



# Matt's Missive

February 2025

## The Evidence of Faithfulness – The Epistle of James

By Diane Woods

Please join us this Lent for a study of the Epistle of James. The six-week study provided by the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas and created by the Rev. Jamie George includes daily readings and reflections and outlines for a once-a-week group discussion. In her introduction, Rev. Jamie said:

*“James is concerned with the purpose of our lives, which is to live in wholeness. This is as applicable to us today as it was when James wrote the letter. The evidence of faithfulness is a result of the outpouring of what Jesus is doing in our lives. The evidence in deeds of faithfulness lead to more wholeness individually and more unification communally through the love of Christ that calls us to love our neighbors as ourselves.”*

For five days of each week throughout this study, you will be invited to do five things: pray, read, reflect, contemplate, and carry. First, Rev. Jamie invites you to pray as you begin each day. She has provided a prayer from the Collects of the Book of Common Prayer. Second, you will be invited to read a portion of scripture. Third, you will be invited to reflect on the reading by answering a set of questions. Then, you will be invited to contemplate through different exercises. You may use any form of contemplation that calls you into a deeper relationship with yourself and God. Finally, you will be invited to carry a thought with you as you exit your study time.

Fr. Cristopher will lead the study which begins March 12<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. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex on Sunday or you can call the office so we have enough copies of the study.

**PLEASE JOIN US!**

**Dining Out on Thursday, February 27th, at 6:30 p.m.**

**54th Street Restaurant**

**8111 Pat Booker Rd, Live Oak, TX 78233**

**RSVP by February 25th to**

**Arlene Stalvey**



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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.

## Take me out to the ball game...

Brothers and sisters,

I'm grateful for the way the congregation has accepted (and even encouraged) my unusual volunteer ministry outside the parish serving as the chaplain (or character coach) to a college baseball team. This year, we're organizing a parish outing to come support my Saints. Come join your fellow parishioners for an afternoon of fun and fellowship and meet the players and families from my 'other congregation!'

We picked Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, for a doubleheader against the visiting Louisiana Christian University Wildcats. The first pitch of game 1 (7 innings) will be at noon. Game 2 (9 innings) will start 30 minutes after game 1, which is usually approximately 2:30pm. Our hospitality folks will be feeding the team in between games, and volunteers to assist are welcome. (Last year we made sausage roll-ups; I'm not sure what the menu will be this year.)

The Saints from Our Lady of the Lake University play our home games at Missions Baseball Academy (MBA), which is on the southwest side of San Antonio at 5707 Highway 151, 78227. MBA is a tournament facility with a minimal concession stand and exposed bleacher seating. Hats, sunglasses, umbrellas to shield the sun, and clothing appropriate to being outside are **HIGHLY** recommended. (On the plus side, frequent USAF flyovers are pretty much guaranteed.)

For folks who tell me you're coming ahead of time, I'll buy your tickets and have them ready at the gate. A sign-up sheet will circulate in the narthex and Creasy Hall a few weeks in advance.

Fr. Cristopher

## St. Matthew's Dining Out Group

By Kathy Ercoline

St. Matthew's Dining Out Group meets at a local restaurant on the **last Thursday of the month** for food, fellowship, and fun. Thank you to those who have agreed to host our Thursday Night Dinner Group. **We need hosts** for March, April, May, June, July, August, and September. Please sign up in Creasy Hall if you are willing to be a **host**....the signup sheet is on the receptionist's desk.

### RESPONSIBILITIES FOR HOSTING THE DINING OUT:

1. secure a restaurant for the meal by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month
2. notify the church office as soon as a restaurant is secured \*\*\*\*
3. take reservations
4. call the restaurant the day before to give them the final reservation count

\*\*\*The dining out information which includes the name/address of the restaurant, and the contact information of the host should be sent to the church office as soon as the restaurant is secured. Notices will be put in the church bulletin and eblasts will be sent out.

Our next dining out is February 27, 6:30 at 54<sup>th</sup> Street Restaurant in Live Oak. Arlene Stalvey is hostess. Please see her for information and to RSVP. Thank you and Bon appetite'.

# 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.

## 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.
- ◆ 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 – The best way to stop the spread of viruses? Remember to *Wash Hands* when you enter the kitchen to prepare any kind of snacks, feasts, and yes, even coffee. Thanks.

## Give it – To Go

Take another look. There are bins located by the windows in the Parish Hall. Please add to the collection so we can make new give away bags for those who travel this earth with us, but just need help sometimes.

Bin 1 is for toiletry articles – shampoo, deodorant, lotion, toothpaste. Regular size, but not too big to carry around.

Bin 2 is for sturdy shoes in good shape, fit for a person whose mode of transportation is mainly walking. Also clean, new packs of black socks for adults.

Bin 3 is for sweatshirts and jackets especially with hoods and coats. Outerwear will be taken regularly to Haven for Hope.

Once toiletry articles are collected, more give away bags can be assembled.

*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)

- ◆ March 1—World Day of Prayer.
- ◆ March 4—Shrove Tuesday.
- ◆ March 5—Ash Wednesday.
- ◆ March 19—Feast Day of Saint Joseph.

## RACAP NEWS

By Kathy Ercoline

St. Matthew's "RACAP Souper Bowl" Program was a rousing success! Many in our church family donated soup, fruit, crackers, and cash. Thank you so much! Your generosity is needed and appreciated.

Our congregation will, once again, participate in the **"40 Cans for Lent" Program**. The program **starts on March 5<sup>th</sup>** (Ash Wednesday) and continues through April 18<sup>th</sup> (Good Friday). **"40 CANS FOR LENT"** is a program designed to help fight hunger. It is an opportunity for you to make a small sacrifice, which in turn makes a big difference in the lives of others. The program began in 2010 and has grown into an international program. Our contributions are donated to RACAP to help families in our local area. Please donate **one non-perishable item of food or paper product per day** during the 40 days of Lent (March 5<sup>th</sup> -April 18<sup>th</sup>). On Easter Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, we will have a special in-gathering of **one extra food item**. We will deliver the donations to the RACAP pantry throughout the Lenten season, so bring your forty items at any time during Lent. In addition to canned foods, non-perishable food items, hygiene products, and paper products will be accepted. **Monetary donations are also appreciated**. Make your checks payable to St. Matthew's Episcopal Church and write "40 Cans for Lent" on the memo line. If you are donating cash, put your name on an envelope, label it specifically for RACAP "40 Cans for Lent Program," and place the cash inside the labeled envelope. Place your donation in the offering plate on Sunday, or you can drop it off at the church office during the week.

### Current Pantry Needs:

Peanut Butter	Jelly	Jell-O	
Tomato Products	Dish Soap	Shampoo	Pet Food

FYI...From time to time the RACAP pantry will have a shortage of specific items. When that happens, the RACAP director sends out an emergency plea (via email) to all churches. We send an eblast with the information. Thank you for your attention to this.

### WORDS of APPRECIATION and THANKS FROM OUR RACAP BOARD

#### PRESIDENT:

Everyone who serves on the RACAP Board is a blessing and we are thankful for your contribution to the program. Thank you to the many volunteers who gave their time during 2024 to work at the pantry; we could not have helped our many clients without you. RACAP helped families celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas Holidays and provided food and/or monetary assistance throughout the year. Like many nonprofits in 2024, the shelves at the pantry were low but through the donations from our member churches and area businesses, we were able to meet our clients' needs. RACAP continues to *"Live Generously"* and is a *"Difference Maker"* in the community by helping clients in the service zip codes. We look forward to a successful year in 2025.

Kathy Staley (RACAP Board President)

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

## The Reverend Timothy John Vellom

January 22, 1958 – January 9, 2025



The Reverend Timothy John Vellom, beloved husband and father, and devoted Episcopal Priest in the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas, went home to the loving arms of Jesus on Thursday evening, January 9, 2025.

Tim was highly respected among his clergy peers, friends, and family for his wisdom, humility, compassion, integrity to the Gospel, and the ability to have fun. At the core of his soul he was a pastor. His care and concern for the people of his congregations are what moved and motivated him as a priest. He ministered to so many, both congregants and others, with deep compassion, humility, grace, and the certain knowledge that Jesus is Lord.

Tim was born January 22, 1958, into a Navy family to Capt. Lee S. and Anne P. Vellom. He spent most of his formative years in Charleston, SC, and attended Porter Gaud Episcopal School. He then went on to the University of the South where he met his wife of 44 years, Ann Rubsamen Vellom. They met singing in the music ministry of the Campus Christian group. Their love of music and singing was a mainstay in their marriage and an important part of the work they did together in the church.

Tim discerned his call to ministry at the age of 17. It was for this reason he had to ask Ann to marry him 4 times! She was not sure she was called to be a wife of a minister, but found there really was no other life she would have preferred. Ann and Tim were married at St. Mark's Episcopal Church on January 3, 1981. He was sent to seminary at Trinity Episcopal School for Ministry (now Trinity Anglican School for Ministry) under Bishop Scott Field Bailey, and was ordained to the diaconate on June 20, 1985, at St. Mark's. After the service, the Reverend Ed Harvey personally drove Tim and Ann to Corpus Christi where Tim served first as an assistant and then as an associate rector of All Saints' Episcopal Church until 1988. Tim was ordained to the priesthood at All Saints on January 3, 1986, on his fifth wedding anniversary to Ann.

While they were in Corpus Christi, Ann and Tim had two daughters, Hannah Elise and Sarah Grace. Tim shared with them his love of literature, music, and adventure. His empathy and gentleness made him an amazing father. He instilled in his children his values of compassion, service to others, and love of the world.

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## **The Reverend Timothy John Vellom** *(Continued)*

In the spring of 1988, Bishop John MacNaughton asked Tim to serve as Vicar of Trinity Church, Edna, with the charge of bringing it to full parish status in five years. With the Lord's help and confidence, Trinity Edna became a full parish in 4 years and called Tim as their rector. In 1993, Tim answered a call to serve as Rector of St. James Church and school in Del Rio, Texas. In Edna and Del Rio, Tim was very involved in the local ministerial alliances and as a volunteer chaplain to the hospitals. Tim spent the last 25 years of his active ministry as Rector of St. Matthew's, Universal City. During this time, he also ministered to the people of the Army Residence Community with weekly services and pastoral care. He cherished the relationships he formed with all his congregations, and they are forever held in his heart. *(Continued on next page)*

Tim also served the Diocese of West Texas in many ways. He was a dean for many sessions at Camp Capers and served on multiple Cursillo teams over the years. His diocesan work included, but was not limited to, serving on the Happening Board, Standing Committee, Executive Board, and the Examining Chaplains. He loved the Diocese of West Texas, its people and mission.

Outside the Diocese Tim also gave 25 years of service to Global Teams International, formally Episcopal World Mission. His work with Global Teams enabled many in the mission field to live out their passion for Christ and for people around the world, seeking to "see the heart of Christ in the skin of every culture".

Tim was "a friend of Bill" for over 35 years. He was committed to his sobriety and cherished the relationships he made through this fellowship.

Tim and Ann also spent the first year after his retirement volunteering at the Abode Home for the Dying. There Tim was able to continue to use his pastoral gifts for guests and their families during the holy time of their loved ones' last days.

Tim was preceded in death by his parents Lee "Skip" and Anne Vellom, his sister, Mary Beth Corning, and two infant brothers, Lee and James. He is survived by his loving wife Ann, daughter Hannah Elise Bradley (Matthew), daughter Sarah Grace Vellom, and two grandchildren. He is also survived by his siblings Dan, Paul (Karen), and Dottie (Luke), as well as his brother in law Rollins Rubsamen (Heather), and many nieces and nephews.

A memorial service and celebration of life will be held at 11am on Friday, February 28, 2025, at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, San Antonio, Texas. A private family interment at the Bishop Jones Center will follow after the reception. Clergy are invited to vest with white stoles and to process.

The family would like to thank Mr. Lonnie White for his care for Tim and the "great adventures" he and Tim enjoyed together. We also want to thank the team from Hosparus Hospice and the staff, nurses and caregivers of the Episcopal Church Home, Clingman neighborhood, Louisville, Kentucky.

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## The Reverend Timothy John Vellom *(Continued)*

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be sent to the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas (<https://www.dwtx.org/give>), The Alzheimer's Association (<https://alzfdn.org/donate>), or The Abode Home for the Dying (<https://abodehome.org/donate/>).

In his final days Tim was comforted by the words and music of John Michael Talbot. The following are lyrics from Tim's favorite song:

Healer of my soul  
Keep me at even  
Keep me at morning  
Keep me at noon  
Healer of my soul  
Keeper of my soul  
On rough course faring  
Help and safeguard my means this night  
Keeper of my soul  
I am tired, astray, and stumbling  
Shield my soul from the snare of sin  
Healer of my soul  
Heal me at even  
Heal me at morning  
Heal me at noon  
Healer of my soul

Please click this link to view the livestream service: <https://www.stmarks-sa.org/private-stream>

### March Birthdays

*May you be like the tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever it does prospers. (Psalm 1:3)*

Roy Leonard	Paulette Schwoebel
Paige DeStazio	Flip Bushey
Tony Regist	Jim Greer
Pam Calvert	Danielle Langford
Anne Blake	Annette Regist

### RACAP Month in Review

#### January 2025 Results

Total # of Families Assisted: 88

Total # of People Assisted: 220

Total # of Pantry Orders: 65

Total # of People Fed: 170

Estimated cost of food given: \$11,755.00



## *Happenings Around The Diocese*

**Nails & Prayers Service Retreat:** March 7-9 at Camp Capers.

**Spring Break Family Camp:** March 13-16 at Mustang Island Family Camp. Spend Spring Break weekend with your family on the beach!

**Cursillo #295:** March 13-16 at Camp Capers.

**The Good, The True, and The Beautiful:** April 25-27 at Camp Capers. Creativity and Spiritual Retreat featuring esteemed musicians Terri Hendrix and Lloyd Maines. You are invited by The Rt. Rev. Dr. David G. Read, Bishop Diocesan, to attend this highly anticipated retreat, offering a spiritual and nurturing environment to deepen your faith and build relationships.

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

### DWTX in the News

#### **Northern Convocation Churches Partner to Alleviate Debt in their Communities**

*from the Bandera Bulletin* - "The Skye's the Limit" campaign raised more than \$20,000 which enabled them to buy and eliminate \$5.5 million worth of medical debt for over 4,500 Hill Country residents, in 19 counties."

"Organizers extended special thanks to St. Martin's Episcopal Church in Mason for sponsoring the campaign, as well as the Episcopal Churches in the Northern Convocation and the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas for their support." Read more [here](#).



## From the Blog

### The Consecration of the 7th Bishop Suffragan, the Reverend Angela Maria Cortiñas; March 15, 2025; St. John's Episcopal Church, McAllen, Texas

You're invited to join the Rt. Rev. Dr. David G. Read, D.D. and the Diocese of West Texas to celebrate the Consecration and Ordination of the 7th Bishop Suffragan of the Diocese of West Texas, the Rev. Angela Maria Cortiñas. The Rev. Cortiñas will be consecrated at St. John's Episcopal Church, McAllen on March 15 at 10:00 a.m. The Most Reverend Sean Rowe, Presiding Bishop and Primate of The Episcopal Church, to Serve as Chief Consecrator. Learn more [here](#).

Several hotel blocks have been reserved in the McAllen area for Friday, March 14, the day preceding the Consecration. Click [here](#) to learn how to reserve your room.

### Episcopal Diocese of West Texas Announces Closure of Plaza de Paz Respite Center

After much prayerful consideration, the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas will close the Plaza de Paz Respite Center indefinitely.

Though shelter operations will cease, it does not mean the end of the diocesan Immigration + Refugee Ministries. The program will continue to provide training, calls to action, and serve as a resource for churches to respond faithfully to the needs of the immigrant community. 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.



## MARCH CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Worship 8 & 10am (C) Sunday School 9:15am (L)	3 Staff Meeting 9am (L) Prayer Meeting 12pm (L) AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH)	4 Pancake Supper 5:30-7pm (CH)	5 Ash Wednesday Services 7am & 7pm (C) HOME 10am-3:30pm (CH, C, L, VEB) Eucharist 11am (ARC)	6 Choir Practice 4:30-5:30pm (C) AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH)	7	8
9 Worship 8 & 10am (C) Sunday School 9:15am (L) <i>Spring Forward Daylight Saving Time Begins</i>	10 Staff Meeting 9am (L) Prayer Meeting 12pm (L) AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH)	11 Vestry Meeting 6pm (CH)	12 HOME 10am-3:30pm (CH, C, L, VEB) Eucharist 11am (ARC) Lenten Study 6-8pm (CH)	13 Choir Practice 4:30-5:30pm (C) AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH)	14	15 The Consecration of the 7th Bishop Suffragan 10am (St. John's Episcopal Church, McAllen TX)
16 Worship 8 & 10am (C) Sunday School 9:15am (L) Kiwanis 5-6pm (CH)	17 Staff Meeting 9am (L) Prayer Meeting 12pm (L) AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH)	18	19 HOME 10am-3:30pm (CH, C, L, VEB) Eucharist 11am (ARC) Lenten Study 6-8pm (CH)	20 Choir Practice 4:30-5:30pm (C) AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH)	21	22
23 Worship 8 & 10am (C) Sunday School 9:15am (L)	24 Staff Meeting 9am (L) Prayer Meeting 12pm (L) AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH)	25	26 HOME 10am-3:30pm (CH, C, L, VEB) Eucharist 11am (ARC) Lenten Study 6-8pm (CH)	27 Choir Practice 4:30-5:30pm (C) Dining Out 6:30pm (TBD) AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH)	28	29 Day at the Ball Park 2pm (Missions Baseball Academy)
30 Worship 8 & 10am (C) Sunday School 9:15am (L)	31 Staff Meeting 9am (L) Prayer Meeting 12pm (L) AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH)					

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

## MARCH 2025 SUNDAY MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Ministry	March 2	March 9	March 16	March 23	March 30
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Suzanne Milton Terry May	Cindy Hull Diane Woods	Pat Clarke-Kempf Diane Woods	Terry May Suzanne Milton	Maggie Barnes Stephenie McBride Diane Woods
<b>8 AM Reader</b>	Jayne Dunlap	Suzi Hopkins	Joan McClain	Max Hopkins	Jayne Dunlap
<b>8 AM Greeter/Usher</b>	Suzi Hopkins	Shawn Cooksey	Ben McClain	Joan McClain	Max Hopkins
<b>8 AM Coffee</b>	Jayne Dunlap	Suzi Hopkins	Tarawanda Howard	Joan McClain	Jayne Dunlap
<b>10 AM Server</b>	Mendell Morgan	Wayne Mudge	Sean Keane-Dawes	Sean Francis	Mendell Morgan
<b>10 AM Reader</b>	Wayne Mudge	Sean Keane-Dawes	Melissa Mudge	Susan Brown	Wayne Mudge
<b>10 AM Greeter/Usher</b>	Arlene Stalvey	Bill Ercoline	Wayne Mudge	Melissa Mudge	Diane Woods
<b>Prayers of the People</b>	Susan Brown	Sean Keane-Dawes	Janet Clere	Bill Ercoline	Maribeth Likins
<b>Newcomer Visits</b>	Terry May Diane Woods	Ellen Yelverton	Terry May Diane Woods	Ellen Yelverton	Terry May Diane Woods
<b>Home Communion</b>	Mendell Morgan	No Home Communion	Ellen Yelverton	No Home Communion	Sean Keane-Dawes
<b>Prayer Ministry</b>	Maribeth Likins	Ellen Yelverton	Mendell Morgan	Maribeth Likins	Ellen Yelverton
<b>10 AM Coffee</b>	Colleen Hubberd Maribeth Likins	Diane Woods Terry May	Kathy Ercoline	Melissa Mudge	Colleen Hubberd Maribeth Likins
<b>Audio Visual</b>	Wayne Mudge	Kristina Robinson	Terry May	Wayne Mudge	Kristina Robinson
<b>Lockup/Security</b>	Richard Guerrero	Janet Clere	Ellen Yelverton	Tarawanda Howard	Terry May

*Almighty God, who hast given us this good land for our heritage: We humbly beseech thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of thy favor and glad to do thy will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in thy Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to thy law, we may show forth thy praise among the nations of the earth. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in thee to fail; all which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

(Book of Common Prayer, page 820)

## DECEMBER 2024 FINANCIAL REPORT

Monthly	Pledge	Plate	Other	Total	2024 YTD	Pledge	Plate	Other	Total
Operating Income Received	\$16,689	\$1,161	\$1,308	\$19,158	Operating Income Received	\$184,431	\$22,538	\$13,640	\$220,609
Operating Income Budgeted	\$13,869	\$1,652	\$860	\$16,381	Operating Income Budgeted	\$166,434	\$19,819	\$8,000	\$194,253
	Monthly	YTD				Monthly	YTD		
Overall Operating Expenses	\$31,415	\$233,936			Outreach	\$200	\$9,585		
Budgeted Operating Expenses	\$18,264	\$231,429							

**ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
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 210-658-5956      [www.stmatts-uc.org](http://www.stmatts-uc.org)