

# the Crucifer

The Newsletter of Christ Church/Episcopal

Vol. XXVII, No. 12  
June 11, 2025, 2025

## FROM THE RECTOR:

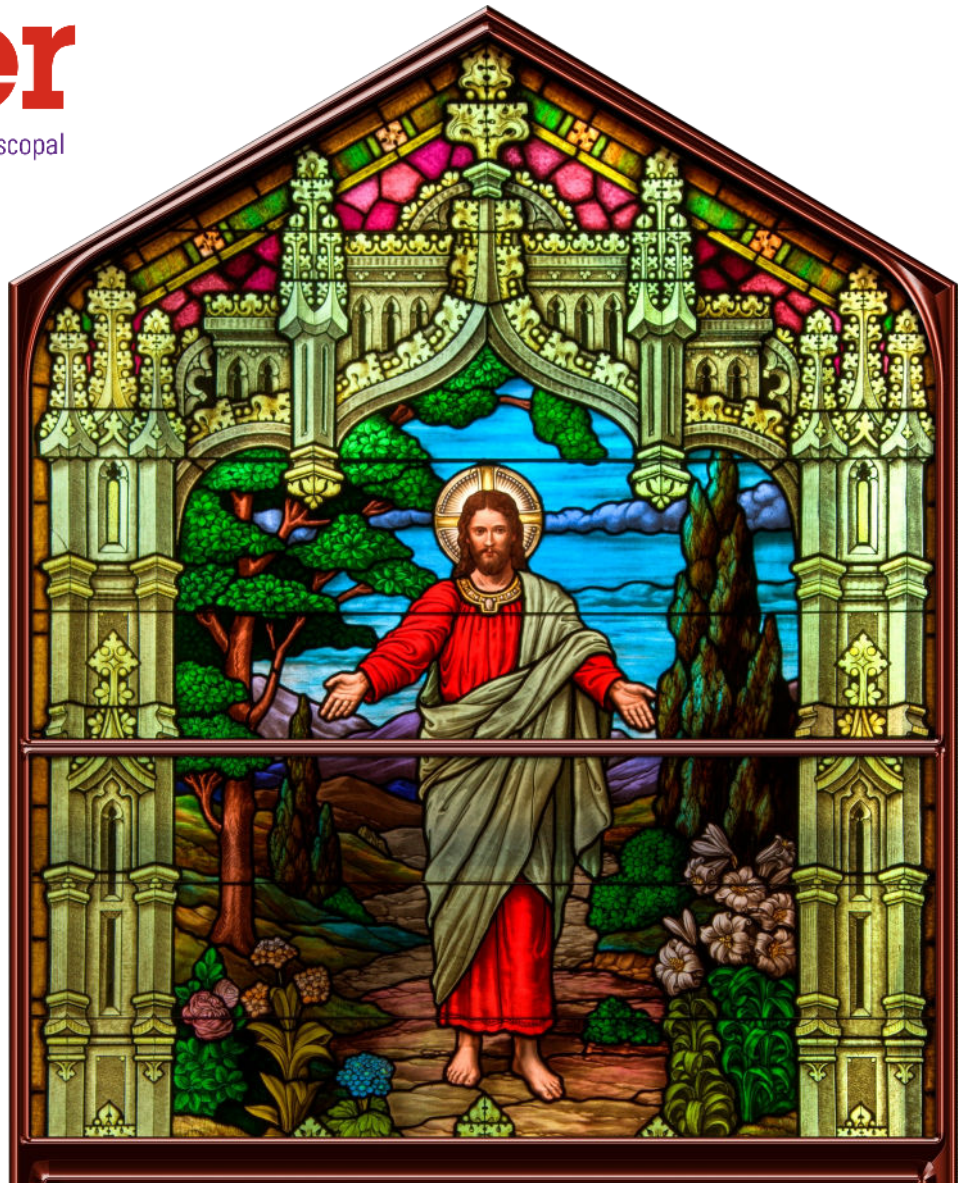
*There were once two brothers who farmed together. They shared equally in all of the work and split the profits exactly. Each had his own storehouse. One of the brothers was married and had a large family. The other was single.*

*One day the single brother thought to himself: "It is not fair that we divide the grain so evenly. My brother has many mouths to feed, while I have but one. I know what I'll do! I will take a sack of grain from my storehouse each evening and put it in my brother's storehouse." So each night when it was dark, he carefully carried a sack of grain and put it in his brother's storehouse.*

*Now the married brother also thought to himself: "It is not fair that we divide the grain so evenly. I have many children to care for me in my old age, and my brother has none. I know what I'll do! I will take a sack of grain from my storehouse each evening and put it in my brother's storehouse." So each night when it was dark, he too carefully carried a sack of grain and put it in his brother's storehouse.*

*This went on for weeks, and since neither brother knew what the other was doing, each morning they were amazed to discover that though they had removed a sack of grain the night before, they had just as many.*

*But one night they met each other halfway between their storehouses, each carrying a sack of grain. Then they understood the mystery. They dropped their sacks and embraced, and in tears celebrated their love for one another.*



*And God looked down from heaven, saw the two brothers embracing, and said: "Blessed be the field where these two brothers are standing and embracing."*

*And many years later — so says the legend — King Solomon built the Holy Temple on the very same ground, that it might become a house of peace and blessing to all nations and peoples.*

Summer is a season for rest and play. It is also a time for building. Last week, our youth returned to Belize and ministered to the Anglican community in Corozal. Over the next few weeks, our youth will

volunteer their time and talent to serve others in need at Tyler Mission Week. And a great group of adults and teenagers will invest their time and their love building the faith of younger kids at Vacation Bible School.

As the days of sunshine lengthen, may the Lord bless you with a season of rest and play, and may He use YOU to help build the Kingdom of God in our community.

Faithfully in Christ Jesus,

*David +*

As I am writing this, I am looking forward to a week of vacation to visit with Amy's parents. They are driving southwest, and we are driving northeast, and we'll meet in the middle near the Great Smoky Mountains in Tennessee. So I am trying to tie up loose ends and finish what I can before we leave. There is a lot to do. I probably can't complete everything on my "to-do" list. How can I make everything fit in the short time I have?

One solution would be for me to outsource some work to Artificial Intelligence (AI). It would be easy for me to use ChatGPT or some other AI program to write this post to save time, for instance. Likely, nobody would ever know.

Most of us by now have heard of AI, the ability of computer programs to produce what appear to be human thoughts, stories, and arguments. The programs are still clumsy and sketchy, but we are told in time these details will be smoothed out.

There are all kinds of questions we might ask about AI. In the Church, one question is whether or not it's appropriate for pastors and priests to use in their preaching and teaching. For me, the answer is a resounding "no."

Recently in a sermon I mentioned that I have not and will not use AI in writing my homilies at Christ Church. It's not because I am anti-technology or anything like that. I am writing this on my laptop and carry around a smart phone that I use to listen to music and audio-books.

Still, I feel that the relationship between a reader and writer, and especially between a pastor and his or her listeners is one of trust. Each week I have the burden and privilege(!) to study Holy Scripture, to pray, to draw from literature and experience to share a message about Jesus that, by the grace of God, might be used by the Holy Spirit to open our hearts to live more fully in the love of God. And you all have the burden(!) and privilege to have to listen to me.

I know you are busy, that there is a lot you could be doing with your time, and that you've made an effort to honor God by coming to worship him, to receive the sacrament, but also to hear the Bible, God's Word, preached. So the last thing I want to do is to pass the buck to a computer to write a script for me to read.

I am not making a blanket judgement on anyone for using AI as the basis of a project, especially where then they take and craft what it gives them and turn it into something personal and human. Occasionally, I use AI-generated images on my slides to illustrate sermons at Christ Church South.

But I have decided that I will not use it in my writing, and that you don't have to worry about me using it. If anything changes, I will let you know. Even though I have these powerful tools at my fingertips, I plan to write and teach and preach the old fashioned way. To borrow a phrase from Leif Enger (in fact a title of one of his books), I see what AI offers me, and "I cheerfully refuse."



## MEN'S Summer Depth Group

•The 10 Commandments•

Wednesdays  
 6:00pm – 8:00  
 Christ Church South





### July 6, 2025 10:00 Patriotic Eucharist

- ★ This will be the Chancel Choir's last Sunday before they take their summer break to return after Labor Day. We will have guests trumpeters Jeremy McBain and Lauren Taylor. The anthems for that Sunday will be *Eternal Father Strong to Save* and *America the Beautiful*.



**We want to thank the Chancel Choir** for all their hard work and dedication.

**Did you know that:** they arrive every Sunday an hour before the service for a warm-up; they are here for rehearsals on Wednesdays from 6:30-8:00; and they sing at ALL the extra services during Advent and Lent.

**Did you know that we had three Choral Evensongs this year?** One in the fall that featured the Chancel Choir, one in Lent with the Christ Church Cathedral Choir as our guest and then last Sunday the "Chancel Choir and Friends." Thank you to all those that helped to make the service happen, from the greeters who ushered and gave out service leaflets, to the clergy and our Verger.



## THE APOSTOLIC WITNESS

**New Adult Christian Formation**

9:00am Downtown | 10:00am South Campus



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>>**

It's not too late to  
 sign the kids up!

**Volunteers Needed!**

Follow Jesus in a wild world. With songs, crafts, and games galore, your kids are sure to have a blast. And that's not the only exciting news: we need just 5 more leaders (you heard right, just 5!) to make VBS 2025 happen! If your kid is attending, then please consider signing up and joining in on the fun!

It is officially VBS month! The Alaskan wilderness calls, & Christ Church has answered. We will be learning about what it means to

**CHILDREN'S CORNER BIRTHDAYS!**

**6/24 Max Vaughn**



## *Keys of the Kingdom*

A Theology Study Group & Book Club

2nd & 4th Thursdays | 3:00 - 4:30pm  
 Downtown Campus | Guild Hall  
 Discussion & Tea

*All are welcome to participate, there is a place for you!*

For further information & to RSVP contact Valerie Huggler, Parish Secretary  
 903.597.9854 / office@christchurchtyler.org

**BOOK:** *The Tears of Things* by Richard Rohr.

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





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



We are back from our trip to Belize! We originally went to create a playground awning and a small retaining wall but ended up doing so much more. The day we arrived, the school discovered that a classroom roof had caved in over the weekend.

Due to God's timing, we were able to pay for the supplies and provide an expert handyman and workers to assist. A big shout out to Travis Squyres for working three days straight on the roof with our awesome handy man Mr. C. Thank you to Casey Squyres for being an amazing chaperone and to all the kids for their hard work!





## thanksgivings , supplications & fellowship

### *In Our Prayers*

**Please consider including the Prayer List in your daily devotions:**

Luba, Maria, Yeva, YK, Iryna, Nora, Yevgeny, Lisa, Anna Marie, Pam, Jerry, AJ, Kent, Gail, Willie, Jeanene, Ashley, Jim, Joshua, Frank

**The Anglican Communion:** *The Diocese of Mumias (Kenya)*

**The Episcopal Church:** *Dioceses of Rio Grand & Rochester*

**Diocese of Texas:** *Trinity & St. Martin—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 ssti@tjc.edu.

**Congratulations on the baptism of:**

*Harrison Stockdale Carr*

son of Jaclyn & Hunter Carr,  
grandson of Lucy & John Carr,  
May 31, 2025

&

*Amelia Mae Ayres*

daughter of Rebekah & Joseph Ayres  
June 8, 2025.

## upcoming

### WEDNESDAYS

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

6:00pm | CCS

### THURSDAY | June 12 & 26

**Theology Study Group** (see graphic on p.4)

3:00pm | CCD Guild Hall

### MON-FRI | JUNE 16-20

**EYC Tyler Mission Week**

### MON-FRI | JUNE 23-27

**Vacation Bible School** (see graphic on p.4)

9:00am | All Saints Episcopal School

### SUNDAY | June 29

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

12:30pm | CCS

**Christ Church Ladies Night Out**

(see graphic on to the right)

6:30pm | Callynth Photography

### SUNDAY | July 6

**Independence Day Picnics** (see graphic on p. 3)

after the 10:00 service Downtown

after the 11:05 service South

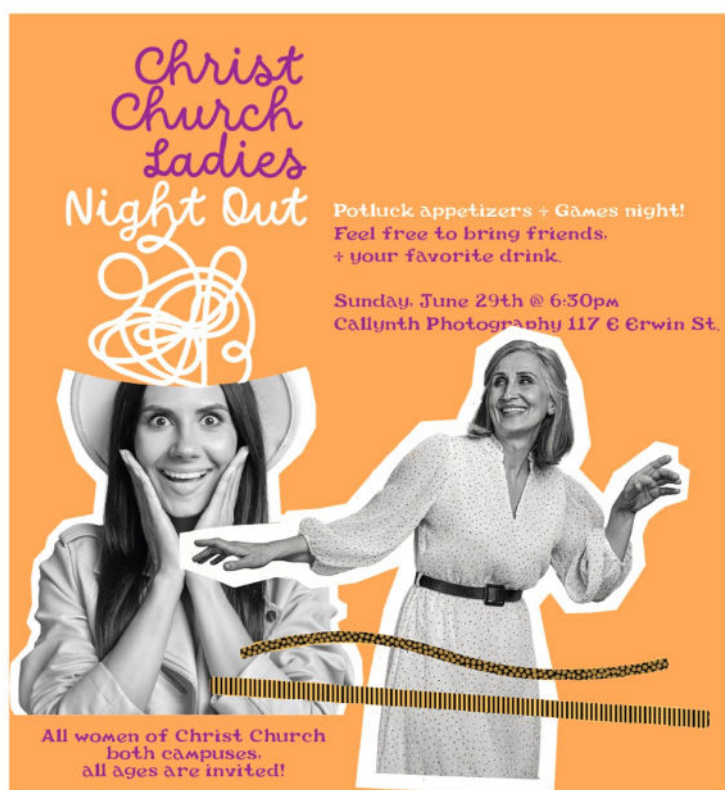
### SATURDAY | JULY 12

**Children's Ministry Blueberry Picking**

10:00am (more info to come)

### SUNDAY | July 27

**Texas Rangers Ballgame** (see graphic on p. 4)



## 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, JUNE 15

Trinity Sunday  
Isaiah 6:1-8, Psalm 29 or  
Canticle 2: A Song of Praise or  
Canticle 13: A Song of Praise  
Revelation 4:1-11, John 16:[5-11] 12-15

#### SUNDAY, JUNE 22

The 2nd Sunday after Pentecost | Proper 7  
Zechariah 12:8-10; 13:1, Psalm 63:1-8  
Galatians 3:23-29, Luke 9:18-24  
John 20:19-23 or John 14:8-17

## Holy Baptism



The next scheduled date for baptisms is Sunday, 8.24.25  
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* 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*

Ms. Michael Ardoyn  
*Parish Administrator* mardoin@christchurchtyler.org

Mr. Jeffrey Ford  
*Organist/Choirmaster* jford@christchurchtyler.org

Mr. A.J. Meals  
*Assistant Organist* mealsa@gladewaterisd.com

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*Director of Student Ministries* sjones@christchurchtyler.org

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Ms. Jessica Creel  
*Assistant Director of Children's Ministries* jcreel@christchurchtyler.org

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*

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.

**Brotherhood of St. Andrew Raffle**  
All proceeds will go to EYC

**Tickets are \$5.00 each or 5 (five) for \$20.**

1st Prize	Round of golf for four at Pine Springs Golf Club + \$25 gift certificate to the Pro Shop.
2nd Prize	\$100 gift card to Walmart
3rd Prize	\$50 gift card to Edwin Watts Golf Shop

**Winners announced July 6th at the Independence Day Picnic.**

Tickets are available Sundays  
Downtown from Hal Meyer | South Campus from Jim Johnson



Christ Church | Episcopal  
118 S. Bois d'Arc  
Tyler, TX 75702

903.597.9854  
office@christchurchtyler.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

## ***Worship Schedule***

### **Summer Sunday Worship Services** *through Labor Day*

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](http://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 (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](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.*