

the Crucifer

The Newsletter of Christ Church/Episcopal

Vol. XXVII, No.14

July 30, 2025

christchurchtyler.org

FROM THE RECTOR:

*God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear though the earth
give way,
though the mountains be moved
into the heart of the sea,
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble at its swelling.*

*There is a river whose streams make glad
the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.
God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved;
God will help her when morning dawns . . .
The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.
Psalm 46.1-7*

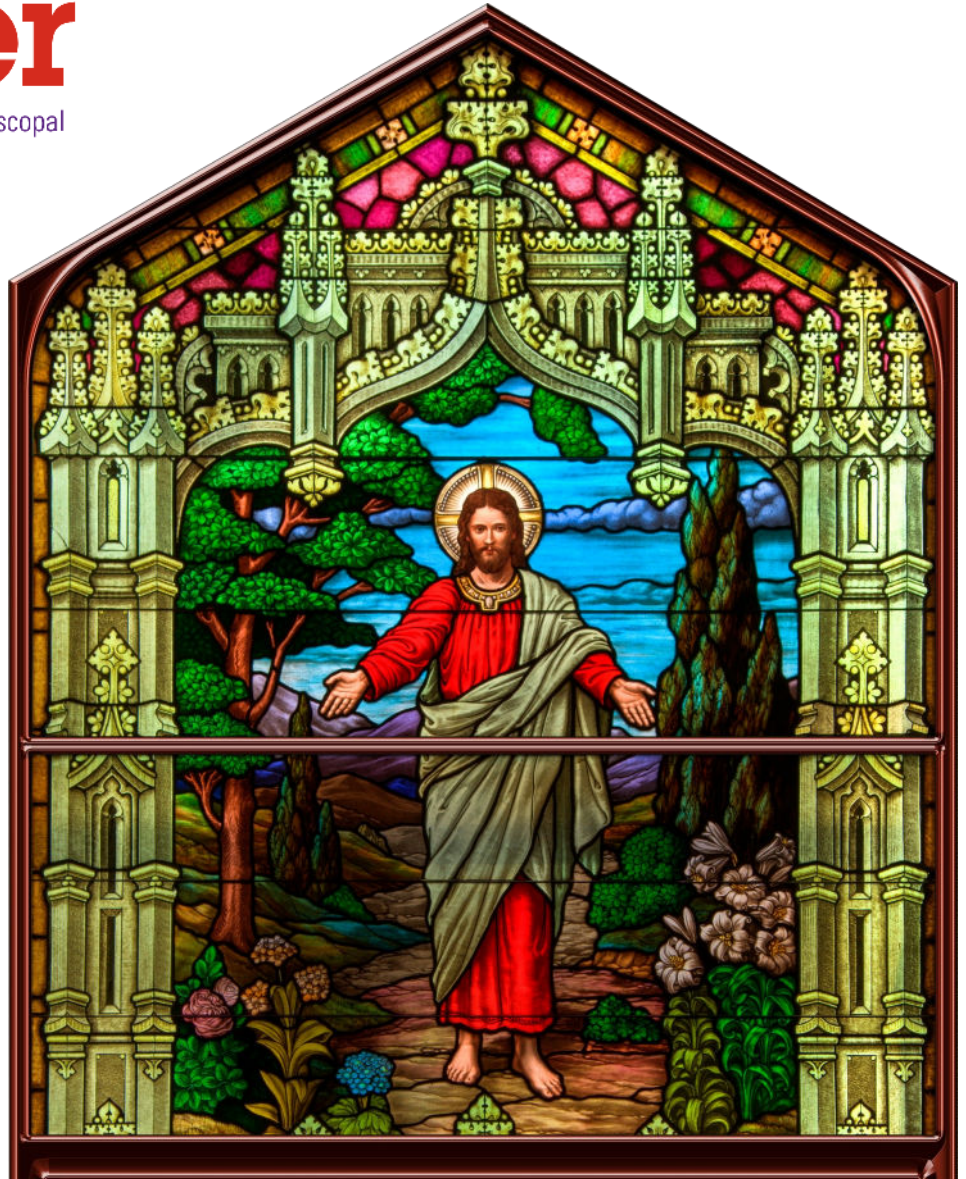
Natural disasters have always been with us.

This morning, a substantial earthquake off the western coast of Russia created a tsunami which affected coastal areas from Japan to California.

On July 4th weekend, very heavy rains in the Hill Country resulted in massive flooding on the Guadalupe River which took the lives of over 138 people, including 27 girls and counselors at Camp Mystic. And on July 13, a wildfire sparked by lightning strikes destroyed the Grand Canyon Lodge at the north rim of the Grand Canyon. Our family had reservations at the GC Lodge beginning July 17.

From earthquakes to heavy rain, from hurricanes to forest fire, devastating weather has always been a constant challenge and threat to people.

David reminds us in Psalm 46 that *'though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea'*, the Lord is with us. God is with us



in the midst of the storms of life, strengthening us, providing for us, and comforting us.

We understand that living on the Gulf Coast, in a flood plain, or along a fault line involves a heightened vulnerability to natural disasters. But there is always danger in the world. Colossians 2.6 teaches, *'Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.'*

As we walk through a world riddled with uncertainty and surprise, Jesus Christ is our foundation. Trust in Him. Walk in Him. Root your life in Christ. And give thanks for God's blessings.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

David T

"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, 35 like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. 36 Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place and to stand before the Son of Man."

— Luke 21:34-36

I recently came across this passage of Scripture during my devotional time. My practice is to follow the order for morning prayer in the *Book of Common Prayer*, usually reading the Old Testament lesson alongside of the Gospel lesson. It came up sometime in the past week or so.

I've read this passage probably hundreds of times throughout my life but something interesting struck me for the first time while I was reading it recently.

This passage is from near the end of Jesus's ministry in Luke's Gospel. Jesus is warning his disciples about his second coming, when he will return to judge the living and the dead. He tells them—and us—to "be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down." This part was familiar to me, the sense that we need to be vigilant and alert in prayer as we wait for our Lord.

But the why is what struck me. Jesus warns of three dangers, three things that might weigh us down. These are "dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life."

Since I grew up a Pentecostal Church, I quickly learned about the dangers of drunkenness and other vices. Dissipation is probably related to this, in the way it connotes wasteful, overly lavish and indulgent living.

Sometimes Pentecostals get a bad rap for overemphasizing personal holiness and thus the dangers of things like alcohol, tobacco, dancing or card playing.

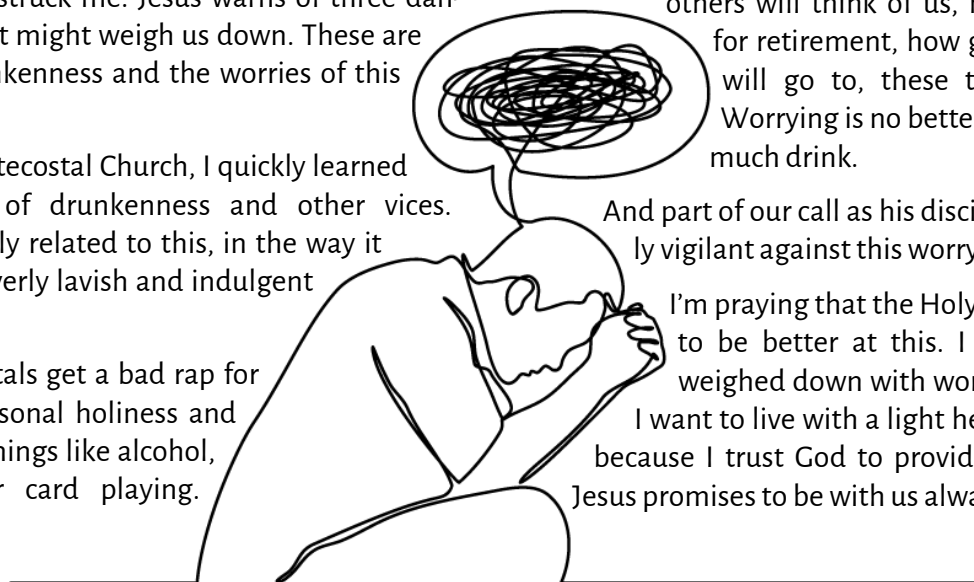
Sometimes they judge other Christians who enjoy beer or wine in moderation and set themselves up as somehow morally superior. But saying all of this, I think Pentecostals and other Christians in the Holiness tradition are right to warn of the dangers of too much drink and dissipation. Indeed, they are simply reiterating Jesus's warning here, that to give our lives over to these or any pleasure is detrimental to our souls. Immoderate love of worldly goods weighs us down, separates us from God, and keeps us from the wide-eyed wonder with which Jesus calls us to live while we wait for his appearing.

What I did not grow up seeing so clearly, however, and what struck me now, is that along with drunkenness and dissipation, it is "the worries of this life" that have a way of weighing us down. This struck me because I've often thought of worrying—something I admit I am prone to do—as the opposite of drunkenness and dissipation. These latter two are behaviours that numb us and make us to forget. But worry is an intensification, an almost frantic focus on what could go wrong. Instead of numbing us, it keys us up.

And yet Jesus is saying here that the effect is the same. Worrying about life, what we'll eat or drink or wear, what others will think of us, how well we're saving for retirement, how great a school our kids will go to, these things *weigh us down*. Worrying is no better for our souls than too much drink.

And part of our call as his disciples is to be prayerfully vigilant against this worry.

I'm praying that the Holy Spirit strengthens me to be better at this. I no more want to be weighed down with worry than anything else. I want to live with a light heart and an open hand because I trust God to provide for us, and because Jesus promises to be with us always.



THE **APOSTOLIC** WITNESS

Summer Adult Christian Formation

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

Literally, I, Holly Marsh, have sung at least one verse of every hymn in the Hymnal 1982!

(It was a fundraiser for a choir tour.) So, I have a number of favorite hymns, but when Jeffrey asked me to contribute to this article, three hymns came to my mind immediately.

Hymn 370, St. Patrick/Deirdre, "I bind unto myself today"

I have sung this many times, but one instance stands out in my memory. In February 1995, Christ Church hosted not only Diocesan Council, but also the Consecration and Installation of Bishop Claude Payne as our Diocesan Bishop. The service was held at Caldwell Auditorium. This was the processional hymn during which the diocesan clergy processed to their seats in the auditorium. It was thrilling to watch the lengthy procession and to hear 1800+ people singing as one voice. I know the hymn is challenging to sing but it's so worth the work. And verse 6 that begins with "Christ be with me, Christ within me" is a prayer unto itself.

Hymn 305, Cranham, "In the bleak midwinter"

I must have at least one Christmas hymn on my list! This hymn presents a beautiful scene of the stable on a cold December night, with angels hovering, and Mary holding the baby Jesus. I would imagine there is a painting of this scene hanging in a museum somewhere. It's a lovely scene, but it's the fourth verse that stirs so much emotion for me:

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would give a lamb,
If I were a wise man, I would do my part,
Yet what I can, I give him, give my heart.

And isn't that what Jesus wants from all of us?

Hymn 24, St. Clement, "The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended"

This is a standard hymn in our services of Evensong. One of first times I remember hearing it was when the St. Mark's Men and Boys Choir came to Christ Church to present Evensong. When the boys of the choir started singing a beautiful descant on the final verse, I could no longer sing because of my tears! It speaks of thanksgiving for the day, prayers for rest, the presence of the Church everywhere, and constant prayer.

Director: SUSIE FERGUS

Who: Children K – 5th grade

When: Wednesday Rehearsals starting Aug. 20th
5:15-6:00pm [3rd - 5th grade]
6:00-6:45pm [K-2nd grade]

Where: Christ Church Downtown



REGISTER TODAY:
christchurchtyler.org/childrens-choirs





VBS was awesome!
See the recap video at
christchurchtyler.org/vbs

CHILDREN'S CORNER BIRTHDAYS!

7/17 **Tripp Noteware**, 7/17 **Evan Birdwell**, 7/19 **Grif Hackney**, 7/19 **Allen Hansen**,
7/23 **Samuel Simmons**, 7/28 **Joss Hennigan**, 8/1 **Aiden Berthiaume**,
8/1 **Harrison Scott**, 8/2 **Dorothy Mayes**, 8/8 **Solomon Long**

Hello families! June flew by with all the activities that we had scheduled! I am looking forward to focusing on the new year and creating our fall program.

IMPORTANT

Zoe and I have partnered to do some re-organizing of children and youth ministries so we may better disciple and offer the best formation lessons we can to all age groups. **5th graders** will now stay in the children's ministry program until they enter middle school and we have created a special program just for them!

The Shepherds Program will give them the opportunity to participate in early mission work by assisting in the children's ministry classrooms and we will also have a once a month meeting after service at the South Campus. This meeting will be very similar to EYC but just for 5th graders so we can really cater our lessons to that age group. Zoe and I are excited about this new chapter and the opportunity to better prepare our 5th graders to enter EYC.

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS: *(see graphics on next page)*

08/01	4:30-6:30pm Middle School Pool Party! @ the Lollis'
08/08	4:30pm-6:30pm High School Pool Party! @ the Lollis'
08/17	12:30pm 5th Grade EYC @ CCS
08/20	6:00pm EYC 2025-2026 starts @ Downtown 4th floor



Blessing of the Backpacks!



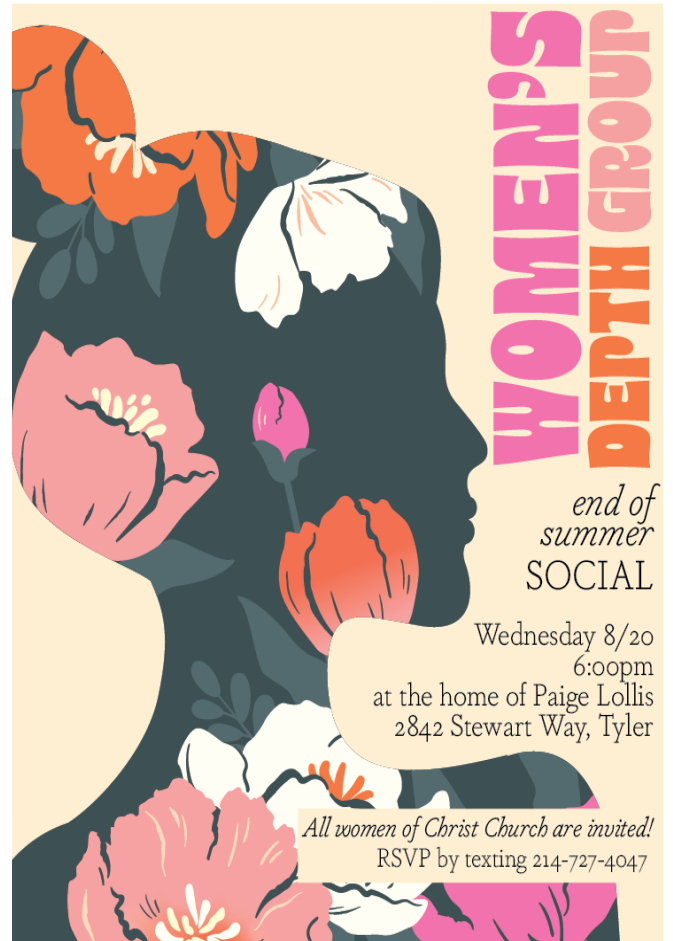
Sunday, August 10th

DOWNTOWN @ the 10:00am service & SOUTH @ the 11:05am service
2025-2026 school year is starting, let's bless our students!

EYC

2025 - 2026

begins Wednesday, August 20th
6:00pm Downtown 4th floor



thanksgivings , supplications & fellowship

In Our Prayers

Please consider including the Prayer List in your daily devotions:

Luba, Maria, Yeve, YK, Iryna, Nora, Yevgeny, Lisa, Anna Marie, Joshua, Pam, AJ, Jim, Gail, Willie, Ashley, Jeanene, Frank, Angela, Ben, Artimus, WF, Christian, SW, Lauren, Maggie, Jennifer, Carmen, Carolyn, Casey, Linda, Chris, Dalton, Mike, Mark, Marian, Ann, Naomi, Desiree, Matthew

The Anglican Communion: *The Diocese of Central New York*; **The Episcopal Church:** *Dioceses of South Dakota & South Florida*; **Diocese of Texas:** *St. Alban's, St. Thomas, & St. Bede*—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 sssti@tjc.edu.

upcoming

WEDNESDAYS through August 6th

Men's Depth Group

6:00pm | CCS

FRIDAY | August 1

Middle School Pool Party

4:30—6:30pm @ the Lollis'

FRIDAY | August 8

High School Pool Party

4:30—6:30pm @ the Lollis'

SUNDAY | August 10

Blessing of the Backpacks

THURSDAY | August 14 & 28

Theology Study Group

3:00pm | CCD Guild Hall

WEDNESDAY | August 20

Women's Depth Group Social

6:00pm | @ the Lollis'

In Memoriam

Our sympathies to the family & friends of

Patricia Chapman.

Keys of the Kingdom A Theology Study Group & Book Club

*"And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven,
and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven,
and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."*
Matthew 16:19

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.



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, AUGUST 3

The 8th Sunday after Pentecost | Proper 13
Ecclesiastes 1:12-14; 2:[1-7, 11] 18-23, Psalm 49
Colossians 3:[5-11] 12-17, Luke 12:13-21

SUNDAY, AUGUST 10

The 9th Sunday after Pentecost | Proper 14
Genesis 15:1-6, Psalm 33
Hebrews 11:1-3 [4-7] 8-16, Luke 12:32-40

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.

Christ Church
EPISCOPAL
GIFT SHOP

OPEN HOURS:

Sunday
9am—10am & 11am—11:30am

Tuesday & Thursday
11:00am—1:00pm

giftshop@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 Ardoyn
Parish Administrator mardoin@christchurchtyler.org

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Organist/Choirmaster jford@christchurchtyler.org

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

Mrs. Sarah Jones
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Mr. McKinley Terry
Student Ministries Assistant mterry@christchurchtyler.org

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

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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 epiphanytx@gmail.com

Ms. Jennifer Ducote *Sexton*
Mr. Anthony Moore *Sexton*
Mr. Kendric 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.



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 *through September 7*

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.*