

# the Crucifer

The Newsletter of Christ Church/Episcopal

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September 25, 2024  
christchurchtyler.org

## FROM THE RECTOR:

*Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.* St. Francis of Assisi (1182-1226)

Few people have impacted the life and ministry of the Church like Francis of Assisi.

Eight centuries years ago in the Italian town of Assisi, Francis walked away from a comfortable life to follow Jesus with notable zeal and sacrifice. He abandoned a palace for a cave.

Francis' extreme commitment to following the Lord moved thousands of others to renounce worldliness and follow in the steps of Jesus, who 'had nowhere to lay his head' (Matthew 8.20). Francis personified the essential values of sacrificial love, peace, and faithfulness to Christ.

One element in the ministry of Francis was great affection for animals. Because of his love for all of God's creatures, thousands of backyards have statues of Francis on which birds and squirrels can sit.

At Christ Church, Francis of Assisi's love for animals birthed a great tradition near his birthday. On Sunday October 6, we will gather in Bergfeld Park at 3:00 for the annual Blessing of the Pets. Thanking God for the gift of our dogs and cats and guinea pigs, we will enjoy a brief but festive service of prayer and celebration, praying for them all.

Remember your leash or cat carrier, and come join the fun at the Blessing of the Pets!

Faithfully in Christ,

David +

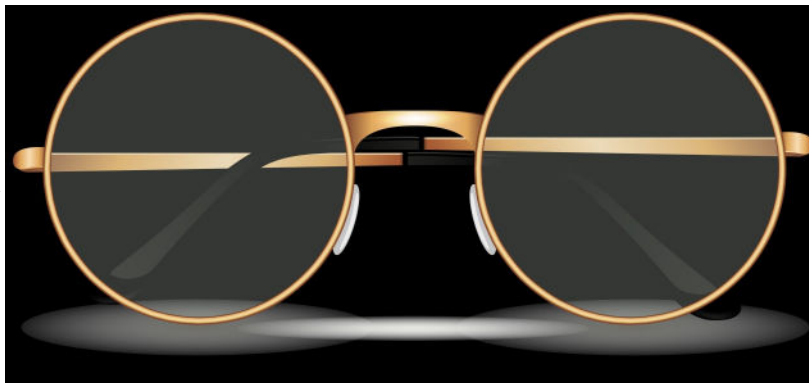


I was driving home from church one day on a sultry summer afternoon. My car had been baking for hours on the blacktop of the Christ Church parking lot, so when I got in, I started to sweat a little bit. Beads of perspiration formed on the bridge of my nose so that my glasses started to slip. I pushed them back by the nosepiece, and, when they started to slide again, I pulled them by the arm. The arm of my glasses broke! Clean off! I couldn't believe. They were just over a year old.

I can get by well enough without glasses for a little while, so I drove home and made an appointment with the optometrist for an exam so I could get a new pair. In the meantime, I figured I'd rummage around for an old pair to get me through until then. Turns out that my second-most recent set of spectacles fell victim to the sticky hands of my toddler and were no longer serviceable. I did manage to scrounge up my third-most recent pair, which were several years old. They did not age well. The paint on the frames was starting to flake, and the lenses were very well scratched and scraped. When I first put them on, I saw everything through their smudge.

But then something interesting started to happen over the course of the week I wore these very old glasses. I slowly stopped noticing how bad I was seeing. My brain made the flip from seeing the scratchy surface to seeing through the scratchy surface. My vision was still impaired by the glacial scuffs on the lenses, but I stopped taking notice. It just started to feel normal.

This past week, after I had visited with the doctor, got a prescription, and picked out a new pair, I finally realized my blindness. When my new glasses were ready, a very nice lady took them and sprayed some solution on them. Then she picked them up in two cloths and expertly buffed the lenses, stopped, furrowed her brow as she held them to the light, and went at it again. By the time she was done, they were crystal clear. She said, "I hope I didn't miss a spot."



I said, "I doubt it. They will never be this clean again."

She passed them to me, and I donned them, and looked out the window. Everything was sparkling and clear. My eyes were flooded with light. It was as if I wasn't even wearing glasses.

I realized then how poorly I was seeing with the old glasses. I had gotten used to the blur. It was only by trying on a new pair that I realized what I was missing.

"Thank you," I said, and left the store to drive home.

I started to wonder how many of us are living the Christian life with smudgy and scratched eyes of faith.

As Christians, all of us have had a sparkling experience of grace, but over time our faith can start to dull. Sometimes sin slips in and makes its mark. Other times the busyness of life crowds out our commitment for worship on Sundays. Other good things: Family, travel, work, they start to leave a trace and pretty soon, though we are Christians and we feel fine, there isn't much light left reaching the eyes or our hearts.

As we begin a new month and reset our service schedules here at Christ Church, we get a natural opportunity to check up on our eyes of faith. Are we really seeing as well as we thought? Maybe it's time to re-up on some commitments we've made to God, and to ourselves. This might mean starting to say morning prayer again, returning to reading the Bible, or making it a priority to be in worship. It might mean going to confession, or reaching out to pray with that friend whom we haven't seen in way too long.

The question we need to ask ourselves is not, "Am I getting along well enough as a Christian?" but rather, "What is God's best for me?" If we ask this, and are open to an answer, God may just sharpen our vision once again.



## The Psalms of David

The chancel choir will be singing the Psalms in the morning services. The singing of the Psalms in Anglican chant represents one of the Episcopal Church's beloved traditions.

The Psalms are meant to be sung, accompanied by a stringed instrument. Historically they are attributed to King David and considered as the most treasured book in the scriptures. There are 150 psalms.

The Psalter as it appears in the Book of Common Prayer, is especially designed for singing. Verses are split in two—marked by an asterick—reflecting the two-part versification form of the original Hebrew. The most common verse is a couplet, but triplets are frequent and quatrains are not unknown. The Book of Common Prayer has prescribed them to be used during all the daily office and most liturgical services. Over the course of a thirty-day cycle, the entire Psalter is sung.

Here at Christ Church the Psalms are either Responsorial recitation (reader alternates with the congregation) or Anglican Chant sung by the choir. (*chant is done in four-part and the rhythm is determined by the natural flow of the words.*)



## Check out the new Endowment Fund bronze plaque in the entry of the Spence Building downtown!

An endowment fund for repair and maintenance of facilities is a fund that supports upkeep of facilities on both campuses. It exists separate from the general operating budget, and is earmarked for projects that are above and beyond the established programs of the church. With this in mind, the goal is to expand the existing small endowment to provide for future needs of the two campuses.

Gifts to the Endowment Fund can be in memory/honor of a loved one, or as an expression of gratitude, and listed on the new plaque. Just as the beautiful stained glass windows downtown have reminded us of others that have worshiped in our church, we can add names to this permanent plaque as a continuous reminder.

This will be an ongoing opportunity available for years to come. (*For information on how you can join this group of donors, please contact the parish administrator.*)



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

Organized Chaos?

Chaos defined is "complete disorder and confusion" so clearly "organized chaos" must be an oxymoron. It's just our way to try to feel some control over those things which seem so out of control. Like the current state of my house...

In July, as Hurricane Beryl wreaked its havoc on our beautiful city, I found myself the recipient of a second tree on my house. (Tree #1 courtesy of Hurricane Alicia, Houston, 1983) As trees-on-houses go, it wasn't awful. Yes, we could see the lichen on the bark of the tree trunk from our closet and it was raining in there but no one was injured. We went about moving clothes & shoes, etc. to mitigate any damage and have since been navigating the rolling racks and boxes of those items. And while this has been inconvenient, it hasn't risen to the point of chaotic. What upped the ante was our decision to begin a remodel of the entire upstairs and the office downstairs and to have the exterior of our house painted. Accounting for all the demo and relocation of furniture from those rooms to others for the duration, this left only the kitchen and family room untouched by what has now risen to chaos. As the cherry on top, one of our dogs developed a mysterious eye problem resulting in multiple trips to our vet and culminating in a trip to a board-certified canine ophthalmologist to have said eye removed. I'm here to tell you, there hasn't been much that's been organized in this chaos!

So I ran away from home. (But just for a week to visit my family.)

Sitting next to my mom and brother at Annunciation of Our Lady Episcopal Church in Gurnee, IL, I was struck by how un-chaotic it was. I knew the psalm and the gospel from the bulletin I had prepared for chapel at Christ Church and I was overcome by a sense of peace knowing that in every Episcopal church in the land, we were experiencing the same liturgy, reading the same Psalm and hearing the same Gospel. I felt connected in a way I hadn't considered before. A subtle reminder that we are all connected through Christ. So amidst the chaos, I'll give thanks for the fleas, ala Corrie Ten Boom, and try to find the stillness of the Lord in my heart.

Kimber ❤️

P.S. Trunk or Treat & Fall Fest coming Saturday, October 26 @ CCS



CHILDREN'S CORNER BIRTHDAYS!

9/25 **Cora Garvey**, 9/26 **Katie Meals**,  
 10/3 **Genevieve Mayes**, 10/4 **Sterling Doran**,  
 10/5 **Matthew Ford**, 10/5 **James Pippin**,  
 10/8 **Jos Garvey**



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

Fall is (not quite) here but I am grateful for the sporadic cool mornings that give me hope that it is on its way. Thank you to everyone who went to the baseball game. We had an amazing time. Good food, good company, and a/c, what more could I ask for?

Over the summer we held a knitting camp with the prayer shawl ministry, and we had a great time. So much so that many of the girls requested we meet monthly which I am happy to oblige. Our first meeting will be Saturday, October 12th at the downtown campus 10-11:30am. Friends and family are welcome, and no previous experience is necessary. Fall festival is coming up on Saturday, October 26th and we will be having a trunk or treat again this year. Please let me know if you are interested in helping.

*Sarah Jones*  
 Director of Student Ministries

**Knitting**  
 Saturday, October 12th  
 10-11:30am . Downtown *Club*



# Benediction Breakfasts

Benediction, *noun* | the utterance & bestowing of a blessing

## Women

*mothers | grandmothers  
aunts | sisters | daughters*

October 5



## Men

*fathers | grandfathers,  
uncles | brothers | sons*

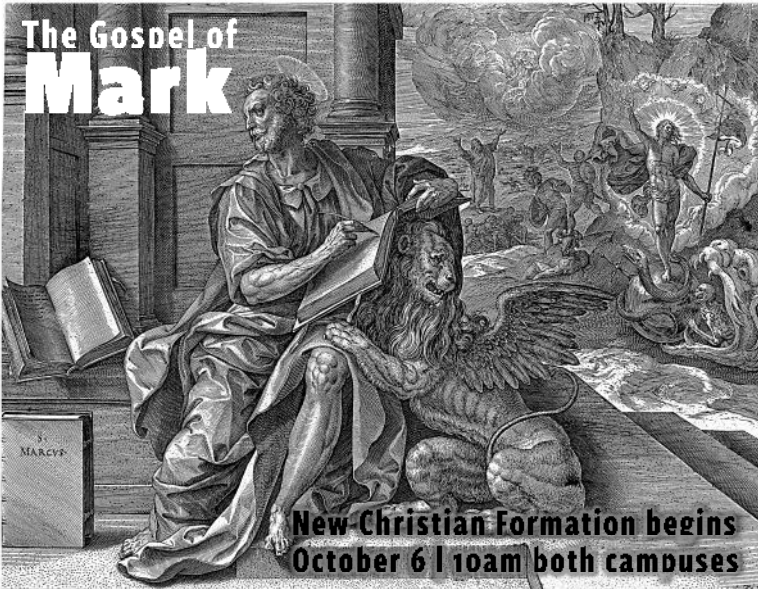
October 12

10:00am Christ Church South Pavilion

Joining together every generation across the two campuses {**benediction**}.

*Bring along family & friends.*

RSVP to [www.christchurchtyler/breakfast](http://www.christchurchtyler/breakfast)



# thanksgivings , supplications & fellowship

## In Our Prayers

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

Luba, Lisa, Yeva, YK, Iryna, Nora, Yevgeny, Paul, Sally, Maggie, Jennifer, Laura, Alan, Ginger, Sally, Laura, Ezri, Mark, Analina, Darin, Barbara, Vicky, Amber, Chris, Jerry, Linda, Dalton, Chris, Mike, Mark, Marian, Verdie, Connie, Jeremy, Lauren, Russ, Liam, Heather, Chris, Alinda, Piper, Jimmy

**The Anglican Communion:** *The Diocese of Jabalpur (North India)*

**The Episcopal Church:** *Dioceses of Louisiana & Maine*

**Diocese of Texas:** *Church of the Good Shepherd—Friendswood & Grace Episcopal—Galveston*

**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.

**Congratulations on the birth of:**  
*Harrison Stockdale Carr*  
 son of Jackie & Hunter Carr,  
 grandson of Lucy & John Carr.  
 born September 5, 2024

*In Memoriam*  
 Our sympathies to the  
 family & friends of  
**Molly Grubb Lynn.**

## upcoming

FRI & SAT, September 27 & 28  
The Mockingbird Conference

SATURDAY, October 5  
10:00 Women's Benediction Breakfast | CCS

SUNDAY, October 6  
Return to regular service times DOWNTOWN  
7:30am Rite I Holy Eucharist | CCD  
9:00am Rite II Holy Eucharist | CCD  
10:00am Christian Formation | CCD & CCS  
11:00am Rite I Holy Eucharist | CCD  
11:05am Rite II Holy Eucharist | CCS  
3:00pm Blessing of the Pets | Bergfeld Park

SATURDAY, October 12  
10:00 Men's Benediction Breakfast | CCS

SUNDAY, October 13  
12:30pm Newcomers Lunch with the Rector | CCS

FRIDAY, October 18  
6:00pm Supper Club (small groups)  
RSVP by Oct 11 [christchurchtyler.org/supper-club](http://christchurchtyler.org/supper-club)

SUNDAY, November 3  
6:00pm Choral Evensong

**REGULAR SERVICE TIMES RESUME**  
**Sunday, October 6, 2024 Downtown**  
 7:30am Holy Eucharist - Rite I  
 9:00am Holy Eucharist - Rite II  
 10:00am Christian Formation  
 11:00am Holy Eucharist - Rite I



New Christian Formation begins this Sunday | 10:00am both campuses  
**The Gospel of Mark**

**Supper Club** Join us!  
 Friday, Oct 18  
 6:00pm  
 together in large group



RSVP by the Oct 11  
[christchurchtyler.org/supper-club](http://christchurchtyler.org/supper-club)

**Miracle on 34th Street** Attention Primetimers!  
 Save the date:  
 December 15th



Join us to attend Tyler Civic Theater's production of **Miracle on 34th Street**. Followed by dinner together at a local restaurant.  
**More details to come.**



**CONFIRMATION:**  
 November 17 | CCS  
 with Bishop Fisher

Preparation classes begin  
 Sunday 10/6 10:00am CCS



## 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  
 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                      The Rt. Rev. Kai Ryan  
*Bishop Suffragan*                                      *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. Diana Keesey  
*Parish Administrator*                                      dkeesey@christchurchtyler.org

Mr. Jeffrey Ford  
*Organist/Choirmaster*                                      jford@christchurchtyler.org

Mr. A.J. Meals  
*Assistant Organist*                                      mealsa@gladewaterisd.com

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

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*

Blair Zdenek, Jessi Mayes, Madisyn Bickham,  
 Priscilla Yeboah, Kimberly Wanjiru                                      *Nursery*

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

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29**  
 19 Pentecost | Proper 21  
 Isaiah Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29  
 Psalm 19, James 4:7-12 [13--5:6]  
 Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6**  
 22 Pentecost | Proper 22  
 Genesis 2:18-24, Psalm 8, Psalm 128,  
 Hebrews 2:[1-8] 9-18, Mark 10:2-9

**NEWCOMERS**  
**LUNCH WITH THE RECTOR**  
 OCTOBER 13 @ 12:30PM  
 CHRIST CHURCH SOUTH  
 15747 OLD JACKSONVILLE HWY.  
 RSVP: CHRISTCHURCHTYLER.ORG

## Holy Baptism



The next scheduled date for baptisms is Sunday, 11.3.2024. 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 starting October 6**

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 | 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.*