

the Crucifer

The Newsletter of Christ Church/Episcopal

Vol. XXV, No.18
September 20, 2023
christchurchtyler.org



From the Rector:

“It’s the first day of autumn! A time of hot chocolatey mornings, and toasty marshmallow evenings, and, best of all, leaping into leaves!”

~Winnie the Pooh, *Pooh’s Grand Adventure*

Early in the morning, we have begun to feel the air turn cooler. After a hot summer, the first crisp wind of autumn is most welcome.

The fall brings many things to our door: football season, pumpkin spice lattes, and longer sleeves.

At Christ Church, the coming of autumn means the opening of a new chapter. Wednesday Youth Group, Sunday school, Men’s and Women’s mid-week Bible study have just begun. In the coming weeks, Christ Church will offer the Blessing of the Pets, Fall Festival and the Chili cookoff, Choral Evensong and more.

This year, thanks to the generosity of Christ Church families, we are beginning a robust building project to create amazing new spaces for the faith formation of our children! Thanks to your prayers, your financial support, and God’s gracious favor, we have raised over \$3 million in the Hallelujah Campaign, and have authorized the construction team to begin their work!

This autumn, I invite you to leap into the leaves – approach each day as a gift from God. Prioritize time with family and friends. Open and read a book that will warm your heart. And worship the Lord with a thankful heart.

Faithfully yours in Christ Jesus,

David +

One of the things that the Fathers and Mothers of the Church teach us that is God speaks to us in two books, the book of Scripture and the book of Nature.

We see precedent for this in Psalm 19, where we are told “the heavens are declaring the glory of God” and “the firmament proclaims his handiwork” only for this to be followed a little later in the same psalm, with description of the perfection of the “Law of the Lord”, a reference to the Scripture. In short, when God speaks to us – he does it through the Bible, but he also speaks through the physical creation – the things he has made.

Look also to the many proverbs that make use of the world of nature to convey God’s truth. For example: we are exhorted to look to the ant to understand how to work hard and cooperatively (see Proverbs 6:6-11). Nature is not just “stuff out there” but it too is a vital part of God’s creation and testifies to God’s goodness and truth. This is so much the case, that when we don’t attend properly to the natural world, we can get off-kilter when it comes to our faith. Augustine, writing to Christians around 1600 years ago can say,

But had you begun with looking on the book of nature as the production of the Creator of all, and had you believed that your own finite understanding might be at fault wherever anything seemed to be amiss, instead of venturing to find fault with the works of God, you would not have been led into these impious follies and blasphemous fancies with which, in your ignorance of what evil really is, you heap all evils upon God. (Augustine, *Contra Faustus* XXXII.20).

His point here is that Christians were confusing important teaching about their faith because they failed to see that the world is God’s. We can so easily fall into the trap of thinking nature is good so long as it is beneficial to us, rather than seeing it all as a gift from and testament to God.

Hundreds of years later, our Lord spoke to St. Julian of Norwich by means of a hazelnut, using this very ordinary thing of nature to show her that God holds all that is created in the palm of his loving hands, just like we might hold a hazelnut in ours.

I’ve been thinking about the book of nature as we transition seasons from summer to fall. This is my first fall in Texas. I’ve spent much of the summer inside, hiding from the heat trying to keep cool. The sun has been blazing down, and vegetation has dried up. This has been an unpleasant season, but one that is instructive of the spiritual life: There are times when refreshment is scanty, and growth is slowed. Survival is the goal. While unpleasant, this is a season too where God is present, sustaining life through difficult conditions.

I am hoping that in coming weeks, the more congenial weather will mean more time outside, and mean more opportunities to attend to the pleasantness of the autumn. What does this season tell us about God, as we watch leaves change colour, dry out, and fall down? Perhaps this too is a testament to the beauty and fleetingness of life all in one. The lavish beauty of this season, and the rich scents and flavours of harvest that come with it speak to the beauty of God, even as this beauty is ephemeral, quick-to-pass. Again, as the psalmist puts it “Our days are like the grass; we flourish like the flower of the field; when the wind goes over it, it is gone, and its place shall know it no more” (Psalm 103:15-16).

The lesson? Life brings with it real loss. Another turn of season is another step closer to death, even as the blaze of beauty in this season is a moment for “flourishing.” All of life – just like all of nature – is a gift. Both have patches that are unpleasant mixed in with moments of real joy. By attending to what God is saying in both we can find reason to gift thanks for the present, while looking to that great city in which there is a Tree of Life that has leaves for the healing of the nations, where “nothing accursed will be found... anymore” (Revelation 22:2-3).

Talking in the Nave

Please be mindful that when the Opening Voluntary begins then that is the time to quiet one's spirit. You may not realize it but there is a lot of time spent preparing for the Opening Voluntary. The purpose of the Opening Voluntary is to help get the body, mind and spirit ready for the hour ahead.

Thank you

Thank you to the Cherub and Carol Choirs for the beautiful Introit last Sunday for the 9:00 Service. ALL the singers were there and thanks to the parents for making this happen so smoothly. This is not a performing choir. We are here to train them to sing and be leaders in the worship service and to make it fun at the same time. The Cherub choir is a training choir to help them find their singing voice as well other musical activities. The Carol Choir learn to read music, follow the printed page (music) and bring singing to another level. As well as learning to be leaders they also will be singing the hymns of our faith. *Thank you parents for entrusting your children to us!*



Save the date

- ◆ **October 1 11:00 a.m.** Eucharist will feature the Missa Brevis in d minor, K. 65 with two violins and organ with the Chancel Choir.
- ◆ **October 29th at 3:00 p.m.** at UT Tyler's Braithwaite Hall Judy Biondini and Jeffrey Chappell in 2-piano concert.
- ◆ **November 5 6:00 p.m.** Choral Evensong featuring the Chancel Choir.



Our Hallelujah Capital Campaign for the restoration, renovation, and creation of our children's facilities on both campuses is nearing completion.

And, **we have great news!** Thanks be to God, we have reached our campaign goal of \$3 million with over 270 adults from 159 families of the congregation participating. **Thank you!**

If you have not yet made a commitment, please pledge today. It is not too late to help our church bring these beautiful areas to life.

An opportunity also exists for supporting the Christ Church Endowment Fund for the repair and maintenance of Christ Church facilities on both campuses. A large bronze plaque acknowledging gifts of \$25,000 or more in memory of, or in honor of loved ones, is being created. This effort, to be continued beyond the Hallelujah Campaign, will remember for years to come those who have committed to the long-term financial health of Christ Church. Names can be added as donations are received. Please contact Diana Keesey for more information.

Thanks to all for your love for Christ Church!

www.christchurchtyler.org/hallelujah-campaign



LIVE MUSIC
BY
GEORGE FABER AND FRIENDS

CATERED BY WILLOWBROOK
BEER AND WINE
CHILD CARE

RSVP
BY SEPT. 25TH
TO
DIANA KEESEY

903-279-9454
OR
DKEESEY@CHRISTCHURCHTYLER.ORG

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

Where your attention goes, your energy flows. I don't know who coined this phrase but I've read/heard/seen it in many places. It makes perfect sense.

To me, "life" is an action verb. To "live" is to remain "alive". I don't know about you but I know I want much more from my life than to just "remain alive"! So how do I go about doing that? I start by paying close attention to what gets my attention. If I'm spending hours online or running from one activity to the next, that is going to be a huge energy suck. But what is my ROI for all that time? Was it worth the trade? If I am allotted an unknown but finite number of hours in my life, what do I want to trade them for? In my last hours, will I look back and be satisfied with my choices?

There are more "things" vying for our attention today than there ever have been. More entertainment outlets, news outlets, shopping choices, books, podcasts, music, magazines than anyone could ever consume in a lifetime. I'm not saying those things are inherently bad, I'm just saying that it is very easy to go down a rabbit hole and before you know it you've forgotten to pick up someone from soccer practice and the dinner is burned!

It's so easy to forget the source of our sustaining energy. It's not the latest self-development podcast, not a Pure Barre class, not that salad I had for lunch. My life and thus my energy is from my God! It is a gift that I can never repay. But I can acknowledge it every day by giving my relationship with God my focused attention and therefore, my energy.

I'm so excited to start this new year in Faith Formation! I thank you for allowing me to be a small part in helping to direct your child's attention and energy towards learning about and worshipping Jesus! The true giver of life.

Kimber ♡

CHILDREN'S CORNER BIRTHDAYS!

9/21 **Atticus Boone**, 9/23 **William Fennell**,
 9/24 **Olivia Pogue**, 9/25 **Cora Garvey**,
 9/25 **Katie Meals**, 10/3 **Genevieve Mayes**

student ministry
Sarah Jones,
 Director of Student Ministries

Hello Wonderful Families,

I hope everyone enjoyed the ministry festival, or at least got to enjoy a maple-bacon donut. A huge thank you to everyone who donated raffle prizes.

- **Susie Fergus** owner of *Oh My Goodies Texas Toffee & Treats* made delicious cookies
- **Sharon Wynne** owner of *House of Wynne* donated lotion and a lovely notepad
- **Mercedes Noteware & Lori Chase** co-owners of *Sadie's Stitchery* donated bags to be monogrammed
- **Julia Hassell** owner of *Forget Me Not Flowers* donated a gift card to go toward a beautiful arrangement
- And thank you to *Andy's* on the square for several gift cards and *360 fitness* for offering a one-month membership and training sessions



September youth dates to remember:

09/22 need *RSVPs* for high school escape room outing

October dates to remember:

10/08 *New Driver Workshop*. We will meet at the south campus at 12:30pm. Lunch will be provided.

If you are a soon or be or current teen driver please join us at the south campus at 12:30 for a quick lunch and a opportunity to learn basic maintenance and safety practices. *Experienced drivers in need of a refresher are welcome as well.*

10/21 *High School Escape Room outing*. This will be an afternoon event, exact time TBD

No cost to participate, friends are welcome. *Please RSVP to Sarah Jones by September 22nd*



Parents, I am now using GroupMe for announcements and event dates. If you have not yet joined, please do. The app makes it simple to RSVP for events and you can message me directly. Just scan the QR code.

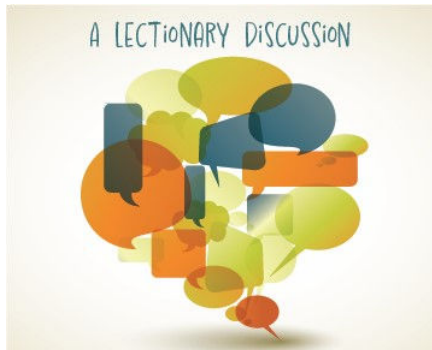


ADULT CHRISTIAN FORMATION | THIS FALL

NEHEMIAH

NEHEMIAH @ CCS & CCD

The theme of Nehemiah is the Lord's protection of his people and the need for their faithfulness in keeping the Torah (*the Mosaic law*) and their faithfulness in worship. After the exile, God is renewing his people in the land, in order to carry out what he promised to Abraham. God's people must renew their commitment to covenant faithfulness, laying hold of God's forgiveness and seeking to practice purity in their corporate and private lives. God in his mercy raised up Ezra the priest and teacher, and Nehemiah the governor, to lead his people in the hard work that this renewal requires. (*ESV Study Bible* Introduction to Nehemiah)



A Lectionary Discussion

Sundays DOWNTOWN in the Epiphany Room 3rd Floor 10:00am

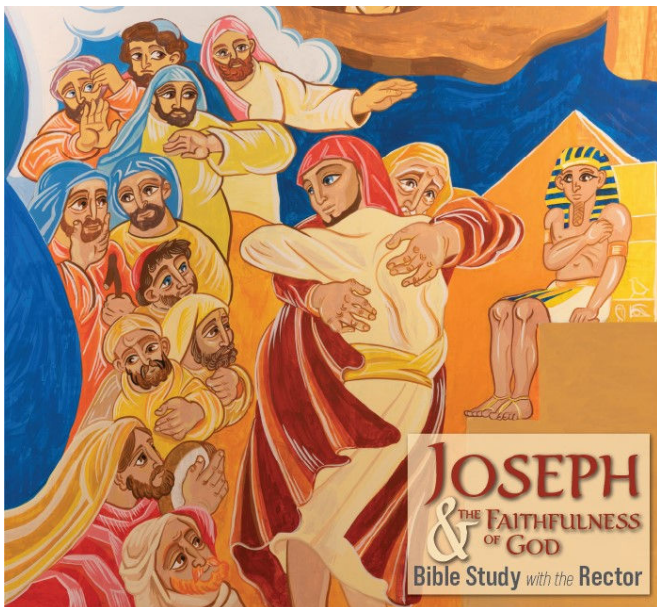
Join Deacon Stine in a discussion of the Sunday Eucharistic Lessons.

**Lectionary is an ordered system for reading the Holy Scriptures.*

Anglicanism 102 Confirmation is a sacramental rite of the church in which the Bishop lays hands on a person who publicly affirms his or her faith in Christ. For many, confirmation is a reaffirmation of commitments made to Christ on their behalf at their baptism as children. For others, it is a means of joining the church. It is for all a celebrated and solemn sacrament which expresses our faith in Christ.

Beginning in September, we will offer an **Anglicanism 102 class at Christ Church South at 10:00**. If you would like to join Christ Church through confirmation, or you would like to learn more about Anglican Christian theology and tradition, please join us at Christ Church South beginning Sunday, September 17.

If interested in confirmation, please contact the Parish Secretary, Valerie Huggler, at office@christchurchtyler.org.



BIBLE STUDY with the RECTOR *Joseph & the Faithfulness of God*

Beginning in mid-September, please join Fr. David for our study of Genesis chapters 37-50, the remarkable story of Joseph. His father Israel's favorite son, Joseph was betrayed by his brothers and sold into slavery. Yet even in the pit, God was with Joseph. Enslaved in Egypt yet anointed by the LORD, Joseph rises to become the chief advisor to Pharaoh. His wisdom and graciousness, and the grace of God, saves the Israelites from ruin and death.

The story of Joseph is a rich lesson of faith, courage, human nature, and the goodness of God.

Meet Downtown
Men's Bible study Tuesdays
beginning **September 12 at 8:00am**

Women's Bible study Thursdays
beginning **September 14 at 10:30am**



Blessing of the Pets *The Feast of St Francis of Assisi*

Sunday, October 1
3:00pm Bergfeld Park

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, Maggie, Jennifer, Julie, Jeanne, Dorys, Tommy, Lorelei, Cody, Cary, Linda, Michael, Miggie, Arnold, Evon, Jeanene, Brian, Marla, Vivki, Luke, Kaci, Nicole, Aaron

The Anglican Communion: *The Diocese of the Falkland Islands*

The Episcopal Church: *Dioceses of Bethlehem (PA) & California*

Diocese of Texas: *All Saints—Austin & St George's —Austin*

PRAYER REQUESTS:

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

upcoming

Friday, September 22
Supper Club
6:00pm Large Group

Friday, September 29
Primetimers
6:00pm CCD

Saturday, September 30
Hallelujah Campaign Party
6:00pm CCD RSVP by 9/25

Sunday, October 1
Blessing of the Pets
3:00pm Bergfeld Park

Sunday, October 29
Fall Festival & Chili Cook-off
[late afternoon time TBD] CCS

Sunday, November 5
Choral Evensong
5:00pm Downtown in the Nave

Sunday, November 12
Confirmation | CCS
11:05pm CCS



ATTENTION THOSE 50-PLUS

Primetimers Football Tailgate party with beer tasting
6:00 pm on Friday, 9/29/23 Downtown in the Parish Hall

- Beer/wine/beverages/hot dogs provided
- Bring your favorite tailgate dish to share
- Wear your favorite football team's colors!
- \$10 each to cover refreshments & room

For more info & to RSVP:
John & Stacey McKinley 903.590.0428



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, September 24

Proper 20

Jonah 3:10--4:11

Psalm 145

Philippians 1:21-27

Matthew 20:1-16

Sunday, October 1

Proper 21

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

Psalm 25:1-14

Philippians 2:1-13

Matthew 21:28-32



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.



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

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.