

# the Crucifer

The Newsletter of Christ Church/Episcopal

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

This is the time of year I like to take stock of my life.

I don't know what it is, but by late August, and into September, I am looking back and looking ahead. For some people this kind of introspection best fits in the long dark nights around the New Year. But, perhaps because I was a student so long, and, maybe, because much of the church year is roughly aligned with the school year, I find myself thinking a lot about the meaning of my life in late summer and early autumn.

The retrospective piece has me looking back over the goals I made for myself over the past year about the kind of husband and father I wanted to be, about the kind of Christian and pastor I wanted to be, about the many books I wanted to read, and the many articles I wanted to write. I never seem to be able to make the progress I am aiming for. Moreover, the progress I do make feels closer to crawling a few inches toward the person I want to be than any of the wild illusions of betterment that I had imagined I might have attained. *(continues on page 2)*



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

...continued from the cover

This does little to chasten my imagination as I look ahead to the year ahead. My ambitions are just as big and outrageous as they've always been, while my track record ought to be a reminder that the pace of real life is quite slow, and I need to adjust my plans accordingly.

As I look back and look ahead, I sometimes feel a sense of satisfaction at the work I have done, but more often than anything I feel a little blue that I am another year older and the span of life ahead of me is one year shorter. I can also feel a little discouraged about the many, many times I've missed the mark, which for me is far more common than hitting it.

I guess that's why I find the Parable of the of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector (Luke 18:9-14) so comforting. In this parable, Jesus tells us of two men that went up to pray. The pharisee is the most respectable of the two, and he lists his long stream of religious accomplishments before God. It's truly impressive. He seems like a stand up guy.

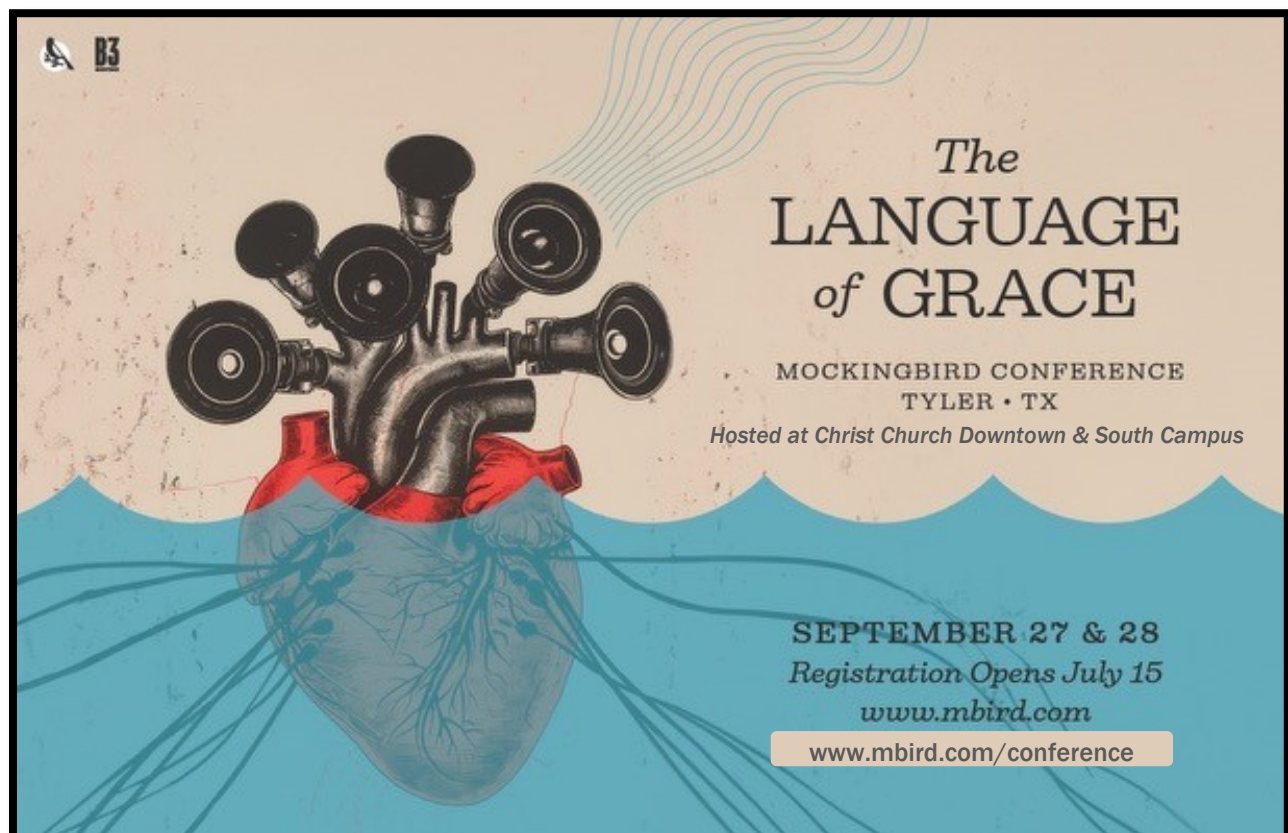
And then there's the other fellow, the tax collector. He stands outside of the spotlight, eyes downcast, beating his breast, begging God to have mercy upon him, a sinner.

Jesus tells us it was this mess of a man who walked away justified. The loser is the one who found peace with God.

And this is hopeful to me. Because as much as I'd like to be a Pharisee, and to read through a laundry-list of things I've done well in the life of faith, as a parent, as a writer, instead I am left realizing all the ways I've fallen short.

My prayer then, is a lot more like the tax collector's, a plea that God would have mercy on me a sinner. Whatever real hope I have is not centered on this year being a little bit better, but on God who has mercy on those who fail to live up to expectations.

The parable is a reminder, in other words, that grace is found not when we are at the top of our game, but when we fumbled it up. And this is wonderfully good news. It means that God in Christ is always there when we least deserve it, dispensing mercy and love and grace that we can barely ask for. Just recognizing this brokenness before Jesus is enough to lighten our step, for "whoever exalts themselves will be humbled, and whoever humbles themselves will be exalted" (Luke 18:14b).



**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)

## The Vital Bond Between Liturgy and Music

A.J. Meals, *assistant organist*

*"The aim and final end of all music should be none other than the glory of God and the refreshment of the soul."*

—Johann Sebastian Bach

Nestled atop Sewanee Mountain in southeastern Tennessee lies the sleepy college town of Sewanee, home to The University of the South, a leading seminary of the Episcopal Church. Though it can be called by many names, there is a group that refers to this locale as "The Holy Mountain." That group is composed of Episcopal Organist/Choirmasters, Directors of Music, choristers, and even an Assistant Organist or two who converge upon the mountain each July for the Sewanee Church Music Conference, after pressing "general cancel" (sorry, that's organist speak) at the end of the spring choral season.

The conference is a week filled with rehearsals, workshops, and worship services where conferees can glean skills, techniques, and knowledge necessary for bringing quality music to their local congregations. A valuable experience, to be sure.

I have been fortunate to have the privilege of attending this conference for the past two summers as the Assistant Organist of Christ Church, Tyler and its benefit to me cannot be overstated. Not only musically and professionally, but also as a welcome change of pace and scenery. Notably absent upon the "Holy Mountain" was the din of the ever present traffic of North Main in Gladewater, where I reside. In its place was a sound I had nearly forgotten, the conversing of songbirds. The hot, humid summer air that we're accustomed to here in East Texas was replaced with a cool, refreshing atmosphere, making it pleasant to be outside at any time of day. Of course, that is to say nothing of the breathtakingly beautiful Gothic architecture found throughout the campus. Even further, all I had to do was show up for rehearsals with my binder (we call it the conference bible), and sing as instructed. No need to spend hours on the practice bench laboring over voluntaries, hymns, and anthems (not that I'm complaining—I would never!). That would, and has, come soon enough.

Despite the delight of all I have just described, the real highlight of the conference—the best part—was stepping into the cavernous nave of the stunningly Anglican All Saints' Chapel prior to some of the morning services, and being enveloped by the sound of the conference organist practicing the many notes she would be called upon to play during the week. It was the perfect setting for us to turn our hearts and minds to worship.

Though there were many other services that week, including Compline, a full Choral Evensong and the Sunday morning Rite II Eucharist, the Rite I liturgy for the departed on Wednesday morning stood out as the most edifying and meaningful of all, for two reasons. The first reason being the richness of the liturgy and its ability to minister to the souls of those present in the most sublime of ways. As someone who is a transplant into the Episcopal Church from a more evangelical tradition, I still marvel at the depth of the

liturgy as I have the opportunity to peel back its many and mysterious layers. I'm sure that on occasion even "cradle Episcopalians" find themselves in awe of its richness. Words like those found in this collect, used during the service, seldom fail to remind us of the security we have in Christ, along with those who have come, and gone, before us in The Faith:

*"Grant us, with all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, to have our consummation and bliss in thy eternal and everlasting glory, and, with all thy saints, to receive the crown of life which thou dost promise to all who share in the victory of thy Son Jesus Christ; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen."*

You may have noticed that as yet I have scarcely mentioned music. After all, it was the Sewanee CHURCH MUSIC Conference. One would expect music to be the immediate focus of this piece of writing. That brings me to the second reason for my connection to this particular service. It was inescapably clear that every musical selection for this somewhat intimate service was chosen for the sole purpose of serving and elevating the liturgy. The hymns, voluntaries, and service music were all clearly chosen especially with this in mind and I was left with the very clear conviction that, as a church musician—your Assistant Organist—my role is to select music and approach music assigned by Mr. Ford with one primary focus in mind.

That focus must be that the music that fills and facilitates our worship must point our minds to the liturgy, which, in turn, points our hearts to Christ and Him crucified. That begins with any musical selections that the two of us make, and continues with our approach to those selections, all the way down to the way we prepare the organ for performing them during the service. I'll spare you the details of that.

You see, it is not enough for us to select and prepare music simply for its own sake. Rather, the music must fulfill its purpose in our worship setting. That is, to bring glory to God, as J.S. Bach so eloquently opined in the words at the opening of this article. And even further than that, it must point the listener to our Lord and Savior, through the liturgy. My prayer is that those of us who are called to this ministry, in this assembly and others, do so with our eyes turned to Jesus, and with our hearts prepared to receive the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, to the Glory of God the Father.

Now, we all settle back into the routine that comes with the end of summer. School schedules resume (to the delight of some and to the chagrin of others), our regular service schedule returns, and the Christ Church Chancel Choir returns to the stalls with a calendar FULL of rehearsals, services, and special events. And we do so with a renewed fervor for our role, purpose, and, dare I say, our calling to lift our hearts and minds to the great work of the Liturgy—through music.

The practice bench is calling. I'll see you in church.

P.S.: *Anyone who is interested in viewing the Choral Evensong and Sunday Rite II service from the conference may do so, at no cost, at [www.sewaneeconf.com](http://www.sewaneeconf.com).*

children's ministry  
**Kimber Short,**  
 Director of Children's Ministry

A new school year can bring many, sometimes conflicting, emotions. Excitement, anxiety, overwhelm and anticipation are just a few that come to mind. In a quick Internet search of "back to school" you will find anything from lunch box ideas to 17-ways-to-ease-the-transition -back-to-school. I love that we are more aware of our perceptions and emotions. Sometimes all it takes to help our kids over a hurdle is to put a name to that big, amorphous feeling they are having.

In addition to all the practical advice I found, there were also scripture readings that could apply to this theme. Several were noted but I found two to be especially comforting. Joshua 1:9 says, "I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Psalm 56:3-4 tells us, "When I am afraid, I will trust in You. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I will not be afraid. What can mortal man do to me?" If we can send our children out into the great big world knowing that God is with them wherever they go and to put their trust in God when they are afraid (and every day!), I believe we would be raising some very resilient kids! I will be praying that as they make their way back to the structure and routine of school and all the activities that go along with that!

**Looking BACK:**

We had a lot of fun at our annual swim party! The kids were sugared up with grapes, popsicles and ice cream sundaes. There was a great group on Sunday for the blessing of the backpacks. Mrs. Kimber even got her work bag blessed!!



**Looking AHEAD:**

**Ministry Festival** is coming up. Come explore where you can "Serve Beyond Sunday"!

Lay ministries and social groups will be represented, ready to answer all your questions.

When: 9/8/24

Where: CCD @ 9:00  
 CCS @ 10:00

Kimber ❤️

**CHILDREN'S CORNER BIRTHDAYS!**

8/12 Sullivan Shilling, 8/17 Charlotte Mercer,  
 8/21 Zara Pippin, 8/22 Katie Fletcher,  
 8/23 Eliza Dos Santos,  
 8/23 Katie Luckenbach, 8/25 Elijah Pogue,  
 8/25 Gabriel Pogue, 8/26 Tegan Patterson

student ministry  
**Sarah Jones,**  
 Director of Student Ministries



Hello families,

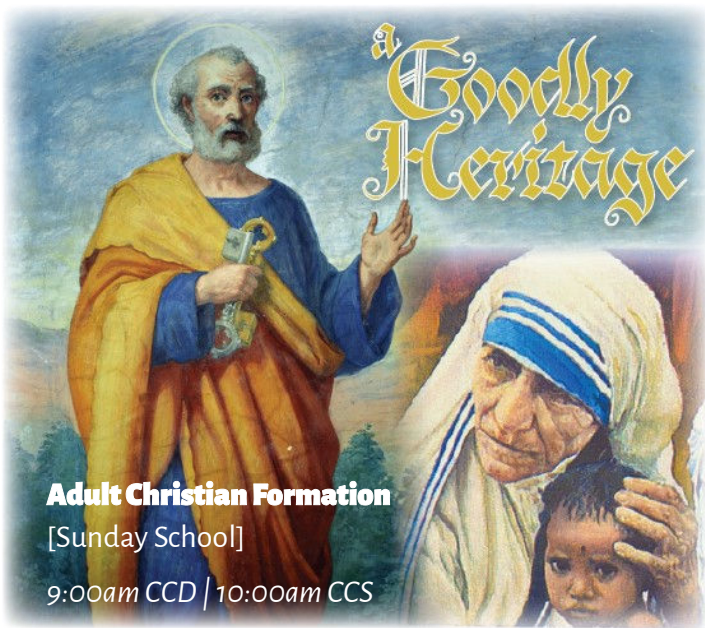
We had our middle school mission trip last week! We needed to change some plans as there were some weather complications so we stayed local instead of going to Galveston. Which didn't matter because we still had so much fun! We stayed at a great lake house in Gladewater, worked with PATH painting houses, and had a fun day in Longview.

Thank you to all the parents for your understanding and flexibility on Sunday while we were figuring everything out. It really shows that God is always in the mix guiding us to where we need to be and I feel that staying local was exactly what we needed this year. We had ten kids and everyone got along. They bonded through lake days, board games, bowling, escape rooms, and just being all together. Everyone took turns cooking dinners and doing chores without complaint (mostly).

I appreciated getting to know these youth in a deeper more meaningful way. You learn a lot about someone you spend five whole days with and it was a joy to learn so much. I am looking forward to next year's mission trip and hope we can have an even larger group!







**Adult Christian Formation**

[Sunday School]

9:00am CCD | 10:00am CCS

Tailgate Party Theme!

# Supper Club

Join us!

Friday, Sept 13  
6:00pm  
together in large group

RSVP by the Sept 6  
[christchurchtyler.org/supper-club](http://christchurchtyler.org/supper-club)

★ ★ Wear your favorite team gear or colors!! ★ ★



**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 [cbefml@gmail.com](mailto:cbefml@gmail.com) for more information.

EVG + Primetimers

SEPT 22, 2024

**CHRIST CHURCH FAMILY TEXAS RANGERS BALL GAME!**

**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 still available!



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.

## 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)

## thanksgivings , supplications & fellowship

*In Our Prayers*

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

Luba, Lisa, Yeva, 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, Ezri, Mark, Analina

**The Anglican Communion:** *The Diocese of Ibadan (Nigeria)*

**The Episcopal Church:** *Dioceses of Kansas & Kentucky*

**Diocese of Texas:** *All Saints—Crocket & St. Mary's—Cyprus*

**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.

## upcoming

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 Festival

9:00am CCD

10am CCS

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*)

*Come one Come all!*

**Step right up for your chance to  
Serve Beyond Sunday!**



Come for the awesome food  
–[think maple bacon donuts + more] & coffee–  
raffle prizes & fun, leave excited &  
energized for the year ahead!

WE will see YOU at CCD @ 9 & CCS @ 10 on Sept 8.



# THE VESTRY

Mr. Bill Clawater, *Treasurer*  
Mr. Tim Alexander, *Asst. Treasurer*  
CLASS OF 2024

Mrs. Kim Meyer, Mr. Danny Noteware,  
Ms. Sheryl Richter-Jr. *Warden CCS*,  
Dr. Dan Toney  
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Mr. Julius Bergfeld, Mrs. Catherine Buhrkuhl,  
Mr. Steven Comte, Mrs. Karen Hughes,  
Mr. Mark Shuttlesworth-Jr. *Warden CCD*  
CLASS OF 2026

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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*

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*Rector* dluckenbach@christchurchtyler.org

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*Associate Rector* chartin@christchurchtyler.org

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*Associate Rector* twelty@christchurchtyler.org

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*Deacon* ssti@tjc.edu

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*All Saints Episcopal School Senior Chaplain, Assisting Priest*

The Rev. Leesa Lewis  
*All Saints Episcopal School Assistant Chaplain, Assisting Priest*

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*Assistant Organist*

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*Music Leader, Christ Church South* epiphanyttx@gmail.com

Ms. Jennifer Ducote  
Mr. Anthony Moore  
Mr. Kendrick Milton  
*Sexton*  
*Sexton*  
*Assistant Sexton*

Blair Zdenek, Jessi Mayes, Madisyn Bickham,  
Priscilla Yeboah  
*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.

## Lectionary for upcoming Sundays Year B BCP 1979 Lectionary

### Sunday, August 18

13 Pentecost | Proper 15  
Proverbs 9:1-6  
Psalm 147 or Psalm 34:9-14  
Ephesians 5:15-20  
John 6:53-59

### Sunday, August 25

14 Pentecost | Proper 16  
Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-25  
Psalm 16 or Psalm 34:15-22  
Ephesians 5:21-33  
John 6:60-69

## 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)





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**

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

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

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.*