

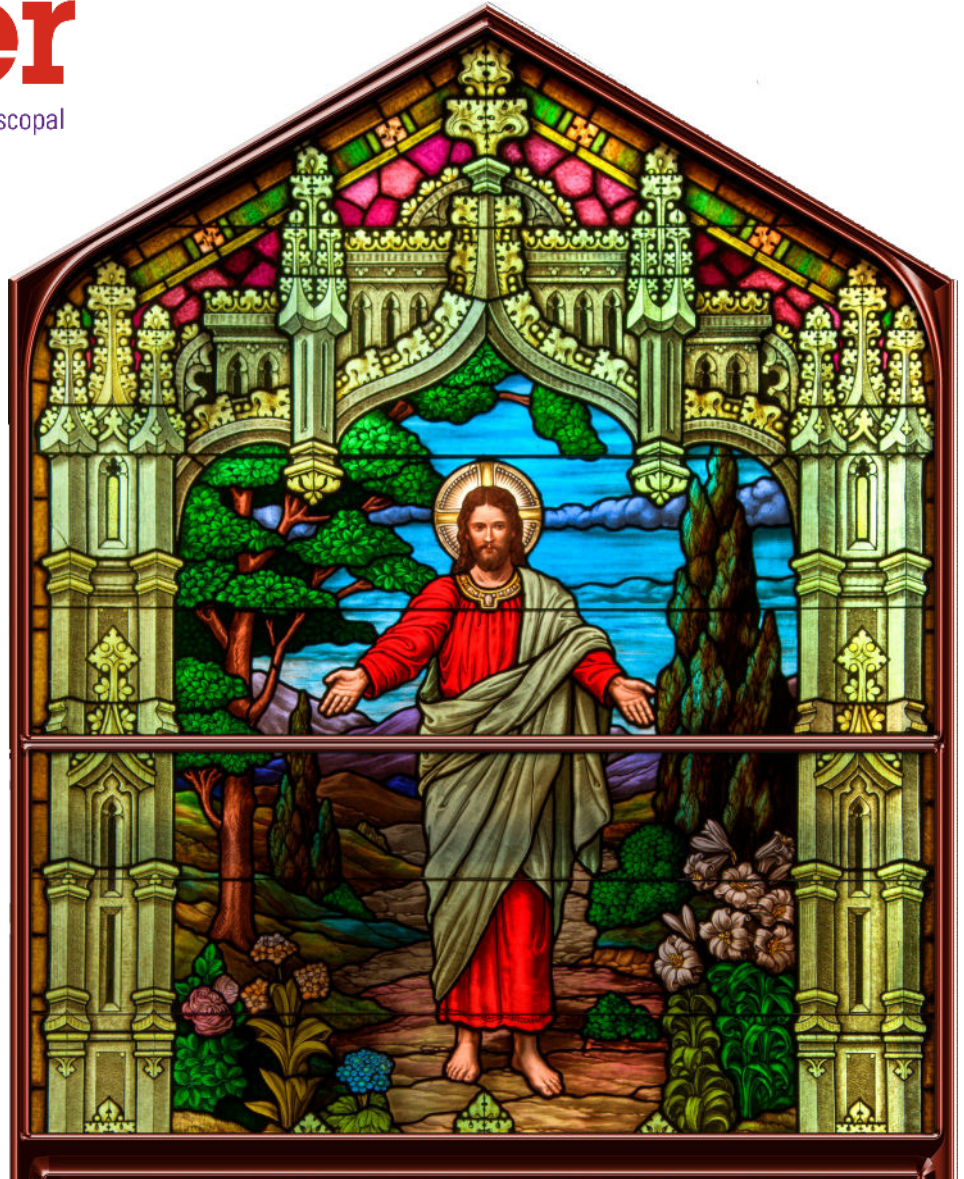
# the Crucifer

The Newsletter of Christ Church/Episcopal

Vol. XXVII, No.13

June 25, 2025

christchurchtyler.org



## FROM THE RECTOR:

Independence Day is a special celebration.

Almost 250 years ago, representatives from 13 colonies, which were largely founded by Quakers, Puritans, Roman Catholics, or Anglicans to provide a community in which they could worship God in the manner they believed to be best, chose to put aside their doctrinal differences and form a country.

The Christian faith of many of our nation's founders had a profound effect on the nation they created and the freedoms which we enjoy to this day.

In 1776, the colonies were filled with believers who came here seeking religious liberty. Anglicans, who would shortly change the name of their denomination from the Church of England to the Protestant Episcopal Church, played a prominent role in the creation of our republic.

George Washington was elected to the vestry of three different churches. He served as a rector's warden and often led worship

in the absence of a priest. Alexander Hamilton, whose Federalist Papers formed the intellectual backbone of the Constitution, was a leader at Trinity Church Wall Street. And there were many more.

We thank God that we are blessed to be Americans. And we believe that one expression of our faithfulness to God is our service to others as honorable citizens.

Please join us as we celebrate our nation's independence on Sunday July 6, thanking God in our worship services and celebrating Independence Weekend with delicious food and great fun at festive picnics on both our historic downtown campus and Christ Church South!

Faithfully in Christ Jesus,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David T." with a stylized flourish at the end.

As I was thinking about Independence Day, 2025, I came across a speech given by President Ronald Reagan on July 4, 1986. Here are some excerpts from the speech that I think are particularly relevant today.

*My remarks [President Reagan's] tonight will be brief, but it's worth remembering that all the celebration of this day is rooted in history. It's recorded that shortly after the Declaration of Independence was signed in Philadelphia celebrations took place throughout the land, and many of the former Colonists—they were just starting to call themselves Americans—set off cannons and marched in fife and drum parades.*

*What a contrast with the sober scene that had taken place a short time earlier in Independence Hall. Fifty-six men came forward to sign the parchment. It was noted at the time that they pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honors. And that was more than rhetoric; each of those men knew the penalty for high treason to the Crown. "We must all hang together," Benjamin Franklin said, "or, assuredly, we will all hang separately."*

*For just a moment, let us listen to the words again: "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." Last night when we rededicated Miss Liberty and relit her torch, we reflected on all the millions who came here in search of the dream of freedom inaugurated in Independence Hall. We reflected, too, on their courage in coming great distances and settling in a foreign land and then passing on to their children and their children's children the hope symbolized in this statue here just behind us: the hope that is America. It is a hope that someday every people and every nation of the world will know the blessings of liberty.*

*All through our history, our Presidents and leaders have spoken of national unity and warned us that the real obstacle to moving forward the boundaries of freedom, the only permanent danger to the hope that is America, comes from within. It's easy*

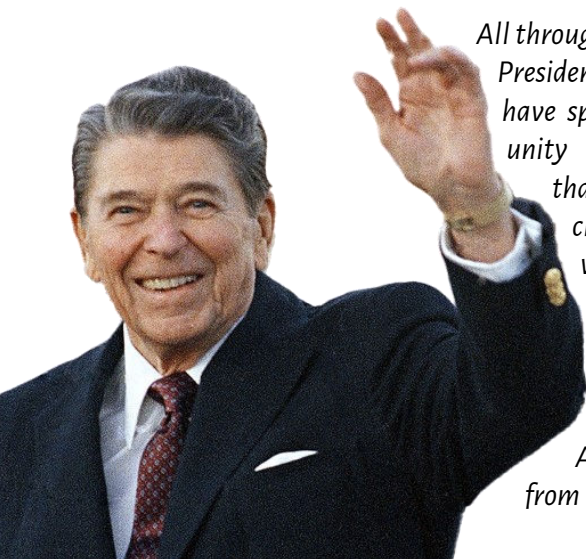
*enough to dismiss this as a kind of familiar exhortation. Yet the truth is that even two of our greatest Founding Fathers, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, once learned this lesson late in life. They'd worked so closely together in Philadelphia for independence. But once that was gained and a government was formed, something called partisan politics began to get in the way. After a bitter and divisive campaign, Jefferson defeated Adams for the Presidency in 1800. And the night before Jefferson's inauguration, Adams slipped away to Boston, disappointed, broken-hearted, and bitter.*

*For years their estrangement lasted. But then when both had retired, Jefferson at 68 to Monticello and Adams at 76 to Quincy, they began through their letters to speak again to each other. Letters that discussed almost every conceivable subject: gardening, horseback riding, even sneezing as a cure for hiccups; but other subjects as well: the loss of loved ones, the mystery of grief and sorrow, the importance of religion, and of course the last thoughts, the final hopes of two old men, two great patriarchs, for the country that they had helped to found and loved so deeply. It was their last gift to us, this lesson in brotherhood, in tolerance for each other, this insight into America's strength as a nation. And when both died on the same day within hours of each other, that date was July 4th, 50 years exactly after that first gift to us, the Declaration of Independence.*

*My fellow Americans, it falls to us to keep faith with them and all the great Americans of our past. Believe me, if there's one impression I carry with me after the privilege of holding for 5 & 1/2 years the office held by Adams and Jefferson and Lincoln, it is this: that the things that unite us—America's past of which we're so proud, our hopes and aspirations for the future of the world and this much-loved country—these things far outweigh what little divides us. And so tonight we reaffirm that Jew and gentile, we are one nation under God; that black and white, we are one nation indivisible; that Republican and Democrat, we are all Americans. Tonight, with heart and hand, through whatever trial and travail, we pledge ourselves to each other and to the cause of human freedom, the cause that has given light to this land and hope to the world.*

*My fellow Americans, we're known around the world as a confident and a happy people. Tonight there's much to celebrate and many blessings to be grateful for. So while it's good to talk about serious things, it's just as important and just as American to have some fun. Now, let's have some fun—let the celebration begin!*

Blessings in Christ, Ted+







Hymn No. 410 is one of my favorite hymns. *Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven* was penned by Henry Frances Lyte (1793-1847). It was published in a collection of 280 hymns based on the book of Psalms. He called it *The Spirit of the Psalms* because these hymns are not strictly translations, or paraphrased but loosely inspired by the Psalms.

This is a hymn of praise and in the first verse it tells us that God has ransomed, healed, restored, and forgiven us. The Psalmist tells us that God is “slow to chide” but Lyte adds “Swift to bless.” Queen Elizabeth II chose this hymn to be sung at her wedding in 1947.

**Jeffrey Ford,** Organist/Choirmaster



Chancel Choir is to be on summer break soon. The Chancel Choir will be singing through July 6 and then will be on break until Labor Day.

As we draw to the close of another choir year there are people that need to be thanked. **Bryan Rossman** for *being the Verger for Evensong*. **Tony Rives** for *his help as Music Librarian*. **John & Stacey McKinley** for *heading up the greeters (ushers) for Evensong*. **Robin Hood Brians, Allen Morris,** and **David Gower** for *live-streaming & recording of the services*.

After the church service on July 6 both AJ Meals and Jeffrey Ford will head to the Sewanee Church Music Conference held on the campus of the University of the South. It is there that they will sing Evensong, Sunday morning Eucharist, renew old acquaintances, and meet new people as well.

INDEPENDENCE DAY

**PICNICS**  
Sunday, July 6th

Picnics will be  
AFTER the  
10:00am service downtown in the Parish Hall  
11:05am service south under the Pavilion

Food will be provided at both venues

## THE APOSTOLIC WITNESS

New Adult Christian Formation

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

SUNDAYS AFTER THE 10:00 SERVICE IN THE GUILD HALL

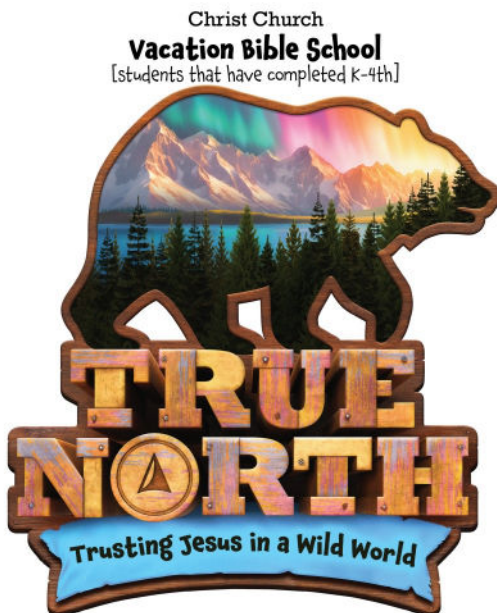
COFFEE TIME | DOWNTOWN

6/29, 7/13-8/24

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

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

The Crucifer . June 25, 2025



CHILDREN'S CORNER BIRTHDAYS!

6/27 Audrey Motto, 6/28 Cole Tiller, 6/30 Jackson Willis, 7/5 Michael Konieczsky,  
 7/8 Cora Mellon, 7/11 Gavin Johnson





THE CHOIR SCHOOL OF EAST TEXAS was founded in 2007 as an outreach program in residence at Christ Episcopal Church. Its purpose was to enhance the lives of children in the community through music with each participant auditioning at an early elementary school age and continuing through high school graduation. (*Pictured above: early days of The Choir School*)

In this program, not only would each student successfully learn to read, play, and sing music but would gain self-discipline, develop leadership qualities, and grow into a contributing member of their community. This program was offered at no cost to the families. They sang with the Chancel Choir of Christ Church every Sunday, and also traveled to St. Louis, Boston, England, and Scotland to perform in cathedrals. The program was very successful—until COVID.

Several years into the program, our Executive Director, Diana Keesey, had the dream of setting up a scholarship program, where qualified students could be given tuition awards to colleges, universities, and/or trade schools. We were able to assist quite a few students, several who were first generation graduates, and a few who have pursued advanced degrees. Through designated fundraisers, we amassed a generous bank account for these scholarships.

Now that the Choir School has been dissolved, we have given portions of the remaining funds to selected Tyler/Smith County non-profits, whose purposes are to promote education in music, arts, and drama for children and youth. The Board selected the following organizations to receive these grants:

- **East Texas Youth Orchestra** (picture 1) *for tuition scholarships and After School String Clubs for beginner string players*
- **Promise Academy** (picture 2) *for support of music programs at the school*
- **Tyler Civic Theatre Center** (picture 3) *for support of the Summer Theater Arts Review as well as providing tickets to children to attend TCTC performances*
- **Young Audiences** (picture 4) *to support programming of professional performers and artists geared toward children and youth*

In addition, a Children's and Youth Music Fund has been established within the Christ Church Endowment. This fund will provide resources for children's and youth music programs at the Downtown and South campuses. The decision to dissolve the Choir School was bittersweet. We were sad that the program had come to an end, but we celebrated the many successes we had over the years. We believe that the mission of the Choir School of East Texas will continue to be fulfilled through these organizations and the Endowment Fund. It's a win-win for all of us!—Holly Marsh, *Choir School of East Texas Secretary Treasurer*



## 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, Angela, Ben, Artimus, WF, Christian, SW, Lauren, Maggie, Jennifer, Carmen, Carolyn, Casey

**The Anglican Communion:** *The Diocese of Namibia (Southern Africa)*

**The Episcopal Church:** *Dioceses of San Diego & San Joaquin*

**Diocese of Texas:** *Church of the Redeemer & St. Timothy's—Houston*

**Congratulations on the marriage of:**

*Syndi Sonnier &  
Seph Stiles,*

son of David & Julia Stiles

June 21, 2025.

**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.

## upcoming

### WEDNESDAYS

#### **Men's Depth Group**

6:00pm | CCS

### 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

### THURSDAY | July 9 & 23

#### **Theology Study Group**

3:00pm | CCD Guild Hall

### 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)

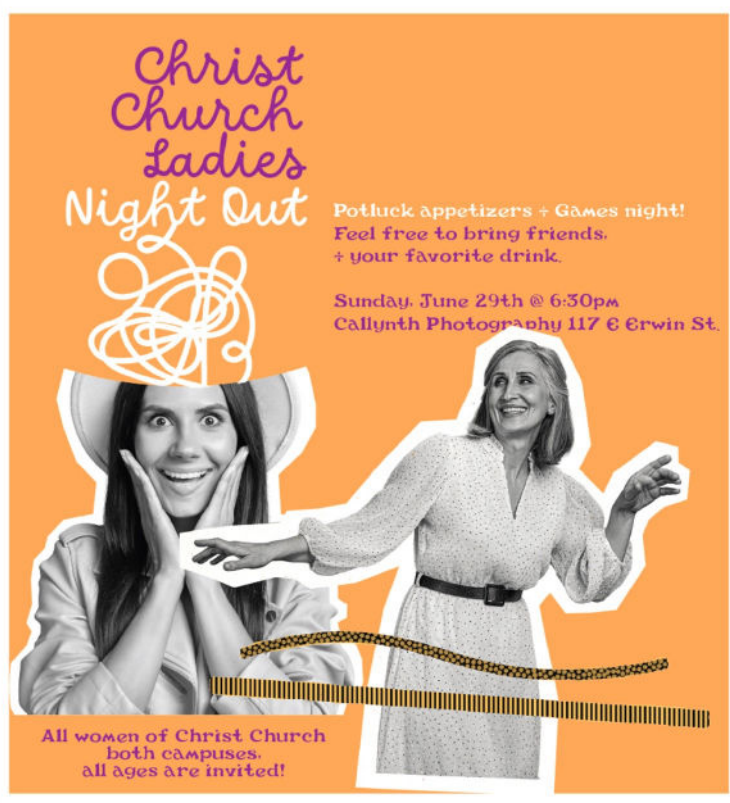
### SUNDAY | July 27

#### **Texas Rangers Ballgame**

Get your tickets at [christchurchtyler.org/rangers-game](http://christchurchtyler.org/rangers-game)

### SUNDAY | August 10

#### **Blessing of the Backpacks**





## 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 29**  
The 3rd Sunday after Pentecost | Proper 8  
1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21, Psalm 16  
Galatians 5:1, 13-25  
Luke 9:51-62

**SUNDAY, JULY 6**  
Independence Day  
Isaiah 26:1-8, Psalm 47  
Romans 13:1-10, Mark 12:13-17

## 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 The Rt. Rev. Kai Ryan  
*Bishop Suffragan 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 Ardoine  
*Parish Administrator* mardoin@christchurchtyler.org

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

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

Mrs. Sarah Jones  
*Director of Student Ministries* sjones@christchurchtyler.org

Mr. McKinley Terry  
*Student Ministries Assistant* mterry@christchurchtyler.org

Ms. Zoe Ward  
*Interim Director of Children's Ministries* zward@christchurchtyler.org

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 *Sexton*  
Mr. Anthony Moore *Sexton*  
Mr. Kendrick Milton *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.**

1 <sup>st</sup> Prize	Round of golf for four at Pine Springs Golf Club + \$25 gift certificate to the Pro Shop.
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize	\$100 gift card to Walmart
3 <sup>rd</sup> 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.*