

the Crucifer

The Newsletter of Christ Church/Episcopal

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christchurchtyler.org



God Bless America | *The Rev. Ted Welty, Associate Rector*

We will soon be celebrating Independence Day July 4th. The independence we are celebrating is independence from England. In 1776, then-future President John Adams sent a letter to his wife, Abigail, outlining how the country's declared independence from England should be celebrated. He wrote that the day should be marked with "pomp & parade, with shows, games, sports, bonfires, bells and fireworks from one end of this continent to the other from this time forward forever more."

Here in East Texas, I think that we celebrate the way our founders wanted us to celebrate the 4th. There are parades in the morning, then many people head out for a day at the lake or swimming pool and the traditional sunburn. Then back home for some hot dogs and burgers on the "barbie." At dusk, it's time for fireworks, at home (if you live outside the city limits) and you have spent a fortune at one of the temporary fireworks stands. If you want to see the big fireworks show, it's at Lindsey Park on Thursday evening. *(continues on page 20)*

from the associate rector...
The Rev. Ted Welty,
 Associate Rector

...continued from the cover

On July 4, 1776, the Continental Congress adopted a document known as the Declaration of Independence. While the Declaration is not a Christian document, the Christian influence is strongly felt in it, the result of two Christian movements of the 18th century. The first was called the Great Awakening and was led by gifted and charismatic preachers George Whitfield and Jonathan Edwards who were evangelicals who emphasized the need for a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. The other movement, deism, had been imported from England and was more popular with the wealthy and well-born. The deists believed in God but did not think that God intervened in human affairs. Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson were among the deists. All of these men, though, believed that the republic could not survive without a high level of public morality, and that moral behavior could not survive in the absence of divine authority. Both the deists and evangelicals believed that obedience to the teachings of Jesus and reflection on the purity of Jesus' life could enable people to overcome their selfishness and unite as a nation.

From the Declaration: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.—That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed..." The Declaration was the thoughts of a committee of five members of the Continental Congress, but was drafted by Thomas Jefferson. This was a magnificent document, read and admired around the world, and clearly stated the colonial case for independence.

But how do we deal with the rulers of this world. In this world, until Jesus comes again, we need government. Our God is a God of order. *In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, God brought order out of this primeval chaos. Without*

government there would be chaos on the earth. As the religious leaders tried to get Jesus to say that he would not pay Roman taxes, he explained how to deal with this paradox.

Jesus said to them, 'Give to the emperor the things that are the emperor's'... St. Paul

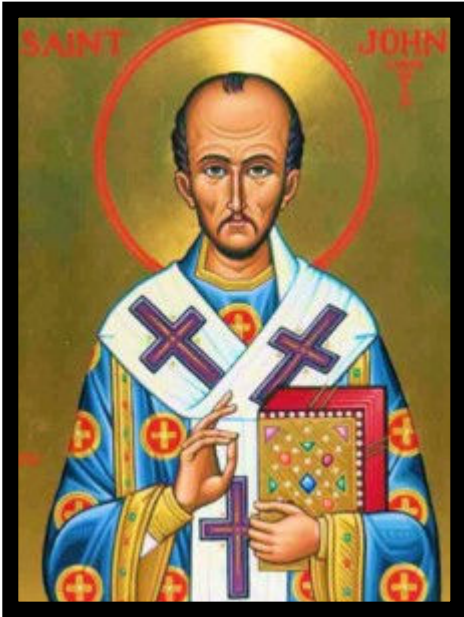
explains this: Pay to all what is due to them—taxes to whom taxes are due, revenue to whom revenue is due, respect to whom respect is due, honor to whom honor is due. And Jesus went on to say: and to God the things that are God's.' We owe everything to God including our very lives, and we should give our lives back to him. Jesus said: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all

your mind." This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Jesus was great about teaching priorities. First things first. As author Steven Covey put it, "Keep the main thing the main thing."



God is King of all the earth. God reigns over the nations. God sits upon his holy throne. The rulers of the earth belong to God and he is highly exalted.

So, let's celebrate on the 4th. Parades in the morning, then a day at the lake or swimming pool and the traditional sunburn. Then back home for some hot dogs and burgers on the "barbie." At dusk, it's time for fireworks. And Lee Greenwood: "Proud to be an American..." A word of caution though. Let's be careful with the word *proud*. C. S Lewis once said that pride is the only sin with no redeeming value whatsoever. Maybe we can sing along and when we come to the word *proud*, we can sing it without arrogance and egotism, but with humility and thanksgiving for all of our many blessings. "God Bless the USA." Amen.



Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication unto thee; and hast promised through thy well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name thou wilt be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. Amen

These words were written by St. John Chrysostom. He was a Greek and born in 347 and died in 407 AD. John was an important Early Church Father who served as archbishop of Constantinople. He is known for his preaching and public speaking. He is honored as a saint in many denominations from Greek Orthodox to the Church of England and the Episcopal Church. September 13 is the date that those in the Anglican Communion recognize him.

John was born in Antioch. Different scholars describe his mother as a pagan or as a Christian. His father was a high-ranking military officer. John's father soon died after his birth and therefore was raised by his mother. Because of her influential connections in the city he began his education under the pagan preacher Libanius. This was where he acquired the skills in rhetoric as well as a love of the Greek language and literature. Eventually, he became a lawyer.

As he grew older he became more committed to Christianity and studied theology. He lived in extreme asceticism and became a hermit. He was a reader in the church of Antioch, and an ordained deacon. It was in Antioch that he gained the eloquence of his public speaking. His homilies were the most valuable of his works.

We have used this comfortable prayer at Evensongs for years.

Other prayers and quotes that he has written are listed below:

- ◆ Prayer is the place of refuge for every worry, a foundation for cheerfulness, a source of constant happiness, a protection against sadness.
- ◆ Happiness can only be achieved by looking inward & learning to enjoy whatever life has and this requires transforming greed into gratitude.
- ◆ The road to Hell is paved with the bones of priests and monks, and the skulls of bishops are the lamp posts that light the path.
- ◆ When we teach our children to be good, to be gentle, to be forgiving (all these are attributes of God), to be generous, to love their fellow man, to regard this present age as nothing, we instill virtue in their souls, and reveal the image of God within them.

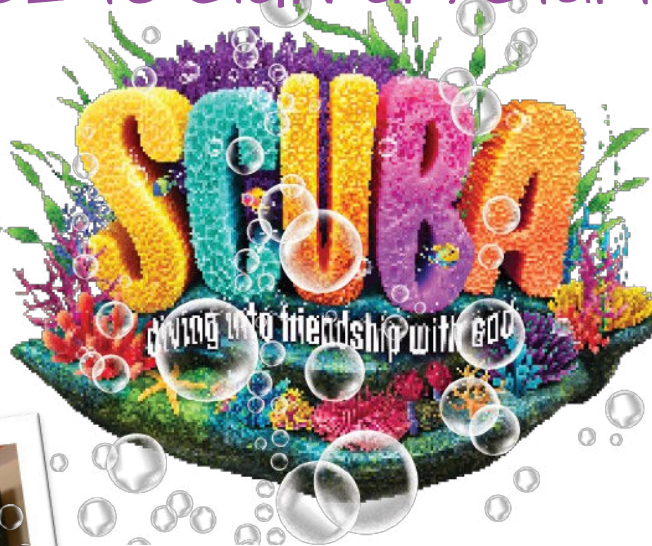
Every summer we like to incorporate YOUR favorite hymns into our Sunday Service.
DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE HYMN?

Send Jeffrey an email with the SUBJECT: My Favorite Hymn and we will add it to the list.
jford@christchurchtyler.org

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

LAST CHANCE to SIGN UP! Starts MONDAY!

CHRIST CHURCH
vacation Bible School
(rising 4K - 4th grade)
June 24-28 • 9:00am - 12
@ All Saints Episcopal School



Participants & Volunteers
Scan QR code to register



Or go to
Christchurchtyler.org/vbs

CHILDREN'S CORNER BIRTHDAYS!

6/20 Payton Hernandez, 6/20 Rylan Hernandez,
6/24 Max Vaughn, 6/27 Audrey Motto, 6/28 Cole Tiller,
6/30 Jackson Willis, 7/5 Michael Konieczsky,
7/8 Cora Mellon, 7/17 Tripp Noteware, 7/17 Evan Birdwell,
7/19 Grif Hackney, 7/19 Allen Hansen

student ministry
Sarah Jones,
Director of Student Ministries



It's Tyler Mission Week!! We are having a blast while doing some good. So far we have volunteered with Starbrite equine therapy, PATH, and VBS prep. Thank you to Paige Lollis for being a team leader and hanging out with us for the week.



Adult Christian Formation [Sunday School]

Sundays 9:00am CCD | 10:00am CCS

This summer we'll be looking at important theologians in the life of Church, beginning in the first century through to the present. St. Paul, St. Augustine, St. Claire, and Martin Luther (*along with others*) all made important contributions to the Christian faith. We'll get a chance to hear about their lives and look at what they've taught the Church about the Gospel.



Sunday, September 22 | Globe Life Field, Arlington, TX

10:00 am Chartered bus will depart Christ Church Downtown

1:35 pm Game starts | Rangers vs Mariners

\$60/person

(youth 5-12th grade-free but must have a parent or guardian accompany them)

*Cost includes game ticket, transportation by charter bus,
and all you can eat lunch from 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm.*

Get your tickets

www.christchurchtyler.org/rangers-game

or call/come by the office with a check/cash

Tickets need to be purchased by August 1st.



Christ Church Student Ministries in conjunction with Primetimers has planned a Church outing to Rangers Stadium on September 22nd. This event will kick off the Primetimers Season for 2024/2025, and serve as an opportunity for our more senior members to mix & mingle with Christ Church students and families.



Education for Ministry

A New Year begins 9.2.2024

If you're not familiar with the program it is a 4 year study that includes Old and New Testament, the history of Christianity and developing your own theology.

If you are interested contact Clyde Beaty at
903 752 5180 or cbefml@gmail.com
for more information.

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, Zac, Mimi, Phil, Carl, Samuel, Angela, Christian, Dominic, Linda, Marian, Mike, Mark, Dalton, Verdie, Chris, Jimmy, Sherry, LaRose, Curt, Billy, Hardin, Ella, Genaro, Ara, Maggie, Jennifer, Suzanne, Lynn, Lisa, Ginny, Pam, Jack, Jerry, Stan, Laurie Ann, Sarah, Alan

The Anglican Communion: *The Diocese of Gambia (West Africa)*

The Episcopal Church: *Dioceses of Honduras & Idaho*

Diocese of Texas: *St. John's—Columbus & St. Thomas—College Station*

PRAYER REQUESTS: Please contact The Rev. Stephen Stine if you'd like to keep or add someone to the prayer list 903.530.8168 or sssti@tjc.edu.

In Memoriam

Our sympathies to the
family & friends of

John Wolfarth,

husband of Virginia Wolfarth;
and

The Rev. Ernie Saik,

former Associate Rector of Christ Church.

upcoming

MON—FRI, June 24-28

9:00 am **Vacation Bible School** | ASES

SUNDAY, July 7

4th of July Celebrations at both campuses
Fried Chicken & all the fixin's

11:00am **DOWNTOWN**

Picnic in the Parish Hall

12:15pm **SOUTH CAMPUS**

Picnic in the Pavilion



THE VESTRY

Mr. Bill Clawwater, *Treasurer*
Mr. Tim Alexander, *Asst. Treasurer*
CLASS OF 2024

Mrs. Kim Meyer, Mr. Danny Noteware,
Ms. Sheryl Richter-Jr. *Warden CCS*,
Dr. Dan Toney
CLASS OF 2025

Mr. Julius Bergfeld, Mrs. Catherine Buhrkuhl,
Mr. Steven Comte, Mrs. Karen Hughes,
Mr. Mark Shuttlesworth-Jr. *Warden CCD*
CLASS OF 2026

Mr. Ashley Bracken, Mr. John Bufe-Sr. *Warden*,
Ms. Joyce McGee, Mr. Stan Ward,
Mrs. Ann Weissmann-*Clerk*

Lectionary for upcoming Sundays Year B BCP 1979 Lectionary Sunday, June 23

5 Pentecost | Proper 7
Job 38:1-11, 16-18, Psalm 107:1-32
2 Corinthians 5:14-21, Mark 4:35-41

Sunday, June 30
6 Pentecost | Proper 8
Deuteronomy 15:7-11, Psalm 112
2 Corinthians 8:1-9, 13-15
Mark 5:22-24, 35b-43

Sunday, July 7
7 Pentecost | Proper 9
Ezekiel 2:1-7, Psalm 123
2 Corinthians 12:2-10, Mark 6:1-6

Sunday, July 14
8 Pentecost | Proper 10
Amos 7:7-15, Psalm 85
Ephesians 1:1-14, Mark 6:7-13



Holy Baptism

The next scheduled date for baptisms is Sunday, August 18, 2024. If interested in baptism on this date, please contact the church office, 903-597-9854 or office@christchurchtyler.org.

CLERGY & 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. Hector 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 Senior Chaplain, Assisting Priest

The Rev. Leesa Lewis
All Saints Episcopal School Assistant 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. Lynda Witzky
Children's Ministries Assistant

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

Ms. Jennifer Ducote
Mr. Anthony Moore
Mr. Kendrick Milton
Sexton
Sexton
Assistant Sexton

Blair Zdenek, Jessi Mayes, Madisyn Bickham,
Priscilla Yeboah
Nursery

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.



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 starting May 5th

7:30 am **CCD:** The Holy Eucharist *Rite I*

10:00 am **CCD:** The Holy Eucharist

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.*