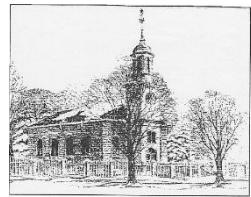


# THE CROWN

*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 XXVI Issue I

January 2026

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*Please join us for the*  
**Annual Meeting &  
Farewell Celebration for Mother Lisa**

**Sunday, January 25, 2026  
Holy Eucharist at 9:00 am**

Annual Meeting immediately following the service in the  
church

Celebratory luncheon to follow in the Parish House

**We hope to see everyone there!**

***“So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.” 1 Thessalonians 2.8***

Dear Friends,

Things are quickly winding down for me. Well, not the final wind down - I hope that is years down the road. But at least for my wonderful time here at Christ Church. There have been so many “lasts” these past weeks. My last All Saints Day, last singing of the Great Litany in Procession, last Christmas Bazaar, last Blessing of the Stockings, and last Christmas services.

Soon it will be my last baptism, my last Epiphany Pageant, my last Vestry Meeting, my last Annual Meeting. You may be thinking that I won’t miss such things as Vestry Meetings, but surprise of surprises, I really will miss them: you have terrific leaders here at Christ Church who are dedicated to working faithfully for our common goals. Our work is done with laughter and joy and a sense of trust in one another.

When I arrived here in the summer of 1997, I would never have dreamed that I would spend so many years in one place. I am glad that I have. You see, we are all on our best behavior when we come to church (as well we should be!) and it takes quite a bit of time before we relax enough with one another and allow others to see us as we truly are. This is true of both priest and parishioners. In other words, if we don’t know each other by now – we never will!

I think we do know each other, and I think we appreciate what this community of faith has come to mean to us. For me, the words of Paul to the Thessalonians seem right on target. I give them just a little tweak: *So deeply do I care for you that I have been determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also my own self, because you have become very dear to me.*

When I started out on this journey, I never dreamed I could become so attached to a parish church. I guess that is exactly what happens if one stays around long enough. I have been there when your children were born and baptized, seen those children grow up and have even stayed long enough for your children to have children themselves. I have had the privilege of presiding at the final services for countless numbers of our very own saints, and I cherish the memory of each one.

And you have done the same for me. You welcomed my young family as your own and watched my children grow up among you. You were there for me when my marriage disintegrated and I was so in need of friendship, love, and support. You held me in prayer when my mother was dying, and I was so very far from home. And you were there with Jeff and me at our wedding (finally, at long last!) celebrating as if you were a very part of my family. And so you are.

You have become very dear to me. I will carry the memories I have of this place and of each of you wherever I go. And I suspect that those memories will anchor me and encourage me when the way is difficult and the future unknown.

I don’t know what is in store for me, or for you. But I trust that whatever it is, it will be just right. Just what our Lord has in mind for us all. Please remember me in your prayers, as I will remember you. You forever hold a special place in my heart.

Peace,

Mother Lisa+

## **PARISH NEWS & NOTES**

### **PARISH OFFICE HOURS**

The Parish office hours are Mondays through Fridays, 2:30 pm to 5:30 pm.

### **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, Arlene, Barbara, Bob Bark, Candice, Dave, Doris, Gerard, Heather Forrest, Jack, Jack Sauber, Jocelyn, John Veil, Julien, Linda Forrest, Lynn, Lynn McKittrick, Marjorie Durdack, Meriwether Schmid, Mignon Williams, Pam, Roger Cuthbert, Sandy Abdelaziz, Tim, Todd Diamond

\*Denotes members of Christ Church

### **ANNUAL MEETING & FAREWELL CELEBRATION**

January 25<sup>th</sup> at 9 am is Mother Lisa's last Sunday with us here at Christ Church. We would like everyone to attend church on that day to help celebrate her long tenure with us. The Annual Meeting will follow the service and be held in the church.

After the meeting, we will all go to the parish house for a celebratory luncheon. The Vestry members are planning the meal with turkey, ham, and many other goodies. It is a potluck luncheon, so if you would like to contribute a yummy dish, please bring it to the parish house prior to church. There will be a signup sheet to designate your contribution in church each Sunday. If you don't get a chance to sign up at church, please call Elaine at 732-742-1227 with your contribution. The dessert will be a beautiful cake, depicting the church and Mother Lisa's years of service. So, limit the donations of

desserts. We look forward to seeing everyone on January 25<sup>th</sup> at 9 am!

*Elaine and Peggy*

### **ANNUAL REPORTS**

If there is an Annual Meeting.... there is an Annual Report! Which means we need your reports. Please email your reports to the church office by January 19<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions, you can call the church office or ask one of the Wardens or Mother Lisa. Remember - if it happened at Christ Church in 2025, we want to hear about it!

### **PARISH ELECTIONS**

We will be filling positions for the upcoming year at the Annual Parish Meeting. Please reach out to the Wardens if you are interested in serving.

The following positions are available:

- 2 Vestry Members
- 1 Deputy to Convention
- 3 Alternate Deputies to Convention

### **STEWARSHIP 2026**



As of today, here are the stats for our 2026 Stewardship Campaign:

Pledges received:	28
New pledges:	1
Increased pledges:	16
Decreased pledge:	1
Same as 2025:	10

These pledges total: \$109,125

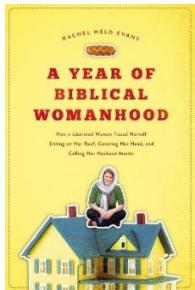
There are still quite a few of you that have not yet turned in your Pledge Certificates. Please turn them in ASAP. We are working on the 2026 budget and we need your pledge. 2026 will be challenge for us and we want to start the year with a solid, balanced budget. Please consider increasing your pledge over last year. We need to be on solid financial ground to entice a new rector. If you have not pledged in the past, please consider pledging now. It will help us balance our budget.

*Thank you, Peggy James, Stewardship*

## PEAK IN THE WEEK FOR JANUARY 2026

Happy New Year!

We're doing a little different kind of book in January for Peak in the Week... IT'S NOT FOR WOMEN ONLY despite the title of **A Year of Biblical Womanhood** by Rachel Held Evans.



Evans's publisher challenged her to spend a year following the Old Testament requirements for proper women behavior and attitude. Tough challenge! After conversations with her parents and her husband, she took several deep breathes and agreed to spend a month at a time during the coming year following womanhood directives from the old biblical authority.

The resulting book is quite a fascinating account of how she and her family moved through those 12 months. Everyone learned a myriad of things about themselves and each other and got insights into biblical society.

Stay tuned for when Peak in the Week will begin in January.

*Donna Devlin*

## EPIPHANY PAGEANT



The annual Epiphany Pageant at Christ Church is on Sunday, January 11<sup>th</sup> during the 9 am service. Following the service there will be a party in the Parish House and we will be serving King Cakes.

## THE GATHERING



Unfortunately, the ARC had to cancel the December Gatherings, but we are excited to start them in January! As soon as the dates are known, we will let you know.

We could use your help! Are you interested in helping with this exciting new ministry? We need people to help make The Gathering a success. Please email [tiatthegathering@gmail.com](mailto:tiatthegathering@gmail.com) if you are interested, and we will hold an informational meeting to discuss next steps. There are so many ways to help.

Thank you for your willingness to make this ministry a success!

**The Gathering Ministry**  
*Belonging in Faith, United in Love*

## CHRISTMAS TOY DRIVE



The annual toy drive was abundantly successful this year. Children certainly had smiles on their faces on Christmas morning due to the generosity of the parishioners of Christ Church. Toys were brought to St. Mark's in Keansburg for distribution to families who are unable to provide for children at this time of year. St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Keansburg provides a food pantry as well as meals for residents who are experiencing need.

*Elaine Feyereisen*

## HOLIDAY BAZAAR WAS A SUCCESS!

The 2025 Christ Church Holiday Bazaar, held on Saturday December 6 was a HUGE success for our church! The addition of five outside merchants selling a variety of items along with not one but TWO Santa Claus's roaming the street helped pull in more foot traffic along with a massive promotional campaign on social media that was spearheaded by Kristen Downs.

This year also saw the return of the kitchen – with simple lunch options of hot dogs or vegan chili – that proved to be quite popular and helped keep the Parish Hall buzzing with activity. Other new additions included a kid's craft (free of charge) which ran all day in one of the classrooms, pictures with Santa and a standalone 50/50 raffle. We raffled off 36 beautiful baskets, sold delicious treats in our Bake Shop and continued the tradition of Trinkets & Treasures. Total revenue for this year's event amounted to over **\$6800** – which far surpassed last year's total of \$3862.

This year we once again offered tiered ticket pricing for the baskets (based on the overall basket value) to help maximize our revenue. Tier One consisted of 17 baskets worth up to \$83 in value; a sheet of 25 tickets cost \$40 for this tier. Tier Two had 19 baskets worth \$85 or more with a sheet of 25 tickets costing \$50.

I truly believe the increase we saw in attendance and revenue is in very large part due to the ideas and actions of Kristen Downs and Lisa Marino, both of whom joined the Bazaar team for the first time this year. Lisa and Kristen came in with fresh ideas, tons of energy and the willingness to help in any way to grow our Bazaar – and boy does it show in our numbers!

Thanks to Elaine Feyereisen and Nancy Stewart for managing and staffing the Bake Shop; Bramley Maber and Jeff Veil for staffing the kitchen the ENTIRE day; Laura Stroebel for running the kids craft room so patiently; Marie Maber for running the homemade goods and jewelry table; Lynn, Mimi and Sarah for handling the ticket selling all day and Josie for selling the 50/50 tickets!

Thanks to all of you who contributed -- by donating baskets; helping decorate; attending the bazaar;

sponsoring the kitchen; giving monetary donations for baskets or baking goodies for our Bake Shop!! It simply cannot happen without each and every one of you and the part(s) you played.

Extra special thanks to Sue Nap – who's vision manages to bring it all together turning the Parish House into a Winter Wonderland. To Walter, who makes so much of the physical stuff happen and puts together the Trinkets & Treasures section all with a smile. And last, but certainly not least, Judy Buncher whose ability to stage ANY basket is what makes our event look so amazing!

*Tara Dunford*

## BACKPACKS: A FRESH START TO THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR!

Once again this year, we helped children here in Monmouth County begin the school year with the materials and supplies needed by participating in our backpack program. There are children who come to school without the needed supplies such as pencils and notebooks, delaying or impeding their fresh start to the new school year. We helped and hoped to make a difference for some of these children.

Approximately 35 backpacks and hundreds of school supplies were blessed on September 7<sup>th</sup>. They were brought to the Joseph Caruso School in Keansburg for distribution that week at school. Your generosity is appreciated by the teachers, parents and children of this school.

*Elaine Feyereisen*

## COFFEE HOUR HOSTS NEEDED

We   
our Coffee Hour

We'd love to welcome a few more Coffee Hour hosts - this time together truly means a lot to our parish community. We are especially in need of hosts for **January 11<sup>th</sup>** and **January 18<sup>th</sup>**. If you'd like to help, you can sign up on the Parish House bulletin board or simply send us a message, and we'll gladly add your name to the schedule.

## COVENANT HOUSE GIFT CARD DRIVE

A huge **thank you** to everyone who donated gift cards for our Covenant House drive! Your generosity is already making a real difference for young people who need a little extra support and care.

These gifts help Covenant House meet immediate needs and give teens and young adults some breathing room during tough times — and that's because of *you*.

Thanks for stepping up, sharing kindness, and showing what our Christ Church community is all about.

## COAT DRIVE – STILL COLLECTING!

A big **thank you** to everyone who has already donated coats to our Winter Coat Drive! Your generosity is helping keep our neighbors warm during the coldest months of the year, and we're grateful for the support.

We're **still collecting coats throughout the winter**, so if you have a gently-used or new coat you'd like to pass along, please bring it by anytime. Every single donation makes a real difference and helps us spread warmth to those who need it.

Thanks for being such a caring and giving community.

## “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

To my Christ Church Shrewsbury Family,

Happy Holidays! 🎄🌟 I wish you and your families a joyous holiday season. May our days be calm and peaceful as we welcome 2026!

Sending you love and prayers always,  
Queeni - from the Philippines



To Mother Lisa, Ms. Peggy and to all Members of the Church,

We hope everyone is doing well. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of you. And thank you!

From Julien and Phoenix





**Shrewsbury Historical  
Society Presents:**

## **Quilts Tell A Story Vintage Quilts Exhibit**

**The more than 75 quilts in the exhibit tell of the maker's talent and stories of the 19th and 20th century quilt making. They are a unique showing of sewing techniques, pattern selection, chosen fabrics and stitches, all of their own personal expression. Quilt making, once a necessity has become a creative art form and today remains an integral part of our heritage past and present.**

### **NOW OPEN!**

**Exhibit Hours**

**Sundays & Tuesdays 11AM-2PM**

**419 Sycamore Avenue**

**November 2025 - April 2026**

**By appointment (732) 530-7974**

**ShrewsburyHistoricalSociety@gmail.com**

**Groups are welcome**

## **THOSE WHO SERVE JANUARY**

### **January 4**

Celebrant: Reverend Lisa Mitchell  
Deacon: Reverend William Balmer  
Acolytes: Andrew Brown, Judi Buncher, Edgar John, Denzel Donaldson  
Lectors: Bob Van Valkenburgh, Peggy James  
Ushers: Walter Dein, George Edwards  
Organist/Choirmaster: Fiona Smith Sutherland  
Altar Guild: Cindy Webster  
Coffee Hour: Lisa & George Marino

### **January 11**

Celebrant: Reverend Lisa Mitchell  
Deacon: Reverend William Balmer  
Acolytes: Joshua & Matthew Dunford, Denzel Donaldson  
Lectors: Dash Cassidy, Tara Dunford  
Ushers: Judi Buncher, Carl Alfano  
Organist/Choirmaster: Fiona Smith Sutherland  
Altar Guild: Madna Aubry  
Coffee Hour: Host Needed!

### **January 18**

Celebrant: Reverend Lisa Mitchell  
Deacon: Reverend William Balmer  
Acolytes: Cassandra Murphy, Tia LaPiana (CB), Denzel Donaldson  
Lectors: Elaine Feyereisen, Carl Alfano  
Ushers: Peggy James, John Callaghan  
Organist/Choirmaster: Fiona Smith Sutherland  
Altar Guild: Colleen & Mark Roth  
Coffee Hour: Host Needed!

### **January 25**

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: Judi Buncher & Tia LaPiana  
Coffee Hour: Annual Meeting & Potluck

# JANUARY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<u>Office Hours:</u> Mon. – Fri. 2:30 – 5:30				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b>  <u>9 am</u> Holy Eucharist & Holy Baptism	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>  <u>9:30 - 11:15 am</u> Holy Eucharist Peak in the Week	<b>8</b>  <u>10 am</u> Choir Rehearsal  Choir luncheon to follow	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b>  <u>9 am</u> Holy Eucharist & Epiphany Pageant  Confirmation Class	<b>12</b>  <u>7 pm</u> Vestry Meeting	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>  <u>9:30 - 11:15 am</u> Holy Eucharist Peak in the Week	<b>15</b>  <u>10 am</u> Choir Rehearsal	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b>  <u>9 am</u> Holy Eucharist	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>  <u>9:30 - 11:15 am</u> Holy Eucharist Peak in the Week	<b>22</b>  <u>10 am</u> Choir Rehearsal	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b>  <u>9 am</u> Holy Eucharist  ML+ last service & Annual Meeting	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>  <u>9:30 - 11:15 am</u> Holy Eucharist Peak in the Week	<b>29</b>  <u>10 am</u> Choir Rehearsal	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>

# Christ Church Shrewsbury

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[www.ChristChurchShrewsbury.org](http://www.ChristChurchShrewsbury.org) + [theparish@christchurchshrewsbury.org](mailto:theparish@christchurchshrewsbury.org) + 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

