

Sharing From Our Wednesday Evening Study

By Diane Woods

We are nearing the end of our eight-week study using the book *Signs of Life; Nurturing Spiritual Growth in Your Church* by Jay Sidebotham. It has been an interesting study. Although the book is focused on spiritual growth in your church, the church is made up of individuals, so, for me, it is about individual spiritual growth. How am I able to use the practices and suggestions to nurture my spiritual growth?

One chapter was about embedding scripture in everything. It began with the question, "What happens when Episcopalians read the Bible?" I found it interesting that we discussed this on July 3rd. The following Sunday, July 7th, Fr. Christopher asked us to read Ephesians in preparation for his six-week sermon series. (Coincidence?) He also asked us to bring our favorite Bibles with us on Sundays, so we can refer to them as needed.

The role of scripture in our lives is explained in a series of questions in the Outline of Faith (also known as the Catechism) in the Book of Common Prayer:

Question: What are the Holy Scriptures?

Answer: The Holy Scriptures, commonly called the Bible, are the books of the Old and New Testaments; other books, called the Apocrypha, are often included in the Bible.

Question: What is the Old Testament?

Answer: The Old Testament consists of books written by the people of the Old Covenant, under the inspiration of them Holy Spirit, to show God at work in nature and history.

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PLEASE JOIN US!

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

Sukhumvit 77

8214 Pat Booker Rd., Live Oak, TX 78233

RSVP by June 23rd to Ellen Yelverton



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.

Sharing From Our Wednesday Evening Study *(Continued)*

Question: What is the New Testament?

Answer: The New Testament consists of books written by the people of the New Covenant, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, to set forth the life and teachings of Jesus and to proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom for all people.

Question: Why do we call the Holy Scriptures the Word of God?

Answer: We call them the Word of God because God inspired their human authors and because God still speaks to us through the Bible.

Question: How do we understand the meaning of the Bible?

Answer: We understand the meaning of the Bible by the help of the Holy Spirit, who guides the Church in the true interpretation of the Scriptures

Scripture is an important source of learning and hope. It has also been misused which is why it is important we read it in light of tradition, reason, and experience. According to Jay Sidebotham, “it is important we read scripture in community, in a way that welcomes questions and recognizes not only the usefulness but also the abuse that has been inflicted.”

Jesus warned his disciples against idolatry of sacred text in John 5:39, “You search the scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that testify on my behalf.” Or, as C.S. Lewis put it centuries later, “it is Christ himself, not the Bible, who is the true Word of God. The Bible, read in the right spirit and with the guidance of good teachers, will bring us to him.”

That is how I hope, no, pray, to nurture my spiritual growth.

The History of Juneteenth

June 19th or “Juneteenth” commemorates the effective end of slavery in the United States. President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, stating all enslaved people in confederate states “shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free.” The Proclamation, however, did not apply to slave-holding border states or rebel areas under union control. For the slaves in Texas, freedom did not come until two months after General Lee surrendered in Virginia. Federal troops arrived in Galveston TX on June 19, 1865, to take control of the state and ensure all enslaved people were freed. Slavery was formally abolished with the ratification of the 13th Amendment in December 1865.

Freedmen in Texas organized the first of what became an annual celebration, “Jubilee Day,” on June 19, 1866. As black people migrated from Texas to other parts of the country so did the celebration. Juneteenth is considered the longest-running African American holiday. Texas was the first state to make it an official holiday in 1979. In June 2021 Congress passed a resolution to make it a federal holiday and President Biden signed it into law on June 17, 2021. (Source provided by Tarawanda Howard: [What Is Juneteenth? | HISTORY](#))

Hospitality Notes

By Melissa Mudge

Many Thanks

Thank you, people of St. Matthew's. Whatever the need, you are there with unique skills, willing spirits, and helping hands to complete our tasks.

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. You have prepared some super celebration snacks for us - delicious food and friendly time around the table.

Help Wanted: A fourth host to take a turn in the Coffee Hour rotation after the 10:00 a.m. service. Let me know if you are interested.



- ◆ 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.
- ◆ Kitchen Clean-up is happening – When completed, our cooking and serving areas will be sparkling, shiny, and sanitary for another year. The pantry will be organized (for a week at least.!) Thanks to everyone for your hard work and generous offering of your time.

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 t-shirts would make great additions to the bags. Thanks so much.



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Hospitality Notes *(Continued)*

Special Events (Some dates to look forward to)

- ♦ August Sunday TBD—Back to School Blessings. Teachers, students of all ages, and all who are involved with education: Bring your book bag, computer bag, binder, or even a pencil box and receive a blessing to prepare for the 2024-2025 school year.

“O Eternal God, bless all schools, colleges, and universities, that they may be lively centers for sound learning, new discovery, and the pursuit of wisdom; and grant that those who teach and those who learn may find you to be the source of all truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.” (Book of Common Prayer page 824)

Looking ahead to September:

- ♦ September 21—St. Matthew’s Market Day. The sign is up in front of the church, vendors are calling, and Liz & John Sampson are organizing the work details.

The Hospitality committee will be selling breakfast items in the parish hall kitchen window, and hamburgers & hot dogs from the grill outside for lunch. A sign-up sheet will be available soon for preparation, selling items, cooking, and cleaning up. Chefs, with or without grills, are needed for outdoor cooking.

Please consider donating cash or gift cards from HEB or Wal-Mart to help defray the cost of food supplies needed for this event

Thank you! It will be a great day!

- ♦ September 22—Celebrating The Feast of St. Matthew. We will have a single, joint service at 9:00 a.m. followed by a pot luck celebration in Creasy Hall. More details to come.



Military Outreach Ministry

By AGCS Arlene Stalvey, USN (ret)



August 7th is Purple Heart Day -- Since Congress had put a moratorium on promotions in the Continental Army due to a lack of funds, George Washington created the Badge of Military Merit award on August 7, 1782, to honor enlisted men deserving of recognition. In those days only commissioned officers were allowed to pass guards. This award gave a benefit to the enlisted men who warranted it; they were allowed the same privilege as the officers regarding passing the posted guards.

Unfortunately, it was basically forgotten after the Revolutionary War. Then, in 1932, Chief of Staff of the Army Douglas MacArthur renamed it the Purple Heart. By 1942 it was, and is today, awarded to those wounded or killed in military service.

Many communities like San Antonio have signs designating roads and towns as Purple Heart locations to publicly and repeatedly acknowledge their appreciation for the sacrifices made by our men and women in the armed forces. **THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!**

RACAP NEWS

By Kathy Ercoline

Thank you to the St. Matthew's members who participated in the "RACAP School Supplies Program". The generosity of so many made it possible for RACAP to distribute school supplies to every school-aged child who applied for them. The packets will be handed out until school starts in August. St. Matthew's congregation provided more than twenty-five packets. The success of this program would not have happened without the support of the many local churches who supported it.

Current Pantry Needs

Cereal
Spaghetti Sauce
Jell-o
Cream of Soup
Diapers sizes 1 & 6
Shampoo

Month in Review

June 2024 Results
of Families assisted: 126
of People assisted: 364
of Pantry orders prepared: 84
of People fed: 263
Estimated value of food given: \$20,827.00

MONTHLY REMINDER FOR GARDENERS. If you have a summer garden and your harvest is more than you need, RACAP accepts fruits and vegetables. The produce will be included in the grocery orders for clients. Donations can be dropped off at RACAP, Monday through Friday, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

CHECK the DATE. Just a reminder to check the expiration and 'best by' dates on all donated food. RACAP cannot distribute food that past the expiration or best by dates. All dates are double checked by the RACAP volunteer staff, but it is helpful if they receive food that can be distributed.

The following is a thank you letter that the RACAP staff recently received. RACAP is making a difference in people's lives:

"I'd like to take this moment to humbly thank you, and your staff with providing my son, daughter, and I food and miscellaneous items. I was completely blown away and felt a bit overwhelmed with your generosity. I was looking forward to one box of food, and instead you all provided a trunk full.

There are no words to convey my gratitude. From the bottom of my heart, thank you and may the Lord continue to bless your organization, you, and your staff."

ST. MATTHEW'S MEMBERS: Thank you all for your amazing, generous, and continuous support. RACAP helps so many because of your giving hearts. God Bless you all as you continue to hear the words of Jesus when he said, 'FEED MY SHEEP' (John 21:17)

"Thank you for helping us help others."

Happy 100th Birthday Jinny!!!



August Birthdays

I praise you, because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

(Psalm 139:14)

Ben McClain	Brittney Cooksey
Jacqueline Hoskins	Luke Crouch
Chuck Swanberg	Sally Bynum
Sue Bushey	Frank DePasquale
Bob Dooling	Liz Sampson
Kenneth Smith	Terrie Bradlaw
Tom Palmer	Kimberley Erwin
Francine Baskin	Angela Vaticalos
Carmen Perez	

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

Update from the Bishop Suffragan Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee would like to thank everyone who prayerfully considered letting their name be a part of the upcoming Bishop Suffragan Election. All nominations are closed, and the first phase of the vetting process has begun. All nominees have been asked to submit an essay and application documents. The Nominating Committee reviews all documents and content with prayer and discernment to reach consensus on who will continue in the process of creating a slate to present to the diocese. We ask for your continued prayers as we move into the next phase of this discernment process.

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.

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.



Happenings Around The Diocese

Dedication of the Renovated St. Francis Chapel: August 2, 10:00 a.m., at Camp Capers. Plans are underway to rededicate this beautiful and sacred space so please save the date to join us.

Mother/Daughter Retreat: September 20-22 at Camp Capers. Mothers, grandmothers, mother-figures, and daughters 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.

Work Week: September 23-27 at Duncan Park. This work retreat is for adults to come help us better the beautiful camp that is Duncan Park! Attendees will participate in work projects that will range from maintenance and building to area beautification.

Father/Son Retreat: October 25-27 at Camp Capers. Fathers, grandfathers, father-figures, and their sons are invited to a weekend in the hill country, that focuses on growing and kindling that unique bond fathers and sons share while participating in fun and faith centered activities.

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

CAMPS+
Conferences



From the Blog

“God is at work among us and in us and through us, and the Holy Spirit is moving mightily among us.” The Rt. Rev. Dr. David G. Read, D.D., Bishop of West Texas, gives an update on the state of our diocese and more in this [video clip](#).

Sandy Folts, wife of the Rt. Rev. James (Jim) Folts, 8th Bishop of the Diocese West Texas, and beloved member of the diocese, passed away on July 8, in San Antonio, Texas. Read more [here](#).

Introducing *laVentana, The Church News of West Texas*. The publication includes news from around the diocese, and the online edition features includes video interviews with Bishop Read and Canon Leyla King. Read more [here](#).

Presiding Bishop Announcement. The Rt. Rev. Dr. David G. Read, D.D., Bishop of West Texas, gives a behind the scenes look at the election of our next Presiding Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Sean Rowe, during the 81st General Convention. Watch the video message [here](#).

Bishop Read confirmed as the Assistant Secretary of the House of Bishops. Read more [here](#).

Closing Eucharist sermon by Presiding Bishop-elect Sean Rowe. "It's a great day in the Kingdom." Watch Presiding Bishop-elect Sean Rowe's sermon delivered during the June 28 Closing Eucharist service at the 81st General Convention of The Episcopal Church in Louisville, Kentucky. Watch the sermon [here](#).

Discerning Together: What is a Bishop Suffragan? In a recent interview, The Rt. Rev. David G. Read, D.D., Bishop of West Texas, discussed the role of the Bishop Suffragan of West Texas. Watch the video message [here](#).

AUGUST CALENDAR

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

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

AUGUST 2024 SUNDAY MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Ministry	August 4	August 11	August 18	August 25
Altar Guild	Maggie Barnes Stephenie McBride Diane Woods	Terry May Suzanne Milton	Janet Clere Suzanne Milton	Diane Woods Tarawanda Howard
8 AM Reader	Suzi Hopkins	Joan McClain	Max Hopkins	Jayne Dunlap
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	Mendell Morgan	Wayne Mudge	Terry May	Sean Francis
10 AM Reader	Sean Keane-Dawes	Maribeth Likins	Susan Brown	Wayne Mudge
10 AM Greeters/Ushers	Kathy Ercoline Bill Ercoline	Diane Woods Terry May	Maribeth Likins Arlene Stalvey Ted Whittier	Wayne Mudge Melissa Mudge
Prayers of the People	Bill Ercoline	Maribeth Likins	Liz Sampson	Susan Brown
Newcomer Visits	Terry May Diane Woods	Ellen Yelverton	Terry May Diane Woods	Ellen Yelverton
Home Communion	Ellen Yelverton	No Home Communion	Sean Keane-Dawes	No Home Communion
Prayer Ministry	Maribeth Likins	Ellen Yelverton	Mendell Morgan	Maribeth Likins
10 AM Coffee	Kathy Ercoline	Diane Woods Terry May	Diane Woods Terry May	Kathy Ercoline
Audio Visual	Terry May	Kristina Robinson	Wayne Mudge	Terry May
Lockup/Security	Janet Clere	Richard Guerrero	Jayne Dunlap	Maribeth Likins

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 4:10-11)

JUNE 2024 FINANCIAL REPORT

Monthly	Pledge	Plate	Other	Total	2024 YTD	Pledge	Plate	Other	Total
Operating Income Received	\$16,328	\$1,636	\$159	\$18,123	Operating Income Received	\$88,761	\$10,736	\$5,194	\$104,691
Operating Income Budgeted	\$13,869	\$1,652	\$80	\$15,601	Operating Income Budgeted	\$83,217	\$9,910	\$2,139	\$95,266
	Monthly	YTD				Monthly	YTD		
Overall Operating Expenses	\$22,536	\$95,430			Outreach	\$1,335	\$4,880		
Budgeted Operating Expense	\$21,914	\$97,980							

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