

the Crucifer

The Newsletter of Christ Church/Episcopal

Vol. XXVII, No.23

December 3, 2025

christchurchtyler.org

FROM THE RECTOR:

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9.4f

Over these coming weeks, in communities and congregations across the world, Christians will gather in naves and sanctuaries, around altars and family tables to celebrate anew the Incarnation of Jesus Christ. Centuries before the Holy family traveled to Bethlehem, Isaiah was given a prophetic word about who was coming – the Prince of Peace.

This untitled poem penned by Martin Luther 500 years ago is a timeless response to the coming of Christ – gratefulness, joy, and thanksgiving.

‘Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,
Make thee a bed, soft, undefiled,
Within my heart, that it may be
A quiet chamber kept for Thee.
My heart for very joy doth leap,
My lips no more can silence keep,
I too must sing, with joyful tongue,
That sweetest ancient cradle song,
Glory to God in highest heaven,
Who unto man His Son hath given
While angels sing with pious mirth.
A glad new year to all the earth.’

I pray that your heart will overflow this Advent with the love of Jesus.

May the Lord bless you and your family with a blessed Advent and a joyful Christmas!

Faithfully in Christ Jesus,

David +



When I was in Scotland a couple summers ago, there were some pretty gloomy and drizzly days. I happen to like this kind of weather. I like that it is cool and fresh. I like how the rain makes all of the colors look more saturated. Plus, after some scorching weeks in Tyler, it was a relief to be somewhere that felt different.

I can imagine though, for folks who live in Scotland year round, the grey, drizzly weather might start to get old. I am sure they dream of sunshine and warmth and blue skies in the same way I was longing for cold weather. Looking ahead to a long winter full of dark and rainy days can be depressing. While New Brunswick is actually quite bright because of the winter sun, I remember a similar claustrophobic feeling that set in around the middle of January. I was staring down a long and icy tunnel that would not lighten until May.

There was a chatty bus driver in Edinburgh who introduced himself as "Dougie." While he took us to our destination he talked about the frequent rain in an interesting way. He said he actually loved the rain, or as he called it, "*liquid sunshine*," because it was what kept Scotland so green and verdant, kept the rivers flowing, and at least some of this *liquid sunshine* made it into the still where it turned to whiskey.



I don't know much about Dougie, but I like the way he talked about long, dreary stretches of time that might be a bit of a drag for others. His reframing the rain as "*liquid sunshine*" helped me to see, at least, that it was actually *for* something, even setting aside the whiskey. This rain led to green, almost glowing beauty. Scotland was such a pleasant place when the sun shone because the long days of rain had made it lush. The rain was preparing the landscape for those beautiful sun-shiny days ahead, making sure they gleamed all the more.

I think this is a good way to think about Advent. Advent has its gloom and darkness, but this is only to give way to the light. We are in a season in the Church year where we are preparing for the brilliant and beautiful celebration of Christmas. Sometimes we are so eager to celebrate this great feast of Christ's birth that we begin before December starts. But there is something good about holding back, waiting, letting the long Advent hours do their work of preparation.

Taking time for silence, reflection, penitence, and longing, while not fun and festive, will make Christmas day shine all the brighter. There will still be plenty of time to feast and celebrate. Just not quite yet. God has something to teach us while we learn to wait expectantly.

LOVING OUR NEIGHBORS: *Supporting* TYLER STREET TEAM



The parable of the Good Samaritan is documented in Luke 10:25-37. Christ Church's Callynth Finney was the Good Samaritan in February 2021. She recognized the risk of impending severe freezing weather to Tyler's unsheltered people and launched an effort that was able to protect 177 people from the deadly cold and house them "in the inn" until the peril passed.

That validation that people who are without housing are our neighbors launched the Tyler Street Team that thrives today. We as Christ Church parishioners have the opportunity to participate as Good Samaritans by joining the TST in contributing our time, talent, and treasures to provide our unsheltered neighbors with personal contact and acceptance, items of basic living, and agape love. Three hundred people need our help at any one time. They need

tents, blankets, coats, food, and basic items of life to sustain themselves in an environment that is not always friendly.

As followers of Jesus, we have the opportunity to be Good Samaritans and participate. Through Facebook, you are able to be connected and contribute what you can. This team meets people where they are and helps to sustain life in very difficult circumstances.



To join the **active volunteer Facebook page**:
www.facebook.com/share/g/1QGM8RugjN/?mibextid=wwXlfr



To **give a monetary donation**:
<https://givebutter.com/lSeSbn>

To find out more about getting involved:
info@tylerstreetteam.org



TUESDAYS *in*
ADVENT NOON-TIME CONCERT SERIES
followed by a light lunch

CHRIST CHURCH TYLER
Downtown
118 S. BOIS D'ARC | 12:00PM

Tuesday DECEMBER 9
WESTON JENNINGS & FRIENDS
harpsichord & more

Tuesday DECEMBER 16
LORI SMITH & FRIENDS
harp, organ, strings & soprano

**Tidings
of Joy**

*The Service of Nine
Lessons & Carols*
**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7
6:00PM**

Christmas Under the Bridge
December 20 5-8 pm
Where: 300 E Valentine St, Tyler
Under Gentry Parkway Bridge
Fun and Games for the Whole Family!

HUNGER FOR Love

Living Nativity | Santa's Toy Tent
Children's Activities | Jesus Closet
Live Entertainment | Sweets and Treats
Ruby's Food Truck

**CHRISTMAS UNDER THE BRIDGE
TOY DRIVE!**

Join us in supporting Hunger4Love's Christmas Under the Bridge by donating a new, unwrapped toy. It will be given out by Santa to sweet little boys and girls on December 20th between 5:00pm-8:00pm under the Gentry Bridge.

Your gift can be brought to either campus and placed in the box provided in the front. The deadline for toy box pickup is Dec. 17. Your support brings delight and smiles to many children during the Christmas Season. Thank you for your generosity.

For further information contact:
Lynne Bordeaux: 512-608-2171.
Merry Christmas & Thank You.



You are invited to participate in the celebration of Christmas at Christ Church through the **CHRISTMAS FLOWER & MUSIC FUND.**

Scan the QR code, or go to this link:

www.christchurchtyler.org/christmas-flower-donation
or complete the form (find at the front desk) if you wish to contribute to the placement of poinsettias in the church or help to underwrite the music presented on Christmas Eve.
Deadline 12/14



children's ministry
Zoe Montes
Director of Children's Ministry

zward@christchurchtyler.org

Christmas Pageant

Parent Volunteers **NEEDED!**
christchurchtyler.org/christmas-pageant



CHILDREN'S CORNER BIRTHDAYS!

12/9 Adeline Henninger, 12/10 Kyle Ashley
12/15 Beckett Patterson, 12/17 Blayke Harrison
12/21 Anderson Pippin

Help NEEDED!!!

During the holiday season...for Sunday school,
& nursery as well as the pageant!

Contact Zoe if you can help:
zward@christchurchtyler.org

WEAR AN UGLY CHRISTMAS SWEATER!



Caroling in the Azalea District

6:00PM SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13TH

MEET BY THE STAGE AT BERGFELD PARK.

student ministry
Stan Ward,
Director of Spiritual Formation



Howdy, Christ Church Tyler!

For those who haven't met me yet, my name is Dr. Stan Ward, and I'm excited to join the ministry team here at Christ Church in Tyler after several years as an active lay-person.

I started attending Christ Church's South Campus in 2017, and found it to be a welcoming and spiritually refreshing community. Since then, I've volunteered as a lay minister and Bible study leader for the last several years, spent a few years on the Vestry, and also enjoyed getting to know the men of the church through the Men's Summer Depth Group.

In this new role I hope to help Christ Church build up a youth ministry team of volunteers, college interns, and staff that work together to grow in Christ alongside our teenagers and their families. We will pursue that goal with an emphasis on knowing Jesus, loving our neighbors, and studying scripture together. Powerful transformation happens when we do these things in community.

As the parent of two (wonderful!) 20-something daughters, I'm aware of how challenging raising children can be. So, I want to make sure our ministry efforts extend to include parents as well as their children. We have so many young families, and I hope to support them in their high calling of raising children who become adults that choose to follow our Lord's example and commandments in gratitude for His gift of salvation.

Blessings!



Advent

December 2-16th | 12:00pm Tuesdays

Tidings of Joy Concert Series

followed by a light lunch

Christ Church **Downtown**

11:30am *Praying the Anglican Rosary*

December 4-18th | 12:00pm Thursdays

1928 Holy Eucharist

Christ Church **Downtown**

December 7th | 6:00pm

Service of Nine Lessons & Carols+

Christ Church **Downtown**

December 13th | 6:00pm

Caroling in the Azalea District

Meet at Bergfeld Park Stage

December 21st | 11:05am

Christ Church **South**

Children's Christmas Pageant+

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

*This was the true Light that,
coming into the world,
enlightens every person.
John 1:9*

Christmas

Christmas Eve - December 24th

Christ Church **Downtown**

4:00pm **Children's Christmas Pageant+**

7:30pm **Christmas Eve Eucharist+~**

10:30pm **Service of Lessons & Carols; THE SOLEMN EUCHARIST~**

Christmas Day - December 25th

Christ Church **Downtown**

10:00am **Holy Eucharist**

+ Nursery Available

~ Candlelight Service

 **CHRIST**
CHURCH • EPISCOPAL
Advent & Christmas 2023

In Our Prayers

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

Luba, Maria, Yeva, YK, Iryna, Nora, Yevgeny, Lisa, Anna Marie, Fred, Owen

The Anglican Communion: *The Diocese of Rumonge (Burundi)*; **The Episcopal Church:** *Dioceses of West Missouri & West Tennessee*
Diocese of Texas: *St. Mary's—Lampasas & St. John's—LaPorte*

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

TUESDAYS IN ADVENT | December 9, 16

Tidings of Joy Concerts

Noon | Downtown in the Nave

followed by light lunch in the Parish Hall

THURSDAYS IN ADVENT | December 4, 11, 18

1928 Eucharist

Noon | CCD

SUNDAY | December 7

Coffee Time

10:00am Downtown in the Guild Hall

Welcome reception for Stan Ward

Service of Nine Lessons & Carols

6:00pm in the Nave | CCD

TUESDAY | December 9

DOK Christmas Party

5:30-7 @ the home of Melissa Day

2820 Pecan Drive, Tyler

THURSDAY | December 11

Keys to the Kingdom | Theology Book Study

3:00pm Downtown in the Guild Hall

*RSVP office@christchurchtyler.org

SATURDAY | December 13

Primetimers Theater Outing

**if you purchased tickets, they can be picked up at the Parish Secretary's desk downtown.*

2:30 Tyler Civic Theater (see graphic below)

Caroling in the Azalea District

6:00pm meet at Bergfeld Park Stage

SUNDAY | December 14

5th Gear [5th Grade Program]

12:30pm | CCS

SUNDAY | December 21st

Children's Christmas Pageant

11:05am Christ Church South

WEDNESDAY | Christmas Eve - December 24th

Church offices close at noon & reopen December 29th

Christ Church Downtown

4:00pm **Children's Christmas Pageant**

7:30pm **Christmas Eve Eucharist**

10:30pm **Candlelight Service**

THURSDAY | Christmas Day - December 25th

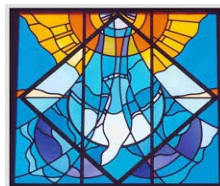
10:00am **Holy Eucharist**

Christ Church Downtown

SUNDAY | December 28 & January 4

7:30am & 10:00am **Holy Eucharist** | CCD

11:05am **Holy Eucharist** | CCS

Holy Baptism

The next scheduled date for

baptisms is Sunday, 1.11.26

If interested in baptism on this date,

please contact the church office,

903-597-9854 or

office@christchurchtyler.org.



Next one: Dec 7th

Holiday Church Office Hours:

December 24, 29-31

8:30-noon

December 25-26 &

January 1 & 2, 2026

Closed

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*

~DECEMBER 11~

3:00 - 4:30pm | resuming 2nd & 4th Thursdays in 2026

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: *Confessions* by Augustine of Hippo

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, DECEMBER 7

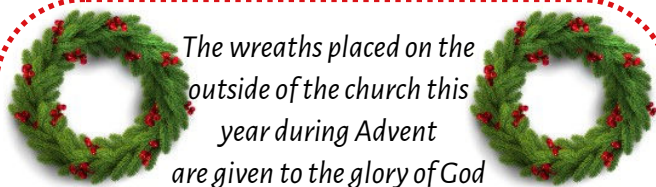
Advent 2

Isaiah 11:1-10, Psalm 72,
Romans 15:4-13, Matthew 3:1-12

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

Advent 3

Isaiah 35:1-10, Psalm 146,
James 5:7-10, Matthew 11:2-11



The wreaths placed on the
outside of the church this
year during Advent
are given to the glory of God
and in memory of the departed women of Christ Church,

Betsey Bradberry	Marilyn Glass
Sally Marsh	Patricia Chapman
Frieda Colfelt	Lynne Short
Marilyn Chionsini	Mary Neill
Lisa Sweeney	Dot Thrower

by the Episcopal Church Women.

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

Mrs. Michael Osburn
Parish Administrator mardoin@christchurchtyler.org

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

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

Dr. Stan Ward
Director of Spiritual Formation for Students & Families sward@christchurchtyler.org

Mr. McKinley Terry
Assistant Director of Student Ministries mterry@christchurchtyler.org

Mrs. Zoe Montes
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.

Christ Church
EPISCOPAL
GIFT SHOP

OPEN HOURS:

Sunday 9am—11am

Tuesday & Thursday 10:00am—1:00pm



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

Sunday Worship Services

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

9:00am **CCD:** The Holy Eucharist *Rite II*

11:00am **CCD:** The Holy Eucharist *Rite I*

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.*