

# THE CROWN

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



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Volume XXIV Issue XII

December 2022

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***Columbarium Complete for Thanksgiving!***  
*See inside for the details.*

*“Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.” Psalm 80*

Dear Friends,

We all need rest and restoration. I know this isn't what is on your minds as we enter the very busy month of December, but fast forward to the end of the month. Surely you will hope for a few days to spend at leisure with your family and friends. A time when you can let your hair down. Maybe get out and do some fun things. Putter around at home.

We need such times. It is why one of the Ten Commandments addresses this very need to take a break, *remember the Sabbath*. I hope we all get to do that at least once a week, but we also need prolonged times to step back and assess our lives. To spend some quiet time with our Lord. To do those things we just can't get done in a normal work week. To reconnect with people we love.

I am planning such a break for myself beginning at the beginning of the year. It is what we call a Sabbatical, and clergy are urged to take one every five to seven years. To recharge our engines and reconnect with God in a way that we can't always do in the midst of a busy parish. And we have been busy! From the Rectory Campaign to the construction of the Columbarium. From the Stewardship Campaign to the on-going work on the Parish House, it has been an exhausting year! It wasn't exactly what I thought I would be doing twenty-five years into this journey with you.

I will be absent from you from January through March. Your skilled and trusted vestry is ready to step in and handle the daily business of the Parish. The Reverend Kathleen Bishop will be with you most Sundays with the Reverend Valerie Redpath taking a couple of weeks as well. Our faithful Deacon Victoria Cuff knows you all well and will be here to step in to help with the pastoral needs of the congregation. In addition, we hope to be welcoming Deacon Bill Balmer back to Christ Church, beginning in January. He will assist during my sabbatical, and hopefully stay beyond that. It will be good to have him back home in the church where he has spent most of his life. The plan is for me to be back at Christ Church for Holy Week and Easter; I can't imagine not being here for that important time.

What will I be doing on my Sabbatical? Lots of things! I am already bracing myself for all that I want to do; but this will give me the opportunity to turn my attention to things that can't be done during my usual work and ministry.

I hope to be in my hometown of Bartlesville for much of it, spending time with my father and our family. I will be there to celebrate his 98th birthday in February; I feel so fortunate to be able to be there with him, especially at this time in his life. I will also be working on the house I recently bought there: being there for an extended time will allow me to get done what needs to be done. I'll be painting, pulling up carpets, and cleaning up the rather neglected garden.

While I am there, I also am going to do something I have been wanting to do for some time now: I am going to take a stab at putting all those Cloistering meditations into organized form. And figuring out just how I might get them published. Many of you have urged me to do that, but I really need to spread them all out and see what is what. Along with a lot of editing. I would love nothing more than to have a hard copy account of how these pandemic years looked from the vantage of our parish church.

I will also be turning my attention to GFS. You have been hearing about the Girls Friendly Society for a long time; our chapter was started twenty years ago. This fall, I was elected to the National Board of GFS, in charge of Organizational Development. I am still figuring out just what that means! I have been given a team of women to assist me from Connecticut to California, and we have a lot of planning and strategizing to do. The pandemic has taken a toll on our organization, and it is our aim to rethink just how we can promote and spread the work of

GFS across the Episcopal Church. I hope to spend some of my time visiting these GFS leaders and getting a handle on who we are in this twenty-first century and where we are going.

Lastly, I hope to simply get in some rest and relaxation. To worship at some local churches – just sitting in the pew and soaking it all in. Do some swimming at the local YMCA, and some running, too. All those things that seem to get put on hold in any given week. So that I may come back to you a new and improved version of myself, ready to tackle whatever our Lord brings to us next.

I am very grateful to God for this opportunity. And to the vestry, who so very well understands how important this is. And to you, my dear parishioners. We have journeyed a long time together; may our Lord bless us with many more opportunities to serve him and to spread the good news of God's love to us all.

Peace,

Mother Lisa+

## NEWS AND NOTES:

Any Changes? Advise us of any changes in your address or telephone number. Let us know so we can keep our records up to date. Please send us an email or call the Church Office at 732-741-2220

### Parish Hours

Monday – closed

Tuesday – 9 am – 2 pm

Wednesday - 9 am – 2 pm

Thursday – 9 am – 2 pm

Friday – 9 am – 2 pm

**Congratulations** to Teddy Keating who was confirmed on November 19 by Bishop Stokes at St. John's, Little Silver.

### In Requiem

We bid a fond adieu to Elaine M. Denahan who died on November 25th after a prolonged illness. A service was held for her on November 30 here at Christ Church. May she, and all the faithful departed rest in peace.

### No Christmas Bazaar This Year

A reminder to all that we are unable to hold our annual Christmas Bazaar due to the construction in the Parish House. We are hoping for some kind of fundraiser/social event in the spring, so stay tuned!

**The 2023 Calendars are now available located in the Narthex in the back of the Church.**



Your Prayers Are Requested

**For the sick and suffering, and those in any need or trouble:** \*Mignon Williams, \*Cassie Reagan, \*John Smalls, \*Joan, \*Jim Miller, \*Beverly Ryser, \*Judi Buncher, \*Carolyn, \*MiMi Brown, \*Sarah Schmid, \*Susan Van Valkenburg, \*Tara Dunford, \*Irwin Rapolla, \*Lisa Ficarelli-Halpern, \*Jonathan Badal, John Veil, Jennifer Turner, Pam, Stan Brower, Queeni, Jocelyn, Mariwether Schmid, Julie, Heather Lance, Pat and Bob Rivenes, Savita, Farshid, Peedy, Gil, Edie, Julia, Bert, Barbara, Sherrie, the Fontana family, Cindy and John Jobe, Vivian Hillborn, Lea Gallagher, Judy, Mary Ellen, Tammy, Don Smith, Greg, Judy Gregor, Jack Sauber, Rico and Liesel Rauschmayer, Bob, Jim Halpern, Joe, Jane Barnes, Jay Curlee, Alison, Rick, Geraldine Watson, Katie, Michael, Donna, Michelle Ten Eyck, Marilyn Rocky, Tabitha Shimooka, Evelyn Curley, Marian Bryja, Judy Smith, Mary Andrews, Ann Hatami, Eugene Krikowski, Timothy Keating, Walter Hutchins, Max Garweg. *May they be relieved of their distress.*

**For parishioners and friends serving in the armed forces both here and abroad:** Traver, Michael, Bo, Travis "TJ" Wilson, Aaron, Jacqueline Brattan, Connor Scheidel. *May they serve in safety and with honor*

*\*denotes members of Christ Church*

## **PLEDGE CAMPAIGN 2023: Gathering in Christ's Name**

Before I get to the current Pledge Campaign, let me give you a brief update on what we have done this year at Christ Church. It has certainly been a busy and surprising year! We kicked off a Capital Campaign for our 1825 Rectory. Phase I has been completed: parishioners have pledged just over \$100,000 to date to help up repair and restore our historic Rectory. Thank you for helping us secure our future!

In August, we threw a big surprise party for Mother Lisa to celebrate 25 years at Christ Church, held in my backyard. A lovely catered affair with live music, parishioners both old and new came to join the festivities. It was wonderful to have the whole gang together, reminding us of how much we mean to each other. We pray there will be many more such celebrations to come!

This year we also tackled the construction of a Columbarium (we hope it is the first of three) which will provide us the ability to continue to bury people in our historic graveyard for generations to come. Construction was completed the day before Thanksgiving – that is something to give thanks for! You can look at it on the southwest perimeter of the graveyard.

Lastly – and most extensively – we are dealing with the coffee pot leak that has left our Parish House decimated. It has been a complicated project to coordinate, but in the end, we hope to have a new and improved building in which to carry out the ministry and mission of our church. Soon you will be called upon to join us in painting walls and other related projects that will enable us to keep costs down.

In all things, Christ Church continues to be a vibrant parish. For 320 years citizens from Monmouth County have found Christ Church a safe place to gather. A place to raise their children and to grow their faith. A place from which they can reach out into the greater community and the world, working out that Christian faith. In a word, it is a place to call home.

## **NOW TO THE BUSINESS AT HAND!**

**We urge you to do your part in our ministry together.** This has been a challenging year for the

church, and we know it has been challenging for many of our parishioners. But we cannot do this without you. This past year, we have had to dip into our investments far more than we had planned, and if we do not get sufficient pledges this year, it may even increase as the cost of heating oil (and everything else) increases. Please be thoughtful, prayerful, and generous.

## **To date we have received: 33 Pledges for \$104,225.**

This is just over half of the pledges we received for 2022, so please send in your pledge commitment as soon as possible. We still have a long way to go to meet our budget. ***This year we needed roughly \$220,000***, so you can see how important your contribution is. You can send it by mail, email, or drop it in the collection plate. We will soon be making reminder phone calls and checking in with you. Thank you!

## **URGENT: Cleaning Volunteers Needed!**

Since Rally Sunday the Church School has been meeting upstairs in the Parish Hall. However, in view of the pending renovations it's time to move downstairs until that area is going to be done.

This Saturday, December 3 – anytime between 10am and 3pm - I invite all of you to lend a hand in freshening up the classroom areas. There will be all sorts of jobs to do and plenty of them, so it won't just be about cleaning (although that is a priority) We will be working in the choir room and the classroom in the far-right corner. Bulletin boards could stand to be re-papered and brought up to the Season. Have ideas, bring them on.

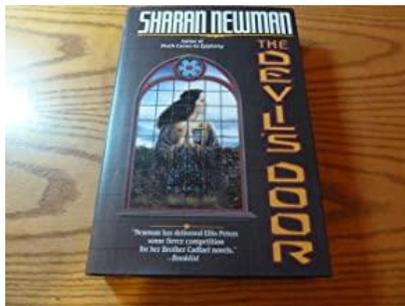
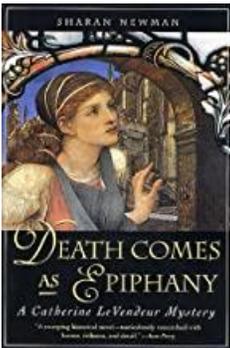
So, if you have an hour or two you can spare, it would be so appreciated. The teachers and kids have been real troopers in adapting to their temporary space upstairs, but it's time to get back into our own special space. Classes will meet down there on December 11.

Supplies will be available. But if you have your own special cleaning things, bring it along. Looking forward to seeing you.

*Faithfully, Mrs. Nap*

## PEAK IN WEEKERS LOOK AHEAD

November is a shortish month because of Thanksgiving. December is an even shorter month due to Christmas and our usual break between Christmas and New Year's. Sooo I'm thinking far ahead to January. In November we're finishing up our foray into murder in the past and reading about Sister Fidelma of 7th-century Ireland. December we'll step forward into the 13th century, in France and live with Peter Abelard, Heloise and murder murder murder. For January it's a side step to 12th century England and some time with a familiar mon--Brother Cadfael. This should take care of our collective blood thirst. For a while, perhaps. December's books are **Death Comes as Epiphany**, and **Devil's Door** both by Sharan Newman, a noted authority on that time period. **A Morbid Taste for Bones (The Chronicles of Brother Cadfael)** and **One Corpse Too Many (The Chronicles of Brother Cadfael)** both by Ellis Peters, a renowned authority on this time period. A murderously fun way to learn some history!  
Donna Devlin



## The Columbarium is up!!!



The first Columbarium was completed on November 23rd, and our first interment service was held on November 27th. A modest concrete slab still needs to be laid around the base of the structure. This will protect it from lawn equipment. The landscaping will be done once spring arrives.

Many thanks to the Graveyard Commission for their work, and for the vestry who gave the go-ahead. Many more thanks to Kim and Bob Honecker who headed the project and made it such a success. We do not forget the talented Walter Dein, who single-handedly removed the south fence so the equipment could get in, rebuilt the fence and added a gate. His work helped curb the costs.

Please feel welcome to take a look at it in the south side of the graveyard. Niches are still available to parishioners. Contact Kim or Bob Honecker if you have any questions. 732 530-7451  
kimroberts05@gmail.com

## A Message from Covenant House:

*Let's make the holidays special for the young people living at Covenant House's  
Asbury Park Rights of Passage program*



The Asbury Park Rights of Passage program is a transitional housing program for unhoused youth between the ages of 18-21 years old. It provides evidence-based interventions designed for youth to achieve core goals in the areas of social and emotional well-being; permanent connections; education and employment; and safe and stable housing. The ultimate goal of our program is to prepare unhoused young people to transition to self-sufficient adult lives and to break the cycle of homelessness.

**At this time of year everyone needs some extra holiday cheer. You can help by making a gift towards our Asbury Holiday Campaign: *Bring Holiday Cheer to Asbury Park Youth!***

**Purchase or collect Gift Cards with family and friends.** Gift cards allow our staff to shop for the specific sizes and needs of our youth. You can drop off these gift cards at Christ Church in the Parish House or in the collection plate on Sunday.

*It is most helpful if gift cards are valued in ranges of \$25 to \$100. Visa, Shoprite, Walmart, Wawa, Dunkin, Marshalls, and Target*

**Also, purchase a gift from Covenant House's Amazon Smile wish list.** A list has been created for EACH of our sites that allows you to purchase wonderful presents for our youth right online and shipped directly to each location. (Contact [conniegoddard@gmail.com](mailto:conniegoddard@gmail.com) for information on how to do this.) With your help, our Covenant House community will overflow with the hope, the promise, and the joy that is Christmas morning! At Covenant House New Jersey we rely on generous, loving, and mission-driven communities to make the Holidays at Covenant House one filled with light and love.

If you have any questions or want to get involved in another way, please contact Sue Monteiro at 908 377-9481 or at [smonteiro@covenanthouse.org](mailto:smonteiro@covenanthouse.org). Thank you for your love and support. *Connie Goddard*



**Christmas Toy Drive**

Each year, the parishioners of Christ Church have helped families from Monmouth County fulfill the wishes of children at Christmas. Many families have been hard hit this past year and need our help to provide toys for their children. Many families are out of work and have increased expenses. Please help make a bright Christmas Day for many children again this year. Toys are needed for all age groups – babies to High School students.

Suggestions:

- Dolls of all sizes and types

- board games such as Candy Land, Monopoly, Battleship;
- gift cards to Target, Burger King, McDonalds, Movie Theatres, Dunkin Donuts, etc.
- action figures, cars, fire/dump trucks; etc.
- blocks, Lego kits, Nerf toys
- Barbie, Disney Princess items
- Hot Wheels products
- sports items such as basketball, soccer ball;
- Transformers
- dress up clothing • tea party sets
- Erector Sets; building materials
- play musical instruments • puzzles • art products and kits and just about any other toy you can purchase!

Please do not wrap the toys, but include wrapping materials, gift bags and tape. That is helpful to the sorting committee. Please bring your donations to the church or church office (during office hours) any time between now and December 11th . If you have any questions please contact Elaine Feyereisen at: 732-742-1227.



**Christmas Memorial Flowers & Greens Offering**

IN MEMORY OF:

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IN THANKSGIVING FOR

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Requested by: \_\_\_\_\_

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Offering \$\_\_\_\_\_

Those Who Serve – December 2022

December 4

Celebrant: Reverend Lisa S. Mitchell  
Deacon: Victoria Cuff  
Acolytes: 8am Edgar John 10am, Dexter and Kody Craven  
Cassandra Murphy  
Lectors: 8am Peggy James 10am Martie Viets  
Ushers: 8am Peggy James 10am Bramley Maber, Christine Maber  
Choirmaster/Organist: Iris Chen  
Altar Guild: Halina Nibbling  
Coffee Hour: Connie Goddard

December 11

Celebrant: Reverend Lisa S. Mitchell  
Deacon: Victoria Cuff  
Acolytes: 8am Judi Buncher, 10 am Andrew Brown, Isabel & Isara  
Chen-Durek, Teddy Keating  
Lectors: 8 am Walter Dein, 10 am Elaine Feyereisen  
Ushers: 8 am Carl Alfano, 10 am George Edwards, Elaine Feyereisen  
Choirmaster/Organist: Iris Chen  
Altar Guild: Phyllis Edwards  
Coffee Hour:

December 18

Celebrant: Reverend Lisa S. Mitchell  
Deacon: Victoria Cuff  
Acolytes: 8am Edgar John, 10am Joshua and Matthew Dunford, Halina  
Nibbling  
Lectors: 8am Sean Griffith, 10am Bill Cuff  
Ushers: 8 am Walter Dein, 10 am Jim O'Connor, Rod Webster  
Choirmaster/Organist: Iris Chen  
Altar Guild: Cindy Webster  
Coffee Hour:

December 24-Children's Mass 4:00 pm

Celebrant: Reverend Lisa S. Mitchell  
Acolytes: Judi Buncher, Dexter and Cody Craven  
Lector: Dash Cassidy  
Ushers: Carl Alfano, Elaine Feyereisen, Stephen Rudolph  
Choirmaster/Organist: Iris Chen  
Altar Guild: All

December 24 – 10:30 Lessons and Carols followed by Mass

Celebrant: Reverend Lisa Mitchell  
Acolytes: Joshua and Matthew Dunford, Halina Nibbling, PJ Reyes, Edgar John  
Lector: Tara Dunford, Robert Maber, Connie Goddard, Bob Honecker, Peggy James  
Ushers: George Edwards, Rod Webster  
Choirmaster/Organist: Iris Chen  
Altar Guild: All

December 25 Christmas Day 10:00am

Celebrant; Reverend Lisa Mitchell  
Acolyte: Stacy Reagan, Cassie Reagan  
Lector: Walter Dein  
Usher: Jim O'Connor

January 1 One Service at 10:00 AM

Celebrant: Reverend Lisa S. Mitchell  
Deacon: Vicki Cuff  
Acolytes: Isabel & Isara Chen-Durek, Cassandra Murphy  
Lector: Bill Cuff, Elaine Feyereisen Dash Cassidy, Martie Viets, Teddy Keating  
Ushers: George Edwards, Stephen Rudolph, Carl Alfano  
Choirmaster/Organist: Iris Chen  
Altar Guild: Phyllis Edwards  
Coffee Hour:

## December, 2022

| Sunday  | Monday            | Tuesday | Wednesday                            | Thursday                        | Friday | Saturday  |
|---|-------------------|---------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------|---|
|   |                   |         |                                      | 1                               | 2      | 3<br>Basement<br>Cleanup 10 - 3<br>Finance<br>Meeting<br>1:00 pm  |
| 4<br>Holy Eucharist<br>8am and 10am<br>St. Nicholas<br>Visitation                               | 5                 | 6       | 7<br>Peak of the<br>Week 9:30-11:15  | 8<br>Choir Practice<br>7:30 pm  | 9      | 10  |
| 11<br>Holy Eucharist<br>8am and 10am<br>Church School<br>10 am<br>Blessing of the<br>Toys 10 am | 12                | 13      | 14<br>Peak of the<br>Week 9:30-11:15 | 15<br>Choir Practice<br>7:30 pm | 16     | 17  |
| 18<br>Holy Eucharist<br>8am and 10am<br>Greening of the<br>Church<br>Church School<br>10 am     | 19<br>Vestry 7 pm | 20      | 21<br>Peak of the<br>Week 9:30-11:15 | 22<br>Choir Practice<br>7:30 pm | 23     | 24<br>Children's<br>Service 4 pm<br>Lessons and<br>Carols 10:30<br>pm<br>11:00 pm<br>Festive<br>Eucharist |
| 25<br>Holy Eucharist<br>10am  | 26                | 27      | 28                                   | 29<br>Choir Practice<br>7:30 pm | 30     | 31  |
| 1<br>New Year's Day<br>Lessons and<br>Carols with<br>Holy Eucharist<br>10:00am                  | 2                 |         |                                      |                                 |        |   |

# *Christ Church Shrewsbury*

*380 Sycamore Avenue  
Shrewsbury, NJ 07702*

[ChristChurchShrewsbury@verizon.net](mailto:ChristChurchShrewsbury@verizon.net)

*The Communications Team reminds you to check the web site for current parish news.  
[www.christchurchshrewsbury.org](http://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  
Iris Chen, Organist/Choirmaster  
Debbie Roese, Office Administrator  
Kevin Carroll, Sexton

## **VESTRY 2022**

Peggy James – Senior Warden, Stewardship  
Connie Goddard – Junior Warden  
Carl Alfano  
Walter Dein – Building and Grounds  
Sheila Hatami-Watson  
Sue Napoletano- Church School  
Larry Nibbling – Finance  
Robin Solbach  
Martie Viets – Parish Life  
Treasurer – Stephen Craven  
Asst. Treasurer--Lynn Marengo, Larry Nibbling  
Vestry Clerk – Nancy Stewart

