



Matt's Missive

June 2026



July 4th Message from Our Bishops

"...the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations." (Rev. 22:2)

Major anniversaries are opportunities for Christians to reflect, give thanks, and see where God has been working and moving in our lives and communities. As July 4 approaches, there are two anniversaries on the minds of many in the Diocese of West Texas this year.

This July 4 is the first anniversary of the devastating flood that claimed so many lives along the Guadalupe River last summer. As we approach this anniversary, we do so with feelings of both sorrow and gratitude. On this first anniversary, we mourn with those who lost family members and dear friends, neighbors and fellow parishioners, children and grandchildren, homes and a way of life. We pray with and for those who are heart broken. We also give thanks for the incredibly generous outpouring of love, financial contributions, prayers and hours of ministry which continue to bring healing, relief and hope to the Hill Country. Jesus taught, "blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted." (Matt. 5:4). We pray that pausing to remember this anniversary in our congregations and homes will bring some small comfort to those who mourn, and remind us all that the God of Hope is with us.

This July 4, America celebrates the 250th Anniversary of the declaration of her independence and the birth of our nation. We give thanks for those founders who had a vision of a country that could be, "one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." We give thanks for the countless men and women in every generation who ventured much for the liberties we now enjoy: those who served in our Armed Forces; local, state and national political leaders; Civil Rights workers and Judges.

(Continued on next page)

PLEASE JOIN US!

Dining Out on Thursday, June 25th, at 6:30 p.m.

Bella Sera Italian Kitchen

2921 Pat Booker Rd, #100, Universal City, TX 78148

RSVP by June 23rd 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.

July 4th Message from Our Bishops *(Continued)*

When a people have a big dream, they constantly live between the present and the “not yet.” While America is a great nation, the American dream is not yet fully realized and fully experienced by all people. We have deep political divisions which need healing. Poverty still imprisons some. And we sometimes fail to live-into the truth that all people are created equal. We have work to do to realize the vision described by our founders, and the dream cast by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. America cannot rest until all experience the opportunities, freedoms, justice, and peace for which every generation of Americans has aspired. This year we celebrate our 250th birthday, give thanks and recommit ourselves to obtain that beautiful vision for all people.

In the Revelation to John, the author is given a vision in which God makes God’s home among mortals in a new Jerusalem. John describes that in this city runs a river, and on its bank grows the Tree of Life, whose leaves “are for the healing of the nations.” This July 4, let us pray for the healing of those who still grieve the tragedy of last summer’s flood, and for the power to continue to work for their relief. May we give thanks for God’s abundant blessings on our nation, the courage of those who made it possible, and the strength to continue to strive for liberty and justice for all.

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

Prayers for July 4, 2026

Heavenly Father, your Spirit moved over the waters in the beginning of creation, and your Son Jesus was baptized in the River Jordan: Send your Holy Spirit to comfort all those impacted by the floods of last summer. Give us strength when we still struggle; comfort us as we still mourn; and give us grateful hearts for the outpouring of love and prayers. Remind us daily that our hope is found in you, and you are with us and those we love to the end of the ages. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O Judge of the nations, we remember before you with grateful hearts the men and women of our country who in the day of decision ventured much for the liberties we now enjoy. Grant that we may not rest until all the people of this land share the benefits of true freedom and gladly accept its disciplines. This we ask in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.* (Book of Common Prayer, page 839)

Lord God Almighty, in whose Name the founders of this country won liberty for themselves and for us, and lit the torch of freedom for nations then unborn: Grant that we and all the people of this land may have grace to maintain our liberties in righteousness and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.* (Book of Common Prayer, page 242)

Holy Baptism May 31, 2026



"You are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever. Amen."



Matthew with his parents, Kaeli & Paul, & Fr. Cristopher.



Matthew with his Godparents, Cindi & Ralph.



Education for Ministry (EfM) Graduates

Education for Ministry (EfM) is a four-year spiritual formation program for adults, that was developed in the School of Theology at the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee. The EfM program provides people with the education to carry out the ministry to which they are called in baptism. Through study, prayer, and reflection, EfM groups move toward a new understanding of the fullness of God's kingdom.



Richard Wallace (far left) and Mark Mutz (far right) joined us at the 10:00 a.m. service on June 14 to present diplomas and pins to the graduates: (left - right) Jayne Dunlap, Melissa Mudge, Elizabeth Sampson, Arlene Stalvey, and Erica Valle (Church of Reconciliation).



RACAP NEWS

By Kathy Ercoline

RACAP's Reminder: "School is out, and summer vacation has begun! Many children are home throughout the summer months and may not have the means for regular meals. Please pray for these families. If you know of someone who may need help with extra meals, send them to RACAP. The pantry shelves are stocked and ready to give out to those in need. Please share RACAP's contact information – Email racap@att.net, Phone 210-658-1613, Website, racap.org

Current Pantry Needs:

Cereal	Jelly	Muffin Mix	Jello Mix	Spaghetti Sauce
Shampoo	Dish Soap	Laundry Soap	Toilet Paper	Diapers size 6 & 7

Our St. Matthew's congregation is currently collecting School Supplies for RACAP's annual BACK TO SCHOOL PROGRAM. See the list below of the items needed. Your donations can help so many!

Pre-K-Elementary School

#2 pencils
Pens
Colored Pencils
Washable Markers
Rulers
Crayons
Scissors
Glue sticks
2 – Wide rule spiral notebooks
1 – Wide rule paper
1-2 Wide rule composition books

Middle/Junior/High School

#2 Pencils
Pens
Colored Pens
1-College rule paper
2-Collete rule spiral notebooks
2-College rule composition books

Place the supplies in 2.5 gallon jumbo clear storage bags and write on the front the school distinction (Middle, Junior or High School). We also need donations of toothpaste and toothbrushes to be included in the school supply kits. Please supplies drop off at RACAP by July 14, 2026.

THANK YOU Note from a RACAP Client: *"I want to thank you for the help with the groceries you provided me yesterday. It was a blessing. I'm going through a rough patch recently, although it's my first time asking for any kind of assistance, I appreciate the assistance. Once I get back on my feet I'll see if I can help in any way. I know God is good."*

RACAP Month in Review

May 2026 Assistance Results

of Families Assisted 88 ~ # of People Assisted 252
of Pantry Orders Prepared 77 ~ # of People Fed 232
Estimated Value of Food Given: \$20,180.00

"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. May was graduation month: Advanced degrees, High School diplomas, and soon to be EfM. The journey continues. Thanks for sharing these proud moments.

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’ve got your number!
- ♦ Kitchen Clean-up – Looking good! Thanks for keeping our kitchen clean and sanitary. The good fairy works magic in our kitchen. And it takes more than a magic wand. Thank you.

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

- ♦ **July 2—Celebrating Moses the Black.** Romans 8:1. *There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.*

From Forward Day by Day, May | June | July 2026 – Written by Tina Francis.

“It’s odd, isn’t it, the sort of people God calls saints. Take Moses the Black. Gang leader. Thief. Outlaw. He didn’t wander into a monastery seeking Jesus – he was hiding out after a robbery gone wrong. And somehow... God said, Stay. So, he did.

Oh, he slipped. Raged. Probably cussed in Aramaic. But he stayed. Even when holiness felt far away. Even when old habits came back. By the end, the hot-headed outlaw had become a gentle elder. When armed men came, Moses refused to fight. He chose peace. He laid down his life.

I think about that a lot. There are days I want to bolt. Days when the house is loud and no one listens. When my child pushes every button. When marriage feels like a song I’ve forgotten the words to. But I stay – imperfectly, on purpose. I stay at the sink, the bedside, the table, when I’d rather retreat. Maybe that’s the bravest thing I do. Not slay dragons. Not fix cancer. Just stay. Sometimes redemption is forged not in the fleeing, but in the staying.”

(Continued on next page)

Hospitality Notes *(Continued)*

Special Days/Events

- ♦ **July 4—250th Birthday of the United States of America. With liberty and justice for all.** Deuteronomy 10:19. *You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.*

From Forward Day by Day, May | June | July 2026 – Written by Tina Francis.

“I remember pulling up to the border – Canada behind us, the U.S. ahead – passports stacked in hand, our toddler clutching his blankie. The air tightened as we neared the booth. The officer’s questions came in a casually cruel tone. My husband answered in the voice immigrants practice: bright, deferential, don’t-make-this-worse. Only after the gate lifted – after the nod that meant you may go – did we exhale.

It is tempting to sentimentalize freedom on Independence Day – to wrap it in bunting, drench it in barbecue sauce, call it holy. But scripture won’t let me forget what it means to be a body out of place. “Love the stranger, for you were strangers.” Not antiseptic niceness, but resistance to empire. Remember. Be formed into a peculiar people. Let memory shape your ethics.

This is not ethics for the powerful – it’s for exiles. For those who remember the taste of dust and manna. The ones who know how long welcome takes to grow inside a body.”

- ♦ **July 6—Celebrating Eva Lee Matthews.**

“O God, whose blessed Son became poor that we through his poverty might be rich:

Deliver us from an inordinate love of this world, that, inspired by the devotion of your servant Eva Lee Matthews, we may serve you with singleness of heart, and attain to the riches of the age to come; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*” (Source:

<https://www.lectionarypage.net/LesserFF/Jul/Matthews.html>)

- ♦ **July 6—Celebrating Elizabeth Cady Staton, Amelia Bloomer, and Sojourner Truth**

- ♦ **July 30—Celebrating Wilbur Wilberforce.** Psalm 70:1b. *O Lord, make haste to help me.*

From Forward Day by Day, May | June | July 2026 – Written by Tina Francis .

“The beauty of this prayer is that it’s already pared to the bone. It’s the kind you say when your stomach drops right through you, when you’re kneeling on the bathroom floor, tiles cold, ribs rising and falling in short, shallow bursts, and you can’t remember the long psalms. Only this: Come now.

William Wilberforce must have prayed this one, bitter and metallic in the mouth, while standing before the colossal, many-headed beast of the slave trade. Year after year, door after slammed door, vote after lost vote. It’s the liturgy of those who’ve done everything human hands can do and are left staring at the fortress still standing.

It is the prayer you say when you need God to be immediate. Not someday. Now.

And maybe that’s why these words have lasted – because they fit in the mouths of the breathless. Brevity is the miracle: a blade honed sharp enough to cut through centuries of urgent need.”



Happenings Around The Diocese

Summer Camps are ongoing at Camp Capers, Duncan Park, and Mustang Island Conference Center.

Mother/Daughter Retreat: September 25-27 at Camp Capers.

Mothers, Daughters and Grandmothers of all ages are invited to a weekend at Camp Capers that centers on growing and kindling that unique and special bond that mothers and daughters have while participating in fun and faith-centered activities such as swimming, high ropes, kayaking, gardening, arts and crafts, hiking, worship services, Bible lessons, and so much more.

Cursillo #301 - Breath of God: October 8-11 at Mustang Island Conference Center. 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. Cursillo is patterned on Jesus' own example. He searched and called groups of potential leaders, trained them, and sent them out to bring the world to Him. The Cursillo weekend begins on Thursday evening and ends on Sunday afternoon. During the weekend, participants engage in study, reflection, fellowship, and worship.

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.



EPISCOPAL
DIOCESE
of West Texas

From the Blog

Bishop's 21st Annual Golf Classic – Monday, September 21, 2026!

Early Birdie Registration is Open! Form your teams now! Sign up by August 15, 2026, and receive the Early Bird(ie) Discount! The generosity of our golfers and sponsors enables scholarships for children and families from across the diocese, as well as children and individuals from organizations such as Good Samaritan Community Services, St. Jude's Ranch for abused and neglected children, the Magdalena House, and Transformation House, as well as Wounded Warriors and Veterans. Learn more and register [here](#).

Threads of Blessing Exhibit – June 9-July 20, Cappy's Restaurant, 5011 Broadway, San Antonio 78209.

Bring your friends to the Threads of Blessing exhibit of embroideries by the women of Uganda at Cappy's Restaurant in San Antonio. In addition to the ongoing exhibit, you are invited to a reception which will be held at Cappy's on June 28, 3:30-5:00 p.m. 100% of the proceeds from the sale of their embroideries is returned directly to each artist. Learn more [here](#).

An update on the Diocesan Recreational Vehicle (RV) & Manufactured Home Recovery Program.

Through generous grants provided by The Community Foundation and Episcopal Relief & Development, the Diocese of West Texas is leading the effort to provide safe housing by the one-year anniversary of the flood to 50% of those who lost their homes. Learn more [here](#).

(Continued on next page)

From the Blog *(Continued)*

As Pride Month continues, we look to the 50th Anniversary of 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)

Join The Episcopal Church in September at a three-day conference on the past, present and future of LGBTQ+ involvement in the life of the church in honor of the 50th anniversary of Resolution 1097-A071. The conference is scheduled for September 3-5, to be held in Minneapolis. "Full & Equal: 50 years in Pursuit of a Promise," will be full of worship, workshops, and storytelling. Learn more [here](#)



The Church of Reconciliation in partnership with St. Paul's, St. George, St. Thomas, Holy Spirit, St. Andrew's, St. Matthew's, and Lighthouse Faith invite you to take part in The San Antonio Pride Parade. The parade is June 27th at 9pm.



Ministry Spotlight

The World Missions Department seeks to share the Good News by building relationships and sustainable global partnerships and works with various partners around the world to help educate and keep people healthy while spreading the love of Jesus.

At Council 2026, the Rt. Rev. Dr. David G. Read, D.D., Bishop of West Texas, provided an update on the work and outreach being done through various missions and ministries that are supported by the diocese. He announced the publication of a new World Missions Catalog of Opportunities, created to raise awareness amongst congregations as they seek mission volunteer and giving opportunities. Read more [here](#).

DWTX in the News

'I'm overwhelmed': July 4 flood survivor begins new chapter with the help of community organizations | Zack Briggs (KENS 5, San Antonio)

Nick Panagiotou moved into his new RV home Tuesday, which was a gift made possible by the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas.

"It started off with just RVs. That has since changed because the need is ever increasing," said Jody Guerra with the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas. "We're discovering more and more people that have been affected that didn't know that help was out there."

The Episcopal Diocese of West Texas aims to provide safe housing for at least 50 individuals and families impacted by the floods, though officials say the need could grow. Read the article [here](#).

78209 MAGAZINE – Behind the Green Door by Elizabeth Bobbitt

"When we first opened 73 years ago, our original location was in Cementville, and a lot of folks shopped there because of the affordability of our merchandise. Today, while times have changed, our threefold mission is the same. We provide a place of community for our volunteers and staff, a dignified shopping experience for our customers, and, ultimately, we exist to provide for charity. Last year, we delivered \$200,000 in financial impact to our community," says Chair of the Board of Directors, Roberta Ortega. Read more [here](#).

July Birthdays

John 'Jack' Means	Sean O'Connor
Mallorie Hamilton	Caitlin Baskin
Ron Dunlap	Virginia Mudge
Kathy Coolidge	Asia Boyce
Diane Woods	Matthew Keane-Dawes
Susan Uzoka	Thom Baynum
Mary Lynne Barrow	Joe Corso
Ellen Yelverton	Logan Evans

May God give you of heaven's dew and of earth's richness, an abundance of grain and new wine.
(Genesis 27:28)



UN MINI-RETIRO QUE
NOS AYUDARÀ A
RENOVAR NUESTRA FE
EN CRISTO JESÙS

INSCRÌBASE YA!

**EVENTO SERÀ DE 10:00AM
A 4:00PM.
IGLESIA EPISCOPAL DE LA
RESURRECCIÒN
5909 WALZEM ROAD
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78218**

**COSTO: \$15.00 POR
PERSONA**

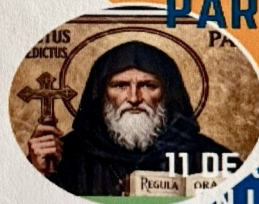
Presentadores: La Dra. Lortiz y el Sr. Miguel
Babilonia
Les Invita Cordialmente:
El Revdo. Chris Cole

EN SU PRESENCIA,

**LA BUENA SEMILLA
SIGUE CRECIENDO...**

Se les invita a
Todos los

**HISPANO-
PARLANTES**



**11 DE JULIO DE 2026
EN LA FIESTA DE
SAN BENITO**
En la Fiesta de

**CON LA REVDA.
LUCHY LITTLEJOHN
MÀS INFORMACIÒN:
(210) 843-9577**

**MINI-RETIRO JULIO 11 DEL 2026
(En la Fiesta de San Benito)**

INSCRIPCIÒN / REGISTRO:

Por favor Use letra de molde (letra de imprenta)

Su Nombre Completo _____

Su nombre como quiere que aparezca en su gafete: _____

Su Dirección Postal: _____

Ciudad/Estado
y Código Postal _____

Sus teléfonos:
casa/celular/oficina _____

Dirección de E-mail _____

Lenguaje: Inglés (Sí) (No) ¿Otro idioma además del Español: _____

País de Origen? _____

¿Nombre de su Iglesia o Denominación a la que Ud.
pertenece? _____

Costo: \$15.00. Puede enviar su pago y esta forma de Inscripción a:

**La Iglesia Episcopal de la Resurrección
Atención: La Revda. Luchy Littlejohn
5909 Walzem Road
San Antonio, Texas 78218**

JULY CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Wednesday Night Study 6-8pm (CH)	2 Eucharist 11am (ARC) AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH)	3	4 Independence Day
5 Worship 8 & 10am (C) Sunday School 9:15am (L)	6 Staff Meeting 9am (L) Prayer Meeting 12pm (L) AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH)	7	8 Wednesday Night Study 6-8pm (CH)	9 Eucharist 11am (ARC) AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH)	10	11
12 Worship 8 & 10am (C) Sunday School 9:15am (L)	13 Staff Meeting 9am (L) Prayer Meeting 12pm (L) AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH)	14 Vestry Meeting 6pm (CH)	15 Wednesday Night Study 6-8pm (CH)	16 Eucharist 11am (ARC) AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH)	17	18
19 Worship 8 & 10am (C) Sunday School 9:15am (L)	20 Staff Meeting 9am (L) Prayer Meeting 12pm (L) AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH)	21	22 Wednesday Night Study 6-8pm (CH)	23 Eucharist 11am (ARC) AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH)	24	25
26 Worship 8 & 10am (C) Sunday School 9:15am (L)	27 Staff Meeting 9am (L) Prayer Meeting 12pm (L) AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH)	28	29 Wednesday Night Study 6-8pm (CH)	30 Eucharist 11am (ARC) Dining Out 6:30pm (TBD) AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH)	31	

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

JULY 2026 SUNDAY MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Ministry	July 5	July 12	July 19	July 26
Altar Guild	Tarawanda Howard Suzanne Milton	Pat Clarke-Kempf Cindy Hull	Janet Clare Diane Woods	Tarawanda Howard Suzanne Milton
8 AM Reader	Joan McClain	Max Hopkins	Jayne Dunlap	Suzi Hopkins
8 AM Greeter/Usher	Jayne Dunlap	Ron Dunlap	Suzi Hopkins	Shawn Cooksey
8 AM Coffee	Tarawanda Howard	Joan McClain	Jayne Dunlap	Suzi Hopkins
10 AM Server	Arlene Stalvey	Wayne Mudge	Terry May	Sean Francis
10 AM Reader	Melissa Mudge	Diane Woods	Janet Clere	Maribeth Likins
10 AM Greeter/Usher	Bill Ercoline	Diane Woods	Arlene Stalvey	Melissa Mudge
Prayers of the People	Maribeth Likins	Ellen Yelverton	Janet Clere	Maribeth Likins
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	Ellen Yelverton	No Home Communion
Prayer Ministry	Janet Clere	Maribeth Likins	Janet Clere	Maribeth Likins
10 AM Coffee	Kathy Ercoline	Colleen Hubberd	Melissa Mudge	Terry May Diane Woods
Audio Visual	Terry May	Kristina Robinson	Jay Barnes	Wayne Mudge
Lockup/Security	Terry May	Arlene Stalvey	Cindy Hull	Willard Whitworth

Almighty and most merciful God, we remember before you
all poor and neglected persons whom it would be easy for us
to forget: the homeless and the destitute, the old and the sick,
and all who have none to care for them. Help us to heal those
who are broken in body or spirit, and to turn their sorrow
into joy. Grant this, Father, for the love of your Son, who for
our sake became poor, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Look with pity, O heavenly Father, upon the people in this
land who live with injustice, terror, disease, and death as
their constant companions. Have mercy upon us. Help us to
eliminate our cruelty to these our neighbors. Strengthen those
who spend their lives establishing equal protection of the law
and equal opportunities for all. And grant that every one of
us may enjoy a fair portion of the riches of this land; through
Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

(Book of Common Prayer, page 826)

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