

the Crucifer

The Newsletter of Christ Church/Episcopal

Vol. XXVII, No.2

January 8, 2025

christchurchtyler.org

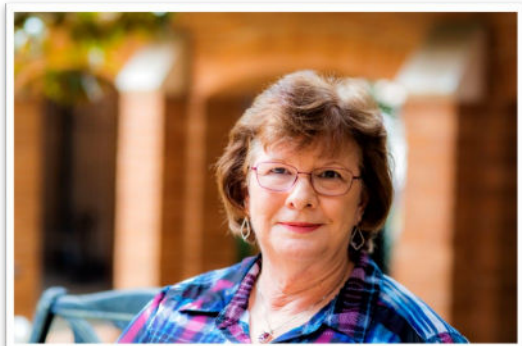
FROM THE RECTOR:

Happy Epiphany to you and your family!

In September 2001, Christ Church welcomed Mrs. Diana Keesey to serve as our first parish administrator. Over the past twenty-four years, Diana has created a great template for a church administrator. She has done an excellent job at the tasks on her plate. And she has poured herself into the families who are Christ Church. From her work as a leader on the church staff, to her daily interactions with families, to her extraordinary work of shepherding the Choir School of East Texas for many years, Diana has been a great gift to our church.

She will be retiring as our Parish Administrator at the end of January. Please join us at Diana's retirement luncheon on Sunday February 2 at 12:15 in the downtown parish hall.

At the luncheon, we will offer Diana several gifts as tokens of our appreciation for the great work she has done for Christ Church. I invite you to make a financial contribution to the "Thank You Diana" fund. We will present several gifts, including a check, to her on Sunday February 2nd at the party. Please make your check out to Christ Church with "Diana Keesey" on the notation and drop it in the plate this Sunday or mail it to the church office by Thursday January 30.



Gratefully in Christ,

David



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

When we lived in Saint John, around this time in January, the worst few months of the year began. The bright lights of Christmas had been taken down, the feast was over, and we were left staring ahead to bleak weeks of dark, cold, ice, and snow.

Approaching this was always a little bit depressing for me, for the busyness of daily life still pressed upon me, but without any of the reprieve in sight that we get with holidays in the latter part of the year like Thanksgiving, Halloween, or Christmas. Plus, the cozy nights and beautiful snow that I welcomed a couple of months before now started to feel monotonous and oppressive.

Perhaps one the best parts of the living in a warmer climate now is that I can look forward to a brief period of cool and cold, and then spring begins almost right away. The closest feeling to this winter dread is probably the anticipation of the unrelenting heat the begins in July and doesn't let up well into September here in Texas. Here, though, at least the days are long, and the mornings are usually tolerable.

What is it exactly that makes these stretches of time feel so daunting? I think it is something more than the weather, but the kind of life the weather represents: The slog, the sameness, the unpleasantness of just getting through. It's not that there is an impending crisis or any Big Thing

that is the object of my fear or anxiety, just the banal and boring parts of life.

As I am writing this, we are smack in the middle of Christmastide. I am looking forward to celebrating New Year's Eve with friends, and we have some special family time coming up in the next week or so. The winter ahead is not as threatening to me as it was in Canada, but I still feel its shadow lengthening.

So I am thinking about the dark of winter, and the sultry, over-heated days of summer, the stretches of time we'd rather just forget. Even these times are gifts of God. Not easy, but not exactly difficult either. Somewhere in the middle. God can meet us in these times. Through the quiet and unspectacular rhythms of life, little by little, we can take opportunity to experience his grace. This is part of the gift of life. These stretches of time prepare the backdrop for the more dramatic moments of celebration and joy. Maybe it is in these times that God does his most formative work in our lives.

Jesus must have lived through these times. The quiet years of his adolescence and early adulthood are hidden from us in Holy Scripture, but there must have been at least a couple long years, unremarkable stretches of time for work and rest and growth and change.



VENITE

[20-40 somethings]

January 11th 6-7 PM
 South Campus

potluck +
 bonfire +
 Epiphany reflection

Pot luck theme is "stew + bread + beer".
 Bring along your favorite soup/stew or bread along with your favorite drink share with the folks and families of Christ Church.

RSVP please & indicate allergies to amyehartin@gmail.com

←
 The rescheduled **BONFIRE!!**
 [Everyone's invited!]

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

January 26, 2025 | 3:00 p.m. In the Nave
AN AFTERNOON OF GOSPEL SINGING

Come and listen and sing some of your favorite "gospel" songs.

Seated at the keyboard will include Mary Helen Morris, Charlotte Floyd, AJ Meals and Jeffrey Ford. You might be surprised what your neighbor considers a favorite!

February 23, 2025 | 3:00 p.m. In the Nave
AN AFTERNOON OF

SOLOS, DUETS, TRIOS, & QUARTETS

This afternoon of playing will feature Mark & Ute Miller, Sue Bugg and guest organist, Jerry Westenkuehler (Arborlawn UMC, Ft. Worth).

March 30, 2025 | 6:00 p.m. In the Nave
LENTEN CHORAL EVENSONG

featuring Cathedral Choir (Christ Church Cathedral, Houston) under the direction of Robert Simpson. Reception to follow.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR!

Director: SUSIE FERGUS

Who: Children K – 4th grade

When: Wednesday Rehearsals:
5:30-6:00pm Cherub Choir [K-2nd grade]
6:00-6:45pm Carol Choir [3rd & 4th grade]

Where: Christ Church Downtown



REGISTER TODAY:
christchurchtyler.org/childrens-choirs

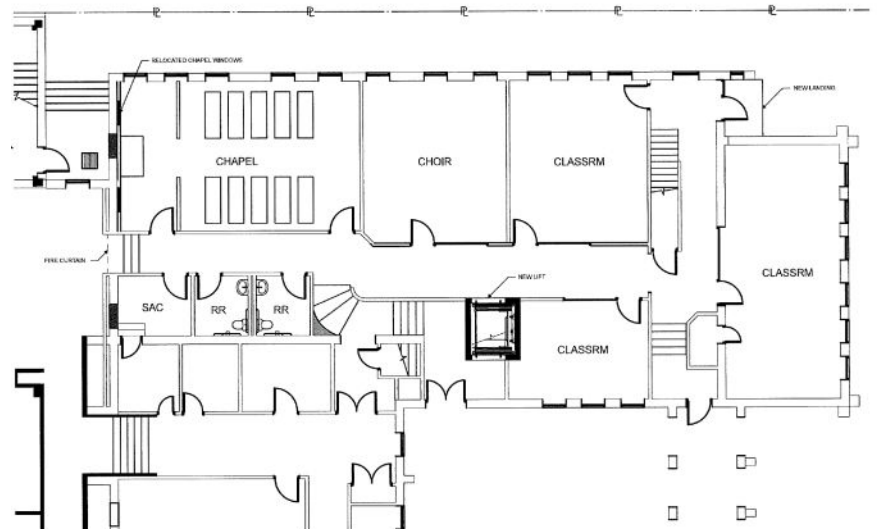


Hallelujah
PRAISE FOR THE PAST
FAITH FOR THE FUTURE

**Can you say,
HALLELUJAH!**

The ribbon cutting & tour of the new
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY CENTER, Downtown

SUNDAY, January 26th
10:00am



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

Happy New Year, Christ Church!

I feel the same way every year, but 2025 does not feel like a real year. (Back to the Future ended with Doc traveling to 2015, which is now 10 years ago!) Does anyone else write the wrong year on paperwork for the first several weeks, or is that just me?

Over the summer, I was part of a group that read *The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry* by John Mark Comer. An easy-to-read book that challenges the pace of life modern culture encourages, I would like to present one of Comer's points for you to consider this new year: we are finite. God is infinite. Don't expect yourself to do what only an infinite God can do. To use a metaphor I have heard before: we are all juggling balls in the air. Some are glass; some are rubber. Inevitably, we will drop some at one time or another. The trick is knowing which will bounce and which will shatter. Dear reader, God has placed limits on us. He does not expect us to do what only He is capable of doing. He simply asks that we do our best to steward well what He has entrusted to us. We can easily become frustrated by our limits, but my hope for you this year is that your limitations will lead you to lean on the God who is without limits.

Important Announcements:

- If you are interested in volunteering with the children's ministry at Christ Church, I would love for you to be part of the team! Worried about lesson planning? Fear not! Lessons are planned ahead of time, so all you need to do is show up and read the material provided. Would you prefer to work with little ones? There are plenty of kids in the nursery to look after. If you are interested and want to learn more, please email me at zward@christchurchtyler.org. We have beautiful new spaces on both campuses that are ready to be packed with volunteers for our children!
- Our downtown campus will be cutting the ribbon on our new children's wing January 26th.

Blessings,
Zoe Ward
Interim Children's Ministry Director



student ministry
Sarah Jones,
Director of Student Ministries

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! I hope you and your family had a light and bright holiday season. The youth program is ramping up for the new year and there is a lot to look forward to.

We will be starting **confirmation classes** on Sunday, Feb 2. Confirmation is a way for youth to step into their faith in an adult capacity and allows them to learn more about the Episcopal tradition. All youth 8th-12th are welcome to join. Please reach out to me if you are interested.

We have an outing to **Grand Slam** planned for our youth on January 26th after church from 1-3pm. Please join us for some arcade games and RSVP by January 12th.

If you have a high schooler who is interested in attending our **Belize mission trip** and you missed the initial deposit date, please contact me. We still have room for more students and I would love to get your youth signed up.
sjones@christchurchtyler.org

Looking forward to a great new year!

Sarah Jones
Director of Student Ministries



IMPORTANT

Teen confirmation classes start in February. If you have an unconfirmed youth 8th grade or older please consider joining us for further church education and a reaffirmation of faith.
We have a prep meeting scheduled on January 19th from 1-2pm for both parents and youth. Please contact Sarah Jones sjones@christchurchtyler.org for more information.

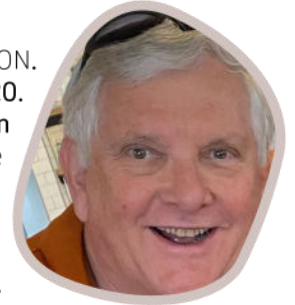


ROGER FOWLER

I was confirmed at St. Paul's Episcopal in Kilgore in 1982. I served St Paul's as a vestry person, junior and senior warden. As a Family Medicine physician, I practiced in Kilgore in 1981 then Lindale in 2005. That is when my wonderful wife Patty and I moved our membership to Christ Church. I served one term on the vestry before moving to Irving. I retired as a physician leader from CHRISTUS Health in 2022 and we returned to Tyler and Christ Church. I have been Blessed to serve Christ Church in numerous capacities and have completed EfM. Patty and I have a blended family with 4 children. We love Tyler and Christ Church and glad to be back home.

I'm **JIM JOHNSON**.

Born and raised in Tyler. After college, I spent fifty plus years away from Tyler returning in 2020. I have been happily married to Julie for 31 years. We have a blended family of five children, fourteen grandchildren and four great grandchildren. Our family is a blessed gift from God. I worked for the state and a non-profit during my career. My religious background is mixed, confirmed Baptist in Tyler, but attending Episcopal churches since 1995. I started attending Christ Church South in January 2021. My worship and biblical study are important to me. Throughout my life I have tried to maintain a solid relationship with God. It will be an honor to serve Christ Church as a member of the Vestry.



GEORGE LOLLIS, CEFEX Analyst®, AIFA®, AIF®, CWS®, Managing Partner of the Lollis Family Office, which owns financial, real estate, oil & gas interests, and the WealthVisory® investment management firm, serves Family Offices and High Net Worth Clients as a Fiduciary with ever-increasing responsibilities of financial consulting, investment analysis and portfolio management. George has served multiple times as a Vestry Member and Finance Team Member for the St. Philips Episcopal Church Frisco. George has served over twenty years in the Bill Glass Behind the Walls prison ministry. George earned a Bachelor of Business Studies in Finance, Magnum Cum Laude, from Dallas Baptist University as a member of the Alpha Sigma Lambda National Honors Society. George has been married to his beloved wife Paige since 2003.

SARA MCELROY

I was born and raised in Texarkana, Texas. I am a staff attorney at the Twelfth Court of Appeals. My husband, John, and I joined the Episcopal Church together in 1999. At St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Beaumont, I served as Choirmaster, graduated from Education for Ministry (EfM), became an EfM mentor, and joined Daughters of the King. I also served as a lector and was on the worship committee. John and I moved to Tyler in 2021, and Christ Church quickly came to feel like home for me. At Christ Church, I sing with the Chancel Choir and participate in Daughters of the King. If elected to the vestry, I will be truly honored to serve this wonderful parish.



BOB MCKINNEY

It has been a privilege to serve East Texas as a surgeon since 1987. I have five amazing adult children and a stepson. My youngest son and stepson served as acolytes at Christ Church. I graduated from Baylor University with a BA in Business Administration, medical school at the University of Texas in Houston, and surgical training at Baylor Medical Center in Dallas. I joined Christ Church about 20 years ago, largely through my children's involvement with the Youth Ministry. I've served on the Board of Directors of Trinity Clinic, First Federal Savings/FirstBank, and the Azalea Academy for Exceptional Adults. God's grace has been profound in my life through my marriage to Liz and healing from stage IV head and neck cancer. I will be humbled and honored to serve.



SHANNON TEAGARDEN

I grew up in the New Orleans area and am a cradle Episcopalian. After my husband, Gary and I were married, we lived in Florida and Maine before moving to Texas in 2006. We have one daughter, Marigny, who recently graduated from All Saints. As a member of Christ Church, I have helped with Sunday School and Vacation Bible School for several years. I have served on the Parent Association and the Fine Arts Board at All Saints and have and continue to substitute teach in the Early Learning Division at All Saints. My daughter is currently at LSU, and I have been selected to serve on the LSU Family Council. I love being with my family and watching college football, especially my LSU Tigers!!



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

The Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Lagos West (Nigeria)

The Episcopal Church: Dioceses of Nevada & New Hampshire

Diocese of Texas: Church of the Epiphany & St. Barnabas—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.

In Memoriam

Our sympathies to the family & friends of

Martha Key, wife of Randy Key,

Billie Jo Bordeaux, mother of H.V. Bordeaux,



Sally Marsh,

mother of Holly Marsh.

upcoming

SATURDAY | January 11
6:00pm Bonfire hosted by Venite | CCS
see graphic on p.2

MONDAY | January 13
6:30pm EYC Jr./Sr. Book Club | Boards & Bites

WEDNESDAY | January 15
6:00pm Women's Depth Group | CCS

FRIDAY | January 17
6:00pm Supper Club

SUNDAY | January 19
10:00am Annual Parish Meeting | CCD & CCS

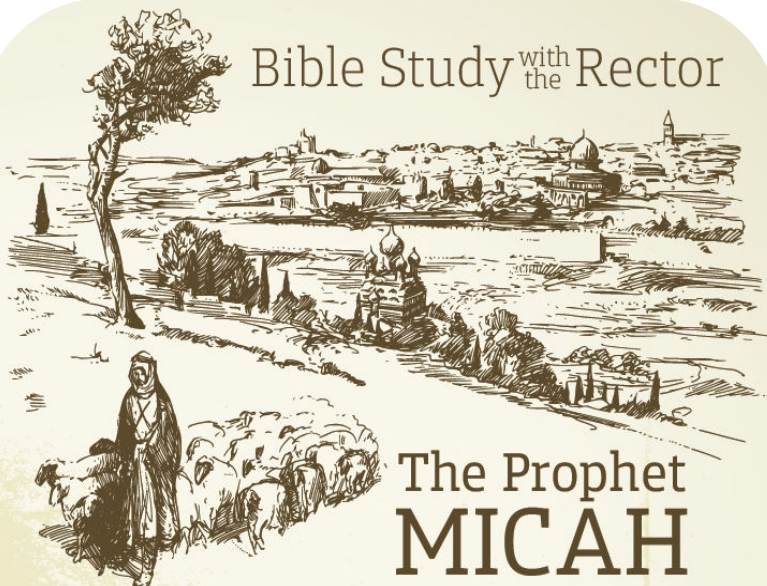
MONDAY | January 20 office closed

SUNDAY | January 26
10:00am Ribbon Cutting of Children's Wing | CCD
3:00pm Afternoon of Gospel Singing | CCD

MONDAY | January 27
6:00pm High School EYC | CCD 4th Floor

SUNDAY | February 2
12:15pm Luncheon Honoring Diana Keesey | CCD

Bible Study with the Rector



The Prophet MICAH

MEN: Tuesdays 8:00am & WOMEN: Thursdays 10:30am
Please join Fr. David in the Epiphany Room of the Grelling Spence Building at our historic downtown campus for this Bible study of the prophet Micah.

Over seven centuries before the Incarnation of Christ, the prophet Micah shared a prophetic word from God about the birth of Jesus. He prophesied,

"But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days." Micah 5.2

Join Fr. David this winter as we listen to this essential Old Testament prophet. The Men's Bible Study will gather on Tuesday mornings at 8:00. The Women's Bible Study will meet on Thursday mornings at 10:30. Please join Fr. David in the Epiphany Room of the Grelling Spence Building at our historic downtown campus for this Bible study of the prophet Micah.

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, JANUARY 12

Epiphany 1

Isaiah 42:1-9, Psalm 89:1-29

Acts 10:34-38, Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19

Epiphany 2

Isaiah 62:1-5

Psalm 96

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

John 2:1-11



SUNDAY, JANUARY 19 / 10:00AM BOTH CAMPUSES

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

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

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Ms. Zoe Ward

Interim Director of Children's Ministries

zward@christchurchtyler.org

Mrs. Valerie Huggler

Parish Secretary

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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, 3.2.25
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.*