

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,

Daniel



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 a 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 UTTyler.

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

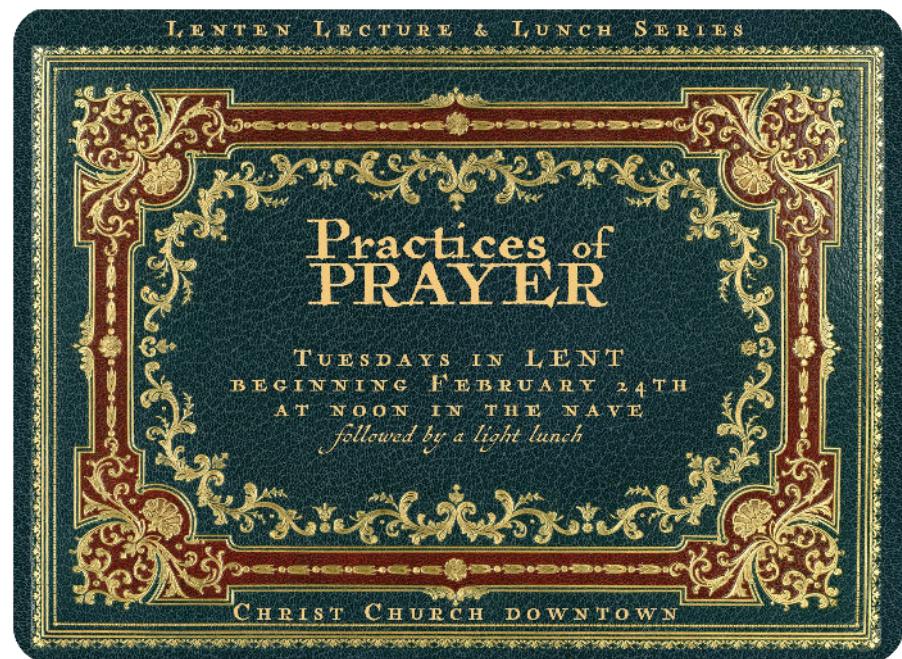
Music to include:

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

FIRST COMMUNION??

Any families interested in
First Communion Classes for the
3rd-5th graders.

Please contact Zoe at
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

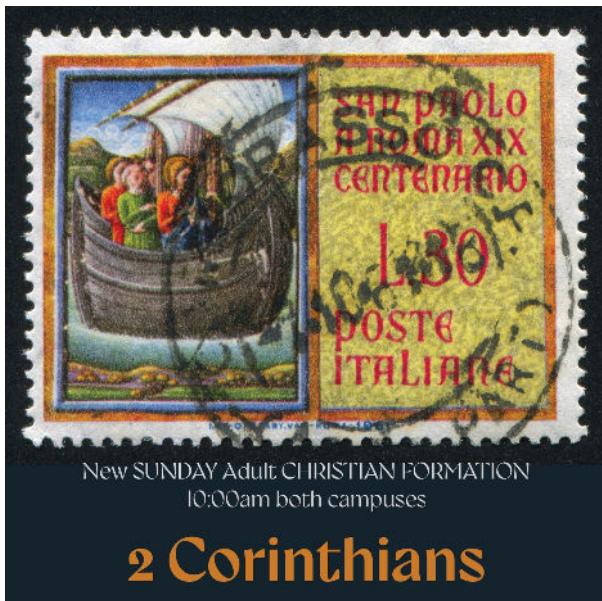
WHERE - CHRIST CHURCH DOWNTOWN AND SOUTH CAMPUS (ALTERNATING EACH MONTH)

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~~
DOWNTOWN AT 10AM OR SOUTH CAMPUS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING CHURCH SERVICES. *February 1st*





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 sssti@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

WEDNESDAY | 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

**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



Christ Church
EPISCOPAL
GIFT SHOP

OPEN HOURS:

Sunday 9am-11am

Tuesday & Thursday 10:00am-1:00pm

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. Héctor 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 sssti@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. Michaele Osburn mardoin@christchurchtyler.org
Parish Administrator

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

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

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

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

Mrs. Zoe Montes zward@christchurchtyler.org
Director of Children's Ministries

Ms. Jessica Creel jcreel@christchurchtyler.org
Assistant Director of Children's Ministries

Mrs. Valerie Huggler office@christchurchtyler.org
Parish Secretary

Mrs. Samantha Hague shague@christchurchtyler.org
Director of Communications

Mr. Robert Finney epiphanytx@gmail.com
Music Leader, Christ Church South

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

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.