

# the Crucifer

The Newsletter of Christ Church/Episcopal

Vol. XXV, No.15

August 9, 2023

christchurchtyler.org

## From the Rector:

*Jesus asked,  
"Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?"*

*The lawyer said,  
"The one who showed him mercy."*

*And Jesus said to him,  
"You go, and do likewise."  
Luke 10.36-37*



*Nora & Iryna with  
Hal & Kim Meyer's dog.*

Almost every Sunday, we are reminded of the essential teaching of God—love the Lord your God with all you have and love your neighbor. The parable of the Good Samaritan, recorded in Luke 10, is the 'therefore' response to what love for a neighbor looks like.

Just over a year ago, our church encountered a family in grave trouble. The disabled mother and 12-year-old sister of Yeva Kononovych, a TJC tennis player from Ukraine, were, like hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians, in great danger. This family, though, was not on television. Their sister was in Tyler, asking for our church to help.

Of course we said 'yes'.

Within two months, scores of Christ Church families made generous financial gifts to help Iryna and Nora escape the war zone of Eastern Ukraine and receive the shelter, food, and education they needed. They have thrived in Tyler. Later this month, Nora will begin eighth grade at Three Lakes Middle School.

I thank God for the generosity of those whose gifts enable Christ Church to provide the essential necessities for



this vulnerable family. There is no government support for them. Their home and hometown have been devastated. The Russians destroyed Nora's school in Ukraine.

Iryna and Nora completely depend on members of Christ Church for food and shelter.

Our Ukrainian Support fund is beginning to run dry. Like the Good Samaritan, please help us to continue to support this vulnerable family. Edward Everett Hale famously wrote, "I am only one, but still, I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something."

Please contact Diana Keesey ([dkeesey@christchurchtyler.org](mailto:dkeesey@christchurchtyler.org)) at the church office or go to [christchurchtyler.org/give](http://christchurchtyler.org/give) & select Ukrainian Refugee Fund, to help us support Iryna and Nora.

Gratefully in Christ Jesus,

*David*

I am writing today to encourage you, to encourage you to do two things. First of all, I am encouraging you to bring your children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren to church. Secondly, I am encouraging you to contribute to the Hallelujah capital campaign. The two encouragements are connected.

This is the time of the year when our children are returning to school. Tyler schools start next week, and my grandchildren in Oxford, Mississippi started last week. The summers are shorter now than when I was growing up. Then, we didn't go back to school until after Labor Day. Maybe children are learning more these days with a longer school year.

This is also the time of year when some of our children will be heading off to college, some of them for the first time. Parents of freshmen should be prepared for the mob scene at the dorm on move-in day. They should also be prepared for the trauma of dropping off their beloved in the midst of strangers, not to see them again until Thanksgiving. There is good reason to be concerned.

Author J. Budziszewski is a professor of government and philosophy at the University of Texas at Austin who writes, "From the moment students set foot on the contemporary campus, their Christian convictions and discipline are assaulted. Understanding this hidden spiritual darkness can help students remain on course and even increase their faith exponentially throughout the college."

Here is the advice that Rev. Billy Graham gave to college students. "The most important truth I can give you is that you are never alone. God is with you, and He wants to help and encourage you every step of the way. God's promise is true: "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5).

What can you do? First, make certain of your commitment to Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord. Don't see Him as just one of many interests; see Him instead as He really is: the center and foundation of your life. Remember: He loves you so much that He gave His life for you. Now give your life to Him—totally and completely.

Then seek out other Christians on your campus. Most colleges and universities have active Christian groups; your pastor or youth worker may know of them, or campus bulletin boards may include information about them. You aren't alone; other believers are facing the same questions you'll face, and you need each other. The Bible says, "Encourage one another daily... so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness" (Hebrews 3:13).

In addition, spend time alone with God every day, no matter how busy you are. Make the Bible and prayer part of your daily "spiritual diet," and take time to pause and reflect on what God wants to do in your life during these years. Even in the midst of his worst struggles, Job declared, "I have treasured the words of his mouth more than my daily bread" (Job 23:12)."

Our mission at Christ Church is to equip our children for those spiritual battles that they will encounter, especially during their college years. We need for our youth to know why they should follow Christ when there are a million easier options in the world. Fr. David has put together an outstanding youth ministry team. In order for them to do their work, they need a good place to do it, and our physical plant needs some work – a major renovation Downtown and additional classrooms at the South Campus.

If you haven't made a pledge or contribution to the Hallelujah Campaign, for the sake of our children, do it now.

Blessings in Christ,

Ted+



Praise for the Past | Faith for the Future



The Hallelujah Capital Campaign is going strong! This is a summer campaign to raise **\$3 million** to remodel the lower level of CCD Bell Building and to add a wing at CCS. Both are for Children's Ministry. In addition, Endowment Funds raised for repair and maintenance of facilities on both campuses can assure Christ Church remains a foundation of faith both now and in the future. Q & A Here are some questions some have had. **What is a pledge card and why use it?** *This is not a contract, but a statement of intent. With these cards, our parish administrator will know what funds to expect and when to expect them. Your commitment will guide us in our financial planning.* **What about my annual pledge?** *It is still needed! The Hallelujah Campaign is for building expansion and improvement and an endowment to ensure our facilities for the future. Christ Church still has ongoing parish operations. We keep the funds separated.* **May I change my commitment if necessary?** *Yes. If you experience an unexpected change in your financial circumstances, you may increase or decrease your giving plan by contacting Diana Keeseey.*



**CHILDREN'S CHOIR @ CHRIST CHURCH**



Kindergarten thru 2nd & 3<sup>rd</sup> thru 5<sup>th</sup>  
Susie Fergus, *director* | Hannah Rosser, *assistant*

Singer's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Age \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact Number \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

*Rehearsal will be Wednesdays at 5:30-6:30 p.m., beginning August 16,  
in the Children's Choir room at Christ Church Downtown.*

We will perform    September 17 for the 9:00 a.m. Service | CCD  
                                  October 15 for the 9:00 a.m. Service | CCD  
                                  December 3 for Service of Nine Lessons and Carols | CCD  
                                  December 24<sup>th</sup> 4:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Pageant | CCD

It is very important that the singer make every effort to be at the rehearsal as well as the performances which are listed above.

I understand that singing in the choir is very important. By signing this I agree to do my best to get the singer(s) to each rehearsal and I agree to get the singer(s) to each performance.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

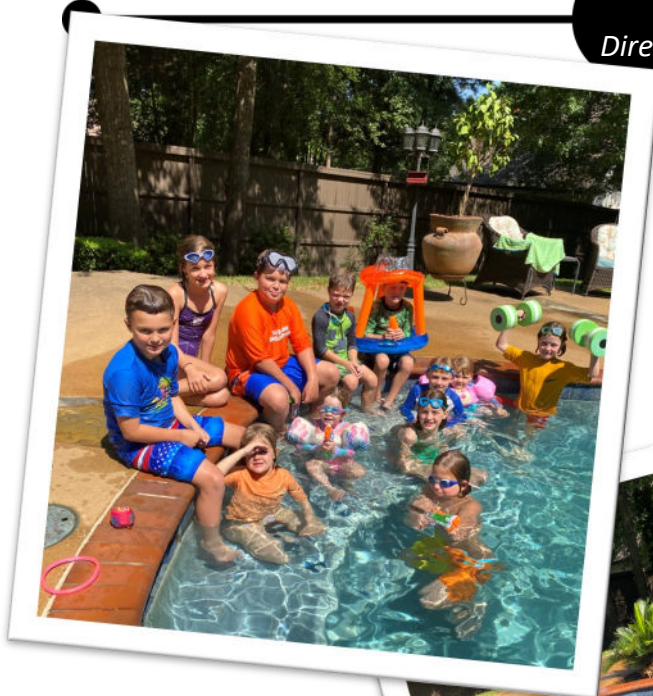
*Please fill out and return to the office at Christ Church Downtown.*

**Is my pledge confidential?** Yes. Only the church treasurer and parish administrator know the amount you commit. Be assured they will maintain your confidence. **When do I turn in my pledge card?** We are planning on wrapping up the campaign this summer, so the sooner we have pledge cards, the better. **When do I begin giving?** The 3 year giving phase can depend on your circumstances. You determine your personal giving schedule: it may be weekly, monthly, or a variation acknowledged by the parish administrator. **What if I can't decide on my level of commitment?** Few can make a \$1 million gift, but everyone can invest in what God is doing at our church in proportion to their resources. Our biblical understanding of stewardship is guided by six words: "Not equal gifts, but equal sacrifice."

**Your pledge is a statement of intent. It is a spiritual contract, not a legal one.**

Misplaced your pledge card or never received your packet? Please contact Diana Keesey in the church office. Diana can also connect you to a campaign team member for more in-depth discussion.

children's ministry  
**Kimber Short,**  
Director of Children's Ministry



So much fun was had at the Children's Ministry End of Summer swim party.



**CHILDREN'S CORNER BIRTHDAYS!**

8/12 Sullivan Shilling,  
8/17 Charlotte Mercer, 8/21 Zara Pippin,  
8/22 Katie Fletcher

student ministry  
**Sarah Jones,**  
Director of Student Ministries

Hello Families!

Summer is winding down and school is right around the corner! I think we are going to have a great school year and I can't wait to meet some new faces as everyone gets back from vacation.

**SOME OF THE AWESOME THINGS WE HAVE THIS WEEK ARE:**

- Youth Lake Day on August 12th 2-5pm at Mrs. Kimber Short's lake house. Please RSVP
- Blessing of the Backpacks this Sunday, August 13th at both campuses 10 & 11:05
- AMPLIFY Sunday School continues 9:00am CCD & 10:00am CCS

**ACTIVITIES TO LOOK FORWARD TO:**

- EYG starts on August 23rd 6-8pm. There will be lots of fun activities, theme nights, opportunities to cook together, and discipleship.
- Special once a month meeting for the Junior and Senior class. It will be an opportunity for our upper classmen to look deeper into their faith, wrestle with hard questions, and help them to keep their identity as a follower of Jesus as they step out into adulthood. Start date TBD.
- Driver safety and maintenance workshop. Do you have a new driver? This is a great opportunity for them to learn the basics of how to be safe on the road and maintain their vehicle. Experienced drivers also welcome. Date TBD

Parents please feel free to reach out with any questions, suggestions, or concerns at any time. I am still in the process of getting to know some families and I want you all to feel confident that your teen is being supported by our youth group.



Blessings, Sarah Jones  
Director of Student Ministries





5TH GRADE THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL **EY/C**

SATURDAY . AUG 12  
2-5 PM **LAKE DAY!**  
@ THE SHORT'S LAKE HOUSE



RSVP TO SARAH, DIRECTOR OF STUDENT MINISTRIES  
SJONES@CHRISTCHURCHTYLER.ORG

# BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

& STUDENTS :-)



AT THE ANNOUNCEMENT TIME CHILDREN & YOUTH WILL BE INVITED TO COME FORWARD TO RECEIVE A BLESSING FOR THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR!

SUNDAY, AUGUST 13  
DOWNTOWN 10:00AM  
SOUTH 11:05AM

**BACK TO SCHOOL** ♥

Ministry Festival

# Serve beyond

# SUNDAY

9.10.23  
more info to come



SUMMER ADULT CHRISTIAN FORMATION

The letter to the

# Hebrews

SUNDAYS CCD 9:00am  
CCS 10:00am



### Holy Baptism

The next scheduled date for baptisms is Sunday, November 5. If interested in baptism on this date, please contact the church office, 903-597-9854 or office@christchurchtyler.org.

# thanksgivings , supplications & fellowship

*In Our Prayers*

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

Lisa, Yeva, YK, Iryna, Nora, Yevgeny, Isabelle, Delight Ministries, Bob, Frank, Tarrie, Frieda, Lynda, Charlotte, Marie

**The Anglican Communion:** *The Diocese of Willochra (Australia)*, **The Episcopal Church:** *Dioceses of Alabama & Alaska*, **Diocese of Texas:** *St. Mary's—West Columbia & St Thomas Church —Wharton*

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

**Congratulations on the marriage of:**  
  
*Madeline Wynne,*  
daughter of Sharon & James Wynne  
*to Will Swenson*  
  
August 5, 2023

## upcoming

Friday, August 11 **EYC Lake Day**  
2pm—5 at The Shorts Lake House (see graphic on p. 5)

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

Wednesday, August 16 **Children's Choir** begins  
(see graphic on p. 3)

Wednesday, August 23, **EYC** begins 6-8pm CCD

Sunday, September 10  
**Serve BEYOND Sunday Ministry Festival**  
**10:00am at both campuses**  
Service schedule returns to regular times  
Downtown: 7:30, 9:00 & 11:00

The week of September 11  
**Bible Study with the Rector** returns  
Men's—Tuesdays 8:00am  
Women's—Thursdays 10:30am



**Yoga**

Thursdays, starting September 11  
9-10 a.m. on the 4th floor CCD

with Sarah Jones  
Certified Yoga Instructor  
& Director of Student Ministries



**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](mailto: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,  
Nateale Ammann *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,  
Call the church office during office hours 903.597.9854;  
after hours call The Rev. David Luckenbach 903-279-8777,  
The Rev. Dr. Cole Hartin 903-952-3850,  
The Rev. Ted Welty 903-714-7052 or  
The Rev. Stephen Stine, Deacon, 903-530-8168.

### Lectionary for upcoming Sundays Year A BCP 1979 Lectionary

*Sunday, August 13*

**Proper 14**

Jonah 2:1-9

Psalms 29

Romans 9:1-5

Matthew 14:22-33

*Sunday, August 20*

**Proper 15**

Isaiah 56:1 [2-5] 6-7

Psalms 67

Romans 11:13-15, 29-32

Matthew 15:21-28



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

### 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](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.*