

# the Crucifer

The Newsletter of Christ Church/Episcopal

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July 29, 2024  
christchurchtyler.org



**FROM** The REV. DR. COLE HARTIN, *Associate Rector*

On the sweltering Wednesday evenings of the summer, when the sun is low on the horizon, a group of men huddle in the air-conditioned Christian education room at Christ Church South. We chat and joke and catch up, then we pray, and we take time to read together, usually from the Bible, and sometimes from other Christian books. After an hour we sing an ancient hymn, Phos Hilaron, then we shuffle off to the patio where we continue the conversation over cold beer and sodas, talking as the setting sun shoots its golden rays through billows of pipe smoke.

This is a bit of glimpse in our Men's Summer Depth Group at Christ Church. *(continues on page 2)*



from the associate rector...  
**The Rev. Dr. Cole Hartin,**  
 Associate Rector

...continued from the cover

This year we are reading a short book by an old saint. The book is called *De Doctrina Christiana* which is usually translated “On Christian Teaching” or “On Christian Doctrine” and it’s written by the great African Bishop of Hippo, St. Augustine. He wrote the book to help Christians like us better understand how to read the Bible. And even after more than 1500 years, there is so much for us to learn.

Our discussion ranges each week, and sometimes I wonder, “What was I thinking when I chose this book?!” but more often I feel like we’ve learned, as a group, some wisdom for the life of faith.

One of the lessons that has stood out to me rereading *On Christian Teaching* is Augustine’s encouragement to read Scripture with a humble heart. For him, this means when we encounter difficulties in passages of Scripture, or if we come across a verse that doesn’t make sense to us, instead of shrugging it off or throwing up our hands and saying, “Whatever!”, we ought to lean in close to see what God might be teaching us.

The “obscure phrases” in the Bible, Augustine says, are “all divinely determined, so that pride may be subdued by hard work and intellects which tend to despise things that are easily discovered may be rescued from boredom and reinvigorated” (2.11). In other words, the Holy Spirit places these confusing phrases in the Bible to draw us in, to keep us interested.

He goes on to say, “It is a wonderful and beneficial thing that the Holy Spirit organized the holy scripture so as to satisfy hunger by means of its plainer passages and remove boredom by means of its obscurer ones” (2.15). Everything we need to know can be found in the plainer passages, but there are mysterious passages that are meant to delight and draw us toward God. We can only explore these challenging passages if we approach them humbly, trusting that God has communicated what God wants to communicate.

I want to learn to read Scripture this way. And, more generally, I want to learn to read other texts with the same willingness to dig deeper to learn all that I can, instead of being dismissive or glibly passing over what is a challenge to me. I am thankful for this reminder by St. Augustine.



**The**  
**LANGUAGE**  
*of* **GRACE**

MOCKINGBIRD CONFERENCE  
 TYLER • TX  
 Hosted at Christ Church Downtown & South Campus

**SEPTEMBER 27 & 28**  
 Registration Opens July 15  
[www.mbird.com](http://www.mbird.com)  
[www.mbird.com/conference](http://www.mbird.com/conference)

music at Christ Church  
**Jeffrey Ford,**  
Choirmaster & Organist

**CHILDREN'S CHOIR RETURNS SOON!** August 21st

Director: SUSIE FERGUS

Who: Children K – 5th grade

When: REHEARSAL:  
Wednesdays starting August 21  
5:30-6pm Grades K-2  
6-6:45pm Grades 3-5  
First performance Sept 8th!

Where: Christ Church Downtown



**REGISTER TODAY:**  
[christchurchtyler.org/childrens-choirs](http://christchurchtyler.org/childrens-choirs)



Every summer we like to incorporate  
YOUR favorite hymns into our Sunday  
Service.

**DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE HYMN?**

Send Jeffrey an email with the  
SUBJECT: My Favorite Hymn  
and we will add it to the list.  
[jford@christchurchtyler.org](mailto:jford@christchurchtyler.org)

**venite**  
20-40 SOMETHINGS

**Back to School  
Board Game  
Night**

Thursday, August 8th at 6pm  
Sola Bread Co/True Vine  
2453 Earl Campbell Pkwy

more info & RSVP  
[christchurchtyler.org/venite](http://christchurchtyler.org/venite)

*Women's Depth Group*  
August Social

Wed, 8/21 • 6:00pm - 8  
at the home of Paige Lollis  
2842 Stewart Way, Tyler

Women, bring a friend & your favorite  
coffee mug/tea cup. We will get to know each  
other by sharing about that special cup/mug.

Contact Karen Courville for more info: [casey@reagan.com](mailto:casey@reagan.com)



children's ministry  
**Kimber Short,**

Good Soup

What do you get when you mix an unprecedented number of glue sticks, hundreds of woman/man hours and a whole lot of pool noodles? A mirepoix or essential base of "good soup". This mirepoix was the foundation of a super fun VBS week full of deep dives into bible adventures, challenging minds and bodies to experience God in new and exciting ways and little voices singing praises to Jesus (not to mention a super creative set design!). It was thrilling to see how the Holy Spirit worked in and through each and every participant!

VBS would not be possible without the time and talents of *lots* of volunteers coming together with the "soul" purpose of sharing the love of God with kids not just from Christ Church but the whole community. What a privilege!

I will tell you, I was sweating whether we'd have enough volunteers to pull it off but the Christ Church family came through! All told, 94 kids registered and 40!!! adults and teens literally came out of the woodwork to save the day! I could not be more grateful. There were first time volunteers, grandparents, empty nesters, people that don't even have kids, new members of Christ Church and someone even *took off work* to help out! And that's just the adults. A great group of teens shared a whole week of their summer vacay with these kids! What a beautiful thing we can mix up when we all contribute our unique spice to the pot.

So please accept my most humble thanks for your prayers, donations and for showing up to contribute to the good soup that is VBS!

Looking ahead:

- 8/3 10am-12: Back to School Swim Party for 4yr olds-rising 5<sup>th</sup> graders at Mrs. Kimber's, 825 Blenheim Pl.
- 8/11 Blessing of the Backpacks at *both* campuses

Kimber ❤️

CHILDREN'S CORNER BIRTHDAYS!

7/28 Joss Hennigan, 7/29 Cline Cavender, 7/31 Hunter Martin, 8/1 Harrison Scott, 8/2 Dorothy Mayes



student ministry  
**Sarah Jones,**

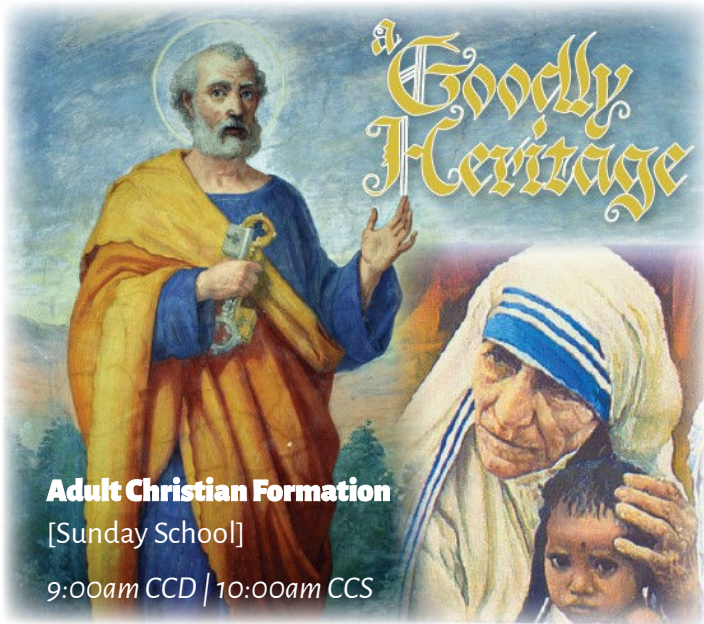
Director of Student Ministries



Another successful mission week and VBS season on the books! Thank you to everyone who volunteered during these events. Events like these really highlight the importance of community participation. None of this could be run successfully by one person, or two, or three. We need little kids to participate, youth to assist, and adult volunteers to lead. VBS is a beautiful example of the cycle of ministry. These kids who love and participate in VBS will hopefully look at their teen crew assistants and want the opportunity to be that one day. Those teens can watch and learn from the adults, important lessons on how to put forward a loving and honest effort for the benefit of another. Thank you again, to all who helped. Yes, you were a part of making VBS happen this year, but you were also a part in continuing the cycle for the next as well.







**Adult Christian Formation**

[Sunday School]

9:00am CCD | 10:00am CCS



**Men's Summer  
Depth Group**

Wednesdays 6-8pm South Campus  
final meeting 8.14.24



**Education for Ministry**

A New Year begins 9.3.2024

If you're not familiar with the program it is a 4 year study that includes Old and New Testament, the history of Christianity and developing your own theology.

If you are interested contact Clyde Beaty at 903 752 5180 or cbeqml@gmail.com for more information.



**Sunday, September 22** | Globe Life Field, Arlington, TX

10:00 am Chartered bus will depart Christ Church Downtown

1:35 pm Game starts | Rangers vs Mariners

**\$60/person**

(youth 5-12th grade-free but must have a parent or guardian accompany them)

Cost includes game ticket, transportation by charter bus, and all you can eat lunch from 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm.

Get your tickets

[www.christchurchtyler.org/rangers-game](http://www.christchurchtyler.org/rangers-game)

or call/come by the office with a check/cash

Tickets need to be purchased by August 1st.



Christ Church Student Ministries in conjunction with Primetimers has planned a Church outing to Rangers Stadium on September 22nd. This event will kick off the Primetimers Season for 2024/2025, and serve as an opportunity for our more senior members to mix & mingle with Christ Church students and families.



## thanksgivings , supplications & fellowship

*In Our Prayers*

**Please consider including the Prayer List in your daily devotions:**

Lisa, Yevea, YK, Iryna, Nora, Yevgeny, Isabelle, Tommy, Lorelei, Cody, Paul, Zac, Mimi, Phil, Carl, Samuel, Angela, Christian, Dominic, Linda, Marian, Mike, Mark, Dalton, Verdie, Chris, Jimmy, Sherry, LaRose, Curt, Billy, Hardin, Ella, Genaro, Ara, Maggie, Jennifer, Suzanne, Lynn, Lisa, Ginny, Pam, Jack, Jerry, Stan, Laurie Ann, Sarah, Alan, Ginger, Sally, Jan, Rylan, Crews, the Tilley family, Laura

**The Anglican Communion:** *The Diocese of Ho (West Africa)*

**The Episcopal Church:** *Dioceses of Indianapolis & Iowa*

**Diocese of Texas:** *St. James the Apostle—Conroe & St. Martin's—Copperas Cove*

**PRAYER REQUESTS: <Prayers re-set August 25>** 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

**Elizabeth "Betsy" Ellis;**

**Richard Moore,**

*husband of Pamela Moore;*

&

**Lucy Taft,** *wife of The Rev. Paul Taft.*

### upcoming

THURSDAY, August 8

6:00pm VENITE [20-40 somethings] Game Night

(see graphic)

@ TrueVine/Sola [www.christchurchtyler.org/venite](http://www.christchurchtyler.org/venite)

SUNDAY, August 11 (see graphic)

10:00am Blessing of the Backpacks | CCD

11:05am Blessing of the Backpacks | CCS

WEDNESDAY, Aug 21

5:30pm Children's Choir Rehearsal K-2 (see graphic)

6:00pm Children's Choir Rehearsal 3-5 (see graphic)

6:00pm EYC resumes for 2024-25 school year | CCD

6:00pm Women's Depth Group August Social (see graphic)

6:30pm Chancel Choir rehearsal | CCD

TUESDAY, September 3

5:30pm EfM begins CCD (see graphic)

SUNDAY, September 8 Ministry Fair CCD&S

TUESDAY, September 10

8:00am Men's Bible Study with the Rector | CCD



THURSDAY, September 12

10:30am Women's Bible Study with the Rector | CCD

FRIDAY, September 13

6:00pm SupperClub Large Group meeting at the Taliaferro's

SUNDAY, September 22

Texas Rangers Game (see graphic)

FRI & SAT, September 27 & 28

The Mockingbird Conference (see graphic)



## THE VESTRY

Mr. Bill Clewater, *Treasurer*

Mr. Tim Alexander, *Asst. Treasurer*

CLASS OF 2024

Mrs. Kim Meyer, Mr. Danny Noteware,

Ms. Sheryl Richter-Jr. *Warden CCS,*

Dr. Dan Toney

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-Sr. *Warden,*

Ms. Joyce McGee, Mr. Stan Ward,

Mrs. Ann Weissmann-*Clerk*

## 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*

ssi@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. Diana Keesey

*Parish Administrator*

dkeesey@christchurchtyler.org

Mr. Jeffrey Ford

*Organist/Choirmaster*

jford@christchurchtyler.org

Mr. A.J. Meals

*Assistant Organist*

Mrs. Sarah Jones

*Director of Student Ministries*

sjones@christchurchtyler.org

Mr. McKinley Terry

*Student Ministries Assistant*

mterry@christchurchtyler.org

Mrs. Kimber Short

*Director of Children's Ministries*

kshort@christchurchtyler.org

Ms. Lynda Witzky

*Children's Ministries Assistant*

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

Mr. Anthony Moore

Mr. Kendric Milton

*Sexton*

*Sexton*

*Assistant Sexton*

Blair Zdenek, Jessi Mayes, Madisyn Bickham,

Priscilla Yeboah

*Nursery*

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

**Sunday, August 4**

11 Pentecost | Proper 13

Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15

Psalm 78:1-25

Ephesians 4:17-25

John 6:24-35

**Sunday, August 11**

12 Pentecost | Proper 14

Deuteronomy 8:1-10

Psalm 34

Ephesians 4:[25-29] 30--5:2

John 6:37-51



### Holy Baptism

The next scheduled date for baptisms is Sunday, August 18, 2024.

If interested in baptism on this date, please contact the church office,

903-597-9854 or

office@christchurchtyler.org.

### 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***

### **Sundays during Summer**

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

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

11:05 am~ **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 (except July and 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.*