



Matt's Missive

October 2025



2025 Stewardship Program

By Wayne Mudge

St. Matthew's 2025 Stewardship Program officially kicks-off on November 9, 2025, and will continue through December 7, 2025. Our campaign theme this year is *Tell Out my Soul*. Our intentions this year are to 1) remind parishioners how the many facets of stewardship (time, talent, and treasure) interrelate with walking in love and 2) encourage every parishioner to examine the spiritual journey they are on, as they pray about their stewardship. During this year's program, we will ask parishioners to think about these questions: What does Tell Out my Soul mean to you? How has God's love and your response to His love formed your gratitude and generosity?

Our schedule for this year:

November 9: *TELL OUT MY SOUL SUNDAY* – a short stewardship introduction at both services.

November 16: *TESTIMONY SUNDAY* – testimony about stewardship to be shared.

November 23: *GENEROSITY SUNDAY* – estimate of giving cards for 2025 will be available for completion in the parish hall after the services.

December 7: *GRATITUDE AND BLESSINGS SUNDAY* – completed estimate of giving cards to be blessed during the services.

You will receive more information when our campaign kicks off in November. I ask that you pray with us as we launch our annual review of gifts, gratitude, and, prayerfully consider how you will share your gifts.

"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and Tell Out my Soul, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God." Ephesians 5:1-2, NRSV

PLEASE JOIN US!

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

Sat Asian Seafood Restaurant & Bar No. 2

950 FM-78 Schertz, TX 78154

RSVP by September 28th to Kathy and Bill Ercoline



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.

Market Day Thanks

Another successful Market Day is behind us. Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped in the week before to get the rooms cleared, spaces marked, and tables and chairs moved. A special thanks to Liz and John for their organization and guidance. Also, special thanks to Melissa and her crew for organizing, preparing, and selling the wonderful breakfast items as well as hamburgers and hot dogs for lunch. Thanks again for all the support. It takes a village....

So many crafts!



So many vendors!



Just a few of our wonderful volunteers!!



Shhh!!

Holy Baptism September 21, 2025



"We present Mallorie Elaine Hamilton to receive the Sacrament of Baptism."



Let us welcome the newly baptized!



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

St. Matthew's New Neighbors Open for Business

We've all been watching the construction progress with a certain amount of anticipation, and our new neighboring business is finally open!

Fr. Cristopher represented us at the official ribbon cutting on October 15th, and the church staff went over for lunch on the first business day, the 16th. Universal City Mayor Tom Maxwell and many other community and business leaders were also present for the celebration.

Owner Troy Luster described the mission statement for the restaurant in his ribbon-cutting speech: "Caring for each other and serving great food in a place that feels like home." You can view an interview with the owner [here](#).



Universal City Mayor Tom Maxwell with Troy Luster, franchise owner.

Ceremonial ribbon cutting with St. Matthew's steeple in the background.



Ceremonial first bite of sandwiches!

RACAP NEWS

By Kathy Ercoline

ST. MATTHEW'S HARVEST SUNDAY is NOVEMBER 2nd. Please bring the following food items to present at the altar...Brown sugar (1lb.); Evaporated Milk; Stuffing Mix; Canned Pumpkin; Yams or Sweet Potatoes; Fruit Cocktail; Cranberry Sauce; Corn (not creamed); Green Beans (not French); Chicken Broth. If you are unable to attend church on **November 2nd**, please bring your contributions to Creasy Hall during office hours before then. Your donations of food and/or cash will be presented at the altar during both services on the 2nd, and they will be delivered to RACAP on the 3rd. The monetary donations will be used to purchase gift cards (for turkeys) and fresh food for the Holiday Food baskets.

HARVEST SUNDAY LUNCHEON: Immediately following the 10:00 a.m. service on Harvest Sunday, we will meet in Creasy Hall for a soup and salad luncheon. There are sign-up sheets located in the Narthex and on the table in the Creasy Hall lobby. Please sign up to bring soup, salad, rolls etc. **DESSERT WILL BE PROVIDED**. Bring your soups, salads, etc., to the Creasy Hall kitchen **before** the service. Looking forward to food and fellowship on November 2nd.

**In addition to the Holiday Basket foods, these are the
Current Pantry Needs:**

Canned Fruit	Pasta Meals	Cereal
Peanut Butter	Jelly	Spaghetti Sauce Pet Food

(Always check the 'best by' or 'expiration date' on the foods you donate...out of date items **cannot** be distributed.)

RACAP Month in Review

September 2025 Assistance Results

of Families Assisted 101 ~ # People 251

of Pantry Orders Prepared 76 ~ # of People Fed 198

Estimated Value of Food Given: \$17,949.00

THANK YOU from a grateful RACAP CLIENT: *"I would first like to thank you for the kindness shown and willingness to help during this time. My kids were so excited to see the treats waiting for them that came from your pantry, what a blessing. None of it went unappreciated."* (RACAP makes a difference in people's lives)

If you would like to make a financial donation to RACAP or just visit the RACAP website, you can click on the QR code, and it will link you to our website. Thank you so much for your support!



"Thank you for helping us help others."

Hospitality Notes

By Melissa Mudge

Many Thanks

Thank you, people of St. Matthew's. Always ready and willing to share your time and talents. We get things done because you care enough to make it happen.

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 yummy treats that come out of our kitchen. Each week is a new culinary delight.
- ♦ 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 – Looking Good! We did pass our kitchen inspection with flying colors!! Cleaning up after every activity helps keep the area clean and sanitary. Remember that washing your hands before touching anything in the kitchen is the best thing you can do to keep us all safe and healthy.

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.

Thoughts and prayers lead to contemplation. Contemplation opens hearts to listen to God. Listening can result in action on behalf of those for whom we pray.

Special Days/Events

- ♦ **November 1**—Our Departed Saints have been visiting us since St. Matthew's Day in September. Their presence, through photographs, mementos, and words of remembrance, has been a blessing for us all.
- ♦ **November 2—Harvest Sunday.** A day to share the Earth's bounty with others, as we have been so richly blessed. Please bring food items to fill Thanksgiving baskets or cash donations to purchase those items. Join us in the Parish Hall for a soup and salad luncheon after 10:00 a.m. service.
- ♦ **November 4—Election Day.** “Almighty God, to whom we must account for all our powers and privileges: Guide the people of the United States and this community in the election of officials and representatives; that, by faithful administration and wise laws, the rights of all may be protected and our nation be enabled to fulfill your purposes, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*” (*Book of Common Prayer, page 822*)

(Continued on next page)

Hospitality Notes *(Continued)*

Special Days/Events

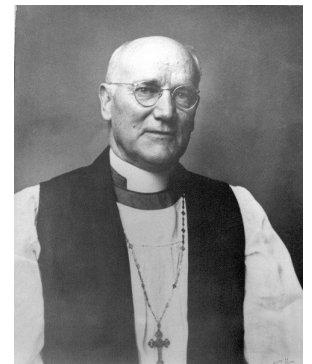
- ♦ **November 7—Feast Day of Willibrord** Archbishop of Utrecht and Missionary to Frisia, 739. Saint Willibrord, known as the Apostle of Frisia, was an Anglo-Saxon missionary and the first Archbishop of Utrecht who played a pivotal role in evangelizing the Low Countries in the late 7th and early 8th centuries, establishing churches and monasteries while working closely with Frankish rulers to spread Christianity among the pagan Frisians.
- ♦ **November 10—World Day of Orphans.**
- ♦ **November 11—Veterans' 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.*" (*Book of Common Prayer*, page 839)
- ♦ **November 17—Feast Day of Hugh of Lincoln.**
- ♦ **November 26—Feast Day of Kamehameha and Emma of Hawaii.**
- ♦ **November 27—Thanksgiving.** "O Gracious Father, who opens your hand and fills all things with plenteousness: Bless the lands and waters, and multiply the harvests of the world; let your Spirit go forth, that it may renew the face of the earth; show your loving-kindness, that our land may give her increase; and save us from selfish use of what you give, that men and women everywhere may give you thanks; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*" (*Book of Common Prayer*, page 828)

A Historical Retrospective

A Beloved Bishop Grows Diocese Amid Challenging Economic Times

The Rt. Rev William Theodotus Capers, D.D.
3rd Bishop of the Diocese of West Texas
Tenure: 1914-1943

Over a century ago, Bishop William Capers stepped into the role as Bishop Coadjutor of West Texas in 1914 and became Bishop of West Texas in 1916. His tenure is one of the longest as a West Texas bishop, serving for 29 years. Capers led the diocese to grow significantly despite large challenges during a time of economic hardship.



His greatest legacy may be his love for the people and clergy of West Texas. He cherished moving about and visiting churches across the diocese and continued to do so throughout his time as Diocesan Bishop. After a brief hospitalization, Capers died on March 29, 1943. "The entire Diocese mourned his loss." His successor, the Rt. Rev. Everett H. Jones, D.D., 4th Bishop of West Texas, said "I felt it a high honor...to succeed him...and I inherited from him a wonderful tradition of loyalty and devotion." Read more [here](#).

DAYLIGHT SAVING ENDS!

November 2nd!

**Remember to set
your clocks back one
hour before going to
bed on Saturday,
November 1st!**

November Birthdays

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

Cindy Hull	Terry May
Jayne Creasy	Mitch Hopkins
Max Hopkins	Jackson Mudge
Kristina Robinson	Dawn Keane-Dawes
Gudrun Gustin	Howard Egbert
Barbara Duffield	Wayne Mudge
Sam Crouch	Mendell Morgan
Adalyn Mains	

Birthday blessings are for everyone. Please let us know who you would like to add to the list – family, friend, acquaintance, foe.



Happenings Around The Diocese

Cursillo #298: November 6-9 at Camp Capers.

Cursillo gives church members the tools and "rules of life" to enthusiastically share the joys of knowing Christ with others in their everyday environments. Click [here](#) to learn more.

20th Annual Bishop's Golf

Tournament: November 3 at The Club at Sonterra in San Antonio. The tournament benefits camp scholarships.

54th Annual Diocesan Silent Retreat:

November 13-16 at Mustang Island Conference Center. Retreat leader, the Rev. Rich Nelson, St. Peter's, Kerrville will guide you through a reflection on the foundational elements of your own uniquely creative, spiritual, and sacred self.

Already Missing Camp Capers? Join us for Mid-Winter 2026!

Mid-Winter I: January 2-4, 2026 - Current 6th through 12th graders.

Mid-Winter II: January 9-11, 2026 - Current 2nd through 5th graders.

A Weekend to Discern and Explore

God's Call: April 24-26, 2026, at Mustang Island Conference Center.

Discovery weekends focus on the concept of vocation and God's call in our lives as Christ followers as it applies to both lay and ordained persons. Whether this is a first or tenth step toward learning more along your journey with discernment, this weekend is open to all who are interested in learning and discovering more!

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



The Diocesan Nominating Committee Seeks Clergy and Lay Nominees for 2026 Election - Nominations are open through November 3, 2025.

The Diocese of West Texas Nominating Committee encourages you to put your name forward, as well as to recommend nominations of individuals you feel would be a good fit for the various open offices to be filled at Diocesan Council in Corpus Christi February 26-28, 2026. If you are nominating an individual other than yourself, contact the individual and encourage them to proceed with the submission of the nomination form (must be submitted by individual being nominated). Nominees do not have to be present at Council to be elected.

One important gift and honor of the work of the Nominating Committee is striving to ensure that the diversity of the diocese is represented within the nomination process. Nominees of all backgrounds, ages (18yrs+), and first-time nominees are encouraged. Read more [here](#).

Coming Soon! Advent Podcast Series: Stories of Movement and Migration.

The Diocese of West Texas Small Church Ministry, Christian Formation, and Latino+ Immigration Ministries are developing a six-episode bilingual Advent podcast study series for our new diocesan podcast *laVentana, The Voice of the Diocese*. The first episode will premiere with an introduction on November 17. The series will include stories, theological reflections, discussion guides, and transcripts for all church and group sizes. *Stay tuned. More information coming soon!*

(Continued next column)

From the Blog *(Continued)*

Trinity, Pharr, Commemorates 100th Anniversary Milestone.

The City Council in Pharr issued a Proclamation declaring that October 2025 is "100th Year Anniversary of Trinity Episcopal Church." In 1927, the City of Pharr donated the land where the church currently stands. As noted in the Proclamation, "Whereas, thanks to a property gift from the City of Pharr, the church building was constructed in 1927 at a cost of \$11,000, and on October 2, 1927, the Reverend Samuel Capers assumed charge of the parish, installed by his father Bishop William Capers." Trinity is planning celebration for the 100th Anniversary in the Spring of 2026, following the restoration of the church's stained glass windows.

Applications are Open for Summer 2026 Positions at Camp Capers, Duncan Park, and Mustang Island Conference Center.

Be a part of a team that inspires campers from across the diocese and provide opportunities for campers of all ages to encounter transforming relationships with Jesus Christ. Click [here](#) to apply for Camp Capers Summer Staff in Training (SIT) & Volunteer. Click [here](#) to apply for the Healthcare Provider/Camp Nurse. Sign up [here](#) for all others.

Save the Date - The Good, the True, and the Beautiful Retreat returns to Camp Capers April 17-19, 2026.

Plan to attend this Spiritual and Creative Retreat next Spring. More information coming soon!

The **DEADLINE** to submit Missive articles is the 15th of the month. Any late articles will be in the next month's issue.

NOVEMBER CALENDAR						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Harvest Sunday Worship 8 & 10am (C) Sunday School 9:15am (L) Soup & Salad Potluck 11am (CH)	3 Staff Meeting 9am (L) Prayer Meeting 12pm (L) AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH)	4 Election Day	5 HOME 10am-3:30pm (CH, C, VEB) Wednesday Night Study 6-8pm (CH)	6 Eucharist 11am (ARC) Choir Practice 2-3pm (C) AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH)	7	8
9 Worship 8 & 10am (C) Sunday School 9:15am (L)	10 Staff Meeting 9am (L) Prayer Meeting 12pm (L) AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH)	11 Office Closed No Vestry Meeting	12 HOME 10am-3:30pm (CH, C, VEB) Wednesday Night Study 6-8pm (CH)	13 Eucharist 11am (ARC) Choir Practice 2-3pm (C) AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH)	14	15
16 Worship 8 & 10am (C) Sunday School 9:15am (L)	17 Staff Meeting 9am (L) Prayer Meeting 12pm (L) AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH)	18	19 HOME 10am-3:30pm (CH, C, VEB) Wednesday Night Study 6-8pm (CH)	20 Eucharist 11am (ARC) Choir Practice 2-3pm (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, VEB)	27 Thanksgiving Day Office Closed No ARC Service AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH)	28 Office Closed	29
30 Worship 8 & 10am (C) Sunday School 9:15am (L)						
C – Church; CH – Creasy Hall; VEB – Vellom Ed Building; L – Library ARC – Army Residence Community						

NOVEMBER 2025 SUNDAY MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Ministry	November 2 All Saints	November 9	November 16	November 23	November 30 Advent 1
Altar Guild	Pat Clarke-Kempf Cindy Hull Diane Woods	Janet Clere Diane Woods	Tarawanda Howard Suzanne Milton	Maggie Barnes Stephenie McBride	Pat Clarke-Kempf Cindy Hull Diane Woods
8 AM Reader	Max Hopkins	Jayne Dunlap	Suzi Hopkins	Joan McClain	Max Hopkins
8 AM Greeter/Usher	Joan McClain	Shawn Cooksey	Ben McClain	Max Hopkins	Ron Dunlap
8 AM Coffee	Joan McClain	Jayne Dunlap	Suzi Hopkins	Tarawanda Howard	Joan McClain
10 AM Server	Sean Francis	Wayne Mudge	Terry May	Arlene Stalvey	Sean Francis
10 AM Reader	Sean Francis	Maribeth Likins	Wayne Mudge	Sean Francis	Janet Clere
10 AM Greeter/Usher	Wayne Mudge	Arlene Stalvey	Bill Ercoline	Melissa Mudge	Diane Woods
Prayers of the People	Maribeth Likins	Janet Clere	Bill Ercoline	Maribeth Likins	Ellen Yelverton
Newcomer Visits	Terry May Diane Woods	Terry May Diane Woods	Ellen Yelverton	Terry May Diane Woods	Ellen Yelverton
Home Communion	No Home Communion	Ellen Yelverton	No Home Communion	Janet Clere	No Home Communion
Prayer Ministry	Maribeth Likins	Maribeth Likins	Ellen Yelverton	Maribeth Likins	Ellen Yelverton
10 AM Coffee	Harvest Sunday	Melissa Mudge	Diane Woods Terry May	Kathy Ercoline	Colleen Hubbard
Audio Visual	Kristina Robinson	Terry May	Wayne Mudge	Terry May	Wayne Mudge
Lockup/Security	Arlene Stalvey	Richard Guerrero	Janet Clere	Ellen Yelverton	Tarawanda Howard

Most gracious God, by whose knowledge the depths are
broken up and the clouds drop down the dew: We yield thee
heartly thanks and praise for the return of seed time and harvest,
for the increase of the ground and the gathering in of its fruits,
and for all other blessings of thy merciful providence
bestowed upon this nation and people. And, we beseech thee,
give us a just sense of these great mercies, such as may appear
in our lives by a humble, holy, and obedient walking before
thee all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom,
with thee and the Holy Ghost be all glory and honor,
World without end. *Amen.*

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.*

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