



Matt's Missive

May 2026

New Sermon Series Begins

With the arrival of the season of Pentecost, we're beginning a new long sermon series at St. Matthew's. The word "genesis" means "beginning," and the Biblical book of Genesis contains the stories that begin the narrative of God's people Israel, and of the Christian faith story. The lectionary for this year instructs us to read through a great many of the Genesis stories as our first reading on Sunday, so we're going to be using those as our primary preaching texts from now through November.

When many Christians read Genesis, we read it looking for great characters that we can imitate as examples: Abraham, the man of great faith; Jacob, who wrestled the angel; Joseph, who interpreted dreams. The problem with this kind of selective reading is that all of the great characters in the narratives are deeply flawed, human people. It's much more than a string of human examples, or of archetypes.

Genesis is a great story about God, God's creation, and God's people. We will explore the meaning of God's purpose in creation, his promises, his presence with Israel's descendants, and finally God's provision.

During Christian formation time in between services, we will do some scholarly deeper dives that are better done in a studios setting. Each week we'll look at the gospel stories assigned from Matthew. Mother Barbara and I are hopeful that the series will be invigorating for our life together as a parish.

Cristopher+

PLEASE JOIN US!

Dining Out on Thursday, May 28th, at 6:30 p.m.

Shang-Hai Chinese Restaurant

2935 Pat Booker Rd, #130. Universal City, TX 78148

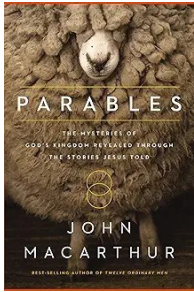
RSVP by May 26th to Maribeth Likins



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.

New Wednesday Evening Study

By Diane Woods



Our Wednesday Night Study Group begins a new 10-week study using *“Parables: The Mysteries of God's Kingdom Revealed Through the Stories Jesus Told”* by John MacArthur. During this study we will discover how Jesus’ parables can help us better understand God’s Word and how to live today.

“Parables will help you see Jesus' teachings in a brand-new light, addressing some of the most common questions on the topic, including:

- When did Jesus start teaching in parables?
- What makes parables so accessible?
- How can we interpret these stories?
- What common threads link each of the parables together?
- What do parables teach us about the kingdom of God?”

The study starts on June 3rd (please read first chapter) and ends August 5th. 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 prayer at approximately 8:00. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex on Sunday, or you can call the office.

Books were ordered and are available in the office. The cost of the book is \$12.00, payable to Diane Woods. If you prefer, you can purchase the Kindle book from Amazon.com for \$11.99. There is also a Parables workbook available on Amazon for \$14.57 although it is not required.

We invite everyone to join us on Wednesday evenings for lively discussion, learning, and fellowship!

Thank You!

To all my new friends at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Universal City, TX, thank you for the hospitality and kindness during worship and fellowship! It was a humbling honor to share in word and sacrament with y'all. Please stay in touch. If you would like to receive a weekly devotional in your email, please subscribe here: <https://open.substack.com/pub/inspiredhuman>.

Dairus Barnes

RACAP NEWS

By Kathy Ercoline

HAPPY 43RD ANNIVERSARY RACAP!

RACAP History: RACAP opened its doors on May 2, 1983. Father Robert Creasy had the vision, passion, and drive to keep it going until they had the pantry set up. Several community leaders and church clergy joined him. They established RACAP with the goal to meet the needs of low-income people in the community. They felt a central location was necessary to funnel resources and to refer needy people where records could be kept to deter abuse of the system. The current RACAP building is generously provided by the Schertz Housing Authority, rent free. RACAP started with 9 Member Churches and \$600 to purchase food items that assisted local families in need. In November 1983, a motion was made to include rental and utility assistance. At that time, a \$25.00 limit was made for each family. By May 1984, RACAP had served 250 families.

There was a disastrous flood in the area in October 1998. Water filled the RACAP building and records from 1985-1998 were destroyed. During the flood recovery, the Red Cross relied on RACAP for emergency food. The pantry shelves were quickly emptied. Volunteers cleaned up the pantry and repairs were made. During that time, RACAP operated from the First Baptist Church of Schertz. After six months, RACAP reopened the pantry doors and has been serving families ever since.

RACAP has continued to grow throughout the years. It currently has 25 Member Churches and assists families in 8 different zip codes. In 2025, RACAP handed out just under \$195,889.00 worth of food and paid \$79,303.67 towards rent and utility assistance.

RACAP IS HOUSED IN AN INCREDIBLE AND GENEROUS COMMUNITY!

“May his face shine on you and be gracious to you” Numbers 6:25

SCHOOL SUPPLIES PROGRAM: RACAP will start collecting supplies for our upcoming back to school program soon. This program helps clients with the high cost of school supplies as well as our dedicated teachers in our community. Often, teachers will use their personal funds to help provide school supplies for the students in their classrooms. Lists of needed supplies will be posted in the Narthex and Creasy Hall. More information about the program will be in next month’s Matt Missive.

Current Pantry Needs:

Bars of Soap

Laundry Soap

Dish Soap

Shampoo

RACAP Month in Review

April 2026 Assistance Results

of Families Assisted 66 ~ # of People Assisted 179
of Pantry Orders Prepared 5766 ~ # of People Fed 150
Estimated Value of Food Given: \$13,685.00

“Thank you for helping us help others.”

Hospitality Notes

By Melissa Mudge

Many Thanks

Thank you, people of St. Matthew's – You make the everyday events of our lives special. Our Easter Finger Food Luncheon was delicious and fun, even with the indoor Easter Egg Hunt. Mother's Day was a great day for our mothers with children and the women who mother us.

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, always on the ready to provide snacks and joy.
- ◆ 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 – Looking good! Thanks for keeping our kitchen clean and sanitary. New filters and a repaired dishwasher keep the cooks 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

- ◆ **June 11—Celebrating St. Barnabas.** Acts 11:25a. *Then Barnabas went to Tarsus.* From Forward Day by Day, May | June | July 2026 – Written by Megan Preston Meyer
“Rain is refreshing, especially in summer. A peaceful summer shower nourishes and encourages the crops in the field. Hail, on the other hand, is not good for crops. It batters and damages – the opposite of encouragement.
Saint Barnabas, whom we remember today, was called, “Son of Encouragement” by the apostles. His encouraging, diplomatic manner made a mark on the early church; it was Barnabas who vouched for Paul when the apostles were leery of the genuineness of his conversion. Barnabas later went to Tarsus to find Paul and encourage him to join him in Antioch. Barnabus and Paul ministered together for more than a year, which probably also required some peacemaking – Paul was not know as the easiest colleague.
Barnabas’s gentle encouragement and ability to smooth over conflicts made him instrumental in growing and nourishing the early church. Today, he is honored as the patron saint of peacemakers – and invoked for protection from hailstorms.
Moving Forward: How can you model Barnabas’s spirit of encouragement this week?”

(Continued on next page)

Hospitality Notes (Continued)

Special Days/Events

- ◆ **June 14—Flag Day.** *“Almighty God, who hast given us this good land for our heritage: We humbly beseech thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of thy favor and glad to do thy will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in thy Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to thy law, we may show forth thy praise among the nations of the earth. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in thee to fail, all which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”* Book of Common Prayer p. 820.
- ◆ **June 21—Father’s Day.**
“We give our thanks, Creator God, for the fathers in our lives. Fatherhood does not come with a manual, and reality teaches us that some fathers excel while others fail. We ask for Your blessings for them all and forgiveness where it is needed. This Father’s Day we remember the many sacrifices fathers make for their children and families, and the ways--both big and small--they lift children to achieve dreams thought beyond reach. So too, we remember all those who have helped fill the void when fathers pass early or are absent; grandfathers and uncles, brothers and cousins, teachers, pastors and coaches and the women of our families. For those who are fathers, we ask for wisdom and humility in the face of the task of parenting. Give them the strength to do well by their children and by You. In Your Holy name, O God, we pray. Amen.” (Rev. Chuck Currie)
- ◆ **June 24—Nativity of St. John the Baptist.** Luke 1:66. *All who heard them pondered them and said, “What then will this child become?” For indeed the hand of the Lord was with him.*
From Forward Day by Day, May | June | July 2026 – Written by Megan Preston Meyer.
“John the Baptist is fascinating. He is the forerunner of Christ, one of the most important prophets ever, and yet, the Bible only has a few paragraphs about him. Other prophets, even minor ones, get entire books named after them. But – and here’s what’s fascinating – I bet John really wouldn’t care. He wasn’t in it for the glory, at least not his own. He did his job and did it well: paving the way for the Messiah. He was focused on his mission and didn’t care about having a book written about him. He didn’t care about being recognized as an industry leader or being named one of LinkedIn’s Top 40 Prophets Under 40. These days we can hardly conceive of someone who so clearly played an important role being so utterly unconcerned with recognition. He wasn’t trying to ride Jesus’s coattails. He wasn’t worried about leveraging this success into a step up the career ladder. John the Baptist exemplified humility by being perfectly content to play a supporting role. Moving Forward: What steps can you take to be more humble?”



Happenings Around The Diocese

SUMMER CAMPS ARE HERE

DUNCAN PARK: The Mountains are Calling - Spend your summer in Colorado! A few of the dates are below. Click [here](#) to view all Duncan Park events.

Family Camp 1: June 14-19

Junior High Camp: June 21-26

Family Camp II: June 28-July 3

Senior High Adventure Camp: July 12-17

Senior High Backpack Trip: July 19-25

Senior High Explorers: July 19-25

CAMP CAPERS: Nestled in the Beautiful Texas Hill Country! A few of the dates are below. Click [here](#) to view all Camp Capers events.

Senior High Camp A: May 31 - June 6

Junior High Camp A: June 7 - 13

Primary Camp A: June 14 - 19

Intermediate Camp A: June 21 - 27

MUSTANG ISLAND CONFERENCE CENTER: Located directly on the Gulf of Mexico! A few of the Mustang Island Family Camp dates are below. Click [here](#) to view all Mustang Island Conference Center events.

Session 1 - May 28-31

Session 2 - June 4-7

Session 3 - June 11-14

Session 4 - June 18-21

Session 5 - June 25-28

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

Celebrating our History: Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month (AAPI).

AAPI Heritage Month honors the history, culture, and accomplishments of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders in the United States. It highlights the vast contributions of these communities to American history and society, celebrating diverse backgrounds from across Asia and the Pacific Islands. Introduced as a week-long celebration in 1977, the joint resolution was passed and signed by President Carter in 1978. AAPI Heritage week was expanded to a monthly observance in the 1990's.

This year also marks the 80th anniversary of the closing of the last WWII Internment Camp, [Tule Lake in California](#). Learn more about AAPI Heritage Month [here](#).

Episcopal Church Foundation in West Texas: Helping Churches to Build Financial Stability and Growth. (from *laVentana, The Church News of West Texas*).

Churches investing with the Foundation are provided individual guidance that helps them achieve their financial goals and peace of mind. From helping churches invest their financial assets to establishing trusts that help ensure future financial stability, the Foundation takes a personalized approach to creating investment strategies that align with each church's financial goals. Read the full article [here](#).

At this year's Diocesan Council, Dan Butt, Executive Director of the Foundation, along with the Rev. Gerald Phelps, St. Andrew's, Corpus Christi, and the Rev. Tim Swan, Grace Episcopal, San Antonio gave presentations on how Church Foundation is helping churches to achieve financial solidity. View reports from Council [here](#).

DWTX in the News

The Diocese of West Texas and St. Peter's, Kerrville received 2026 Polly Bond Awards for Excellence in Communications at the 2026 Episcopal Communicators Conference held in April in San Diego, California.

The Diocese of West Texas' Communication Department awards included:

Five Things in the Diocese of West Texas - Award of Excellence for Digital Newsletter/Magazine for a Diocese

Discovery Weekend logo - Award of Excellence for Graphic Design

laVentana, The Church News of West Texas - Award of Merit for Print Newsletter/Magazine for a Diocese

When the Church Leaves the Building - Honorable Mention for Long-Form Video

Lauren Vereen and St. Peter's, Kerrville awards included:

The Rock Road newsletter - Awards of Excellence for Best Print Newsletter/Magazine for a Parish or Cathedral

Sunday Safe Place - Award of Merit for Photography

Click here for more information on joining the Episcopal Communicators group, their upcoming Virtual Episcopal Communicators Conference and Affinity Groups. View the 2026 Awards here.

June Birthdays

*I thank my God every time I remember you.
In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy. (Philippians 1:3-4)*

Tish Barnhart	Larry Milton
Crystal Francis	Fredrick Uzoka
Jim Gentner	Paul Rodriguez
James Reed	Scott Bradlaw
Karen Gordon	Debi Clere
Ann Vellom	Rick Creekmore
Athena Bryant-Wood	Sean Keane-Dawes
Carrigan Corso	Shirley Moore
Jinny Smith	

Watch over thy children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

JUNE CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<p style="text-align: center;">1</p> <p>Staff Meeting 9am (L)</p> <p>Prayer Meeting 12pm (L)</p> <p>AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH)</p>	2	<p style="text-align: center;">3</p> <p>Wednesday Night Study 6-8pm (CH)</p>	4	5	6
<p style="text-align: center;">7</p> <p>Worship 8 & 10am (C)</p> <p>Sunday School 9:15am (L)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">8</p> <p>Staff Meeting 9am (L)</p> <p>Prayer Meeting 12pm (L)</p> <p>AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">9</p> <p>Vestry Meeting 6pm (CH)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">10</p> <p>Wednesday Night Study 6-8pm (CH)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">11</p> <p>Eucharist 11am (ARC)</p> <p>AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH)</p>	12	13
<p style="text-align: center;">14</p> <p>Worship 8 & 10am (C)</p> <p>Sunday School 9:15am (L)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">15</p> <p>Staff Meeting 9am (L)</p> <p>Prayer Meeting 12pm (L)</p> <p>AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH)</p>	16	<p style="text-align: center;">17</p> <p>Wednesday Night Study 6-8pm (CH)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">18</p> <p>Eucharist 11am (ARC)</p> <p>AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH)</p>	19	20
<p style="text-align: center;">21</p> <p>Worship 8 & 10am (C)</p> <p>Sunday School 9:15am (L)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">22</p> <p>Staff Meeting 9am (L)</p> <p>Prayer Meeting 12pm (L)</p> <p>AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH)</p>	23	<p style="text-align: center;">24</p> <p>Wednesday Night Study 6-8pm (CH)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">25</p> <p>Eucharist 11am (ARC)</p> <p>Dining Out 6:30pm (TBD)</p> <p>AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH)</p>	26	27
<p style="text-align: center;">28</p> <p>Worship 8 & 10am (C)</p> <p>Sunday School 9:15am (L)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">29</p> <p>Staff Meeting 9am (L)</p> <p>Prayer Meeting 12pm (L)</p> <p>AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH)</p>	30				

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

JUNE 2026 SUNDAY MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Ministry	June 7	June 14	June 21 Father's Day	June 28
Altar Guild	Maggie Barnes Stephenie McBride	Pat Clarke-Kempf Cindy Hull Diane Woods	Janet Clere Diane Woods	Tarawanda Howard Suzanne Milton
8 AM Reader	Suzi Hopkins	Joan McClain	Max Hopkins	Jayne Dunlap
8 AM Greeter/Usher	Ron Dunlap	Suzi Hopkins	Shawn Cooksey	Max Hopkins
8 AM Coffee	Tarawanda Howard	Joan McClain	Jayne Dunlap	Suzi Hopkins
10 AM Server	Wayne Mudge	Sean Francis	Arlene Stalvey	Terry May
10 AM Reader	Janet Clere	Sean Francis	Maribeth Likins	Diane Woods
10 AM Greeter/Usher	Melissa Mudge	Suzanne Milton	Kathy Ercoline	Wayne Mudge
Prayers of the People	Maribeth Likins	Ellen Yelverton	Janet Clere	Bill Ercoline
Newcomer Visits	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
Prayer Ministry	Ellen Yelverton	Maribeth Likins	Ellen Yelverton	Maribeth Likins
10 AM Coffee	Kathy Ercoline	Colleen Hubberd	Melissa Mudge	Terry May Diane Woods
Audio Visual	Terry May	Jay Barnes	Wayne Mudge	Kristina Robinson
Lockup/Security	Cindy Hull	Willard Whitworth	Ellen Yelverton	Tarawanda Howard

Band and Bible Mission & Scholarship Fund Uganda 2026 – Late June/Early July

The Band and Bible Mission to Uganda was begun in 2013 by the late Rev. Eric Fenton and Richard Wallace. The current percussion instructor was added after the first year.

By the end of the second year a scholarship committee was formed. Three dioceses in Uganda are served by this mission – Namirembe, Bunyoro-Kitara, and Nebbi.

There is need for donors, sponsors and prayers. Donations can include musical instruments, laptop computers, and/or money. Please check out the flyer in the Narthex and Parish Hall for pictures of previous year's mission trips and a breakdown of how donations will be used.

For more information you can contact: Richard Wallace (210-219-6861, rfwall@swbell.net) or Robert Packer (210-501-8990, rpacker_1999@yahoo.com).

"Music can change the world because it can change people." – Bono
"Where words fail, music speaks." – Hans Christian Andersen

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