



Matt's Missive

September 2024

Wednesday Night Studies

By Diane Woods

Six of us from the summer Wednesday evening small group study met in August to choose a study for the Fall. After reviewing several Bible and book studies, and much discussion we came up with a plan through the summer of 2025.

As already announced for the Fall, our 8-week study using "Surprise the World" by Michael Frost starts September 25. If you would like to learn how to incorporate evangelism into your daily life, please join us!

In January, we will begin an 8-week study using "*The Challenge of Jesus: Rediscovering Who Jesus Was and Is*" by N.T. Wright. In this book, he challenges us to roll up our sleeves and take seriously the study of the historical Jesus. Only by hard, historical work can we move toward a fuller comprehension of what the Gospels themselves were trying to say." The Challenge of Jesus poses a double-edged challenge: to grow in our understanding of the historical Jesus within the Palestinian world of the first century, and to follow Jesus more faithfully into the postmodern world of the twenty-first century. We thought it would be appropriate to take on this study right after Jesus' birth, and before the season commemorating His death and resurrection. The study will start January 8th and end February 26th.

Our next study will be a 10-week study in the Summer using the book, "Listening Hearts Discerning Call in Community" by Suzanne G. Farnham, Joseph P. Gill, R. Taylor McLean, & Susan M. Ward. "Written to make the often elusive and usually clergy-centered spiritual practice of discernment accessible to all people, Listening Hearts features simple reflections and exercises drawn from scripture and from Quaker and Ignatian traditions." We chose this for the summer because it can generally accommodate a longer study.

Everyone is invited to join us!

PLEASE JOIN US!

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

Sea Island Shrimp House

8223 Agora Parkway, Selma, TX 78154

RSVP by September 24th to Tarawanda Howard



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.

The Rt. Rev. Dr. David G. Read Annual Visit August 25th



All Saints' Day By Melissa Mudge

This is a day to remember the saints and allow the memory of their faith to spur us on to deeper worship and greater service to the Lord. It is a yearly reminder of our connectedness as Christians. This is a time to think about and give thanks to as many Christians from the past as you can remember, whether they are famous or not, especially if their lives and teaching influenced yours.

In keeping with Dia de los Muertos traditions, there will be space in the Parish Hall for our displays to honor and remember those who have gone on before us. Beginning September 22 (our celebration of our patron saint, St. Matthew) through November 2 (All Souls Day), you are invited to bring pictures and personal items of those you love and those who have been an influence in your life.

Hospitality Notes

By Melissa Mudge

Many Thanks

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

The Parish Hall was packed again with the **Birthday Party**. Sisters Eleanor and Marietta celebrated their special day with us and their family and friends from around the country. Thank you for sharing food and fellowship.

Market Day – Another great event thanks to the many dedicated parishioners showing up before the day, during the day, and as the last vendors packed up. Events like this can only happen when everyone works together. What a great team!!

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.
- ◆ On-going Kitchen Clean-up – Thanks everyone for leaving our kitchen clean and shiny after your event. If you are not sure where to put something, just leave it on the center counter to be put away. Always remember Hand Washing: Please wash your hands anytime you touch/use any kind of shared items. For example – ice scoop, searching for utensils in the drawer, emptying the dishwasher, 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.

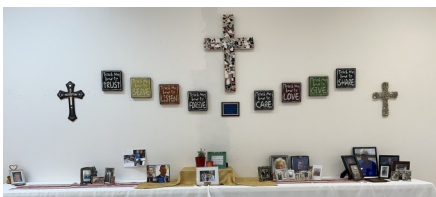
There is room to add anything else, such as: long sleeved tee shirt/sweatshirt, sunscreen, feminine hygiene products, an additional pair of socks, or a gift card to a fast-food establishment. The person to whom you might give this bag is experiencing difficult times and has limited resources, so think 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.

Hospitality Notes *(Continued)*

Special Events (Some dates to look forward to)

- ◆ September 25—Fall Wednesday Night Study begins for 8 weeks. The group meets for a light supper and sharing, then reading and reflecting. Everyone is invited to join.
- ◆ Continuing our celebration of Saints—Please join us in celebrating our Departed Saints. Now through November 2, All Souls Day, you are invited to bring pictures and personal items of those you love and those who have been an influence in your life. Tables are 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.



And so, on becoming saints...

From Forward Day by Day, November 1, 2015

By Aaron Klinefelter

Matthew 5:6 [Jesus said] “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they will be filled.”

Being the parent of young children means I am acutely aware of those who hunger and thirst. Admittedly, it’s not often righteousness for which they are hungering and thirsting. Often, they are begging for ice cream, or some such thing. Naturally, if they are told they can’t have something, they long for it more. But, if I am being honest, they are more often longing for my attention, my affection, and my loving embrace. And I suppose that is a kind of righteousness in itself.

On All Saints’ Day, as we remember all the saints who have come before us and all the saints who are in our lives, may we recognize that same kind of longing in one another. How may we offer the gifts of attention, affection, and our loving embraces? How might we see the hunger and thirst, whether physical, emotional, spiritual, or otherwise, in our brothers and sisters? Perhaps it is by recognizing the hunger and thirst in our neighbors that we are filled. Perhaps by reaching out to one another in love that we become righteous, that we may be remembered as saints.

Make us watchful and alert, O Lord our God that when he comes, your Son Christ our Lord will not find us sleeping in sin, or distracted with fears, but awake, strong in faith, active in service, and rejoicing in your praises, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

RACAP NEWS

By Kathy Ercoline

The RACAP food pantry is busier than ever...the needs are great. Thank you all for the generosity you show through your donations. Every food item, paper product, and dollar are greatly appreciated. RACAP is a 'difference maker' in many lives as noted in the information box below:

Month in Review

August 2024 Results

of Families assisted: 139, # of People assisted: 399

of Pantry orders prepared: 97, # of People fed: 262

Estimated value of food given: \$23,683.00

RACAP's BACK to SCHOOL Program assisted 80 families by distributing school supply bags to 183 children. With the help of your generous donations, RACAP was able to lighten the load of the cost of school supplies for many clients. Thank you!

RACAP'S HOLIDAY MEAL BASKET PROGRAM...During the months of October, November, & December, RACAP's focus is on the Holiday Food Basket Program. Printed lists of food items to fill the holiday baskets will be in the Narthex during the month of October. There will be flyers hung in the Narthex and Creasy Hall. You can use your cell phone to snap a photo of the list of food items to use when you when shopping. Cash contributions are also accepted. The monetary donations will be used to purchase fresh foods and turkeys for the food baskets. **If you are interested in sponsoring a family, email Kathy Stone for more information, racapholidayprog@att.net.**

ST. MATTHEW'S HARVEST SUNDAY is NOVEMBER 3rd. Please bring the food items for the baskets and/or cash donations to church on **Harvest Sunday**. If you are unable to attend church on **November 3rd**, please bring your contributions before Harvest Sunday to Creasy Hall during office hours. Your donations of food and cash will be presented at the altar during both services on the 3rd and then delivered to RACAP on Monday, November 4th.

HARVEST SUNDAY CELEBRATION...Following the 10:00 a.m. service on November 3rd we will have a soup/salad and dessert luncheon to celebrate Harvest Sunday! Look for a sign-up sheet in October in the Narthex. Plan to bring your favorite soup, salad, dessert, or other needed items for the luncheon. We hope you can join us.

In addition to the food for the Holiday Basket Program, RACAP's **Current Pantry Needs** are:

Cereal	Jelly	Peanut Butter	Large/Small Cans of Soup
Meat Helpers	Dry Beans	Jell-O	Rice
Cornbread Mix	Toothpaste	Toothbrushes	Shampoo
Large Paper Bags	Feminine Hygiene Products		

***Please remember...RACAP accepts pet food

"Thank you for helping us help others."

Special September Birthday Blessings



Watch over your 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* heart may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of *their* lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

October Birthdays

*But you are a shield around me, O Lord;
you bestow glory on me and lift up my head.
(Psalm 3:3-4)*

Amber Francis	Jennie Winkle
Sean Francis	Jayne Dunlap
Cheri Creekmore	Hubert Greene
Robert Horn	Maxwell Hopkins
Francesca Keane-Dawes	Reina Hopkins
Bill Luckhurst	Tanner Mudge
Carole Barnes	Bill Ercoline
Stephenie McBride	Frances Reed
Marsha Mudge	Cristopher Robinson
Tom Barnhart	Zachary Robinson



Fr. Cristopher and Lisa celebrate the Saints in the office following a decisive win!

Announcing Slate of Nominees for the Bishop Suffragan of the Diocese of West Texas

Dear Clergy and People of the Diocese of West Texas,

I am thrilled to be able to share with you our slate of nominees for the next bishop suffragan of our beloved diocese. We have been at work since the last Diocesan Council in February, organizing our Nominating Committee, recruiting nominations, and studying the vision for our diocese set forth by the Rt. Rev. Dr. David G. Read, D.D., Bishop of West Texas. The Holy Spirit has been invited into our discernment process again and again, leading us to this slate of nominees for our election on October 19, 2024.

Slate of nominees for Bishop Suffragan Election:

The Rev. Angela Maria Cortiñas, Associate Rector,
St. David's Episcopal Church, Austin, Texas

The Rev. Canon Wm. Lee Curtis, Canon to the Ordinary,
Episcopal Diocese of the Rio Grande, El Paso, Texas

The Rev. Matthew Wise, Associate Rector,
St. Mark's Episcopal Church, San Antonio, Texas

The Committee has published a [*Meet the Nominees*](#) booklet to introduce and give insight into the ministry of each of these fine individuals. It is designed to help us prayerfully discern whom God is calling to serve as our next bishop suffragan alongside Bishop Read, as a second chair leader. Inside, you will find photos, biographical information, answers to ministry questions, and links to sermons.

Our Nominating Committee is a combination of our diocesan Standing Committee along with priests and laity from across our diocese. I am grateful to everyone who has carried out this holy work together.

It is with joy and hope that we share the slate of nominees, continuing the discernment process that concludes with the election of our bishop suffragan. Before the election, study this material, and attend the Discernment Forums the weekend of October 4 - 6. These forums will also be made available online.

Most importantly, invite the Holy Spirit's ongoing work as we continue to pray for this process, all the nominees, our clergy and delegates who will be voting, and the whole diocese as we discern together for this time in the life of our diocese and our future.

Know you will be in my prayers as well; I pray for open hearts and listening minds as God guides us to continue the ministry we are all called to in the Diocese of West Texas.

Peace,
James+

The Rev. J. James Derkits, III
President of the Standing Committee



Happenings Around The Diocese

Cursillo #293: October 3-6 at Mustang Island Conference Center. During the weekend, participants engage in study, reflection, fellowship, and worship.

Spiritual Retreat in Recovery #122: October 11-13 at Mustang Island Conference Center. 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.

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.

Wounded Warriors/Veterans Family Camp: November 1-3 at Mustang Island Conference Center. Wounded Warrior families are invited to a relaxed family weekend at the beach.

Cursillo #294: November 7-10 at Camp Capers. 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>



From the Blog

Children and Youth Ministry Summit.

Join ministry leaders from around the diocese for a Ministry Leader's Summit on Saturday, October 26 from 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at the Bishop Jones Center in San Antonio. Brittany Sky will be the keynote presenter. Learn more [here](#).

Diocesan Event and Retreat Resource Toolkits Now Online.

Church offices can now easily access bulletin announcements, graphics, and more on the Communication Resources page. Learn more [here](#).

The Diocesan Disaster Preparedness and Response Committee

released a new FEMA Map for public use during an emergency and to assess potential dangers in preparing for weather disasters. Learn more [here](#).

Special Council: Bishop Suffragan Election

Saturday, October 19
Church of the Good Shepherd
Corpus Christi, Texas

Registration is Open!

- Hotel Registration - Book by October 1 Deadline. A block of hotel rooms has been reserved for the Special Council.
- Childcare Registration - October 11 Deadline. Childcare will be available at Good Shepherd during the Special Council. The cost is \$25 per child and includes lunch and snacks.
- Guest Registration - October 11 Deadline. The cost is \$25 per guest.

Learn more [here](#).

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

OCTOBER CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 HOME 10am-3:30pm (<i>CH, C, L, VEB</i>) Eucharist 11am (<i>ARC</i>) Small Group Study 6-8pm (<i>CH</i>)	3 Choir Practice 4:30-5:30pm (<i>C</i>) AA Meeting 8-9pm (<i>CH</i>)	4	5
6 Worship 8 & 10am (<i>C</i>) Sunday School 9:15am (<i>L</i>) Kiwanis 5-6pm (<i>CH</i>)	7 Staff Meeting 9am (<i>L</i>) Prayer Meeting 12pm (<i>L</i>) AA Meeting 8-9pm (<i>CH</i>)	8	9 HOME 10am-3:30pm (<i>CH, C, L, VEB</i>) Eucharist 11am (<i>ARC</i>) Small Group Study 6-8pm (<i>CH</i>)	10 Choir Practice 4:30-5:30pm (<i>C</i>) AA Meeting 8-9pm (<i>CH</i>)	11	12
13 Worship 8 & 10am (<i>C</i>) Sunday School 9:15am (<i>L</i>)	14 Staff Meeting 9am (<i>L</i>) Prayer Meeting 12pm (<i>L</i>) AA Meeting 8-9pm (<i>CH</i>)	15 Vestry Meeting 6pm (<i>CH</i>)	16 HOME 10am-3:30pm (<i>CH, C, L, VEB</i>) Eucharist 11am (<i>ARC</i>) Small Group Study 6-8pm (<i>CH</i>)	17 Choir Practice 4:30-5:30pm (<i>C</i>) AA Meeting 8-9pm (<i>CH</i>)	18	19 Special Council: Bishop Suffragan Election 10am (<i>Church of the Good Shepherd, Corpus Christi</i>)
20 Worship 8 & 10am (<i>C</i>) Sunday School 9:15am (<i>L</i>) Kiwanis 5-6pm (<i>CH</i>)	21 Prayer Meeting 12pm (<i>L</i>) AA Meeting 8-9pm (<i>CH</i>)	22	23 HOME 10am-3:30pm (<i>CH, C, L, VEB</i>) Eucharist 11am (<i>ARC</i>) Small Group Study 6-8pm (<i>CH</i>)	24 Choir Practice 4:30-5:30pm (<i>C</i>) Dining Out 6:30pm (<i>TBD</i>) AA Meeting 8-9pm (<i>CH</i>)	25	26
27 Worship 8 & 10am (<i>C</i>) Sunday School 9:15am (<i>L</i>)	28 Staff Meeting 9am (<i>L</i>) Prayer Meeting 12pm (<i>L</i>) AA Meeting 8-9pm (<i>CH</i>)	29	30 HOME 10am-3:30pm (<i>CH, C, L, VEB</i>) Eucharist 11am (<i>ARC</i>) Small Group Study 6-8pm (<i>CH</i>)	31 Choir Practice 4:30-5:30pm (<i>C</i>) AA Meeting 8-9pm (<i>CH</i>)		

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

OCTOBER 2024 SUNDAY MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Ministry	October 6	October 13	October 20	October 27
Altar Guild	Tarawanda Howard Suzanne Milton	Terry May Suzanne Milton	Janet Clere Diane Woods	Maggie Barnes Stephenie McBride Diane Woods
8 AM Reader	Joan McClain	Max Hopkins	Suzi Hopkins	Jayne Dunlap
8 AM Greeter/Usher	Suzi Hopkins	Shawn Cooksey	Ben McClain	Joan McClain
8 AM Coffee	Joan McClain	Jayne Dunlap	Suzi Hopkins	Tarawanda Howard
10 AM Server	Terry May	Wayne Mudge	Sean Francis	Sean Keane-Dawes
10 AM Reader	Sean Keane-Dawes	Sean Francis	Diane Woods	Mendell Morgan
10 AM Greeters/Ushers	Diane Woods Ted Whittier	Maribeth Likins Arlene Stalvey Louise Ginesi	Melissa Mudge Wayne Mudge	Kathy Ercoline Bill Ercoline
Prayers of the People	Liz Sampson	Susan Brown	Sean Keane-Dawes	Janet Clere
Newcomer Visits	Ellen Yelverton	Terry May Diane Woods	Ellen Yelverton	Terry May Diane Woods
Home Communion	No Home Communion	Sean Keane-Dawes	No Home Communion	Janet Clere
Prayer Ministry	Maribeth Likins	Ellen Yelverton	Mendell Morgan	Maribeth Likins
10 AM Coffee	Kathy Ercoline	Melissa Mudge	Diane Woods	Kathy Ercoline
Audio Visual	Wayne Mudge	Kristina Robinson	Terry May	Wayne Mudge
Lockup/Security	Maribeth Likins	Terry May	Arlene Stalvey	Janet Clere

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)

AUGUST 2024 FINANCIAL REPORT

Monthly	Pledge	Plate	Other	Total	2024 YTD	Pledge	Plate	Other	Total
Operating Income Received	\$21,179	\$954	\$185	\$22,318	Operating Income Received	\$125,053	\$13,343	\$6,976	\$145,372
Operating Income Budgeted	\$13,869	\$1,652	\$4,080	\$19,601	Operating Income Budgeted	\$110,956	\$13,212	\$6,300	\$130,468
	Monthly	YTD				Monthly	YTD		
Overall Operating Expenses	\$16,993	\$149,617			Outreach	\$700	\$7,457		
Budgeted Operating Expense	\$21,914	\$155,573							

ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
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 210-658-5956 www.stmatts-uc.org