



The

# Spirit

December 2023 (Advent-Christmas)

# From the Rector

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THE REV. ROB HARRIS

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A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God." -Isaiah 40:3

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Close your eyes and imagine walking through a desert. Your feet sink with every step, and sand fills your shoes. You are a dirty, sweaty mess by the time you arrive at your destination.

Now imagine walking on a cement road across a desert. It is much easier to walk on solid ground, and your feet are cleaner as well. You reach your destination quicker and with less strain.

During Advent, perhaps the best way to prepare oneself is to think about where you can construct a highway in your life. Then build it. Maybe building a highway means cleaning that closet you used to hide clutter when you don't want to tidy the house. Maybe it means mending a broken friendship. Maybe it means volunteering. Whatever it means for you, start to build your highway with joy because you are preparing for the birth of the LORD.

## Join us for Worship and Fellowship During Advent.

We will begin with worship  
in the sanctuary at

**5:30 p.m. on Wednesdays**  
in December

(6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>)

Following there will be a  
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## A Service of Lessons and Carols will take place on Sunday, December 17.

There will be one service that  
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Following the service, we will  
celebrate our Parish Christmas  
Party in the Parish Hall.

Tamales and Chili will be  
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# Server Schedules

8:30 a.m.

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Samaritans  
Children's  
Choir  
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## Free Event!

Friday & Saturday  
December 15th & 16th  
6:00pm-8:00pm

Outdoors at the  
Lakehills Community Center

11225 Park Road 37 Lakehills, TX 78063

Contact us at:

[hillcountrysamaritans.org](http://hillcountrysamaritans.org)  
[hcs.bethlehem@gmail.com](mailto:hcs.bethlehem@gmail.com)

Food truck with  
Mediterranean  
style food  
and regular  
favorites  
on site if you  
wish to indulge.  
Cash or  
Credit Card  
accepted



*Loving Christ & Serving Others*

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## "Waiting with All Creation:" Online Advent Study with the Wisdom Years Ministry: December 7 - 21

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*He was consecrated at All Saints' Chapel at TMI, on July 8, 2023.*

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In the second third of our lives we are conscripted by duty and obligation – often joyfully so – as we raise children, work at our jobs, and pay the mortgage. We measure success – our own and that of others – in terms of accomplishments and rewards.

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Food truck with  
Mediterranean  
style food  
and regular  
favorites  
on site if you  
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Cash or  
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Food truck with  
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Mediterranean  
style food  
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Mediterranean  
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Food truck with  
Mediterranean  
style food  
and regular  
favorites  
on site if you  
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Cash or  
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*Loving Christ & Serving Others*

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# Spirit

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Food truck with  
Mediterranean  
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# Outreach Spotlight

“Veterans’ Financial Assistance Program” will provide assistance to eligible Veterans, Veterans Dependents and Surviving Spouses. Eligible Veterans are those that have an honorable, general under honorable conditions and uncharacterized discharge status. Through the program, Silver Sage will assist beneficiaries with short-term and

temporary financial Emergency Services to include: one-time utility payments (may include electric, gas, propane, water, sewer, trash, late fees), one-time rental/mortgage payment (may include rent, mortgage, late fees, application fees, security deposits), and transportation services (may include bus passes, city and county transit passes, council of government transit service passes, taxis, and ride shares (Uber)). Silver Sage will not require beneficiaries to meet a poverty or other income level as a requirement for eligibility. Financial need will be determined by the veteran being behind on rent or mortgage (s) and/or utilities.

The Service Areas are: Bandera, Kendall, Kerr, Medina, Real, Uvalde.

This program is supported by a grant from the Texas Veterans Commission Fund for Veterans’ Assistance. The Fund for Veterans’ Assistance provides grants to organizations serving veterans and their families. For more information on the Texas Veterans Commission, visit <https://www.TVC.Texas.gov>



Nagel Clinic	\$1500.00
Helping Hand	\$1500.00
HH Fan Program	\$200.00
Helping Hand	
Holidays	\$700.00
Bandera County 4H	500.00
Bandera	
Fire & Rescue	\$300.00
Bandera Foster Closet	\$300.00
Boys& Girls Club	\$750.00
Camp Scholarships	\$370.00
Diocese of West	
Texas Immigration	\$300.00
Episcopal Relief & Development	\$100.00
Hill Country CASA	\$1000.00
Lakehills Community Center	\$400.00
Silver Sage Holiday Programs	\$1500.00
SnacPac4Kids	\$700.00





# Walk Thru Bethlehem

## UNDER THE STARS

Please join us for an outdoor walk through Bethlehem with live animals, music, interactive costumed actors, gifts, hot drinks & snacks

Saturday  
6:30pm  
Hill Country  
Samaritans  
Children's  
Choir  
Presentation

## Free Event!

Friday & Saturday  
December 15th & 16th  
6:00pm-8:00pm

Outdoors at the  
Lakehills Community Center

11225 Park Road 37 Lakehills, TX 78063

Contact us at:

[hillcountrysamaritans.org](http://hillcountrysamaritans.org)  
[hcs.bethlehem@gmail.com](mailto:hcs.bethlehem@gmail.com)

Food truck with  
Mediterranean  
style food  
and regular  
favorites  
on site if you  
wish to indulge.  
Cash or  
Credit Card  
accepted



*Loving Christ & Serving Others*

...and many local churches,  
businesses, and friends



# Around the Diocese

## The Investiture of the 11th Bishop of West Texas: December 1

The Bishops of the Diocese of West Texas request the honor of your presence at the Recognition and Investiture of the Rt. Rev. Dr. David G. Read on Friday, December 1, at 6:30 p.m. during Evensong at St. Mark's, San Antonio. During the service, the people of West Texas will recognize and receive Bishop Read and promise to uphold him in this ministry. In the Diocese of West Texas tradition, Bishop David M. Reed will pass the diocesan crozier to Bishop David G. Read, signifying his new role as Bishop Diocesan.

Registration is not required to attend. Childcare will be available on the first floor of St. Mark's Parish House beginning at 5:30 p.m.

## "Waiting with All Creation:" Online Advent Study with the Wisdom Years Ministry: December 7 - 21

This Advent, the Wisdom Years Ministry will read Gayle Boss's splendid Advent book of daily meditations, All Creation Waits, then gather on Thursdays beginning December 7 at 4:00 p.m. CDT via Zoom for an hour of conversation. In addition, participants can receive an optional daily text message of Advent thoughts and inspiration.



*Bishop David Read will be the sixteenth bishop to serve in West Texas (the eleventh diocesan) and 1159 in the American Succession.*

*He was consecrated at All Saints' Chapel at TMI, on July 8, 2023.*

## Living the Wisdom years

We spend the first third of our lives learning – not just our school lessons, but learning what we will need to navigate our place in the world. In these years, we acquire information and probe the accepted norms of our culture as we prepare to be productive citizens of society.

In the second third of our lives we are conscripted by duty and obligation – often joyfully so – as we raise children, work at our jobs, and pay the mortgage. We measure success – our own and that of others – in terms of accomplishments and rewards.

But in the last third of our lives we are invited to walk a deeper path as we participate in the full ripening of our souls.

For devotions, studies, and other helpful spiritual practices focused on those in the wisdom years can be found at [wisdomyears.org](http://wisdomyears.org).





## **St. Christopher's Episcopal Church**

395 Highway 173 North

Bandera, Texas 78003

830-796-4387

[www.stchrisbandera.org](http://www.stchrisbandera.org)

### **The Episcopal Diocese of West Texas**

The Right Reverend David Reed, Bishop Diocesan

The Right Reverend David Read, Bishop Coadjutor

#### **Staff**

The Reverend Rob Harris, Rector

Mrs. Amanda Johnson, Parish Administrator, Treasurer

Mr. Bill Davidson, Organist/Music Director

Mrs. Deborah Jonas, Office Manager

#### **Vestry**

Mrs. Ann Hevenor, Sr. Warden; Mr. Milam Boyle, Junior Warden; Mrs. Mary Beth Wright, Clerk

Mr. Mike Mulherin, Dr. Charles Rowett, Mrs. Julie Allen, Mr. Jimmy Jordan