

the Crucifer

The Newsletter of Christ Church/Episcopal

Vol. XXVII, No.4
February 5, 2025
christchurchtyler.org

FROM THE RECTOR:

From kindergarten classes to nursing home common rooms, February 14 is filled with hearts, candy, flowers, and more.

The story of Valentine's Day is clothed in mystery. February has long been celebrated as a month of romance, and St. Valentine's Day contains vestiges of both Christian and ancient Roman tradition.

Cheryl O'Malley notes that Saint Valentine ministered in the third century, at a time of extreme persecution of Christians. Emperor Claudius II declared young men could not marry because it weakened them as soldiers.

In response, Father Valentine married young lovers in secret. Claudius responded by ordering the priest to be executed. While in prison, Valentine ministered to his jailer's ill daughter. Before his execution, on February 14, 270 A.D., he sent her a note signed "From your Valentine." Father Valentine, the friend of sweethearts, became a martyr to love and the sanctity of marriage.

Another legend holds that Valentine was executed for helping Christians escape from Roman prisons. To "*remind them of God's love and to encourage them to remain faithful Christians,*" Saint Valentine is said to have cut hearts from parchment, giving them to soldiers and persecuted Christians, a possible origin of the widespread use of hearts on Saint Valentine's Day.

Perhaps there is truth to these legends. They certainly inspire us to share God's love with others in extraordinary ways.

This Valentine's Day, I invite you to tell at least two people that you love them. And I pray that you will rejoice in the great love that God has for YOU!

Faithfully in Christ Jesus,

David H



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

One of the challenges (for me, anyways) of pastoral ministry is that every week I have to come up with something to say on Sunday morning. I have to write a sermon or homily.

I take this seriously. I see it as one of the weightiest tasks of the pastoral vocation, alongside of celebrating the sacraments and visiting with parishioners. Moreover, I spend a lot of time on sermons each week—as much as I can. For me this process involves praying, thinking, writing, reading, revising, and of course preaching.

The greatest challenge of coming up with a sermon each week (again, for me) is this nagging feeling that I am saying too much or too little.

Saying too much is the riskiest. Each week I have the burden and privilege of saying something useful and edifying for the people of God. And the only way I know how to do that is to try to draw out or shine a spotlight on something the Triune God has already spoken in Holy Scripture. But that God has already spoken in Holy Scripture leaves me questioning what I could possibly add that would have any substance or value.

One of the great gifts, I think, of the Anglican tradition is we read a whole lot from the Bible before the minister says anything about it. God speaks first, and then we do our thing to kind of highlight something God has said. But all we have is our words, our experiences, some little thing we've read here or there to which we might allude. We might show a picture on a slide.

There is part of me that wishes each Sunday I could just stand up in the pulpit and preach a one sentence sermon: “What Jesus said! Amen.” Or “What the Psalm said! Amen.” I am not special. I don't have any unique insight into the life of Christ. So I pray that I can say something useful and true that might point people to Jesus.

In the second case, though, I am also conscious that it is possible to say too little. I think the greatest liability we face as Christians is familiarity with what God has spoken in Holy Scripture. We've just become too accustomed to hearing it, so that we no longer really hear it, if you know what I mean. And because of this, I see my job as kind of like a little pinch or prod. I have to say enough to remind us how strange and wonderful our faith is. I'm the guy who has to say out loud everything that as Christians we know deep-down but seldom think about: God created us, he loves us, he sends Jesus for us, we have hope in him, the Holy Spirit lives within us, and so forth.

So each week, after preparing a sermon or a homily, I vacillate between the feeling of having said too much (perhaps the greatest risk) or too little.

But here is the neat thing: No matter how I feel about my sermon, God has a way of taking it and directing it to hit people's hearts. This is a work of the Holy Spirit. He takes the dirt of what I have to say or think, enriched with the Word of God, and from it draws real beauty and growth and flourishing. Flowers grow in manure.

Some weeks I say too little. Some weeks not enough. But by the grace of God, words from a sinner like me are borne up by the Word and provide hope and healing and sustenance in Jesus' name.



music at Christ Church
Jeffrey Ford,
Choirmaster & Organist



Sunday, Feb 23 @ 3:00pm
Christ Church Tyler
Downtown in the Nave

an afternoon of...

solos duets trios quartets

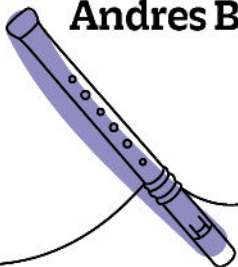
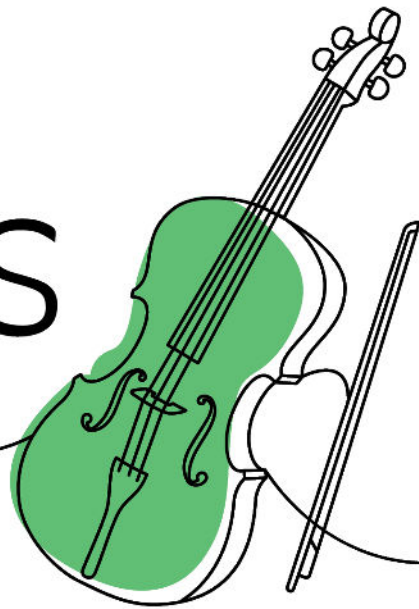
featuring

Mark & Ute Miller, *violin & viola*

Andres Bravo, *violin* **Laura Ospina,** *cello*

**Sue Bugg, Karina McBrayer
& Jessica Ogilvie,** *flutes*

Jerry Westenkuehler, *organ*



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

Christ Church Family,

We had a fabulous ribbon-cutting ceremony for our new downtown children's wing on January 26th! Many were in attendance, and it warmed my heart to see the excitement generated. My vision is that this space will be filled with children of all ages, from babies learning to walk and elementary kids creating Gospel-based crafts to adults teaching the next generation of Christians. I have already had conversations with people who feel the Lord stirring their hearts to teach again, and I believe more will come. If Christ Church's children's ministry comes to mind, please pray for the provision of volunteers. If you might be interested in becoming a volunteer, please reach out to me! As Jesus said in Matthew 9:37-38, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS:

First Communion Classes will begin Sunday, February 9th starting at 10 AM at Christ Church South, with a First Communion Celebration date TBA. These classes will take the place of Sunday school at South Campus. These are for 2nd-grade-aged children and older who have professed their faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior and chosen to follow him. Please use the link provided or email zward@christchurchtyler.org to sign up your child.

Blessings,
Zoe Ward
Interim Children's Ministry Director

CHRIST CHURCH SOUTH

First Communion Classes

Classes begin Sunday 2/9 at Christ Church South 10 AM

Please email zward@christchurchtyler.org or use the QR code to register

CHILDREN'S CORNER BIRTHDAYS!

2/8 Lark Hesskew, 2/13 Reid Herron,
2/14 Jason Chideziri Okwudilichukwu,
2/18 Levi Albea

student ministry
Sarah Jones,
Director of Student Ministries



Hello families! EYC is getting back into the swing of things after our relaxing holiday breaks. We had a great outing at Grand Slam on January 26th where the kids had an awesome time bowling, playing in the arcade, and walking the ropes course. The kids had a lot of fun and there were some serious bowling competitions happening. There is another youth event coming up on February 21st. We will be meeting at Boards and Bites for a **GAME NIGHT**. The kids can bring their favorite games and then let the battles begin!



Youth confirmation classes started February 2nd. It is not too late to sign up if you have a youth 8th grade or older who would like to be confirmed in the spring.

We are also still taking sign ups for our high school mission trip to Belize. Please reach out with any questions.

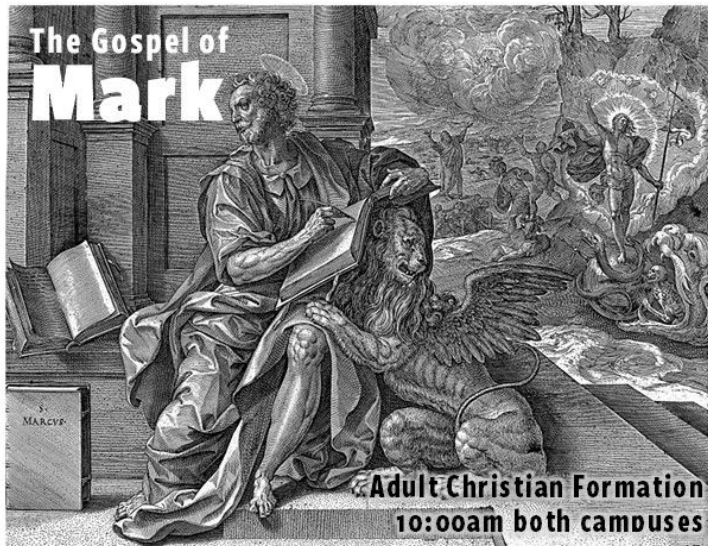


Sarah Jones
Director of Student Ministries
sjones@christchurchtyler.org

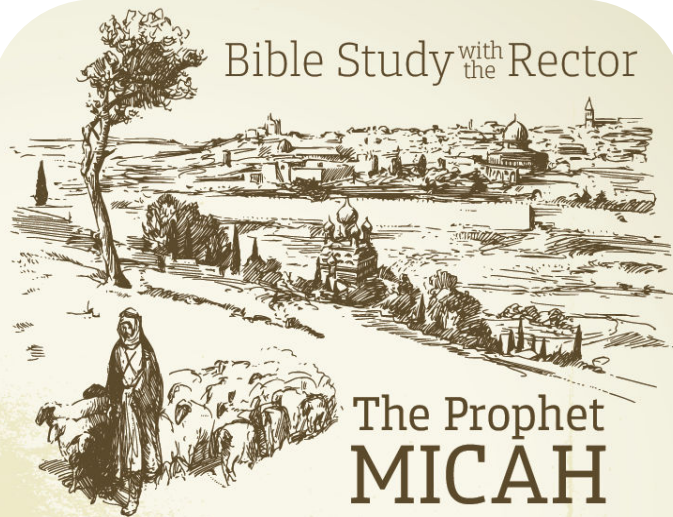
SUNDAY CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Anglicanism ¹⁰²

Sundays DOWNTOWN 10:00 a.m.
Trinity Room - 3rd Floor
Confirmation Preparation.



WEEKDAY CHRISTIAN FORMATION



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.



Tues, Mar 4
5:30-7:30pm

Christ Church
DOWNTOWN
118 S. Bois d'Arc

Mardi Gras

Get your tickets today!

christchurchtyler.org/mardi-gras

\$10 [age 11 & up]

\$5 [children 4-10 yr]

[free age 3 & under]

\$25 family

Includes:

Gumbo & the fixins

Hamburgers & chips for children

Live Jazz music!

George Faber
& Friends

Cash wine bar

Fun for the entire family!

thanksgivings , supplications & fellowship

In Our Prayers

Please consider including the Prayer List in your daily devotions:

Luba, Maria, Yeva, YK, Iryna, Nora, Yevgeny, Lisa, Paul, Maggie, Jennifer, Laura, Alan, Laura, Ezri, Darin, 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, Dominic, Adaline

The Anglican Communion: *The Diocese of Aotearoa (New Zealand & Polynesia)*

The Episcopal Church: *Dioceses of Newark & North Carolina*

Diocese of Texas: *St. Christopher's & St. Dunstan's—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.

upcoming

SATURDAY | February 8
10:00am **EYC Knitting Group** | CCD 4th Floor

TUESDAY | March 4
5:30pm—7:30 **Mardi Gras** | CCD

SUNDAY | February 9
10:00am **First Communion Class** | CCS
10:00am **Adult Confirmation** | CCD

WEDNESDAY | March 5
Ash Wednesday
7:30am | Noon | 6:00pm **Holy Eucharist** | CCD

MONDAY | February 10
6:30pm **EYC Jr. & Sr. Book Club** | Boards & Bites

TUESDAYS in Lent | March 11, 18, 25, Apr 1 & 8
Lenten Lecture & Lunch Series

Supper Club

Join us!



6:00pm Friday,
2/14, 3/21, 4/11, 5/9
RSVP by the previous Friday

RSVP & more info: christchurchtyler.org/supper-club

ATTENTION PRIMETIMERS!
for those 50+

THE ANNUAL BINGO NIGHT is coming!

FRIDAY, MARCH 14
6PM - 9PM
PARISH HALL CCD

Bring your favorite comfort food to share
\$10 per person to cover snacks/beverages/prizes/room setup

RSVP to John & Stacey McKinley
903-590-0428 or jemintex07@gmail.com

THE VESTRY

Mr. Bill Clawater, *Treasurer*

Mr. Tim Alexander, *Asst. Treasurer*

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

Ms. Joyce McGee, Mrs. Sara McElroy,

Mrs. Ann Weissmann-*Clerk*

CLASS OF 2027

Dr. Roger Fowler-*Sr. Warden,*

Mr. Jim Johnson-Jr. *Warden CCS,* Mr. George Lollis,

Dr. Bob McKinney, Mrs. Shannon Teagarden

Lectionary for upcoming Sundays Year B BCP 1979 Lectionary

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Epiphany 5

Judges 6:11-24a, Psalm 85

1 Corinthians 15:1-11, Luke 5:1-11

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16

Epiphany 6

Jeremiah 17:5-10, Psalm 1

1 Corinthians 15:12-20, Luke 6:17-26

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.

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

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

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 *Sexton*
Mr. Anthony Moore *Sexton*
Mr. Kendrick Milton *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.



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.*