



Matt's Missive

February 2026

Annual Spring Clean-Up 2026

Fellow Parishioners,

As we start to leave cold weather behind and our plants, trees, and troublesome weeds start growing, it's time to pay attention to our gardens, grounds, and buildings. Yes, it's time for our annual Spring Clean-Up. As we have done for the past two years, we will not have a dedicated day to complete our chores. Parishioners may volunteer to complete chores at their convenience. We only ask that you complete your chores before Saturday, March 28, 2026.

Here's this year's list of chores:

- Clean windows (interior and exterior) in the church.
- Clean the parish hall trash cans, tables, and walls.
- Replace A/C system air filters in all buildings.
- Replace light bulbs, as needed.
- Clean out the buildings' gutters.
- Weed and turn the mulch in the garden beds.
- Trim/prune shrubs.
- Make a list of repairs needed in the buildings and around the campus.
- Power wash children's playground equipment.
- Replace mulch around playground equipment.
- Assist with replacing damaged tiles in the education building.

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 Howard, Junior Warden

PLEASE JOIN US!

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

Crepeccino Café & Creperie

857 Cibolo Valley Dr., Cibolo, TX 78108

RSVP by February 24th to Mary Dunham or 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.

Celebrating Ivy Keane-Dawes

18th Birthday and Acceptance to the University Of Texas—Austin



Fr. Cristopher explains his UT Stole as Ivy and her dad, Sean, look on..

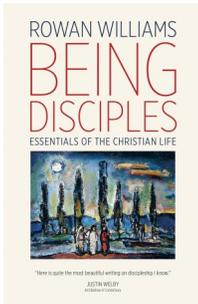


UT Alums Wayne and Melissa Mudge join in praying for Ivy.



Being Disciples: Essentials of the Christian Life

By Diane Woods



Please join us this Lent for a six-week study on “Being Disciples.” We will use the book with the same name written by the 104th Archbishop of Canterbury, The Most Reverend Rowan Williams. Some of the topics covered in the six chapters of the book include Faith, Hope, Love, Forgiveness, Holiness and Life in the Spirit.

Archbishop Williams says in the introduction of the book, “I hope very much that...” [this book] “may be a starting point for exploring ways in which we can go on growing in the life that Jesus shares with us, so that we can become signs of life and hope in our world.”

Fr. Cristopher will lead the study which begins Wednesday, February 25th. We will meet in the parish hall at 6:00 p.m. The format for the evening begins with dinner (bring your own) and catching up with each other. Our discussion of that week's reading will start at 6:30 p.m. and closes with an Order for Compline at approximately 8:00.

Books have been ordered and are available for \$12, payable to Diane Woods. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex on Sunday. Please see Diane to get your book so you can read the first chapter before the first night.

St. Matthew's Dining Out Group

By Kathy Ercoline

Every month (except November and December), several of us will meet at a local restaurant on the **last Thursday** for food, fellowship, and fun. This is open to everyone and you may invite your family and friends. Each month a different person(s) will volunteer to host the St. Matthew's Dining Out Group. The responsibilities are listed below. If you would like to host, please sign up in Creasy Hall...the signup sheet is on the table in the entryway. Hosting is not required and we would love to have you join us.

RESPONSIBILITIES FOR HOSTING THE DINING OUT:

1. Secure a restaurant for the meal by the 10th 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.

Ash Wednesday

Last year these were crosses made from palm fronds.
We wore them so joyfully as we welcomed HIM into Jerusalem.
Today they are but ashen reminders of our mortality:
We are but dust, and to dust we shall return.

For the next forty days and nights (not counting the Sabbaths, of course)
We will look deeply into our own hearts and minds,
Seeking the Truth within. Do we truly love our Lord?
Are we willing to give up our lives to serving others?

I pray that my answer is always "YES!"
That I sincerely have both human and animal, and indeed,
The whole earth as my focus to serve Jesus.
When I doubt myself, God will not let me fall.

He will lift me up, give me an encouraging hug,
And set me on back my feet. His eyes will twinkle as he reminds me
That that I do not act alone, but with the strength
And courage of the one I serve, my Master, Jesus Christ!

JC²

© February 21, 2022
San Antonio, TX

RACAP NEWS

By Kathy Ercoline

Thank you to all who participated in the “RACAP Souper Bowl.” Your generous donations were over and above what was donated in the past. Many in our church family donated soup, fruit, crackers, and cash. Your generosity is needed and appreciated.

Our congregation will once again participate the **“40 Cans for Lent” Program which starts on Ash Wednesday and ends on Good Friday.** “40 Cans for Lent” is a program designed to help fight hunger. It is an opportunity for you to make a small sacrifice, which in turn makes a big difference in the lives of others in our local area. The program began in 2010, and since then it has grown into an international program to fight hunger. Our contributions will be donated to RACAP to help families in our local area. Please donate **one non-perishable item of food or paper product per day** during the 40 days of Lent - February 18th until April 3rd. On Easter Sunday, April 5th, we will have a special in-gathering of **one extra food item.** The donations will be delivered to the RACAP pantry throughout the Lenten season, so bring your forty items any time during Lent. In addition to canned foods, non-perishable food items, hygiene products, and paper products will be accepted. **Monetary donations are 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 are donating cash:** put your name on an envelope, label it specifically for RACAP “40 Cans for Lent Program,” and place the cash inside the labeled envelope. Place your donation in the offering plate on Sunday, or you can drop it off at the church office during the week.

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 Tomatoes	Spaghetti Sauce	Cereal
Jello	Jelly	Meat Helpers
Toilet Paper	Toothbrushes	Feminine Hygiene Pads

A note from Lisa Loftus, RACAP Program Director: Thank you all for your amazing support of RACAP! There is a reason why we are approaching our 43-year Anniversary and it’s because of you all!

“Cheerfully share your home with those who need a meal or a place to stay. God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.” (1 Peter 4:9-10 NLT)

RACAP Month in Review

January 2026 Assistance Results

of Families Assisted 91 ~ # of People Assisted 244
of Pantry Orders Prepared 53 ~ # of People Fed 176
Estimated Value of Food Given: \$14,289.00

“Thank you for helping us help others.”

Hospitality Notes

By Melissa Mudge

Many Thanks

Thank you, people of St. Matthew's! Thanks so much for the time and intention that went in to serving up a delicious pancake supper. It was a fun evening, that still reminds us, we are a community, one body with many members, and each of us has gifts to share.

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.

Action on behalf of those for whom we pray:

SHARE THE WARMTH!

Thanks. We collected several really warm coats and many, many pairs of sturdy shoes, along with pants, tops, socks, and hats. The back of my SUV was completely full, with the seats down!!

Thank you for being mindful of the needs of others.

Special Days/Events

March 1—The Second Sunday in Lent.

March 3—Celebrating John and Charles Wesley, Priests, 1791, 1788. “Pray for the family members with whom you grew up. Give thanks for the “chosen family” who have accompanied you.” (Source: Forward Day by Day, February | March | April 2026)

March 7—Celebrating Perpetua and Felicity, Martyrs, 202.

March 8—The Third Sunday in Lent.

March 9—Celebrating Gregory of Nyssa, Bishop and Theologian, c.394.

(Continued on next page)

Hospitality Notes *(Continued)*

Special Days/Events

- ◆ **March 10—Celebrating Harriet Tubman, Social Reformer, 1913.**
Mark 6:11. *If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.*
- ◆ **March 15—The Fourth Sunday in Lent.**
- ◆ **March 18—Celebrating Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop and Theologian, 386.**
- ◆ **March 22—The Fifth Sunday in Lent**
- ◆ **March 25—The Annunciation of Our Lord Jesus Christ to The Blessed Virgin Mary.** Luke 1:38 *Then Mary said “here I am, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.*
From Forward Day by Day, February | March | April 2026 – Written by Mike Angell.
“Today marks nine months until Christmas, so we pause to honor Mary. Luke’s Gospel contains one the most radical lines in all of scripture: “Let it be.” Mary consents. Mary lives at a time when women are not often treated as people with agency. They don’t have control over much. Their work isn’t paid. Women are not free to make their own decisions, even about their own bodies. And yet here we see Mary, who, with God, makes a choice.
It matters that Mary consents. It matters that the gospels make room for her to have a vision and a voice for what will be. It means that the Mother of God is treated as a full person, with dignity and hopes of her own.
Moving Forward: To what in your life have you offered radical consent with God ?”
- ◆ **March 28—Making Palm Crosses.** Please join in on making palm crosses (see page 10 for details).
- ◆ **March 29—Palm Sunday.** Matthew 26:30. *When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.*
- ◆ **March 30—Monday in Holy Week.** John 12:3. *Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, and anointed Jesus’ feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.*
From Forward Day by Day, February | March | April 2026, written by Mike Angell. “Each day of Holy week has its own prayer. The Collect for Monday found in the Book of Common Prayer, page 220, can be a particular challenge. We ask God to grant that in the way of the cross, we might find a way of life and peace. That balance of joy and suffering, glory and crucifixion, is at the heart of Holy Week.
We find a certain tension this week. There is majesty and sorrow in Holy Week, as there is at the heart of life. The stories we tell ask us to encounter the suffering of the whole world, particularly the marginalized and those who find no justice. The glory of God comes there, exactly there, where people suffer. Holy Week is not for the faint of heart. This week, as we walk with Jesus, we are invited to examine our motivations and challenged to love and serve one another. We may wonder whether we have the strength to claim our place in the movement, especially when doing so, may be dangerous.
Moving Forward: Will we, like Mary, show our love with abandon? Or will we grumble, like the other disciples?”



Happenings Around The Diocese

College + Young Adult Spring 2026

Retreat: March 6-8 at Mustang Island Conference Center.

Take a break with College + Young Adult Ministries to refocus, slow down, nap in a hammock, and feed your soul with a loving community in one of the most beautiful places in our diocese. Don't let transportation or finances keep you from registering, scholarships are available. Register [here](#).

Spring Break Family Camp: March 12-15 at Mustang Island Conference Center. Spend Spring Break weekend with your family on the beach at Mustang Island Family Camp! Programming begins Thursday afternoon/evening and continues through Sunday lunch.

Cursillo 299 - Walk By Faith: March 12-15 at Camp Capers. Cursillo (a Spanish word meaning "little course") gives church members the tools and "rules of life" to enthusiastically share the joys of knowing Christ with others in their everyday environments. The Cursillo weekend begins on Thursday evening and ends on Sunday afternoon. Marie Sluder will serve as Rectora.

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

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



From the Blog

The Episcopal Diocese of West Texas' 122nd Council is fast approaching.

Clergy, delegates, exhibitors, and guests will gather in Corpus Christi Thursday, February 26 - Saturday, February 28 to discuss business, share fellowship, and worship together.

Council in Action recipients: Trinity Episcopal School Hunger Initiative and The Golden Crescent Food Bank. Council in Action is a giving program in association with the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas Council. It is an opportunity for the Diocese of West Texas to serve a community within the diocese, opening our hearts and walking as Jesus has called us to do by assisting those in need. Click [here](#) to read about the Council in Action recipients and how your congregation can donate items for Council. Download the shopping list [here!](#)

Click [here](#) to learn more about Council and access registration forms for guests, and childcare.

The diocesan office at the Bishop Jones Center will close in support of the 122nd Council at noon on February 25 and reopen on Tuesday, March 3. If needed, the staff email directory is available online, at [dwtx.org/staff](https://www.dwtx.org/staff).

Work at Camp this Summer!

Camp Capers, Mustang Island Family Camp, and Duncan Park are building fantastic teams to provide amazing camping experiences this Summer. If you want to be a part of an amazing group of people, helping to bring joy, love, and hope to thousands of people next summer, then please plan on applying to work at one of our camps! Apply [here](#).

DWTX in the News

Notebook: Leyla King, Church Times.
The Rev. Canon Leyla King reflects on her two vocations and the wonder of listening to and loving those with whom we disagree. Read the article [here](#).

Partnering to Restore Safe, Stable Housing After Texas Hill Country Flood. ERD Press Release.

Episcopal Relief & Development, in partnership with the Community Foundation of the Texas Hill Country and the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas, has launched a recovery and resilience program focused on replacing and repairing recreational vehicles (RVs) for households whose primary residences were destroyed by the July 4, 2025, Texas Hill Country flood. The initiative will support low-income residents who are un- or underinsured in finding a path to recovery. Please continue to pray for the communities affected by the July 4th Texas Hill Country Flood. Read more [here](#).

From a San Antonio Sidewalk, a Congregation Blooms.

The Living Church recently published an article about the growing outreach ministry, Sidewalk Saturday at Christ Church, San Antonio. Read the article [here](#).

From The Episcopal Church

The new Archbishop of Canterbury.
Learn more about the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Reverend Sarah Mullally. Learn more [here](#).

154 Episcopal bishops issue message calling for immigration policies respecting the dignity of all. By David Paulsen, Episcopal News Service

More than half of all living bishops in The Episcopal Church added their names to a “message to our fellow Americans” expressing “grief, righteous anger and steadfast hope” in response to the aggressive federal immigration enforcement operations that have left two U.S. citizens in Minnesota dead. The 154 bishops who signed the lengthy message are a diverse mix of diocesan bishops, suffragans and retirees from all regions of the United States and the church’s Latin American dioceses, and they represent the church’s broad racial, ethnic, and theological spectrum. Many of the bishops also appeared on camera to read aloud the written message for a video released January 31.

Read the Episcopal News Service Story [here](#).

Read the Letter and Watch the Video [here](#).

March Birthdays

May you be like the tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever it does prospers. (Psalm 1:3)

Roy Leonard	Flip Bushey
Paige DeStazio	Jim Greer
Pam Calvert	Danielle Langford
Anne Blake	Annette Regist
Paulette Schwoebel	Ellen Yelverton

MARCH CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Worship 8 & 10am (C) Sunday School 9:15am (L)	2 Staff Meeting 9am (L) Prayer Meeting 12pm (L) AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH)	3	4 HOME 10am-3:30pm (CH, C, L, VEB) Lenten Study 6-8pm (CH)	5 Eucharist 11am (ARC) Choir Practice 2-3pm (C) AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH)	6	7
8 Worship 8 & 10am (C) Sunday School 9:15am (L) <i>Spring Forward Daylight Saving Time Begins</i>	9 Staff Meeting 9am (L) Prayer Meeting 12pm (L) AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH)	10 Vestry Meeting 6pm (CH)	11 HOME 10am-3:30pm (CH, C, L, VEB) Lenten Study 6-8pm (CH)	12 Eucharist 11am (ARC) Choir Practice 2-3pm (C) AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH)	13	14
15 Worship 8 & 10am (C) Sunday School 9:15am (L)	16 Staff Meeting 9am (L) Prayer Meeting 12pm (L) AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH)	17	18 HOME 10am-3:30pm (CH, C, L, VEB) Lenten Study 6-8pm (CH)	19 Eucharist 11am (ARC) Choir Practice 2-3pm (C) AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH)	20	21
22 Worship 8 & 10am (C) Sunday School 9:15am (L)	23 Staff Meeting 9am (L) Prayer Meeting 12pm (L) AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH)	24	25 HOME 10am-3:30pm (CH, C, L, VEB) Lenten Study 6-8pm (CH)	26 Eucharist 11am (ARC) Choir Practice 2-3pm (C) Dining Out 6:30pm (TBD) AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH)	27	28 Last Day of Spring Cleanup Making Palm Crosses 10am (CH)
29 Palm Sunday Worship 8 & 10am (C) Sunday School 9:15am (L)	30 Staff Meeting 9am (L) Prayer Meeting 12pm (L) AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH)	31				

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

MARCH 2026 SUNDAY MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Ministry	March 1 Lent 2	March 8 Lent 3	March 15 Lent 4	March 22 Lent 5	March 29 Palm Sunday
Altar Guild	Janet Clere Diane Woods	Tarawanda Howard Suzanne Milton	Maggie Barnes Stephenie McBride	Pat Clarke-Kempf Cindy Hull Diane Woods	Janet Clere Diane Woods
8 AM Reader	Jayne Dunlap	Suzi Hopkins	Joan McClain	Max Hopkins	Jayne Dunlap
8 AM Greeter/Usher	Ron Dunlap	Shawn Cooksey	Max Hopkins	Jayne Dunlap	Suzi Hopkins
8 AM Coffee	Jayne Dunlap	Suzi Hopkins	Tarawanda Howard	Joan McClain	Jayne Dunlap
10 AM Server	Sean Francis	Wayne Mudge	Terry May	Arlene Stalvey	Sean Francis
10 AM Reader	Melissa Mudge	Janet Clere	Diane Woods	Sean Francis	Wayne Mudge
10 AM Greeter/Usher	Diane Woods	Suzanne Milton	Kathy Ercoline	Wayne Mudge	Bill Ercoline
Prayers of the People	Janet Clere	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	Terry May Diane Woods
Home Communion	Ellen Yelverton	No Home Communion	Janet Clere	No Home Communion	Ellen Yelverton
Prayer Ministry	Ellen Yelverton	Maribeth Likins	Ellen Yelverton	Maribeth Likins	Ellen Yelverton
10 AM Coffee	Melissa Mudge	Diane Woods Terry May	Kathy Ercoline	Colleen Hubberd	Melissa Mudge
Audio Visual	Wayne Mudge	Terry May	Jay Barnes	Wayne Mudge	Kristina Robinson
Lockup/Security	Terry May	Arlene Stalvey	Cindy Hull	Willard Whitworth	Ellen Yelverton

Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord your God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these." *Mark 12:29-31*

MAKING PALM CROSSES

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Liz Sampson graciously agreed to organize and show everyone interested how to make the palm crosses for our Palm Sunday services. Please join her in Creasy Hall at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 28. All you need is your willingness to help and a pair of scissors.



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