

the Crucifer

The Newsletter of Christ Church/Episcopal

Vol. XXV, No.2
January 11, 2023
christchurchtyler.org

From the Rector:

*I am the LORD;
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people,
a light to the nations, to open the eyes
that are blind,
to bring out from the prison those who sit
in darkness. Isaiah 42.6-7*

It has been a fickle season. From 60 to 10 to 70 degrees to begin the new year.

When temperatures drop below 30, the Luckenbachs stay inside. We are loving the warmer weather in January, and sunny Tyler in winter.

In this frigid season, the contrasts between cold and warm, darkness and light are more acute.

So it is fitting that Epiphany falls in the heart of January.

Rooted in a word meaning 'appearance' or 'manifestation', in Epiphany the Church recalls two events: the visit of the Magi to baby Jesus and His family, and the Baptism of our Lord. These events make complementary pronouncements about Christ. The wise men proclaim Him 'King' and John the Baptist calls Him 'the Lamb of God.' The former before Jesus utters His first word. The latter before He begins to teach or heal. Both proclaim the Good News—Christ Jesus is the Savior!

We have observed the Season of Epiphany for a very long time—since at least 361 AD. At its core, Epiphany is a season in which we build on Christmas and continue to celebrate the coming of Christ, announcing to the world that 'Jesus is Lord!'

Like a fire on a winter night, the coming of Christ has brought warmth to a cold world, and light to a land clothed in darkness. Epiphany is a season at the heart of the mission of Christ Church: to share the light of Christ to all the world and to bring the warmth of God's love to people chilled by the trials of life.

My prayer for you this new year: May God reveal His love and majesty to you and yours in 2023. And may your "*light so shine before others that they will see your good works and give glory to your Heavenly Father*" (Matthew 5.16).

Happy New Year and a peaceful Epiphany to you and those you love!

Faithfully in Christ,

David +



The Rev. Dr. Cole Hartin,
Associate Rector

Dear friends,

It was so delightful to worship with you all (I can't quite say "y'all" yet...) this past Sunday. Amy and I feel so lucky to be able to be part of the Christ Church community and to serve amongst you. We were especially blown away by the generosity and warmth of the parish. It's difficult to put into words how grateful we are for your kindness, support, and gifts. We've been grieving all that we had to leave behind in Canada as we moved to Tyler, and we were unsure how the transition to a new city and church might look. But all of our concerns were put to rest as we shared the Eucharist with you all and then got to meet you at the two receptions. We are so thankful.

Please be patient with us as we learn your names! It will take some time. We are looking forward to getting to know each and every one of your, hearing you stories and how God has been present in your lives. Please reach out to me, Fr. Cole, if there is anything I can for you.

In Christ,

Fr. Cole & Amy

music at Christ Church

Jeffrey Ford,
Choirmaster & Organist

Happy New Year from the Music Ministry.

I would like to thank the women of Christ Church who helped to provide a "light lunch" for the Tidings of Joy Noon-Time Concerts in Advent. Those include Lynne Bordeaux (*Loaves and Fishes*), Eugenia Pennebaker (*Terra Sancta*), Carole Bergfeld (*Bergfeld Friends*) and Cindy Westbrook (*ECW*). It was a stellar year for the concert series and thank you friends for helping to make that possible.

New Sunday School Class

Beginning January 15

Join Fr. David & Fr. Cole at 10:00am for

The Heart of the Faith: Essentials of Anglican Christianity.

Gathering Sunday mornings each week in the Ascension Room downtown and the Great Hall at Christ Church South, this semester-long adult class will explore the essential teachings of our faith.

2023

CHRIST
CHURCH

ONE CHURCH • TWO CAMPUSES

ANNUAL
PARISH
MEETING

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22 / 10:00AM BOTH CAMPUSES



1.

Julius Bergfeld

I was born in Tyler in 1943, my mother and father were members of Christ Episcopal Church and I served many years as an acolyte while growing up. I have been married to Susan for 56 year and we have 3 children and 8 grandchildren. I previously served on the Vestry of Christ Church. I was a director for a bank in Tyler for many years. I was on the board of the Salvation Army, I was on the advisory board of Christus Mother Frances, and served on numerous boards for the city of Tyler. I was president of the Independent Insurance Agents of Tyler, and the Tyler Board of Realtors and I have been in business for over fifty years. I graduated from Robert E. Lee, The University of Texas at Austin, and South Texas College of Law. I got my licenses for law, insurance and real estate in 1969.



2.

Catherine Buhrkuhl

A cradle Episcopalian, I have always enjoyed the powerful prayers and readings of our service. My service to the church includes 6 years with ECW, being President one year, and cooking for Loaves and Fishes. My husband David and I were truly blessed to go on the first pilgrimage to Israel, Turkey, and Great Britain. The trips enriched our spiritual journey as a married couple. I have been an health/life insurance agent for over 30 years and manage our rental properties. We are enjoying our retirement years in the Eagles Bluff community on Lake Palestine.



3.

Steven Comte

I grew up in Slocum, Texas and attended Texas A&M University and Texas Tech University School of Law. I'm married to Faye and we have three great kids — Annie (17), Jane (11), and Charlie (8). We moved to Tyler in 2006 and we have attended Christ Church for approximately eleven years.



4.

Karen Hughes

As an adult in the 1980's, I began attending the Emmanuel Episcopal Church in San Angelo, TX. I loved Emmanuel Church and have since learned to love Christ Church. I was reconfirmed here under Reverend Harrison McLeod. I was honored to teach Sunday School at Christ Church for approximately twenty years. (I love four year olds.) Recently, I have been an occasional "substitute" teacher or assistant teacher. I have been a member of the Daughters of the King (wonderful women) for about fifteen years, and I am also blessed to study with the women of the Women's Depth Group.

I am married to my college sweetheart, Craig Hughes, and we are celebrating 47 years of marriage this December. We have two sons, Jack, 33 and Ethan, 31. I obtained my Doctor of Laws from SMU School of Law in 1980. I have been practicing law since 1980 —first in San Angelo, and then here in Tyler since January 1987.



5.

Mark Shuttlesworth

I was confirmed as a member of the Episcopal Church in 1972. I have been a member of Christ Church downtown ever since. Although I had several business opportunities that I accepted over the years in the DFW area I always kept my Christ Church membership. Throughout our years as members of Christ Church my wife Trudy Bentley Shuttlesworth and I served as Sunday school teachers and Junior and High School EYC leaders. Our focus was to guide our youth in the ways of Christ's teachings of love and support for one another. I am retired now and look forward to the opportunity to serve Christ Church as a Vestry member.



6.

Stan Ward

I currently work as a leadership coach, author, and educator. I first came to Tyler in 1991 when I was on summer staff with Pine Cove Christian Camps. In 2017, he began attending Christ Church South. My wife, Mindy, & I have been married for over 27 years and are the parents of two college-aged daughters.

The Annual Parish Meeting and Vestry Election will be held on **Sunday, January 22** at 10:00 am. The vestry is grateful to commend these six candidates to serve on the Christ Church vestry beginning in 2023. *[Any additional nominations must be made by Monday January 16 to certify that they are qualified candidates.]* Voters must be at least 16 years of age, and are enrolled confirmed communicants in good standing of the Parish.

Thank you to outgoing vestry members for 3 years of service to Christ Church:
Lou Ann Berman, Steve Hardy, Christi Khalaf, John Owen, and Tim Quinn, Jr.

Kimber Short,
Director of Children's Ministry

I have found it true often enough that I have come to believe it as anecdotal evidence, that the sermon offered on the Sunday following my having missed church for several weeks in a row was *exactly* the message/scripture/lesson that I needed for that particular day in that particular season of life. As if it had been prepared just for me. But something happened this past Sunday that made me question that long-held "truth". Let me backup.

I've been "at" church regularly for many weeks. I have not, however, been "in" church. I am being spiritually fed by preparing weekly homilies to share at Children's Chapel and readying myself to lead Christian Formation. I was not being "fed" when I previously mentioned missing church for extended periods.

Which brings me back to this past Sunday. There was a Baptism at CCS and as such, we did not have chapel. This allowed the kids an opportunity to witness firsthand something many of them have experienced but few remember. And as there was no chapel, I was able to be in the Great Hall to hear Fr. Cole's beautiful sermon on "Preparing the Way". It spoke to me in many ways. Personally, since I had had an exceptionally pooppy week (Can I say pooppy in the Crucifer?). But more so because he was reminding us that as humans there is no sin so terrible, no grief so insurmountable, no humiliation so complete that God won't be there, right in the thick of it, waiting for us. And it is in these dire times that he will reveal himself to us. If only we have eyes to see. He went on to say that "Jesus has made a way for us" through the sanctified waters of Baptism. At the lowest of our human lows, when we are sure that we are alone, we awake to find ourselves sitting in the lap of the Lord. I have been that broken. I have cried out to God, cursed Him for deserting me. I even broke up with him for a period. But when I had eyes to see, I saw that He had been there with me all along. So maybe it's not so much that we find a truth to apply to our lives in sermons heard after a long absence from church. Maybe it's just that we don't have ears to hear the Good News until we do!

As a sinner, being reminded of Jesus's faithfulness is welcomed news. But as a Children's Ministry leader it is so very much more. I and those who assist in cultivating our children's awareness and knowledge of our spiritual beliefs have an opportunity to "Prepare the Way" at every encounter. I can't wait to weave this theme into upcoming homilies and lessons. I'm thrilled that God is "preparing the way" for the newly Baptized by sealing them as His own forever. And we, as a Church, are reminded of our promise to help "prepare the way" by remembering our Baptismal Covenant every time we witness a Baptism.

So today I pray to have eyes to see and ears to hear, not just when I've been absent but always. Lord, strengthen me to do all in my power to support not just the newly Baptized but all people in their Christian life by striving to "proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ" and by "seeking to serve Christ in all persons." Amen!

♥ Kimber

Please welcome our new Children's Ministries Assistant:

MADISON PERRY

I received my bachelor's degree from the University of Oklahoma in psychology and am currently pursuing a master's degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling at UT Tyler. My passion for work with children began when I started teaching Sunday School in junior high. I look forward to assisting in the children's ministry and growing young minds through the church.



CHILDREN'S CORNER BIRTHDAYS!

1/16 **Jackson Auer**, 1/16 **Valeria Hernandez**, 1/16 **Esin Odle**, 1/16 **Jake Godbold**, 1/16 **Kate Walker**,
1/16 **Louisa Mellon**, 1/17 **Archer Cassity**, 1/24 **Louisa Boyd**



Christ Church is hiring: Nursery Workers \$15/hr
Contact Kimber at kshort@christchurchtyler.org or call 903.597.9854



GREEN THUMB help wanted!

We are shaking the bushes for some youngins and even someone with a truck for seasonal hauling, for the Downtown Garden Guild. Contact Lynne Bordeaux if you are interested at 512-608-2171 or lynne0429@aol.com.

**A letter from Evgeny Kononovych who remains with his mother, Lyubov,
in Nikopol, Dnipropetrovsk Oblast, Ukraine.**

*Evgeny is the husband of Iryna and father of Nora, the Ukrainian refugees sponsored by Dr. Charles Johnson and Christ Church.
Iryna and Nora arrived in Tyler, Texas in August of 2022.*

Hello my dear new friends at Christ Church!

Erich Maria Remarque once said: "In dark times, bright people are clearly visible."

In my country from which my family was forced to leave, those very dark times have come now. Constant shelling throughout Ukraine complicates the normal functioning of all sectors of our country and has broken the usual way of life of all those living here. Your financial assistance that you provide to my family is a confirmation that you are the very bright people. Dr. Charles said that in your prayers on Sundays, you say words of support for my country and my family. Your prayers are as valuable as the financial, humanitarian and military assistance that USA provides to Ukraine.

There is no darkness. Darkness is the absence of light. And there is no evil. Evil is simply the absence of goodness and God in the souls of people. Evil is the result of the absence of Divine love in the hearts of people. It's like the cold that comes when there is no heat, or like the darkness that comes when there is no light. That's about what Albert Einstein once said.

Despite the different languages and some differences in the conduct of the service and the interior between your church and the Orthodox, which my mother goes to, you and I, my dear friends, are united by boundless Divine love, Faith and the desire to do good.

I would like to say special words of gratitude to Dr. Charles and Diana, who take care of my girls as if they were their own children. Thank you, Dr. Charles and Diana, for this.

You sent me a video of the service on Christmas Eve, which was held in your church and where you invited my family. It was touching. My mother and I did not take our eyes off the TV for 1.5 hours. We really liked the fabulous and friendly atmosphere that prevails in your church. It was just superb! The organ, flutes and choir sound magical.

Leo Tolstoy said: "It is not beauty that causes love, but love that makes us see beauty." It is the love for you in our hearts that has allowed us to see the divine beauty that resides in your church.

There is one expression-the motherland is not where I learned to walk, but where I don't want to leave. My girls really like being in the city of Tyler surrounded by all of you. And they don't want to leave. I really hope that they will be able to integrate into your society and they will become worthy citizens of the USA and America will become a homeland for them from which they will not want to leave.

There is no age at which it is too late to change your life. My wife Iryna and I are already six decades old. And I hope that we will succeed, and it will not be too late, to change our lives so that our family will be together again.

I would like to end my brief appeal to you with the words of one prayer:

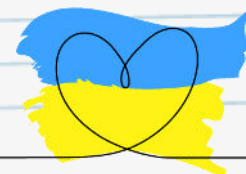
Lord! Give me eyes that see only the good in people; a heart that forgives the worst; a memory that forgets the bad and a soul that never loses faith. Amen.

Sincerely,

Evgeny and Lyubov Kononovych



(picture of Evgeny and his mother, Lyubov)



thanksgivings , supplications & fellowship

In Our Prayers

*Please consider including the Prayer List
in your daily devotions:*

Lisa, Cynthia, Paul & Lucy, Yeva, YK, Iryna, Nora, Yevgeny,
Rob, Victoria, Lynda, Chaley, Stacy, Sophie, Chesley, Link,
Tom, John

The Anglican Communion: *The Diocese of Osun North (Nigeria)*
The Episcopal Church: *Dioceses of Southwestern Virginia & Spokane*
Diocese of Texas: *St. Paul's—Pflugerville &
Holy Trinity—Port Neches*

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please contact The Rev. Stephen Stine with prayer list changes
or additions 903.530.8168.

upcoming

Sunday, January 15
10:00am **Adult Christian Formation** resumes

Monday, January 16 **Office closed** for MLK, Jr. Day

Sunday, January 22 *no adult Christian Formation*
10:00am **Annual Parish Meeting & Vestry Election**

Friday, January 20 6:00pm **Supper Club** (see graphic)

Friday, February 3 6:00pm **Primetimers** (see graphic)

Tuesday, February 21 **Mardi Gras Party** (more info to come)

**Attention
Primetimers!**
(age 50 & above)

Friday, February 3rd @ 6:00 pm
Christ Church Parish Hall

Savor wonderful lasagna &
Romantic Sounds of Live Chamber Music

Bring an Italian Covered Dish to share
\$10/person covers main dish/beverages/live music

Reservations please!
John & Stacey McKinley
jmckin9596@aol.com or
903-939-0125



In Memoriam

Our sympathies to the family & friends of

Hal Tuley,
husband of Pat Tuley;

Clarence W. Johnson,
uncle of Uriah Johnson;

&
Jean Hoeffner,
sister of Lee Warchus.

Welcome the newly baptized:

Katie June Fletcher
son & daughter of Jeff & Lauren Fletcher
January 8, 2023 at Christ Church South.

THE CLERGY &
STAFF ARE

SO VERY
thankful
INCREDIBLY
grateful
UNBELIEVABLY
blessed

BY THE GENEROUS FINANCIAL GIFT FROM
THE CHRIST CHURCH PARISHIONERS!!

Join us!



**Supper
Club**

Friday, Jan 20 | 6:00pm
meet in small groups

For more info & RSVP:
Kim Meyer (903) 530-6186

Clergy and Staff

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Doyle

Bishop of the Diocese of Texas

The Rt. Rev. Jeff Fisher
Bishop Suffragan

The Rt. Rev. Kai Ryan
Bishop Suffragan

The Rt. Rev. Hèctor Monterroso
Bishop Assistant

The Rev. David Luckenbach
Rector dluckenbach@christchurchtyler.org

The Rev. Dr. Cole Hartin
Associate Rector chartin@christchurchtyler.org

The Rev. Ted Welty
Associate Rector twelty@christchurchtyler.org

The Rev. Stephen Stine
Deacon ssti@tjc.edu

The Rev. Kevin Wittmayer
Assisting Priest

The Rev. Tim Kennedy
All Saints Episcopal School Chaplain, Assisting Priest

Mrs. Diana Keesey
Parish Administrator dkeesey@christchurchtyler.org

Mr. Jeffrey Ford
Organist/Choirmaster jford@christchurchtyler.org

Mr. A.J. Meals
Assistant Organist

Mrs. Kimber Short
Director of Children's Ministries kshort@christchurchtyler.org

Ms. Madison Perry
Children's Ministries Assistant

Mr. Uriah Johnson
College Missioner tylertxcanterbury@gmail.com

Mrs. Valerie Huggler
Parish Secretary office@christchurchtyler.org

Mrs. Samantha Hague
Director of Communications shague@christchurchtyler.org

Mr. Robert Finney
Music Leader, Christ Church South epiphanytx@gmail.com

Mr. Ledell Reed *Sexton*

Mr. Kendric Milton *Assistant Sexton*

Ms. Jennifer Ducote *Office Assistant & Housekeeper*

Mr. Anthony Moore *Sexton, Christ Church South*

Ms. Laurel Maynard, Mrs. Blair Zdenek,
Ms. Mackenzie Eakin, Mrs. Allison Hernandez *Nursery*

The Vestry

Mr. Tim Alexander Treasurer

Mr. Peter Boyd Asst. Treasurer

Mrs. Lou Ann Berman Class of 2022

Mr. Steve Hardy Class of 2022

Mrs. Christi Khalaf, Clerk Class of 2022

Mr. John Owen, Senior Warden Class of 2022

Mr. Tim Quinn, Jr. Warden CCS Class of 2022

Mr. Stephen Bentley Class of 2023

Mr. Jerry Sanders, Jr. Warden CCD Class of 2023

Mrs. Terri Squyres Class of 2023

Mr. Bob Westbrook Class of 2023

Mrs. Kim Meyer Class of 2024

Mr. Danny Noteware Class of 2024

Mrs. Sheryl Richter Class of 2024

Dr. Mak Saigusa Class of 2024

Dr. Dan Toney Class of 2024

Pastoral Emergency Contacts

In the event of a pastoral emergency,
you may reach

The Rev. David Luckenbach, *Rector*, at 903-279-8777, or

The Rev. Stephen Stine at 903-530-8168.

You may also call the church office, 903-597-9854,
during normal business hours.

Lectionary for upcoming Sundays Year A BCP 1979 Lectionary

Sunday, January 15

2 Epiphany

Isaiah 49:1-7

Psalms 40:1-10

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

John 1:29-41

Sunday, January 22

3 Epiphany

Amos 3:1-8

Psalms 139:1-17

1 Corinthians 1:10-17

Matthew 4:12-23



Christ Church | Episcopal
118 S. Bois d'Arc
Tyler, TX 75702

903.597.9854
office@christchurchtyler.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

www.christchurchtyler.org

Worship Schedule

Sunday

7:30 am CCD: The Holy Eucharist *Rite I*
9:00 am CCD: The Holy Eucharist *Rite II*
11:00 am ~ CCD: The Holy Eucharist *Rite I*
11:05 am ~ CCS: The Holy Eucharist *Rite II*
~live-streamed christchurchtyler.org

CHRIST CHURCH: ONE CHURCH—TWO CAMPUSES

CCD: Christ Church *Downtown*, 118 S. Bois d' Arc, Tyler, TX 75702 (office address)

CCS: Christ Church *South*, 15747 Old Jacksonville Hwy, Tyler, TX 75703

www.christchurchtyler.org | office@christchurchtyler.org

Please Note: *The Crucifer* is published twice monthly (except July and December).
If you have something you would like to see published in *The Crucifer*, please contact
Samantha Hague at 903-597-9854, shague@christchurchtyler.org.



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