

CHRIST CHURCH SHREWSBURY

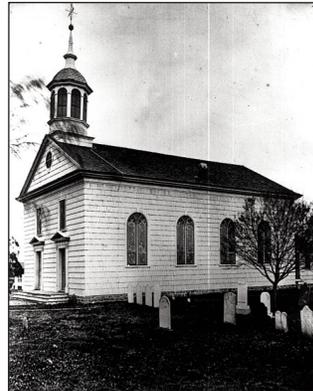
HISTORY NEWSLETTER

FALL 2014

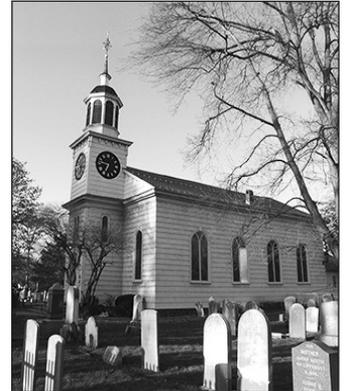
Christ Church, the Episcopal parish in Shrewsbury, New Jersey, is an historic church. We were founded in 1702 and the church building's cornerstone was laid in 1769. The surrounding graveyard has stones from 1719. Our records date from 1733. We are an active church and add to our records and have new interments in the graveyard each year.

We pride ourselves on our stewardship of this treasure trove of history. The preservation of our history can be difficult with an organization whose principal charter is religious. We are determined to do so. We are also committed to making our history available to the broader community.

This inaugural newsletter is one means of doing so. First I want to tell you we are open to your interests and inquiries. Alas the church cannot be open for visitors at all times, but with an appointment a tour can be arranged at no charge. This can be accomplished by contacting us by e-mail at historian@christchurchshrewsbury.org



Christ Church, 1869 - Dorn's Classic Images



Christ Church, 2013 - Jeff Veil

or by calling the parish office at 732.741.2220.

Furthermore we are open to inquiries from genealogists who believe they have ancestors related to the church. This can be initiated by e-mail at the above address.

In addition a capsule summary of our history can be found on our web site at christchurchshrewsbury.org

As you may know 2014 is the 350th anniversary of New Jersey, first as a colony and then as a State. As a result, many of our activities have a special significance this year since the parish has been around to witness and participate in 312 of those 350 years.



Stuart and Judith Buncher in Victorian-era costume

Our first event of the year was our annual participation in Monmouth County's Weekend in Olde Monmouth. This occurs each year on the first weekend in May. The church is open all day Saturday and Sunday afternoon. Visitors can take a self-guided tour of the church and have questions answered by our superb docents. In addition there are historic objects on display that are not often able to be viewed. This year the following objects were available to be explored.

1. LEEDS INDIAN DEED
2. OLD STEEPLE ORB
3. MUSKET BALL IN WOOD
4. 100TH BUILDING ANNIVERSARY SERVICE PROGRAM
5. 1830 PEW HOLDERS LIST
6. 1849 PARISHIONERS LIST

7. PARISH REGISTER – 18TH CENTURY
8. VESTRY MINUTES - 18TH CENTURY
9. 1706 DEED FOR CHURCH PROPERTY
10. 1824 GLEBE FIREWOOD AUCTION
11. REVEREND SAMUEL COOKE SERMON IN RED LEATHER POUCH

If you would like further information about any of these, I suggest you contact the Parish Historian at historian@christchurchshrewsbury.org with any questions. Our future plans include a significant expansion of History-related information on the web site though this will take some time.

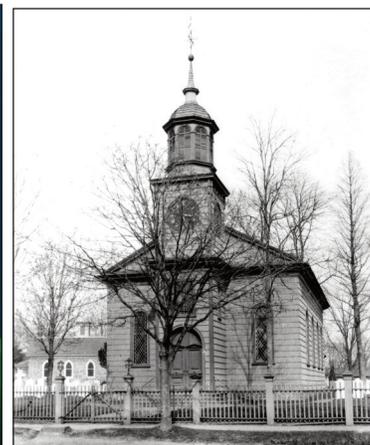
About 130 visitors came to our open house this year.

Images of Christ Church Shrewsbury: Then and Now

Our next event was a reprise of our 2013 Images of Christ Church Exhibit. In 2013 this was held in the Parish Hall. This year it was in the display spaces of the Eastern Branch of the Monmouth County Library for the entire month of May. In addition this year the exhibit was joined by the large scale model of the church which normally resides in the Shrewsbury Historical Society.



Christ Church Model



Circa 1880s

The catalog for the 2013 exhibit including information about our 1738 charter and other objects not on display in the 2014 exhibit is

still available. For more information please contact the Parish Historian.

Memorial Weekend Service

On the Sunday of Memorial Day Weekend we repaired to the graveyard after our Sunday service where we read the names of all veterans interred in the graveyard. This is an annual tradition but this year there were two special aspects. One was the reading of the names by Stuart Buncher dressed as a WWI Army Air Force Sergeant. Judith Buncher portrayed a Red Cross Grey lady from the same era. More information is available in the program for this graveyard service on our web site. The second special aspect was the creation of a video of this special event by our own Reverend Mary Frances Schjonberg who is a reporter for the Episcopal News Service. This outstanding and moving video is two minutes long and is on our web site as well.



Judith and Stuart Buncher

NJHT History Conference

We participated in the annual conference held this year at Brookdale Community College here in Monmouth County on June 5th. We had a display table with numerous

historic objects as with WOM. There were numerous visitors to our display and some wonderful conversations around the Church and related County History.

Independence Day Service

On Sunday June 29th, we held our special Independence Day Service. This included a display of historic objects, a performance of patriotic hymns by the Chorus of the Atlantic, and a portrayal of three individuals interred in the

graveyard by members of our Dead Actors Guild. These were: Dorothy Blair Manson by Jeanne Sundberg, Graham Kearney Cooke by Patrice Thornton and Samuel Stelle Smith by Robert Kelly.



Chorus of the Atlantic



Dead Actors Guild members (left to right) Jeanne Sundberg, Robert Kelly and Patrice Thornton

Remaining Events in 2014

There is one formal event still to be held in 2014. our long-running Lantern Tour is held on the first Friday in December (this year it is December 5th). The Lantern Tour is a tour of four historic sites on Shrewsbury's Four Corners: the

Allen House, the Friends Meeting House, the Presbyterian Church, and Christ Church. Tours are held at 6 pm and 8 pm and a full supper is available in the Christ Church Parish House.

General Information

If you would like to receive an electronic copy of our monthly Parish Newsletter, the Crown, please also contact the parish historian.

Feel free to share this History Newsletter with others who may be interested.

If you wish to be removed from the distribution list of this newsletter please reply to this e-mail request-

ing that as well as making suggestions for future content.

Maintenance of our historic artifacts can be expensive. Tax-deductible donations to defray these costs are gratefully accepted and can be made on our web site.