

Matt's Missive

January 2026

The Rt. Rev. Dr. David G. Read Annual Visit December 21st



PLEASE JOIN US!
Dining Out on Thursday, January 29th, at 6:30 p.m.
Pompeii Italian Grill
16109 Nacogdoches Rd., San Antonio, TX 78247
RSVP by January 27th to Bill & Kathy 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.

RACAP NEWS

By Kathy Ercoline

RACAP'S 'SOUPER' BOWL ANNUAL FOOD COLLECTION:

During the month of **JANUARY**, and until Super Bowl Sunday on February 8th, please donate **CANNED SOUPS**, **CANNED FRUITS**, and **CRACKERS** to fill RACAP pantry shelves. Cash donations are always graciously accepted.

Current Pantry Needs:

Canned Pasta Meals	Spaghetti Sauce	Cereal
Baby Food	Jelly	Dish Soap
Laundry Soap	Diapers Size 5	Toothbrushes
Pet Food		

Thank you to our St. Matthew's congregation for your continued support to fulfill RACAP's mission to "Feed My Sheep" (John 21:15-17). The holiday basket program was a huge success. 261 families were blessed with a Christmas meal. This would not have been possible without your generous contributions of food items and monetary donations. The RACAP food pantry would not exist without the hardworking staff, the loyal volunteers, the member churches, and local organizations who faithfully donate food and money. As we begin 2026, always remember to find gratitude during the most challenging times, and to show grace to others. We never know how a simple act of kindness can impact someone's life.

Have a Happy, Healthy and Blessed 2026!

RACAP Month in Review

December 2025 Assistance Results

of Families Assisted 88 ~ # of People Assisted 246
of Pantry Orders Prepared 58 ~ # of People Fed 177
Estimated Value of Food Given: \$15,064.00

RACAP 2025 Results

of Families Assisted 1,102 ~ # of People 2,873
of Pantry Visits 814 ~ # of People Fed 2,194
of REPEAT Clients 510 ~ # of NEW Clients 592
Estimated Value of Food Given: \$195,889.00
Value of Rental Assistance Given: \$38,176.11
Value of Utility Assistance Given: \$41,127.51

"Thank you for helping us help others."

Hospitality Notes

By Melissa Mudge

Many Thanks

Thank you, people of St. Matthew's as we move into the new year.

"New years will keep coming in our lives as long as we live, but how do we manage to live with prosperity in that every new year and help others around us do the same? Isn't that what we should plan and celebrate? So, let's celebrate the inception of improved us, not the new year." —Mohith Agadi. (Source: <https://www.southernliving.com/holidays-occasions/new-years/happy-new-year-quotes>)

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 – Looking Good! Flu season means more germs. Please wash your hands before touching anything in the kitchen, even coffee making supplies and the ice scoop. This keeps us all 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.

Action on behalf of those for whom we pray:

Haven for Hope is sponsoring a Coat Drive in January. SHARE THE WARMTH!

Please donate essential winter gear for individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

So, clear out your closet and bring in those gently used or new winter items to the Parish Hall. This is an act of kindness that can bring comfort and hope to someone facing the cold months ahead.

We will miss the actual collection day, but all collected items will be taken to Haven for Hope on the last day of the month.

Thank you for being mindful of the needs of others.



(Continued on next page)

Hospitality Notes (Continued)

Special Days/Events

- ♦ **February 2—Candlemas.** Candlemas is a Christian holiday marking the presentation of Jesus at the Temple (Luke 2:22–40). The Feast of Presentation, therefore, happens on February 2nd because, according to the bible, after spending 40 days at home with her Son, Mary, together with Joseph, brought Jesus to the Temple on this date where he was consecrated to God. While Mary and Joseph were at the Temple, an old man named Simeon visited the holy place looking for the Messiah. When he held Jesus in his arms, he declared him to be the light who came to save the world from sin and darkness. This inspired the tradition, observed since the 7th century, of blessing candles during Mass on this Feast Day, which birthed the term Candlemas. (Source: <https://www.calendarr.com/united-states/candlemas-day/>)
- ♦ **February 17—Shrove Tuesday (Really) Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper.** Shrove Tuesday comes from the word “shrive” which means to give absolution after hearing confession. Shrove Tuesday is traditionally the day people go to confession to prepare themselves for Lent, which begins on the following day, Ash Wednesday. The custom of eating pancakes started around 600 AD when Pope St. Gregory prohibited Christians from eating all forms of meat and animal products during Lent. So, Christians made pancakes to use up their supply of eggs, milk and butter in preparation for Lent.
A sign-up sheet coming soon – Looking for pancake flippers, bacon handlers, sausage grillers, servers, set-up, and of course clean-up
- ♦ **February 18—Ash Wednesday.** *Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.* (Book of Common Prayer, page 217)
- ♦ **February 22—First Sunday of Lent.** *Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.* (Book of Common Prayer, page 218)

Jan Dooling	Holly Crouch
Susan Walker	Melissa Mudge
Deb Hynes	Carolyn Hull
Ivy Keane-Dawes	Molly Baskin
Susan Brown	Sean McBride
Eleanor (Memo) Bjoring	Joan McClain

February Birthdays

May he give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed. (Psalm 20:4)



Happenings Around The Diocese

Father/Son Retreat: February 6-8, 2026, at Camp Capers.

Join us at this year's retreat for fathers, grandfathers, father-figures, and their sons. Spend a weekend in the hill country, focusing on strengthening that unique bond fathers and sons share while participating in fun and faith-centered activities.

Couple's Weekend Getaway: February 13-15 at Mustang Island Conference Center.

Escape for the weekend with your Sweetheart. The weekend includes two nights lodging, 5 meals, special Saturday dinner, and campfire. Each room has a private deck view of the sea and boardwalk access to beach.

Spring Break Family Camp: March 12-15 at Mustang Island Conference Center. Spend Spring Break weekend with your family on the beach at Mustang Island Family Camp! Programming begins Thursday afternoon/evening and continues through Sunday lunch.

Cursillo 299 - Walk By Faith: March 12-15 at Camp Capers.

Cursillo (a Spanish word meaning "little course") gives church members the tools and "rules of life" to enthusiastically share the joys of knowing Christ with others in their everyday environments. The Cursillo weekend begins on Thursday evening and ends on Sunday afternoon. Marie Sluder will serve as Rectora.

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



From the Blog

The Episcopal Diocese of West Texas

122nd Council is fast approaching.

Clergy, delegates, exhibitors, and guests will gather in Corpus Christi Thursday, February 26 - Saturday, February 28 to discuss business, share fellowship, and worship together.

We are excited to announce the Rt. Rev. Craig Loya, Bishop of the Diocese of Minnesota as Guest Speaker for the Bishop's Luncheon on Friday, February 27. The Bishop's Luncheon will be held at the Omni Hotel in Corpus Christi at 12:00 p.m. Council attendees and registered guests are invited to attend this special event. Click [here](#) to learn more about Bishop Loya.

Registration is now open for clergy, delegates, exhibitors, guests, and childcare. Click [here](#) to learn more.

Visit the [Council 2026](#) website page to learn more.

Duncan Park names new Directors.

Duncan Park welcomes Matthew McLendon as the new Duncan Park Site Director and Shelby Rowe as the new Summer Camp Director! Click [here](#) to learn more about joining the Summer Staff at Duncan Park.



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

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Worship 8 & 10am (C) Sunday School 9:15am (L)	2 Staff Meeting 9am (L) Prayer Meeting 12pm (L) AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH)	3	4 HOME 10am-3:30pm (CH, C, L, VEB)	5 Eucharist 11am (ARC) Choir Practice 2-3pm (C) AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH)	6	7
8 Worship 8 & 10am (C) Sunday School 9:15am (L)	9 Staff Meeting 9am (L) Prayer Meeting 12pm (L) AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH)	10	11 HOME 10am-3:30pm (CH, C, L, VEB) Vestry Meeting 6pm (CH)	12 Eucharist 11am (ARC) Choir Practice 2-3pm (C) AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH)	13	14
15 Worship 8 & 10am (C) Sunday School 9:15am (L)	16 <i>Presidents' Day Office Closed No Staff or Prayer Meeting</i> AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH)	17 Pancake Supper 5:30-7pm (CH)	18 Ash Wednesday Services 7am & 7pm (C) HOME 10am-3:30pm (CH, C, L, VEB)	19 Eucharist 11am (ARC) Choir Practice 2-3pm (C) AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH)	20	21
22 Worship 8 & 10am (C) Sunday School 9:15am (L)	23 Staff Meeting 9am (L) Prayer Meeting 12pm (L) AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH)	24	25 HOME 10am-3:30pm (CH, C, L, VEB) Lenten Study 6-8pm (CH)	26 DWTX Annual Council (Corpus Christi TX) Eucharist 11am (ARC) Choir Practice 2-3pm (C) Dining Out 6:30pm (TBD) AA Meeting 8-9pm (CH)	27 DWTX Annual Council (Corpus Christi TX)	28 DWTX Annual Council (Corpus Christi TX)

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

FEBRUARY 2026 SUNDAY MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Ministry	February 1	February 8	February 15	February 22
Altar Guild	Tarawanda Howard Suzanne Milton	Maggie Barnes Stephenie McBride	Janet Clere Diane Woods	Pat Clarke-Kempf Cindy Hull Diane Woods
8 AM Reader	Jayne Dunlap	Suzi Hopkins	Joan McClain	Max Hopkins
8 AM Greeter/Usher	Shawn Cooksey	Max Hopkins	Ron Dunlap	Suzi Hopkins
8 AM Coffee	Jayne Dunlap	Suzi Hopkins	Tarawanda Howard	Joan McClain
10 AM Server	Sean Francis	Wayne Mudge	Terry May	Arlene Stalvey
10 AM Reader	Wayne Mudge	Janet Clere	Sean Francis	Maribeth Likins
10 AM Greeter/Usher	Wayne Mudge	Bill Ercoline	Arlene Stalvey	Melissa Mudge
Prayers of the People	Janet Clere	Bill Ercoline	Maribeth Likins	Ellen Yelverton
Newcomer Visits	Terry May Diane Woods	Terry May Diane Woods	Terry May Diane Woods	Terry May Diane Woods
Home Communion	Ellen Yelverton	No Home Communion	Janet Clere	No Home Communion
Prayer Ministry	Ellen Yelverton	Maribeth Likins	Ellen Yelverton	Maribeth Likins
10 AM Coffee	Melissa Mudge	Kathy Ercoline	Diane Woods Terry May	Colleen Hubberd
Audio Visual	Kristina Robinson	Terry May	Jay Barnes	Kristina Robinson
Lockup/Security	Cindy Hull	Willard Whitworth	Ellen Yelverton	Tarawanda Howard

O heavenly Father, *who hast* filled the world with beauty:
 Open our eyes to behold *thy* gracious hand in all *thy* works;
 that, rejoicing in *thy* whole creation, we may learn to serve
thee with gladness; for the sake of him through whom all
 things were made, *thy* Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

DECEMBER 2025 FINANCIAL REPORT

Monthly	Pledge	Plate	Other	Total	2025 YTD	Pledge	Plate	Other	Total
Operating Income Received	\$13,740	\$897	\$4,632	\$19,269	Operating Income Received	\$191,600	\$12,839	\$77,574	\$282,013
Operating Income Budgeted	\$15,594	\$1,445	\$478	\$17,517	Operating Income Budgeted	\$187,137	\$17,339	\$8,108	\$212,584
Overall Operating Expenses	\$19,689	\$244,141			Outreach	\$596	\$5,882		
Budgeted Operating Expenses	\$21,205	\$267,989			Monthly	YTD			

ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
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