

the Crucifer

The Newsletter of Christ Church/Episcopal

Vol. XXVI, No.20
October 30, 2024
christchurchtyler.org

FROM THE RECTOR:

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith... Hebrews 12.1-2

At the Sydney Olympics, the world was introduced to Eric "The Swimmer" Moussambani of Equatorial Guinea. The 22-year-old African had only learned to swim the previous January. Eric had only practiced in a 20-meter pool without lane markers, and he had never raced more than 50 meters. By special invitation of the International Olympic Committee, under a special program, Eric had been entered in the 100-meter men's freestyle.

When the other two swimmers in his heat were disqualified because of false starts, Mousambani was forced to swim alone. Eric Moussambani was, to use the words of an Associated Press story about his race, "charmingly inept." He never put his head under the water's surface and flailed wildly to stay afloat. With ten meters left to the wall, he virtually came to a stop. Some spectators thought he might drown!

Even though his time was over a minute slower than what qualified for the next level of competition, the capacity crowd at the Olympic Aquatic Center stood to their feet and cheered Eric on. After what seemed like an eternity, the African reached the wall and hung on for dear life. When he had caught his breath and regained his composure, the French-speaking Moussambani said through an

interpreter, "I want to send hugs and kisses to the crowd. It was their cheering that kept me going."

We too have a cheering section. We cannot see them all, but the book of Hebrews reminds us that a 'great cloud of witnesses', composed of all the faithful departed, is pulling for us as we make our way through this life.

In a few days, we will observe All Saints. And a month from now, we will celebrate Thanksgiving. This year, I invite you to give particular thanks to God for your cheering section. I especially remember my grandparents and parents, an amazing group of elementary and middle-school teachers in Corpus Christi, and a group of Episcopal women in south Texas. For much of my life, they and others have been cheering me forward as a student, a Christian, a man, and a minister. I thank God for them. I thank God for their prayers, their witness, and their encouragement.

For whom do you cheer? Persevere in your support for them. It might be the difference between disappointment and victory.

Faithfully in Christ,

David



I grew up in a Christian household, in a thriving church community, where I learned Jesus loved me from a very early age. I gave my life to serving him when I was still a kid. I am so grateful for the Christian witness that I grew up around and am thankful for the ways I was introduced to Jesus by my family, folks at my church, and my pastors.

But one facet of the Christian faith was not really present for me at all in these early years, that was the Saints. I didn't know about "the great cloud of witnesses" (Hebrews 12:1) who went before me, to whom I could look and find examples of what it meant to follow Jesus.

And I am not just saying that I missed out on the lives of post-biblical Saints like St. Augustine of Hippo, or St. Thomas Aquinas, or St. Julian of Norwich; we didn't even pay much attention to biblical Saints St. Luke or St. Michael or St. Priscilla.

I am not casting shade on anyone, by the way. Just observing that, although I received many gifts of faith while growing up, an appreciation for the Saints was not one of them. It wasn't that the kind of Christianity I was shown didn't make sense, it was just kind of skeletal and bare-bones in this respect.

Part of what drew me to the more catholic vision of Christianity we find in the Anglican Communion, and in The Episcopal Church more particularly, was this filling out of the deposit of faith. I was drawn to this more heavily populated Christianity and the witness of those living and dead. I was longing for steady, faithful examples of holy women and men who'd modelled what it meant to walk in the way of Jesus in their own time and place.

None of the Saints are perfect. They are sinners like you and me. But they are holy, because the Holy Spirit has

sanctified them and they've cooperated with this grace such that their lives shine with it. I now love to learn about the Saints and hear their stories.

What's more, any version with Christianity that does not present us with an account of the Saints leaves a vacuum, and this vacuum will not stand to be empty. In North American Christianity, where we don't have Saints, we have celebrity Christians.

Sometimes these celebrity Christians are pastors, usually young, usually very fit, charismatic, attractive. Or perhaps they are musicians, members of bands with sleek names and slick recordings. Or maybe they are academics, the smart type who have written books and seem to know all that there is to know about God.

A lot of times these are great people. Sometimes they are shysters and frauds. But they are admired by us not because they are holy, with lives utterly devoted to Jesus, but because they are talented or beautiful or intelligent.

The Saints might be all of these things too. They might be none of these things. But they are people who are holy. As we approach the feast of All Saints, may God give us the grace to honor them, and follow their examples.



His divine power has given us everything needed for life & godliness through the knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory & goodness.
 2 Peter 1:3

156 pledges so far!

[25% increased their pledge from last year | 13 new pledges | 17 pledged electronically]

Stewardship 2025—Make your pledge today!

www.christchurchtyler.org/give

Questions: contact Diana Keeseey, Parish Administrator.
 903.597.9854 or dkeeseey@christchurchtyler.org



Christ Church Tyler | 118 S. Bois d'Arc

TIDINGS

&

J O Y

Tuesdays of Advent

Noon | Christ Church Downtown
followed by a light lunch

December 3

TJC Alumni Guitars, Frank Kimlico, *director*

December 10

Weston Jennings, *organ*; Mark & Ute Miller, *violin & viola*

December 17

Micah Bell, *trumpet*; Sarah Roberts, *saxophone*;
Elena Daughtery, *piano*



Our Annual Parish Meeting and Vestry Election will be held in January.

Vestry nominations are being received now!

Nominees should be excellent trustees and lay leaders of Christ Church, at least 18 years of age and enrolled communicants of the church in good standing.

Please commend those names to John Bufe, *Senior Warden*
johnbufe@gmail.com by November 17.

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

Organized Chaos Pt. 2

Our children's curriculum, "Holy Moly", starts each year with 12 stories from the Old Testament and all three years begin with the Creation. Genesis 1:2 tells us that "the earth was without form and void, with darkness over the face of the abyss, and a mighty wind that swept over the surface of the waters." The enormity of the void, the chaos if you will, has always been difficult for me to wrap my brain around. But Genesis clearly describes that God took that chaos and organized it into all that we would ever need. Now I can't look at the stars, an ocean, or be in nature without actually feeling the interconnectedness of it all. How every single thing was created with love and purpose. What an amazing God we serve!



Part of my gratitude practice is to take time to notice the natural beauty that exists and to thank God for it. It may seem silly but when I see something truly awe inspiring, it has been my practice to say "good job God!" Kevin and I recently returned from two weeks in Fiji and Sydney. Sydney is full of beauty in its own way but Fiji...waterfalls, sea life, coral reefs, bromeliads the size of Smart Cars! But the most beautiful part of our Fiji experience were the Fijians themselves. While many religions are practiced there, the Christian people we met valued four things above all else—God, community, family and the land. The gratitude they showed for us visiting their country was not rehearsed. It came from their hearts. For me, it was a beautiful lesson in loving thy neighbor and a reminder that even when things seem their most chaotic and out of control, God is our stronghold, our shelter and our refuge.

Kimber 



CHILDREN'S CORNER BIRTHDAYS!

11/3 **Charlie Comte**, 11/9 **Connor Hennigan**

student ministry
Sarah Jones,
Director of Student Ministries



Thank you all for a great fall festival! We had a competitive chili cook-off this year which gave us 14 delicious tasting options. Congratulations to our winners (*see picture to the right*)! Thank you to the Brotherhood for cooking hot dogs and dishing out bowls of house chili and thank you to everyone who donated candy and items for the kids to enjoy at our game stations. This is such a fun event to put together and I appreciate everyone's participation to make it happen!

Coming up:

- We will be setting up angel trees again this year on November 10th.
- The youth will be volunteering at Breckenridge Village in December at their community tree lot.

Sarah Jones
 Director of Student Ministries



CHILI COOK-OFF WINNERS:

(From left to right) **Ronda Darby** won for salsa, **Todd Sharp** for Texan, **John Bailey** for Yankee, **Kristina Waits** for Peoples choice, and **Allison Hennigan** for No Bull.

Reaffirmation



Reaffirmation is an opportunity in which individuals who have already been confirmed, publicly reaffirm their baptismal vows, with the laying on of hands by the bishop.

November 17, 11:05am at South Campus.
Bishop Fisher will be here for confirmation.

Want to be REAFFIRMED on this date?

Contact the Parish Secretary at office@christchurchtyler.org or call 903.597.9854.



FALL BACK this Sunday! November 3rd



Supper Club

Join us!

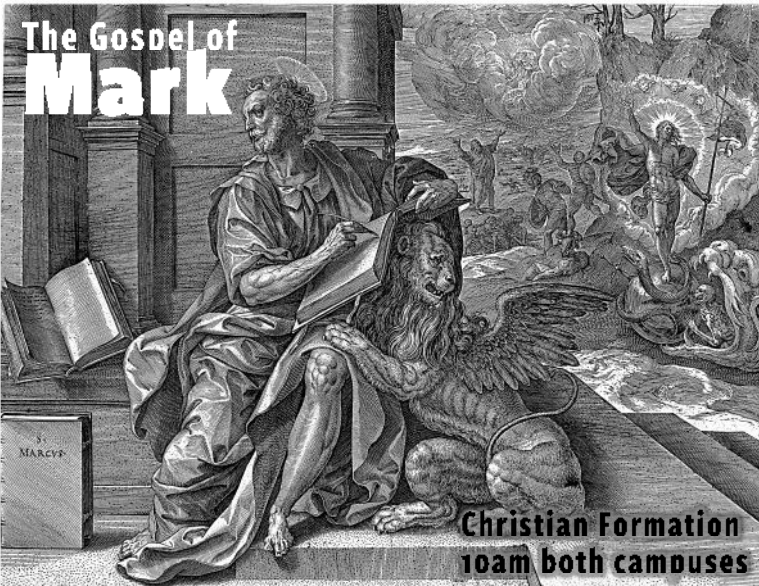
Friday, November 8
6:00pm

christchurchtyler.org ^{RSVP by Nov 1} /supper-club



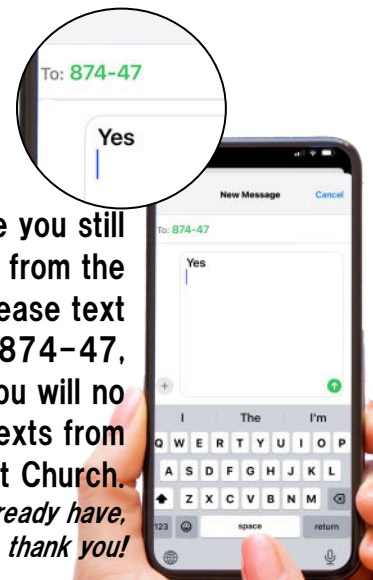
Women's Depth Group

1st & 3rd Wednesdays
6:00pm CCS



The Gospel of Mark

Christian Formation
10am both campuses



To make sure you still get texts from the church please text **YES** to 874-47, otherwise you will no longer get texts from Christ Church. *Many of you already have, thank you!*

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, Chester

The Anglican Communion: *The Diocese Karnataka (South India)*

The Episcopal Church: *Dioceses of Michigan & Milwaukee*

Diocese of Texas: *William Temple Episcopal Center—Galveston & Grace—Georgetown*

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.

upcoming

SUNDAY, November 3 | CCD
6:00pm Choral Evensong (reception to follow)

FRIDAY, November 8
6:00pm Supper Club

SUNDAY, November 17 | CCS
11:05am Confirmation with Bishop Fisher | CCS

THURSDAY, November 28
Thanksgiving service available ONLINE

TUESDAY, December 3 | CCD
Noon Tidings of Joy Concert series begins followed by a light lunch

THURSDAY, December 5 | CCD
Noon 1928 Holy Eucharist through Christmastide

SUNDAY, December 8th | CCD
6:00pm Lessons & Carols

SATURDAY, December 14th | CCS
6:00pm Caroling & Bonfire

SUNDAY, December 22nd | CCS
11:05 Children's Christmas Pageant

TUESDAY, December 25th | CCD
4:00pm Children's Christmas Pageant
7:30pm Christmas Eve Eucharist
10:30pm Midnight Mass/Candlelight Service

WEDNESDAY, December 25 | CCD
10:00am Christmas Eucharist

In Memoriam

Our sympathies to the family & friends of

Paul Bruechner;
Frank Lemuel McClendon, Jr.,
brother of Anne Jones;

Judy Terry,
grandmother of McKinley Terry; &

George Price,
nephew of Anthony Moore.

Advent & Christmas 2024

December 3-17th
Tidings of Joy Concert Series
Tuesdays @ Noon in Advent
Christ Church Downtown

December 5-19th, Jan 2nd
1928 Holy Eucharist
Thursdays @ Noon
Christ Church Downtown

December 8th
The Service of Nine Lessons & Carols
6:00pm in the Nave

December 14th
Caroling & Bonfire
6:00pm Christ Church South

December 22nd
Children's Christmas Pageant
11:05am Christ Church South

Christmas Eve - December 24th
Christ Church Downtown
4:00pm Children's Christmas Pageant
7:30pm Christmas Eve Eucharist
10:30pm Midnight Mass | Candlelight Service

Christmas Day - December 25th
10:00am Christ Church Downtown

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
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. 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 epiphanytx@gmail.com

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

Blair Zdenek, Jessi Mayes, Reagan Daring,
 Priscilla Yeboah, Kimberly Wanjiru
Nursery

Lectionary for upcoming Sundays Year B BCP 1979 Lectionary

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3

All Saints Day
 Sirach 44:1-10, 13-14
 Psalm 149
 Revelation 7:2-4, 9-17
 Matthew 5:1-12

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10

25 Pentecost | Proper 27
 1 Kings 17:8-16
 Psalm 146
 Hebrews 9:24-28
 Mark 12:38-44

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Sundays | 10:00am

The Gospel of Mark @ both campuses

Confirmation Prep @ South Campus

Tuesdays | 8:00am | Downtown

Men's Bible Study w/ the Rector | Ephesians

Thursdays | 10:30am | Downtown

Women's Bible Study w/ the Rector | Ephesians

Recordings of Bible Study with the Rector can
 be found at christchurchtyler.org/resources.

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.*