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.

Each year we celebrate and share our history with the broader community in multiple forums. We also learn more about our history each year by studying our records and by receiving information from outside the parish frequently through genealogical inquiries.

I wish 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 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. These queries 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

Robert M. Kelly, Jr., Parish Historian

An Overview of History 2017

In 2017 we had both recurring and special one-time history-related activities. The former included the Weekend in Olde Monmouth Tour, the Reading of the Names on Memorial weekend, the Independence Day related activities, and the Lantern Tour. First, the special 2017 activities.

The Vinegar Bible

A special historical event occurred in 2017. This was the 300th anniversary of the printing of our treasured Vinegar Bible in Oxford, England. We celebrated this special event in numerous ways.

• We removed it from its display case in June.
• We read the Gospel from the Bible each Sunday through the end of the year.
• High definition photos of the key pages of the Bible were taken by photographer Jeff Smith for future study and to serve as a snapshot of its current condition.

• Research was conducted concerning Vinegar Bibles in general and our copy in particular.

• An event called “1717” was held on September 30th featuring presentations about its history and condition and a performance of music composed at the time of the Bible’s printing by Madregalia, the performance artists in residence at the Church.

• The creation of our first Historical Vignette telling the story of our Vinegar Bible.

• On December 13th there was a presentation entitled “The Art of the Vinegar Bible”. This talk addressed the remarkable illustrations in the Bible and was given by our Monmouth University student intern, Campbell Adair Lee.

• Publication of the lead article in the Fall/Winter 2017 issue of the Historiographer, the publication of the National Episcopal Historians and Archivists, about our Vinegar Bible.

• In partnership with St John’s Anglican Church in Nova Scotia we formed the Vinegar Bible Interest Group. This group, composed of all holders of the Vinegar Bibles worldwide, is focused on developing and sharing information about Vinegar Bibles from their creation in 1717.

• The high-definition digital photography and 1717 musical performances were underwritten by generous donations by Angels of Christ Church totaling over $1100.

More information about all of these activities and about the Vinegar Bible itself can be found on the parish web site christchurchshrewsbury.org
In 2017 we initiated a project called Historical Vignettes. A Historical Vignette is a multimedia communications instrument for providing information about a particular historical aspect or object at Christ Church. The vignette includes video, still images, music, narration and interviews as appropriate for the particular vignette. The resultant Vignette is posted on youtube. As noted above, the first Vignette illuminated the Vinegar Bible. The next one in 2018 will focus on the Queen Anne Communion Service.

As noted above, Campbell Adair Lee, a Monmouth University junior in Art History, researched and reported on the exquisite illustrations in the Vinegar Bible. In this Newsletter, we would like to look back on this very successful program of internships at Christ Church. The purpose of the internship is usually to conduct some research to illuminate a particular aspect of our history but other objectives have been identified.

The preponderance of interns from Monmouth University is due both to the geographical proximity but also to the strong ties we have established with the faculty there across multiple disciplines.

### Internships

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Intern</th>
<th>Association</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Result</th>
<th>Deliverable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spring 2013</td>
<td>Christine Vienna</td>
<td>MU History Grad Student</td>
<td>18th century Missionary priests</td>
<td>Insight into the priests’ community relations</td>
<td>Paper/Talk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring 2014</td>
<td>Kerri Sullivan</td>
<td>Rutgers Library Science Grad Student</td>
<td>Archives</td>
<td>Organize and properly store key documents</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring 2014</td>
<td>Amanda Lopez, Caitlin Guenther</td>
<td>MU History Undergrads</td>
<td>18th century parishes, anthropology</td>
<td>Parishioner ties in the 18th century</td>
<td>Searchable database, research paper</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring 2015</td>
<td>Todd King</td>
<td>MU History Senior</td>
<td>Lessons from our graveyard database</td>
<td>Anthropological insights due to database analysis</td>
<td>Research Paper</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall 2015</td>
<td>Taylor Cavanaugh</td>
<td>MU History Senior</td>
<td>Grovestone Iconography</td>
<td>Increased understanding of the church gravestones</td>
<td>Research Paper and Talk</td>
</tr>
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<td>Fall 2015</td>
<td>Amanda Kantor</td>
<td>MU Communications Senior</td>
<td>Informational Videos</td>
<td>Four videos about aspects of Christ Church</td>
<td>The videos on YouTube</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring 2016</td>
<td>Campbell Adair Lee</td>
<td>MU Art History Junior</td>
<td>Vinegar Bible Images</td>
<td>Knowledge of these illustrations</td>
<td>Research Paper and Talk</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Dead Actors’ Guild is the Christ Church troupe of thespians who portray characters from our history or tell the stories of individuals buried in the graveyard. This year we have three new members who are all parishioners. These are Connie Goddard, Natalia Tevar, and Robert Maber. This year Connie and Natalia performed in the Lantern Tour and Robert was in the Lantern Tour and the Independence Day events.

A new script was written by parish historian, Robert Kelly, and first performed at the Independence Day service by the author. This portrayal was of Judge John Faucheraud Grimke who was a Revolutionary hero in South Carolina and active in the early politics of that state. He is buried in our graveyard since he died in Long Branch while trying to recover from his deadly illness.

Robert Maber portraying Louis Decoppet
Once again Christ Church participated in the county’s program to have over 40 historic sites open all weekend to be available for all. We again had about 150 visitors to see the church building and the display of historic objects.

Independence Day Service

At the Independence Day Service Robert Kelly portrayed Judge John Grimke, Jamie Green was William Leeds, and Robert Maber portrayed Louis Decoppet.

July 4th

Christ Church was part of the Shrewsbury Independence Day celebration. Festivities began at the Allen House where Mother Lisa delivered the invocation followed by a community reading of the Declaration of Independence. Then attendees could visit Christ Church where Jamie and Robert Maber reprised their July 2nd portrayals.
A record number of attendees came to the annual Four Corners Lantern Tour. Due to the 300th anniversary of the Vinegar Bible, this tome played an important part in the Christ Church segment of the Lantern Tour.

Dead Actors’ Guild Members

Memorial Weekend Service

We held our annual Graveyard ceremony recognizing the contributions of those buried in our churchyard who served their country in the armed forces in wars from the French and Indian to the Vietnam. There were no new interments of veterans in 2017. Members of Madregalia, the Christ Church artists in residence, performed some patriotic anthems.

Judi Buncher is Sister Veronica of the Sisters of the Holy Cross. The Sisters were the first Naval Nurses on the very first Navy Hospital Ship, the Red Rover.

Stuart Buncher portrayed a Sergeant from the 2nd NJ Cavalry Company A, part of the 2nd NJ Brigade. The 2nd NJ Brigade consisted of the 1st NJ Artillery, the 2nd NJ Cavalry, the 7th NJ Infantry and the 22nd NJ Colored Troops.

The list of veterans interred in the Christ Church Graveyard can be found on the web site (christchurchshrewsbury.org).

Future Initiatives

In 2018 we will be working on the grant we were awarded by the New Jersey Historic Trust for gravestone restoration. One particular historical aspect of this grant is the creation of a self-guided tour led by Dr. Richard Veit of Monmouth University.

2019 will see two special anniversaries at the church. One is the 300th anniversary of the oldest gravemarker. The other is the 250th anniversary of the church building. In 2018 we will planning appropriate recognition of these milestones.

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. The History Newsletter is on the parish web site (christchurchshrewsbury.org)

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