amen.
- ◆ June 19—Juneteenth
- ◆ June 20—World Refugee Day

Mendell Morgan

2024 Texas Library Association (TLA) Librarian of the Year



Congratulations to Mendell Morgan for this well-earned award! Mendell has been splitting his time between here and Uvalde for several years.

The El Progreso Memorial Library, Uvalde TX Facebook page posted: “TLA's Librarian of the Year Award is given to a librarian who has demonstrated extraordinary leadership and service within the library community over the past 12 – 18 months.

As a dedicated advocate for literacy and community well-being, Mendell has made remarkable contributions to the Uvalde community and beyond. His innovative programs and initiatives have brought together individuals from diverse backgrounds, providing them with resources, support, and a safe space for growth and healing. Through his leadership, the library has become a beacon of light for those facing adversity, offering solace, encouragement, and opportunities for personal development.”

June Birthdays

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. (Joshua 1:9)

| | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Tish Barnhart | Fredrick Uzoka |
| Crystal Francis | Scott Bradlaw |
| Jim Gentner | Debi Clere |
| James Reed | Rick Creekmore |
| Glen Clere | Sean Keane-Dawes |
| Ann Vellom | Shirley Moore |
| Athena Bryant-Wood | Jinny Smith |
| Larry Milton | |



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.

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



Happenings Around The Diocese

Mustang Island Family Camp: Multiple Sessions beginning May 30. Spend a long summer weekend with your family on the beach at Mustang Island Family Camp! Enjoy swimming, singing, surfing, arts & crafts, delicious meals, a buried treasure hunt, beach games, worship, building sandcastles, fishing, resting under a beach umbrella, a campfire, and more. Programming begins Thursday afternoon/evening and continues through Sunday lunch. Each day ends with worship, music, and a family-centered Bible teaching. Each room has a private deck view of the sea and boardwalk access to beach.

Camp Capers Summer Camp: Multiple Sessions, by grade, beginning June 2. Summer Camp offers children and youth ages 8-18 the opportunity to experience the unconditional love and friendship of a Christian community while attending a one-week session. Through God's grace, Camp Capers is committed to offering fun, life-changing experiences to children and youth in a safe, Christ-centered community.

Duncan Park Summer Camp: Multiple Sessions beginning June 2. Duncan Park offers opportunities for people with a variety of ages and experience levels in sessions for junior high and high school youth, college students, and adults. The sessions include round-trip airfare from San Antonio to Denver, where an Adventure Guide will meet the group and drive them to Duncan Park. Activities include hiking, rock climbing, camping, team-building challenges, group games, crafts, Bible-based teachings and devotional times, campfires, fishing, and more.

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



Diocesan Profile and Nomination Process For Bishop Suffragan Election

Hello Diocese of West Texas!

The Rt. Rev. Dr. David G. Read, Bishop of West Texas, called for the election of a bishop suffragan in February. Since that time, the Nominating Committee has met regularly to pray for the diocese and to establish the Bishop Suffragan Election process, outlined in previous communications that are available online, at dwtx.org/bishop-suffragan.

Today, the Nominating Committee is releasing the [Diocesan Profile](#) electronically, to provide a view of our diocese and the role of the bishop suffragan. We ask the people of West Texas to prayerfully consider clergy who might have a call to be bishop suffragan and to share the profile with those who may be interested.

Each nominee must be nominated by one lay person and one clergy nominator. There will not be a petition process, and there will not be nominations from the floor. Each person may only submit one nominee for bishop suffragan, using the Nomination Form linked below, and neither the nominators nor the candidate needs to be resident within the diocese.

The [Nomination Form](#) includes a link for the nominee to update his or her biographical data with The Episcopal Church's Office of Transitional Ministries. No nomination can be made unless that person has consented to be nominated and has advised their diocesan bishop if a priest or the Presiding Bishop if a bishop that they will be in the nominating process for West Texas.

Names of those discerning a call to this process will be received starting on May 28th and nominations will close on June 12th. Although nomination forms won't be accepted prior to May 28, we do want you to **start saying your prayers and sharing the profile** as The Holy Spirit moves you. Talk to your clergy. Talk to each other. And begin prayerfully discerning who you might consider nominating to be our next bishop suffragan. We will continue to keep you updated regularly as the process proceeds.

Beginning May 28, completed Nomination Forms should be submitted directly to the Nominating Committee at dwtxdiscernment2024@gmail.com.

Blessings,
The Nominating Committee

Next Steps in the Timeline for the Election of the Bishop Suffragan

- ◆ May 28: Nominations open
- ◆ June 12: Nominations close
- ◆ August 26-29: Discernment Retreat
- ◆ September 13: Slate of nominees announced
- ◆ October 4-6: Discernment Forums
- ◆ October 19: Election of the Bishop Suffragan of West Texas
- ◆ March 29, 2025: Consecration of the Bishop Suffragan of West Texas

DWTX In The News

Camp Capers has been named one of Newsweek Magazine's "America's Best Summer Camps"! Camp Capers received four and a half stars. Read more [here](#).

JUNE CALENDAR

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------|----------|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 Worship 8 & 10am (C) Sunday School 9:15am (VEB) Kiwanis 5-6pm (CH) | 3 Staff Meeting 9am (L) Prayer Meeting 12pm (L) AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH) | 4 | 5 Eucharist 11am (ARC) Book/Bible Study 6pm (CH) | 6 AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH) | 7 | 8 |
| 9 Worship 8 & 10am (C) Sunday School 9:15am (VEB) | 10 Prayer Meeting 12pm (L) AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH) | 11 | 12 Eucharist 11am (ARC) Book/Bible Study 6pm (CH) | 13 AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH) | 14 | 15 |
| 16 Worship 8 & 10am (C) Father's Day Doughnuts for Dads (CH) Sunday School 9:15am (VEB) Kiwanis 5-6pm (CH) | 17 Staff Meeting 9am (L) Prayer Meeting 12pm (L) AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH) | 18 Vestry Meeting 6pm (CH) | 19 Eucharist 11am (ARC) Book/Bible Study 6pm (CH) | 20 AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH) | 21 | 22 |
| 23 Worship 8 & 10am (C) Sunday School 9:15am (VEB) | 24 Staff Meeting 9am (L) Prayer Meeting 12pm (L) AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH) | 25 | 26 Eucharist 11am (ARC) Book/Bible Study 6pm (CH) | 27 AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH) | 28 | 29 |
| 30 Worship 8 & 10am (C) Sunday School 9:15am (VEB) | | | | | | |

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

JUNE 2024 SUNDAY MINISTRY SCHEDULE

| Ministry | June 2 | June 9 | June 16 | June 23 | June 30 |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Altar Guild | Tarawanda Howard Diane Woods | Diane Woods Terry May | Janet Clere Suzanne Milton | Terry May Suzanne Milton | Diane Woods Tarawanda Howard |
| 8 AM Reader | Joan McClain | Max Hopkins | Jayne Dunlap | Suzi Hopkins | Joan McClain |
| 8 AM Greeter/Usher | Shawn Cooksey | Jayne Dunlap | Suzi Hopkins | Joan McClain | Ron Dunlap |
| 8 AM Coffee | Suzi Hopkins | Tarawanda Howard | Joan McClain | Jayne Dunlap | Suzi Hopkins |
| Server | Mendell Morgan | Wayne Mudge | Sean Francis | Sean Keane-Dawes | Mendell Morgan |
| 10 AM Reader | Melissa Mudge | Janet Clere | Sean Keane-Dawes | Mendell Morgan | Diane Woods |
| 10 AM Greeters/Ushers | Louise Ginesi Ted Whittier | Diane Woods Terry May | Wayne Mudge Melissa Mudge | Arlene Stalvey Louise Ginesi | Kathy Ercoline Bill Ercoline |
| Prayers of the People | Janet Clere | Ted Whittier | Bill Ercoline | Maribeth Likins | Liz Sampson |
| Newcomer Visits | Ellen Yelverton | Terry May Diane Woods | Ellen Yelverton | Terry May Diane Woods | Ellen Yelverton |
| Home Communion | No Home Communion | Ellen Yelverton | No Home Communion | Sean Keane-Dawes | No Home Communion |
| Prayer Ministry | Maribeth Likins | Ellen Yelverton | Mendell Morgan | Maribeth Likins | Ellen Yelverton |
| 10 AM Coffee | Kathy Ercoline | Melissa Mudge | Diane Woods | Kathy Ercoline | Melissa Mudge |
| Audio Visual | Terry May | Kristina Robinson | Terry May | Wayne Mudge | Terry May |
| Lockup/Security | Maribeth Likins | Terry May | Arlene Stalvey | Janet Clere | Richard Guerrero |

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.

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