



The Crucifer

December 13, 2011

Vol. XIII, No. 2



From the Rector:

And behold, the star that the wise men had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.
Matthew 2.9-11

All over the world, one of the wonderful traditions of Christmas is gift-giving. Remembering the gifts that the wise men from the east offered to Jesus, and especially remembering the gift of Christ Himself, Christians give others presents.

Most of the time, they are wrapped. Most of the time, they are purchased. Most of the time, they are given to people whom we know.

But recalling the great gift born to us on the first Christmas, Chuck Swindoll, in his book *Growing Strong*, offers some helpful, non-traditional Christmas gift ideas.

There are a number of gifts you can share this Christmas whose value cannot be measured in dollars and cents. They include:

- Mend a quarrel, dismiss suspicion, tell someone, "I love you."
- Give something away—anonynously.
- Forgive someone who has treated you wrongly.
- Turn away wrath with a soft answer.
- Visit someone in a nursing home.
- Apologize if you were wrong.
- Be especially kind to someone with whom you work.
- Give as God gave to you in Christ, without obligation, or announcement, or reservation, or hypocrisy.

Christmas is a joyful celebration that "unto us is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2.11).

This Christmas, may the Lord bless you and those whom you love with gifts worthy of the King.

Merry Christmas!,

Yours Faithfully in Christ Jesus,

I have said these things to you that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

John 15:11

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Bishop of the Diocese of Texas



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Class of 2013

Pastoral Emergency Contacts

In the event of a pastoral emergency, you may reach The Rev. David Luckenbach, Rector, at 903-279-8777, The Rev. Matt Boulter, at 903-944-8494, or The Rev. Stephen Stine at 903-530-8168. You may also call the church office, 903-597-9854, during normal business hours.

Scripture Readings for Sunday

4 Advent, December 18

First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:4,8-16

Psalm: 132 or 132:8-15

Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

Christmas Day, December 25

First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-4, 6-7

Psalm: 96 (or 96:1-4, 11-12)

Second Reading: Titus 2:11-14

Gospel: Luke 2:1-14

The Holy Name, January 1

First Reading: Exodus 34:1-8

Psalm: 8

Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7

Gospel: Luke 2:15-21

I Epiphany, January 8

First Reading: Isaiah 42:1-9

Psalm: 89:1-29 or 89:20-29

Second Reading: Acts 10:34-38

Gospel: Mark 1:7-11

In Memoriam

Our sympathies to the family and friends of James Nixon, father of Jeri Wilder and grandfather of Avery Wilder.

*May the souls of the departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.*

In Our Prayers

*Please consider including the prayer list
in your daily devotions.*

Joan & Glenn, Amy, Alan, Wanda, Lindsey, S.J., Scott, J.C., Shirley, Mike, Dick, Sonja, Pam, Marian, Ben, John, Bea B., Leo, Bo, Barbara, Betty & Larry, James, Latoya, Ben, Logan, Ginger, David, Cherry, Billy, Donald, Sean, Alan, Morgan, Jennifer, Meredith, Joshua, Kolbe, Joan, Stephen.

Prayer List Requests

If you would like to add or remove a name on the prayer list, please contact The Rev. Stephen Stine at 903-530-8168. To protect the confidentiality of those in the prayer list, we will use first names or initials only.

Additional Contact Information

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Church Web Site: www.christchurchtyler.org

Lay Ministry Schedule: www.christchurchtyler.org/worship

Experiencing Epiphany



Flesh of God, God of Flesh

Christmas 2011

In *The Ethics* **Dietrich Bonhoeffer** writes, “God does not seek the most perfect human being with whom to be united, but takes on human nature as it is. Jesus Christ is not the transfiguration of noble humanity but the Yes of God to real human beings, not the dispassionate Yes of a judge but [the] merciful Yes of a compassionate sufferer. In the Yes all the life and all the hope of the world was comprised. In the human Jesus Christ the whole of humanity has been judged; again this is not the uninvolved judgment of a judge, but the merciful judgment of one who has borne and suffered the fate of all humanity. Jesus is not a human being but the human being. What happens to him happens to human beings. It happens to all and therefore to us. The name of Jesus embraces in itself the whole of humanity and the whole of God.”

GK Chesterton speaks of the mystery of the Incarnation in terms of the sun. What happens when you look at the Sun? Is it possible to look at the Sun (for more than just a couple of seconds)? No, it will blind you.

In the same way it is impossible to “look at” (with our intellect) the doctrine of the Incarnation. It is blinding, utterly opaque, to human reason. Our logic can do nothing with the idea of “the God-man” other than slap it with the label “contradiction.” To quote **Martin Luther**, “The mystery of Christ, that He sunk Himself into our flesh, is beyond all human understanding.” And yet, according to Chesterton, this is the font or the source of all human thought.

My prayer this Christmastide for myself and my family, for Christ Church and the Epiphany Community, is that we would enter in more deeply to this mystery of mysteries, that we would begin again with the Christ Child, that we would continue God’s incarnational ministry of putting flesh and bones, warmth and welcome, onto the Spirit of God for the people to whom we minister.

And from retired Anglican Bishop **NT Wright**: “How can you live with the terrifying thought that the hurricane has become human, that the fire has become flesh, that Life Itself has walked into our midst? Christianity either means that or it means nothing. It is the most devastating disclosure of the deepest reality in the world, or it is a sham, total nonsense. Most people, unable to cope with saying either of those two things, are condemned to live in the shallow world in between.”

In a broken world of confusion, crisis, and chaos, this changes everything!

One more quotation, this one by author **Handel H. Brown**: “He [Jesus] was born in a barn to show what God thinks of human pride, of human ambition, of human loftiness, of human hardness...of those who turn to religion only because of what they think it can do for them...of those who always insist on having a place at the high table and are miserable when others are put before them...of those personal jealousies and those family feuds that mar the fellowship with God.”

The Rev. Matt Boulter, Assistant Rector

The Rev. Matt Boulter, Assistant Rector

CHRISTMAS DAY CELEBRATION



Sunday, December 25, 2011

THE HOLY EUCHARIST OF THE NATIVITY

Rite I 10:00 am Nursery Provided

The Christmas Eucharist is a simple, quiet celebration of the Nativity of Our Lord.

THE SERVICE OF THE HOLY NAME

OF OUR LORD

Sunday, January 1, 2012

Rite I 10:00 am Nursery Provided

A service on the eighth day after Christmas. The Gospel according to Luke records that eight days after Jesus’ birth he was circumcised and given his name which means “Savior” or “Deliverer” in Hebrew.

SUNDAY CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CLASSES

10:00-10:50 am

Adult Christian Education, 3rd fl. Grelling-Spence Bldg.

*****Please Note: Classes will not be held on December 25 or January 1. They will resume January 8.**

The Gospel of Luke, is taught by The Rev. Luckenbach in the Ascension Room.

A Reason for God. During the four Sundays of Advent, Fr. Matt & The Rev. Peete will be leading a discussion based on the DVD series "A Reason for God" by Timothy Keller.

Adult Inquirers Confirmation Class led by The Rev. Stephen Stine in the Epiphany Room beginning January 8. If you are an adult interested in confirmation in the Episcopal Church, please plan on attending. It will be for confirmands and anyone desiring to learn more about the Episcopal Church. Confirmation will be held in the Spring of 2012.

Children and Youth

Nursery: 8:30 till end of 11/11:05 services, infant-1st grade,

Godly Play: Children from 2 years to 2nd grade grow their faith through *Godly Play*, a Montessori-based curriculum using a careful telling of scripture stories, engaging story figures, and a variety of creative activities to encourage children to seek and find their own answers to their faith questions.

3rd - 6th AKALOO: A curriculum for 3rd through 6th grade that brings a "stage-specific" approach to faith formation for our children and youth by focusing on five areas of discipleship: Bible, God, Disciple, Church, and World.

7 - 12th Character: A study designed for 7th through 12th grade students that reveals how people of the Old Testament encountered God in amazing ways, and their lives were drastically changed. Students see how an encounter with God will change their lives forever.

Weekday Christian Education

Tuesday AM, (Men's Bible Study) 6:45-7:45 am, 3rd floor, Grelling-Spence Bldg., led by The Rev. Luckenbach. *Classes will resume January 31, 2012.*

Men's Bible Study, Lectionary-based study, Gospel Reading: Wednesdays, 7:15-8:15 a.m., Undercroft.

Women's Bible Study, Wednesdays, 10:30-11:30 am, Trinity Room. *Will resume in January, 2012.* Led by Frances Swann, childcare provided.

Women's Bible Study, Thursdays, 10:30-11:30 am, Epiphany Room, *A Word from the Prophets*, led by The Rev. Luckenbach. *Will resume February 2, 2012.*

Youth Activities Weekly—EYC—4th floor

EYC Fish (5th-6th grade) & Jr. EYC (7th-8th grade) Come join us for dinner, discussion and games, 6:00-7:30 pm every Wednesday, 4th floor. We will resume January 11.

Sr. EYC (9th-12th grade) Join us every Wednesday, 45h floor, 6:00-7:30 pm for a time of fellowship, food, community, and study. This year's study theme is "Discipleship". We will resume January 11. Sr. EYC ski trip to Winter Park, Colorado, December 16-21.

Sunday, December 18, 4 Advent

7:30 am Holy Eucharist Rite I
 8:00 am Canterbury Choir Rehearsal
 8:45 am Holy Eucharist Rite II
 9:45 am Gift Shop Open till 10:50 am
 10:00 am Christian Education Classes
 10:00 am Pageant Practice 5k-4th grades
 11:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite I
 11:05 am Epiphany Eucharist, 4th floor
 5:30 pm Holy Eucharist Rite I

Monday, December 19

10:00 am Gift Shop open till 2:00 pm

Tuesday, December 20

8:30 am Morning Prayer in the Chapel
 9:00 am Paper Guild
 9:00 am Staff Meeting
 10:00 am Gift Shop open till 2:00 pm
 11:30 am Praying the Rosary in the Chapel
 12:00 pm Tidings of Joy Concert Series

Wednesday, December 21

7:15 am Men's Bible Study
 10:00 am Pageant Practice 5k-4th grades
 10:00 am Gift Shop open till 2:00 pm
 6:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 22

12:00 pm Holy Communion, 1928 Prayer Book
 6:00 pm Loaves & Fishes, Team 4

Saturday, December 24, Christmas Eve

4:00 pm Childrens' Pageant & Family Eucharist
 7:30 pm Christmas Concert & Carol Sing
 8:00 pm The Festal Eucharist
 10:30 pm Festival of Lessons & Carols.

Sunday, December 25, Christmas Day

10:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite I

Monday, December 26 Church Offices Closed

Tuesday, December 27-Thursday, December 29 Church Offices open till noon

Friday, December 30 Church Offices Closed

Sunday, January 1, Holy Name, 10:00 am, Holy Eucharist Rite I

Monday, January 2 Church Offices Closed

Tuesday, January 3 Church Offices open
 8:30 am Morning Prayer in the Chapel
 9:00 am Education for Ministry
 9:00 am Staff Meeting
 4:00 pm St. Cecelia Handbell Ensemble
 6:30 pm Education for Ministry

Wednesday, January 4

7:15 am Men's Bible Study
 6:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 5

12:00 pm Holy Communion, 1928 Prayer Book
 6:00 pm Loaves & Fishes, Team 1

Sunday, January 8, I Epiphany

7:30 am Holy Eucharist Rite I

Music Ministry



Advent Tidings of Joy



Noon-Time Concert Series

Join us for our final Tidings of Joy Concert on
Tuesday, December 20.

Featuring our own *Holly Marsh*, soprano and
Frances Simpson, alto.

Please invite a friend as we conclude this year's series.

What Key Will You Play?

Thank you for your gifts to help in the renovation of our Steinway Piano. Our goal is \$28,275; we have raised \$14,000. Please consider giving to this worthy project that will bless our congregation for years to come!

Calendar continued

8:00 am	Canterbury Choir Rehearsal
8:45 am	Holy Eucharist Rite II
9:45 am	Gift Shop Open till 10:50 am
10:00 am	Christian Education Classes
11:00 am	Holy Eucharist Rite I
11:05 am	Epiphany Eucharist, 4th floor
5:30 pm	Holy Eucharist Rite I

Monday, January 9

10:00 am	Gift Shop open till 2:00 pm
4:00 pm	Choir School of East Texas

Tuesday, January 10

8:30 am	Morning Prayer in the Chapel
9:00 am	Education for Ministry
9:00 am	Staff Meeting
10:00 am	Gift Shop open till 2:00 pm
4:00 pm	St. Cecilia's Handbell Ensemble
5:00 pm	Daughters of the King
6:30 pm	Education for Ministry

Wednesday, January 11

7:15 am	Men's Bible Study
9:00 am	Yoga Class
9:30 am	Paper Guild
10:00 am	Gift Shop Open till 2:00 pm
10:30 am	Women's Bible Study
5:00 pm	CSET Board Meeting
6:00 pm	Book Club
6:00 pm	Face2Face/Catalyst Youth Groups
6:30 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday January 12

10:00 am	Gift Shop Open till 2:00 pm
12:00 pm	Holy Communion, 1928 Prayer Book
4:00 pm	Choir School of East Texas
6:00 pm	Loaves & Fishes, Team 2



Schedule of Services for The Eve of the Nativity

*Christmas Eve Celebration,
Saturday, December 24, 2011*

Children's Christmas Pageant & Family Eucharist 4:00 pm
A family friendly Eucharist starting with the Children's Christmas Pageant, moving right into the service of Holy Eucharist. *

Christmas Concert & Carol Sing 7:30 pm
A 30 minute Concert and Carol Sing presented by the Chancel Choir with String Quartet and Organ to celebrate The Feast of the Nativity. *

The Festal Eucharist 8:00 pm
A candlelight service and grand celebration of the Nativity with all of the pageantry associated with Anglican worship. *

Festival of Lessons & Carols, Solemn Midnight Eucharist 10:30 pm
Join us for a beautiful candlelight liturgy that incorporates an abbreviated form of Nine Lessons and Carols and moves right into the Eucharist.

***Nursery Provided at 4:00 pm and 7:30/8:00 pm services**

Choir School of East Texas

Gingerbread House Raffle Winners

University of Texas

Stephen Bentley

Texas A&M

Kathleen Hardy

Many thanks to the parishioners, choristers and parents for baking and buying cookies. A special thanks to Tina Ridley for the gingerbread houses and cookies and to Alice Avery and the CSET Board members for all the baking, setting up and decorating.

Our Cookie Walk was, once again, a tremendous success. For support of the Choir School of East Texas we raised

\$2,212.00

Christmas Gift Tree

I am certain that you have noticed that Sharon Nelson transformed my "Charlie Brown" Christmas tree into a thing of beauty.

There is still time to donate to the Choir School in honor or memory of someone dear. A lovely handwritten acknowledgement will be sent to the recipient to let them know that a gift has been given, by you, in their name.

Children's Ministry

Pageant Practice And Performance Schedule

December 18

5k-4th grade will practice in the Nave during the Sunday School hour.

December 22

10:00 am all pageant participants will practice in the Nave. We will distribute costumes during this time.

December 24

3:30 All pageant players should arrive in the Undercroft and in costume.

4:00 Pageant begins in the Nave, followed by the Family Eucharist.



E-kids, Jr. E-kids, EYC Fish and Jr. EYC rang bells at Macy's.

GREAT JOB!

Youth Ministry

Dear Sponsor,

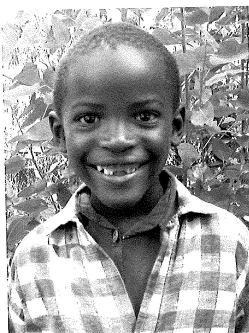
First of all, I am grateful to write this letter in order to express you my happiness because you showed me your kindness when you selected me among other children and accepted to be my sponsor.

I am called UWIMANA Consolee, a female by sex. My birth date is 30th November, 2000 and I am attending primary school, 4th grade. My favorite subject is English and I like playing volleyball. I live with my grandmother because my both parents deceased and I have one sister who is my sibling. We depend on agriculture and my grandmother grows the beans, sweet potatoes, sorghum, maize and vegetables. My favorite dish is sweet potatoes and my chores are to fetch water and to sweep.

My native country is Rwanda, located in Central Africa and the capital city is Kigali. My home area is in the southern province of the country where you can see the hills and there is a good weather.

Dear sponsor, allow me to end here thanking you very much for your commitment to my sponsorship and I wish you all the best.

With love, Your sponsored child,
UWIMANA Consolee **



**Helped in writing by the community worker

This is the first letter we have received from Consolee and I cannot tell you how excited I was to hear from this precious child. Knowing Christmas is literally around the corner, I began to wonder how Consolee and her family prepare for this blessed event. In the states, I see everyone hustling around, myself included, trying to "get it all done!" I see the excitement, the anxiety and the joy this season brings and I am fairly certain Consolee and her family do not have shopping lists they are working through nor are they getting irritated at all the extra traffic! I do wonder, however, what they do to prepare for the birth of Jesus. How do they see this season of waiting or do they recognize Advent? I wonder what is on the top of Consolee's wish list...

I cannot answer all my questions regarding the spiritual life Consolee and her family lead but I hope to try and learn about their faith and their customs in the days/years to come. I hope to be able to see that our support is making a difference in her life as well as in the lives of those she loves.

Our tradition is to purchase a gift, wrap it and allow the postal service to work their magic. However, purchasing/sending gifts like that to Consolee is not an option. Then, I remember that the only gift she needs is our love and support. Our prayers will be the best gift for this sweet girl and I ask you continue to include Consolee and her family in your thoughts and prayers during this amazing time of the year.

Denise Jarrett, Director, Middle School Ministries

Fellowship & Outreach



PrimeTimers Christmas Party

LUNCH 12 noon - 2 PM, Friday, December 16

Bring soup, salad, sandwiches, Christmasy desserts

AND FOOD FOR PATH!

Christmas Music & Christmas Poinsettias

Honor a loved one at Christmas by helping to underwrite the special music presented on Christmas Eve. You are also invited to participate in the celebration of Christmas through the Christmas flower fund. **Forms will be at the front desk and in the Narthex and are due Sunday, December 18.**

Gifts for Jos, Nigeria

A team of thirteen Christ Church members will be traveling on mission to Jos, Nigeria in mid-January. One group whom we hope to serve is a large group of orphans who have been adopted by Archbishop Kwashi and his wife Gloria. There are approximately 500 children that come to the Bishop's home every day for food. **500 children.** We are collecting hotel-sized toiletries for the church's ministry to these children. Please bring them to the church and place them in the bin between the parish hall and church offices labeled 'Nigeria toiletries'.

The church schools and seminary in the Anglican Diocese of Jos are also in great need of laptop computers. If you can donate a new or used laptop please remove your personal information from the hard drive and bring it to the church office. Thanks for your help!

Warm Winter Ministries is accepting gloves, hats and scarves for any age to provide for those in Tyler who are less fortunate this winter season. Drop off gently used items in the acrylic box located across from the Coke machine at the back of the Parish Hall.

From the East Texas Food Bank

Thank you for your contribution for Blessings of Grace, First Baptist Church and Oak Grove Baptist serving fire victims...Your donation will help make the holidays more hopeful for so many hungry neighbors. Hope is what it's all about. On behalf of all those we serve, thank you. Sincerely, Dennis J. Cullinane, Executive Director.

From Amani Development Organization

...Thank you so very much for your recent donation. We truly appreciate your support and promise to use your gift wisely to benefit the people of central Tanzania (Children of Peace Sponsorship). Blessings always, Mac Stevens, Director.

Tyler Civic Theater

Next time you go to the Tyler Civic Theater, go out back to the garden area and view the sculpture Jim donated. Judy McConnell

The Gift Shop

Come See
What's New
this Season

Including
Advent Candles

Holy Family Figurines
2012 Church Calendars

Reed and Barton Silver Bells

Caspari Christmas Cards and Napkins

Assorted Selection of Tasty Dip and Soup Mixes

Tins of "goodies" from The Byrd Cookie Company

Bibles, Prayer Books, Religious Commentaries and Best Seller:

Come to the Table, Food, Fellowship and a Celebration of
God's Bounty

*Gift Shop open through Wednesday, December 21. Opens again on
Sunday, January 8, returns to regular schedule Monday, January 9.*



This is the last Crucifer issue for 2011. The next Crucifer deadline is Tuesday, January 3. Printing is Tuesday, January 10.

Save the Dates for 2012!

Annual Meeting—Sunday, January 15

Chili Cook-off — Sunday, January 29

Camp Allen in 2012

Abundant Living Conference, February 27-29, 2012. Join us in the piney woods of Camp Allen as we "Live More—Age Less." This three-day retreat is for seniors, family members, and caregivers, and features sessions that explore the mental, physical, and spiritual aspects of aging.

Birds & Blooms, March 24-25, 2012. Calling all nature and bird lovers—this retreat is for you! Attend expert led sessions, hike scenic trails with experienced guides and much more.

FAM Tour. Camp Allen hosts monthly familiarization "FAM" tours that showcase our vast facilities. It is the best way to see and taste all that Camp Allen has to offer! To view all the dates and to learn more, and to register go to www.campallen.org.



Kids Corner—Happy Birthday!

**12/31 Anna Hutto; 1/3 Elizabeth Huggler;
1/5 Alexander Wick, Benjamin Wick,
Russell Wynne; 1/7 Betsy McKinney;
1/9 Parker Bracken; 1/15 Ivy Sudduth,
Drew Ptak, Victoria Burnette.**

Worship Schedule at Christ Church

<i>Sunday</i>	7:30 a.m.	The Holy Eucharist, Rite I
	8:45 a.m.	The Holy Eucharist, Rite II
	10:00 a.m.	Christian Education Classes
	11:00 a.m.	The Holy Eucharist, Rite I
	11:05 a.m.	The Holy Eucharist, Rite III
	5:30 p.m.	The Holy Eucharist, Rite I

The vision of Christ Episcopal Church is to be recognized as a joyful, spirit-filled community of apostles reaching out and transforming lives for Christ.

Tuesday 8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer, Rite II (in the Chapel)

Thursday 12:00 p.m. Holy Communion from BCP 1928

Church Web Site: www.christchurchtyler.org

Please Note: *The Crucifer* is published twice monthly and mailed out on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. If you have something you would like to see published in *The Crucifer*, the deadline for submission is on the first and third Monday of each month.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
