

# the Crucifer

The Newsletter of Christ Church/Episcopal

Vol. XXV, No.21  
November 8, 2023  
christchurchtyler.org



## From the Rector:

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was originally created in 1880 by Bishop E.W. Benson of Truro in England. Developed and curated over the following decades, a new version debuted at King's College, Cambridge on Christmas Eve, 1918.

That service in 1918 made a mark! The nave of the chapel at Kings College was filled to the brim. The hearts of those participants, fresh from the horrors of the Great War, overflowed with emotion and thanksgiving. In 1928, the BBC broadcast the service. In 1932, the BBC's newly created 'Empire Service' enabled the Service of Lessons and Carols to be broadcast throughout the British Empire, and a few years later, throughout the world. Almost a hundred years since the first broadcast, billions of people have celebrated the anniversary of the birth of Christ Jesus to the hymns, carols, and Scripture readings of that marvelous service.

I first experienced Lessons and Carols as a boy in Corpus Christi. I was drawn in from the moment the choir sang the first line of 'Once in Royal David's City.' Over four decades later, this very special service highlights the season of Advent. It helps to prepare me and many millions of others, once again, to celebrate the birth of Christ.

Please come and invite a friend to join you in the nave on Sunday, December 3 at 6:00 for A Service of Lessons and Carols.

Faithfully yours in Christ Jesus,

This past September, just a couple of months ago, a group of us from Christ Church had the privilege to go to a conference at Church of the Incarnation in Dallas called Radvo. The name “Radvo” is short for “Radical Vocation”, and the conference was aimed for those who are discerning or serving in ministry in the Anglican Communion. The *vocation* to be a priest or a deacon is a *radical* one, especially in the challenging and changing religious landscape of 21<sup>st</sup> century America.

While the whole conference was edifying and encouraging, one of the keynote talks by a Church of England priest and professor at Duke, Jeremy Begbie, was especially good. Begbie gave a lecture on the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church. I think it is safe to say that it was one of the favourites of our group from Christ Church.

Tying in his theological reflection with music and images, one of the points that Begbie made was the Holy Spirit “unfurls” our hearts as Christians. Left to our own we tend to close ourselves off from God and from others. Thankfully, the graciousness of God opens us up. This image of our hearts unfurling has stuck with me over these past several weeks.



It calls to mind the verse from the wonderful hymn, “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”,

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,  
 God of glory, Lord of love;  
*hearts unfold* like flowers before thee,  
 opening to the sun above. (Italics mine.)

It reminds me too of the prayer of St. Paul in Ephesians, where he writes, I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, *with the eyes of your heart enlightened*, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints. (Ephesians 1:16-18, NRSV, italics mine).

St. Paul’s prayer is that our hearts might be “enlightened” or “opened” as a corollary to the Father’s gift of wisdom and revelation. Both “Joyful, Joyful” and the language of Scripture give us the impression that before God, we are laid bare, opened.

Now, there are many reasons for us to close our hearts, to turn inward into ourselves, to furl up in self-protection. Friends betray us, family lets us down, and we are buffeted by the temptations and tricks of the world.

But by the grace of God, there can be just this unfurling, unfolding, enlightening of our hearts when we venture out in trust.

I want to live this way.

Though I feel like I have a long way to go, and there are often reasons for cynicism and despair, I can say that God has been doing this kind of “opening” work in my heart. I am grateful for the cracks of light pouring in.

As we head to the end of Ordinary Time, and look forward to Advent, I pray that the Father might continue to “unfurl” my heart and yours. Though the days are shorter, there is no reason we cannot experience the ever brightening love of God.



As of today we have 176 pledges *including 14 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.

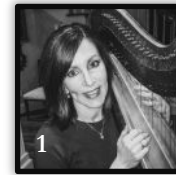
[www.christchurchtyler.org/give](http://www.christchurchtyler.org/give)

Greetings from the Choir Room! You will find the schedule of musical events below.  
*Mark your calendars and invite a friend.*

The Cherub and Carol Choirs are off to a great start. We are fortunate, blessed and lucky to have Susie Fergus and Hannah Rosser leading these groups. We thank the parents for entrusting their children to us! The Carol Choir will sing this Sunday at South Campus.

### Upcoming!

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 and 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*

**CHRIST**  
CHURCH + EPISCOPAL

Tuesday Noonday Concert Series  
Christ Church - Downtown in the Nave

2023



Our Annual Parish Meeting and Vestry Election will be held in January.  
**Vestry nominations are being received now!**

*Nominees should be excellent trustees and lay leaders of Christ Church, at least 18 years of age and enrolled communicants of the church in good standing.*

Please commend those names to Bob Westbrook, *Senior Warden*  
bobwestbrook1953@gmail.com by November 19.

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

On your mark, get set...GO!

The first week of November has officially elapsed which means that I am smack dab in the middle of the season of way-too-much-stuff-to-do-and-way-too-little-time-to-do-it!!! How does November always manage to sneak up on me? I have a planner with a calendar that I regularly use. I know the order of the months. Yet here I am again, surprised that November is in full swing. And by the looks of things, I am already behind!

Well, there's nothing to be done about that so let's look ahead! But to look ahead, we have to look back. Because to know where we are going, we have to know where we've been. In the world of Children's Ministries, we have been in some truly wonderful places! Back in September (when I still had a full two months before being reminded of November's sneaky ways!), we found ourselves way, way back in the time of Abraham and his many sons. We traveled from Ur to Canaan and beyond. We met Jacob, Leah and Rachel. We've seen trickery and miracles, birthrights stolen and brothers sold into slavery. In Egypt we learned about love for family and forgiveness of same. All of this will carry us right up to the birth of Jesus. It's been a wild ride but the best is yet to come! See below for some other things to look forward to-

**Today-Please contact me or the church office if you are interested in your child participating in the Christmas Pageant!!**

- 11/12 Carol Choir performs at CCS (No Faith Formation at CCS)
- 12/3 Lesson & Carols 6:00pm CCD (Children's Choir performs)  
& Pageant Participation Sign-up continues
- 12/9 Caroling and Bonfire at CCS
- 12/17 Pageant rehearsal on both campuses, 10:00
- 12/22 Dress Rehearsal on both campuses, time TBD
- 12/24 CCS Pageant @11:05, CCD Pageant @4:00.

Kimber ♡

CHILDREN'S CORNER BIRTHDAYS!

11/9 **Connor Hennigan**, 11/12 **Greyson Cassity**, 11/14 **Isla Hanna**, 11/17 **Evelyn Meals**,  
 11/19 **Geo Hernandez**, 11/21 **Sarah Chambers**

# venite

TWENTY - FORTY SOMETHINGS

Venite is for the "20-40 somethings" at Christ Church who are hoping to build relationships and get connected to other folks and families at Christ Church.

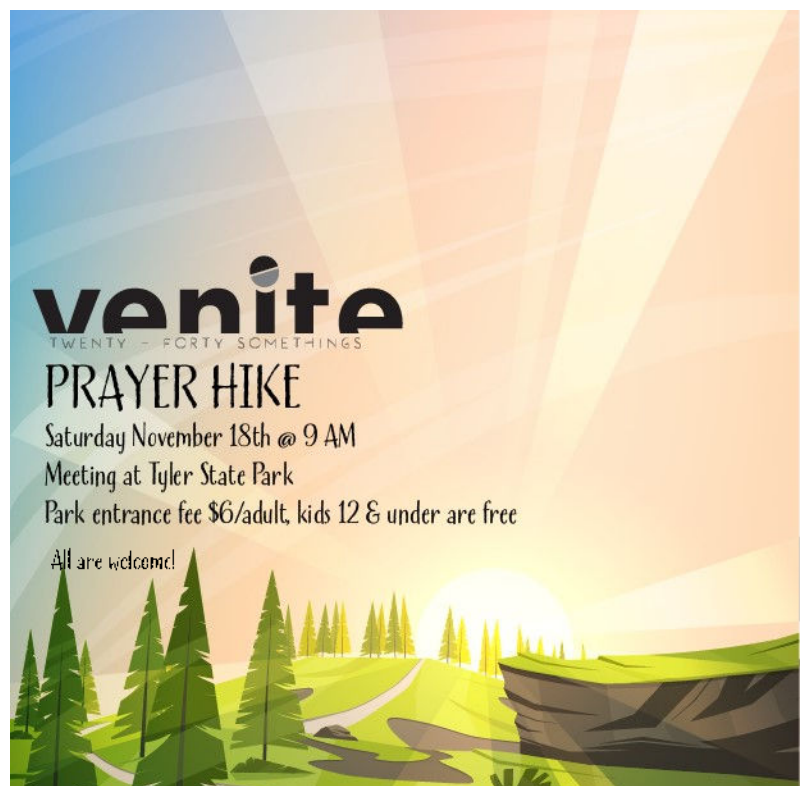
## First Gathering:

Thursday, November 9  
 6:00pm at True Vine Brewing Co.

Grab your friends & family and join us for good food & good company!

\$10/adult & children eat free

RSVP: [christchurchtyler/venite](http://christchurchtyler/venite)



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



Hello families! These past few weeks have been so fun. It was great attending an escape room with several of our high school students, which was both an entertaining and humbling experience. We had a fun Halloween themed EYC where the kids got to try their hand at being ghost busters (future career opportunity), and we had our fall festival/chili cook off despite some challenging weather.

While postponing was a difficult decision our awesome congregation rallied to fill any holes that occurred from the schedule change. I thank you all for your help and for being so flexible and understanding in the face of unforeseen circumstances. I had a great time. What a joyful event and great opportunity for fellowship.

Now that fundraising is wrapped we are onto the planning and preparation phase for construction at both campuses. I am so grateful to be part of a church that truly sees the importance of investing in our families. I pray that these projects help grow both our youth and children's programs and in turn keep the church healthy and robust for years to come.

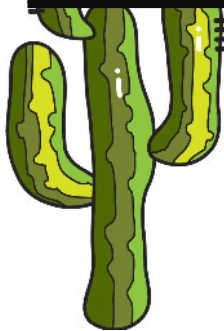


*Sarah Jones*  
Director of Student Ministries

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

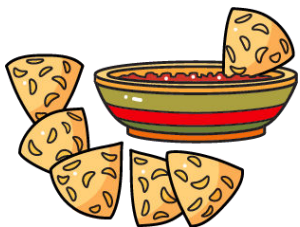


Fall Festival &  
Chili Cook off



**CHILI CONTEST WINNERS:**  
(from L-R in photo above)

- Silvia Luckenbach: Peoples Choice
- Emmie Pippin: Yankee
- Julie Becker: No Bull
- Jyll Richburg: Texas
- Rodney Schroeder: Best Salsa



**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

**The Anglican Communion:** *The Diocese of Hereford (England)*

**The Episcopal Church:** *Dioceses of Central Pennsylvania & Chicago*

**Diocese of Texas:** *St. Mark's—Austin & St. Matthew's—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.

**Congratulations on the birth of:**

*Jack French Huey*

October 10, 2023

son of Grace & Hayden Huey  
& grandson of Ann & Willis Jarrel

**Welcome the newly baptized:**

*Marin Magnolia Hogle,*

daughter of Regan Ball & Shawn Hogle.

November 5, 2023

at Christ Church South

**upcoming**

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12

**Confirmation | CCS**

11:05pm

Carol Choir sings

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13

**EYC Jr/Sr Book Club**

6:30pm Boards & Bites

WEDNESDAY, NOV 15

**Women's Depth Group | CCS**

6:00pm

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17

**Super Club**

6:00pm RSVP (see graphic)

WEDNESDAY, NOV 22

offices close at noon for Thanksgiving  
reopen Monday the 27th

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

**Primetimers**

2:00pm

**Lessons & Carols | CCD**

6:00pm CCD

TUES, DECEMBER 5, 12, 19

**Tidings of Joy | CCD**

Tuesdays of Advent

Noontime Concerts

followed by a light lunch

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7

**1928 Eucharist | CCD**

Noon Thursdays, with special prayers  
for healing, through Epiphany

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







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](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.*