

# the Crucifer

The Newsletter of Christ Church/Episcopal

Vol. XXV, No.10

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christchurchtyler.org



## From the Rector:

Every generation of high school graduates enters a new and exciting world.

In the mid-1980's, the world into which I and my classmates began adulthood was a blend of analog and digital. VHS players cost \$1,000. We called other people on land lines and recorded phone messages onto machines using cassette tapes. We lived amid the Cold War, and eastern Europe was on the other side of the Iron Curtain. China was a very poor communist country only beginning to embrace limited capitalism. We learned about the world from books and network news.

Today's youth have grown up in the information age. Almost every graduate has a mobile phone on which they can access information about the world and can interact with strangers and friends 24/7. AI technology promises to be a regular, integrated part of the lives.

Every generation faces a new world. But people are essentially unchanged. And the Lord God is the same 'yesterday, today, and forever' (Hebrews 13.8).

God is always good, always loving, always present, always sovereign.

Our teenagers are navigating an increasingly complex world with families and a church community who love and support them. This Sunday, we will especially celebrate our youth, inviting them to help lead the worship services and gathering at 10:00 in the Parish Hall for a reception in honor of our graduating seniors.

Please come and join the celebration of and for our kids this Youth Sunday!

Faithfully in Christ Jesus,

*David +*

## The Rev. Dr. Cole Hartin, Associate Rector

This past week I read a wonderful article in *The New Yorker* titled, “[Taco Bell’s Innovation Kitchen, the Front Line in the Stunt-Food Wars](#)”. The subtitle gets even better: “How did the chain outdo Burger King’s Bacon Sundae, Pizza Hut’s hot-dog-stuffed crust, Cinnabon’s Pizzabon, and KFC’s fried-chicken-flavored nail polish?” As a life-long Taco Bell aficionado, I was hooked.

The article, written by Antonia Hitchens, is a deep-dive, long-form piece that aims to shed some light on the massive amounts of time (and millions of dollars!) spent in labs to perfect Taco Bell’s Next Big Thing. The piece focuses on the story of the Crunchwrap Supreme. This delicious



creation was repeatedly rejected before becoming the “fastest selling item in Taco Bell history”. It’s a beautiful thing—the combination of soft and hard shells, the portability, the combination of flavours. It might surprise you to

learn of the years of experimentation that went into its conception and production.

The whole article is worth reading in full, but what I found particularly interesting about it is the way that Taco Bell’s success is in large part the result of long, expensive, deliberate experimentation – including failure – that in the end has paid off. That’s why for the twelve ‘chef scientists’ at the research complex outside of Dallas, “failure is a big part of the job.”

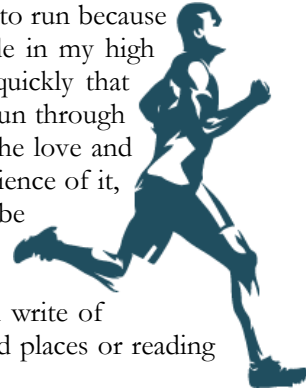
After reading the article, I started to wonder if maybe something similar could be said about the Christian life. Part of our goal as Christians is to have Christ formed in us, as St. Paul says in Galatians 4:19; this was his prayer for the church in Galatia. Christ is formed in us not by our own efforts, but by finding ways to be open to the grace of God. God is always trying to find a way to get to us, and we get to cooperate with him by opening the door. And this is where we might need to experiment, even fail, as we sustain opportunities for God to make himself present in our lives.

We are not chasing after novelty like the scientists of Taco Bell, but we are about making space for the Holy Spirit in our lives. The meat- and-potatoes of discipleship comes from the usual prayers, worship, study, and evangelism we’ve learned since we were children. But God has a way of surprising us with his presence in situations that we might not expect. We just need to open the door to them.

In my own life, for instance, a couple of practices have opened me to the grace of God in ways I did not expect.

The first of these has been reconnecting with old friends. I have made it a discipline to reach out to folks I was friends with in childhood. One friendship in particular has been a really healing experience. Most of our conversation is pretty silly, but that’s been joy of it. I am grateful for the ways that God has used this connection to lighten both of our hearts through difficult times.

The other practice that has been a surprising opening for God’s grace has been running. I started to run because I had to in order to get a passing grade in my high school gym class. But I found pretty quickly that the rhythm and solitude of an evening run through the neighborhood was an opening for the love and grace of God. I don’t understand the science of it, but I know that running allows me to be more grateful and almost without fail I come back with a new insight into what God has been doing in my life. I could write of other experiences too: Swimming in wild places or reading poetry, for instance.



As the school year is winding down and vacations are creeping closer, maybe this might be a time for some holy experimentation for you. Continue in the Apostle’s teaching and the prayers and the breaking of bread, but be open to other ways that God might speak to you. Perhaps it will be experiencing the beauty of God in poetry or being refreshed by a walk in nature. Maybe it will be making a connection with someone who you haven’t seen in a while, or someone who shares nothing in common with you. God has a way of meeting us in the most unexpected places. We just need to be willing to open the door.

**Men's Summer Depth Group**  
returns **Wednesday, May 31 - 6:00pm**  
**Christ Church South**

Study of **6-7** | **7-8** **DRINKS & FELLOWSHIP!**  
**1 & 2 Tim & Philemon**



**Jeffrey Ford,**  
*Choirmaster & Organist*

*We are so glad to have Susie directing the children's choir here at Christ Church. Plans are being made for the fall. They are singing for the first time with Susie on Mother's day for the 9:00 Service. Welcome to you, Susie!*

**SUSIE FERGUS** is a retired choral director and elementary specialist who made Tyler her home in 2019. She has taught preschool through high school at various stages of her 22-year teaching career in Fort Worth and East Texas. She enjoys leading workshops for music teachers in Houston, Tyler, and surrounding areas, as well as conducting area children's honor choirs and her own church children's choir.

Since 2015, she has been a faculty instructor for the Southeast Texas Kodaly Levels Training in the greater Houston area, where she teaches Level I Pedagogy & Materials, Musicianship III, and directs the Ensemble. She earned her Kodaly certification through the Plano ISD/UNT program; her Master of Arts in Music Education with a Choral emphasis from University of Saint Thomas (St. Paul, MN); and her Bachelor of Science in Music Education from Auburn University (Auburn, AL).



**CONFIRMED, RECEIVED, REAFFIRMED:**

May 7, 2023 at Christ Church Downtown

- Beverly Beck, Emily Cameron, Marian Cameron, David Fennell, Jim Johnson, A.J. Meals, Eileen Meals, Junella McClusky, Emmie Pippin, Philip Pippin, Randy Reid, Jeff Richards, Mary Alice Simpson, Margie Johnston, Patti Wild, Richard Wild*

**SUMMER**  
 Schedule  
 @ Christ Church  
 DOWNTOWN\*

begins SUNDAY, MAY 28

7:30am Holy Eucharist

9:00am Christian Formation

10:00am Holy Eucharist

\*South Campus doesn't change





**BLYTHE** Borah  
*All Saints Episcopal School*  
Texas A&M



**VICTORIA** Combest  
*Chapel Hill High School*  
Texas A&M



**ANNIE** Comte  
*All Saints Episcopal School*  
Texas A&M



**CAROLINE** Khalaf  
*All Saints Episcopal School*  
Wake Forest University



**WILLIAM** Luckenbach  
*All Saints Episcopal School*  
University of New Mexico



**AVA** Squyres  
*Homeschool*  
Tyler Junior College



Celebrate our Christ Church HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES!





**MARYN** Davis  
*All Saints Episcopal School*  
Tyler Junior College



**ERIK** Haan  
*Whitehouse High School*  
Texas State or  
UT Tyler (*undecided*)



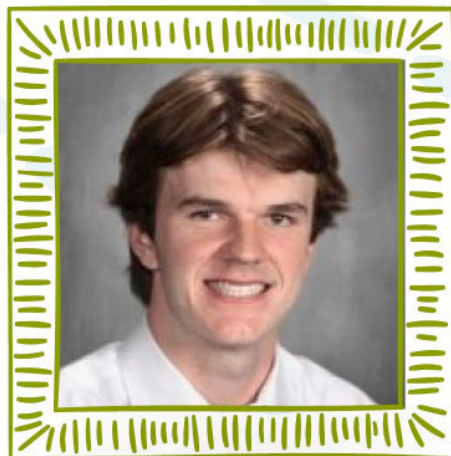
**ELLA** Harbold  
*Tyler Legacy High School*  
University of Vermont

SS  
3

**LILY ANN** Weissmann  
*Whitehouse High School*  
Texas A&M



**CULLEN** Walker  
*All Saints Episcopal School*  
University of Texas, Austin



**BAILEY** Walker  
*All Saints Episcopal School*  
University of Mississippi



Sunday, May 14th at 10:00am Downtown in the Parish Hall

thanksgivings , supplications & fellowship

In Our Prayers

Please consider including the Prayer List in your daily devotions:

Lisa, Paul & Lucy, Yevea, YK, Iryna, Nora, Yevgeny, Rob, Victoria, Chaley, Stacy, Sophie, Chesley, Link, Tom, John, Mike, Mark, Linda, Dalton, Chris, Marian, Carl, Mimi, Phil, Jennifer, MB, Raymond, Arnold, Tommy, George, Pam, Julie, John, Ahmet, Randy, Will, Luke, James, Gregg, Cynthia, Lynda, Ann, Frank, HB, Anne, Oleg, Luba, Cris, Lloyd, Ben, Angela, Samuel, Serena, Dot, Roger, Patty, Victoria

The Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Port Sudan (Sudan) | The Episcopal Church: Dioceses of West Virginia & Western Kansas Diocese of Texas: Church of the Good Shepherd—Tomball & Christ Church—Tyler

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

upcoming

Friday, May 12 Supper Club

Sunday, May 14 Youth Sunday & Mother's Day
9:00 am Children's Choir sings—CCD
10:00 am Reception for Seniors—Parish Hall

Saturday, May 20 Bethesda Clinic

Sunday, May 28 Summer service schedule begins through Labor Day
Downtown Schedule (South stays the same)
7:30am Holy Eucharist
9:00am Christian Formation
10:00 am Holy Eucharist

Sunday, June 4 Texas Rangers Game in Arlington (see graphic below)

M-F, June 26-30 Vacation Bible School (register now-see below)

Sunday, July 2 Independence Day Celebration

In Memoriam
Our sympathies to the family & friends of
Hazel Innis,
mother of Cynthia Farrell & Joe Innis;
&
Sheila Suites,
cousin of Jennifer Ducote.

REGISTER NOW!
Participants & Volunteers
What? VBS June 26-30 Where? All Saints Episcopal School
STELLAR
SHINE JESUS' LIGHT
What? VBS Work Week June 19-23 Where? TBD
www.christchurchtyler.org/vbs

TEXAS RANGERS
CHRIST CHURCH FAMILY
TEXAS RANGERS BALLGAME!
Sunday, June 4 at Globe Life Field - Arlington, TX
10:00 am Chartered bus will depart Christ Church Downtown
1:35 pm Game starts | Rangers vs Mariners
\$60/person for ticket | (youth 5-12th grade-free)
Get your tickets> www.christchurchtyler.org/rangers-game
or call/come by the office with a check/cash
Cost includes game ticket, transportation by charter bus,
and all you can eat \*lunch from 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm.
\*ENTRÉES
ALL BEEF HOT DOG Diced onions, shredded cheese, traditional condiments
CLASSIC GRILLED HAMBURGERS American cheese, lettuce, tomatoes and sliced onions
SIDES Old fashion mustard potato salad, potato chips, and assorted cookies
DRINKS Assorted soft drinks and bottled water

Scan the QR code to register or to volunteer >>>
Questions? Call Kimber 903-530-2580





## 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. Héctor 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. Tim Kennedy  
*All Saints Episcopal School Chaplain, Assisting Priest*

Mrs. Diana Keeseey  
*Parish Administrator* dkeeseey@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*

Mrs. Blair Zdenek, Ms. Juliemy Prieto-Hernandez,  
Mrs. Allison Hernandez *Nursery*

## The Vestry

**Mr. Peter Boyd** Treasurer

**Mr. Bill Clawater** Asst. Treasurer

**Mr. Stephen Bentley, Jr.** *Warden CCD* Class of 2023

**Mr. Jerry Sanders** Class of 2023

**Mrs. Terri Squyres, Clerk** Class of 2023

**Mr. Stan Ward** Class of 2023

**Mr. Bob Westbrook, Sr.** *Warden* Class of 2023

**Mrs. Kim Meyer** Class of 2024

**Mr. Danny Noteware** Class of 2024

**Mrs. Sheryl Richter, Jr.** *Warden CCS* Class of 2024

**Dr. Mak Saigusa** Class of 2024

**Dr. Dan Toney** Class of 2024

**Mr. Julius Bergfeld** Class of 2025

**Mrs. Catherine Buhrkuhl** Class of 2025

**Mr. Steven Comte** Class of 2025

**Mrs. Karen Hughes** Class of 2025

**Mr. Mark Shuttlesworth** Class of 2025

## 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, May 14**

**6 Easter**

Acts 17:22-31

Isaiah 41:17-20

Psalm 148

1 Peter 3:8-18

John 15:1-8

**Sunday, May 21**

**7 Easter**

Acts 1:[1-7] 8-14

Ezekiel 39:21-29

Psalm 68:1-20

Psalm 47

1 Peter 4:12-19



Friday, 6:00pm  
May 12

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

### CHILDREN'S CORNER BIRTHDAYS!

5/11 Jake Vaughn, 5/16 Harper Harrison,  
5/20 Gatlin Chitty



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

903.597.9854  
office@christchurchtyler.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

## Worship Schedule

**Sunday** (*changes 5/28 see inside*)

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](http://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](http://www.christchurchtyler.org) | [office@christchurchtyler.org](mailto: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](mailto: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.*