

Matt's Missive

April 2026

Easter Sunday Flowering the Cross



PLEASE JOIN US!

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

SAT Asian Seafood Restaurant

950 FM-78, Schertz, TX 78154

RSVP by April 28th to Diane Woods or Terry May



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.

Easter Sunday Easter Egg Hunt

Once again, the weather forced the Easter Egg Hunt indoors. The children were moving too fast to get photos but we managed to get one!

Matthew was successful in finding the special bronze egg hidden by Fr. Cristopher!



Thank you! St. Matthew's Episcopal Church!

A huge thank you to everyone who came out to support St Matthew's Spring Clean Up Program! The church campus looks wonderful, and we couldn't have done it without your helping hands and cheerful spirits. We look forward to many more opportunities to work together this year! Thank you for sharing your time and talents.

With gratitude,

Tarawanda C. Howard
Junior Warden



This is just a few of the volunteers helping to make the sandwiches—others showed up later!

RACAP NEWS

By Kathy Ercoline

THANK YOU to all who participated in the “**40 Cans for Lent Program**”. Food items were delivered to the RACAP pantry throughout the Lenten Season.

Your “40 Cans for Lent” food and monetary donations are used to help stock the RACAP pantry that serves many RACAP clients, in our local community, who need assistance. The support that RACAP’s clients receive from the member churches is greatly appreciated, not only during the time of Lent, but also the entire year. Without the generosity of our churches, we would not be able to feed the many families who come to the pantry. RACAP’s mission makes difference in a peoples’ lives.

RACAP ‘s Program director, Lisa Loftus, received the following Thank You note from a RACAP client:

*“To all of you at RACAP,
I just wanted to personally thank you for going beyond what you do. What you’ve done to help me is beyond words, as God himself knows. There are no words on earth that could ever express my gratitude. I thank God for what you do for people...On that note, THANK YOU AGAIN!
Peace, love and God Bless to you all!”*

REMINDER...RACAP’S NEEDS CONTINUOUS SUPPORT THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. The pantry is open five days a week for food distribution. **Any non-perishable foods, cash, and hygiene and paper products are accepted to fill the shelves.** All donations and contributions are greatly appreciated.

Current Pantry Needs:

Tomato Products	Jelly	Peanut Butter
Bars of Soap	Toothbrushes	Toothpaste
Feminine Hygiene Pads		

RACAP Month in Review

March 2026 Assistance Results

of Families Assisted 61

of People Assisted 130

of Pantry Orders Prepared 50

of People Fed 105

Estimated Value of Food Given: \$10,090.00

“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. Thanks for a great day at the baseball field – players/coaches/staff appreciated their lunches and our support for the 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 ever-evolving goodness that comes out of our kitchen.
- ◆ 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 – Thanks for keeping our kitchen clean and sanitary. This keeps our parish family safe, healthy, and 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

- ◆ **May 5—Celebrating Martyrs of the Reformation Era.** Matthew 6:14-15. *For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses*
- ◆ **May 11—Mother's Day.** *“Almighty God, we entrust all who are dear to us to your never-failing care and love, for this life and the life to come, knowing that you are doing for them better things than we can desire or pray for; through Christ our Lord. Amen.”*
- ◆ **May 17—Graduation Celebration at St. Matthew's.** *“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.”*
- ◆ **May 24—Day of Pentecost.** Acts 2:3. *Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them.*

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

“...Pentecost is more than a history of a long-ago miracle. It is the source of hope and a map for all who follow Christ. Each Sunday, we receive Holy Communion, but we are to be agents of spreading the Good News on Monday and every day. Perhaps we can start by letting go of our labels of others and instead seek to see them as children of God...”

Hospitality Notes *(Continued)*

Special Days/Events

- ◆ **May 25—Memorial Day.** *“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.”*
- ◆ **May 29—Ember Days.** Psalm 31:5a. *Into your hands I commend my spirit.*
From Forward Day by Day, May | June | July 2026 – Written by ???.
“Ember Days occur four times a year: on the Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays after the First Sunday in Lent, the Day of Pentecost, Holy Cross Day, and December 13. The name comes from the Latin title *Quattuor tempora*, meaning “four times.” The Book of Common Prayer offers various prayers especially suitable for Ember Days (pp. 256-257). Each prayer is a clear statement that those who are going out to be instruments of God in Christ through the Holy Spirit are called by God that they may faithfully serve God.
We are all called to be instruments of God’s love, and Ember Days are intended to remind us of our calling. Without God, we can do nothing, but with and through God, anything can happen. The church reminds her people of this at least four times a year during Ember Days. It would behoove us to remember this every day.
Moving Forward: What is your calling?”
- ◆ **May 31—Trinity Sunday.** *“Almighty and everlasting God, you have given to us your servants grace, by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity, and in the power of your divine Majesty to worship the Unity: Keep us steadfast in this faith and worship, and bring us at last to see you in your one and eternal glory, O Father; who with the Son and the Holy Spirit live and reign, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.”*

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



Happenings Around The Diocese

Cursillo #300: April 30-May 3 at Mustang Island Conference Center.

Meeting Jesus at the Altar - Join us for Cursillo #300 at Mustang Island Conference Center for a special Men's Cursillo.

Spiritual Retreat in Recovery #125:

May 1-3 at Camp Capers.

Spiritual Retreats in Recovery provide 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.

Mustang Island Meditative Yoga

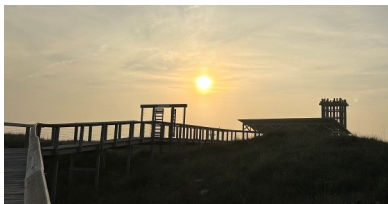
Retreat: May 15-17 at Mustang Island Conference Center.

Escape to your island home for a weekend centered on the healing, rejuvenating, life-giving practices of yoga, meditation, and contemplative Christian prayer.

SAVE THE DATE - Women's Clergy Retreat at Duncan Park: August 30-September 4 at Duncan Park, CO.

All women clergy are invited to join the Rt. Rev. Angela Cortiñas in Duncan Park for a week of rest, relaxation, and spiritual play in the Rocky Mountains.

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

An Easter Letter to the Diocese of West Texas

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope." (Romans 15:13)

The Rt. Rev. Dr. David G. Read, D.D. Bishop of West Texas and the Rt. Rev. Angela Maria Cortiñas, Bishop Suffragan of West Texas released an Easter letter to the Diocese.

"When we gather to celebrate Easter, we are choosing to invest our faith in hope over despair, life over death, and grace over sin. As we read how the faithful women and disciples found the tomb empty and encountered Jesus very much alive, we are celebrating the memorial of our own redemption." Read the letter [here](#).

Diocese of West Texas Iona School of Ministry Offers Lay Ministry Program.

The Iona School of West Texas in collaboration with the Iona Collaborative is expanding to include not only tracks for bi-vocational priests but for deacons and lay persons as well. A Lay Preaching course is being offered with the application process opening this month. If you are interested in exploring participation. Click here to complete the form [here](#). Questions - Contact West Texas Iona School Interim Dean, the Rev. Alex Holloway, [here](#).

Camp Capers Awarded an American Camp Association's Character at Camp Grant.

The \$200,000 award will help strengthen its Staff in Training (SIT), leadership program and fund three low ropes course elements that will help Camp Capers staff practice critical thinking, teamwork, curiosity and communication. Read the announcement [here](#).

Ministry Spotlight

When the Church Leaves the Building: Church of Annunciation in Luling.

Since 2014, the Episcopal Church of the Annunciation has provided meals for families in the city of Luling, Texas to help fight food scarcity in the area. Watch the video [here](#).

Camps + Conferences: Grounded in Faith, Rooted In Tradition.

The Diocese of West Texas has been serving campers for over 75 years. Our camp program has something for everyone - whether you are searching for a summer youth camp, family camp, or retreat, we provide memorable camping experiences.

Each year, our youth camps - Camp Capers and Duncan Park - are accredited by the American Camp Association, undergoing a rigorous evaluation to help ensure our programs are safe, nurturing, and welcoming experiences for campers and retreat participants.

Diocesan camp facilities are a perfect venue for a retreat. Whether it be a church gathering, company meeting, family reunion, or small group gatherings, we welcome retreat goers year-round. To learn more, contact retreats@dwtx.org.

Watch Camps + Conferences' Director Rob Watson's Report to Council '26 [here](#).

From The Episcopal Church

A pastoral word to The Episcopal Church from the March 2026 gathering of the House of Bishops.

The bishops of The Episcopal Church gathered from March 17-24 at Camp Allen Conference Center in Navasota, Texas. Our gathering included 122 bishops and bishops-elect, representing 89 dioceses and special ministries across 17 countries and territories. As we conclude our meeting, we give thanks for the mutual affection and fruitful collaboration we experience during our time together, and we renew our commitment to bear witness with clarity and unity to the transforming power of the Gospel. Read more [here](#).

May Birthdays

*The Lord is my strength and shield;
my heart trusts him and I am
helped. My heart leaps for joy and
will give thanks to him in song.*
(Psalm 28:7)

Bud Erwin	Joseph Waldron
Susan Greer	Constance Luckhurst
Devin Bradlaw	Amanda Bryant-Wood
Patricia Francis	Angela Evans
Marcella Kenealy-O'Connor	

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.

MAY CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Worship 8 & 10am (C) Sunday School 9:15am (L)	4 Staff Meeting 9am (L) Prayer Meeting 12pm (L) AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH)	5	6 HOME 10am-3:30pm (CH, C, L, VEB)	7 Eucharist 11am (ARC) Choir Practice 2-3pm (C) AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH)	8 HOME Piano Recital 7pm (C)	9
10 <i>Mother's Day</i> Worship 8 & 10am (C) Sunday School 9:15am (L)	11 Staff Meeting 9am (L) Prayer Meeting 12pm (L) AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH)	12 Vestry Meeting 6pm (CH)	13 HOME 10am-3:30pm (CH, C, L, VEB)	14 Eucharist 11am (ARC) Choir Practice 2-3pm (C) AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH)	15 HOME Concert 5 pm (C)	16
17 Worship 8 & 10am (C) Sunday School 9:15am (L)	18 Staff Meeting 9am (L) Prayer Meeting 12pm (L) AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH)	19	20 HOME 10am-3:30pm (CH, C, L, VEB)	21 Eucharist 11am (ARC) Choir Practice 2-3pm (C) AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH)	22	23
24 Worship 8 & 10am (C) Sunday School 9:15am (L)	25 <i>Memorial Day</i> <i>Office Closed</i> <i>No Staff or</i> <i>Prayer Meeting</i> AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH)	26	27	28 Eucharist 11am (ARC) Choir Practice 2-3pm (C) Dining Out 6:30pm (TBD) AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH)	29	30
31 Worship 8 & 10am (C) Sunday School 9:15am (L)						

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

MAY 2026 SUNDAY MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Ministry	May 3 Easter 5	May 10 Easter 6	May 17 Easter 7	May 24 Pentecost	May 31 Trinity Sunday
Altar Guild	Tarawanda Howard Suzanne Milton	Maggie Barnes Stephenie McBride	Pat Clarke-Kempf Cindy Hull Diane Woods	Janet Clere Diane Woods	Tarawanda Howard Suzanne Milton
8 AM Reader	Jayne Dunlap	Suzi Hopkins	Joan McClain	Max Hopkins	Jayne Dunlap
8 AM Greeter/Usher	Suzi Hopkins	Ron Dunlap	Shawn Cooksey	Max Hopkins	Jayne Dunlap
8 AM Coffee	Suzi Hopkins	Tarawanda Howard	Joan McClain	Jayne Dunlap	Suzi Hopkins
10 AM Server	Terry May	Wayne Mudge	Sean Francis	Arlene Stalvey	Terry May
10 AM Reader	Maribeth Likins	Diane Woods	Wayne Mudge	Melissa Mudge	Oliver Laxson
10 AM Greeter/Usher	Kathy Ercoline	Wayne Mudge	Bill Ercoline	Diane Woods	Arlene Stalvey
Prayers of the People	Bill Ercoline	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	Terry May Diane Woods
Home Communion	No Home Communion	Janet Clere	No Home Communion	Ellen Yelverton	No Home Communion
Prayer Ministry	Maribeth Likins	Maribeth Likins	Ellen Yelverton	Ellen Yelverton	Maribeth Likins
10 AM Coffee	Diane Woods Terry May	Kathy Ercoline	Colleen Hubberd	Melissa Mudge	Diane Woods Terry May
Audio Visual	Kristina Robinson	Terry May	Jay Barnes	Kristina Robinson	Wayne Mudge
Lockup/Security	William Whitworth	Tarawanda Howard	Ellen Yelverton	Terry May	Arlene Stalvey

Almighty God our heavenly Father, guide the nations of the world into the way of justice and truth, and establish among them that peace which is the fruit of righteousness, that they may become the kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.* (Book of Common Prayer, page 816)

JANUARY 2026 FINANCIAL REPORT

Monthly	Pledge	Plate	Other	Total	2026 YTD	Pledge	Plate	Other	Total
Operating Income Received	\$21,791	\$1,182	\$620	\$23,593	Operating Income Received	\$21,791	\$1,182	\$620	\$23,593
Operating Income Budgeted	\$14,025	\$1,445	\$278	\$15,748	Operating Income Budgeted	\$14,025	\$1,445	\$278	\$15,748
	Monthly	YTD				Monthly	YTD		
Overall Operating Expenses	\$17,695	\$17,695			Outreach	\$150	\$150		
Budgeted Operating Expenses	\$21,232	\$21,232							

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