

the Crucifer

The Newsletter of Christ Church/Episcopal

Vol. XXVI, No.4

February 7, 2024

christchurchtyler.org

FROM THE RECTOR:

O Lord, who for our sake didst fast forty days, and forty nights: give us grace to use such Abstinence that Our flesh being subdued to the spirit, we may ever Obey thy godly motions in righteousness, and true holiness, to thy honour and glory. Collect for the first Sunday in Lent

Beginning Ash Wednesday, February 14, Christ Church will join over a billion Christians around the world in the observance of Lent.

Anglican bishop and theologian N.T. Wright notes, "Lent is a time for discipline, for confession, for honesty, not because God is mean or fault-finding or finger-pointing but because He wants us to know the joy of being cleaned out, ready for all the good things He now has in store."

Over the centuries, many millions of believers have found it useful to fast and/or to embrace a meaningful spiritual discipline during Lent. This year, Christ Church is offering a series of resources to assist our spiritual growth as we walk through Lent with the Lord. Beginning Tuesday February 20, we will offer a five-part Lenten Lecture & Lunch series reflecting on **Saints of the British Isles**. From Columba to Julian of Norwich, these especially faithful men and women offer lessons which continue to edify and strengthen our faith. We will gather in our historic downtown nave at noon for worship and a reflection followed by a delightful lunch in the parish hall.

And on March 1, we are thrilled to welcome the Rev. Dr. Russell Levenson to Tyler for a series of Lenten talks on life with Jesus. An exceptional preacher and teacher, Rev. Levenson is the rector of St. Martin's Episcopal Church in Houston, and will speak at two forums: a luncheon at noon at Willow Brook Country Club on Friday, March 1 and a prayer breakfast in the downtown parish hall on Saturday, March 2 at 9:00. Space is limited, so please sign up by contacting Valerie Huggler at the church office office@christchurchtyler.org or call 903.597.9854.

Lent is a six-week season in which we invite the Lord to help us weed and nourish the soil of our faith. I invite you to join Christ Church in the observance of a Holy Lent.

Faithfully yours in Christ Jesus,

David



Why do we bother fasting during Lent?

What's the point in giving up meals, or coffee, or chocolate or booze? There is nothing wrong with these things in and of themselves. In Christian moderation, they are good things.

And, more to the point: As Christians, we believe in *grace*. God loves us and sent Jesus to us not because we deserved it or because we worked hard for it, but rather as a free gift. We're forgiven and set free with no strings attached, so why would we bother doing something as unpleasant as fasting?

The great German Lutheran theologian and martyr, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, might be able to help us out here. Bonhoeffer struggled to come to grips with what it meant to be a Christian in a Germany governed by the Third Reich. So many of his countrymen were enthralled by the Führer and saw no contradiction between their staid Christian faith and the mass extermination of six million souls. The barbarous acts of hatred performed against Jews, the disabled, and other minorities went on without many Christians batting an eye.

How could this happen?

In his popular book, *The Cost of Discipleship*, Bonhoeffer wagers that perhaps his fellow Germans, fellow Christians, had gotten mixed up about what grace really means. He makes the distinction between *cheap* grace and *costly* grace, writing:

Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, Communion without confession, absolution without personal confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate.

Yes, there is a kind of grace at work in the lives of these Christians, but they've cheapened it by separating it from the rigors of the life of discipleship. This is not how grace is meant to be received.

Rather, Bonhoeffer notes, we ought to see grace as costly. We should be willing to do anything because of it.

Costly grace is the treasure hidden in the field; for the sake of it a man will go and sell all that he has. It is the pearl of great price to buy which the merchant will sell all his goods. It is the kingly rule of Christ, for whose sake a man will pluck out the eye which causes him to stumble; it is the call of Jesus Christ at which the disciple leaves his nets and follows him.

Costly grace is the gospel which must be sought again and again, the gift which must be asked for, the door at which a man must knock.

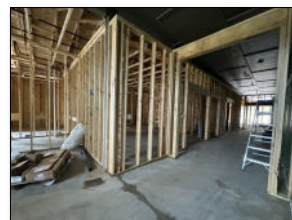
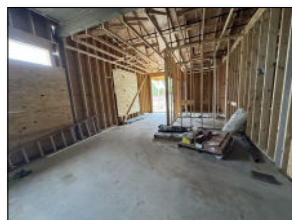
Costly grace, in other words, requires something of us. I think we really know this deep down, but Lent is a time where we get to clarify our vision a little bit, to remember what grace is all about. To fast, to pray, to be penitent, is not a way of trying to wrest grace from God's hands, but it's more about making sure that there is nothing blocking us from receiving it rightly. It's about clearing a path, making ready, so that the grace we've been given has not been given in vain.

As we look ahead to the coming weeks, then, let us be open to costly grace. Let us keep a holy Lent.



UPDATE:

Construction is under way at Christ Church South!





A note from Charles Johnson, the Kononovych's sponsor and Christ Church member.



Hebrews 13:16 tells us, *"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God."*

And most assuredly we all know and take to heart the parable of the Good Samaritan. Certainly one of the most meaningful ways we demonstrate our love for the Lord is to be compassionate and caring towards those we encounter who are in trouble and in need.

The always caring, generous, compassionate people of Christ Church constantly adhere and bear witness to such scripture in numerous ways. One of the most impactful ministries for our church has been rescuing and then supporting a Ukrainian refugee family in great distress and need because of the horrific war in their homeland.

Iryna Kononovych and her 14 year old daughter Nora have been here under our sponsorship and support since August, 2022. As the war rages on and husband/father Yevgeny and his elderly mother literally fight for survival in Nikopol, Ukraine, God has entrusted his beloved wife and daughter to the care of the good folks of Christ Church, Tyler.

We have risen to this opportunity and challenge, and thankfully, Iryna and Nora have done exceedingly well during their time here. We have already made a tremendous impact in their lives, and we need to continue our support of them for the time being.

A special Ukrainian Refugee fund exists and your further help is needed and welcomed. Contact Diana Keesey dkeesey@christchurchtyler.org, call the church office, or go to christchurchtyler.org/give and select the Ukraine Refugee Fund.

Hello dear friends of Christ Church:

Do all the good you can, in all possible ways you can, in all places you can, at all times you can, for all the people you can, and for as long as you can. With these words of John Wesley, I want to address you with huge words of faith, gratitude and hope. My mother prays with true faith every day, saying words of gratitude to the Almighty and to all the kind people who help not only our family, but also many others in need, which is what the Christian faith teaches us. My mother sincerely believes in the power of prayer and often says that God hears our prayers. And I believe it too. Your help to our family is proof that this is so. Without your support, my children, especially my youngest Nora, would have no hope of learning, development, and a happy future, for which my mother and I are sincerely grateful to you. We wish you that your prayers may also be heard by the Creator. The Bible teaches us to love each other and support each other. Each person has his own path, his own difficulties and his own trials. Let's walk this path with love and care for each other. In turn, I want to assure you that I will try to be just as helpful to those who need support here at home in Ukraine.

With love, gratitude & respect to you,
Yevgeny and Lyubov (my mother) Kononovych
Nikopol, Ukraine

<< Nora and her father, Yevgeny, before the war.



- 1) Nora, 14, is an excellent tennis player
- 2) Iryna & Nora with Kim & Hal Meyer
- 3) With Charles Johnson and Stacey & John McKinley
- 4) With Fr. David.

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

Lent is Like...

Last year we looked at Lent using metaphors for things we were familiar with such as flying a kite and metamorphosis. It was a fun way to develop a deeper understanding of this season where we are moving from the celebration of Epiphany and into more contemplative worship. As I contemplate and pray about my personal devotions for Lent this year, I am also praying for the upcoming First Communion Class.

If you grew up in the Episcopal church and are of a "certain age", you probably didn't receive Communion until your Confirmation. The Bishop confirmed you in your new white dress or snazzy suit, and then you received. I can still picture my dress with eyelet lace around the hem and sleeves. I loved that thing! These days it seems that kids receive as soon as they start solid food! Some would argue that without understand the significance, they shouldn't receive. But I love the idea that those who started so young will never remember a time when they weren't welcomed at God's table. Regardless of what camp you are in, now is the time to either prepare your child to receive or for them to learn what it's really all about.

We are offering the 4-week FIRST COMMUNION class at both campuses but on different dates. CCD classes start 2/18 at 10:00 and continue on 2/25 and 3/3. Due to spring break, the 4th class will be offered on 3/10 and repeated on 3/17. The group will celebrate their first "First" Communion on Palm Sunday at the 9:00 a.m. service with a short reception to follow. Classes at CCS will be offered beginning sometime in April, dependent on the completion of construction.

So whether you are a first timer or seasoned receiver, I look forward to seeing you all soon!

Kimber 

CHILDREN'S CORNER BIRTHDAYS!



Other dates to remember:

2/11: Pretzel Sunday-10:00 downtown,
 immediately following the 11:05 service at CCS

2/13: Mardi Gras party

2/13 Reid Herron,
 2/14 Jason Chideziri Okwudilichukwu,
 2/18 Levi Albea, 2/18 Ethan Haan, 2/20 Zoe Young

student ministry
Sarah Jones,
 Director of Student Ministries

We have a lot of exciting things coming up!

Confirmation classes have started and it is not too late to join for 8th grade and older students.



February 17th 12pm cook out at Tyler State Park Northwoods Pavilion. *Say you are with Christ Church and your entrance fee will be covered.* This is a congregation wide event that is designed to welcome the youth group back from their spiritual retreat and celebrate their efforts to grow in their relationship with Christ. As it is a State Park please be aware that the closest bathroom is a two minute walk through some flat grassy area.

Youth Sunday is May 12th, please mark your calendars! Let me know if your youth can serve or if you have a graduating senior that we can celebrate during the reception.



We will be returning to Belize!! High school mission trip will be June 3rd-June 9th. Deposits to reserve a spot are due by February 21st. Please email me for further details. sjones@christchurchtyler.org





George Faber & Friends

Tues, Feb 13
6-8pm

Christ Church
DOWNTOWN
118 S. Bois d'Arc

Mardi Gras

Fun for the entire family!

Get your tickets today!

christchurchtyler.org/mardi-gras

\$10 [age 11 & up]
\$5 [children 4-10 yr]
[free age 3 & under]
\$25 family

Includes:

- The fantastic sounds of George Faber & Friends
- Robin Hood's Lafayette Style Cajun Turkey Gumbo & Seafood Gumbo
- Father Bob's South Carolina Style Seafood Gumbo

Gumbo served over rice, with garlic bread, salad & King's Cake

Hot dogs & chips for children
Activities for children & youth

Cash wine bar.



LET'S KEEP A HOLY LENT

1928 *Book of Common Prayer*

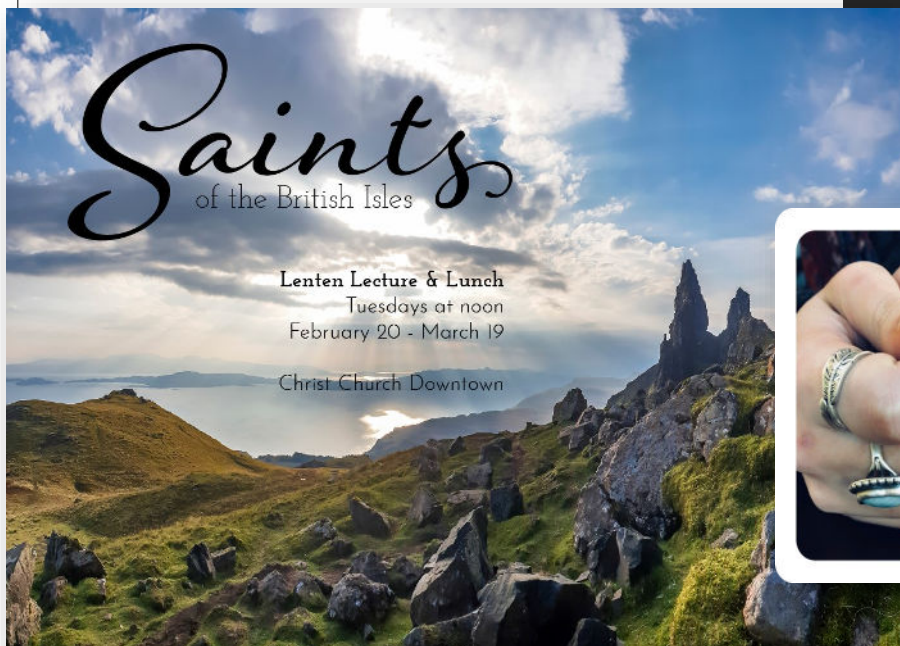
Holy Eucharist & Healing Service

Noon Thursdays through March 21
Downtown in the Nave

ASH WEDNESDAY

Imposition of Ashes
Christ Church Downtown
14 February 2024
7:00am, Noon & 6:00pm*


*childcare available



Saints
of the British Isles

Lenten Lecture & Lunch
Tuesdays at noon
February 20 - March 19

Christ Church Downtown



Praying the Rosary

Praying the rosary will be available in the chapel at 11:30am, before each Tuesday Lenten speaking series. Using the rosary (Anglican prayer beads) encourages contemplative prayer. Touching each bead in order helps maintain focus as much as the repetition of the prayers themselves. Prayer beads are available for use. Please come 10 minutes early if you would like instruction.

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, Amber, Briggs, Margaret, Maggie, Jennifer, Linda, Chris, Mike, Mark, Marian, Dalton, Verdie, Stacy, Lily, Susie, Noah, Mike, Vicki, Josh, Katie, Johnny, Harley, Jennifer, Jasper, Lynne, Scott, Bruce

The Anglican Communion: *The Diocese of Canberra & Goulburn (Australia)*

The Episcopal Church: *Dioceses of Dominican Republic & East Carolina (NC)*

Diocese of Texas: *Calvary—Bastrop & St. Mark's—Bay City*

PRAYER REQUESTS:

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

upcoming

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Pretzel Sunday for the Children

MONDAY, FEB 12

Daughter of the King

5:30pm at Lynne Bordeaux's

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Mardi Gras Party see graphic page 3

6:00pm Downtown

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Ash Wednesday | CCD

7am, noon, 6pm Imposition of Ashes

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16

Supper Club

6:00pm RSVP by 2/9

TUESDAYS, FEB 20—MAR 19

Lenten Lecture & Lunch | CCD

Tuesdays of Lent

Praying the Rosary | CCD

11:30 am in the Chapel

WEDNESDAY, FEB 21

Women's Depth Group

6:00pm | CCS

FRIDAY, MARCH 8

Primetimers

6:00pm | CCD

SUNDAY, MARCH 24

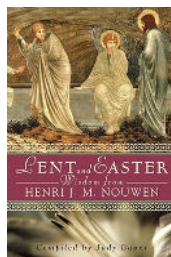
Palm Sunday

MARCH 25-30

Holy Week

SUNDAY, MARCH 31

Easter



Starting Feb 21

A discussion of the book *Lent & Easter* from Henri J.M. Nouwen, Compiled by Judy Bauer

Start the book on Ash Wednesday it is a daily journey through Lent.



In Memoriam

Our sympathies to the family & friends of

Norma Halfpenny,

mother of

Barbara Gabriel & Carol Langston;

and

Julie Newman,

sister of

Jennifer Ducote.



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. Hèctor 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 Keesey
Parish Administrator dkeesey@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

Mr. McKinley Terry
Student Ministries Assistant mterry@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 epiphanyttx@gmail.com

Mr. Anthony Moore
Sexton, Christ Church South

Mr. Kendric Milton
Assistant Sexton

Ms. Jennifer Ducote
Housekeeper

Blair Zdenek, Jessi Mayes, Trish Gutierrez
Nursery

The Vestry

Mr. Bill Clawater Treasurer

Mr. Tim Alexander Asst. Treasurer

Mrs. Kim Meyer Class of 2024

Mr. Danny Noteware Class of 2024

Ms. 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, Jr. Warden CCD Class of 2025

Mr. Ashley Bracken Class of 2026

Mr. John Bufe, Sr. Warden Class of 2026

Ms. Joyce McGee Class of 2026

Mr. Stan Ward Class of 2026

Mrs. Ann Weissmann Class of 2026

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 B BCP 1979 Lectionary

Sunday, February 11

Last Sunday after the Epiphany

1 Kings 19:9-18

Psalm 27

2 Peter 1:16-19 [20-21]

Mark 9:2-9

Sunday, February 18

Lent 1

Genesis 9:8-17

Psalm 25

1 Peter 3:18-22

Mark 1:9-13



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.*