

# 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 II

February 2026

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*“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 4<sup>th</sup>, 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.***

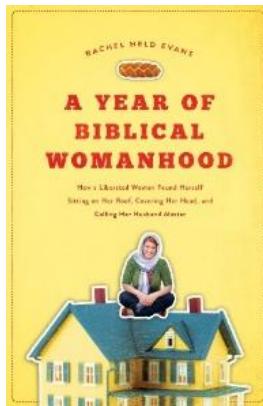
***The Nominating Committee is comprised of the Wardens and Vestry, with the assistance of the Rector.***

#### **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

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### **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*

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## 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!

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## EPIPHANY 2026

Let's journey back in time to Epiphany 2025. 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. Hmm, 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](mailto:sarahannb@aol.com) for details.)

Tucked within the second slice of King Cake was a 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!

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## 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 Marriots 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

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## 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.

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## “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**

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

# 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 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

