

the Crucifer

The Newsletter of Christ Church/Episcopal

Vol. XXVI, No. 21
November 13, 2024
christchurchtyler.org

FROM THE RECTOR:

Rev. Gary Wilburn notes that in 1636, amid the darkness of the Thirty Years' War, a German pastor, Martin Rinkart, is said to have buried five thousand of his parishioners in one year – an average of fifteen funerals a day. His parish was ravaged by war, death, and economic disaster.

In the heart of that deep darkness, with the cries of fear outside his window, Rev. Rinkart sat down and wrote this prayer for his children:

**Now thank we all our God
With heart and hands and voices;
Who wondrous things had done,
In whom His world rejoices.
Who, from our mother's arms,
Hath led us on our way
With countless gifts of love
And still is ours today**
(The Hymnal 1982 #397)

What a powerful model of a grateful heart.

Every person in every place in every time faced adversity. As we approach Thanksgiving, I pray that, whatever difficulties you face or disappointment you have endured, you will see the many blessings our Lord has showered upon your life. And you will be reminded of God's great love for you.

I thank God for the blessings of Christ, for my family, for Christ Church, for life in the United States in this age, and for YOU!

May God bless you and those you love with a very Happy Thanksgiving!

Gratefully in Christ Jesus,

David H



When (if!) you are reading this, you will be starting to think about Thanksgiving. You might already be thinking about Christmas. And though we celebrate these holidays for different reasons, and they are laden with their own sets of traditions, they share this one thing in common: They are celebrated with feasting.

Feasting is a difficult concept for North Americans. It is a difficult concept because we tend to vacillate between two extremes that exclude the possibility of true feasting.

On the one hand, we tend gorge ourselves on the typical American diet, which is chockful of more fat and salt and sugar than any of us needs. Everyday, every meal becomes a kind of feast, but a cheapened feast, a sham-feast, a feast without soul. We eat more than our fill of fast food and candy and soda (which, by the way, in Canada, we call “pop”) and then worry about our waistlines.

On the other hand, which is not unrelated to the above, we get sick of the American lifestyle and start to diet, obsessively worrying about which foods we should or should not consume, trying to survive on whatever new cocktail of chemically enhanced trend-food promises to keep the calories off.

Writer and priest Robert Farrar Capon first alerted me to this problem. Thinking of the way Americans worry about calories, in *The Supper of the Lamb*, he writes,

A calorie is not a thing; it is a measurement. In itself, it does not exist. It is simply a way of specifying a particular property of things, namely, how much heat they give off when burned. Only things, you see, are capable of being eaten or burned, loved or loathed; no one ever yet got his teeth into a calorie.

He goes on to say, “How sad, then, to see real beings...

calorie counters — living their lives in abject terror of things that do not even go bump in the night.” In other words, we shouldn’t be afraid of calories, Capon is saying, because calories don’t exist in any substantial sense!

I am convinced by most what Capon has to say, though I do find myself worrying from time to time as the plentiful and delicious beer and barbecue of Texas calls my name. What I am certain of, however, is that even if some concern about calories is justified, it must be put out of mind for the holidays.

Thanksgiving, along with Christmas (which is coming quickly!) are occasions for feasting, for gathering with friends and family to eat roast meat, to revel in lovely starchy potatoes, and to enjoy luscious pumpkin pie topped with fatty ice cream.

We feast to give thanks and to celebrate the life that God has given us. Life is not always easy. Families are sometimes complicated. Some years are lean years.

Still, it is good to feast, to take a day to cease the hustle, the grind, and to simply be. Be what? Be thankful to God.

Feasting allows us to see that life is good, that God is good, and to glimpse a little of an even greater feast, when “the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear” (Isaiah 25:6). This will be the best feast, and we won’t be thinking about calories at all!

¹ My copies of *The Supper of the Lamb* are still in storage. So I can’t give you the page number and am relying on excerpts I’ve dredged up from the internet. I can assure you the quote is in the book, and the book is worth reading!



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

183 pledges so far!

[25% increased their pledge from last year | 17 new pledges | 42 pledged electronically]

Stewardship 2025—Make your pledge today!

www.christchurchtyler.org/give

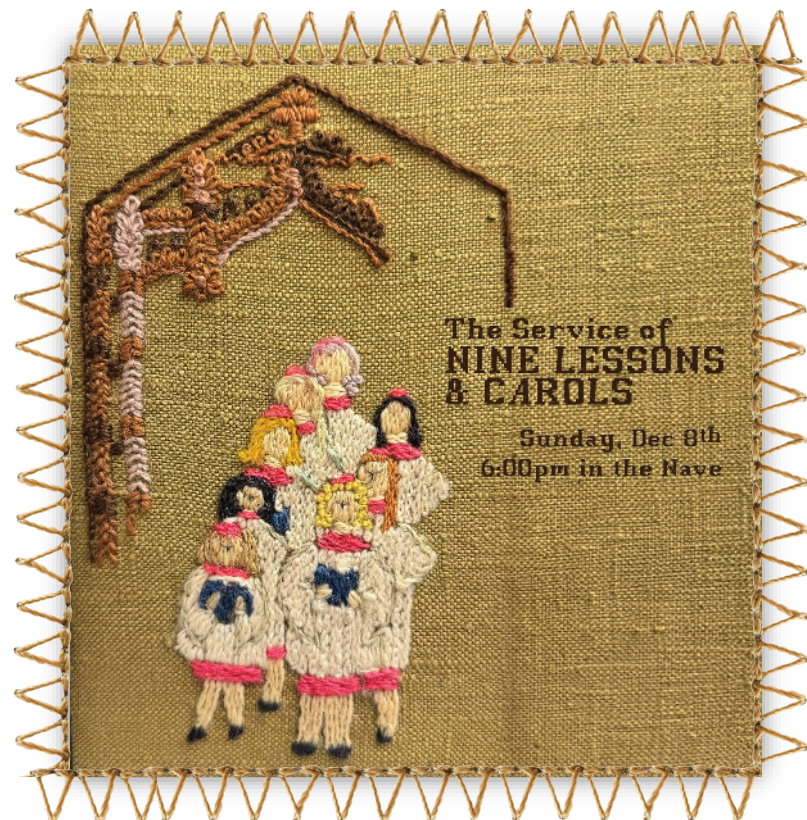
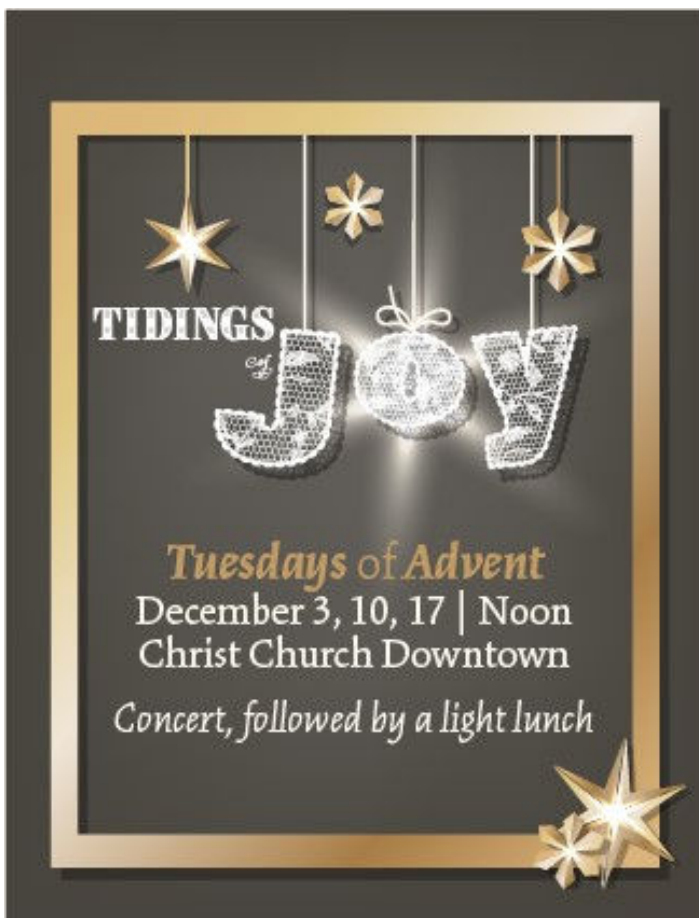
Questions: contact Diana Keeseey, Parish Administrator.
 903.597.9854 or dkeeseey@christchurchtyler.org

I was looking on YouTube and came across a post entitled “Too many wrong attitudes during the Holy Mass”. Below are some of the things that it mentioned that could be applied to anyone that attends a church service.

1. Don't be late. When one has an important meeting to go to they normally arrive a few minutes early. By getting to church early you are letting people know that this is important enough to arrive ahead of time.
2. Dress appropriately. What they are saying is that one wants not to stick out but to blend in when going to the house of God to worship. In these changing times there are many thoughts on what to wear at church. Maybe we should think about the importance of God in our lives and wear our best out of respect to the Almighty.
3. Do not eat and drink in Nave. It is irreverent to eat or drink in the Nave unless you need to drink for medical reasons.
4. Do not cross your legs. It is considered a disrespectful posture.
5. Kneel or stand during the consecration of the Eucharist.
6. During the passing of the peace stay in your area as opposed to walking to the other side to greet people.
7. Silence cell phones.

Now this should give you lots to talk about when you are having coffee on Sunday morning before or after church or even in Adult Christian Formation (Sunday School).

Thank you for all those that helped to make CHORAL EVENSONG successful: **The Chancel Choir**, and the **Carol Choir**; for filling the choir stalls; **Holly Marsh** for cantoring; **Susie Fergus** for preparing the Carol Choir; **John & Stacey McKinley** and the **Thursday knitting group** for greeting and handing out leaflets; **The Rev. David Luckenbach** for officiating; **The Rev. Dr. Cole Hartin** for reading; **Bryan Rossman** for verging; **Ronda Darby** for the great food at the reception.



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



Announcing an Open Casting Call for an Annual Christmas Pageant
Calling all Girls and Boys! Don't miss your chance to claim a roll in the Christ Church Christmas Pageant

Parents, imagine your child in the spotlight! Making their stage debut! This opportunity is not to be missed!! Make your interest known by calling the church office at 903-597-9854 or emailing Kimber at kshort@christchurchtyler.org.



CHILDREN'S CORNER BIRTHDAYS!

11/14 **Isla Hanna**, 11/17 **Evelyn Meals**
11/19 **Geo Hernandez**, 11/21 **Sarah Chambers**
11/25 **Celia Mellon**

Welcome!

Zoe Ward

Interim Director of Children's Ministries

Zoe, the daughter of Stan & Mindy Ward, comes to our team with great gifts, skills, & experience ministering to children.



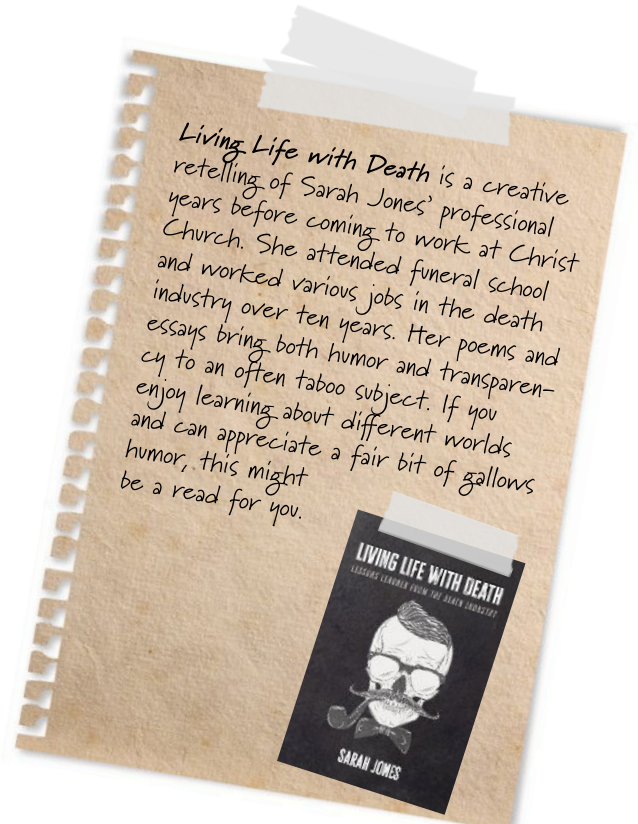
student ministry
Sarah Jones,
Director of Student Ministries



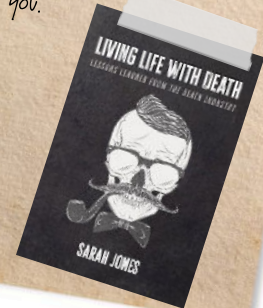
'Tis the season! The season before the season! I visited a home goods store over the weekend and the Halloween clearance was all piled up next to the aisles full of Christmas decorations—poor Thanksgiving seems to get lost now-a-days. I, much like the home goods store, have my eyes on December already as well. The youth sponsored **Angel Tree event** is back again this year. There is a tree set up at both campuses with tags for kids whose families struggle financially. All these families are vetted by the Salvation Army and then we get to participate in the wonderful gift of a memorable Christmas morning by buying the suggested items on these tags. There will be a binder next to each tree. If you take a tag please write the tag number, a phone number, and your name. Take your tag, grab a bag, do your shopping and then bring all items back unwrapped and in the provided bag with the tag attached.

The youth group will be adopting several angels this year and will be doing our shopping together on December 1st. Please join us in helping with this wonderful ministry.

Sarah Jones
Director of Student Ministries



Living Life with Death is a creative retelling of Sarah Jones' professional years before coming to work at Christ Church. She attended funeral school and worked various jobs in the death industry over ten years. Her poems and essays bring both humor and transparency to an often taboo subject. If you enjoy learning about different worlds and can appreciate a fair bit of gallows humor, this might be a read for you.





1928 *Book of Common Prayer*

Holy Eucharist

Noon Thursdays Advent-Christmastide

Beginning December 5

Downtown in the Nave



bonfire *caroling*

Saturday, December 14

Christ Church South

15747 Old Jacksonville Hwy

Meet at 6:00pm for **caroling**
bonfire at 7:00pm



LAST CHANCE!



A limited number of Primetimer Tickets are still available for the Miracle on 34th Street showing on December 15th (Sunday) at 2:30 pm. Tickets are priced at \$12.50 each (half the regular box office price). Those interested in purchasing can contact John McKinley at 903-590-0428. For those who have already purchased tickets, they will be available for pickup from Valerie at the reception desk, beginning Monday, November 11th. Information to follow regarding dinner after the show.

primetimers

 (those 50 & above)

Women's Depth Groups
1st & 3rd Wednesdays
6:00pm CCS



Please adopt an angel by taking a tag & a bag.



Last day for gift drop off is December 1.

Contact Sarah Jones, for more info
sjones@christchurchtyler.org.



Wear Plaid!

Supper Club

Scottish Christmas Party

Friday, Dec 13 | 6:00pm

at Joanna Reagan's

RSVP: www.christchurchtyler.org/supper-club

by December 6



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.

thanksgivings , supplications & fellowship

In Our Prayers

Please consider including the Prayer List in your daily devotions:

Luba, Lisa, Yeve, YK, Iryna, Nora, Yevgeny, Paul, Sally, Maggie, Jennifer, Laura, Alan, 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 Khablamba (Southern Africa)

The Episcopal Church: Dioceses of Minnesota & Mississippi

Diocese of Texas: St. Philips—Hearne & St. Bartholomen's—Hempstead

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 Gretchen Nash; & Alvin Sampson Rhorer, father of Tony Rhorer.

upcoming

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

THURSDAY, November 28
Thanksgiving service available ONLINE

TUESDAYS, starting December 3 | CCD
Noon Tidings of Joy Concert Series followed by a light lunch

THURSDAYS, starting December 5 | CCD
Noon 1928 Holy Eucharist through Christmastide

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

FRIDAY, December 13th
6:00pm Supper Club Scottish Christmas Party

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

Congratulations on the baptism of: Justin Okwudilichukwu son of Samuel & Chiamaka Emechebe November 2, 2024 and Mason & Thomas Shuttlesworth sons of John Shuttlesworth & Ana Barandiaran, grandsons of Mark & Trudy Shuttlesworth November 3, 2024

CHRISTIAN FORMATION
Sundays | 10:00am
The Gospel of Mark @ both campuses
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.

THE VESTRY

Mr. Bill Clawwater, *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*

Lectionary for upcoming Sundays Year B BCP 1979 Lectionary

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17

26 Pentecost | Proper 28

Daniel 12:1-3 , Psalm 16

Hebrews 10:11-14 [15-18] 19-25

Mark 13:1-8

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24

Christ The King | Proper 29

Daniel 7:9-14, Psalm 93

Revelation 1:1-8

John 18:33-37 or Mark 11:1-11

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

sssti@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

Ms. Zoe Ward

Interim Director of Children's Ministries

zward@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

Mr. Anthony Moore

Mr. Kendrick Milton

Sexton

Sexton

Assistant Sexton

Blair Zdenek, Jessi Mayes, Reagan Darling,

Priscilla Yeboah, Kimberly Wanjiru

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.

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



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.*