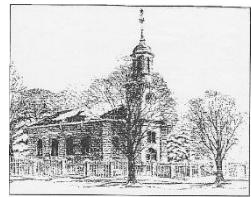


THE CROWN

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 XI

November 2025

DEAD TO ME SCAVENGER HUNT

From the Diocesan Youth Event



One was a Doctor... And one was a Priest... And one was slain by a fierce wild beast!

(just a few of the clues – and graves – visited on October 25)

"A friend loves at all times, and kinsfolk are born to share adversity." Proverbs 17.17

Dear Friends,

Some of you may remember that I began writing ***Cloistering Along*** meditations on March 17, 2020. Although almost five years ago, I will never forget that date, for it was when the seriousness of the Pandemic first fully hit me. Jeff and I were scheduled to fly out to Southern California to visit my son on that date. However, he called me a few days before, warning that I better not step foot on the plane; I might just get stuck out there for a very long time.

Cloistering Along followed daily for several months, and then weekly, for three full years. I pressed the pause button for a few months, and then began again in November of 2023, taking a new name ***Beyond Cloistering***. The parish was going through a very difficult time financially. We were especially feeling the lingering toll of the Pandemic and the reality of no more government assistance as we transitioned out of those lock-down years. It seemed the right thing to do to start writing again. After all, the verse above, although not from the Psalms, reminds us that kinsfolk (and I think church family applies here) are born to share adversity. That is a lesson that was brought home in a mighty way during those difficult years. We learned to help each other in new ways, sharing our joys and sorrows.

The vast majority of ***Cloisterings*** have centered on verses from the Psalms. With 150 chapters to that book, there is plenty of material to draw from, and so far, I have given you 365 different meditations on the Psalms alone. Which has got me thinking. Perhaps it is about time for another shift in direction.

As I prepare for my retirement, I have been thinking about what I will do next. Writing these weekly meditations is one thing I have truly enjoyed. And so, I am thinking about moving on to the Book of Proverbs. Have you ever read it? It is quite interesting, entertaining, and full of wisdom. Unlike the Psalms, it is not prayerful at all. It is full of adages and pithy sayings. The kind of things you can imagine your grandfather or grandmother muttering under their breaths. And they speak truth.

Like the one above, for instance. *A friend loves at all times, and kinsfolk are born to share adversity.* Isn't it true? At least that is the ideal: the perfect idea of what makes a perfect friendship, perfect family. A true friend loves you no matter what. That's not so very easy. And the perfect family? They will stand by you, even when you undermine them or behave so foolishly that they wish they could say they didn't know you.

But what a wonderful verse. For me, it captures something of the theme of this month of November: LOVE. For love is so much more than a sentimental feeling. It is a sustaining presence. One that keeps us going because we know we can count on it. I have been fortunate to have found it all over the place in my life. I hope you have, too! It is one of the wonderful aspects of belonging to a community of Faith: we pledge to love each other as Christ loves us (as I so often say at the offertory before Holy Eucharist). And that is certainly a tall order!

We love no matter what. Isn't that a marvelous thought? Hang onto this one. I'm sure you will need it. And think about how you show your love – not just with your spouse or children, but with your fellow parishioners and seekers after God. We are all in this together, whether we are near or far, whether good times or bad.

A friend loves at all times, and kinsfolk are born to share adversity. I'm hanging onto this one with both hands, both legs, and everything in-between.

Peace,
Mother Lisa+

PS: if you would like to continuing receiving weekly meditations after I depart Christ Church, do drop me an email at the email I will be using for Cloisterings: reverendlisamitchell@gmail.com,

PARISH NEWS & NOTES

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, *Richard Brugger, *Rod Webster, *Sarah Schmid, *Tom Cameron, Victoria Cuff, Bob Bark, Doris, Heather Forrest, Jack, Jack Sauber, Jocelyn, John Veil, Linda Forrest, Jamie Marengo, Lynn McKittrick, Marjorie Durdack, Meriwether Schmid, Mignon Williams, Pam, Brother Richard Biernacki, Peddy, Roger Cuthbert, Sandy Abdelaziz, Tim, Todd Diamond *Denotes members of Christ Church

TO THE NEWLY BAPTIZED



On Sunday, October 26th, Erwynn Cassidy Beights, son of Rachel and Eric Beights, received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism and was welcomed into the church. We rejoice with them and their family.

IN REQUIEM



Robert Rivenes, father of Lynn Marengo, passed away on October 4, 2025. A funeral service for Robert, and his wife Patricia who passed away September 21, 2025, was held on Sunday November 2, 2025, at Christ Church.

Marian Bryja, father of Halina Nibbling, passed away on October 28, 2025.

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace and may perpetual light shine upon them. Amen

CONFIRMATION CLASS

High School Students wishing to be confirmed will meet with Mother Lisa following the 9:00 am service on Sunday, November 23rd. We do not yet have a date for a Confirmation Service, but that won't keep us from getting our students ready. In addition, if you are an adult who has not been confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church (if confirmed in another denomination) speak to Mother Lisa about attending these classes.

FROM THE MUSIC MINISTRY

Throughout the Fall, we have embraced a new piece of service music, the Sanctus sung to the hymntune Land of Rest. This beautiful setting will be part of Christ Church's worship for many years, and I am so pleased that following "Wonder, Love, and Praise" has borne this fruit.

The joint themes of the end of the church year and harvest have been seen in our hymns and anthems, and will continue to be present. We begin with All Saints' Day and All Souls Day, where the Christ Church Choir will sing a lively version of "O When the Saints Go Marching In." We continue the month with a beautiful benediction, and a lively Aaron Copland song which is perfect for the Fall, "Zion's Walls."

The end of the church year also means we are prepping for Advent and Christmas. We hope that some Christ Church parishioners will consider adding their voices to the choir for Christmas - we'll make rehearsals work! Please reach out to Organist & Choirmaster Fiona Sutherland via sutherlandfi815@gmail.com.

PEAK IN THE WEEK



November! How did it get to be November already? Beats me but Francesca says it's time for the November Crown Peak of the Week article so it must be.

So—for our November book for Peak of the Week, we're going to be doing a Bible study of Psalms. All you need in order to participate is a Bible. NRSV, NIV, Inclusive, even King James—come on out and join us for this study officially called Turn Your Eyes, written by Winfree Brisley and Sharonda Cooper.

We gather at 9:30 for Eucharist in the parish house. The Peak discussion starts about 10:15. We'd love to have you join us!

CHRISTIAN ED HAPPENINGS



In their Lessons from the Old Testament, the church school students continue to meet so many interesting individuals. They've learned about Gideon, Samson, Ruth and Naomi. And the teachers have been coming up with so many creative crafts to go along with the lesson. It's really lively in class these days. Last week Tia LaPiana shared information about her new ministry, The Gathering, with the church school together with a really cool way to pray. We had a very nice session. We'll be moving forward soon with David, Jeremiah and a host of other big-name Old Testament persons. Come find out what the thread is that binds all of these people together. Hope to see you soon.

Faithfully, Mrs. Nap

DECORATING FOR THE BAZAAR



It's never too soon to start thinking of how we can transform our Parish Hall and make it beautiful for the Bazaar. If you want to get into the holiday mood and would like to join the elf-crew, we'll be decorating on Sunday, November 30 after church. Let me know if you are interested in helping out. Excitedly, Sue Napoletano

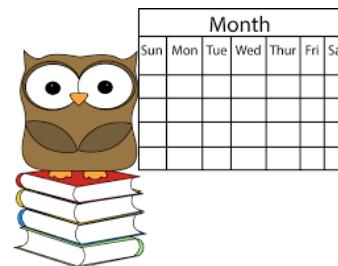
ST. NICHOLAS VISITATION



If the Bazaar is happening, then St. Nicholas Sunday is not far behind. Please join us in church on Sunday, December 7th for our St. Nicholas visitation. It's a beloved Christ Church tradition and a lovely celebration of this Saint. There is no church school on this day so everyone can join in on the festivity.

Faithfully, Sue Napoletano

CALENDAR CASHOUT



What is Calendar Cashout? You pick your favorite dates: anniversaries, birthdays, whatever date is important to you! \$5.00 secures each date with your name, and no one else can take it. At the Christmas Bazaar will draw out ONE date from the year. If it is yours – you will receive half of the total take! It's fun to play and easy, too. Look for the Calendar at Coffee Hours, Dead to Me, and other parish events.

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, have increased expenses and issues. 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 trucks; 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. . Please bring your donations to the church or office any time between now and December 7th.

If you have any questions or would like to help with this charitable activity, please contact Elaine Feyereisen at: 732-742-1227.

WEATHER AGAIN COMPLEMENTS CROP WALK



On Sunday, October 19, several hundred people representing schools and churches in the area set off for the 44th annual Crop Walk, which raises money for Church World Service and collects food for local food pantries.

As usual, Christ Church parishioners made substantial contributions to the effort, particularly in the cans and bags of food left in the Parish House. After the Sunday service, we loaded 24 jars of peanut butter, 12 cans of pork and beans, 25 cans of soup, 16 pounds of rice, five pounds of beans and lentils, plus 25 pounds of pasta into the back of my car.

Arriving at Red Bank High School, we found boys and girls wearing spiffy ROTC uniforms helped unload dozens of cars full of similar donations.

Though the weather was lovely – neither too warm as in past years nor rainy (which seldom happens) – competing activities kept our number of walkers down. But we met up with others from the Presbyterian Church next door and St. John's in Little Silver, so we few walkers could reconnect with friends from previous walks.

Among the delights of the three-mile walk through Red Bank was observing the number and variety of Halloween decorations gracing front lawns we saw along the way. As usual, the route was well-monitored with crossing guards assuring safety.

At last count, our parish has contributed over \$500 in monetary donations. The Crop Walk website is still up for others wanting to donate.

BOSCOVS SHOPPING EVENT

Well, the BIG shopping event is over. Hope all of you who bought coupons were able to get some good deals on stuff you needed (or maybe just wanted)! We raised \$150.00. Whoo hoo! Until next year ---- Faithfully, Sue Nap

PANERA FUNDRAISER

We are delighted to share that our second Panera fundraiser was a success, raising \$160.18 to support our parish ministries! A heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated and a special thanks to Carl Alfano for his leadership and coordination.

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS NEEDED



Please consider signing up to host, everyone really enjoys the time spent together with fellow parishioners. We are looking for a host for November 16th. You can sign up on the bulletin board in the Parish House or send us a message and we'd be happy to add your name to the list.

A NOTE FROM MOTHER LISA +

As I begin cleaning out a few files, I have been finding some interesting items. Below is something that comes from St. Mary's Church in Madisonville, Kentucky. It gave me a chuckle – not in the least because it is mostly true! Enjoy.

– Mother Lisa+

NINE COMMANDMENTS FOR ALTAR GUILDS

- If it's metal, polish it.
- If it's floral, arrange it.
- If it's cloth, iron it.
- If in doubt, wash it.
- If it has been taken care of by one person for more than ten years, avoid it.
- If it's a memorial, revere it or try to work around it.
- If it's been done only one way for more than five years, don't try to change it.
- If new rectors, vicars, or curates get bright ideas, indulge them. They'll soon learn better.
- If a bishop wants all the vestments and hangings changed ten minutes before the service, smile sweetly, ask him/her to pray for a speedy recovery from your hearing loss, and leave him/her the bishop to his/her prayers in the solitude of the sacristy.

"IT TAKES A VILLAGE"

*Phoenix and Julien Canoy are Philippine students Christ Church supplies a scholarship for college.

*Queeni Caay lives in the Philippines and Christ Church sponsored her college education.

"A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed."

- Proverbs 11:25

Dearest Christ Church Shrewsbury Family,

I've been thinking about all of you as the seasons turn. Over in your corner of the world, I bet that autumn colors are really popping now, and even here, I can feel that shift in the air. That feeling of transition always makes me pause and reflect on the many things that came my way.

And one that keeps coming to mind is all of you.

Whenever I say that you're one of the greatest gifts I've ever received, I mean that sincerely. This Christ Church family has been a huge help in changing the course of my life, and I'll never forget that blessing. So, despite my hectic graveyard schedule lately, I feel called to pause and offer my deepest thanks once more.

You are, without doubt, a precious gift in my life. I will never take for granted the providence that connected me to this very welcoming community.

As you head into Thanksgiving, I'm sending every bit of love and prayer your way. I wish you all a blessed and joyful time. May your homes be overflowing with peace, genuine warmth, and that deep, strengthening love we all need.

My prayer for you is that you find time to slow down. Take a moment for quiet reflection, enjoy those loud, happy gatherings with loved ones, and feel God's presence close to you. Not just during this season of giving thanks, but in every day of our lives.

There is always, always something to be thankful for. Sometimes it's a huge, obvious blessing; other times, it's just the simple grace of waking up to another day or feeling the love of your family and friends.

I hope we can all acknowledge those priceless blessings.



With love and prayers,
Queeni

CHRIST CHURCH AWARD GRANTED



We just heard the news that we have been awarded \$3,000 for seed money for our new ministry, The Gathering. This will allow us to advertise, print brochures and programs, provide refreshments and snacks, and make a welcoming place for persons with developmental and intellectual disabilities. Contact Tia LaPiana (tiathegathering@gmail.com) for more information.

DECEMBER CROWN

Please keep in mind that with the Thanksgiving break, we will be collecting articles for December's Crown earlier than usual.



Faith Food Fellowship

The Men's Breakfast Group will hold its November 2025 meeting at the **Americana Diner in Shrewsbury on Saturday, November 15, 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 by Thursday, November 13th, to register!

HO, HO, HO! HERE COMES THE CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2025 FROM 9 AM – 3 PM

This year we are expanding the Bazaar, closer to “pre-pandemic” times. There are many ways to participate and contribute, so please take a look and decide where you would like to help. This is an all-parish effort, and we need and want your help!

GIFT BASKETS

We encourage every family to donate at least one basket. Think of the gifts you love to receive – or give – during the holidays. You can put the baskets together yourself or bring in your items and we will lovingly combine them with just the right “extras” to make a basket fit for Saint Nick. **Contact Tara Dunford.**

YE OLDE BAKE SHOPPE

A favorite of the Bazaar is the wonderful selection of homemade baked goods that can be purchased for gifts, for your table, or for eating on the spot. Consider bringing in your own family favorites. Wrap them, bag them, and price them yourself, or allow our baking experts to do the job. Please remember to specify if there are nuts, or if your goodies are aimed at a specific customer (gluten free, vegan, etc). **Contact Elaine Feyereisen or Nancy Stewart.**

YE OLDE CURIOSITY SHOPPE

The Curiosity Shoppe is the place for new or like-new items that visitors may wish to purchase for gifts or to decorate their own homes. Do you have some items that are ready for a new home? Lovely gifts that you have received but just aren’t quite right for you? Vintage items, especially with a Christmas flair. Consider donating them and giving them a new life! For more information – or if you would like to host this table, please **contact the Church Office.**

TRINKETS AND TREASURES

For the basement shopper, this is a dream come true! Adults, but especially children, enjoy hunting for forsaken trinkets and lost treasures. These are items that have been washed and are in good condition. And a good bargain! **Contact Walter Dein.**

VENDORS

This year we are inviting vendors to set us shop right along side us. Do you have an idea for your own table? Have a friend with a fabulous hobby? We are the place to sell your wares. Contact Kristen Downs or Lisa Marino.

LUNCHEONETTE IS OPEN!

The Men’s Breakfast Group is waiting to feed hungry souls, whether shoppers or our own workers. We don’t know exactly what will be on the menu, but if the past experience of the Men’s Group is any judge, it will be delicious! If you would like to assist in the kitchen or bring in your favorite crowd-pleasing favorite, **contact Deacon Bill or Denzel Donaldson.**

SET UP AND DECORATIONS

We will begin setting up and decorating the Parish Hall following mass on Sunday, November 30. Grab a cup of Joe, a few goodies, and help us transform our ordinary hall into a winter wonderland. **Contact Sue Napoletano.**

THE CHRISTMAS BAZAAR is our biggest fundraiser of the year and we need YOUR help to make it a success. There are many ways to help us get it ready and we need volunteers the day of the Event.

Wish to support the bazaar but don’t have the time? Please contact Tara Dunford at tara.dunford@gmail.com to learn how you can sponsor a basket or another activity happening that day.

THOSE WHO SERVE - NOVEMBER

November 2

Celebrant: Reverend Lisa Mitchell
Deacon: Reverend William Balmer
Acolytes: Cassandra Murphy, Josie Borden, Tia LaPiana, Denzel Donaldson
Lectors: Dash Cassidy, Walter Dein
Ushers: Peggy James, John Callaghan
Organist/Choirmaster: Fiona Smith Sutherland
Altar Guild: Colleen & Mark Roth
Coffee Hour: Walter & Friends

November 9

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

November 16

Celebrant: Reverend Lisa Mitchell
Deacon: Reverend William Balmer
Acolytes: Dexter, Kodi & Abe Craven, Denzel Donaldson
Lectors: Josie Borden, Carl Alfano
Ushers: Walter Dein, George Edwards
Organist/Choirmaster: Fiona Smith Sutherland
Altar Guild: Judi Buncher, Tia LaPiana, Madna Aubry
Coffee Hour:

November 23

Celebrant: Reverend Lisa Mitchell
Deacon: Reverend William Balmer
Acolytes: Judi Buncher, Edgar John
Lectors: Connie Goddard, Bob Honecker
Ushers: Elaine Feyereisen, Walter Dein
Organist/Choirmaster: Fiona Smith Sutherland
Altar Guild: Cindy Webster
Coffee Hour: Denzel Donaldson

November 30

Celebrant: Reverend Lisa Mitchell
Deacon: Reverend William Balmer
Acolytes: Cassandra Murphy, Josie Borden, Tia LaPiana
Lectors: Robert Maber, Elaine Feyereisen
Ushers: Bramley Maber, Christine Maber
Organist/Choirmaster: Fiona Smith Sutherland
Altar Guild: Colleen & Mark Roth
Coffee Hour: Bob & Nancy Stewart

NOVEMBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<u>Office Hours:</u> Mon. – Fri. 2:30 – 5:30						1
2 <u>9 am</u> Holy Eucharist	3	4	5 <u>9:30 - 11:15 am</u> Holy Eucharist Peak in the Week	6 <u>10 am</u> Choir Rehearsal <u>7 pm</u> Convocation Meeting at All Saints Bayshead	7	8
9 <u>9 am</u> Holy Eucharist	10	11	12 <u>9:30 - 11:15 am</u> Holy Eucharist Peak in the Week	13 <u>10 am</u> Choir Rehearsal	14	15 <u>8:30 – 10 am</u> Men's Breakfast
16 <u>9 am</u> Holy Eucharist GFS Meeting	17 <u>7 pm</u> Vestry Meeting	18	19 <u>9:30 - 11:15 am</u> Holy Eucharist Peak in the Week	20 <u>10 am</u> Choir Rehearsal	21 Diocesan Convention	22 Diocesan Convention
23 <u>9 am</u> Holy Eucharist, Confirmation Class to follow <u>2 pm</u> The Drop Off	24	25	26	27 Office Closed 	28 Office Closed	29
30 <u>9 am</u> Holy Eucharist						

Christ Church Shrewsbury

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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

