

the Crucifer

The Newsletter of Christ Church/Episcopal

Vol. XXVII, No. 1
December 11, 2024
christchurchtyler.org

FROM THE RECTOR:

“And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”
Luke 2.4-11 (KJV)

Childbirth is certainly one of the most remarkable events human beings ever experience. Painful. Hopeful. Exhilarating!

The most important birth in history went largely unnoticed. No one helped Mary and Joseph as they walked for a week—at full term—from Nazareth to Bethlehem. No Heads of State were present to welcome the King of Kings. Mary’s parents and in-laws were not there. No doctors or nurses assisted in a teenage girl’s delivery of her newborn son.

Yet God did choose to tell a handful of people what was happening. Wise men from the East did not know the details, but they knew a king was coming and followed His star. And an angel of the Lord announced to a team of shepherds that the Savior—the Christ—was born!

God does not always loudly telegraph His plans to us. Often we must listen attentively to hear God’s Word. I invite you this Christmas to be still and bend your ear to the voice of the Lord. His Word is clear—The Savior is Here! Rejoice and receive Christ the Lord as your King!

Wishing you a Blessed Advent and a Merry Christmas!

Faithfully in Christ Jesus,

David H



A few years ago, I wrote a piece for *The Living Church* magazine about one my favorite books to read at Christmas. This book is William Kurelek's *A Northern Nativity*, a reimagining of the Christmas story for the children. Sadly, this year my copy is still boxed up in storage with my other books while we are in the last leg of our renovation at Christ Church Downtown. I won't be able to get my hands on it until after Christmas, but I wanted to share it with you, in case you might be searching for a last minute Christmas gift for someone special.

The book is important to me because it brings the Incarnation of the second person of the Trinity close to home. Jesus's birth, it reminds us, is not as far away as we sometimes think. Jesus becomes like one of us in the truest sense. In the article, I wrote

In this beautifully illustrated volume, Kurelek walks the reader through a sequence of dreams. He writes from the perspective of himself as a 12-year-old boy and suggests that these dreams occurred leading up to the Christmas season. Kurelek evokes a trance-like atmosphere with his prose and images that brings to mind the same tranquil ambiance as *The Polar Express*.

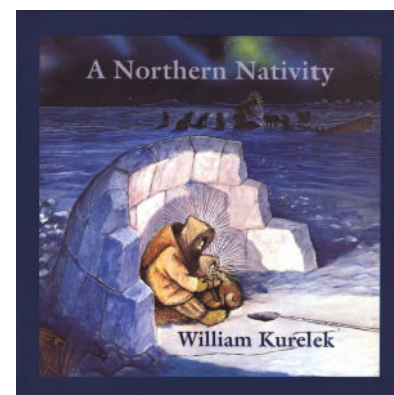
While many children's Christmas stories play up vague sentimentality, or cheap moralism, *A Northern Nativity* sets itself apart with a sustained reflection on the incarnation, the Holy Family, and how we might easily dismiss them.

The book is set up so that each dream is portrayed with an image, and an adjacent page of text that describes the scene, including the 12-year-old William's reaction to it. Each dream is a reimagining of the nativity of Christ in many of the varying landscapes of Canada, from the Rocky Mountains in the West, to barren fields, greasy car garages, and fishing shacks on the East Coast. The only constant is harsh conditions, and reverent depictions of Mary, Joseph, and Jesus making their way as a family.

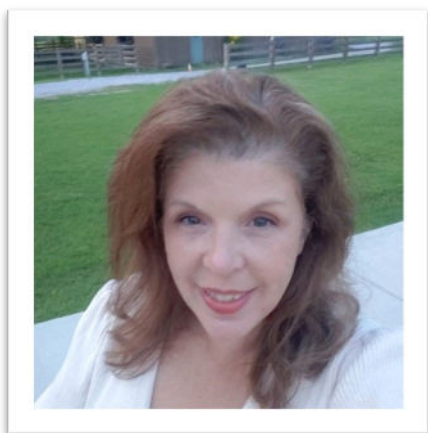
I described in a bit more detail Kurelek's background as an artist, and a little bit more of what he did in *A Northern Nativity*. I concluded by saying,

The combined force of the book is a reminder of the humanity of Christ, that he took on flesh among a particular people, and entered the world not as a universal man, but as a poor, first-century Jew. Kurelek imagines what Christ's incarnation might look like in Canada at the time he was writing, in the nitty-gritty, often heart-breaking realities of life. In all of the images, the Holy Family is poor, often relying on the kindness of strangers. These images stir the heart and evoke love for Christ, somehow bringing greater attention to what he suffered by recasting his life among different people in a different time.

As we prepare for Christmas once again, I am trying to meditate on the reality of Christ's coming to us. The substance of his coming was glorious, but the conditions into which he entered the world were anything but. The Christmas story is a reminder, among other things, that God comes to us in the midst of poverty and adversity, in the most unlikely of circumstances. As much as we try to avoid these challenges, God in Christ meets us right here in the middle of them.



¹The article was later posted online. If you are interested, you can read it here: <https://livingchurch.org/covenant/a-northern-nativity/>



After nearly two and a half decades of excellent service to Christ Church, Diana Keesey will be retiring in late-January as our Parish Administrator.

An extensive search was made for the new Parish Administrator, we are thrilled to welcome Michaelae (*pronounced Michelle*) Ardoin to the Christ Church team! A lifelong Christian and administrative professional, Michaelae brings 25 years of extensive accounting, human resource administration, and office management experience to the Christ Church staff. Michaelae enjoys working with people and will provide exceptional administrative support and financial stewardship for Christ Church.

Welcome to the Christ Church family, Michaelae!

Welcome our new
Parish Administrator



Unto you is born...a Savior,
who is the Messiah, the Lord.


CHRISTMAS
 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 Candlelight Service

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



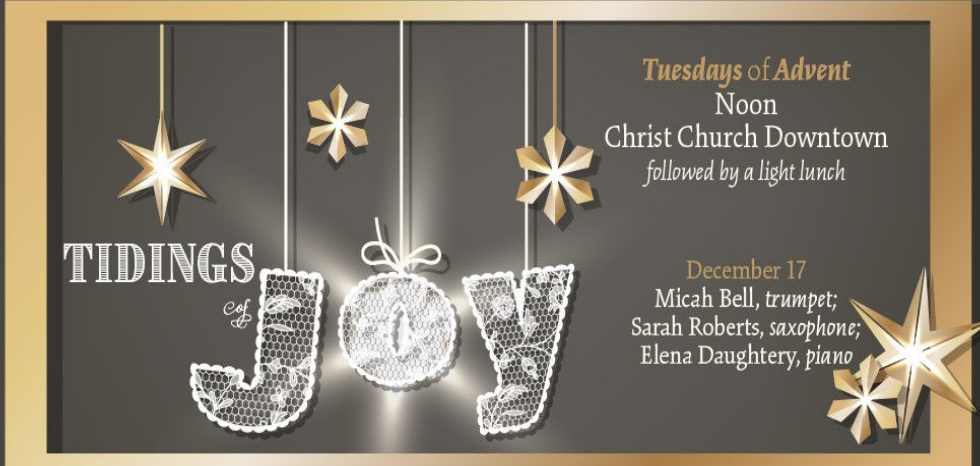
*Nursery available



1928
Book of Common Prayer
 Holy Eucharist
 Noon Thursdays Advent-Christmastide
 Dec. 5, 12, 19 & Jan 2
 Downtown in the Nave

So here's the deal - these needlework pieces were completely invisible to me for five whole years I worked here. But then we moved to the third floor during the Bell building renovation, and suddenly there they were: these gorgeous, sweet little textile stories just waiting to be noticed. Every day walking past Diana's new library office, I'd see these beautifully stitched scenes that just captured our church's history - and I knew exactly what I wanted to do with them. Our Advent and Christmas graphics this year! These precious works, from what we think, were from a needlework guild back in the 1950s. If the postcard looked familiar when it landed in your mailbox, now you know why - it's a loving nod to about 30 incredible pieces of art that have been quietly hanging out on our third floor. Come check them out in the library display cases - they're a hidden gem that tells our church's story, one delicate stitch at a time.

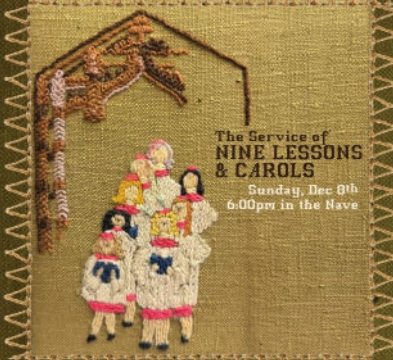
Samantha Hague, *Director of Communications*
 (If you have information about these, please contact me at shague@christchurchtyler.org.)



TIDINGS
of
JOY

Tuesdays of Advent
 Noon
 Christ Church Downtown
 followed by a light lunch

December 17
 Micah Bell, trumpet;
 Sarah Roberts, saxophone;
 Elena Daugherty, piano



The Service of
NINE LESSONS & CAROLS
 Sunday, Dec 8th
 6:00pm in the Nave

**The Service of
 NINE LESSONS & CAROLS**

If you missed Lessons & Carols,
 you'll want to watch it! **FABULOUS!**
www.christchurchtyler.org/lessonsandcarols

children's ministry
Zoe Ward, Interim
Director of Children's Ministry

"Happy Advent to all!"

As someone who did not grow up in a liturgical denomination, the cyclical nature of the Church's calendar year is a sweet gift to my forgetful human mind. Every year, Advent reminds me that the waiting we experience now is quite similar to the waiting the Jewish people experienced in anticipation of the Messiah. They waited for his coming as we wait now for his return. How long those 400 years of silence between the Old and New Testament must have been. How long the past 2,000 years of waiting have been. And yet, from this waiting, we are brought to our knees each year on Christmas Day at the feet of a newborn baby, calling him Lord and Savior as he cries for his mother. The scandal of the Gospel, that God himself would be made human, and the most vulnerable of all humans. So tiny and fragile.

Working in children's ministry, as I learn about the quirks of kids, I wonder what Jesus experienced as he grew up. What did he like to bite on when he was teething? Did he skin his knees? Did he catch a stomach bug, or wrestle with his brothers? Did he talk to God at night and tell Him about his day when everyone else was asleep? I'm thankful that Advent comes each year, because each year I need the same reminder: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS:

We would love to have you volunteer with our Christmas pageant this year! We need volunteers who will be in charge of groups of children as well as volunteers who are willing to move the stage so we can take communion.

Rehearsal times are as follows (stage volunteers are not needed until the final rehearsal):

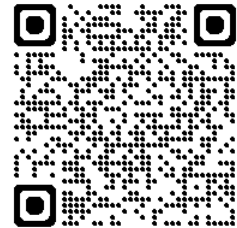
CCS- the 8th at 10 AM, the 15th at 10 AM, and the 21st at 9 AM.

CCD- the 15th at 10 AM, the 21st at 1 PM, and the 22nd at 1 PM.

The **South Campus pageant** is on the 22nd at 11:05, so please arrive at 10:15.

The **Downtown pageant** is the 24th at 4, so please arrive at 3:15.

We still need children to sign-up for our Christmas pageant, so please scan the QR code >>> or email me at zward@christchurchtyler.org to enroll your children or grandchildren!



CHILDREN'S CORNER BIRTHDAYS!

12/11 **Dominic Hague**, 12/15 **Beckett Patterson**, 12/17 **Blayke Harrison**, 12/21 **Anderson Pippin**

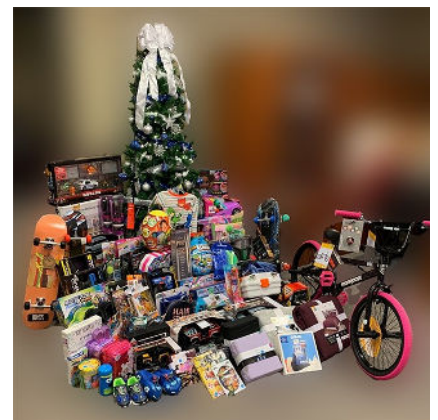


student ministry
Sarah Jones,
Director of Student Ministries

How do we truly live as Christians? How do we take the culmination of everything happening within our church doors and bring it out into the world? Our Angel Tree mission work is a great example of the church bringing the spirit of Christianity into our Tyler community. Our church provided 24 children with new clothes and toys for Christmas morning. We also kept 24 parents from having to choose between paying for a present or the water bill this month. We all want good things for our children and as parents it hurts in those moments when we cannot provide for them in the way we would like to.

Compassion and generosity are two core actions of Christian living. Actions that are seen being performed by Jesus many times in the Gospels. He gave to those who asked. He was stirred by the sick and the needy and he touched them and it was a touch that healed them. We can touch others as well. We can give to those who ask and we, through Christ like attitudes and actions, can be a soothing balm to the world around us.

We did just that for 24 families. Thank you for your compassion and generosity. If you missed out on Angel Tree, Church Under a Bridge is still accepting donations of unwrapped toys. There is a box in the lobby at both campuses you can drop them off in. There are lots of ways our church reaches out to the community and there are countless ways we can be that soothing balm outside of church. I pray that God gifts each and every one of us an opportunity to reach out to another this week.





bonfire caroling

Saturday, December 14
Christ Church South
 15747 Old Jacksonville Hwy
 Meet at 6:00pm for **caroling**
bonfire at 7:00pm

Join us for a bonfire and Christmas activities! This is a great festive family event with wreath making, ornament decorating, tasty smores, and Christmas carols. All followed by a nice warm beverage while sitting around the fire. *We hope to see you there!*



You are invited to participate in the celebration of Christmas at Christ Church through the **CHRISTMAS FLOWER & MUSIC FUND**.

Scan the QR code, or go to this link:

www.christchurchtyler.org/christmas-flower-donation or complete the form (find at the front desk) if you wish to contribute to the placement of poinsettias in the church or help to underwrite the music presented on Christmas Eve.

Deadline 12/15



The wreaths placed on the outside of the church this year during Advent are given to the glory of God and in memory of the departed,



Norma Halfpenny
 Wilda Willms
 Betsy Ellis
 Lucy Taft
 Molly Lynn Grubb
 Gretchen Nash

by the Episcopal Church Women.

HUNGER FOR LOVE

CHRISTMAS UNDER THE BRIDGE

DEC 21ST 5-8 PM

Where: 300 E Valentine St, Tyler (Under the Gentry Parkway Bridge)

Living Nativity ~ Santa's Toy Tent ~ Children's Activities ~ Jesus Closet ~ Live Entertainment ~ Sweets and Treats ~ Fun and Games for the Whole Family

Hunger for Love: <https://www.facebook.com/hunger4love>



CHRISTMAS UNDER THE BRIDGE TOY DRIVE!

Please help us bring a smile to these kids' faces by donating a new toy (or even a gift card) for boys and girls of all ages-up to 13!

All donations should be **new & unwrapped**. There is a wrapped donation box in the reception area. Pick up will be 12/18.

For more info call: Lynne Bordeaux
 512-608-2171

**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, 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, Diana W., Marilyn, Boyd, Stephen, Amy, Debbie, LaRose

The Anglican Communion: *The Diocese Kolhapur (North India)*

The Episcopal Church: *Dioceses of Navajoland & Nebraska*

Diocese of Texas: *St. Matthews & Christ the King—Houston*

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:

Amelia Mae Ayres

daughter of Beka & Joe Ayres.

born December 2, 2024.

upcoming

FRIDAY, December 13th

6:00pm **Supper Club** Scottish Christmas Party

SATURDAY, December 14th | CCS

6:00pm **Caroling & Bonfire**

SUNDAY, December 15th

5:15pm **Primetimers** dinner reservation @ FD Grill
(more info: John McKinley jemintex07@gmail.com)

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**

SUNDAY | December 29

7:30am Holy Eucharist | CCD

10:00am Holy Eucharist | CCD

9:00am CCD & 10:00 CCS **Christmas Reception**

during Christian Formation time (no Sunday School)

11:05am Holy Eucharist | CCS

SUNDAY | January 5, 2025

regular service times & Christian Formation Resume

TUESDAY | Jan 7

8:00am **Men's Bible Study** with the Rector Resumes

THURSDAY | Jan 9

10:30am **Women's Bible Study** with the Rector Resumes

Holiday Church Office Hours:	
December 24	8:30-noon
December 25-26	Closed
December 27-31	8:30-noon
January 1, 2025	Closed
January 2-3, 2025	8:30-noon



SUNDAY, JANUARY 19 / 10:00AM BOTH CAMPUSES

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*

Lectionary for upcoming Sundays Year B BCP 1979 Lectionary

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

Advent 3

Zephaniah 3:14-20, Psalm 85
Philippians 4:4-7 [8-9], Luke 3:7-18

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

Advent 4

Micah 5:2-4, Psalm 80
Hebrews 10:5-10, Luke 1:39-49 [50-56]

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

Christmas 1

Isaiah 61:10—62:3, Psalm 147
Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7, John 1:1-18

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5

Christmas 2

Jeremiah 31:7-14, Psalm 84
Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a
Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23 or
Luke 2:41-52, or
Matthew 2:1-12.

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 Keeseey
Parish Administrator (retiring) dkeeseey@christchurchtyler.org

Ms. Michaele Ardoin
Parish Administrator mardoin@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

Jessi Mayes *Nursery Coordinator*, Reagan Darling,
Priscilla Yeboah, Kimberly Wanjiru, Jada Akrong *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.

Holy Baptism



The next scheduled date for baptisms is Sunday, 1.12.25
If interested in baptism on this date,
please contact the church office,
903-597-9854 or
office@christchurchtyler.org.



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

Sunday Worship Services

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.*