

the Crucifer

The Newsletter of Christ Church/Episcopal

Vol. XXVIII, No.8

May 13, 2026

christchurchtyler.org



FROM THE RECTOR:

Jesus said, 'I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life.'
(John 14.6)

In the earliest years of the Church, people referred to Christian faith as 'The Way.'

'The Way' meant, and means, the way to live with God.

Keeping 'The Way' has always required a combination of Christian belief, faith, and lifestyle choices. 'The Way' is cultivated by many practices which strengthen and more deeply root our life with God.

This summer, Christ Church is offering *Practicing the Way* on Sunday mornings at both campuses. This course is an introduction to the deepest wells of spiritual formation in

the Church. Using John Mark Comer's bestselling book, *Practicing the Way: Be With Jesus, Become Like Him, Do As He Did*, we will examine a series of Christian spiritual practices and disciplines, developed over many centuries, which have helped millions of believers follow the Jesus Way throughout the roads of life.

Beginning June 7, I invite you to join us at 9:00 in the Ascension room downtown or at 10:00 at Christ Church South for this helpful and exciting summer study.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

David H

There are two things that I love about pastoral ministry.

The first is that I get to share Jesus's love and truth with people. There is no greater privilege than for me to pray, visit, and worship with sisters and brothers in Christ. I feel lucky that I get to spend my days serving our Lord by sharing in people's lives. Whether it's hearing about someone's story over a cup of coffee, visiting someone who is sick in hospital, or getting to hang out together at things like Men's Summer Depth Group, it is all an honor, and I am grateful for it.

And the second thing I love about pastoral ministry is the time dedicated for prayer and study of Holy Scripture. Jesus is the Word of God made flesh, and we know him by the Word of God written in the Scripture. I love being immersed in the Bible, in the history of the Church, in theology, and then I love sharing the truth I'm discovering with the people of God. I earned a PhD in theological studies because I found it such a joy and challenge to study and learn!

Both of these things together, to me, are vital to what it means to be a priest and pastor: People and Word. Community and Truth. Church and academics together. At my healthiest they balance and inform each other.

I think a temptation for me, and for pastors, may be to lean too far into one aspect of pastoral ministry over another.

As much as time ministering to people is central to the pastoral task, it is not the whole thing. Pastors must also dedicate significant time to prayer, study, and to private devotions or they risk becoming just another helping professional. In fact, the call to be a pastor is about more than helping out or being a good listener, it's about being a steward of the mysteries of God revealed in Christ Jesus (1 Corinthians 4:1-2).

On the other hand, if pastors dedicate too much time to study and learning at the expense of the people whom this learning is meant to serve, they risk losing the heart of the priesthood. It's important never to forget the wisdom of Ecclesiastes 12:12: "Of making many books there is no end, and much study is a weariness of the flesh." Theology leads us to many

beautiful ideas about God and his Church, but those ideas must be lived out with living, breathing people.

I often fail at this vocation God has called me to in all kinds of ways. But I aspire to be a faithful pastor by loving people and loving the truth, by living a life of holiness dedicated to God in public and in private.

Just last week, I was reminded of the balance of this calling when, for a few days, I met with an interdenominational group of sister and brother pastors in Chicago for a yearly symposium at the [Center for Pastor Theologians](#).

In 2019 I applied to become a [Fellow](#). I was accepted, and beginning in 2020, have been meeting regularly with a cohort of other pastors. We combine our academic gifts and interests with our love for the people of God for the good of the Church. CPT's mission is to be "Forming Pastor Theologians to shepherd the church in our complex world." I am grateful to be Fellow of the CPT, to be reminded of this mission. And I am grateful to Fr. David and the people of Christ Church for giving me the time to get away for a few days each year to attend this symposium. I hope what I learned will be of benefit to our life here in Tyler.



The question was asked,

“How do you choose the hymns”?

I have two resources that I use that base the suggested hymns on the Common Lectionary. The first book that I look at is *The Episcopal Musician's Handbook*. It starts with Advent and goes through to the end of the Church Year. It lists of the hymns in page number order.

Here are listed the church seasons:

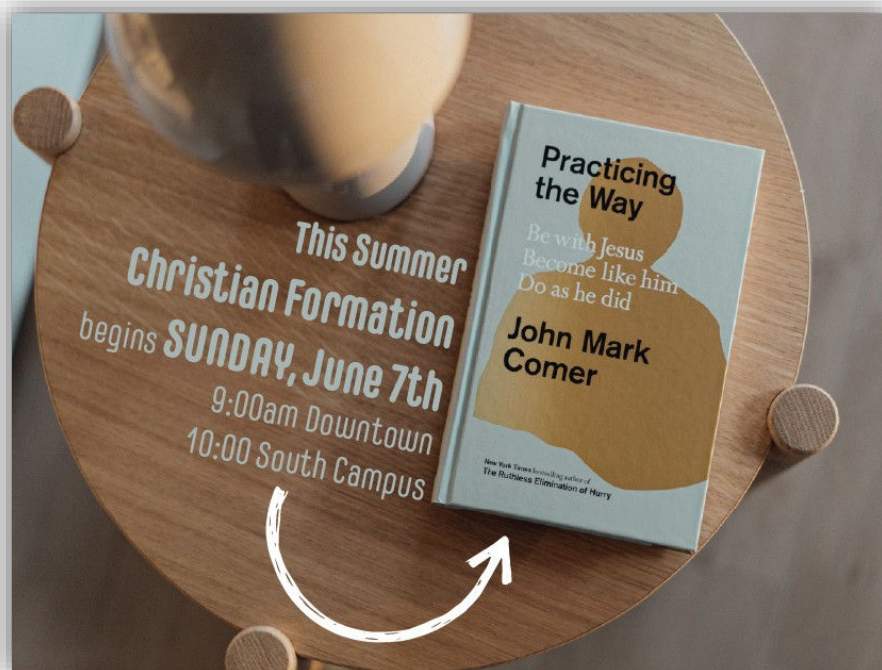
Advent	Good Friday
The Nativity of Our Lord (Christmas Day)	Great Vigil of Easter
Christmas	Easter Day
Epiphany	Easter Season
Ash Wednesday	Pentecost
Lent	All Saints
Palm Sunday	(continues) Pentecost
Maundy Thursday	

The second resource I use is *Liturgical Music for the Common Lectionary*. It is divided the same way but as well as hymn suggestions there are anthem suggestions. The hymns are listed according to what scriptures are used for that Sunday. It goes a step further and gives suggestions for: Entrance Hymn; Sequence Hymn; Offertory; Communion and Post Communion hymns. I don't strictly go by these suggestions. If for that particular Sunday the hymns are not real familiar I will substitute a hymn that is more familiar.

If you have a favorite hymn that you like to sing please fill free to email me at jford@christchurchtyler.org and let me know what the hymn is that you like. During the summer months we will be singing from the list of your favorite hymns.

If you have any questions as to why we (Jeffrey, A,J), or the chancel choir) do what we do don't hesitate to ask.


Summer



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

zward@christchurchtyler.org

Register Now!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
June 22-26, 2026

www.christchurchtyler.org/vbs

We have a little over a month left before VBS, and we currently need 14 adult volunteers to make our volunteer numbers!

The most important part of VBS is sharing Jesus, but you do also get a cool t-shirt and a free lunch Friday, so what are you waiting for?

Sign-up today!

In terms of participant numbers, we have 40 spots left for your kiddos. If you need a program from 9-12 this week of the summer, we've got you covered!



Volunteers NEEDED



CHILDREN'S CORNER BIRTHDAYS!

5/19 Fiona Mayes, 5/20 Gatlin Chitty,
5/27 August Hanna



student ministry
Stan Ward,
Director of Spiritual Formation for
Students & Families



May 30- June 5, 2026

Please keep the team in your prayers as they prepare to leave on the 30th.

My son, Andrew, recently participated in the Faith Formation Confirmation Class series led by Dr. Stan Ward. Parents were encouraged to attend with their child, and I am so glad we were able to do so.



Stan skillfully guided us through a well-thought-out survey of the tenets of Christianity in the Episcopal Church. He thoughtfully engaged with the class as opposed to a lecture format, which he doubtlessly realized might lead to some distracted younger participants (and maybe some older ones as well). No topic or offshoot of the day's topic was discouraged, and every participant's thoughts were welcomed and approached with thoughtful consideration, often resulting in the further exchange of thoughts and ideas. Each class ultimately led to some sort of hands-on activity to solidify that day's topic. In the end, I was reassured that our son was exercising his decision to be confirmed in the Episcopal Church with sufficient information and understanding of his decision so he and we felt confident that it was a well-informed one. We appreciate Stan's leadership throughout this process and enthusiastically encourage anyone considering confirmation for their children or themselves to reach out to him.

Doug Ames

Youth Sunday | May 10th



Congratulations to our scholarship recipients:

BROTHERHOOD OF ST. ANDREW \$500 SCHOLARSHIP:

Reese Cline & Claire Godbold

GLAWATER SHAW SCHOLARSHIP \$500:

Claire Godbold

THE OHANA SCHOLARSHIP:

Katie Luckenbach (\$2000)

Caroline Joy Weissmann (\$1000)



May 3, 2026 Confirmation

The Rt. Rev. Jeff Fisher

YOUTH:

Zara Pippin, Isaac Cline,
Robbie Meals, Andrew Ames

ADULTS:

Jessica Creel, Suzanne Mills,
Clayton Richardson, Pam Stelzig, John Wood

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, Cooper, Hans, Sarah, CF, Chris, Peggy, Heidi, Luke, Jessica, Rick, Kay, Amber, Tabitha, Mike, Sydney, Barrett, Martha, Kendall, Kitty, Colleen, Lee, Cody, Lorrylei, Thomasine, Ruby

The Anglican Communion: *The Diocese of York (England)*

The Episcopal Church: *Dioceses of Atlanta & Bethlehem (PA)*

Diocese of Texas: *Christ Church—Mexia & St. Catherine of Sienna—Missouri City*

PRAYER REQUESTS: *(re-sets Sunday May 24th)*

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
Dr. Richard "Dick" Willms

upcoming

WEDNESDAY | MAY 20
6:00pm **Women's Depth Group** | CCS

SUNDAY | MAY 24
PENTECOST SUNDAY wear red

MONDAY | MAY 25
Memorial Day | office closed

SUNDAY | MAY 31
12:30pm **Picnic Under the Pavilion** | CCS

WEDNESDAY | JUNE 3
6:00pm **Men's Depth Group** | CCS

SUNDAY | JUNE 7
9:00AM NEW CHRISTIAN FORMATION
11:00am **Coffee Time** | CCD Guild Hall



SEE YOU JUNE 7TH & AUGUST 2ND
July 5th - Independence Day Celebrations!



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, MAY 17

7 Easter

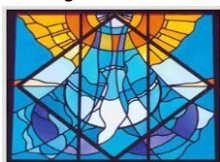
Acts 1:[1-7] 8-14, Ezekiel 39:21-29,
 Psalm 68:1-20 or Psalm 47, 1 Peter 4:12-19
 John 17:1-11

SUNDAY, MAY 24

Pentecost Day

Acts 2:1-11, Ezekiel 11:17-20,
 Psalm 104:25-37 or Psalm 33:12-15, 18-22,
 1 Corinthians 12:4-13, John 20:19-23 or John 14: 8-17

Holy Baptism



The next scheduled date for baptisms is Sunday, May 24, 2026. If interested in baptism on this date, please contact the church office, 903-597-9854 or office@christchurchtyler.org.

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 (Summer hours through Labor Day)

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

10:00am **CCD:** The Holy Eucharist *Rite II*

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.