

the Crucifer

The Newsletter of Christ Church/Episcopal

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christchurchtyler.org



FROM THE RECTOR:

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Matthew 28.16, 18-20

The Great Commission is the essential charge to the Church to share the Good News of Christ with the world. Most believers in the world can trace their faith or their families' Christian conversion to a person or group who responded to Christ's command by sharing the Gospel with our ancestors.

Who took the first step of carrying the Gospel beyond Jerusalem? Beyond the Galilee?

The Apostles.

The Apostles, the original small group of believers who were personally discipled by Jesus throughout His ministry in Roman Judea, led the effort to carry the Gospel of Christ Jesus to the world.

This summer, Christ Church will offer a special course for Adult Christian Formation – the Apostolic Witness. We will explore the teaching and mission of Peter, James, John, Mary, Paul, and other first century Christian leaders whose ministry changed the world.

Beginning June 1, join us at 9:00 downtown and 10:00 at Christ Church South as we learn about the teaching and mission of these inspiring and foundational earliest Christian leaders.

Faithfully yours in Christ Jesus,

David

Summer vacation is upon us!

This is certainly true for students and teachers, but for most of us, the summer is a time when rhythms of work slow down a little bit, the sun sets a little later, and the afternoon heat makes us sluggish, so that we are forced to slow our pace.

In the midst of the hustle culture of modern American life, we might think of slowing down, a vacation, or even a weekend off as luxuries. But they are not luxuries (or they ought not to be!). Rather, time spent away from our toil is a reminder that we are not “human workings” but “human beings.” Yes, we are called to work, but we are also called to rest.


In the beginning of Genesis God worked. He spent six days working, in fact. After all of that work, Almighty God, in His infinite power, chose to rest. We are told that “he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.” (Genesis 2:2-3 NRSV). God teaches all of creation that as important as work is, it finds its place only when it’s coupled with a rhythm of rest, holy rest.

Now, I understand that time away from work is not always restful. It can be just another space in our lives where we cram in different kinds of work: Yard work, housework, homework, and so on. And in the busyness of the year it may feel like we have to squeeze this work in whenever we can.

The summer, though, provides a natural opportunity for us to put this work aside. Sometimes we literally are forced to put it aside as we leave the state or even the country to get away from it. We can say yes to rest, to just being with God, our family, ourselves. And we can delight in being part of creation, knowing that we can slip away for an afternoon or a day or a week without the world falling apart.

This requires real trust on our part, trust that God is in control, holding all things together and we are not, trust that it is okay to simply delight in what God has made.

My prayer is that all of us would have snatches of this grace in the coming season, that we’d rest, and celebrate, and come back to our work refreshed.



MEN'S
Summer
Depth
Group

Wednesdays
 starting May 28th
 6:00pm – 8:00
 Christ Church South

When we want to understand what Christians believe we look to the Bible or the historic Creeds. But when we want to understand how Christians ought to live, where do we turn? Jesus provides a life and model for us and directs us how to live with his Great Commandments. He teaches us that “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” (Matthew 22:37-9, NRSV).

We live rightly when we love God and our neighbors, but sometimes we need guidance

on how to apply this love in the concrete

realities of our lives. Thankfully, Jesus’s teaching is elucidated in the Ten Commandments, the guiding ethical wisdom for how to live faithfully.

Over the course of our Men’s Summer Depth Group we will be examining each of the Ten Commandments, how they’ve been received in the Church, and how they shape our lives today.



EYC & Primetimers present...



CHRIST CHURCH FAMILY
TEXAS RANGERS
BALL GAME!

JULY 27, 2025

Sunday, July 27 | Globe Life Field, Arlington, TX

10:00 am Chartered bus will depart Christ Church Downtown

1:35 pm Game starts | Texas Rangers vs Atlanta Braves

\$65/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



children's ministry
Zoe Ward, Interim
Director of Children's Ministry

Christ Church
Vacation Bible School
 (students that have completed K-4th)



June 23rd - 27th [9-noon]
 @ All Saints Episcopal School
 volunteers & participants register now>>



Volunteers Needed!
 Can you help?

We are so excited to announce the hiring of our new Assistant Director for Children's Ministry, Jessica Creel! Jessica comes to our church with years of experience working with both vulnerable youth and adults. She is also related to Justin & Jessi Mayes, who are beloved members of our congregation. Below is a small introduction from Jessica to the Christ Church community. Please join me in warmly welcoming her to our team.



Hello, My name is Jessica Creel, and I am thankful for the opportunity to serve as the Assistant Director of Children's Ministries. I have volunteered in Children's Ministries throughout my life, and I am passionate about serving children, teenagers, and young adults. I spent the last three years serving teenagers and young adult ladies in foster youth. During this time, the Lord grew my capabilities and knowledge as a caregiver, as well as strengthening and growing my relationship with Him.

During my spare time, I love to have my nieces over for quality time, play board games, crochet, cross-stitch, try out a new craft, or settle in with my dog and cat and reading a good book. This opportunity is an answered prayer for me, and I am honored to be a part of growing the Children's Ministries Christian Formation. I am excited to see what the Lord has in store for this journey!

Regards,
 Jessica Creel

CHILDREN'S CORNER BIRTHDAYS!

5/6 Ivy Wait, 5/7 Eleanor Albea,
 5/10 Olivia Crawford, 5/11 Jake Vaughn,
 5/16 Harper Harrison, 5/19 Fiona Mayes,
 5/20 Gatlin Chitty, 5/27 August Hanna

student ministry
Sarah Jones,
Director of Student Ministries

Thank you to Gordon Roberts, the Brotherhood, the Downtown and South Campus Hospitality Groups, our Acolyte Masters, McKinley Terry, and all the amazing people who helped make the golf tournament and Youth Sunday happen this past weekend! It was amazing but I will let the pictures speak for themselves.



Update on our Ukrainian Refugees



Hello fellow Christ Church parishioners. It is said that a ring can be an “outward sign of an inward commitment.” And so it may also be that our church’s steadfast, continuing support and care of Ukrainian refugees Iryna and Nora Kononovych is our outward sign of our inward commitment to holy scripture.

Throughout the Old Testament, numerous passages reveal God’s special concern for those without shelter or resources. God’s love for the vulnerable is a recurring theme, urging believers to act with kindness, compassion, and generosity.

Jesus consistently cared for the marginalized and taught his followers to do the same. The grace and sacrifice of the Lord Jesus illustrate the importance of believers being merciful and compassionate towards others, especially those who are struggling or in need.

Since August, 2022, while a horrific war has raged on tragically in Ukraine, the good people of Christ Church have never wavered in the support and love for Iryna and Nora.

And they both have responded with gratitude and appreciation for being taken in as part of our family, as cherished children of God. Iryna has regularly attended classes to learn English, making remarkable progress in a relatively short period of time. She has made special friendships with a number of our church members, even joining some of them to help with the Loaves & Fishes (*pic 3*) ministry to the homeless and poor. Despite the burden of steadily losing all her eyesight from an incurable genetic disease, she remains ever positive, grateful, full of hope, with an unceasing dream of someday reuniting with her beloved husband Yevgeny (*pic 2*), still fighting for survival in war torn Ukraine.

And then there’s 15 year old, Legacy High freshman Nora. Well Nora is Nora! Knowing her is a delightful experience for one rarely meets any young person her age with any more radiant personality, positive attitude, loving spirit and zest for life. She’s now a tennis star (*pic 4*) at her high school and working diligently in her studies with a goal of someday becoming a successful college student athlete. She has grown to love her “second family”- the entire Christ Episcopal Church family.

Iryna and Nora just recently attended the college graduation ceremony in Florida (*pic 1*) of the older daughter Yeva, truly a landmark event for their little family. Although a cloud of uncertainty continues to hang over the lives of these brave, courageous people, they remain full of hope, encouraged by our efforts, bolstered by the power of love and brotherhood.

We need to continue our support of Iryna and Nora, continue praying for peace, and the eventual reuniting of this family. So many have been so supportive and generous already, but we must persevere and stay the course for a while longer. We are needing to replenish the Ukrainian ministry account as soon as possible so if you can help again or for the first time, please join in.

One of the greatest joys in reaching out and helping those in need and distress is the tremendous blessing the giver receives from following our faith and letting our actions speak just as loud as our words of commitment.

May the peace of the Lord be with you 🙏
Charles Johnson



thanksgivings , supplications & fellowship

In Our Prayers

Please consider including the Prayer List in your daily devotions:

Luba, Maria, Yeva, YK, Iryna, Nora, Yevgeny, Lisa, Paul, Anna Marie, Maggie, Jennifer, Laura, Alan, Laura, Ezri, Darin, Vicky, Amber, Chris, Jerry, Linda, Dalton, Chris, Mike, Mark, Marian, Verdie, Connie, Jeremy, Lauren, Russ, Liam, Heather, Chris, Alinda, Piper, Jimmy, Chester, Diana W., Marilyn, Boyd, Stephen, Amy, Debbie, LaRose, Dominic, Adaline, Anne, Joshua, Angela, Ben, Samuel, Rob, Kerri, Lisa, SW, YW, Matthew, Patty, Carrol, Cal, Katie, Pam, Keith, Jerry, Paul, AJ

The Anglican Communion: *The Diocese of Mississippi*, **The Episcopal Church:** *Dioceses of Pennsylvania & Pittsburg*

Diocese of Texas: *Palmer Memorial & St. Paul's—Houston*

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 ssiti@tjc.edu.

**Congratulations on the marriage
of:**

*Ginger Sanyer
& Paul Wick*

May 3, 2025.

upcoming

THURSDAYS thru Eastertide (June 5)

1928 Holy Eucharist

Noon | CCD

FRIDAY | May 16

Supper Club

6:00pm | Large Group @ The Taliaferro's

THURSDAY | May 22

Theology Study Group (see graphic on p.3)

3:00pm | CCD Guild Hall

SUNDAY | May 25

Picnic in the Pavilion (see graphic on to the right)

12:30pm | CCS

WEDNESDAY | May 28

Men's Summer Depth Group (see graphic on p.2)

6:00pm | CCS

SUNDAY | June 1

Newcomer's Lunch with the Rector

12:30pm | CCS

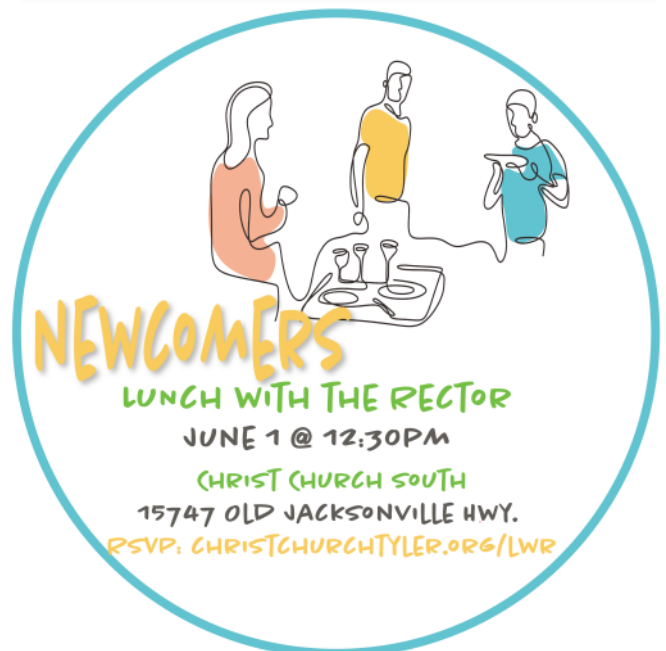
RSVP: christchurchtyler.org/LWR

SUNDAY | June 8

Choral Evensong

followed by reception in the Parish Hall

6:00pm in the Nave Downtown



THE VESTRY

Mr. Bill Clawwater, *Treasurer*
Mr. Tim Alexander, *Asst. Treasurer*
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
Ms. Joyce McGee, Mrs. Sara McElroy,
Mrs. Ann Weissmann-*Clerk*
CLASS OF 2027

Dr. Roger Fowler-*Sr. Warden*,
Mr. Jim Johnson-*Jr. Warden CCS*, Mr. George Lollis,
Dr. Bob McKinney, Mrs. Shannon Teagarden

Lectionary for upcoming Sundays Year C BCP 1979 Lectionary

SUNDAY, MAY 18

The 5th Sunday of Easter

Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18

Psalms 145, Revelation 19:1, 4-9

Acts 13:44-52, John 13:31-35

SUNDAY, MAY 25

The 6th Sunday of Easter

Joel 2:21-27, Psalm 67

Revelation 21:22--22:5, Acts 14:8-18

John 14:23-29

Holy Baptism



The next scheduled date for baptisms is Sunday, 6.8.25
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

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The Rev. Ted Welty
Associate Rector

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The Rev. Stephen Stine
Deacon

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The Rev. Tim Kennedy
All Saints Episcopal School Senior Chaplain, Assisting Priest

The Rev. Leesa Lewis
All Saints Episcopal School Assistant Chaplain, Assisting Priest

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Organist/Choirmaster

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Assistant Organist

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Student Ministries Assistant

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epiphanytx@gmail.com

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

Sexton
Sexton
Assistant Sexton

Jessi Mayes *Nursery Coordinator*, Reagan Darling,
Priscilla Yeboah, Kimberly Wanjiru, Jada Akrong *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.



1928
Book of Common Prayer

Holy Eucharist

Noon Thursdays Lent-Eastertide

March 6, 2025 - June 5

Downtown in the Nave



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

Summer Sunday Worship Services

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

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

11:05am~ **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 (once in July & 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.*