

THE CROWN

*The Newsletter of Christ Church Shrewsbury
Christ Church is a community committed to exploring the reality of God in today's world.*



Volume XX Issue I

January 2017

You are cordially Invited to the

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF CHRIST CHURCH, SHREWSBURY

Sunday, January 22, 2017

following the 10:00am Mass
(no 8:00am service on this day)

*This year the meeting will be held in the Parish House
as we share a Potluck Meal together.*

Don't forget to enter your date in our Holiday Calendar Ca\$h Out!

Pick your favorite date for only \$5.00. Calendar with dates still available in the parish house!
Drawing will be held at our Annual Parish Meeting – Sunday, January 22nd!



**“Seeing is Believing” Epiphany Pageant
Sunday, January 8 at our 10am service**

*Thank you
Mother Lisa.
We had a grat
ixperense and
you and your
charch has a
grat history.
R.I.P.*

Dear Friends,

I recently received a bundle of thank you notes and drawings from a local Cub Scout Troop who had visited Christ Church, working on a badge having to do with Faith. What is missing from the above inscription is the grave marker drawn around the words, with our very own graveyard as the background. I didn't mind the misspellings, but when I got to the "R.I.P." (*Rest In Peace*), I was taken aback. After all, I'm may be heading out for sabbatical, but I'm not dead yet!

One of the things I love most about my "job" is the number of surprises that I encounter in a given month. It seems I can hardly go through a day without signs of our Lord's presence. I invited these cub scouts (along with another local troop who visited earlier in the year) to our Blessing of the Stockings; what a surprise! We were inundated with a myriad of scouts along with their parents, sisters and friends who eagerly took part in all our glorious activities.

Not long after that, when the man who won the fifty-fifty at the Lantern Tour was contacted about his winnings (a grand \$41!), he made a very clever bargain: "give me the recipe for that delicious gingerbread cake I purchased on the Bake Shoppe Table, and I'll donate the entire winnings". Done and done. What a wonderful surprise! It appears the Christmas spirit is alive and well.

Our 2017 Pledge Campaign is coming to an end; but what an opportunity for more surprises – and blessings. 15 of our Pledge Certificates indicated that they were remembering Christ Church in their wills. What a wonderful legacy for them to leave to a future Christ Church generation! 8 "Pledgers" indicated that they would like to discuss giving a special donation in addition to their regular pledge. This tells me that some new initiatives are around the corner, and that we are so very blessed to have brothers and sisters longing to make a difference in our church and in our world. BTW: there is still time for you to get that Pledge Certificate in! And do let us know if you need offering envelopes.

As I write this, I am almost done with Christmas Cards, Annual Reports, notes for the Rev. Kathleen Bishop (who will be covering for me while I am away) and finishing up what needs to be done before I begin my sabbatical. I am excited about my upcoming trip to Ecuador, in which I will be attending the Diocesan Convention in Guayaquil, visiting parishes, and then making an excursion to the Galapagos Islands. I am looking forward to being in Israel again; this time with a compadre of Episcopal travelers. I have a stack of books to read and hope to get some planning done for our parish – a luxury that can never seem to get done during the course of regular parish ministry. And I do intend to finish my certification as a New Jersey Disaster Crisis Counselor. Most of all, I hope to have such a grand time that I will come back refreshed and renewed – just in time for Holy Week and Easter.

You will all be in my daily prayers, and I hope I will be in yours. I know I will continue to be surprised by God's presence and many blessings, and may our Lord's blessings be upon you all.

Peace,

Mother Lisa+

Shouldis, Thomas J. Graham, Richard Brugger, Sr., Allen, Alexandra, Sally Cooper, Brennan Maclean, Joe, Rose, John, Keith, Jacob, Lucy, Monet, Maryann Citro, Harriet Clare Shaner, Roy, Ruth, Katie, Anella, Jennifer Lamb, Antonia Malone, Leigh and Richard Polhemus, Sam Nativo, Stan Thornton, Charlotte Spencer, Sherri, Pat, Loren Medina, Charlie, Meriwether Schmid, Pat Rivenes, Polly Evans, Eileen Borden, Phyllis Tetley, Jerry Werben, Barbara, Bill Allen, Shari Gregory, Dawn, Nanette, Donna, Chris, Margo, Donna, Nancy Erickson, Mary, Pik, Vic Torsha, Amy, Claudia, Debbie, Jim Glynn, Erin Brugger, Joanne, Dawn, Doris Hattie Meyers, Helen Melillo, Bob McGowan, Lauren and Sam Hutchinson, Bart Bezyack, and for all who serve our country here and abroad, especially Traver, Michael, Bo, Dennis, Travis "TJ" Wilson.



Thank you for your time and efforts...

I would like to thank all of you who helped set up and clean up the Christmas greens for our Holy Week. *Bramley and Marie Maber and Robert, Ann Miller, Pam Diamond, Barbara Raspanti, Chris Brondi, Walter Dein* and special thanks to *Cindy Webster* who coordinated the greening.
Phyllis Edwards, Directress of the Altar Guild

~~~~~

*to MiMi Brown, Tom and Perky Cameron, Phyllis Edwards, and "in Spirit" Sarah Schmid,* for their help with the Christmas bulletins.

~~~~~

to Pam Diamond, Walter Dein, Phyllis Edwards, Connie Goddard, Ann Miller, Barbara Raspanti, and Cindy Webster for polishing our brass.

~~~~~

### **TOY DRIVE**

Thank you for the generous donations of toys and gift cards for the children of the Keansburg community. Once again our parish joined with others to enable over 350 children to smile brightly on Christmas morning. Participation in this outreach has demonstrated our commitment to share God's love in our community. Thank you everyone.  
*Elaine Feyereisen*

*A special note from the Cuff's...*

To our Parish Family:

Bill and I would like to thank you for joining with our children and grandchildren as we celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary by renewing our marriage vows. We knew the moment we began to worship at Christ Church about 4 and ½ years ago that Christ Church indeed would be our parish home. Also special thanks to Chris Psolka and the Christ Church Choir for such beautiful music that day.

We plan to enjoy wonderful gifts that you gave us – champagne, which we will drink on Christmas Day and we will feast at our favorite restaurant Drew's Bay shore Bistro early in the new year.

Again, heartfelt thanks to you from both of us.

Vicki & Bill

### **Lantern Tour Events and Thank You**

A huge note of thanks to **Jamie Green** and **Elaine Feyereisen** for another successful Lantern Tour evening! Jamie was our Lantern Tour chairperson. He organized the evening – including the Moravian pie dinner, Bake Shoppe, Curiosity Shoppe and Calendar games with Elaine organizing all the tour tickets and dinner reservations! Thanks to all the parishioners who helped bake the Moravian pies and provided the baked sweets! Thanks also to anyone that helped in various ways to help make the evening a success, including signage, walkway lanterns, parking attendants, organization of materials, and advertising.

### **OutReach Thanks you**

We want to again extend a huge thank you to all of our members who generously donated items for Covenant House this Christmas. Special thanks to one donor (wishing to remain anonymous) who donated \$1,000.00 in Shop Rite Gift cards. There is always a continued need for donations including shampoo, soap, toothpaste, baby wipes, diapers, deodorant and for the colder winter months, socks, under shirts and underwear. Please leave items in the Parish House.



## THANK YOU FROM THE SALVATION ARMY

The SALVATION ARMY (Red Bank Corps) sends a big THANK YOU to the Christ Church members who RANG THE BELLS at the Red Kettle on Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. All the money collected in the Red Kettles stays in this area to fund the Salvation Army's programs and help the less fortunate. HAPPY NEW YEAR!

*Jim Miller for the Salvation Army*

*Special thanks to the Craven family who helped to organize our special Blessing of the Stockings! On hand to help were Mother Lisa, Sue Nap, Walter Dein and of course St. Nicholas (Jamie Green). It was pure joy to see the excitement on the little ones faces as they visited with St. Nicholas, decorated the tree, decorated cookies and made greeting cards for the residents of St. Clare's (home for children).*



### *Many Thanks for a Beautiful Christmas Celebration*

Our Christmas services this year were truly beautiful. Thank you to the many, many persons who made it possible. To *Chris Psolka, the St. Gregory Choir, our soloists and instrumentalists* The music was simply FABULOUS! To all our youth and children who also participated. To the Altar Guild who so beautifully adorned our nave and made sure everything was "just right". To the acolytes, lectors, chalice bearers, ushers, and greeters who made everything appear so effortless. We are truly grateful to our wonderful parish family.

## **CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR T.V. RAFFLE WINNER RITA SAIBLE!!!**

*All the tickets (50) were sold! Christ Church received an additional \$500.00! Thank you to Raj Mirjah for "regifting" his Bazaar ticket auction winnings back to Christ Church!*

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR.....



### "SOCK AND MITTEN TREE"



Through the Christmas season we are asking you to help decorate the Christmas tree located at the Baptismal font with new gloves, mittens, hats, socks, etc. Any size or color will do! These "ornaments" will then be donated to various charities to help those less fortunate over the cold hard winter months. Take advantage of those great after Christmas Sales!!

## **SEEING IS BELIEVING:**

*Experiences of the Holy for Parent and Child*

**Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>**

**Epiphany Pageant at the 10am service**



## **Peak of the Week - New Year's Resolution**

### **Sin Bravely**

Now that's a concept worth taking note of. The words originally issued from the mouth of none other than Martin Luther! Who knew he was such a party animal? Hummm — might be interesting to find out more.

You can do just that at Peak in the Week starting Wednesday, January 4 at 10:15, Christ Church Shrewsbury. We'll be exploring this very intriguing concept while reading and discussing the book of the same title, *Sin Bravely*, by Mark Ellingsen. The book is the authors' reaction to the immensely popular series of books and processes called Purpose Driven... (Everything) by Rick Warren. It would helpful for our discussions if you had obtained and begun reading the Ellingsen book but come even if you haven't.

There is no need to register. Just come on Wednesday the 4<sup>th</sup> of January. Better yet, come at 9:30 for the mid-week Morning Prayer and stay for what promises to be a lively and thought provoking several weeks.

## **Second Saturday Work Day**

Please plan to join us on January 14th for our next work day. One project is to sort out and arrange the book shelves and books in the new downstairs library. There will also be lots to do after all of our Holiday happenings. This is a good opportunity for those who needed to earn community service credit. Just an hour or two of your time between 10:00 AM and 4:00 PM, Saturday January 14, 2017 will be greatly appreciated. A simple and hot lunch will be provided. Thank you,  
*Walter Dein, Second Saturday Chair*

## **ADULT LECTIONARY STUDY**

**Bible Study “Adult Forum”:** “*Talking About Faith and Scripture*” ~ Sundays at 9AM Parish House Library. Join us on Sunday morning for a free and open conversation about faith and the readings for the week. The lively discussion in the library is led by Deacon Bill Balmer. Everyone is welcome. Join in any time!

## **2017 GRADUATING SENIORS**

### **Scholarship Funds Available**

Information and paperwork can be obtained from the Christ Church Parish Office on both funds listed below:

**Albert W. Van Duzer Scholarship Fund:** The funds are intended for recent high school graduates entering their first year of study at an accredited post-secondary institution. Applicants should be aware that certain criteria will be considered in the awarding of scholarships funds: service to the local and wider church, community service, academic achievement, and financial need. **APPLICATION Deadline: April 1, 2017.**

### **Episcopal Church Women, Student Service**

**Award:** This fund is strictly for assisting high school graduates who are presently enrolled in undergraduate studies. You may apply each year that you are in school. Certain criteria will be considered in granting awards: service to church and service to community. **APPLICATION AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION MUST BE RECEIVED BY APRIL 1, 2017 DEADLINE.**

## **FLOWERS AND SANCUTARY CANDLE OFFERINGS**

**A New 2017 Sign-up sheet is in the Narthex.** Almost every Sunday of the Church Year we have beautiful flowers adorn our altar and narthex. These are provided by our parishioners, usually in memory of someone or in thanksgiving to God for someone or something. If you would like to donate flowers or the weekly sanctuary candle, please sign up on the Flower Chart in the narthex of the Church. Checks should be made payable to; “Christ Church Altar Guild” and may be placed in the offertory plate or mailed to us. We are now accommodating more than one donation on a single date. ***Also please note our slight increase:*** Altar Flowers - \$40, Narthex Flowers - \$30, Sanctuary Candle - \$10.

## **COFFEE HOUR is a cherished part of Sunday worship here at Christ Church.**

It is an opportunity to relax, socialize and enjoy a good cup of coffee. But coffee hour doesn't just magically happen and in order to keep this tradition alive and well, more volunteers are needed. My heartfelt thanks go out to those who have so graciously helped out in the past, many of whom have signed up not once or twice, but several times in order to fill the gap. If you enjoy coming to coffee hour please sign-up for at least one Sunday. There is always an experienced hand to help you navigate the kitchen and we are in the process of stocking some “goodies” in the kitchen freezer just in case. Coffee hour does not need to be elaborate or time consuming. Don't pass up a great opportunity to get involved, chat a little and have a good time. The new 2017 sign-up sheet is hanging outside the kitchen just waiting for your name. Thank you all so much, Rita Saible.



## **Pledge Envelopes 2017**

**2017 Pledge envelopes have arrived!** You can pick up your box of envelopes in the Narthex. If you do not find a box with your name on it, but wish to use envelopes for your pledge, please contact Peggy James or the office and we will get you set up with pledge envelopes.

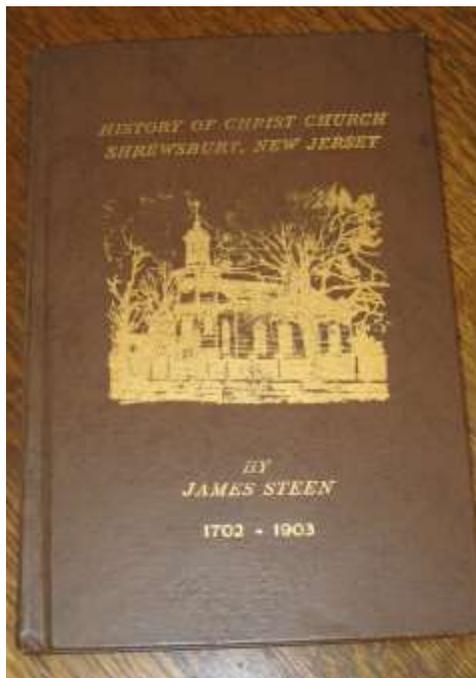
## Did You Know...? Stories of Christ Church History



by: **Robert M. Kelly, Jr.**  
**Parish Historian**

### “Did You Know ... ?”

That about 5 years ago I wrote a column in this space about how we know what we know about our History. The primary sources are the Parish Register and the Vestry minutes. In recent times the Annual Report is also an excellent resource. However, The History of Christ Church by James Steen, pictured below, is an excellent secondary source that depends upon the parish register, vestry minutes and other, unfortunately unreferenced, sources. The book does include some original documents in their entirety, like the act of the New Jersey State Legislature to effect the separation of Christ Church Middletown and Christ Church Shrewsbury into independent parishes. The book has an excellent index. Here is an image of the book.



James Steen (1852-1909) was an attorney, businessman, and author. He attended Princeton University and served as Mayor of Eatontown. He also founded and was editor of a periodical, the Eatontown Advertiser. As an author, he focused on local history including penning a monograph about the town of Aberdeen as a Scottish settlement.

The genesis of his History of Christ Church is unclear. The subtitle states it is a history encompassing the years from founding (1702) to 1903. This latter date suggests the possibility of his writing this in commemoration of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the parish. The book was never published in Steen's lifetime and while numerous unbound copies were printed, the book was not issued prior to Steen's death in 1909. One oddity is that James Steen was a Presbyterian and a member of the church in Shrewsbury. He is also buried there, next door to the church for which he wrote the History.

However, in 1972 our rector at the time, Edward Story arranged for a limited, numbered edition of the book to be published. This is an invaluable resource for historians and genealogists and much more accessible through libraries.

Father Story had a keen interest in history and was treasurer of the Shrewsbury Historical Society. As a result, he of course knew Louise Jost, the SHS founder. When the book was published, he gave Copy #1 to Louise. Louise felt it should belong to the church and gave it to her friend and parishioner Jeanne Sundberg. During this year's Lantern Tour, Jeanne donated the book to the parish.



Jeanne Sundberg and Parish Historian Robert Kelly

Robert M. Kelly, Jr.  
Parish Historian

# Blessings Shared

Parish Finance Update

November 2016

| Category      | Actual       | Budget       | \$ Over Budget |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| Plate         | \$3,126.20   | \$3,087.00   | \$39.20        |
| Pledge        | \$137,359.13 | \$133,617.00 | \$3,742.13     |
| Total Income  | \$200,798.78 | \$208,967.00 | \$(8,168.22)   |
| Total Expense | \$197,486.60 | \$211,770.28 | \$(14,283.68)  |
| Net Income    | \$3,312.18   | \$(2,803.28) | \$6,115.46     |

## Notes:

1. The financials show that YTD, we have a net income of \$3312.18. This includes the Endowment fund principal that we had to take to balance the budget. The good news is that we should not have to take anymore from the Endowment Principal for the rest of 2016.
2. Our current budget shows that our total income is \$8168.22 less than budgeted year to date.
3. Our current expenses are running \$14,283.68 less than budgeted. These lower expenses help to decrease our deficit.
4. Our pledge income YTD is \$3742.13 higher than budgeted.

Thank you to everyone for keeping up your pledge payments and helping Christ Church finances.

Preliminary results from the Holiday Bazaar included in the total income, but it will be complete next month.

As always, we thank you for continued support of Christ Church.

Sincerely,

David Regiec - Treasurer

## Stewardship~Pledges~Year end statements

If you are not sure if you still **owe** on your 2016 pledge, e-mail me (peggy\_james@verizon.net) and I will send you your pledge figures. Also, if you haven't pledged for **2017**, please do so! Pledge Certificates are available in the parish house and the church. You can put your certificate in the offering plate, drop it at the office or mail it in. If you have pledged and you did not get envelopes and you want them, let me know and I will assign a box and # to you. FYI, if you don't want envelopes and have pledged we still assign you a number so we can keep track of your giving. ***Again this year, to avoid the cost of printing and postage, you must notify the office to request a year-end statement.*** Please call or email the office to request one. If you have any questions, talk to me!

Peggy James

Jr. Warden, Stewardship

## SDRG PROJECT STATUS REPORT

1. The Diocese has increased the amount of our loan to \$200K (from \$100K) for the period from June 2017 to June 2018 to allow us to manage the increased grant amount and the accelerated work schedule.
2. The request for a progress payment for the church grant has been approved for \$54,000. We have received \$27K.
3. The work on the front steps of the church is complete.
4. Most on-site work for the winter will be interior and at the Rectory.

# Blessings in the New Year



St. Gregory's Choir sings  
"The Lord Bless You and Keep You"



Christmas Eucharist



St. Nicholas visits our "Blessing of the Stockings"



Mother Lisa+ blesses the Stockings

*The Communications Team reminds you to check the web site for current parish news.*

[www.christchurchshrewsbury.org](http://www.christchurchshrewsbury.org)



Share your pictures and  us on facebook! "Be friends with Christ Church Shrewsbury" and then invite your friends to be our friend so we all can be informed and connected to events in our community.



# *Christ Church Shrewsbury*

*380 Sycamore Avenue*

*Shrewsbury, NJ 07702*

ChristChurchShrewsbury@verizon.net

*The Communications Team reminds you to check the web site for current parish news.*

*www.christchurchshrewsbury.org*



"Be friends with Christ Church Shrewsbury" and then invite your friends to be our friend so we all can be informed and connected to events in our community.

## **SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST. BRING SOMEONE TO CHURCH WITH YOU.**

The Reverend Lisa S. Mitchell, Rector  
The Reverend Victoria Cuff, Deacon  
The Reverend William Balmer, Deacon  
The Reverend Carolyn Bradley, Deacon  
The Reverend Eve Chamberlain, Deacon  
Chris Psolka, Organist/Choirmaster  
Casey Surgent, Office Administrator  
Jeff Veil, Sexton

### **VESTRY 2016**

Elaine Feyereisen - Senior Warden, Communications  
Peggy James - Junior Warden, Stewardship  
Julie Sinn Cassidy – Young Family Initiative (y-fi)  
Walter Dein - Property  
Tara Dunford - Stewardship  
Joanne Montgomery – Fundraising  
Jim O'Connor – Outreach  
Rita Saible – Parish Life  
Rachele Spencer Mikita - Outreach  
Pamela Aschettino & Jamie Green

Treasure - David Regiec  
Asst. Treasurer - Lynn Marengo  
Vestry Clerk – Nancy Stewart



Mother Lisa, Bill and Deacon Vicki Cuff.  
Congratulations to the Cuff's who renewed their marriage vows on their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. A special coffee hour followed.