

# the Crucifer

The Newsletter of Christ Church/Episcopal

Vol. XXVIII, No.4  
February 25, 2026  
christchurchtyler.org

## FROM THE RECTOR:

Years ago, walking through a park, a man passed a massive oak tree. A vine had grown up along its trunk. The vine started small. Over the years, though, the vine had grown taller and taller. By the time the man observed this scene, the vine's creepers covered the entire lower half of the tree. The mass of tiny feelers emerging from the vine was so thick that the tree looked as though it had innumerable birds' nests in it.

The tree was in danger. This huge, stately oak was in jeopardy. The life was being squeezed from this lovely tree. Thankfully, the gardeners in that park had observed the danger. They had used a saw to sever the trunk of the pernicious vine—one neat cut across the middle.

The tangled mass of the vine's branches still clung to the oak, but the vine was dead. Over the coming weeks, the creepers began to die and fall away from the tree.

Dangerous vines are a constant presence to the life of a Christian. Bad habits or mistakes often begin as small things, but if neglected they can grow into a real threat.

In part, the purpose of Lent is to prayerfully identify the vines which have crept into our lives. Then nip them in the bud.

*I invite you, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word.'*

As we continue to walk through this wilderness season, I encourage you to persevere in your efforts to identify and rebuke the weeds which do you harm.

May the Lord bless you with a Holy Lent.

Faithfully in Christ Jesus,

David H



There is something about Lent that seems dreadful to me.

I am not sure why this is, but in the weeks and days leading up to Ash Wednesday, I feel some trepidation. Looking ahead to a long season of fasting and penitence does not have the same allure as looking ahead to, say, Christmas, or summer vacation.

I think part of the dread comes from the realization that I will be making some kind of sacrifice, that this will involve discipline, and that given life can already be full of sacrifice and discipline, intentionally adding more to one's plate is a tall order indeed.

Invariably, as much as I feel trepidation leading up to Lent, the day the season begins is usually quite moving. In fact, the whole Lenten season is one in which I find unexpected refreshment. I find I am buoyed up by grace. The sacrifice and discipline, instead of making life intolerable, actually make it sweeter.

The sweetness comes from a more centered focus on Jesus. And it comes too from a recognition that as a Christian I have more agency over my spiritual development than I realize.

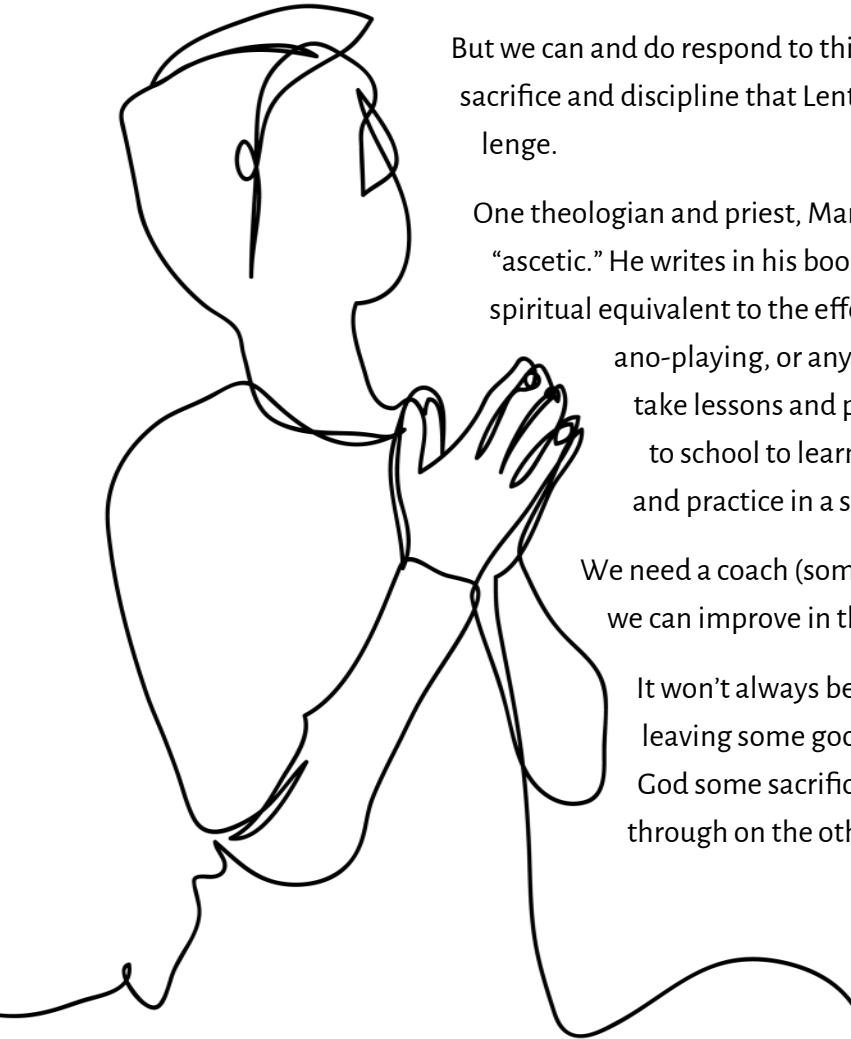
So much of life comes unbidden. We are born and we have the bodies we were given. We have parents we didn't choose, and we have limitations and gifts that we didn't ask for. God's grace comes to us too, just because he is loving and good. It has little to do with us.

But we can and do respond to this life, this grace. Often Jesus invites us to just the kind of sacrifice and discipline that Lent requires, even though this can be a considerable challenge.

One theologian and priest, Martin Thornton, describes the discipline we offer to God as "ascetic." He writes in his book *Pastoral Theology: A Reorientation*, that ascetic is "the spiritual equivalent to the effort needed to become proficient in carpentry, cricket, piano-playing, or any other human art." If we want to learn the piano, we must take lessons and practice. If we want to become a carpenter, we have to go to school to learn the trade. And if we want to grow spiritually, we learn and practice in a similar way.

We need a coach (someone to teach us) and we need time and dedication. But we can improve in the life of prayer as we cooperate with the grace of God.

It won't always be easy. And we might feel some dread at the prospect of leaving some good things behind for a while. But I trust that if we offer to God some sacrifice and discipline over the course of this Lent, we will come through on the other side as more faithful and strong disciples.



# Holy Week



*Palm Sunday* March 29  
(with Palm Procession)

*Holy Monday - Wednesday*  
March 30, 31, April 1  
Noon Eucharist CCD



*Maundy Thursday* April 2  
7:00pm CCD



*Good Friday* April 3  
12:00pm CCD  
Stations of the Cross > 1:15pm CCD



*Holy Saturday* April 4  
Easter Egg Hunt > 10:00am CCS  
Great Vigil > 8:00pm CCD

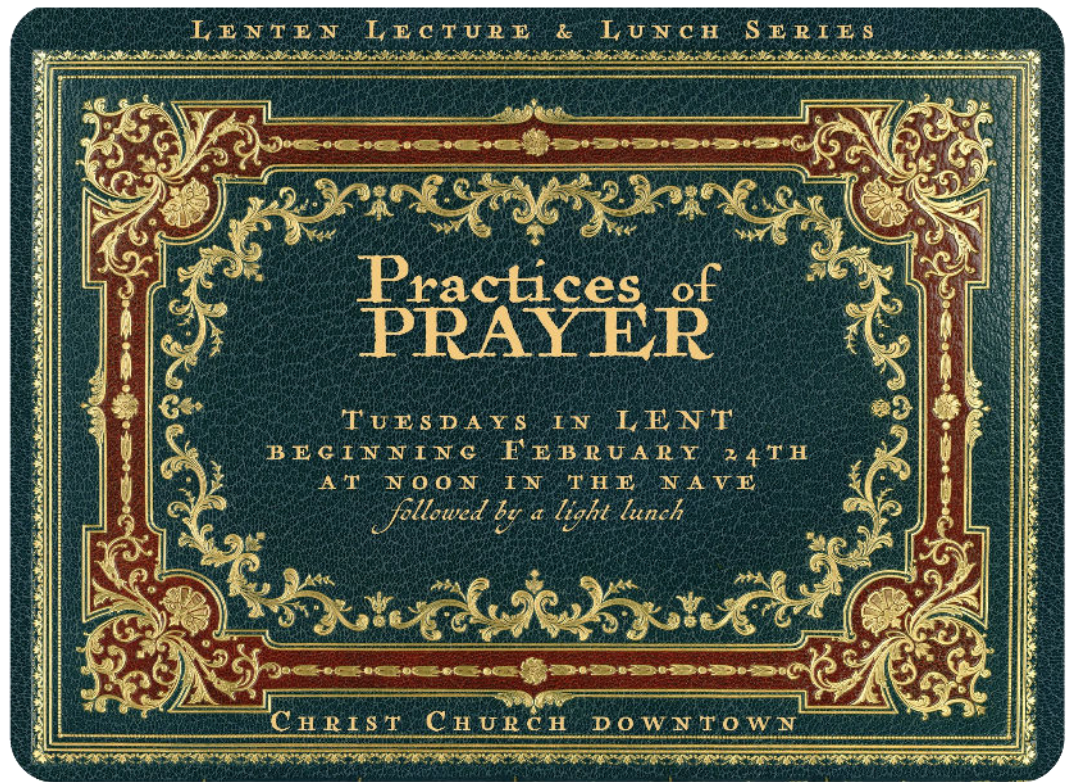
& *Easter*  
April 5 *Sunday*



Christ Church **Downtown** [CCD]  
7:30am, 9:00am, 11:00am

Christ Church **South** [CCS]  
7:00am (outdoor sunrise service) & 11:05am

# The Season of **Lent**



# 1928 *Book of Common Prayer*

**Holy Eucharist & Healing Service**  
*Noon Thursdays in Lent*  
Downtown in the Nave



## *Praying the Rosary*

Praying the rosary will be available in the chapel at 11:30am, before each Tuesday Lenten speaking series. Using the rosary (Anglican prayer beads) encourages contemplative prayer. Touching each bead in order helps maintain focus as much as the repetition of the prayers themselves. Prayer beads are available for use. Please come 10 minutes early if you would like instruction.

A painting of a desert landscape with a large, scaly snake coiled around the feet of a person in sandals. The scene is set against a sunset or sunrise background with a large, glowing sun.

**Lenten Men's Depth Group**  
**Desert Discussions**  
Conversations about The Temptation

**LENTEN MEN'S DEPTH GROUP**  
Meets @ The Listening Lounge, 130 Shelley Dr.  
Wednesdays February 25-March 25 6:30am

The Listening Lounge  
130 Shelley Dr.

A photograph of a lit candle in a dark holder, with a soft glow. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a church interior with flowers.

**Women's LENTEN QUIET DAY**  
*Sponsored by Daughters of the King*

**Saturday, March 21**  
**8:30 am - 3:30 pm**

Wellspring Fransalian Center for Spirituality  
16828 FM 2964, Whitehouse, TX

**DEADLINE TO REGISTER:** March 10, 2026  
Email [madelinejensen@gmail.com](mailto:madelinejensen@gmail.com) or  
text Lynne Bordeaux (512) 608-2171  
with name, email address & phone number.

[www.christchurchtyler.org/DOK](http://www.christchurchtyler.org/DOK)

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

[zward@christchurchtyler.org](mailto:zward@christchurchtyler.org)

save the Date



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL  
June 22-26, 2026

[www.christchurchtyler.org/vbs](http://www.christchurchtyler.org/vbs)

Volunteer registration is open & a VBS NEEDS REGISTRY is available. Participant Registration opens the end of March.



Sunday, March 15  
12:30pm @ CCS

CHILDREN'S CORNER BIRTHDAYS!

- 2/27 Matthew Ward
- 2/28 Evie Noteware, 3/1 Walt Eagleton,
- 3/2 Coralie Bailey, 3/2 Henry Bailey,
- 3/11 Olivia Young, 3/13 Mary Caroline Willis, 3/16 Jack Houlette



**The Bob Rowlett Memorial Open Golf Tournament**  
[www.christchurchtyler.org/golf-tournament](http://www.christchurchtyler.org/golf-tournament)



**Friday, May 1, 2026 | 9:00am**  
Pine Springs Golf Club  
5630 CR 334 | Tyler, TX 75708

Proceeds go toward youth scholarships for missions and outreach.



student ministry  
**Stan Ward**  
Director of Spiritual Formation

[sward@christchurchtyler.org](mailto:sward@christchurchtyler.org)

EYC BOWLING NIGHT

Wednesday, March 11 (Spring Break week)

All EYC youth and parents are invited to gather at Times Square Grand Slam for a bowling night in place of regular EYC. While parents are welcome to join the fun, we ask that they "stay in their lane." More details will be emailed directly to parents and students. You can also email [sward@christchurchtyler.org](mailto:sward@christchurchtyler.org) for more information.



BELIZE  
MISSION  
TRIP

May 30- June 5  
Parent information meetings after church services  
Downtown (March 22) and South Campus (March 29).  
Contact [sward@christchurchtyler.org](mailto:sward@christchurchtyler.org) for more details.

## 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, Jennifer, Cindy, Earl, Linda, Mike, Mark, Dalton, Marian, Jerry, Stella, Dale, Kirby, Patty, Sarah, Ben, Joshua, Helen, Brinley, Martha, Cooper, Hans, Sarah, CF, Chris, Peggy, Heidi, Luke

**The Anglican Communion:** *The Diocese of West Texas*

**The Episcopal Church:** *Dioceses of Western New York & Western North Carolina*

**Diocese of Texas:** *Trinity—Longview & St. Cyprian—Lufkin*

## 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](mailto:sssti@tjc.edu).

## upcoming

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

THURSDAYS IN LENT  
**1928 Eucharist**  
 Noon | CCD

SUNDAY | March 8  
**Meet & Greet our Ukrainians**  
 12:30PM South Campus

THURSDAY | March 12 & 26  
**Keys to the Kingdom** | Theology Book Study  
 3:00pm Downtown in the Guild Hall  
 \*RSVP [office@christchurchtyler.org](mailto:office@christchurchtyler.org)

SATURDAY | March 21  
**Women's Lenten Quiet Day**  
 8:30am—3:30pm @ Wellspring Center  
 RSVP by 3/10 [christchurchtyler.org/DOK](http://christchurchtyler.org/DOK)

SUNDAY | March 29  
**Palm Sunday**

HOLY WEEK | March 30-April 4  
**See graphic on page 3**

SUNDAY | April 5  
**EASTER Sunday**

SUNDAY | April 12  
**Baptisms**  
**Newcomer's Lunch with the Rector** | CCD

*In Memoriam*  
 Our sympathies to the family & friends of  
**Evelyn Wilson,**  
*mother of Carter Wilson,  
 Connie Wilson, and Cindy Nash;*  
**Vicki Lewis,**  
*mother of Dr. Michael Lewis;*  
 and  
**Gilbert Newman,**  
*bother-in-law of Jennifer Ducote.*

*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*

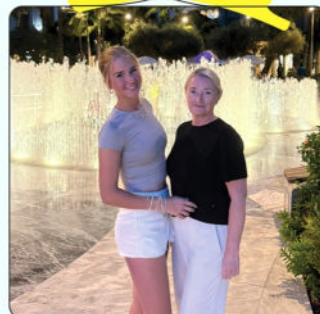
2nd & 4th THURSDAYS  
 3:00 – 4:30pm  
 Downtown Campus | Guild Hall  
 Discussion & Tea

*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](mailto:office@christchurchtyler.org)

New Book starting in March:  
*An Emblem of Faith Untouched: A Short Life of Thomas Cranmer*  
 by Leslie Williams

*Nora and Iryna Konohovych*



**Come & meet them**  
*(our Ukrainian Family)*  
**& hear from Nora!**

March 8th  
 CHRIST CHURCH SOUTH  
 after the service

## THE VESTRY

Mr. Tim Alexander, *Treasurer*  
 Mr. Bill Clawater, *Asst. Treasurer*  
 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, Mr. Jim Johnson-*Jr. Warden CCS,*  
 Mr. George Lollis, Dr. Bob McKinney—*Sr. Warden,*  
 Mrs. Shannon Teagarden  
 CLASS OF 2028

Mrs. Katie Birdwell, Mr. Hunter Carr—*Jr. Warden CCD,*  
 Mrs. Ann Jarrel, Mrs. Judy King, Mrs. Beth Short

### Lectionary for upcoming Sundays Year C BCP 1979 Lectionary

#### SUNDAY, MARCH 8

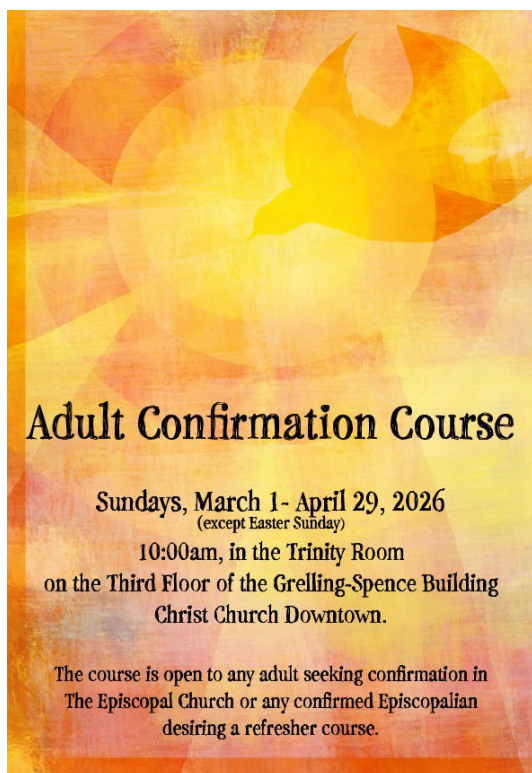
Lent 3

Exodus 17:1-7, Psalm 95  
 Romans 5:1-11, John 4:5-26 [27-38] 39-42

#### SUNDAY, MARCH 15

Lent 4

1 Samuel 16:1-13, Psalm 23  
 Ephesians 5:[1-7] 8-14, John 9:1-13 [14-27] 28-38



## 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. 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  
 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](http://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](http://www.christchurchtyler.org) | [office@christchurchtyler.org](mailto: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](mailto: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.*