

the Crucifer

The Newsletter of Christ Church/Episcopal

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June 21, 2023

christchurchtyler.org

From the Rector:

For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord. 'Plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.

Jeremiah 29.11

In every generation, our children are bathed in hope.

We hope they will grow into healthy and strong adults. We hope they will have good friends. We hope they will thrive. We hope they will know the love of Jesus.

Parents invite congregations to partner in the faith formation of their children. I grew up in churches from Maine to North Dakota to Texas. Adults across the country invested heart and love in my formation as a young Christian.

Some of those adults I know well. Most I do not. Yet I thank God for them all. For the adults who taught Sunday school and served as youth leaders. And for the adults who developed and maintained the spaces in which I heard the Gospel of Jesus.

This is an important season in the life and history of Christ Church. This past week, we welcomed Sarah Jones as our new Director of Student Ministries. We thank God for her and continue to commit Christ Church to the task of faithfully discipling our teenagers. This coming week, Christ Church will offer Vacation Bible School to nurture the faith of our younger children. Over a hundred children will be ministered to by scores of teenagers and adults. We thank God for Kimber Short Madison Perry and for Courtney & Darin Dowdy and all the folks who invest their hearts in our ministry to children.

Over the coming weeks, we will begin to invite everyone to help Christ Church to repair and renew existing Children's Ministry facilities downtown, and to develop a new Children's Ministry Center at Christ Church South. These spaces are essential to our mission as a church.

We are privileged to be invited by parents to partner in the Christian formation of their children. I thank God for the many scores of adults who generously give of their time, heart, and wealth to deliver on the hope and faith that parents have in Christ Church.

By God's grace, I rejoice in the commitment of Christ Church to the faith formation of children and youth. Thank you!

Gratefully in Christ,



The Rev. Ted Welty, Associate Rector

From the Declaration of Independence:

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America: When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

According to Roman Catholic Cardinal Avery Dulles, “Of the fifty-six signers of the Declaration of Independence, the theological leanings of some twenty have been identified. Three have been characterized as deists: Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania, Thomas Jefferson of Virginia, and Stephen Hopkins of Rhode Island.” Note: Deism became popular in 17th century England as an alternative to Christian revelation. Deists believed that revelation was unnecessary because human reason was able to know all the truths necessary for salvation. According to the deists, God created the universe and then sat back and lets it run like a watch-maker. Deists did not believe in the supernatural, in miracles or the divinity of Jesus.

Again, from Cardinal Dulles: “Two others, John Adams of Massachusetts and George Wythe of Virginia are described as liberal Christians strongly influenced by deism. Four, including Jefferson’s friend Benjamin Rush were liberals not inclined toward deism. About eleven were definitely orthodox believers. Samuel Huntington, Philip Livingston, and John Witherspoon, President of Princeton University were prominent in this last group. Among the founders of the American republic who were not signers of the Declaration of Independence, George Washington, James Madison, and George Mason were religious liberals leaning toward deism. Samuel Adams, Patrick Henry, and Alexander Hamilton were generally orthodox Christians opposed to deism.”

The author of the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson, was raised as an Anglican in Virginia, but when he was in college came under the influence of several professors and converted to deist philosophy. As a statesman, he was careful to express what he considered to be the common and public core of religion. “...the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God...”... they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights...” We might call this a civil religion believing in the existence of an almighty divinity, who is possessed of foresight and providence, the life to come, the happiness of the righteous, and punishment of the wicked. We find evidence of this civil religion in our national institutions, founding documents such as the Gettysburg Address,

and the Pledge of Allegiance. “One nation under God.”

Jefferson and the founding fathers believed that for our country to thrive, we need at a minimum, a people who believe in one almighty God, a divinely given moral code, in a future life, and in divinely administered rewards and punishments. They expected that Jesus’ teaching in the Beatitudes would be accepted by a majority of the people.

This civil religion is currently under threat by a population that is increasingly falling away from any kind of religion. According to the General Social Survey (GSS) – a large, nationally representative survey that has consistent data on religious affiliation going back several decades. In 1972, when the GSS first began asking Americans, “What is your religious preference?” 90% identified as Christian and 5% were religiously unaffiliated. In the next two decades, the share of “nones” crept up slowly, reaching 9% in 1993. But then disaffiliation started speeding up – in 1996, the share of unaffiliated Americans jumped to 12%, and two years later it was 14%. This growth has continued, and 29% of Americans now tell the GSS they have “no religion.” Also, we have a judiciary that is hesitant to support any form of religion.

The result? Look around you. Division, violence, crime, gender and sexuality confusion, confusion on the beginning and end of life, corruption. The answer? “One nation under God!” So, this coming Fourth, by all means celebrate our independence, but also pray for our country. Pray that God will pour out his Spirit upon our nation.

Lord God Almighty, in whose Name the founders of this country won liberty for themselves and for us, and lit the torch of freedom for nations then unborn: Grant that we and all the people of this land may have grace to maintain our liberties in righteousness and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Blessings in Christ,

Ted+





Praise for the Past Faith for the Future

As we mentioned in the last Crucifer, the downtown campus has been on the corner of Bois d'Arc and Elm since the lots were purchased in 1913. In 1953, under the leadership of The Rev. John Bentley, the Henry M. Bell Memorial Building was added. It consisted of offices, classrooms, a library, and chapel. To date, many of those spaces have had very little renovation

It wasn't until 1969, under the leadership of The Rev. H. Douglas Fontaine, that the next addition, the Grelling Memorial Building, was dedicated. That building provided a parish hall, kitchen, audio-visual room, offices and a relocated library. For many years, the Grelling Building was the heart of the church, providing countless opportunities for parishioners to love and serve the Lord and his people. As most of you know, that facility was replaced by the Grelling-Spence Building, which was dedicated in 2009.

Christ Church didn't stop there. Building For The Glory Of God Capital Campaign was launched to better fulfill the Christ Church mission to "equip people to know and follow Christ." By 2016, a beautiful south campus became a reality.

Fast forward to 2023. The vestry, clergy, and other parishioners are continuing the call for Christ Church to serve the community. There are exciting plans for the downtown and south campuses. You will soon be receiving information on the **Hallelujah** Capital Campaign. Our prayer is that everyone will share in the enthusiasm for the campaign and the position changes it will bring about.

ONE CHURCH TWO CAMPUSES

The dinner & presentation will be held **INSIDE** Carr Hall.

ONE CHURCH • TWO CAMPUSES
Summer Gathering
And Capital Campaign Kickoff
*Join us as we come together to
support the future of Christ Church*

Christ Church South Campus
June 28th | 6 - 8 p.m.
With Live Music
Food from Chef Jack Lewis
Wine & Beer
Childcare & Activities

RSVP to laura@willistylor.com
Please See Back for Details on Children's Events

*Big Fun for Kids
of All Ages!*

Middle schoolers and younger are invited to get Wet and Wild on our giant water slide and obstacle course! Compete against your friends in yard games!

The Nursery will be open for children three years and younger.

Please include your children when you RSVP!

children's ministry

Kimber Short,
Director of Children's Ministry



Questions? Scan the QR code to register for VBS or to volunteer >>>
Ask Kimber 903-530-2580 | kshort@christchurchtyler.org

Its not to late to register your kids, grandkids, nieces & nephews or neighborhood kids for VBS!
Adults & teens, you can volunteer, we need you!

CHILDREN'S CORNER BIRTHDAYS!

6/24 Max Vaughn, 6/27 Audrey Motto,
6/28 Cole Tiller, 6/30 Jackson Willis,
7/5 Michael Konieczsky, 7/6 Chester Clayton,
7/8 Cora Mellon, 7/17 Tripp Noteware,
7/17 Evan Birdwell

student ministry

Sarah Jones,
Director of Student Ministries



Hello Wonderful Families,

I have had a great first week here at Christ Church. I want to thank you all for being so welcoming during the receptions this past Sunday. I was able to meet so many people from both campuses and everyone has been very kind. I am excited to be working with such a great church!

Youth group is currently in the midst of Tyler Mission Week. Our young adults have been working hard on VBS prep and they have the glue gun burns and glitter under their nails to prove it. I am very appreciative to everyone who volunteered. I understand that this year is a little different from the previous ones so thank you for taking a chance on doing something new. I am hopeful that next Tyler Mission Week will look a little more familiar and we will be able to organize a mission trip again. I have thoroughly enjoyed working beside the young people of the church and having the opportunity to get to know them better. I have seen some great artistic ability and imagination going into our VBS decorations and I can't wait to see how it all comes together next week.

Looking forward, I will be exploring new Sunday school curriculums with a goal of expanding our class offerings for youth at both campuses. To accomplish this though I will need volunteers to help teach Sunday school. The youth of the church deserve a great spiritual education and a safe place to explore and grow into their faith. I love the Episcopal church. I want to see it continue to grow and that starts by giving our kids great memories and loving support so they can bring light to the dark places of the world and will want to bring their own families in the future. Please pray and think about if youth ministry might be something you are called to do at this time. Please do not feel that you need to be available every week to help. Offering one or two weekends a month or being available to cover classes in emergency circumstances are welcome and extremely helpful.

Thank you for the continued support of the youth group. I am grateful and humbled that I get to be a part of this new chapter.

Blessings,

Sarah



Stellar "Bible Buddies" getting packed up & taken to ASES.

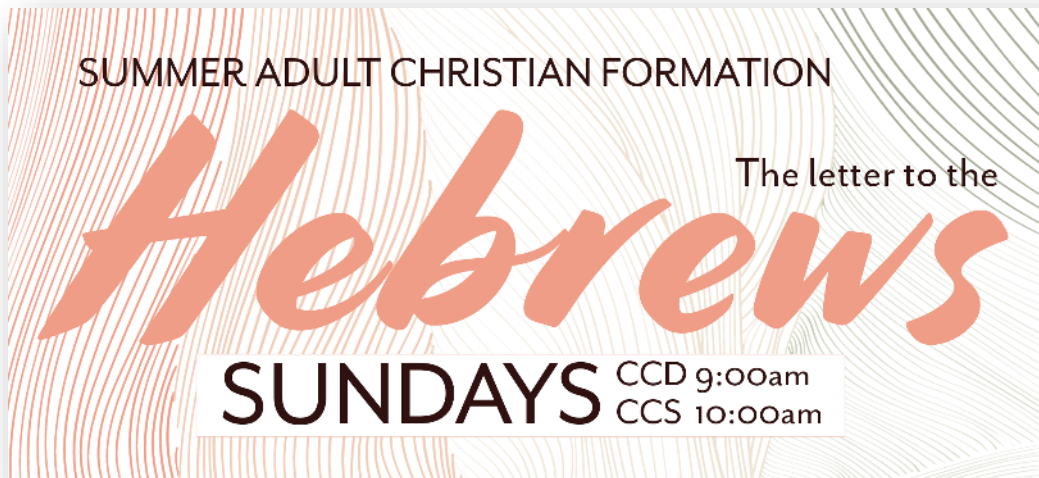


A well deserved lunch break with the Tyler Mission Week Crew.



* *Note:* This celebration will be a bit smaller than in past years. We are only having food. Wednesday, June 28th you are invited to the big SUMMER GATHERING that will include activities for kids outside and a catered dinner **inside** with music, wine & beer.

Please see page 3 for more information & how to RSVP.



Loaves & Fishes serves every Thursday
All Year long except on Thanksgiving
Would love to have new faces join this
rewarding ministry.



thanksgivings , supplications
& fellowship

In Our Prayers

Please consider including the Prayer List in your daily devotions:

Lisa, Paul & Lucy, Yeva, 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, George, Pam, Julie, John, Ahmet, Will, Luke, James, Gregg, Cynthia, Lynda, Ann, Frank, HB, Anne, Oleg, Luba, Cris, Lloyd, Ben, Angela, Samuel, Serena, Dot, Roger, Patty, Victoria, Christine, ME, Pam, Tommy, Robert, Lynn, Curt, Kaden, Julia, Ben, Cal, Bob

The Anglican Communion: *The Diocese of Toliara (Indian Ocean)*

The Episcopal Church: *Dioceses of Western Michigan & Western New York*

Diocese of Texas: *St. Alban's—Waco & St. Paul's —Waco*

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

upcoming

M-F, June 26-30 **Vacation Bible School** (see graphic)

Wednesday, June 28 **Summer Party | CCS**
Supporting the future of our church
6-8pm Music, Food & Fun for the kids | CCS

Sunday, July 2 **Independence Day PICNICS**
11:00am Picnic in the Parish Hall | CCD
12:15pm Picnic at the Pavilion | CCS

Sunday, August 13 **Blessing of the Backpacks**

Sunday, September 10 **Gear Up Sunday**
Service schedule returns to regular times
Downtown: 7:30, 9:00 & 11:00



Holy Baptism

The next scheduled date for baptisms is Sunday, July 23.
If interested in baptism on this date, please contact the church office, 903-597-9854 or office@christchurchtyler.org.



NOW AVAILABLE IN THE GIFT SHOP!!!
PORCH CULTURE COFFEE

Porch Culture is a small batch, craft coffee roasting company in Tyler, Texas. They strive to bring you profoundly good coffees that are responsibly sourced, mindfully roasted, and creatively distributed.

giftshop@christchurchtyler.org



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. Sarah Jones
Director of Student Ministries sjones@christchurchtyler.org

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, Mrs. Jessi Mayes,
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, June 25

Proper 7

Jeremiah 20:7-13

Psalm 69:1-18

Romans 5:15b-19

Matthew 10:[16-23] 24-33

Sunday, July 2

Proper 8

Isaiah 2:10-17

Psalm 89:1-18

Romans 6:3-11

Matthew 10:34-42

Sunday, July 9

Proper 9

Zechariah 9:9-12

Psalm 145

Romans 7:21--8:6

Matthew 11:25-30



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

Sundays through Labor Day

7:30 am CCD: The Holy Eucharist *Rite I*

10:00 am CCD: The Holy Eucharist

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.*