

the Crucifer

The Newsletter of Christ Church/Episcopal

FROM THE RECTOR:

Epiphany is upon us!

We call this time the **Season of Light** because in it we rejoice that Christ, the Son of Righteousness, has entered into this darkened world. Or, as St. John writes with wonder, *"The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it... The WORD became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."*

Epiphany means “shining forth.” Like a blazing fire on a dark morning, in the midst of winter, we remember that by His glorious incarnation, Jesus Christ has turned the lights on, revealing the love and the glory of God to a world beset by sin.

Following the twelve days of Christmas, Epiphany celebrates the “revealing” of the newborn Christ to the Eastern Sages—the wise men who traveled from the Near East to Bethlehem. Men led by a star, a small flashlight in the heavens, illuminating a dark path from the Orient to this little town of King David’s birth.

This brilliant star led the magi to **‘The Light of the world’**. They were awakened from the darkness of their proverbial slumber, to the warm dawn of Emmanuel: **‘God with us.’**

In this holy season, we celebrate that by coming to walk among us, Jesus Christ has shown us the Way—the way to live in the light of God’s grace. He has commanded us to ‘love God with all our hearts and minds and strength.’ He has modeled for us God’s command to ‘love our neighbors as ourselves.’ And He has clarified, in some detail, God’s call to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, defend the widow, provide for the orphan, and live as a saint of God.

As we begin a new year, I invite you to pray and to study Scripture daily, to worship weekly, and to follow Jesus from morning to night.

Happy Epiphany!

Faithfully in Christ,

Daniel

Vol. XXVIII, No.1

January 7, 2026

christchurchtyler.org



I know that by the time that you are reading this, the Christmas season will be over, 2026 will have begun, and we'll all be under the illusion that we can stick to our new year's resolutions. Right now, though, I am still basking in the warm light of Christmas. I write this on December 29, the fifth day of this season celebrating the Incarnation.

This stretch of holy time between December 25 and January 6 is one of my favourite couple of weeks in the year.

The grand and beautiful celebrations are over, but life has not yet gone back to normal. Time stretches out a little longer, days are not full to the brim. Though all of the emails in my inbox are tugging me toward what's next, I am happy to inhabit this time for as long as I can. I'm glad to keep Christmas for a while longer, a little more quietly, a little more reflectively during these days.

On Christmas morning we read from John 1, that "the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth." This glorious truth takes time to sink in. It's not something we can wrap our minds around by

thinking about it one day a year, let alone over the course of a short season. It takes a lifetime, I think.

But we have to start somewhere.

And that's why I am not so quick to leave Christmas behind. I want to know this Word-become-flesh in my bones. I want his fullness of grace and truth to fill up my life.

One way of looking at the season of Epiphany, which begins on January 6, is to see it as a prolonged reflection on the meaning of Christmas. Epiphany helps us ask and begin to the answer the questions:

- Who is this Jesus of Nazareth anyway?
- What does it mean to say that the "Word became flesh?"

It's good for me to stay with the question, to let it do its work in my life.

My prayer is that all of us might better understand this marvelous thing God has done, and that as a Church we might inhabit Christ as he inhabits us.

music at Christ Church
Jeffrey Ford
Choirmaster & Organist



SAVE the DATE
February 22, 2026 6:00 p.m.
Downtown in the Nave

Choral Evensong

featuring the Chancel Choir of Christ Church and the Patriot Singers of UTT. Dr. Cameron Rose will be conducting and A.J. Meals will be at the organ.

Thank you!

Big thank you to Anthony Rives who is our music librarian. He is always dependable in seeing that each singer has the right music, etc..

Thank you to each of the Guilds that provided the light lunch for the Tidings of Joy Concert Series. They include the Altar Guild, Carol Bergfeld's Team 3, and the Hospitality Team.

Thank you to the Chancel Choir for the music that they provided on Christmas Eve. They sang for the 7:30 and 10:30 services. We are so glad to have Melissa Day, Nathan de Paz, Suzette Adams, Suzanne Stemme, and Clayton Richards who have recently joined the Chancel Choir.

We want to also thank John & Stacey McKinley and their crew who are always willing to help greet and pass out service leaflets.

Vestry SLATE 2026

Katie BIRDWELL



I was born and raised in Tyler and am a third-generation parishioner at Christ Church, with deep family roots in the life of the congregation. My grandfather served as a minister at Christ Church, and although he passed away before I was born, his legacy of faith has remained a meaningful part of my spiritual foundation. I was baptized here as an infant and later confirmed as well at Christ Church. My husband Brian and I will celebrate our 15th wedding anniversary this May. We are blessed with three children: Aly, a sophomore at Dallas Baptist University; Evan, a seventh grader at Hubbard Middle School; and Blake, a fourth grader at Andy Woods Elementary. It will be an honor to serve on the Vestry and I look forward to the opportunity.

Hunter CARR



I am a lifelong Episcopalian and member of Christ Church, where I was baptized, confirmed, and served as an acolyte for eight years. I am an alumnus of All Saints Episcopal School and earned degrees in geology from the University of Georgia and the University of Houston. After returning to Tyler in 2020, my wife Jackie and I have been grateful to worship here as we raise our family. Professionally, I am a petroleum geologist with twelve years of experience in oil and gas exploration and serve as Vice President of Carr Resources, focusing on strategic growth. I have held industry leadership roles including President of the East Texas Geological Society and Chairman of the Texas Alliance of Energy Producers. Having grown up in this parish and now returned to it as an adult, I care deeply about the long-term health of Christ Church and its future generations. If elected, it would be my honor to serve on the Vestry.

Ann JARREL



I became a member of Christ Episcopal Church, and I was confirmed in 1989. My husband, Willis, has been a lifelong member of this church. Our two daughters were raised in the church and served as acolytes. I have been fortunate to be active in several aspects of the church, including St. Teresa's Guild, organizing the initial Supper Club, and developing the acolyte program. Currently, I am a member of the Altar Guild and participate in a small group. Professionally, I am a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, and I have a psychotherapy practice.

Judy KING



I was confirmed as a member of the Episcopal church in 1982. I have been married to my husband Milton for 56 years, and we have one son and two grandsons. We were educators and came to Texas from Oklahoma in 1992 and worked in several different school districts. We always found an Episcopal church home wherever we landed. Through the years I have served as a choir member, lay reader, ECW officer, and Bible study facilitator. In 2019 we became members of Christ Church. It would be an honor and a privilege to serve on the Vestry.

Beth SHORT



I grew up in Decatur, Texas. I graduated from Texas A&M University and Texas Woman's University's nursing program. I lived and worked in Houston for 15 years. My husband, David and I moved to Tyler in 1997. We have two sons (John David and Charlie) that attended and graduated from All Saints Episcopal School. I worked in Tyler at the North East Texas Public Health Department and Precision Spine Care in medical research. I served on the Tyler Day Nursery (non-profit subsidized child care) board and was board president. I was confirmed and have been a member of Christ Church for about 12 years.

ANNUAL Parish Meeting | Sunday, January 18, 2026 | 10am both campuses



**Sunday, January 11
12:30pm @ CCS**

CHILDREN'S CORNER BIRTHDAYS!

1/15 **Sophie Thomas,**
1/16 **Kate Walker,**
1/16 **Esin Odle,**
1/16 **Jake Godbold,**
1/17 **Archer Cassity**

Happy New Year!

As we enter 2026, we are in need of volunteers for the children's ministry. My goal this year is **BUILD A ROBUST VOLUNTEER FORCE OF GODLY ADULTS** who are invested in the faith formation of our children. Lessons are already prepared, so all you need to do is look over the lesson plan before Sunday school. If teaching is not your thing, then maybe the nursery is for you! If you are interested in learning more, please email me or call my office phone.

— Zoe

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:

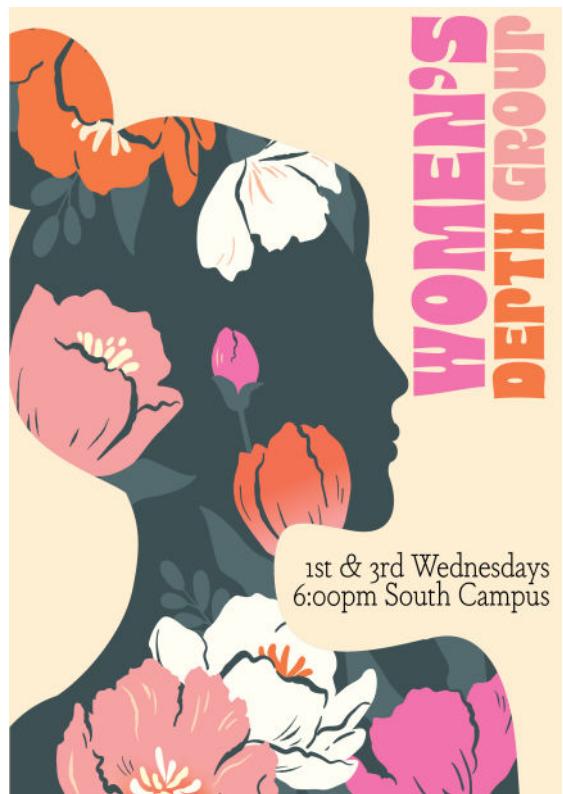
(1) COMPLETE THIS BRIEF FORM AT WWW.CHRISTCHURCHTYLER.ORG/YOUTH-CONFIRMATION TO LET US KNOW OF YOUR INTEREST. (2) PLAN TO ATTEND THE PARENT INFORMATION MEETING ON **SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, DOWNTOWN AT 10AM OR SOUTH CAMPUS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING CHURCH SERVICES.**





New SUNDAY Adult CHRISTIAN FORMATION
Beginning January 11, 2026 | 10:00am both campuses

2 Corinthians



VENITE hosted + ALL INVITED!

January 10th 5:30 PM South Campus

potluck + bonfire + Epiphany reflection

Potluck theme is “stew + bread + beer”.

Bring along your favorite soup/stew or bread along with your favorite drink to share with the folks and families of Christ Church.

RSVP [please christchurchtyler.org/venite](http://christchurchtyler.org/venite)

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

The Anglican Communion: *The Diocese of Shyogwe (Eglise Anglicane du Rwanda)*

The Episcopal Church: *Dioceses of West Texas & West Virginia*

Diocese of Texas: *St. Christopher's—League City & St. Peter's—Leander*

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.

upcoming

THURSDAY | January 8 & 22

Keys to the Kingdom | Theology Book Study

3:00pm Downtown in the Guild Hall

[*RSVP office@christchurchtyler.org](mailto:*RSVP%20office@christchurchtyler.org)

SATURDAY | JANUARY 10

Potluck & Bonfire

5:30pm South Campus

RSVP: christchurchtyler.org/venite

SUNDAY | January 11

5th Gear [5th Grade Program]

12:30pm | CCS

TUESDAY | January 13

DOK Meeting

5:30-7 @ the home of Barb Markee

2319 Homestead Ln, Tyler

SUNDAY | January 18

Annual Parish Meeting

10:00am | both campuses

SUNDAY | January 25

Picnic Under the Pavilion

12:15pm Christ Church South



Congratulations on the birth of:

Adline Elise Doran

December 20, 2025

daughter of Allison & Mitchell Doran,
granddaughter of Kathleen & Steve Hardy.
&

Phoebe Annalise Thomas

January 2, 2026

daughter of Jordan & Hadyn Thomas.

SUNDAY | February 1

Coffee Time

10:00am Downtown in the Guild Hall

TUESDAY | February 17

MARDI GRAS

more info to come

WEDNESDAY | February 18

ASH WEDNESDAY

Holy Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes | CCD

7:00am, noon, 6:00pm

THURSDAYS IN LENT | February 19, 26 March 5, 12, 19, 26

1928 Eucharist

Noon | CCD

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Choral Evensong

6pm | CCD

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

Lenten Lecture & Lunch

Noon | Downtown in the Nave

followed by light lunch in the Parish Hall

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

~JANUARY 8 & 22~

3:00 – 4:30pm | 2nd & 4th Thursdays

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
903.597.9834 | 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 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, JANUARY 11

Epiphany 1

Isaiah 42:1-9, Psalm 89:1-29

Acts 10:34-38, Matthew 3:13-17

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18

Epiphany 2

Isaiah 49:1-7, Psalm 40:1-10

1 Corinthians 1:1-9, John 1:29-41

On behalf of the clergy & staff, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to the parishioners of Christ Church for your extraordinary generosity to us this season.

Thank you so much
& Happy New Year!

SO
VERY
thankful
INCREDIBLY
grateful
UNBELIEVABLY
blessed.

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

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. Michaele Osburn mardoin@christchurchtyler.org
Parish Administrator

Mr. Jeffrey Ford
Organist/Choirmaster

jford@christchurchtyler.org

Mr. A.J. Meals
Assistant Organist

mealsa@gladewaterisd.com

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 jcree@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 Wanjiro, 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.