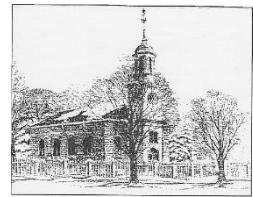


# THE CROWN

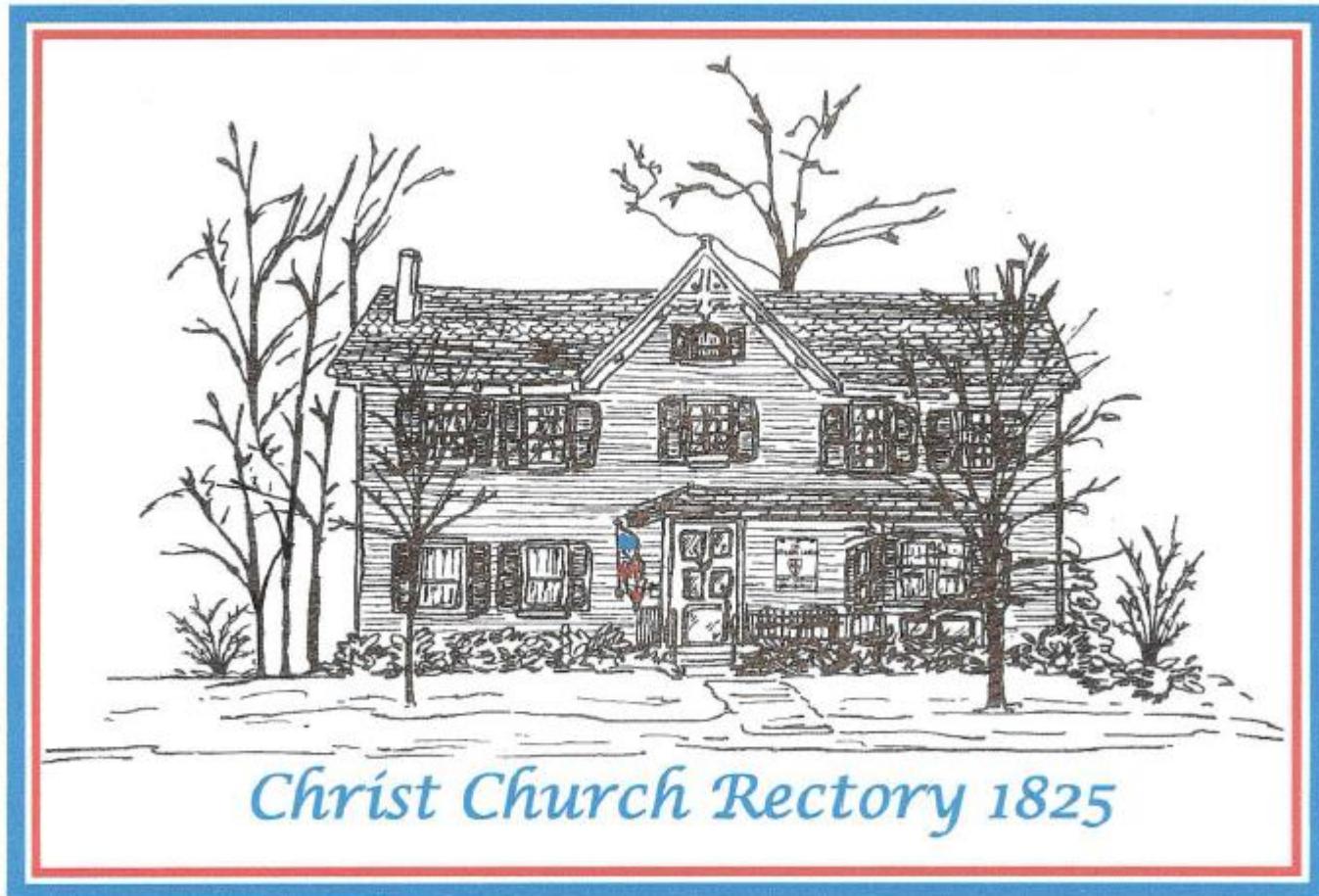
*The Newsletter of Christ Church Shrewsbury*

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



Volume XXV Issue IX

September 2025



The Parish Rectory, Drawing by Catherine Rickerby 1975

**Annual Parish Picnic  
Hosted at the Christ Church Rectory  
Come celebrate the 200th birthday of this historic home!**

**Sunday, September 14 at 11:00 am  
Bring a side dish + Bring a chair**

**(No Service at the Church)**



WONDER



LOVE



PRAISE

Dear Parishioners,

Wonder, Love, and this month it is PRAISE! Praise is how we express our gratitude to God for each and every day on this beautiful green earth and give thanks for being included in the family of God through our baptism in Christ Jesus. While I hope that every single one of us pauses at some moment during the day to give a little shout out to God, we also make a special effort to join together at least once a week so that we can praise God altogether. Young and old, we make a joyful noise to the Lord and join our hearts and spirits as if we have one voice.

How meaningful it is when someone stops to say thank you or to acknowledge our part in their lives; it is no different with God. Which is why of PRAISE. How could we not long to gather together with our Lord?

I am particularly glad for this to be the month of PRAISE, because we have a lot going on in that department. As you have read in our weekly emails and heard in church, the Vestry voted to move our principal service to 9:00 am starting September 7. What prompted the change? A couple of things, the primary one being that our organist/choirmaster Fiona Sutherland was ready to turn in her resignation at Christ Church because she had a change in her fulltime work schedule and would not be able to continue with us.

When I informed the Wardens and Vestry, they immediately saw this as an opportunity. An opportunity for us to worship together in one service. An advantage to our families with school-aged children is that they are better to manage their busy Sunday schedules, not having to choose between church and other activities. It also makes it more cost-effective when I am away, as it is easier to secure a supply priest and the cost is less for one service.

Of course, a change in service time will pose a challenge to some. We are hoping to address that as well as we can. We are considering adding another service, similar in style to the former 8:00 said mass, if needed. It was a topic of discussion at our last Vestry Meeting, and the consensus was that an additional service at 11:00 am would be the best time. If at least a dozen parishioners let me know that they would attend this service, we will try it out. This is not a final decision – it is a starting point. You will find more information about this at the bottom of this letter.

We have another fun worship event planned: the Annual Parish Picnic. This year it will be held at the Christ Church Rectory on Sunday, September 14 at 11:00. Look for details in this Crown. We will be using a version of The Gathering service used at both of our Open Houses this past month.

Speaking of The Gathering: how exciting is it that we are starting a brand-new opportunity for worship? This is unlike anything else we have going: a prayer service directed to adults with intellectual disabilities. This new ministry will begin next month. You will be hearing much more about this in the months to come.

Wonder, Love, and PRAISE. Each intertwined, each a part of who we are and what we do. I am so delighted that we are in all of this together. Praise the Lord and Amen!

Peace, Mother Lisa+

## **PARISH NEWS & NOTES**

### **ALTERNATE WORSHIP SERVICE**



If you are unable to attend church at 9:00 am on Sundays, please let us know; we want to be as attentive to you as possible.

If you would welcome an 11:00 service and are willing to commit to being a part of that (we will need altar servers, lectors, and readers) please inform us as soon as possible.

If you cannot do either of those times but have another time that would work for you, let us know that as well. If we can accommodate you, we will. Do remember that we also have a weekday Eucharist on Wednesdays at 9:30 am. E-mail us at [christchurchshrewsbury@verizon.net](mailto:christchurchshrewsbury@verizon.net).

### **YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED**



**For the sick and suffering, and those in any need or trouble:** \*Anderson Pedalino, \*Bill Balmer, \*Carolyn, \*Cassie Reagan, \*Denzel Donaldson, \*Dianne Regiec, \*Halina Nibbling, \*Jim Miller, \*Joan, \*John Smalls, \*Judi Buncher, \*Julia Walsh, \*Mimi Brown, \*Pam Diamond, \*Paul Murgio, \*Brother Richard Biernacki, \*Richard Brugger, \*Rod Webster, \*Sarah Schmid, \*Tia LaPiana, Victoria Cuff, Bob Bark, Doris, Heather Forrest, Jack, Jack Sauber, Jocelyn, John Veil, Linda Forrest, Lynn McKittrick, Meriwether Schmid, Mignon Williams, Pam, Pat & Bob Rivenes, Pddy, Roger Cuthbert, Sandy Abdelaziz, Tim, Todd Diamond \*Denotes members of Christ Church

### **COFFEE HOUR IS BACK!**

The end of summer means the return of Coffee Hour. We look forward to having everyone meet, after Sunday Service, in the Parish House again. Please do consider signing up to host Coffee Hour -

it is easy, and everyone really enjoys the time together. The sign-up sheet can be found on the bulletin in the Parish House. Alternatively, you can let the office know and we would be happy to add your name for you.

### **EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN**



**ECW**

We are back! And ready to get together again. Our first meeting is Wednesday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 noon. We are meeting at the No Limits Café at 418 NJ-35 in Middletown for lunch. Please RSVP to the Church Office by September 7<sup>th</sup> so we can make a table reservation. Bring your ideas for the new year!

### **A FAREWELL**

Dear Parishioners and friends,  
Times change in this case, time changed. The change in service time is not within my doing. Between health and just getting moving, the timing is impossible. I have loved working with Mother Lisa and the staff. I will miss the St. Mary's Choir; they enabled me to continue some music-making in retirement.

Thank you all for your friendship, support, and care.  
Richard Thomas Biernacki BSG

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**



Mrs. Nap is looking for volunteers to assist with the games at the Church Picnic. Also looking for game ideas – please contact her. 732-272-5135.

### **MEMORIALS & FLOWERS**

It is September and we will begin again having fresh flowers on the Altar & in the Narthex on September 7<sup>th</sup>. The sign-up sheet is in the Narthex, or you can call the office to register your request. Thank you for your continued support to help make

Christ Church more beautiful and to remember our friends and families. (Altar: \$40.00 each. Narthex: \$30.00)  
Blessings,  
Cindy  
Altar Guild Flowers  
732-996-3825

## PEAK IN THE WEEK



HEAR YE, HEAR YE, Peakers in the Week (and any others interested in a good talk time around a good bunch of books.)  
Peak in the Week is set to kick-off again on Wednesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>. 9:30 in the Parish House for an informal Eucharist followed by an informal book discussion in the library. The book in question for this month is *A Change of Habit* by Sister Monica Clare, sister superior at the Convent of Saint John Baptist in Mendham, NJ.

## CHRISTIAN ED HAPPENINGS

Come One, Come All!!! Friends always welcome. Lower Church School (grades k – 6) will be starting on Sunday, September 21, 2025 at its new time – 9:00 am downstairs in the Parish House. We will be continuing the practice of lessons and activities followed by Eucharist in the Church. As I mentioned in the last Crown, we will continue to use the Episcopal curriculum – Weaving God’s Promises. We expect to be moving across the hall this year into a larger space (the former choir room) in order to have more activity space.

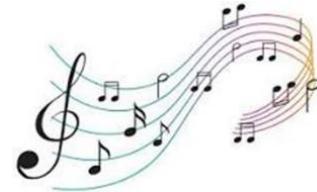
Upper Church School (grades 7 and up) will meet in the turquoise classroom after church service for approximately 30 minutes. So, please grab your snacks then head down to class.

I am still seeking volunteers to help freshen up the space. It will likely be a mid-week gig as opposed to a weekend, although I don’t have a specific date

yet. Please let me know if you have some free time you can offer to this important ministry. More news – the choir room is scheduled to be painted by the Painter Sisters on Friday, September 12. Seeking angels to assist with this project. Finally – we are always looking for teachers and helpers to assist with the Lower Church School. Doesn’t matter if you have children in the program or not. Doesn’t matter if you are not a teacher by profession or have no experience. Every extra hand is a blessing!!!! Let me know if you would be interested in joining this ministry.

Faithfully, Sue Napoletano (Mrs. Nap)  
Christian Education Director

## MUSIC AT CHRIST CHURCH



Fall means restarting some of our regular programs – and yes, I’m speaking of choir! Choir is open to any and all who love to sing, no auditions or other requirements are necessary. Beginning on Thursday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, choir members will rehearse in the Library of the Parish House at 10 am each Thursday. Please reach out to Fiona with any questions (sutherlandfi815@gmail.com).

For those not available at that time, we will be putting together a few “Pop-Up Choir” opportunities not unlike the Summer Choir, so stay tuned!

This Fall we will also be moving away from the Service Music we have been using during the Summertime. Focusing on the theme of “Wonder, Love, and Praise,” we will be featuring some music from the Hymnal Supplement with the same title. The Sanctus we’ll learn and incorporate into our liturgy is set to Land of Rest, a lyrical yet accessible tune. Those who have been in church will have heard this music during the organ improvisation at Communion-time this last month. We hope this new setting will serve the worshippers of Christ Church for many years to come.

Pax et bonum, Fiona

## THE GATHERING



The Gathering held its first open houses in August, and they were very well received! The parishioners who attended expressed their enthusiasm for what they experienced and are now strong supporters of the ministry. We also welcomed attendees from the ARC of Monmouth, including a staff member and a resident from a local group home, as well as guests from as far away as Gloucester County. The resident from the group home was particularly enthusiastic about The Gathering and mentioned that she would like to attend again. When I later spoke with Deacon Magdalena, who works at the group home, she shared that the resident talked excitedly about the event all afternoon. We plan to hold additional open houses for The Gathering in October, and we hope you will attend and help spread the word about this wonderful ministry, which serves a historically underserved population.

Please help yourself to the brochures and give them to anyone with a connection to special education. Could you post them at your job, your gym, your grocery store, anywhere where people will see them? I truly believe that for every person, there are at most six degrees of separation between themselves and someone with special education needs. That they are related to a person who is disabled or know someone who has a family member who is disabled. Maybe they or someone in their family works in special education, or they know somebody who does. Help spread the word about this fantastic ministry and thank you for your support.

Tia LaPiana  
*The Gathering Ministry*  
*- Belonging in Faith, United in Love*

## LET'S GET SOCIAL!



Christ Church has an Instagram and Facebook account which we update weekly with events and news going on at the church. Please like and follow us.

If you have a program that you want to promote, please contact Kim Roberts-Honecker  
[kimroberts05@gmail.com](mailto:kimroberts05@gmail.com) or (732) 530-7451.



We are hoping to get a meeting scheduled very soon to plan the new year. At the top of our agenda is the CROP Walk and a Diocesan Youth Event to be held in October in our Graveyard. "Dead to Me" will be back! If you are a parent of a middle or high school student, do watch for notices!

## ON SEPTEMBER 13, MORE READYING FOR THE REVOLUTION

Actually, it's about preparing for observing the 250<sup>th</sup> celebration next year. And as our graveyard is the final resting place of nearly two dozen men who participated in the War for Independence, we are working with the DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) to remove moss and other signs of aging from gravemarkers.

So, do consider joining with other parishioners and DAR members on Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, when we will do more gravemarker cleaning. It will be held from 10 am until noon, and all you need to bring with you is a pair of rubber gloves. And your enthusiasm.

Karen Allas and her husband Don will be there with all the needed supplies and instruction. And the weather promises to cooperate with the venture.

Thanks for adding this to your calendar! And I hope to see you.



## **Faith   Food   Fellowship**

The Men's Breakfast Group will hold its Fall Kick-off meeting at the Americana Diner in Shrewsbury on Saturday, September 20, 2025, from 8:30 to 10:00 AM.

Our gatherings provide a welcoming atmosphere of honesty and mutual respect, where men of all ages can share their journeys, ask challenging questions, and find encouragement for everyday life. Together, we aim to uplift one another, serve our church family, and be a visible testament to Christ's transforming power in our community and the world.

Don't miss this opportunity to connect with others! Please call the Parish Office at (732) 741-2220 to register today!



**Monmouth Chapter  
Girls' Friendly Society  
Christ Church, Shrewsbury**

**2024-2025: For Every Spoon and Plateful**



**FALL KICKOFFMEETING:  
Sunday, September 7th  
following the 9:00am service**

Learn about the program for the following year  
and how you and your daughter can participate.

As we will be cooking up all kinds of delicious things this year, we ask you to bring  
in a canned food for our food pantry, Martha's Cupboard.

*The Purpose of the Girls' Friendly Society is to help girls understand what it means to be a Christian within their own particular life situations; to discover their own relationships with God, family, community and the world. To help girls utilize their given talents, to attain physical, mental, emotional and spiritual growth through program centering around worship, fellowship, service, study and creative activities. In other words, we hope to be an asset to our girls as they grow into womanhood.*

*"Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the Law of Christ."  
Galatians 6.2 (The GFS Motto)*

ChristChurchShrewsbury.org + [ChristChurchShrewsbury@verizon.net](mailto:ChristChurchShrewsbury@verizon.net) + 732-741-2220  
Check out the GFS National Website: [qfsus.org](http://qfsus.org)

# LAST CHANCE TO BUY YOUR RAFFLE TICKETS!

Drawing on September 7<sup>th</sup>



## Deluxe Family Portrait Session Louise Conover Photography

*Louise Conover*

### Photo Package Details:

- Your extended lifestyle family portrait session, group of less than 25, will include a 1-2 hour session, with each family receiving a mini session in addition to a large family portrait.
- Sessions will take place at a location of your choice in Monmouth County-home, beach or park.
- As a special gift, 10 retouched digital files, and up to 75 4 x 6 proofs will be included which will then be presented in a beautiful custom silk album.

### PURCHASE RAFFLE TICKETS:

**1 Ticket for \$7**

**2 Tickets for \$10**

**5 Tickets for \$20**

Payment: Cash, Check, or Venmo @KDowns110

Raffle drawing: Sunday, September 7, 2025  
during the 10:15am Service at Christ Church.  
Winner need not be present.

## **THOSE WHO SERVE - SEPTEMBER**

### **September 7**

Celebrant: Reverend Lisa Mitchell  
Deacon: Reverend William Balmer  
Acolytes: Dexter, Kodi & Abe Craven, Denzel Donaldson  
Lectors: Robert Maber, Bob Van Valkenburgh  
Ushers: Bramley Maber, Christine Maber  
Organist/Choirmaster: Fiona Smith Sutherland  
Altar Guild: Cindy Webster  
Coffee Hour: GFS

### **September 14 - Parish Picnic**

Celebrant: Reverend Lisa Mitchell  
Deacon: Reverend William Balmer  
Acolytes: Judi Buncher, Edgar John, Denzel Donaldson  
Lectors: Connie Goddard, Mark Roth  
Ushers: Walter Dein, George Edwards  
Altar Guild: Judi Buncher, Madna Aubry

### **September 21**

Celebrant: Reverend Lisa Mitchell  
Deacon: Reverend William Balmer  
Acolytes: Joshua Dunford, Matthew Dunford, Denzel Donaldson  
Lectors: Kodi Craven, Tara Dunford  
Ushers: Judi Buncher, Carl Alfano  
Organist/Choirmaster: Fiona Smith Sutherland  
Altar Guild: Colleen & Mark Roth  
Coffee Hour: Colleen & Mark Roth

### **September 28**

Celebrant: Reverend Lisa Mitchell  
Deacon: Reverend William Balmer  
Acolytes: Dexter, Kodi & Abe Craven, Denzel Donaldson  
Lectors: Dash Cassidy, Walter Dein  
Ushers: Elaine Feyereisen, Connie Goddard  
Organist/Choirmaster: Fiona Smith Sutherland  
Altar Guild: Cindy Webster  
Coffee Hour: Connie Goddard

# SEPTEMBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>  <u>10 am</u> Choir Rehearsal	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<u>Office Hours:</u> Tue. – Fri. 10 am – 2 pm						
<b>7</b>  <u>9 am</u> Holy Eucharist  GFS Kickoff after Church	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>  <u>9:30 - 11:15 am</u> Holy Eucharist Peak in the Week  <u>12 pm</u> ECW Lunch at No Limits Cafe	<b>11</b>  <u>10 am</u> Choir Rehearsal	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>  <u>10 am – 12 pm</u> Gravemarker Cleaning
<b>14</b>  <u>11 am</u> Parish Picnic	<b>15</b>  <u>7 pm</u> Vestry Meeting	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>  <u>9:30 - 11:15 am</u> Holy Eucharist Peak in the Week	<b>18</b>  <u>10 am</u> Choir Rehearsal	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>  <u>8:30 – 10 am</u> Men's Breakfast at Americana Diner
<b>21</b>  <u>9 am</u> Holy Eucharist & Holy Baptism	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>  <u>9:30 - 11:15 am</u> Holy Eucharist Peak in the Week  ML+ Away	<b>25</b>  <u>10 am</u> Choir Rehearsal	<b>26</b>  ML+ Away	<b>27</b>  ML+ Away
<b>28</b>  <u>9 am</u> Holy Eucharist  ML+ Away	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>  ML+ Away				

# Christ Church Shrewsbury

380 Sycamore Avenue, Shrewsbury, NJ 07702

[www.ChristChurchShrewsbury.org](http://www.ChristChurchShrewsbury.org) + [christchurchshrewsbury@verizon.net](mailto:christchurchshrewsbury@verizon.net) + 732-741-2220

Follow our Social Accounts on:



"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 William Balmer, Deacon

Denzel Donaldson, Seminarian

Fiona Smith Sutherland, Organist/Choirmaster

Francesca Parker, Office Administrator

Halina Nibbling, Sexton

## VESTRY 2025

Elaine Feyereisen - Senior Warden

Peggy James - Junior Warden, Stewardship

Stephen Craven - Treasurer

Lynn Marengo - Asst. Treasurer

Madna Aubry - Stewardship, GFS Representative

Julie Sinn Cassidy - Youth Ministries

Walter Dein - Property

Sue Napoletano - Church School

Bob Stewart - Graveyard

Susan Sellers - ECW Liaison

Dianne Regieci - Food Insecurity

Nancy Stewart - Vestry Clerk

