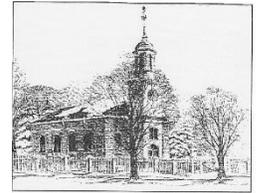


THE CROWN

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



Volume XXIII Issue II

February 2023



PROGRESS!!!!!!!!!!!!

RECTOR'S REPORT

"For the Lord will go before you, and the God of Israel will be your rear guard." Isaiah 52.12

2022 was quite a year for Christ Church, and for me personally. Almost three years into a worldwide pandemic, I think *pandemic fatigue* describes the mood; everything seems to take more work, more energy, more prayer, more support. I am not sure how people who do not have an active faith community do it, but I am so very glad to have each one of you as part of my own faith journey. Your vestry and staff have valiantly kept the faith – and worked to keep everything going during very difficult times. I think we have all felt our Lord both before us to lead us and behind us to protect us; nestled in that safe middle is not a bad place to be.

As I look back on the year, I am amazed at all that we have done together. Attendance has not bounced back for Sunday worship, but we have let that go (for now!) and are pushing onward in so many ways. We took on several major projects – more than enough for one year. Here are some of the highlights:

- Looking forward to the 200th anniversary of the Rectory, we began the Rectory Campaign at the beginning of the summer. With over \$100,000 in pledges, we have the seed money to help keep this beautiful home in good repair.
- Wanting to ensure that our graveyard will be in continuous use long after you and I have left this beautiful earth, we funded and constructed our first columbarium. A final resting place for both parishioners as well as members of the larger community, the first person was interred there over Thanksgiving weekend.
- In May, we had a very special dedication of the Historic Rose Garden as we buried our beloved parish historian Robert Kelly and his wife Anne to the left of its threshold. Bob was instrumental in overseeing the garden as well as many other projects at Christ Church, and I love passing by their marker in that peaceful place. Later in the year we also erected a sign acknowledging all the loving work of the Shrewsbury Garden Club, who have faithfully maintained the garden since its inception.
- The one thing that was not planned this year was an almost complete renovation of the Parish House. Due to a faulty coffee pot and a subsequent flood, we are getting a new look to this old building. This was a difficult time for us, as many of our programs (such as Church School and the noticeably absent Christmas Bazaar) had to be adapted around the work. I have been completely out of my office for over four months, forcing me to become a little more adaptive in my approach to parish ministry.
- After ten years on our parish staff, Jeff Veil retired in July as our sexton. Jeff had stepped into the job when the previous sexton had been ill, and never left! I am particularly thankful to him for all he has done here at Christ Church over the years, as he not only took care of our buildings but has sat in on many a vestry meeting and offered sound advice and suggestions to better care for our property and our people. In August we welcomed Kevin Carroll to the position – just in time for the Parish House flood! which has made his entrance onto the Christ Church staff interesting indeed.
- We shared a spirited Fourth of July outdoor service and potluck with our dear Presbyterian neighbors, held on their lawn. Historian Rick Geffkin was the speaker, and our own Iris Chen and her family led some quite rousing music.
- In spite of it the many challenges, we confirmed and received five persons into the Episcopal Church.

Finally, I would like to give you some personal perspective as your Rector. Last August marked twenty-five years since I and my family arrived in Shrewsbury. It has been a wonderful place to spend the bulk of my ministry. I have grown to love and appreciate each of you, and the unique personality of the Christ Church community. We have share so many life experiences together, it is hard to imagine being anywhere else. The anniversary party at the home of Peggy James and John Callaghan was amazing; I think we all felt the love and comradery that makes this such a special place.

Having said that, I have been feeling the pandemic fatigue, and am taking a much-needed break. I started a sabbatical on January 2nd and will be back in time for Holy Week and Easter. I hope to spend the bulk of my time in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, where my father still resides, along with a couple of my sisters. I have recently been in touch with a set of Oklahoma cousins whom I have not seen in over forty years; we are planning to get together. While there, I hope to do some renovations to a home I own there, help celebrate my father's 98th birthday in February, and do some work for the National Organization of Girls Friendly Society.

I also hope to work on the *Cloistering* meditations which I have been writing throughout the pandemic. The first one was written on March 17th, 2020, the day my flight was cancelled due to a little virus called Covid 19. They chronicle something of how we as church coped during those difficult days, and I must say, I have had many wonderful email correspondences along the way with those who have continued to read them. While on sabbatical, I would like to get them in some kind of form for publishing.

As my beloved parish family comes together for yet another Annual Meeting, I will be absent in body, but not in spirit! I know it will not be long before I see you again, and I trust that you will continue doing the work of the church day in and day out, whether your Rector is in Shrewsbury or across the country. In all things, we have our Lord behind us and before us, and I trust that the year 2023 will bring many more good things to us, to those we love, and to those we serve with the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Once again I say Peace,

Mother Lisa Mitchell, Rector

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT 2022

Wow! The last few years have been crazy, and we thought that we would be on the road to normal by now. But because of the "incident" in the parish house, we are not back to normal. But before I discuss the "incident", I will review 2022! (Not necessarily in order)

Annual meeting postponed to February 2nd due to HUGE snowstorm.

Epiphany Pageant

Peak of the Week resumed every Wednesday of 2022

Columbarium Project was approved, and the 1st Columbarium completed in November

Girls Friendly meetings thru out the year (mother/daughter retreat, Linus Project blankets, beach sweep)

Martha's Cupboard food collection

2 Easter Egg hunts

Diocesan wide confirmation

Guest speaker on the Grimke Sisters

Covenant House Sleep Out

Summer Mass on the Grass resumed.

Dedication of Rose Garden

Flea Market

Independence Day Church service and picnic with the Presbyterian neighbors

Independence Day celebration at the Allen House

Launched (and completed) the 1st Phase of the Rectory Campaign

Celebrated Mother Lisa's 25 years of dedicated service with a BIG party

Crop Walk

Boscov's Fundraiser

Stewardship campaign

Toy drive

Backpack drive

AND THE "COFFEE POT FIASCO"

COFFEE POT FIASCO

On August 16th I was in New Brunswick when I received a FRANTIC call from Mother Lisa telling me the parish house was FLOODED. Immediately, Walter Dien, Connie Goddard, Carl Alfano, Kevin Carroll, and ML, went to work mopping and shop Vacuuming up water. When back in town I called CHURCH INSURANCE and SERVPRO. ServPro was on the job within 2 hours, setting up fans, removing wet walls, ceiling tiles, furniture, flooring, etc. They packed up everything that was not water damaged into a POD located in our back parking lot.

“Gathering in Christ’s Name.”

- Together, we can do all things in Christ Jesus!

Stewardship Report 2022

Stewardship continues to be a bit of a dilemma. How do we reach out to our parishioners when so many are still not “gathering” back at church? This year for 4 weeks in a row, we sent weekly e-mails on the happenings at the church. We sent info on: The Coffee Pot Fiasco, 25 years of ML’s dedicated service, the Rectory Campaign, and all other “happenings” at Christ Church (marriages, weddings, babies, Sunday school, etc).

We hope that all this information in this report, and in this Annual Report, shows you what an active church we are. Even a busy church needs money to operate. Just like your home, the church has bills to pay for 3 properties: electric, water, gas, sewer, payroll for 4, yard maintenance, snow removal, office equipment, office supplies, insurance, repairs, and more!

Pledge Certificates so far:

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Number of pledges	53	58	62	60
New Pledges	4	5	6	4
Increased Pledges	16	29	28	21
Decreased Pledges	7	3	4	8
Same Pledges	26	21	24	27

Total Amount of Pledges: \$138,815.

As you can see, we are DOWN in the number of pledging units and money. There are still a few folks (approximately 11) that have completed Pledge Certificates over the past few years that have NOT turned in certificates yet this year. You know who you are! PLEASE, PLEASE complete your form and send it in ASAP.

There are also those folks who NEVER complete a pledge certificate yet, they send money in on a regular basis. PLEASE, PLEASE complete a pledge form. It will help us in our budget planning process. The Treasure, along with the Finance Committee and the Vestry, make a budget each year. Just like your own finances, without a budget, how would you be able to sensibly manage your finances. cp

Our highest pledge for 2023 is \$9,200 and our lowest is \$300. Our average pledge is \$2,619.

No matter what time of year, we will ALWAYS accept a pledge certificate. Certificates are available in the rear of the church. You can also call the church office and Debbie will e-mail one to you. Don’t be afraid to pledge, if your circumstances change (for better or worse), you can always revise your pledge.

As the definition in the American Heritage Dictionary states “A person who manages others property, finances, other affairs”. Christ Church is doing a good job, but we CAN do better!

Respectfully submitted by Peggy James, Stewardship Commission

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

In Loving Memory of Bob Zeller 1928-2023

Attached is his obituary and funeral arrangements.

<http://www.damianofuneralhome.com/obituary/GeorgeRobert-Zeller>

In Loving Memory of Kevin Carroll, our Sexton who died of a heart attack on January 18, 2023. This was not totally unexpected as Kevin has had heart problems for some time, but it is sad news that we need to recognize as a community. No service has been scheduled at this time, but his family will notify us when one is scheduled.

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

Many thanks to Jamie Green, Nancy Stewart, Sue Nap for helping collate the 2022 Annual Report.



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, *Ann 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, Peedy, Gil, Edie, Julia, Bert, Barbara, Sherrie, the Fontana family, 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, Lynn McKittrick, Barbara Roth Moore, Stacy Reagan, William Balmer, Mary T, Max Thomas *May they be relieved of their distress.*

From Queeni Caay



To my Christ Church Shrewsbury family,

I bring you some delightful news. I have officially finished all the academic units required to pass my degree. Attached to this article is the photo of our hardbound thesis with the CD of our short documentary film and another photo showing you that I am officially an intern. Although the sending forth and pinning program has yet to be done by our department, I am now ready for my On-The-Job Training/Internship. Isn't it exciting? I wouldn't have made it this far without your kindness, trust, support, and prayers. It touches my heart whenever I see my name in the prayers for people each month. I feel so included even though I have only been communicating with everyone through the internet.

My final grade for Thesis 2 is 96%. The semester ends in May, but we were informed that the initial graduation date was set for September because we must wait for every other university department to complete its work in order for there to be just one grand ceremony. Thus, after the internship, I have nothing else to work on besides graduation requirements. I am also planning to travel to Dinagat Islands, my hometown. The beaches there are magnificent, and it has been so long since I paid respects to my grandparent's grave. I miss them a lot. It would be so nice to see childhood friends, acquaintances, and relatives too. That place may

have been the setting of my most painful memories, but it still never fails to evoke nostalgia in me.

I remember how I always ran into the coast right after classes and get so convinced that I'm probably a mermaid because the stormy seas don't frighten me. I used to dream of becoming a mermaid and I honestly still do. This is Disney's fault. See, I am daydreaming again while writing to you. God probably finds me amusing because as a child I am sure I have told him how much I wanted to become a mermaid. Never did I wish for a castle or a prince charming but just a pink dazzling mermaid tail. I do not keep my thoughts from you, do I? I just love writing whatever comes into my mind and so I am perplexed that you are still interested to read. Thank you for taking the time to know me with each Crown article I write.

The internship will start either late February or early March. We are still processing requirements at the moment, getting uniforms tailored, and attending pre-deployment training and seminars. Soon you'll be seeing pictures of me as an intern and of me wearing a black toga a few months from now.

With love and respect,
Queenie from Ph

William B. Bradbury and Sunday School songs

By Patrick Durek

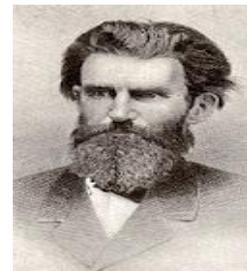
When we think of sacred music composers, we think of songs written for and predominantly sung by adults. It's easy to pass over the fine composers who wrote well-crafted spiritual music for children, particularly Sunday school music. The father of Sunday school hymnody could well be said to be Maine native William B. Bradbury, who lived from 1816 to 1868, and studied with the important American hymn composer Lowell Mason (written about in an earlier *Crown* article).

Bradbury started out on a common musical career path: he studied at the Boston Academy of Music; briefly became a school music teacher in Maine and New Brunswick, Canada; and then took a post as organist and choir director at a Baptist church in New York. It was there that he began teaching music-singing classes for children. Bradbury published *The Young Choir*, in 1841, carrying the tradition of Mason's singing school methods. However, the emphasis in Bradbury's tunebook was Sunday school singing. The American Sunday School Union had been recently established, and he took the opportunity to create songs for the rapidly-proliferating Sunday schools. His books were of such popularity that over two million copies entered circulation—no small feat for a freelancing church musician.

Two of Bradbury's classic hymn tunes are "Woodworth," better known as "Just as I am," recorded by no less than Johnny Cash, and "China," which features the refrain, "Jesus loves me! This I know." "China" grew to become the most popular

of late 19th century religious song for children. Its refrain, "Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me. The Bible tells me so," captivated children and Sunday school teachers alike. The music historian Richard Crawford writes that the editor of the modern Baptist hymnal described a 1954 visit to a Buddhist temple in Hawaii. The editor was amazed to hear children there singing, "Yes, Buddha loves me. Yes, Buddha loves me. Yes, Buddha loves me." Bradbury's hymns, though perhaps not his name, are still sung by young voices in Sunday schools—and other religious schools!—to this day. Let's take a moment to toast the father of Sunday school hymns: William Bradbury.

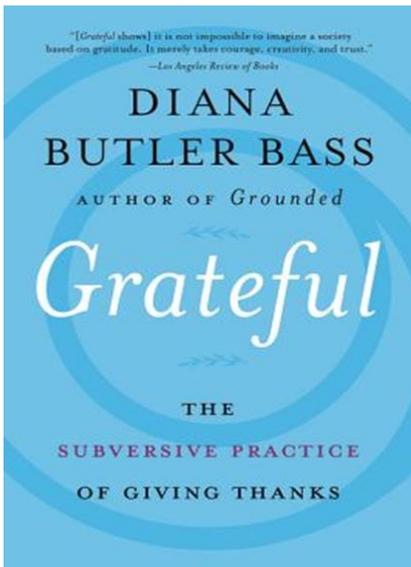
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Second Saturday Workday

Sadly just two volunteers showed up for the January workday. More are needed for the February 11th workday because Parish House remains in the state of repair but there are certain things that need to be sorted between what needs to be saved and what needs to be discarded. If the weather cooperates there are also a few outside projects. Keep in mind just an hour or two of your time what make a big difference between 10 AM and 4 PM.

Walter Dein Second Saturday coordinator



Peak of the Week Update

Peakers are going to be looking at Gratefulness during the month of February. Our guidebook for this will be **Grateful: The Subversive Practice of Being Grateful by Diana Butler Bass.**

Wednesday's 9:30 at Panera--do join us, you'll love us! Donna Devlin



2023 Epiphany Highlights

With a cast of just a few less than a thousand, the Christ Church Shrewsbury Thespians presented the ageless story of the Epiphany on January 9, 2023, at Christ Church,

Shrewsbury. Lots of sheep, a donkey, and a camel or two rounded out the stellar cast.

New this year was an original musical number by Isara Chen-Durek. Isara composed "After Searching" at the piano, and wrote it by hand. The lyrics came afterward. She wanted the music and the words to show how Joseph felt after searching and finally finding a place for baby Jesus to be born. The music itself is a lullaby with harmony that provokes yearning emotion. It is hauntingly lovely. It was debuted by **Jaime Green**, as Joseph. Joseph and Mary had finally arrived at a place of rest and awaited the birth of their baby.

The lyrics:

AFTER SEARCHING

*After searching for so many weeks,
We've finally found a place to sleep.*

*Following the star,
look where we are,
Now at last the time has come.*

Jesus Christ our Son.

Of special note were the several different King Cakes presented for our snacking pleasure. Oh YUM! The entire cast is to be congratulated and I won't try to name everyone because I know I'll leave someone out and I don't want to do that. Parents and grandparents, "You were terrific!" Particularly, I want to say many huge thanks to **Iris Chen** for being SO great to work with, **Sue Nap** for being enormously helpful in SO many ways, **Cassie Murphy**, Costume Mistress Extraordinaire, **MiMi Brown** for going over and above to get the pageant filmed and on YouTube and the web page--KUDOS!.

Donna Devlin

Those Who Serve – February 2023

February 5

Celebrant: Reverend Kathleen Bishop
Deacon: Victoria Cuff, William Balmer
Acolytes: 8am Judi Buncher, 10 am Isabel & Isara Chen-Durek, Halina Nibbling, Teddy Keating
Lectors: 8am Peggy James, 10am Martie Viets
Ushers: 8am Walter Dein, 10 am Rod Webster, Connie Goddard
Choirmaster/Organist: Iris Chen
Altar Guild: Cindy Webster

February 12

Celebrant: Reverend Kathleen Bishop
Deacon: Victoria Cuff, William Balmer
Acolytes: 8 am Edgar John, 10 am Dexter and Kody Craven, Cassandra Murphy, Andrew Brown
Lectors: 8 am Peggy James, 10 am Robert Maber
Ushers: 8 am Carl Alfano, 10 am Bramley Maber, Christine Maber
Choirmaster/Organist: Iris Chen
Altar Guild: Halina Nibbling

February 19

Celebrant: Reverend Kathleen Bishop
Deacon: Victoria Cuff, William Balmer
Acolytes: 8 am Judi Buncher, 10 am Joshua and Matthew Dunford, Halina Nibbling
Lectors: 8 am Walter Dein, 10 am Elaine Feyereisen
Ushers: 8 am Peggy James, 10 am Larry Nibbling, Connie Goddard
Choirmaster/Organist: Iris Chen
Altar Guild: Cindy Webster

February 26

Celebrant: Reverend Kathleen Bishop
Deacon: Victoria Cuff, William Balmer
Acolytes: 8 am Edgar John, 10 am Isabel & Isara Chen-Durek, Teddy Keating
Lectors: 8 am Sean Griffith, 10 am Bob Honecker
Ushers: 8 am Walter Dein, 10 am Elaine Feyereisen, Stephen Rudolph
Choirmaster/Organist: Iris Chen
Altar Guild: Judi Buncher

February 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2 Choir Practice 7:30 pm	3	
5 8AM Holy Eucharist 10AM Holy Eucharist Epiphany Pageant	6 <u>Office Closed</u>	7	8 9:30 - 11:15AM Holy Eucharist & Peak of the Week	9 Choir Practice 7:30 pm	10	11 <u>10am-4pm</u> 2 nd Saturday Workday
12 8AM Holy Eucharist 10AM Holy Eucharist	13 <u>Office closed</u>	14 	15 9:30 - 11:15AM Holy Eucharist & Peak of the Week	16 Choir Practice 7:30 pm	17	18
19 8AM Holy Eucharist 10AM Holy Eucharist	20 <u>Office closed</u> 7PM VESTRY meeting	21	22 9:30 - 11:15AM Holy Eucharist & Peak of the Week	23 Choir Practice 7:30 pm	24	25
26 8AM Holy Eucharist 10AM Holy Eucharist	27 <u>Office closed</u>	28				

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 Bill Balmer, Deacon
Iris Chen, Organist/Choirmaster
Debbie Roese, Office Administrator
Jeff Veil, Temporary Sexton

VESTRY 2023

Peggy James – Senior Warden, Stewardship
Connie Goddard – Junior Warden
Elaine Feyereisen
Dianne Regiec
Carl Alfano
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