

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 XXVI Issue II

February 2026



“Because Christ Church has not been subjected to any heavy-handed...restorations, its evolution can still be studied clearly and accurately. The building gains real significance through the retention of elements from all its decorative as well as functional modifications that were required as liturgical needs and aesthetic tastes changed over 225 years.”

Joseph Hammond, National Register of Historic Places registration form, 1995

“You are the light of the world...let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”

Matthew 5:14-16

Dear Friends,

It may seem strange to pair a Scripture verse—one we’ll hear on our first Sunday together—with a quote from a 30-year-old National Register summary. But I think it sums up the vision of Christ Church beautifully.

I’ve spent the last few weeks researching our history as a church (and there is a LOT out there to see!): people, events, buildings, and relationships. I’ve heard of musket-balls in the steeple’s crown, a cross carved by a pirate’s sword, generations of worshiping families who have baptized babies, celebrated brides, and bid farewell in the churchyard. Christ Church has seen hoop skirts, Revolutionary uniforms, bonnets, miniskirts, petticoats, suits with spats, and blue jeans.

Walking in the front doors, through the narthex, and into the nave, you can see and feel the layers of history, one on top of the next, on top of the next and so on. But the layers hang lightly, transparently. Because its restoration over the past 250-plus years has NOT been “heavy-handed,” you know the layers are there, but they don’t obscure the light of Christ. They magnify it.

And so do all of you. You are the light of the world, and you illuminate Christ Church, so that everyone can see how God is at work in you. I already know a little bit about that work you’re doing: teaching and leading children and youth; gathering food and supplies for those in need; creating beautiful music together; providing scholarship support for seminarians abroad; serving at the altar and in the Parish Hall; gathering groups of every kind for deeper relationships (and good food, too). I know there’s so much more for me to discover with you, and so much more light we have to share.

I’m grateful beyond words to be with you, and excited for us to add more lovely layers of history to Christ Church. I can’t wait to see how Christ’s light will be made even brighter shining through them all and shining through all of us.

Faithfully,
Susanna+

PARISH NEWS & NOTES

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

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

ANY CHANGES?

Please advise us of any changes in address, e-mail, or telephone number so we can keep our records up to date. Please send us an email or call the Church Office at 732-741-2220.

TO THE NEWLY BAPTIZED



On Sunday, January 4th, Lillian Marino, daughter of Lisa & George Marino, received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism and was welcomed into the church. We rejoice with them and their family.

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, Anthony Anello, 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*

IN REQUIEM



Deacon Victoria Cuff
Died January 2026

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

MEET THE 2026 VESTRY ELECT

Elaine Feyereisen - Senior Warden
Peggy James - Junior Warden
Carl Alfano - Vestry
Madna Aubry - Vestry
Julie Sinn Cassidy - Vestry
Walter Dein - Vestry
Bramley Maber - Vestry
Lisa Marino - Vestry
Sue Napoletano - Vestry
Susan Sellers - Vestry
Robert Stewart - Vestry

Deputies to Diocesan Convention

Allie Cummings, Connie Goddard, Peggy James

Alternate Deputies to Diocesan Convention

Elaine Feyereisen, Dave Regiec, Dianne Regiec

Please Note: Our Parish Bylaws allow us some flexibility in the number of vestry members we have, at least seven and not more than nine.

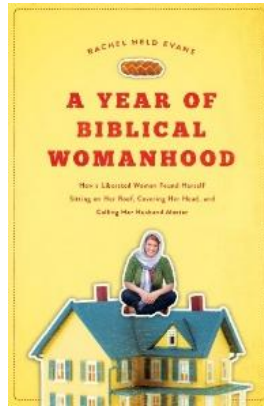
The Nominating Committee is comprised of the Wardens and Vestry, with the assistance of the Rector.

Vestry Retreat

Friday, February 20th is the Vestry Dinner at the home of Peggy James, followed by the retreat on Saturday, the 21st during the day in the parish house. More details to follow.

PARISH LIFE

PEAK IN THE WEEK FOR FEBRUARY 2026



The February 2026 Peak in the Week book is a hold-over from January. I am out of rehab, thank goodness, still a little slowed-down from pre accident days but itching to get out of this arm cast and back to Peaking. *A Year of Biblical Womanhood* by Rachel Held Evans is the book we'll be reading discussing in February. Get it from the library or Barnes & Noble or Amazon and start reading. Please know that, regardless of the title, the book is not exclusively for woman. Evans' husband is featured in the planning and execution of the months chronicled in the book; it was certainly a family affair and has incites for men and women alike.

The next Peak in the Peak will be announced shortly—watch the weekly newsletters for Peak information.

Donna Devlin

THE GATHERING



The third time's the charm! The first Gathering was scheduled for November. It was canceled because the ARC was dealing with paperwork. The second Gathering was scheduled for last week, but it was canceled out of an abundance of caution because of icy conditions.

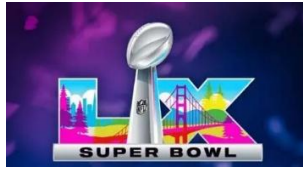
We are excited to let you know you haven't missed it! The first Gathering is scheduled, and we will hold meetings for the ARC day programs on the third Wednesdays of the month at 11:00 a.m. beginning in February. The Gathering for residential programs will be on the second Thursday of the month at 5:30 pm. For people who live in ARC residential programs.

But we need your help! There are many small jobs that need to be done both before and after the service. The service lasts about 20 minutes, followed by a refreshment break for attendees. Could you help at one of The Gatherings each month? Please let Tia LaPiana know if you are available to come help. Regardless, all are welcome to the service; join us for singing, fun, and fellowship.

The Gathering Ministry

Belonging in Faith, United in Love

THE SUPER BOWL CHALLENGE



Which team are you rooting for?



Who will win this year? The Seahawks? The Patriots?

We don't know – but we are going to take a vote on Super Bowl Sunday morning. You will find two buckets in the narthex of the church in which you can throw in a dollar for each vote. All proceeds will benefit the Episcopal Youth Community.

(\$1.00 = 1 vote)

We will tally the votes and see if our members can predict the correct outcome!

EPIPHANY 2026

Let's journey back in time to Epiphany2025. Seems like a year ago! At our Epiphany Pageant and Party in 2025, I had two slices of yummy King Cake, One had hidden within a penny which meant that I needed to take that penny and grow it to \$1.00 (or more) for charity by Epiphany 2026. Hmmm, how to do that---

My solution to that quandary was to make this offer to Christ Church parishioners for an order of a custom handmade prayer shawl I would donate to Christ Church 25% of the price. And so, I did. (By-the-way, that offer still stands—contact me at sarahannb@aol.com for details.)

Tucked within the second slice of King Cake was bean which meant that I needed to write a poem for Epiphany 2026. My poem is below:

God leans down to us
a baby boy is given
Epiphany

I am sorry I wasn't able to be present for the actual Epiphany festivities at Christ Church this year. It's always a fun time for me.

Donna Devlin

THANK YOU RYSER'S



Thank you Marty, of Ryser's Landscape of Little Silver, for the great job of plowing the church parking lot and driveways!

JOIN THE COFFEE CREW!



We're looking for a few additional Coffee Hour hosts; this shared time truly means so much to our parish community. We especially need someone for **February 15th**. If you're able to help, please sign up on the Parish House bulletin board or send us a message, and we'll be happy to add you to the schedule.

CHRISTIAN ED HAPPENINGS

December was a busy month - no sooner had the Bazaar been wrapped up than St. Nicholas arrived the next day. Robert Maber, our venerable St. Nicholas, regaled the children and congregation with the story of the blessed saint who has been come to be closely associated with caring and charitable giving. Then the first snow of the season fell and put a crimp in our style. But we picked right up the next week hearing of the long journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem, which we know as the Nativity Story. The children were asked to imagine their own "inns" for the blessed Family and constructed them out of all sorts of materials. (Some of them could have rivaled Marriott, if they had Marriotts back then) Then on to the fabulous

Christmas Eve service in which the children participated in dressing the creche and enthusiastically performed Go Tell It On the Mountain with the congregation. After all that activity Church School took a winter break until January 11 when the Epiphany Pageant was held. Though it is actually a January activity, the pageant wrapped up the celebration of the Christmas Season. Thanks to Lisa Marino for putting together a new script and rehearsing the "players". Thanks to the parents who helped dress the players and supported the activity. No coffee hour would have been complete that day without a King Cake, which Mother Lisa graciously provided. On to the New Year folks... Wishing you a happy and healthy one.

Faithfully, Sue Nap

TECH SAVY PERSON NEEDED!

We are looking for someone to take over the design and regular updates of the Christ Church website, as MiMi Brown will be stepping back from this role.

This person will be responsible for posting news, announcements, and other information to help keep the parish informed and up to date. This is a wonderful opportunity to bring your personality, ideas, and flair to a space our whole parish family relies on.

MiMi will be glad to meet with you and show you the ropes. Please reach out to the Church office if you are interested.

“IT TAKES A VILLAGE”

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

**Queenie 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

Good day to the Church of Shrewsbury Family,

I respectfully convey my belated Christmas greetings and my sincere wishes for a blessed and prosperous New Year. In recent months, I have been engaged in various academic responsibilities including tree planting and demonstration teaching which have contributed to my continued academic and personal development as we enter the second semester.

My sister and I remain profoundly grateful to God and to the Church of Shrewsbury for your unwavering support, prayers, and encouragement. Your generosity and kindness have been a source of strength and hope for us and even at a distance, your care and guidance are deeply appreciated. Please accept our heartfelt thanks.

Respectfully yours, Phoenix



THOSE WHO SERVE FEBRUARY

February 1

Celebrant: Reverend Lisa Mitchell
Deacon: Reverend William Balmer
Acolytes: Joshua & Matthew Dunford, Judi Buncher, Rebecca Pruitt, Denzel Donaldson
Lectors: Robert Maber, Bob Van Valkenburgh
Ushers: Bramley Maber, Christine Maber
Organist/Choirmaster: Fiona Smith Sutherland
Altar Guild: Cindy Webster
Coffee Hour: Annual Meeting & Pot Luck

February 8

Celebrant: Reverend Susanna Cates
Deacon: Reverend William Balmer
Acolytes: Dexter, Kodi & Abe Craven, Denzel Donaldson
Lectors: Dash Cassidy, Laura Stroebe
Ushers: Peggy James, Elaine Feyereisen
Organist/Choirmaster: Fiona Smith Sutherland
Altar Guild: Madna Aubry
Coffee Hour: Cassandra & Abigail

February 15

Celebrant: Reverend Susanna Cates
Deacon: Reverend William Balmer
Acolytes: Cassandra Murphy, Tia LaPiana (CB), Denzel Donaldson
Lectors: Connie Goddard, Peggy James
Ushers: Walter Dein, George Edwards
Organist/Choirmaster: Fiona Smith Sutherland
Altar Guild: Colleen & Mark Roth
Coffee Hour: Host Needed!

February 22

Celebrant: Reverend Susanna Cates
Deacon: Reverend William Balmer
Acolytes: Joshua & Mathew Dunford, Denzel Donaldson
Lectors: Kodi Craven, Tara Dunford
Ushers: Peggy James, John Callaghan
Organist/Choirmaster: Fiona Smith Sutherland
Altar Guild: Judi Buncher & Tia LaPiana
Coffee Hour: Pancake Breakfast

FEBRUARY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 <u>9 am</u> Holy Eucharist ML+ last service & Annual Meeting	2	3	4 <u>9:30 - 11:15 am</u> Holy Eucharist Peak in the Week	5 <u>10 am</u> Choir Rehearsal	6	7
8 <u>9 am</u> Holy Eucharist MS+ first service	9	10	11 <u>9:30 - 11:15 am</u> Holy Eucharist Peak in the Week	12 <u>10 am</u> Choir Rehearsal <u>5:30 pm</u> The Gathering	13	14 <u>8:30 - 10 am</u> Men's Breakfast Group
15 <u>9 am</u> Holy Eucharist	16	17	18 <u>9:30 - 11:15 am</u> Holy Eucharist Peak in the Week	19 <u>10 am</u> Choir Rehearsal	20 Vestry Retreat Dinner	21 <u>9 am</u> Vestry Retreat
22 <u>9 am</u> Holy Eucharist	23	24	25 <u>9:30 - 11:15 am</u> Holy Eucharist Peak in the Week	26 <u>10 am</u> Choir Rehearsal	27	28 <u>Office Hours:</u> Mon. – Fri. 2:30 – 5:30

Christ Church Shrewsbury

380 Sycamore Avenue, Shrewsbury, NJ 07702

www.ChristChurchShrewsbury.org + 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 Canon Susanna Cates, Priest-in-Charge
The Reverend William Balmer, Deacon
Denzel Donaldson, Seminarian
Fiona Smith Sutherland, Organist/Choirmaster
Francesca Parker, Office Administrator
Halina Nibbling, Sexton

VESTRY 2026

Elaine Feyereisen - Senior Warden
Peggy James - Junior Warden, Stewardship
Carl Alfano
Madna Aubry - Stewardship, GFS Representative
Julie Sinn Cassidy - Youth Ministries
Walter Dein - Property
Bramley Maber
Lisa Marino
Sue Napoletano - Church School
Susan Sellers - ECW Liaison
Robert Stewart - Historian & Graveyard

Nancy Stewart - Vestry Clerk

Stephen Craven - Treasurer
Lynn Marengo - Asst. Treasurer

