

# the Crucifer

The Newsletter of Christ Church/Episcopal

Vol. XXVIII, No.9

May 27, 2026

christchurchtyler.org



## FROM THE RECTOR:

From the beginning, music has been central to worship in the Church.

The word *selah* appears 71 times in the Psalms. While its meaning is not entirely clear, we believe *selah* is a musical or liturgical direction, which points to the fact that the Psalms have been sung or chanted in worship services since they were written.

Jeffrey Ford began his ministry as an organist and choir-master almost fifty years ago. Over that time, he has blessed many thousands of believers across multiple churches from Ohio to Texas with his marvelous music ministry. After seventeen years serving as the Organist/Choirmaster at Christ Church, and twenty years as a member of the Christ Church staff, Jeffrey is retiring this summer from full-time church ministry.

For almost two decades, Jeffrey has wonderfully recruited, developed, and lead the chancel choir of Christ Church. He helped to develop the Choir School of East Texas, training scores of children to sing and grow. During the difficult months of the pandemic, Mr. Ford ensured that our worship services were filled with beautiful music. Over the past few years, Jeffrey led the effort to create the

Children's Choir, filling the nave once again with the singing of children.

The choirs he directed have blessed us with over a thousand worship services, including Sunday mornings, Choral Evensong, Christmas Eve, and the Great Vigil of Easter.

We thank God for the ministry of Jeffrey Ford over the past twenty years.

Mr. Ford's final Sunday as Organist/Choirmaster at Christ Church will be July 5th. Please join me in congratulating Jeffrey on his remarkable career and his wonderful ministry to Christ Church and The Church.

Faithfully in Christ Jesus,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David F." with a stylized flourish at the end.

In The Nicomachean Ethics, Aristotle asks about the function of a human being. He notes that it is more than merely physically existing like plants, and it goes beyond the sentient life of animals, but it includes also the “practical life of the rational part of man” (1.7.13).

Picking up where Aristotle left off, St. Thomas Aquinas says that “Man in a certain sense contains all things” (ST. 1.96.2.co). For Thomas, this includes four things: “his ‘reason,’ which makes him like to the angels; his ‘sensitive powers,’ whereby he is like the animals; his ‘natural forces,’ which liken him to the plants; and ‘the body itself,’ wherein he is like to inanimate things” (Ibid).

Thomas is using arcane language, referring to “humanity” as “man”, but his point stands. Human beings are different from animals (and plants and inanimate objects like rocks, for that matter) in that we, like the angels, have reason. We have an intellect.

This is not in opposition to our animal natures, or “sensitive powers” but in addition to them. Put another way, according to Thomas, human beings are rational animals, bringing together both the reason and intellect of the angels with the bodily experience of other animals.

Perhaps we see resonances of this in Genesis where God “formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being” (Gen. 2:7). We are physical—made from dust or dirt—but inspired by the animating breath of God. We are embodied and spiritual, animal and rational.

Why do I share all of this?

Well, a lot of the time I forget that I am dust, that I am an animal.

It’s easy to live in the world of intellect, of ideas, of reason – as if I were some kind of brain in a vat, with my body nothing more than the cart I use to get my reasonable self from point A to point B.

Usually some kind of ache or pain that reminds me that this body matters more than I realize.

But as we peer ahead into the next few months, there are blessings that await this body too.

As much pleasure as I get from reading a book, or listening to music, or watching a good film, I can also give thanks for the pleasures that come only from body, things angels can never enjoy. I have in mind the good feeling that comes from having the sun on my face, the good fatigue that comes after working in the yard, or the taste of fresh watermelon. There is little more wonderful than jumping in a cool pool or lake after being out in the heat.

This summer, I am trying to be thankful for all of life, including the simple animal life that God has given me (*see pictures below*). There are many blessings here that I often miss. I hope to notice them in the slower pace of the next couple of months.





Look at the list:

*A mighty fortress is our God  
Amazing grace!  
And my hope on God is founded  
How great thou art  
I sing a song of the saints of God  
Let us break bread together  
I bind myself (St. Patrick's Breastplate)  
Joyful, joyful we adore thee  
Rock of ages  
This is my father's world*

After looking at the list of hymns, I imagine that you are thinking about several things.

1. What a wide variety of choices of hymns.
2. You might even be thinking that there are several that you just don't like!
3. The above list is from the folder titled "Favorite Hymns"

It is from this file that the hymns are chosen for the time in the summer known as "sing your favorite hymns"

We look forward to hearing you sing on Sunday morning!

Jeffrey Ford

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

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



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**  
**June 22-26, 2026**

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

**MAY RECAP:**  
We had a lovely Mother's Day/Youth Sunday with a photo backdrop, roses for moms, and awards for our youth. What a sweet time for so many families!

**LOOKING FORWARD:**  
We need 14 adults to be crew leaders for VBS! VBS is June 22-26 from 9-12 each day, and it's gonna be a blast you don't want to miss out on!



**Volunteers NEEDED**



**CHILDREN'S CORNER BIRTHDAYS!**

5/29 Carter Edwards, 6/2 Madeleine Fennell,  
6/4 Benjamin Ashley



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



May 30-  
June 5

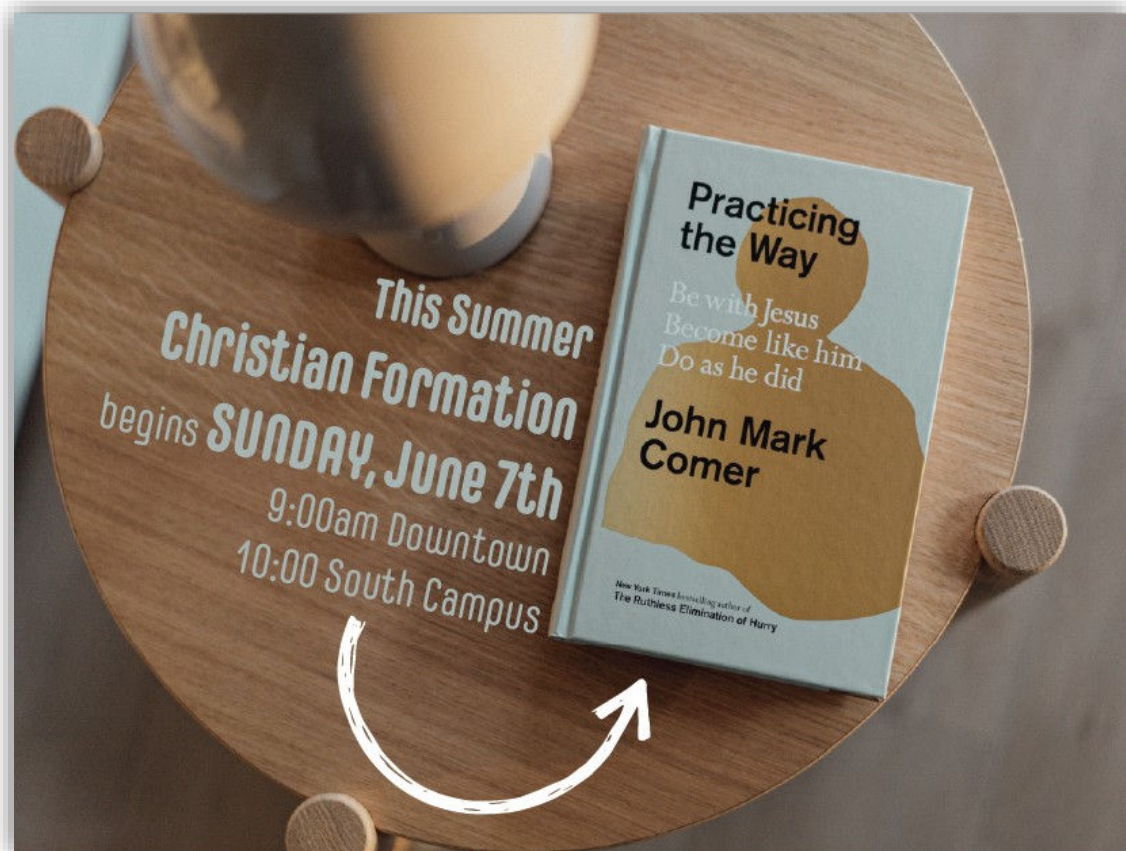
**THE TEAM!**

*Keep them in your prayers!*

- Bill Lewis
- Leesa Lewis
- Casey Squyres
- Travis Squyres
- Stan Ward
- Payton Hernandez
- Cole Tiller
- Jake Godbold
- Sarah Weissmann
- Jane Comte
- Quinn Squyres
- Zella Squyres
- Ava Squyres
- Allie Allen



6:00pm—7:00 Bible Study & 7:00—8 Fellowship



Book is available in the Gift Shop Downtown

*In Our Prayers*

Please consider including the Prayer List in your daily devotions:  
Luba, Maria, Yeva, YK, Iryna, Nora, Yevgeny, Lisa, Anna Marie, Robert, Jennifer

**The Anglican Communion:** *The Diocese of Central Zimbabwe (Central Africa)*

**The Episcopal Church:** *Dioceses of California & Central Ecuador*

**Diocese of Texas:** *Christ Church—Nacogdoches & St. Paul—Navasota*

**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

**William "Randy" Orand Key.**

**upcoming**

WEDNESDAY | JUNE 3

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

SUNDAY | JUNE 7

9:00AM NEW CHRISTIAN FORMATION | CCD

10:00AM NEW CHRISTIAN FORMATION | CCS

11:00am **Coffee Time** | CCD Guild Hall

MON—FRI | JUNE 15-19

**Tyler Mission Week**

MON—FRI | JUNE 22-26

**Vacation Bible School** | All Saints

SUNDAY | JULY 5

**Independence Day Celebrations! 250 YEARS!**



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



Next order will be placed Monday June 1.  
[www.christchurchtyler.org](http://www.christchurchtyler.org)

## 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

## 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

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*

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

#### SUNDAY, MAY 31

Trinity Sunday  
 Genesis 1:1--2:3, Psalm 150 or  
 Canticle 2 or Canticle 13,  
 2 Corinthians 13:[5-10] 11-13, Matthew 28:16-20

#### SUNDAY, JUNE 7

2 Pentecost  
 Hosea 5:15--6:6, Psalm 50, Romans 4:13-18,  
 Matthew 9:9-13



**OPEN HOURS:**  
**Sunday**  
**9am—11am**

**Tuesday & Thursday**  
**10:00am—1:00pm**

#### 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](http://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](http://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.*