

the Crucifer

The Newsletter of Christ Church/Episcopal

Vol. XXVIII, No.2

January 28, 2026

christchurchtyler.org

FROM THE RECTOR:

The 2026 Winter Olympics are approaching.

I especially appreciate hearing stories of the Olympians and the hard work they invest to compete against the world's best every four years. In 1972 for instance, US figure skater Janet Lynn knew she had no chance at the gold medal—she had been defeated by Austria's Trixie Schuba in the early rounds. She was saddened by her performance and prayed to God, "I wanted to do it for You, my nation, and my coach."

Janet thought, "Perhaps there's a bigger purpose to my skating, to show God's love and express the gift for skating he gave me." With that attitude, she skated. Then the unthinkable happened—Janet fell to the ice. As millions watched from around the world, the crowd grew very quiet. "I was able to keep smiling," she recalls. Janet stood and skated on with a great smile on her face. The crowd roared its support for the perseverance and attitude of this American figure skater. Janet's smile became a memorable image from the Games. As one Tokyo hotel employee explained, her smile and attitude meant "there is hope, even in failure."

Winter is a season which demands perseverance. We have experienced a bit of this through the recent freeze.

In Epiphany, we remember the gritty endurance of the wise men, who traveled for many weeks through many trials following the light of a bright star.

As we endure the winter weather and the difficulties which might come our way, remember the encouragement of Lamentations 3:

*The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases;
His mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.
The LORD is my portion, says my soul, therefore I will hope in Him.
The LORD is good to those who wait for Him, to the soul who seeks Him.*

I pray that in the midst of the trials you face, you will draw hope from the love and faithfulness of Christ Jesus.

Faithfully Yours in Him,

David



On a bookshelf in my office, high in one corner, sits a stuffed ALF toy. ALF (which stands for “Alien Life Form”), if you don’t remember, is the name given to the 80s television character Gordon Shumway, a furry alien who crash lands on earth and takes up residence with an American family.

The thing is, when I was a kid, I was terrified of ALF. I seldom watched the show and never found it particularly scary. But when I was walking home from the bus stop or had to go to the basement in the night, I had this sinking feeling that someone was following me, ready to pounce. And that someone was ALF. The possibility of him catching me and (and... what? I’m still not sure...) felt terribly real. I never felt unreasonable fearing that he would chase me down.

At some point, I grew out of my fear for ALF. And when, as an adult, I found this nifty toy for sale at thrift store, I decided to purchase it and keep it around, to help me remember how silly my old fear was. Since then, I’ve kept it on a bookshelf, a kind of playful reminder that not everything that feels scary is in fact something to be afraid of.

The one hitch in all of this, though, is that one of my sons (I won’t name him) has developed his own fear of ALF. His fear is not based on the TV show which he has never seen, but on the creepy stuffed toy in my office.

Here is the difference between his experience and mine, though: As he grows up, I’ve been teaching him that ALF is not something he needs to be afraid of. I’ve been teaching him that I used to be afraid of ALF, and in fact he is harmless. In due time, I plan to pass on this stuffed toy to him, so he can keep it on his shelf, and remember that there was nothing to fear. I pray his children will be completely inoculated from any fear of ALF.

In the book of Isaiah, the Lord tells his people this: “Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you; I will help you; I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.” Because God will never forsake or abandon his people they can live without fear.

Look, there are many things we might have good reason to be afraid of. Getting a terrible disease, losing a loved one, being in a terrible car accident, these are all awful things. But being chased by a puppet from an old TV show is not one of those things.

In fact, though, if God is with us, if he will help us, we don’t need to be afraid of anything. We can be cautious and prudent, but we don’t have to live in fear. And sometimes the way we minister to each other as Christians is by sharing about the fears we’ve left behind. I can teach my son that ALF won’t hurt him because I have learned he won’t hurt me.

If you lived through cancer, or job loss, or the loss of a spouse, you might be the person God is calling to walk beside another down this path, helping them to see that whatever grief they might be facing, they don’t have to be afraid, that God is with them as he was with you, and that he will bring them through, just like he did for you.



Choral Evensong

February 22, 2026 | 6:00 p.m.

Downtown in the Nave

Featuring the combined choirs of
**the Christ Church Chancel Choir &
the Patriot Singers** of UT Tyler.

Under the direction of **Dr. Cameron Rose**, conductor
and **A.J. Meals**, organist

Music to include:

Psalm 103: 1-11, *Benedic anima mea*, Kellow J. Pye
Preces, The Lord's Prayer and Responses, Martin Neary
Magnificat and Nunc dimittis, Charles Wood
Anthem: *Treasures in Heaven*, Joseph W. Clokey
Anthem: *God So Loved The World*, John Stainer

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

Offering will support our Ukrainian Family

ASH WEDNESDAY
Imposition of Ashes
Christ Church Downtown
February 18, 2026
7:00am, Noon & 6:00pm*

*childcare available

LENTEN LECTURE & LUNCH SERIES

Practices of PRAYER

TUESDAYS IN LENT
BEGINNING FEBRUARY 24TH
AT NOON IN THE NAVE
followed by a light lunch

CHRIST CHURCH DOWNTOWN

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

The Crucifer . January 28, 2026

zward@christchurchtyler.org



Sunday, February 15
12:30pm @ CCS

CHILDREN'S CORNER BIRTHDAYS!

1/23 James Meals
1/24 Louisa Boyd
1/28 Emmi Ingram
1/29 Carter Boyd

student ministry
Stan Ward,
Director of Spiritual Formation

sward@christchurchtyler.org

CONFIRMATION FOR YOUTH IN 2026

- WHO - STUDENTS 8TH GRADE AND UP ALONG WITH A PARENT OR GUARDIAN
- WHAT - YOUTH CONFIRMATION CLASSES WITH INTERACTIVE LEARNING, CONVERSATIONS, AND COMPETITIONS BETWEEN STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS.
- WHEN - 10AM SUNDAYS, FEBRUARY 8 - MAY 3
- WHERE - CHRIST CHURCH DOWNTOWN AND SOUTH CAMPUS (ALTERNATING EACH MONTH)
- WHY - PARENT PARTICIPATION IN FAITH FORMATION IS A LEADING INDICATOR OF WHETHER OR NOT A YOUNG PERSON WILL CONTINUE TO CLAIM THEIR FAITH AS ADULTS. OTHER EPISCOPAL CHURCHES ARE USING THIS MODEL AND FIND IT SUCCESSFUL.

HOW TO GET STARTED:

(1) COMPLETE THIS BRIEF FORM AT WWW.CHRISTCHURCHTYLER.ORG/YOUTH-CONFIRMATION TO LET US KNOW OF YOUR INTEREST. (2) PLAN TO ATTEND THE PARENT INFORMATION MEETING ON ~~SUNDAY, JANUARY 25,~~ **February 1st** DOWNTOWN AT 10AM OR SOUTH CAMPUS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING CHURCH SERVICES.





MARDI GRAS

Tues, Feb 17 | 5:30- 7:30pm

George Faber & Friends

Christ Church
DOWNTOWN
118 S. Bois d'Arc

Tickets available online
or at the door.

\$10 [age 11 & up]
\$5 [children 4-10 yr]
[free age 3 & under]
\$25 family

Includes:
The fantastic sounds of
George Faber & Friends

Robin Hood's
Lafayette Style
Cajun Turkey Gumbo
& Seafood Gumbo

Gumbo served over rice,
with garlic bread,
salad & King's Cake.

Hot Dogs & chips for children.
Activities for children & youth.

Cash wine bar.

FUN
for the entire
FAMILY!

KIDS & YOUTH
• eat with parents
• youth head to 4th floor
• kids head to 1st floor

christchurchtyler.org/mardi-gras




New SUNDAY Adult CHRISTIAN FORMATION
10:00am both campuses

2 Corinthians



Do you want one
of these nametags?

Please go to
christchurchtyler.org/nametags
for more information.



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, Gil, Mark, Jennifer, Cindy, Earl, Linda, Mike, Mark, Dalton, Marian, Jerry, Stella, Dale, Kirby, Patty, Sarah, Ben, Joshua, Helen, Carlin, Brinley, Martha, Cooper

The Anglican Communion: *The Diocese of Springfield;*

The Episcopal Church: *Dioceses of Western Kansas & Western Louisiana*

Diocese of Texas: *St. Stephen's—Liberty & St. Luke's—Lindale*

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.

In Memoriam

Our sympathies to the family & friends of

Irene Wolff,
sister of Anthony Moore.

Congratulations on the baptism of:

Jack & Ellie Houlette

son & daughter of Jackie Houlette
Downtown

Lily Mak Saigusa

daughter of Elsa & Mak Saigusa
South Campus

January 11, 2026

upcoming

SUNDAY | February 1

Coffee Time

10:00am Downtown in the Guild Hall

TUESDAY | February 10

DOK Meeting

5:30-7 @ the home of Lisa Odom
607 Rusk St. Tyler

THURSDAY | February 12 & 26

Keys to the Kingdom | Theology Book Study

3:00pm Downtown in the Guild Hall

*RSVP office@christchurchtyler.org

TUESDAY | February 17

MARDI GRAS see graphic on page 5

5:30 | CCD Parish Hall

SUNDAY | February 15

5th Gear [5th Grade Program]

12:30pm | CCS

WEDESDAY | February 18

ASH WEDNESDAY

Holy Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes | CCD

7:00am, noon, 6:00pm

THURSDAYS IN LENT | February 19, 26 March

1928 Eucharist

Noon | CCD

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Choral Evensong

6pm | CCD

TUESDAYS IN LENT | February 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24

Lenten Lecture & Lunch (see graphic on page 3)

Noon | Downtown in the Nave

followed by light lunch in the Parish Hall



Next one: Feb 1

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: Thomas Aquinas: *The Dumb Ox* by GK Chesterton

THE VESTRY

Mr. Bill Clawater, *Treasurer*
 Mr. Tim Alexander, *Asst. Treasurer*
 CLASS OF 2026
 Mr. Ashley Bracken, Mr. John Bufe
 Ms. Joyce McGee, Mrs. Sara McElroy,
 Mrs. Ann Weissmann
 CLASS OF 2027
 Dr. Roger Fowler
 Mr. Jim Johnson, Mr. George Lollis,
 Dr. Bob McKinney, Mrs. Shannon Teagarden
 CLASS OF 2028
 Mrs. Katie Birdwell, Mr. Hunter Carr,
 Mrs. Ann Jarrel, Mrs. Judy King,
 Mrs. Beth Short

Lectionary for upcoming Sundays Year C BCP 1979 Lectionary

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1

Epiphany 4

Micah 6:1-8, Psalm 37:1-18,
 1 Corinthians 1:[18-25] 26-31, Matthew 5:1-12

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8

Epiphany 5

Habakkuk 3:2-6, 17-19
 Psalm 27, 1 Corinthians 2:1-11
 Matthew 5:13-20



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

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The Rev. Dr. Cole Hartin
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Associate Rector

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The Rev. Stephen Stine
Deacon

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The Rev. Tim Kennedy
All Saints Episcopal School Senior Chaplain, Assisting Priest

The Rev. Leesa Lewis
All Saints Episcopal School Assistant Chaplain, Assisting Priest

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Mr. A.J. Meals
Assistant Organist

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Director of Communications

Mr. Robert Finney

epiphanyttx@gmail.com
Music Leader, Christ Church South

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.*