

## Annual Tamales and Trimmings Decorating the Parish Hall



## PLEASE JOIN US FOR CHRISTMAS

**Christmas Eve**  
**Carols 7:15pm**  
**Service 7:30pm**



**Christmas Day**  
**Service 10am**

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.

## More Photos From the Annual Tamales and Trimmings



## Joint Service with Christ the King Lutheran Church

This year, we're going to join with the local Lutheran congregation to offer a shared service during the week before Christmas.

Services like this one (called Longest Night, Blue Christmas or Darkest Night) are often designed with those who are grieving in mind, especially those who are navigating their first holiday without a loved one. But it is also for those who cannot go home for the holidays, for those who struggle with loneliness or depression, and for those for whom darkness and quiet and candlelight come as a bit of relief in the midst of the commercial Christmas chaos.

As the world continues the ramped up, frenetic pace in this time of year, this Longest Night service acknowledges that we don't (and sometimes can't) always feel the holiday joy.

The service will probably be small, and quiet. It will be 6:30 pm on December 19th in the sanctuary.

Fr. Cristopher+

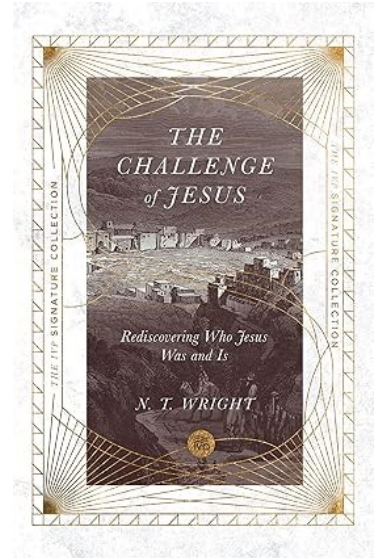


## A New Year, A New Study

By Diane Woods

In just a couple of weeks we will remember and celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Then, usually just a few weeks later, we enter the season commemorating His death and resurrection. Fortunately, Ash Wednesday falls on March 5<sup>th</sup> in 2025 which allows us time for a new study.

Have you ever wondered who this Jesus was? Who was this man that lived in the first century? Then join us in January as we begin an 8-week study using, *"The Challenge of Jesus: Rediscovering Who Jesus Was and Is"* by N.T. Wright. The description of the book says, "Out of his own commitment to both historical scholarship and Christian ministry, Wright challenges us to roll up our sleeves and take seriously the study of the historical Jesus. He writes, "...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* presents an accessible introduction to the "quest for the historical Jesus" and why it matters for the Christian faith."



The study starts on January 8<sup>th</sup> and ends February 26<sup>th</sup>. We will meet in the parish hall at 6:00 p.m. The format for the evening begins with dinner (bring your own) and catching up with each other. Our discussion of that week's reading will start at 6:30 p.m. and closes with an Order for Compline at approximately 8:00. We share leading the discussion each week with the group. There will be a signup sheet in the Narthex on Sunday or you can call the office. In addition to signing up to participate in the study, we ask everyone to prayerfully consider signing up to lead one of the discussions.

Books were ordered and are available in the office. The cost of the book is \$15.50, payable to Diane Woods. If you prefer, you can purchase the Kindle book from Amazon.com for \$13.77.

### **ALL ARE INVITED!**

**To Mendell Morgan's Black-eyed Pea Party.**

**January 1st, 1:00—3:00 p.m.**

**Blessing for the new year at 2:00 p.m.**

**Enjoy some black-eyed peas (and other treats)  
for good luck in the new year.**

**Drop in anytime during the hours above.**

**If you are able, please bring a non-perishable food  
item for RACAP to bless those in need.**



## Hospitality Notes

By Melissa Mudge

*“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”*

Luke 21:25-28

### 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 tamales were great, but the trimming of the Parish Hall was even greater. In a few hours of eating and working together, the Parish Hall was transformed to an anticipation of all that the Christmas season brings. Thank you so much.

### 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.
- 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 an additional team.
- ◆ 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!
- ◆ On-going Kitchen Clean-up – Keep up the good work in kitchen! Thanks for keeping us all safe and healthy. Remember to wash hands when you enter the kitchen to prepare any kind of snacks, feasts, and, yes, even coffee. Thank you.

### Give it – To Go

The bags are put away for a while. It is time to revive/regroup. Please let me know if you are the one to create a new look and invigorate the purpose for giving hygiene bags to those who need them. 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 (Some dates to look forward to)

- ◆ December 24—Christmas Eve Service.
- ◆ December 25—Christmas Day Service.
- ◆ January 6—The Epiphany of Our Lord.

## RACAP NEWS

By Kathy Ercoline

The need is great for the RACAP clients. They are helped with food, rent, gasoline, and prescriptions. Every donation is used and very much appreciated.

The RACAP Holiday Basket Program continues through December 15<sup>th</sup>. Your donations of food and money are used to fill Christmas food baskets for many families in our local area. A final report on the basket program will be included in the January Matt's Missive.

### Current Pantry Needs:

|                           |                 |                             |                               |
|---------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Canned Fruits             | Tomato Products | Ramen                       | Dried Beans                   |
| Rice                      | Canned Meats    | Muffin Mix                  | Mac 'n Cheese                 |
| Meat Helpers              | Canned Soup     | Jell-O                      | Canned Beans (no green beans) |
| Toothpaste                | Shampoo         | Dish Soap                   | Laundry Detergent             |
| Feminine Hygiene Products |                 | Pet Food is Always Accepted |                               |

These items are the current needs, but any non-perishable food item and/or monetary donations are always accepted.

January will be RACAP's "**Souper Bowl**" month. When contributing non-perishable foods to RACAP please focus on all varieties of **canned or jars of soups, canned fruit, and oyster and saltine crackers**. The "RACAP Souper Bowl" will begin on New Year's Day and continue through Super Bowl Sunday.

Wishing you a blessed holiday season, a Merry Christmas, and a Healthy, Happy New Year!

### Month in Review

#### November 2024 Results

Total # of Families Seen: 91

Total # of People: 233

Total # of Pantry Visits: 73

Total # of People Fed: 189

Estimated cost of food given: \$11,865.25

191 Families were provided a Thanksgiving Meal Basket

*"Thank you for helping us help others."*

### St. Matthew's Dining Out

The St. Matthew's Dining Out group resumes in January. This group meets on the last Thursday of every month from January - October. All are invited to join us at **6:30 PM** on Thursday, **January 30th**, restaurant to be announced.



## Happenings Around The Diocese

**Spring Break Family Camp:** March 13-16 at Mustang Island Family Camp. Spend Spring Break weekend with your family on the beach! Enjoy swimming, singing, surfing, arts & crafts, delicious meals, a buried treasure hunt, beach games, worship, building sandcastles, fishing, resting under a beach umbrella, a campfire, and more. Programming begins Thursday afternoon/evening and continues through Sunday lunch. Each day ends with worship, music, and a family-centered Bible teaching.

**2025 Camp Registration Now Open!** Register for 2025 Summer sessions for Camp Capers Summer Camp, Mustang Island Family Camp, Duncan Park Summer Camp and Family Camps. Don't miss your chance to enjoy these fun and exciting camping experiences!

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



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



## From the Blog

**Save the Date - 121st Diocesan Council: February 20 - 22, 2025 in San Marcos; Host Churches: St. Elizabeth's, Buda & Holy Spirit, Dripping Springs.**

More information about the details of Council will be shared in the weeks ahead. For now, we ask that you keep our planning process in your prayers, and pray for Bishop Read, Bishop Suffragan-Elect Cortiñas, our host churches, and the diocesan staff.

**19th Annual Bishop's Golf Classic Raises \$60,000 for Camp Scholarships.**

Thank you to our players, sponsors, volunteers, and organizations for their generous support and donations for prizes, raffle, and silent auction. Click [here](#) for a full list of winners and sponsors.

## January Birthdays

*For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and*

|                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| Suzanne Milton   | Tommy Evans      |
| Lynn Medina      | Keith Black      |
| Lori Tidwell     | Rose Marie Smith |
| Leah Tafolla     | Tim Vellom       |
| Courtney Hopkins | Craig Hopkins    |
| Michael Winkle   | Mary Dunham      |
| Dante Black      |                  |

## JANUARY CALENDAR

| Sunday   | Monday   | Tuesday                          | Wednesday   | Thursday  | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|----------------------------------|---|---|--------|----------|
|  |  |                                  | 1<br><i>Office Closed</i><br>Black-Eyed Pea Party<br>1-3pm (CH)   | 2<br>Choir Practice<br>4:30-5:30pm (C)<br>AA Meeting<br>8-9pm (CH)  | 3      | 4        |
| 5<br>Worship<br>8 & 10am (C)<br>Sunday School<br>9:15am (L)<br>Kiwanis<br>5-6pm (CH) | 6<br>Staff Meeting<br>9am (L)<br>Prayer Meeting<br>12pm (L)<br>AA Meeting<br>8-9pm (CH)                          | 7                                | 8<br>HOME<br>10am-3:30pm (CH, C, L, VEB)<br>Eucharist<br>11am (ARC)<br>Wednesday Night Study<br>6-8pm (CH)  | 9<br>Choir Practice<br>4:30-5:30pm (C)<br>AA Meeting<br>8-9pm (CH)  | 10     | 11       |
| 12<br>Worship<br>8 & 10am (C)<br>Sunday School<br>9:15am (L)                         | 13<br>Staff Meeting<br>9am (L)<br>Prayer Meeting<br>12pm (L)<br>AA Meeting<br>8-9pm (CH)                         | 14                               | 15<br>HOME<br>10am-3:30pm (CH, C, L, VEB)<br>Eucharist<br>11am (ARC)<br>Wednesday Night Study<br>6-8pm (CH) | 16<br>Choir Practice<br>4:30-5:30pm (C)<br>AA Meeting<br>8-9pm (CH) | 17     | 18       |
| 19<br>Worship<br>8 & 10am (C)<br>Sunday School<br>9:15am (L)                         | 20<br><i>MLK Jr Day</i><br><i>Office Closed</i><br><i>No Staff or Prayer Meeting</i><br>AA Meeting<br>8-9pm (CH) | 21<br>Vestry Meeting<br>6pm (CH) | 22<br>HOME<br>10am-3:30pm (CH, C, L, VEB)<br>Eucharist<br>11am (ARC)<br>Wednesday Night Study<br>6-8pm (CH) | 23<br>Choir Practice<br>4:30-5:30pm (C)<br>AA Meeting<br>8-9pm (CH) | 24     | 25       |
| 26<br>Worship<br>8 & 10am (C)<br>Sunday School<br>9:15am (L)                         | 27<br>Staff Meeting<br>9am (L)<br>Prayer Meeting<br>12pm (L)<br>AA Meeting<br>8-9pm (CH)                         | 28                               | 29<br>HOME<br>10am-3:30pm (CH, C, L, VEB)<br>Eucharist<br>11am (ARC)<br>Wednesday Night Study<br>6-8pm (CH) | 30<br>Choir Practice<br>4:30-5:30pm (C)<br>AA Meeting<br>8-9pm (CH) | 31     |          |

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



# JANUARY 2025 SUNDAY MINISTRY SCHEDULE

| Ministry                     | January 5                       | January 12                    | January 19  | January 26                         |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| <b>Altar Guild</b>           | Pat Clarke-Kempf<br>Diane Woods | Melody Johnson<br>Diane Woods | Maggie Barnes<br>Stephenie McBride<br>Diane Woods | Tarawanda Howard<br>Suzanne Milton |
| <b>8 AM Reader</b>           | Jayne Dunlap                    | Suzi Hopkins                  | Joan McClain                                      | Max Hopkins                        |
| <b>8 AM Greeter/Usher</b>    | Ron Dunlap                      | Suzi Hopkins                  | Shawn Cooksey                                     | Ben McClain                        |
| <b>8 AM Coffee</b>           | Jayne Dunlap                    | Suzi Hopkins                  | Tarawanda Howard                                  | Joan McClain                       |
| <b>10 AM Server</b>          | Terry May                       | Sean Francis                  | Sean Keane-Dawes                                  | Mendell Morgan                     |
| <b>10 AM Reader</b>          | Liz Sampson                     | Melissa Mudge                 | Mendell Morgan                                    | Janet Clere                        |
| <b>10 AM Greeter/Usher</b>   | Arlene Stalvey                  | Kathy Ercoline                | Bill Ercoline                                     | Wayne Mudge                        |
| <b>Prayers of the People</b> | Maribeth Likins                 | Liz Sampson                   | Susan Brown                                       | Sean Keane-Dawes                   |
| <b>Newcomer Visits</b>       | Terry May<br>Diane Woods        | Ellen Yelverton               | Terry May<br>Diane Woods                          | Ellen Yelverton                    |
| <b>Home Communion</b>        | Mendell Morgan                  | No Home Communion             | Ellen Yelverton                                   | No Home Communion                  |
| <b>Prayer Ministry</b>       | Ellen Yelverton                 | Mendell Morgan                | Maribeth Likins                                   | Ellen Yelverton                    |
| <b>10 AM Coffee</b>          | Melissa Mudge                   | Diane Woods                   | Kathy Ercoline                                    | Melissa Mudge                      |
| <b>Audio Visual</b>          | Wayne Mudge                     | Terry May                     | Wayne Mudge                                       | Kristina Robinson                  |
| <b>Lockup/Security</b>       | Terry May                       | Arlene Stalvey                | Richard Guerrero                                  | Janet Clere                        |

## SPECIAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE for CHRISTMAS EVE 7:30 P.M.

**Altar Guild** – Tarawanda Howard  
**Server** – Sean Keane-Dawes  
**Reader** – Liz Sampson  
**Greeters/Ushers** –  
**Prayers of the People** – Suzi Hopkins  
**Audio Visual** – Wayne Mudge

## SPECIAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE for CHRISTMAS DAY 10:00 A.M.

**Altar Guild** – Suzanne Milton  
**Reader** – Susan Brown  
**Greeter** – Ellen Yelverton  
**Prayers of the People** – Susan Brown

## OCTOBER 2024 FINANCIAL REPORT

| Monthly                    | Pledge   | Plate     | Other | Total    | 2024 YTD                  | Pledge    | Plate    | Other    | Total     |
|----------------------------|----------|-----------|-------|----------|---------------------------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Operating Income Received  | \$12,419 | \$1,870   | \$955 | \$15,244 | Operating Income Received | \$151,849 | \$18,389 | \$11,849 | \$182,087 |
| Operating Income Budgeted  | \$13,869 | \$1,652   | \$380 | \$15,901 | Operating Income Budgeted | \$138,695 | \$16,516 | \$6,760  | \$161,971 |
|                            | Monthly  | YTD       |       |          |                           | Monthly   | YTD      |          |           |
| Overall Operating Expenses | \$14,084 | \$184,279 |       |          | Outreach                  | \$424     | \$8,481  |          |           |
| Budgeted Operating Expense | \$17,414 | \$191,251 |       |          |                           |           |          |          |           |

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