

the Crucifer

The Newsletter of Christ Church/Episcopal

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November 21, 2023

From the Rector:

Over the past few weeks, the temperature has dropped from 85 to 50, as if it saw a DPS officer on the side of the interstate.

God willing, the autumn is here to stay for an extended time.

Each season brings its own joys and opportunities.

In *The Autumn*, Elizabeth Barrett Browning captured the opportunity God gives us in the fall.

*“Go, sit upon the lofty hill, and turn your eyes around,
Where waving woods and waters wild, do hymn an autumn sound.
The summer sun is faint on them— the summer flowers depart—
Sit still— as all transform’d to stone, except your musing heart.”*

With the autumn comes the season of Advent, a wonderful opportunity to sit still. Advent is a time of preparation, of patient, peaceful waiting.

We prepare to celebrate anew the birth of Christ our Lord at Christmas. We prepare ourselves to meet Christ when He returns in glory. We prepare to welcome a new year with the Lord and those whom we love.

Christ Church offers many resources to help us to nurture an inner, spiritual stillness. The Scriptures we hear and songs we sing in our worship services, Advent Lessons and Carols, the Tidings of Joy concert series, the Thursday Noon Eucharist and healing service, gathering around the Bonfire after an evening of Christmas caroling – all are tools which can help us to nurture rest and spiritual renewal.

I invite you to make the most of this special season. Sit still, look around at the great gifts of God, and listen for a word from the Lord.

Faithfully yours in Christ Jesus,

David +



One of the strangest experiences I've had as a priest occurred in the fall a couple of years ago, around the time of Thanksgiving. Here is what happened:

In rural New Brunswick, there is a tourist attraction called Kings Landing. Kings Landing is an open air, living museum set in a historic nineteenth-century village along the shore of the St. John River. The museum stands on 300 acres, and includes a working farm, live animals, and an engaging crew of villagers who dress and speak in ways that Anglo-American Loyalists would have 200 years ago.

As you wander through the cart paths, you can peek into blacksmith shops, a mill, a schoolhouse, dwellings, and – important for my story – the chapel of St. Mark.

St Mark's is a consecrated Anglican chapel, and so it was fitting that there would be services from time to time. This was good for the Diocese of Fredericton, because using the chapel for prayer and worship was a way to be good stewards of this historic church. This was good for the museum, because tourists could get a glimpse of what an Anglican service of evening prayer would have looked like 200 years ago. Our 1962 Canadian prayerbook had not changed much since the nineteenth-century, so for us clergy, it wasn't too different from our weekly worship.

Clergy from around the diocese were invited to take part as celebrants of this service. Though it was a long drive for our family, clergy and their guests to the service received free admission to the museum, so I took a turn leading the service so that our family could enjoy the day in the beautiful village.

And so here was the weird experience: I led evening prayer and offered a short homily. But the small group of people who huddled into this chapel for the service were not there to pray. They were there as tourists, observers. I offered the service of evening prayer from my heart, as a worship to God, and gave a homily that was based on Scripture to edify those present. But I could see from the faces of the employees and visitors, that to them, I was play-acting.

The service at the chapel of St. Mark didn't feel like worship, because the "two or three gathered together" were not there in Jesus' name, but just to see what was going on.

In this autumn season I've been thinking some more about this, especially with respect to what it means to worship. Sitting in a church or chapel, even mouthing along the prayers from our liturgy, does not mean we are worshipping. The attitude of our hearts matter. Coming to church is important, but so is why we come.

I am under no illusions about human nature. Very often our motives are mixed and coming to church to worship is often mixed up with all kinds of other desires. But behind all this, there must be at least a mustard seed sized desire to worship, to offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.

And I think, in hindsight, that was what was so strange about trying to lead people into worship when their hearts weren't in it. People in pews do not a church make.

I hope that when we gather to worship at Christ Church we would pay a little attention to our hearts. How can we bring our whole selves to God in worship? All of us have a role to play in this. Not just the priest and lectors, but the whole people of God gathered in prayer. Our hearts matter to God.



As of today we have 185 pledges *including 18 new families that have joined us in supporting the ministries of Christ Church in 2024.*

It is not too late to get your pledge in!
 2024 is going to be an exciting year for Christ Church.

www.christchurchtyler.org/give

Greetings from the Choir Room! You will find the schedule of musical events below.

This Sunday!

November 26, 2023 9:00 & 11:00 Eucharist with Guest Musicians:
Lori Smith (1), *harp*; Sue Bugg (2) and Karina McBrayer (3)



Advent Music

December 3, 2023 6:00 p.m. **Service of Nine Lessons & Carols**
With the Chancel Choir, Cherub and Carol Choirs.

Lessons & Carols
Sunday, December 3
at 6:00 p.m.
downtown in the Nave

Tuesday, December 5 at 12:00 p.m.
Christmas at the keyboards
A.J. Meals, Lisa Trimble & Jeffrey Ford

Tuesday, December 12 at 12:00 p.m.
Hunter Birkhead, tenor
Upper School Choral Director
All Saints Episcopal School of Ft. Worth

Tuesday, December 19 at 12:00 p.m.
Weston Jennings, harpsichord

Each concert is followed by a light lunch in the Parish Hall

TIDINGS
of
the
Advent
2023
Tuesday Noonday Concert Series
Christ Church - Downtown in the Nave
11:30am Pray the Anglican Rosary
in the Prayer Chapel



Confirmation: November 12, 2023

Christ Church South with Bishop Andy Doyle

Confirmands (L to R) Amy Hartin, Miriam McCormick, Ronda Darby, Clint Moore, Sarah Terry, McKinley Terry, Bill Wilkins (not pictured)

Almighty and everliving God, let your fatherly hand ever be over these your servants; let your Holy Spirit ever be with them; and so lead them in the knowledge and obedience of your Word, that they may serve you in this life, and dwell with you in the life to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

Growing up I was taught that "please" was a magic word. Lucky for my parents it never occurred to me to try out its power to manifest my wildest imaginings. If I had I'm sure it would've backfired on their attempt to teach me basic manners! Please's friend "Thank You" was never elevated to magic status during my childhood but as an adult it certainly has been.

I'd read and heard a lot about Gratitude Journals, daily documentation of three to five things one is thankful for, before starting one myself. This simple act of recording that for which you are thankful can have tremendous bearing on our well-being and even health. Journaling gratitude has been shown to do everything from elevating our mood to inspiring us to be more helpful and even decreasing levels of cellular inflammation! That sounds pretty magical to me!!

As we barrel into the season of consumerism and more is more... I mean Thanksgiving and Christmas, maybe we should consider adding this simple practice. Let us not just say "thank you". Let us give our gratitude magical powers for healing by carving out just a bit of time each day to mark our thanks for posterity. What a wonderful family activity to begin this Thanksgiving season. And while your little darlings might repeatedly list video games or recess as what they are most thankful for, with a little loving guidance they will learn to really open their eyes to the blessings of this life and the promise of the next. Now that is something that I am truly thankful for!

Kimber ♥

P.S. I would be so very grateful if you called the church office or dropped me a line to let me know your child wants to participate in the Christmas Pageant! I'm taking parent volunteers too.

P.S.S. I'm beyond grateful for Madison and all the help she has given me over the past year!



11/25 Celia Mellon, 11/27 Nora Kononovych, 11/27 Kate Eagleton, 11/28 Hunter Jensen, 12/1 Mitchell Bryant, 12/2 Hannah Hennigan

CHILDREN'S CORNER BIRTHDAYS!

student ministry
Sarah Jones,
 Director of Student Ministries



I am very excited about the upcoming holidays! While the Christmas season can sometimes be bogged down with stress and worry, it also can be a time of wonderful generosity and service to others. The youth group has some great mission activities planned. November 29th EYC will be packing sack lunches for Loaves and Fishes to hand out. For our Angle Tree Project, the youth have adopted five Angels and will be shopping together as a group on December 2nd for all of their gifts.

There is an Angel Tree set up at both campuses that is open to the congregation. The youth group will take care of transporting all of the items, all you need to do is grab a tag and bring your items to the church by December 8th if you would like to participate. The youth will also be getting in the Christmas spirit with a special tree decorating EYC and our EYC Christmas party on December 20th with hot chocolate, cookies, and a small gift exchange.

I am very passionate about serving others during this time of the year. It helps me remember the real reason for the season. God sent his only Son to die for our sins, a huge and beautiful gift offered lovingly and freely. If I can show just the tiniest fragment of that love to someone else, I will be grateful.



Sarah Jones
 Director of Student Ministries

EYC Dates to Remember **Second Mondays**
 Jr & Sr Book Discussion Group
 6:30pm @ Boards & Bites



1928 *Book of Common Prayer*
Holy Eucharist & Healing Service
 Noon Thursdays beginning December 7th through Epiphany
 Downtown in the Nave

Women of Christ Church
 you are invited to the ECW
Christmas Party
 Thursday, December 7th
 4:30pm-7:00pm
 at the home of Beth Whitney
 RSVP
 Cindy Westbrook at 903-521-5509
 cindywestbrook6@gmail.com by December 4th

bonfire
caroling

Saturday, December 9
Christ Church South
 15747 Old Jacksonville Hwy
 Meet at 6:00pm for **caroling**
bonfire at 7:00pm

SATURDAY, DEC 2ND 9:00AM, BONFIRE PREP @ CCS

venite
 TWENTY - FORTY SOMETHINGS

Prayer Hike at Tyler State Park was a wonderful time for all!

Stay tuned for the next VENITE [20-40 somethings] get together, next year. Epiphany Gathering—1. 6. 2024



**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, Arnold, Evon, Jeanene, Brian, Marla, Vicki, Luke, Kaci, Nicole, Aaron, Mark, Max, Paul, Lucy, Bob, Magige, Sandy, Carl, Phil, Mimi, Linda, Mike, Mark, Dalton, Marian, Chris, Verdie, Wendy, David, Julia, Roman, Anya, J Carlin, Amber

The Anglican Communion: *The Diocese of Bangladesh*

The Episcopal Church: *Dioceses of Colombia & Colorado*

Diocese of Texas: *St. Michael's—Austin & Church of the Redeemer—Austin*

PRAYER REQUESTS:

The Prayer List will be updated as of Sunday December 3rd. Please contact The Rev. Stephen Stine with prayer list changes or additions 903.530.8168.

upcoming

WEDNESDAY, NOV 22
offices close at noon for Thanksgiving
reopen Monday the 27th

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3
Primetimers
2:00pm
Lessons & Carols | CCD
6:00pm

TUES, DECEMBER 5, 12, 19
Tidings of Joy | CCD
Tuesdays of Advent Noontime Concerts followed by a light lunch
Praying the Rosary | CCD
11:30 am in the Chapel

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7
1928 Eucharist | CCD
Noon Thursdays, with special prayers for healing, through Epiphany
ECW Christmas Party
4:30—7 Beth Whitneys' Home

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8
Super Club Christmas Party
6:00pm RSVP (see graphic)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9
Bonfire & Caroling | CCS
6:00pm

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24
Christmas Eve Service Schedule
7:30am Advent 4 | CCD
11:05am Christmas Pageant | CCS
4:00pm Christmas Pageant | CCD
7:30pm Holy Eucharist | CCD
10:30pm Holy Eucharist | CCD

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25
Christmas Day
10:00am Holy Eucharist | CCD

Welcome the newly baptized:

Margaret Claire Mettauer,
daughter of Catherine & Scott Mettauer
granddaughter of Ann & Willis Jarrel.

November 11, 2023
at Christ Church Downtown

Congratulations on the birth of:

Thomas Gabriel Shuttlesworth

November 13, 2023
son of Ana & Jack Shuttlesworth
& grandson of Trudy & Mark Shuttlesworth

In Memoriam

Our sympathies to the
family & friends of

Jim Durnil,
Husband of Kathy Durnil.



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,
Julia Morrissey, Trish Gutierrez *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, November 26

Christ the King Sunday

Ezekiel 34:11-17

Psalm 95:1-7

1 Corinthians 15:20-28

Matthew 25:31-46

Sunday, December 3

Advent 1

Isaiah 64:1-9a

Psalm 80

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Mark 13:[24-32] 33-37



Holy Baptism

The next scheduled date for baptisms is
Sunday, January 7, 2024.
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.