

Matt's Missive

August 2024

Caring Umbrella

By Ellen Yelverton

St. Matthew's Church has many diverse ministry opportunities, one of which is the Caring Umbrella. This ministry provides assistance and comfort to parishioners in need. Some of the services offered are:

- ◆ Calling—daily or weekly phone checks.
- ◆ Sending—birthday wishes, get-well cards, and “how-are-you” notes.
- ◆ Driving—people to doctor appointments, to church on Sunday, and to other church events.
- ◆ Providing—emergency childcare.
- ◆ Arranging—the altar flowers to deliver to the homebound.
- ◆ Shopping—for groceries or necessities for those who need assistance.
- ◆ Helping—with small home repairs, changing light bulbs, “honey-do’s.”
- ◆ Sharing—any special skill you might offer.
- ◆ Feeding—Mendell Morgan does a wonderful job organizing and arranging Food for Families during an illness, hospitalization, or other situations where providing meals is needed.

This ministry was active until Covid shut down most personal contact. It could be revitalized now. Many of the original members left or are unable to help, but there are others offering to serve. Let this be an invitation to all parishioners - these services are still available and there are opportunities for everyone to participate in this service to our fellow members of Christ's body.

If you are willing to provide one or more of the services above, please contact me. Also, if you are need of one of the above services, please contact me or the parish office.

PLEASE JOIN US!

Dining Out on Thursday, August 29th, at 6:30 p.m.

The Cookshack

8211 Agora Parkway #112, Selma, TX 78154

RSVP by August 27th to Arlene Stalvey



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.

Cursillo

By Kristina Robinson

Have you wanted to get away from the world and be surrounded by people who love you.... or maybe deeply explore your own spirituality and personal calling... or learn to be joyful in sharing Christ's love? A Cursillo weekend may be just the ticket.

I attended my Cursillo weekend more than 25 years ago. It made a profound impact on my life and my spiritual growth. I made tons of friends, and afterwards studied the Bible with a new depth and appreciation.

The Diocese of West Texas sponsors weekends at both Mustang Island and Camp Capers. Upcoming dates are October 3-6 and November 7-10.

St Matthew's is blessed to have many Cursillistas (those who have already attended a Cursillo weekend). Any of them will tell you how much the weekend meant to them. If you're interested in learning more, please email me at Kristina.Robinson@gmail.com, or talk to Cristopher. I would love for each of you to experience the wonder of this heartfelt event.

Baptism of Silas Luke Luckhurst



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



More from Our Wednesday Evening Study

By Melissa Mudge

Well, we finished our book *Signs of Life; Nurturing Spiritual Growth in Your Church*. Across the theme of spiritual journey, we became acquainted with five principals most frequently found in vital churches (their signs of life): The Heart of the Leader, Get People Moving, Embed Scripture in Everything, Create Ownership, and Pastor the Community. At our Bible Study table we discussed, argued, revealed parts of ourselves, and of course realized that every reading of the Bible brings something new that eyes and mind did not recognize before. Each chapter brought validations to practices we have in place as well as many “oh yeah, we could do that!” moments.

The last chapter is titled-Where Do We Go From Here? We agreed there is a lot of life in our congregation, but spiritual growth is not a destination, it is a journey; a journey toward a deeper love of God and neighbor. The book began, and also ends, with a prayer from the Book of Common Prayer found in the services for ordination of a bishop and a priest, as well as in the services for Good Friday and the Great Vigil of Easter:

“O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.”

The prayer reminds us that any signs of life come at the gracious hand of God, the one who graciously gives life. And in the words of Bishop David G. Read (Council 2024): *“Nothing changes, if nothing changes.”*

Our Patron Saint Matthew

By Melissa Mudge

Matthew was another unlikely person called by Jesus to follow Him. Matthew was a Jew who worked for the occupying Roman forces, collecting taxes from other Jews. We are told it was not uncommon for tax collectors to “collect” extra for themselves. For this reason, he was despised by other Jews.

In Chapter 9 of the Gospel of Matthew we find a brief recounting of the call of Matthew. Jesus saw Matthew sitting at the tax booth and said to him, “Follow me.” Matthew got up and followed Him. They are then having dinner together in a house with more tax collectors and sinners. The Pharisees saw this and questioned the disciples. When Jesus heard them, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.” (Matthew 9:12b-13)

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 for the love that goes into planning, preparation, and serving of our coffee snacks (and more) each week.

Are you ready to join the team? **A Fourth Host is Needed** to take a turn in the Coffee Hour rotation after the 10:00 a.m. service. We look forward to sharing this ministry with YOU.

- ◆ 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 – Our cooking and serving areas are sparkling, shiny, and sanitary for another year. Thanks to everyone for your hard work and generous offering of your time. Keeping things put away in assigned places is always a challenge – but we will work on it. Remember that clean-up applies to the people – especially Hand Washing. Please wash your hands anytime you touch/use any kind of shared item. Hmmm – ice scoop, searching for utensils in the drawer, emptying the dishwasher, for example, and of course when engaging in any kind of food service and food preparation. Thanks for keeping us all safe and healthy .

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.

(Continued on next page)

Hospitality Notes *(Continued)*

Special Events (Some dates to look forward to)

- ◆ September 1—Birthday celebration for Eleanor Neal-Ehanire and Marietta Neal. Thanks to the host families for setting up the Parish Hall. Thanks to the Neal-Ehanire family for sharing the wonderful food and the sisters special days with us at St. Matthew's. The celebration will take place during and after the 10:00 service.
- ◆ September 20—Friday before Market Day. Be ready for a busy day in the kitchen prepping for Market Day breakfast and lunch. We will also gather up everything needed to set up for the outdoor lunch tent. Sign up sheet will be available soon.
- ◆ September 21—St. Matthew's Market Day. The NEW sign is up in front of the church, vendors are reserving their spots, and Liz & John Sampson are organizing the work details.

Dedicated volunteers will sell breakfast items in the parish hall kitchen window as well as hamburgers & hot dogs from the outdoor grill 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.
 - 9:00**—Single, combined worship service.
 - 10:15**—Potluck Brunch featuring our favorite foods.A sign-up sheet will be available soon.
- ◆ Continuing our celebration of Saints—Please join us in celebrating our Departed Saints. Beginning on September 22 through November 2, All Souls Day, you are invited to bring pictures, personal items, and favorite foods of those you love and those who have been an influence in your life. Tables will be set up in the front and back of the parish hall to honor and remember our personal saints. All are welcome – remember, Matthew was a lot of other things before he became a saint.

St. Matt's Market Day

By Liz Sampson

We are celebrating St. Matthew's Day again this year by inviting our neighbors to a craft sale on our church campus. Come join the fun on September 21, 2024, from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm for the sixth annual St. Matt's Market Day. In addition to strolling through many different craft booths, you will find breakfast and lunch for sale. This is your opportunity to get a head start on your fall decorations or Christmas gifts. If you can help before the show, or if you would like to help on the day of the show, there are sign-up sheets in the Narthex. If you have questions, please contact Liz Sampson at 210-386-5999.

RACAP NEWS

By Kathy Ercoline

July was another very busy month for the RACAP pantry volunteers. RACAP clients are struggling, more than ever, to put food on the table and pay their bills. Thankfully, the RACAP donations of food and cash are coming in steadily and the pantry shelves are filled and refilled as needed.

Lisa Loftus, RACAP Program Director, stated, "We just had our busiest month in the last 6+ years! We were able to bless so many!"

St. Matthew's contributions are continually increasing over the summer. Your generosity is making a huge difference in the lives of our clients. Thank you so much for your continued support.

Current Pantry Needs

Cereal	Jelly	Canned Soup
Meat Helpers	Cream of Soup	Peanut Butter
Dry Beans	Shampoo	Jell-O
Brown Grocery Bags		

A REMINDER TO ALL GARDENERS: Is your harvest too big for you? Do you have fruits or vegetables you would like to share with RACAP clients? Please feel free to donate any surplus fruits or vegetables you grow to RACAP, and we will include them in our grocery orders to clients. We are available for donation drop offs on Monday through Friday, 1-3 p.m.

RACAP Holiday Basket Program

In just a few months RACAP's holiday season begins with *Harvest Sunday* on **November 3, 2024**. We will be collecting donations of non-perishable food items to fill Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets and monetary contributions to buy turkeys and fresh fruits and vegetables. More information will be forthcoming about 'Harvest Sunday' and the "RACAP Holiday Basket Program." Food lists to fill the baskets will be included in Matt's Missive, Email blasts, and blurbs in the Sunday bulletins.

Month in Review

July 2024 Results

of Families assisted: 186

of People assisted: 536

of Pantry orders prepared: 142

of People fed: 424

Estimated value of food given: \$36,057.00

"Thank you for helping us help others."

September Birthdays

“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Jesus Christ to do good works, which God prepared for us in advance.”

(Ephesians 2:10)

Kathy Ercoline	Paula Getner
Jinny Smith	Leslye Bauman
Cat Francis	Ed Weise
Pat DePasquale	Natalie Black
Terri Egbert	John Gidden
Judy Duke	Zoe Francis
Carmen Weise	Rebecca Francis
Matteo Francis	Jalan Boyce
Gil Medina	Ronald Ragon
Margaret Palmer	Susie Hughes

Immigration & Refugee Ministries Stuffed Animal Drive

As we approach this St. Francis of Assisi Feast Day, we are calling upon the congregations of West Texas to join us in the collection of new and gently used stuffed animals for the children of Plaza de Paz. We would love for you to join us in giving the gift of comfort and companionship. Donations may be dropped off in the Narthex or Creasy Hall. You may take them off to the diocesan offices at 111 Torcido Dr., San Antonio, TX 78209 during normal business hours, Monday – Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Fridays, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Donations will be accepted through October 18, 2024.

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 committee continues its work as we move into the next phase of the discernment process. Potential nominees have been invited to a retreat where they will meet with the Nominating Committee for further conversation, prayers, and discernment. Throughout the process, we have been grateful for all of our nominees, their willingness to be vulnerable, and their sharing about how the Holy Spirit has been working in and through their lives and ministries. We ask for your ongoing prayers as we seek God's guidance in finalizing a slate of nominees for the election of our next Bishop Suffragan.

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

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.

Women's Fall Gathering: September 27-29 at Camp Capers.

Tradition: Ancient Words and Rhythms as Grace for Today presented by the Rev. Nancy Coon. We will explore together how wisdom from the past influences our faith today.

Cursillo #293: October 3-6 at Mustang Island.

During the weekend, participants engage in study, reflection, fellowship, and worship.

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>



From the Blog

Northern Convocation Parishes Partner to Alleviate Medical Debt in their Communities.

Skye's the Limit Campaign aims to raise \$14,000. Read more [here](#).

The Diocese of West Texas Schools Prepare for the 2024-2025 School Year.

Mary Katherine Duffy, Deputy for Episcopal Schools, shares an update and welcome message. Watch the [video](#). Learn more about Episcopal Schools [here](#).

The rededication of St. Francis Chapel took place at Camp Capers on Friday, August 2.

Campers, parents, clergy, camp alumni, and members of the diocese took part in the service which included the blessing of the altar and the Eucharist. Read more [here](#).

Announcements

laVentana, The Church News of West Texas, is published quarterly. A digital version of the magazine is available each quarter and the printed version is available every other quarter. Click [here](#) to subscribe.

From The Episcopal Church

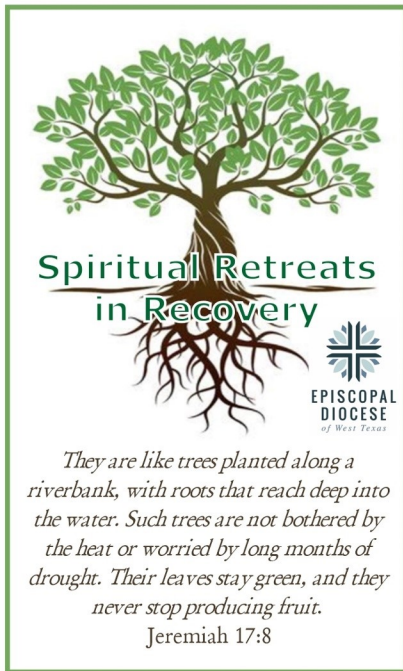
Plans announced for the Investiture for the Presiding Bishop-elect Sean Rowe on November 2. Click [here](#) to learn more. All are welcome and encouraged to attend virtually.

A few hours after his election was announced, Bishop Sean Rowe sat with The Living Church's Kirk Petersen for his first one-on-one interview as Presiding Bishop-Elect. Read the interview [here](#).

Spiritual Retreats in Recovery #122

“Strengthening Your Spiritual Recovery”

October 11-13, 2024



Spiritual Retreats in Recovery provides a safe place to deepen one’s spiritual journey – open to all in recovery from alcoholism or other abuses, as well as to families and friends affected by the disease of addiction. All members of twelve-step programs (AA, Al-anon, NA, CA, ACA, *etc.*) are welcome to share their experience, strength, and hope with each other in a community of love and support, exploring *what it was like, what happened, and what we are like now.*

Retreat Leader Jody Guerra, LCDC, will guide us through the retreat’s theme, *Strengthening Your Spiritual Recovery.* Rev. Andrew Green, Rector of St. Philip’s Episcopal Church in Beeville, will be our Spiritual Leader, as Celebrant for worship services, as well as provider of topical spiritual insight and pastoral care. In addition to various break-out session offerings, ample time is set aside for individual exploration. All friends in recovery are welcome, and no church affiliation is required.

Our Mustang Island Conference Center affords warm hospitality, comfortable lodging, delicious food, and thoughtful presentations in this beautiful Texas Gulf Coast setting. While on-site accommodations are limited, commuters who lodge elsewhere may attend for the reduced Day Rate.

† † †
“Recovery happens in community. At this retreat, I enjoyed the awesome presence of God through others in recovery – and in a beautiful setting. It doesn’t get any better!”

† † †
“A great, relaxing weekend. I experienced the spiritual healing of the group, and enjoyed quiet time with my Higher Power in one of His most wondrous creations. And the food was terrific!”

Pricing includes 2 nights accommodations and 5 meals (Fri-Sun): \$450 for single rooms or \$255 per person for double occupancy rooms; Commuter Day Rate is \$105 (no lodging). Registration information can be found at dwtx.org/events, scrolling down to the Spiritual Retreat in Recovery dates.

Registration opens Tuesday, September 3, and closes Thursday, October 3.

Limited scholarship funds are available based on need on a first-come-first-served basis. Scholarship recipients will be expected to contribute a portion of their own funds to this program.

Please contact the Registration Coordinator at (937) 422-2990.

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p style="text-align: center;">1</p> <p>Worship 8 & 10am (C)</p> <p>Sunday School 9:15am (L)</p> <p>Kiwanis 5-6pm (CH)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2</p> <p>Labor Day <i>Office Closed</i> <i>No Staff or</i> <i>Prayer Meeting</i></p> <p>AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">3</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <p>HOME 10am-3:30pm (CH, C, VEB)</p> <p>Eucharist 11am (ARC)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">5</p> <p>Choir Practice 4:30-5:30pm (C)</p> <p>AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">6</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">7</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">8</p> <p>Worship 8 & 10am (C)</p> <p>Sunday School 9:15am (L)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">9</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;">10</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">11</p> <p>HOME 10am-3:30pm (CH, C, VEB)</p> <p>Eucharist 11am (ARC)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">12</p> <p>Choir Practice 4:30-5:30pm (C)</p> <p>AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">13</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">14</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">15</p> <p>Worship 8 & 10am (C)</p> <p>Sunday School 9:15am (L)</p> <p>Kiwanis 5-6pm (CH)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">16</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;">17</p> <p>Vestry Meeting 6pm (CH)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">18</p> <p>HOME 10am-3:30pm (CH, C, VEB)</p> <p>Eucharist 11am (ARC)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">19</p> <p>Choir Practice 4:30-5:30pm (C)</p> <p>AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">20</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">21</p> <p>Market Day 9am-3pm</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">22</p> <p>St. Matthew's Day</p> <p>Single Service 9am (C)</p> <p>Pot Luck Brunch Celebration 10:15am (CH)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">23</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;">24</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">25</p> <p>HOME 10am-3:30pm (CH, C, VEB)</p> <p>Eucharist 11am (ARC)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">26</p> <p>Choir Practice 4:30-5:30pm (C)</p> <p>Dining Out 6:30pm (Sea Island)</p> <p>AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">27</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">28</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">29</p> <p>Worship 8 & 10am (C)</p> <p>Sunday School 9:15am (L)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">30</p> <p>Staff Meeting 9am (L)</p> <p>Prayer Meeting 12pm (L)</p> <p>AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH)</p>					

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

SEPTEMBER 2024 SUNDAY MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Ministry	September 1	September 8	September 15	September 22 St. Matthew's Day	September 29
Altar Guild	Maggie Barnes Stephenie McBride Diane Woods	Tarawanda Howard Suzanne Milton	Janet Clere Suzanne Milton	Diane Woods Tarawanda Howard	Maggie Barnes Stephenie McBride Diane Woods
8 AM Reader	Suzi Hopkins	Joan McClain	Max Hopkins	Single service	Jayne Dunlap
8 AM Greeter/Usher	Ben McClain	Max Hopkins	Joan McClain	Single service	Ron Dunlap
8 AM Coffee	Tarawanda Howard	Joan McClain	Jayne Dunlap	Single Service	Tarawanda Howard
10 AM Server	Sean Keane-Dawes	Mendell Morgan	Terry May	Wayne Mudge	Sean Keane-Dawes
10 AM Reader	Sean Francis	Ted Whittier	Liz Sampson	Janet Clere	Diane Woods
10 AM Greeters/Ushers	Arlene Stalvey Louise Ginesi	Kathy Ercoline Bill Ercoline	Wayne Mudge Melissa Mudge	Terry May Ted Whittier	Kathy Ercoline Bill Ercoline
Prayers of the People	Sean Keane-Dawes	Janet Clere	Ted Whittier	Bill Ercoline	Maribeth Likins
Newcomer Visits	Terry May Diane Woods	Ellen Yelverton	Terry May Diane Woods	Ellen Yelverton	Terry May Diane Woods
Home Communion	Janet Clere	No Home Communion	Mendell Morgan	No Home Communion	Ellen Yelverton
Prayer Ministry	Ellen Yelverton	Mendell Morgan	Maribeth Likins	Ellen Yelverton	Mendell Morgan
10 AM Coffee	Melissa Mudge	Kathy Ercoline	Diane Woods	Melissa Mudge Suzi Hopkins	Diane Woods
Audio Visual	Kristina Robinson	Wayne Mudge	Terry May	Kristina Robinson	Terry May
Lockup/Security	Arlene Stalvey	Richard Guerrero	Janet Clere	Terry May	Jayne Dunlap

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							

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