

the Crucifer

The Newsletter of Christ Church/Episcopal

Vol. XXVI, No. 1
December 6, 2023

FROM THE RECTOR:

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” *Luke 2.8-12*

It was simply another shift for the shepherds gathered that evening in a field outside Bethlehem. Like people, sheep are diurnal, they sleep at night. The lambs were quietly sleeping. The shepherds could not read or listen to music or watch videos. Like most every evening, they chit-chatted, watching for wolves, mountain lions, and rustlers while struggling to stay awake.

Then the sky grew bright. An angel of the Lord appeared—awesome and terrifying. And a celestial brightness—the Glory of the Lord—illuminated the ground and lit up the night sky.

The message of the angel changed the world—Good News of Great Joy! The Savior, Christ the Lord, has been born!

The first to hear this world-changing news was not the Emperor or the High Priest. It was a group of sleepy shepherds working the night shift in a field outside a very small town in flyover country.

The Message of the angel has transformed the world. This year, hear it anew. And invite the Lord to fill your heart with great joy and deep faith. Christ the Lord has come!

Faithfully yours in Christ Jesus our Savior,

David +



I used to hate packing.

It filled me with dread and anxiety. I'd ask myself: "Will I really need a sweater on this trip?"

And: "What if I forget something important?"

And: "Do I really need to bring a full-sized tube of toothpaste? Or can I get by with what's left in the old one?"

Over the past few years, I've had to travel often for little diocesan trainings and continuing education events. This has meant I have had many opportunities to practice packing. So much so, that I'm starting to get better at it. In fact, I've come to really love packing, especially if I'm not in a rush.

I've gotten pretty good at whittling down what I need to fit in one backpack. There is something pleasing, too, in organizing the clothes, toiletries, and (my favourite) in selecting which books I will read on a trip.

And all the while there is this lovely anticipation, a sense of excitement for a long road trip or a short flight.

The mood of Advent is a lot like this. We have a season to get ready, to get organized, all for a big event. We are not going on a trip, but we are looking forward to something special. The most immediate thing on our minds, of course, is Christmas, along with all of the practicalities that come with it. We are busy planning who will be bringing what dish to supper, which books or games or pajamas to buy our kids, and which Christmas Eve service we'll attend.

Sentimentality is part of it. We remember Christmases from our childhood, or time spent with family who are no longer with us.

But there is something more than sentimentality at play. While Advent is the time to prepare for Christ's coming to us two thousand years ago, it also prepares us for far more than a memorial of something good that happened a long time ago.

Advent prepares us for our future with God. As we journey through this season, we are reminded not only that Christ came, but that he is coming again for us. There are ways we must prepare for this, to ensure that our lives and our values line up, because Jesus is coming again to judge the living and the dead.

There is something that is pleasing about this preparation in the same way it can be pleasing to pack for a trip. We can take stock of where we are and what we have, and we can look ahead to what we'll need to hang on to when Christ comes again. A lot of the items that demand so much of our focus now start to fall away when we see what really matters. Advent is a time to get ready, to refocus. When we are ready for Christmas, we can really enjoy it. When we are ready for Christ's coming again, we can embrace it with joy.



As of today we have 207 pledges *including 18 new families that have joined us in supporting the ministries of Christ Church in 2024.*

Please get your pledge in!
 2024 is going to be an exciting year for Christ Church.

www.christchurchtyler.org/give

Thank you to all of you here at Christ Church that support the Music Ministry. I want to thank you for your support both through the budget and your attendance of extra services. What a great crowd that we had for Nine Lessons & Carols. There were 160 in attendance and we ran out of Service leaflets.

I want to thank...ECW, Lois Guild, Carole Bergfeld's Team 3 and Loaves & Fishes, who provide the meals for the Tidings of Joy Concert Series.

I want to thank... the individuals who help to greet and take up the offering for Choral Evensong and other musical services.

I want to thank...the Chancel Choir for all the time that they put in to prepare for Sunday mornings as well as the extra services that take place on High Holy days.

I want to thank... the parents of the children who sing in the Children's Choirs that bring them to rehearsals so that they can learn to use their singing voices and service as leaders in the services.

It is at this time of the year that I am truly grateful for this place called Christ Church.

Jeffrey Ford
Organist/Choirmaster



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

Tuesday Noonday Concert Series
Christ Church - Downtown in the Nave

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

11:30am Pray the *Anglican Rosary* in the Prayer Chapel

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

Lights, Camera, Action!

**** Announcing an Open Casting Call for an Annual Christmas Pageant led by An Almost Famous Director! ****

Calling all Girls and Boys of about the Five-Foot-Tall and Under variety! Don't miss your chance to claim a roll in the Almost Famous Production of Christ Church's "A Christmas Pageant"!

There is something for everyone in this production! Drama, Mystery, Suspense!

Parents, imagine your child in the spotlight! Making their stage debut! This opportunity is not to be missed!! There are still a few spots remaining so if you have not done so already, make your interest

known by calling the church office at 903-597-9854 or emailing Kimber at

kshort@christchurchtyler.org.

Date/time	Downtown	South Campus
Sunday 12/10 10:00a.m.	Assignment of rolls and script read through	Assignment of rolls and script read through
Sunday 12/17 10:00a.m.	Run through in the Nave	
Sunday 12/17 12:30p.m.		Run through in the Great Hall
Friday 12/22 9:00a.m.		Dress Rehearsal in the Great Hall
Friday 12/22 11:00a.m.	Dress Rehearsal in the Nave	
Sunday 12/24 10:30a.m.		Arrive for costuming! It's Show Time!!! (meet in Classroom)
Sunday 12/24 3:30p.m.	Arrive for costuming! It's Show Time!! (meet in Undercroft)	

CHILDREN'S CORNER BIRTHDAYS!

12/9 **Adeline Henninger**, 12/10 **Kyle Ashley**, 12/11 **Dominic Hague**,
 12/15 **Beckett Patterson**, 12/17 **Blayke Harrison**, 12/21 **Anderson Pippin**

student ministry
Sarah Jones,
 Director of Student Ministries

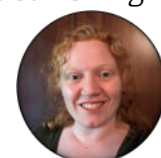
Hello Wonderful Families,

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving. I am looking forward to the weeks leading up to Christmas! I love church during the advent season. I remember as a kid anticipating the energy shift that happens during advent. The colors on the altar are changed, Christmas hymns begin, and there is this air of excitement and generosity that becomes palpable the closer we get to Christmas. Attending church is a deeply rooted part of my Christmas tradition.

I fell in love with the advent season around the time I was 10 although I did not realize it back then. The church I grew up in always had a 10:30pm candlelit service. After communion we all received a candle and we would pass the flame down the pews, reverently lighting each other's wicks. When all the candles were lit silence blanketed the dark room and there was this moment where nothing existed except the sound of the breath coming from the glowing faces standing next to you. Time seemed to stop in that moment until the first note of Silent Night would pierce through the stillness and slowly swell to fill the entire space.

That image, that feeling, is Christmas to me. Every Christmas Eve service I get transported back to that moment in time and I get to feel the way I did when I was a kid. I am so grateful for that experience I hope it is something that I can share with my own.

Sarah Jones
 Director of Student Ministries



1928 *Book of Common Prayer*

Holy Eucharist & Healing Service

Noon Thursdays beginning December 7th through Epiphany
Downtown in the Nave

weary world rejoices

Findings of Joy

Advent Noon-Time Concert Series

Tuesdays (December 5-19) | Noon

Christ Church Downtown

followed by a light lunch in the Parish Hall

Caroling & Bonfire

Saturday, December 9 | 6:00pm

Gather at **Christ Church South** to carol
followed by the bonfire about 7:00pm

Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 24

Christ Church South

11:05am Children's Pageant*

Christ Church Downtown

7:30am Advent 4 Holy Eucharist

4:00pm Children's Pageant*

7:30pm Christmas Eve Eucharist*

10:30pm Midnight Mass | Candlelight Service

Christmas Day

Monday, December 25 | 10:00am

Christ Church Downtown

*nursery available

 **CHRIST**
CHURCH • EPISCOPAL
Advent & Christmas 2023

bonfire *caroling*

Saturday, December 9

Christ Church South

15747 Old Jacksonville Hwy

Meet at 6:00pm for **caroling**
bonfire at 7:00pm

Hot Chocolate Bar
-Fun for all ages-
Cookie & Ornament decorating for kids



The wreaths placed
on the outside of the
church this year
during Advent are
given to the glory of



God and in memory of the departed,
Dorothy Bridges, Josie Warchus,
Judith McConnell, Hazel Innis, Mary Steadman,
Suzanne Damron, and Miggie Wallender.
by the Episcopal Church Women.

thanksgivings , supplications & fellowship

In Our Prayers

Please consider including the Prayer List in your daily devotions:

Lisa, Yeva, YK, Iryna, Nora, Yevgeny, Isabelle, Tommy, Lorelei, Cody, Paul, Lucy, Amber, Lindzey, Dylan

The Anglican Communion: *The Diocese of Ibiala (Nigeria)*

The Episcopal Church: *Dioceses of Connecticut & Convocation of Epis. Churches in Europe*

Diocese of Texas: *St. David's—Austin & Iglesia San Francisco de Asis—Austin*

PRAYER REQUESTS:

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

upcoming

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 Whitney's Home

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

Supper Club Christmas Party

6:00pm RSVP

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

Bonfire & Caroling | CCS

6:00pm

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12

DOK meeting | George Ann Reed's home

5:00pm

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

New Years Eve

No Christian Formation

7:30am Holy Eucharist | CCD

9:00am Holiday Reception | CCD

10:00am Holy Eucharist | CCD

10:00am Holiday Reception | CCS

11:05am Holy Eucharist | CCS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7

New Christian Formation begins

10:00am | CCD & CCS

WEEK of JANUARY 8

Bible Study with the Rector Resumes

In Memoriam

Our sympathies to the family & friends of

Bette King,

mother of Caroline Wylie.

New Sunday School Class begins on January 7

1 CORINTHIANS:

A Call to Faithful Living

Faith formation is essential in the life of Christ Church. We hear from God's word every Sunday, and throughout the week we gather as Archbishop Cranmer commended to

'read, mark, learn, an inwardly digest' the Holy Scriptures.

Beginning Sunday January 7, we will begin a new adult faith formation class – *1 Corinthians: A Call to Faithful Living*. Each Sunday at 10:00, chapter by chapter, we will study this essential epistle.

Please join us in the Ascension Room downtown or Carr Hall at Christ Church South!



You are invited to participate in the celebration of Christmas at Christ Church through the CHRISTMAS FLOWER & MUSIC FUND.

<<— Scan the QR code to the left, go to this link:

www.christchurchtyler.org/christmas-flower-donation or complete the form (find at the front desk) if you wish to contribute to the placement of poinsettias in the church or help to underwrite the music presented on Christmas Eve. Deadline 12/17!



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,
or The Rev. Stephen Stine, Deacon, 903-530-8168.

Lectionary for upcoming Sundays Year A BCP 1979 Lectionary

Sunday, December 10

Advent 2

Isaiah 40:1-11, Psalm 85
2 Peter 3:8-15a, 18, Mark 1:1-8

Sunday, December 17

Advent 3

Isaiah 65:17-25, Psalm 126
1 Thessalonians 5:[12-15] 16-28
John 1:6-8, 19-28 or John 3:23-30

Sunday, December 24

Advent 4

2 Samuel 7:4, 8-16, Psalm 132
Romans 16:25-27, Luke 1:26-38
John 1:6-8, 19-28 or John 3:23-30

Sunday, December 31

Christmas 1

Isaiah 61:10--62:3, Psalm 147
Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7, John 1:1-18



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.