

FROM THE RECTOR:

Over seven hundred years before the Incarnation of Christ, the prophet Isaiah spoke the word of God to the Israelites. This was a season of profound change for God's people—from a season of affluence and peace under King Uzziah to the experience of defeat and humiliation at the hands of the Assyrians.

Isaiah is the first of the Major Prophets in the Bible. For over 2,000 years, God has used Isaiah to encourage, exhort, rebuke, correct, and inspire the people of God.

God also called Isaiah to an essential role—preparing the world for the coming of Christ.

God gave the prophet a vision of the Messiah—the 'Anointed One'. Isaiah paints three powerful portraits of the Christ—the King (1-37), the Servant (38-55), and the Anointed Ruler (56-66).

Some of the most powerful passages in all the Scriptures are found in Isaiah. In Isaiah 9, for instance, the prophet shares,

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and for evermore.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.



Beginning Sunday September 14, Christ Church is offering a new Adult Formation Class—Isaiah: Preparing for the Messiah. Each week this autumn, we will gather at 10:00 in the Ascension Room at our historic downtown campus and in the Adult Formation Room at Christ Church South to learn from Isaiah about God's will for our lives.

Please join us as we begin this exciting new study of the Prophet Isaiah!

Faithfully in Christ Jesus,

David

Isaiah paints three distinct "portraits" of the Messiah:

**the King (1-37) | the Servant (38-55)
the Anointed Conqueror (56-66)**

This summer, while visiting our family in Canada, we spent a lot of time walking along the beaches of the Bay of Fundy. The Bay of Fundy experiences some of the highest tides in the world, with fluctuation of over 50 feet between low tide and high tide occurring twice daily. In some places, when the tide is low, you can walk out over half a mile onto the ocean floor. Six hours later, there might be only a slim 6 or 7 feet of sand until the tide starts to drag out again.

At Bayshore Beach in Saint John, a short walk from where we were staying, we tried to head out at both high tide and low tide to walk along the shore. This kind of walk was not always easy, because, though there are patches of fine sand, there are also places where you have to walk over small rocks and boulders. It makes for a painful walk going barefoot and is difficult even with shoes on. If you're not careful, you can sprain your ankle.

If you try to skirt the worst of the rocks by walking in the water, your legs start to go numb. I am not sure exactly how cold the water was this past month, but I read online it usually warms to a balmy 46F, even in the height of summer.

I found the most pleasant walking was just a few feet out from the edge of the water. This sand tended to be the most stable and solid. If you're careful of the waves, you can keep your shoes on without getting soaked. Walking too much away from the edge of the water and the sand and rocks are treacherous, and walking too close to the water means icy wet feet. Staying near the edge there is a way, one that is always shifting with the tide, but stable and easygoing, nonetheless.

As I was walking along this slim path, I couldn't help thinking about the Christian life. My experience of the life of faith has taught me that very often the way forward following Jesus requires just this kind of balance, staying right near the edge of faith, without straying toward gullibility on the one side or skepticism on the other.

What do I mean by this? I think what I am trying to say is that so much of faith is staying near the edge of uncertainty and discomfort. I am tempted to have an overly saccharine view of faith, in which I assume everything will work out fine. But this kind of naïve faith leads to disillusionment when reality catches up. Life is not always so straightforward as I'd like it to be. Experience is like that cold ocean water when it catches you off guard.

But the temptation in the opposite direction is not to bother with faith at all, because any time we trust God to provide for us, to lead us, we are vulnerable. All trust involves some kind of vulnerability. And so we keep Jesus at arm's length, a little like walking far away from the water's edge. You can do it for a while, but life is unnecessarily onerous and difficult.

Instead, Jesus invites us to walk in the way of the cross, in the way of vulnerability. This means trusting God will provide, staying close to the edge, but also having a sober mind about where the cross leads. Death. But also resurrection. Not always easy, but a way forward, the best way forward. The way of the cross becomes the way of life.





**2025 Sewanee Church Music
Conference**

The University of the South
Sewanee, TN July 2025

Pictured:

Jeffrey Ford

current Organist/ Choirmaster of Christ Church

Donald Duncan

former Organist/ Choirmaster of Christ Church

Bill Bane

Organist/ Choirmaster of Trinity, Longview

A. J. Meals

Assistant Organist at Christ Church.



Please join September 7th

FAITH IN ACTION,
our **MINISTRY SUNDAY**

Come peruse information about our various ministries.

DOWNTOWN 9am in the Parish Hall

SOUTH CAMPUS 10:00am

followed by:

11:15 **DEDICATION** of

our beautiful new Children's Chapel

STAINED GLASS WINDOWS | Downtown



Our first **5th Gear** was Sunday, August 17th, and we had an absolute blast! Each month during the school year, we will be teaching the kids about a Fruit of the Spirit. This month, we started off strong by talking about love. We taught the kids a bit of Greek vocabulary (agape, anyone?) and examined a few examples in the Bible where knowing the Greek word helps us better understand the context. We are also taking advantage of the time to answer questions the kids have about faith in general, and this month's question was part 1 of the question "What do angels look like?".

During this time, we are also launching our **Shepherd Program**, which is a new opportunity for youth to give back to Christ Church. This is an optional application-based program that begins in 5th grade. Each child will go through the application process, building confidence as they experience what an application process is like. Once chosen, each child will be able to volunteer alongside an adult volunteer within the children's ministry. We want this program to teach children what it means to be an active member of a church community. It's not just about attending on a Sunday; it's about getting involved.

CHILDREN'S CORNER BIRTHDAYS!

9/2 **Tyler Jensen**, 9/3 **Sarah Weissmann**,
9/5 **Harrison Carr**, 9/6 **Brady Lawhorn**



Summer is officially over! We had a great send off for it with a high school and middle school pool party. Thank you to the Lollis' for opening their home to us.



EYC is back! McKinley and I are enjoying seeing all of our youth back from summer vacations and adventures. This year our EYC lessons will focus on the Holy Spirit. We will cover one fruit of the Spirit every month and really dig into how these show up in our world. I am excited about our program this year!



BRICK STREET BLOCK PARTY is Sunday, October 19 from 5-7pm

This is a community outreach we are putting on with Marvin and First Baptist. This family friendly event features carnival rides, kids and youth games, community resources, and food. Please come and bring family and friends! We will be providing the food for this year's event and volunteers are still needed. Please reach out to Sarah Jones if you can help.

NEW CHRISTIAN FORMATION | FALL 2025

NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 14TH

10:00AM AT BOTH CAMPUSES


THE BOOK OF ISAIAH



CONFIRMATION:

October 26, 2025 | CCS
with Bishop Fisher

Preparation classes begin
Sunday 9/14 | 10:00am CCS



WOMEN'S DEPTH GROUP

WDG begins **September 17th** & will meet the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays
6:00 p.m. at the South Campus

We will study together
Life Lessons from John: When God Became Man by Max Lucado.
For more info & to sign up go to: www.christchurchtyler.org/wdg





Education for Ministry {EfM}

FALL 2025 REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Classes Start Tuesday, September 9th, 2025

For more information
www.christchurchtyler.org/efm
or contact

George Lollis 214-727-1800 or Judy Rogers 210-364-3075



Picnic Under the Pavilion

Last Sunday of the Month
Immediately Following
South Campus Service
Bring your lunch for fun and fellowship

Supper Club

Join us!

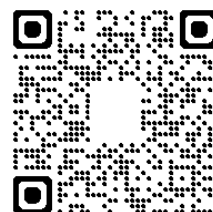
6:00pm Friday,
September 12



large group
RSVP by Sept. 5th:
christchurchtyler.org/supper-club



Men, please scan QR code
below & take the survey.



In Our Prayers

Please consider including the Prayer List in your daily devotions:

Luba, Maria, Yeva, 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, Frank, Carol, Amanda, Daniel, Warren

The Anglican Communion: *The Diocese of Ogorimagongo (Nigeria)*

The Episcopal Church: *Dioceses of Southwest Florida & Southwestern Virginia*

Diocese of Texas: *Hope Episcopal—Houston, Christ the King—Humble*

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

SUNDAY | September 7

Faith in Action | Ministry Sunday

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

Stained Glass Window Dedication

11:15am | CCD Children's Chapel

TUES & THURS | September 9 & 11

Bible Study with the Rector Resumes

SUNDAY | September 14

Regular Service Times resume

7:30am | 9:00am | 11:00am CCD

Christian Formation 10:00am

5th Gear [5th Grade Program]

12:30pm | CCS

WEDNESDAY | September 17

Women's Depth Group

6:00pm | CCS

SUNDAY | September 21 & 28

First Communion Class (2nd—5th grade)

10:00am Downtown

THURSDAY | September 25

Theology Study Group

3:00pm | CCD Guild Hall

SUNDAY | October 5

Blessing of the Pets

3:00pm Bergfeld Park

SUNDAY | October 19

Brick Street Block Party

(more info to come)

Congratulations on the baptism of:

Clara Irene Brians

daughter of Mary & Christopher Brians,
granddaughter of
Suzanne & Robin Hood Brains,

Oliver Michael Price

son of Cambridge & Scott Price,
grandson of Susan & Michael Bosworth,
&

Joanna Grace Truitt

daughter of Rachel & Garrett Truitt

August 24, 2025

In Memoriam

Our sympathies to the
family & friends of

Jefferson Gage Stillwell,

son of Sheri Danielson.



Church office closed Labor Day—Monday 9/1

REGULAR SERVICE TIMES RESUME Downtown

Sunday, September 14th

7:30am / 9:00am / 11:00am

10:00am Christian Formation

Christ Church
EPISCOPAL
GIFT SHOP

giftshop@christchurchtyler.org

OPEN HOURS:

Sunday

9am—10am & 11am—11:30am

Tuesday & Thursday

10:00am—12:00pm

THE VESTRY

Mr. Bill Clawater, *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 Bufo
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 31

The 12th Sunday after Pentecost | Proper 17
Sirach 10:7-11 | 12-18, Psalm 112,
Hebrews 13:1-8, Luke 14:1, 7-14

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

The 13th Sunday after Pentecost | Proper 18
Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Psalm 1,
Philemon 1-20, Luke 14:25-33

Holy Baptism



The next scheduled dates for baptism is Sunday, Nov 2.
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 Ardoyn
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
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. 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.

REGULAR SERVICE TIMES RESUME

Sunday, September 14, 2025 Downtown

7:30am Holy Eucharist - Rite I

9:00am Holy Eucharist - Rite II

10:00am Christian Formation - The Book of Isaiah

11:00am Holy Eucharist - Rite I





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.*