



# ST. PHILIP'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*Uvalde, Texas*

## PARISH PROFILE 2025



**A welcoming community  
for everyone seeking a  
deeper connection  
with God, self, and others.**



[WWW.STPHILIPSUVALDE.ORG](http://WWW.STPHILIPSUVALDE.ORG)





ST. PHILIP'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
*Uvalde, Texas*



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## ST. PHILIP'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*Uvalde, Texas*



# COME AND SEE

## "THE CHURCH THAT HELPS OTHERS"

At St. Philip's, we strive to be a welcoming and inclusive community where all can explore a deeper relationship with God, self, and others. Since 1881, our parish has grown alongside the Uvalde community, becoming a place of beauty, spiritual growth, friendship, and service. Guided by faith and love, St. Philip's continues to live into its mission as *"the church that helps others,"* serving both our members and our neighbors with compassion and grace.

## OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

We are a faithful and caring congregation that values our Episcopal tradition while embracing opportunities for growth and renewal. Through worship, education, fellowship, and outreach, we seek to share God's love in all that we do—nurturing faith within our parish family and extending hospitality to all who enter our doors. Together, we strive to be a living expression of Christ's presence in Uvalde and beyond.





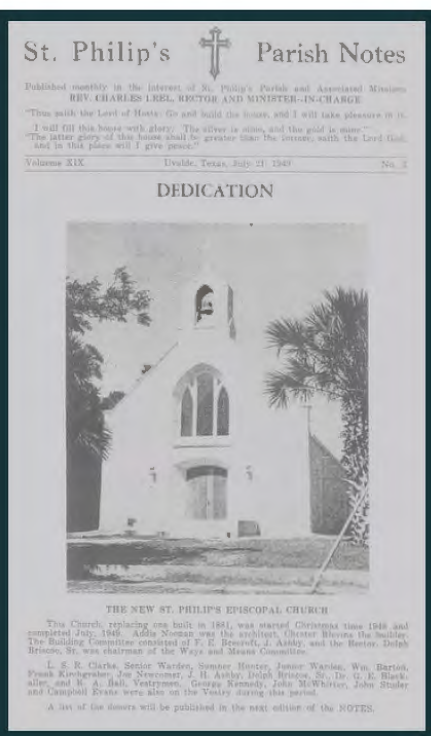
# HISTORY OF ST. PHILIP'S

In 1881, in response to the petitions of a small group in rural Uvalde County, Bishop Elliot, first Bishop of the Missionary District, called upon the Rev. T.C. Stanley from Georgia to serve Uvalde in a dual role as priest and medical doctor. Rev. Stanley's arrival marked the beginning of services for the St. Philip's mission. The services were held in a small storehouse, and as membership grew, they moved to a new building on the present church property, purchased by the Bishop from the Reading Black Estate, the founder of Uvalde County. Over the next three decades, several priests led the St. Philip's Mission while also serving the Episcopal Church throughout the area, dividing their time between Uvalde and other mission churches.



In 1917, under the leadership of Lay Reader Goodrich Fenner, St. Philip's Mission achieved parish status and became self-supporting, and the newly ordained Rev. Fenner served as the first rector. Circumstances looked promising for the new church as pledges for new construction were made, but difficult years in the cattle industry, followed by the Great Depression, proved challenging for St. Philip's. However, the grit and determination of the farmer and rancher community kept the church alive during these trying times. In the final years of the long charge of Rev. Charles Leel (1932-1950), including his military service during World War II, the present church building was erected and dedicated by the Rt. Rev. Everett Jones.

As the world recovered from WWII, so did St. Philip's. Over the next 75 years, the new church building and grounds experienced new life under each of the six rectors. Rev. Dr. Beverly M. Boyd took the helm in 1951 and oversaw the construction of a parish house named Briscoe Hall, a church office, Sunday School classrooms, and the present rectory, as well as the opening of the St. Philip's Day School. The Rev. Romilly "Cotton" Timmins and his family were the first to move into the new rectory, and air-conditioning and new carpeting were added to the nave. In 1972, the Rev. Nicholas Mayer came to St. Philip's from Abilene and became the longest-serving rector in the church's history. During his 23-year tenure, the parish celebrated its centennial and entered a new phase of growth, with significant expansion of the church building. The seating capacity was doubled by expanding the nave sides, the Narthex was also expanded, and the Apostles' Chapel was added. Stained glass windows depicting Old Testament scriptures were installed above the existing New Testament windows.





### HISTORY CONT.



Following Rev. Mayer's leadership and his retirement, Rev. John Hardie and his family arrived in Uvalde. He led the congregation through the very successful "Find Us Faithful" capital campaign to fund sorely needed maintenance and expansion of the parish house facilities. The renovations began under interim rector Rev. Don Baugh and work was completed under the guidance of the next rector, Rev. James Murguia. The church interior was refreshed with restored wooden floors and carpeted aisles, and the sanctuary was enlarged with a second freestanding altar added to the space. A second parish house, Grace Hall, was built with an adjacent Columbarium, and the frequently used kitchen was updated.

The most recent rector, Rev. Dr. Michael K. Marsh, arrived in 2005. Rev. Marsh, with assistance from parishioners, assumed administrative control of the Uvalde Food Pantry and established the new ministry, Philip's Closet, to serve the wider community. The Camino Sagrado and Stations of the Cross were installed on the church grounds to offer space for peaceful meditation and prayerful reflection. On May 24, 2022, the entire community of Uvalde was shaken to its core by the tragic events at Robb Elementary School and the devastating loss of 22 souls. Through the generosity of hundreds of individuals, churches, and organizations, St. Philip's received thousands of dollars in donations to assist those impacted by the tragedy. Led by Fr. Mike's tireless efforts, St. Philip's became a pillar in the community's recovery efforts and leaned into its mission of being "the church that helps others."

Over its 144-year history, St. Philip's has experienced remarkable growth, a testament to the dedication of the St. Philip's community in support of our beloved church. This enduring legacy reflects the church's ongoing commitment to supporting and nurturing its congregation and the wider community, making it a cornerstone of faith and service in Uvalde.





# ST. PHILIP'S THROUGH THE YEARS

**REV. T.C. STANLEY**

1881-1882

**REV. JAMES HUTCHESON**

1883-1884

**REV. JAMES SENIOR**

1893-1901

**REV. R.W. ANDERSON**

1905-1911

**REV. HARRY FENWICK**

1912-1914

**REV. GOODRICH R. FENNER**

1916-1921 and 1923-1924

**REV. THOMAS SCHOFIELD**

1924-1927

**REV. HENRY N. HERNDON**

1927-1932

**REV. CHARLES LEEL**

1932-1941 and 1945-1950

**REV. DR. BEVERLY BOYD**

1951-1963

**REV. ROMILLY "COTTON" TIMMINS**

1963-1971

**REV. NICHOLAS MAYER**

1972-1993

**REV. JOHN HARDIE**

1995-1999

**REV. JAMES MURGUIA**

2000-2004

**REV. DR. MICHAEL K. MARSH**

2005-2025

1881 **FOUNDING**

St. Philip's Mission established

1917 **PARISH STATUS ACHIEVED**

St. Philip's accepted into the Diocese of West Texas as a Parish

1949 **NEW CHURCH BUILT**

Dedicated July 28, 1949

1961 **DAY SCHOOL OPENED**

35 students and two teachers

1981 **CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION**

100 Years of St. Philip's

2000 **FIND US FAITHFUL**

Renovation Campaign Complete

2026 **145 YEARS OF ST. PHILIP'S**

Come Celebrate with Us!





ST. PHILIP'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Chapel, Texas



# WHO WE ARE

## A GLIMPSE INTO THE LIFE OF ST. PHILIP'S FAMILY

St. Philip's Episcopal Church is a loving and embracing community where all are invited with open arms to grow in faith, connect with God, and engage in fellowship and service. For many members, St. Philip's is more than a place of worship—it is an extended family that offers unwavering support, encouragement, and a sense of belonging.

### WORSHIP & SPIRITUAL GROWTH

We enjoy services deeply rooted in Episcopal tradition, rich in liturgy, combined with traditional hymns, Taizé, and praise music. Sunday services, whether in Apostles' Chapel or in the Sanctuary, provide a time and environment set apart for individual reflection and prayer, while cultivating a personal relationship with God and with each other. Our weekly spiritual practices of Holy Communion and Christian Formation guide members in living out Christ's teachings in daily life.

### COMMUNITY & FELLOWSHIP

Life at St. Philip's is a warm embrace of meaningful relationships that span across multiple generations. From our youngest babies to seasoned oldtimers, cradle Episcopalians and newcomers, in-person attendees and Facebook live-streamers, eight o'clockers and late service worshipers, everyone is welcomed and cherished in the St. Philip's community. Known for our hospitality and exceptional cooks, our potluck dinners are highly anticipated events that leave everyone with happy hearts and full stomachs. The time we spend together in fellowship is a treasure for all.





## WHO WE ARE CONT.

### MISSION & VALUES

Our mission is to be a public face of Christ—sharing His love through word, deed, and service.

St. Philip's strives to embody our core values of:

- FAITH that is rooted in Scripture, sacraments, and Episcopal tradition
- Being a welcoming, inclusive, and caring COMMUNITY
- Meeting our neighbors' needs and making a difference in Uvalde through OUTREACH AND SERVICE
- WORSHIPING in ways that are meaningful, beautiful, and spiritually enriching
- EDUCATION that nurtures faith through our Christian formation for adults and youth, Bible studies, and the Day School

Through these commitments, St. Philip's inspires spiritual growth, fosters community, and encourages all to live Christ's love in everyday life.

### ST. PHILIP'S BY THE NUMBERS (2024)

Average Sunday Attendance In-Person	75
Average Livestream Attendance	6
Total Communicants in Good Standing	175
Total Estimated Active Participants (non-members)	40
Outreach Beneficiaries (est. per week; includes Food Pantry & Bereavement Center)	331
Confirmed Pledges to the general/operating fund	57
Plate, pledge, and other contributions to the general support of the Church	\$346,482
Baptisms (2025)	5
Confirmations (2025)	12
Funerals/Burials (2025)	6





# OUR PARISH PRAYER



O Lord our God,  
you have called us,  
the people of St. Philip's,  
to be a public face of Christ.

Open our hearts and minds  
to the uniqueness and holiness  
of each person we meet.



May our lives and works lead  
others into the transformative  
love of Christ.

Inspire us with compassion  
and imagination  
to care for those in need.



Let the beauty of holiness shine  
in our lives, our worship,  
and this sacred space.



All this we ask in Jesus' name,  
who lives and reigns with you  
and the Holy Spirit, one God,  
forever and ever.

Amen.





# OUR SAINTS

St. Philip's is built on the shoulders of many saints who have gone before us. In the past decade, God has called home many of the pillars of our church. We are not only in transition in calling a new rector, but we are in a transition between generational leadership.





# WORSHIP SERVICES

8:00 A.M.

## **Holy Eucharist, Rite I**

The “early” service at St. Philip’s is held in Apostles’ Chapel. It follows Rite 1 and offers a peaceful, traditional worship experience without music. It’s a bit shorter than our 10:30 service, usually lasting around 50 minutes. Many who attend appreciate the quiet, reflective atmosphere and the sense of community among regulars. The early service group is known for their warm loyalty to the service itself and to one another.

10:30 A.M.

## **Holy Eucharist, Rite II**

The “late” service at St. Philip’s is held in the main sanctuary. This service follows Rite 2, offering a warm and welcoming atmosphere with modern language and a vibrant mix of music—including choir, organ, and sometimes guitar. Families of all ages are a big part of this gathering, making it lively and full of joy. Each Sunday, we also livestream the service on Facebook, so friends near and far can join us online and be part of our community.





# PRAYER

## CAMINO SAGRADO – SACRED PATH

Our prayer labyrinth was created in 2014. It is a replica of the ancient labyrinth on the floor of Chartres Cathedral near Paris. Walking the labyrinth is another way to pray. In walking the labyrinth in prayer, we seek to know God's presence in our lives. This peaceful meditative space is available for individuals and groups to enjoy at any time.



## TAIZÉ

St. Philip's holds a quarterly contemplative service with candlelight, scripture, music, silence, and prayer. The style of worship comes from the Taizé Community in France. This service offers a chance to rest in the presence of God, to reflect on one's life, and to experience the beauty of holiness.



## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

At each of the fourteen Stations of the Cross, we use our senses and our imagination to reflect prayerfully upon Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection. The Stations of the Cross are illuminated at night and are available to walk anytime. Booklets with the prayers are provided in the box at the first station. We offer community walks each Wednesday during Lent and on Good Friday.





ST. PHILIP'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
*United States*

THE HEART OF ST. PHILIP'S



## SPECIAL EVENTS & FELLOWSHIP

Acolyte Appreciation Event  
Annual Parish Meeting  
Blessing of the Animals  
Blessing of the Backpacks & Back to  
School Prayer Walk  
Burning of the Palms  
Candlemas  
Children's Christmas Pageant  
Easter Day Cascarones and Piñata  
Flowering of the Cross  
Greening of the Church  
Making Palm Crosses  
May 24<sup>th</sup> Memorial Event  
Movie Night & Dinner Discussion  
New Member Dinners  
Parish Retreat  
Prayer Group and Book Studies  
Rogation Sunday  
Secret Society of the Luminarias  
Seder Dinner  
Senior Graduation Sunday  
Shrove Tuesday - Pancake Supper  
The Feast of St. Philip  
Theology on Tap  
Walkie Talkies  
Weekly Lenten Potluck Dinners



Secret Society of the Luminarias



The Feast of St. Philip



Rogation Sunday



Shrove Tuesday - Pancake Supper



## CHURCH AND SCHOOL FACILITIES

St. Philip's Episcopal Church and School sits on nearly a whole block along Highway 83/Getty Street, near downtown Uvalde. In addition to the Sanctuary, our campus includes Apostles' Chapel, two parish halls, numerous school buildings, and the sports court, plus the building that houses the Bereavement Center. We also have a rectory located just a couple of blocks away.



SANCTUARY



APOSTLES' CHAPEL



BRISCOE HALL



GRACE HALL



KITCHEN



MURAL ROOM



COLUMBARIUM



SCHOOL OFFICE



CLASSROOMS: KNOX HALL, HATTIE HALL, FAITH HALL, IRENE HALL



SPORTS COURT



RECTORY





# OUR CHALLENGES

## STEPPING STONES TO THE FUTURE

As we plan for the next chapter at St. Philip's, our congregation faces challenges shared by many churches today—yet these are not roadblocks but stepping stones toward a brighter future through membership renewal and growth, and fostering a more profound connection with God and one another.

## ENGAGING THE NEXT GENERATION

- Attract and involve more youth, young adults, and families
- Strengthen ties between the Church and St. Philip's School
- Offer meaningful programs and worship experiences for younger members



## RENEWING GROWTH & PARTICIPATION

- Increase attendance and overall parish engagement and vitality
- Encourage shared leadership across all generations
- Rebuild energy and connection after recent transitions and challenges



## FINANCIAL STABILITY

- Achieve a balanced budget amid rising costs
- Strengthen stewardship and long-term giving
- Support both church ministries and the Day School





ST. PHILIP'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
*Uvalde, Texas*

## THE NEXT CHAPTER



### HOPES

As we look ahead, St. Philip's sees hope in numerous opportunities to grow in faith and service. Parishioners consistently express the desire to welcome new members and young families. Our oldest ministry, St. Philip's Episcopal School is recognized as a vital part of this effort, as it connects the parish to the wider Uvalde community and helps nurture the faith of the next generation.

### PRAYERS

We pray that God will lead more parishioners to increase their involvement in our established outreach and service programs, taking the church beyond its walls and being the hands and feet of Christ within our community. We also pray for God's guidance in our role in the healing of our community, in strengthening partnerships with local organizations and other churches, and remaining a compassionate, visible presence in Uvalde.

### DREAMS

Within the parish, members envision new opportunities for fellowship, spiritual growth, and worship, to not only engage current members, but invite new and lapsed members. Many find value in exploring new forms of communication and technology to support connection and outreach, while remaining steadfast in our commitment to our strong traditions of liturgy and music.

Through these hopes, prayers, and dreams, a shared vision emerges: St. Philip's will continue to be a beacon of faith, inclusivity, and love, grounded in service to God and one another.





# THE RECTOR WE SEEK



As a parish, we have spent time listening to one another, reflecting on our hopes, and discerning the qualities most important to us in our next spiritual leader. Throughout this process, several themes rose to the top with remarkable consistency.

We are seeking a rector who will joyfully lead us in growing our church—someone who warmly welcomes newcomers, strengthens connections among current members, and helps all of us feel at home in this community of faith. Inspiring, energetic preaching that brings the Gospel into our daily lives is a priority for us, as is compassionate pastoral care. We value a rector who is present with people in times of illness, grief, and transition, offering comfort, prayer, and genuine companionship.

Our parish also hopes for a priest who is engaged and visible in the wider community, representing the church with openness and grace, and building meaningful partnerships beyond our walls. In addition, because our school is a vital part of our identity, we are eager for a rector who will embrace and support the school's mission, nurturing a strong and collaborative relationship between church and school.

Together, these hopes reflect our desire for a warm, dynamic, and outward-looking leader—someone who will walk with us, encourage us, and help us grow both in faith and in community as we step into the next chapter of our shared life.

## TOP PRIORITIES:

- Grow the church through invitation, welcome, and connection
- Provide strong, energetic, relevant preaching grounded in scripture
- Be visibly involved in the community beyond the church
- Offer compassionate pastoral care, especially through visitation
- Support the parish school and build a strong church-school relationship





# SERVING THE CHURCH

At St. Philip's, we know that belonging to a church is more than just attending services. It's about being part of a vibrant community where each member plays an active role. Our members serve through numerous volunteer opportunities, strengthening our sense of community and belonging.

1

## ALTAR GUILD

The Altar Guild is a volunteer group whose ministry is to care for the altar vessels and altar linens of our Parish. Teams of six work on a six-month rotating schedule, preparing the church for services and cleaning up afterwards. Altar Guild helps to maintain the sanctuary, linens, and vessels often behind the scenes. Our volunteers give their time and talents to care for the church's sacred spaces. Since many of our duties are behind the scenes away from the congregation, it's a quiet and prayerful way to serve God.



2

## CHOIR

Participating in the choir at St. Philip's Episcopal Church in Uvalde is more than simply making music—it is a ministry that lifts the hearts of the congregation and deepens the worship experience. Through the beauty of song, the choir helps proclaim scripture, shape the liturgy, and create a space where the presence of God can be experienced in powerful and meaningful ways.

Music plays a vital role in marking the rhythms of the liturgical seasons, guiding the congregation through the anticipation of Advent, the joy of Christmas, the solemnity of Lent, and the triumph of Easter. During Advent, the choir's music prepares hearts for the coming of Christ, expressing both longing and hope. At Christmas, the choir leads the celebration of the Incarnation with carols and hymns that fill the church with joy and light. In Lent, the music invites reflection and repentance, while Easter bursts forth with triumphant songs of resurrection and new life.

Being a member of the choir requires a faithful commitment of time and talent, as musicians and singers dedicate themselves to rehearsals and services, offering their gifts to God and the community. In return, choir members often discover that singing together becomes a profound way of experiencing the presence and love of Christ, both in their own hearts and in the bonds of fellowship they share.





## SERVING THE CHURCH CONT.

3

### SUNDAY SERVERS

In addition to the Altar Guild, Choir, and Vestry Person, every Sunday, ten to twelve members of the congregation serve during our two services. These weekly volunteers assist the rector as greeters/ushers/oblationers, acolytes, lectors, readers for the Prayers of the People, Lay Eucharistic Ministers, and video team. There is a team of Eucharistic Visitors who are ready to serve when called upon.

4

### THE ORDER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

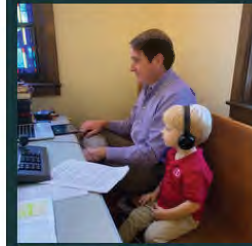
#### St. Margaret's Chapter

The Daughters of the King is the extension of Christ's Kingdom through prayer, service, and evangelism. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, the vision as members of DOK is to know Jesus Christ, to make Him known to others, and to help the spiritual life of the parish. The group meets the first Wednesday of each month at the Church to pray for the rector and serve behind the scenes in whatever way they can. All women of the church are welcome to join.

5

### VESTRY

The Vestry consists of a nine member committee who serve on 3-year staggered terms. The Vestry leads the laity to support the rector and serve as the parish legal agent. The members take turns serving each month as the "Vestry Person" charged with opening and closing the church facilities on Sundays and for special occasions.





# SERVING THE COMMUNITY

St. Philip's has become known as "the church that helps others" because of our many outreach ministries that serve our community.

1

### ANGEL TREE

In a partnership with Bluebonnet Children's Advocacy Center, St. Philip's collects Christmas gifts/gift cards for children in foster care.

2

### CROSSROADS ACADEMY

Crossroads Academy is Uvalde CISD's public high school for at risk students. Every month, St. Philip's collects \$15 gift cards used as incentives and prizes for students.

3

### PHILIP'S CLOSET

Philip's Clothes Closet collects and distributes clothing, shoes, and bedding at no cost to adults and children in need. All items are donated, and the staff is made up of volunteers.

4

### SOLES FOR SOULS

The church and school hold an annual shoe drive to collect new and gently used shoes to be distributed through Philip's Closet.

5

### STUFF THE BUS

Every summer, St. Philip's serves as a donation center for the Communities in Schools' "Stuff The Bus" school supply drive for the students of Uvalde CISD.

6

### SOUTH TEXAS BLOOD AND TISSUE CENTER

St. Philip's is committed to holding blood drives at least once a year. We typically sponsor our drives in the summer months as that is the time donations typically decline and the needs often increase.





## SERVING THE COMMUNITY CONT.

7

**RECTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

In the aftermath of the Robb School Shooting on May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022, churches, individuals, and various organizations generously donated to the St. Philip's Rector's Discretionary Fund to provide assistance to families struggling through recovery. While the special circumstances of the tragedy amplified the scope of this ministry for a few years, St. Philip's continues to provide financial assistance to families and individuals in need.

8

**UVALDE FOOD PANTRY**

The mission of the Uvalde Food Pantry is to fight hunger and reduce food insecurity in our community. The Pantry offers a welcoming place where individuals and families can meet their basic food needs with dignity and confidence. What began in May 2007 as an initiative of St. Philip's and other local churches has since grown into a community-wide effort that continues to serve Uvalde nearly two decades later.

Most of our food supply comes through generous partnerships with the San Antonio Food Bank, H-E-B, and Walmart, while all operating funds are sustained entirely through donations. Today, the Pantry supports nearly 400 families each week. The ministry relies on the dedication of dozens of local volunteers who step up each week to make our work possible. Food distributions are held three times a month on Saturday mornings. In preparation for these events, volunteers gather on Tuesdays from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. to package and repackage food for the upcoming Saturday distribution.





# ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

## MISSION STATEMENT

St. Philip's Episcopal School (SPES) is grounded in the expression of Christianity and operates within the beliefs and traditions of the Episcopal Church. SPES nurtures spiritual growth, exploration, and discovery of self; promotes service and responsibility to others; and provides strong 2K-5th Grade academic programs for motivated and able students of diverse races, creeds, and economic backgrounds, utilizing innovative resources to teach the best of traditional curriculum.

## HISTORY

St. Philip's Episcopal School (SPES) is the Church's oldest outreach project. It was founded in 1961 by a group of parents and parishioners who were interested in establishing a school where their children could learn in a Christian environment. Over the years, its presence and numbers have changed drastically. But for many years, SPES was the face of St. Philip's Episcopal Church in our community. Although the outreach of our Church has expanded greatly in the last several years, SPES continues to be a vital ministry within our Church and our community.

## CLASSES AND CAMPUS

Currently, SPES serves 79 students in grades 2K through 5th grade, with approximately 25 full-time and part-time staff.

- Knox Hall (where the original classes began) houses the 2K and 3K programs
- Hattie Hall houses the 1st – 5th grade
- Irene Hall houses the Pre-K and Kinder classes
- Faith Hall - added in 2025 - houses the Library, STEAM, and Spanish classes
- SPES administrative offices and the teachers' resource room have been relocated to the portable building facing the Church kitchen.
- In October of 2025, we received a \$100,000 gift from the San Antonio Spurs through Area Foundation Sport for Healing Fund to renovate our Sports Court.





## ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL SCHOOL CONT. PHILOSOPHY

St. Philip's Episcopal School promotes intellectual, spiritual, physical, emotional, and social growth, and encourages the involvement of families in the life of the school. SPES students participate in traditional academic classes, including Spanish and PE; in addition, they attend twice-weekly Chapel services held in the Church sanctuary and once-weekly special classes, such as Godly Play, STEAM, and Library. SPES students are taught to serve others through various outreach projects, such as Raise Craze, which focuses on acts of kindness; First Responders Breakfast; Soles for Souls shoe drive; and the Christmas Adopt-A-Family project. And because SPES is a Christian school, we strive to help children grow in knowledge and love of God and Jesus Christ, where hopefully, they will pursue an active role in God's world as His children.

### CHAPEL

Twice a week, all teachers and students come together as a school family for Chapel services in the sanctuary. The Morning Prayer service is led by the rector with assistance from a volunteer former teacher. Birthdays are celebrated every Monday, and other special Chapel services are held throughout the year. Parents are invited to attend and worship with their children.

### SAES ACCREDITATION

St. Philip's Episcopal School is accredited by the Southwestern Association of Episcopal Schools (SAES). Accreditation blends external quality control (compliance with standards and best practices) with an assessment of the degree of adherence to a school's mission. Accreditation is earned through a voluntary process that is greater than any one event. Standards have been carefully developed over time to indicate best practices for the ongoing organization and management of Episcopal schools. The process provides a framework for open inquiry into the school's philosophy, policies, and procedures. SPES completed a site visit for reaccreditation in the Fall of 2025 and will learn the SAES committee's decision in February 2026.

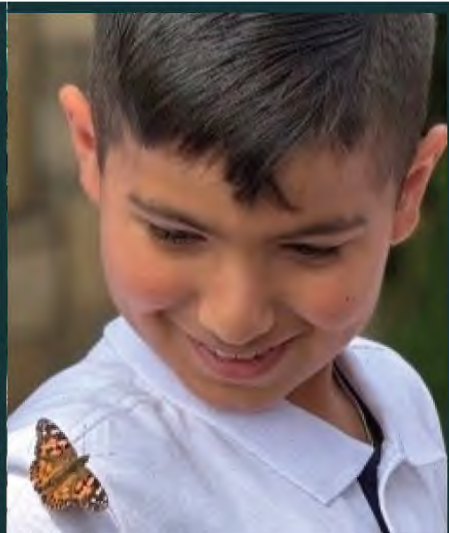




# CHILDREN'S BEREAVEMENT CENTER OF SOUTH TEXAS | UVALDE CAMPUS



The Children's Bereavement Center of South Texas (CBCST) is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization dedicated to fostering healing for grieving children and youth, their families, and the community. In response to the May 24, 2022, Robb Elementary School Shooting in Uvalde, Texas, St. Philip's Episcopal Church's pastor, Rev. Michael Marsh, and CBCST partnered together to ensure that the Uvalde community's mental health needs would be met over the long term. St. Philip's and CBCST's relationship is a clear example of how community leaders from various arenas, whether religious or secular, can join forces to support the broader well-being of humanity. Without the generosity of St. Philip's, their support, and their commitment to service, CBCST would not have the beautiful center we have now, where we have and will continue to support the needs of hundreds of individuals and their families, ensuring nobody grieves alone. CBCST utilizes St. Philip's facilities in addition to the center to host support groups, annual grief summer camps, daily music therapy sessions in the Mural Room, and monthly family dinners in Briscoe Hall. In addition, CBCST works closely with St. Philip's Episcopal School (SPES) to meet any bereavement or grief counseling needs for students. CBCST also partners with SPES to host basketball camps facilitated by the San Antonio Spurs, who have recognized the healing power of sports. As such, CBCST and SPES were happy to receive a generous \$100,000 donation from the San Antonio Spurs to renovate the sports court for both schoolchildren and CBCST client usage. Our hope at CBCST is to continue fostering healing, unity, love for others, and friendship with St. Philip's for years to come.





# CHRISTIAN FORMATION

## SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

Christian Formation Classes are offered for adults and children on Sunday mornings from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. starting the Sunday after Labor Day and meeting through early May.

## ADULT CLASSES

The adult's Sunday morning class is a priest led book study centered around spiritual matters. While the priest typically selects the book, suggestions by the class are considered. The class teaching and discussion follows a weekly reading assignment, but is conducted in such a way that those who were unable to read the material can still join and participate each week.

There is an interest in classes that study scripture and the lectionary, as well as the formation of a Young Adult group.



## CHILDREN'S CLASSES

Children ages 4 years old and up are invited to join volunteer "teachers" every Sunday during the Sunday School hour. Our teachers use a curriculum provided by the diocese as they gather to pray, read Scripture, do crafts/games/activities, and enjoy the company of their church friends.

Students are separated into two age groups: the younger class, comprising 4-year-olds to 3rd graders, and the older class, comprising 4th graders and up. The average attendance between the two classes is 12 children.

There is a desire to establish a more robust youth program that will not only engage our current attendees, but attract new participants. One age group that needs considerable focus is our teens.



## CHRISTIAN FORMATION CONT.

**LEGACY GROUP BOOK STUDY**

The St. Philip's Legacy Group is made up of senior men and women who meet weekly to read and discuss books on a variety of subjects which include spiritual development, the aging process, and the importance of sharing our knowledge or experiences with the people we encounter from younger generations. The group provides loving support for each other through the events of our lives that these years bring our way.

**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

Over 20 years ago, a group of ladies led by Becky Capt gathered to begin studying God's Word. The group meets for two classes a year, studying one book in the spring and one in the fall, with the classes ranging from 7 to 12 weeks. The topics/Books of the Bible covered change with every study. The ladies are a diverse group, ranging in age from 30 to 80 years old, and have represented seven different denominations. They study, learn, laugh, cry, and share life experiences as they grow in God's Spirit.

**CONFIRMATION CLASS**

Our confirmation classes are a special time to grow in faith and prepare for the sacrament of confirmation. Led by our rector, these sessions offer a welcoming space to explore Scripture, church teachings, and the work of the Holy Spirit. Adult classes meet during the Sunday School hour, while youth classes gather on Sunday afternoons with support from lay sponsors. Both groups share meaningful discussions, personal reflection, and encouragement to deepen their relationship with God.

**LENTEN STUDIES**

Lenten Studies are held in conjunction with our weekly Lenten Dinners. They are most often led by the priest, however, occasionally, a church member is asked to lead the study. The topic changes each year, focusing on a different aspect of spiritual life. Each Wednesday evening during Lent begins with walking the Stations of the Cross, then food and fellowship, followed by teaching. Each Lenten gathering concludes with Compline.



ST. PHILIP'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
Uvalde, Texas

THE COMMUNITY OF UVALDE



# WELCOME TO UVALDE

## HEART OF THE HILL COUNTRY AND HOME OF HOSPITALITY

Tucked into the heart of Southwest Texas, Uvalde is a town that blends deep roots, natural beauty, and genuine community spirit. With an estimated population of 15,600, Uvalde stands at the crossroads of the two longest highways in the United States, making it both a destination and a gateway to the wonders of the Texas Hill Country.

Uvalde's rich history runs deep. It is the hometown of Vice President John Nance "Cactus Jack" Garner, former Texas Governor Dolph Briscoe, and beloved icons like Dale Evans and Matthew McConaughey. Today, that same pioneering spirit lives on in a town that honors its past while looking toward the future.



Known far and wide as the "Honey Capital of the World," Uvalde is also recognized as a Tree City USA, where residents take pride in preserving the natural beauty that surrounds them—so much so that we build our streets around the trees. The community continues to thrive on its strong agricultural foundation, even as new industries like solar energy take root and bring exciting opportunities for growth and sustainability.



Nature is part of daily life here. Uvalde is surrounded by five pristine rivers—the Frio, Dry Frio, Nueces, Leona, and Sabinal—each offering a haven for outdoor recreation, from kayaking and fishing to quiet riverside picnics. It's not uncommon to see deer grazing beside backyard gardens or chickens pecking under pecan trees, a testament to the town's rural charm and easygoing pace of life.

Uvalde is also a community built on cooperation and care. Our churches work together in an ecumenical spirit, supporting one another and the people they serve. The town boasts modern healthcare facilities, including a state-of-the-art hospital, a regional cancer center, and a new medical office complex under construction that will bring all local physicians together in one place for convenience and continuity of care.

With a cost of living up to 17% below the national average, Uvalde offers an affordable and fulfilling quality of life. And for those who appreciate arts and culture, the historic Janey Slaughter Briscoe Grand Opera House stands as a beautifully restored treasure, hosting performances and events that keep the town's creative spirit alive.





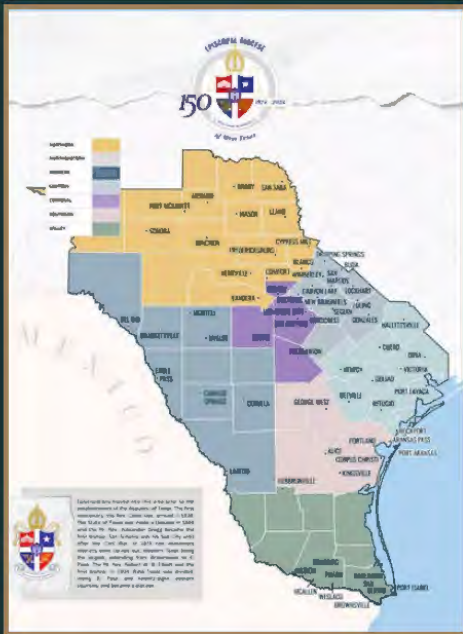
ST PHILIP'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Established 1855



# EPISCOPAL DIOCESE *of West Texas*



Bishop Jones Center



St. Philip's at Council

The Episcopal Diocese of West Texas is part of The Episcopal Church, a Christian community of 2.4 million members in America and abroad. The Episcopal Church is headed by a presiding bishop, currently the Most Rev. Sean Rowe.

We are also part of the Anglican Communion, a global community of 74 million persons in 38 provinces throughout the world, headed by the Archbishop of Canterbury. While the Archbishop has no authority over The Episcopal Church, we share historical and theological ties. Recognizing the cultural diversity that is our gift in South Central Texas, our members are diverse and our worship is increasingly reflective of our bicultural communities.

Each diocese, or geographic region of The Episcopal Church, functions under a bishop, currently the Rt. Rev. Dr. David G. Read, D.D. who has jurisdiction over the entire diocese.

In West Texas, our 87 congregations include parishes, missions, and church plants ranging in size from 40 members to 2,000 members. Parishes are churches able to support a priest financially, who is known as the rector and called to serve by the church in collaboration with the diocese. Some mission churches are led by a priest, known as the vicar and appointed by the Bishop, and other missions are guided by dedicated lay leaders within the congregation, with the support of freelance priests and the diocese. All congregations, big or small, are the heart of the diocesan identity and mission.

The business of the diocese is conducted by the annual Diocesan Council, with representatives from every congregation participating in legislative and corporate matters as well as fellowship and worship.



ST. PHILIP'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
El Paso, Texas



# EPISCOPAL DIOCESE *of West Texas*



## **The Rt. Rev. Dr. David G. Read, D.D. Bishop of West Texas**

The Right Reverend David Read, D.D., Bishop of the Diocese of West Texas, was consecrated as the 11th Diocesan Bishop in July, 2023. Prior to his consecration, Bishop Read served as rector of four congregations in the Diocese, most recently at St. Helena's in Boerne. Bishop Read brings a strong vision for church planting, discipleship, and congregational development. He reminds us that the Diocesan Staff exists solely to serve as a resource for the 87 congregations in the Diocese of West Texas.



## **The Rt. Rev. Angela Maria Cortiñas, Bishop Suffragan of West Texas**

The Right Reverend Angela Cortiñas, Bishop Suffragan of the Diocese of West Texas, was consecrated as the 7th Bishop Suffragan of the Diocese on March 15th, 2025. Prior to her consecration, Bishop Cortiñas served congregations in Florida and Texas. She brings her many gifts and skills to the work and ministry of the Diocese, and oversees lay ministry development, Christian formation, and discipleship.





THANK YOU



ST. PHILIP'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
*Uvalde, Texas*

## ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH & SCHOOL

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(210/888) 824-5387  
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MIKE.BESSON@DWTX.ORG

The Episcopal Diocese of West Texas Website



# THANK YOU

## ARE YOU DISCERNING A CALL TO SERVE AS THE RECTOR OF ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH & SCHOOL IN UVALDE, TEXAS?

As we look to the future, St. Philip's embraces both the gifts of our past and the opportunities ahead. Our long history, dedicated parishioners, and vibrant ministries provide a strong foundation for growth, service, and spiritual renewal. Guided by faith, love, and a commitment to welcome all, we seek to deepen our connection with God, nurture the next generation, and continue being a source of hope and compassion in Uvalde. With these shared hopes and dreams, we look forward to welcoming a new rector who will lead, inspire, and walk alongside us as we enter this next chapter of our parish life.

