

# 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 V

May 2026



“I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.” (Ephesians 1:15-20)

The above excerpt from Ephesians comes to us on Ascension Day, which is about halfway through the month of May on the 14th. Paul’s prayer for the church in Ephesus resonates with our church, too, as we move from the Easter season into Pentecost, Trinity Sunday, and beyond.

In one of my recent weekly emails, I wrote about the earliest church community in the Acts of the Apostles, and their (deceptively!) simple modus operandi: they're baptized, they're learning and teaching together, they break bread and pray together, and they care for each other's needs. And I wrote about how the simplest actions held together are greater than the sum of their parts, and the challenges that make these simple actions so difficult sometimes: living in a divisive and divided culture, proclaiming a message that some folks can't or don't want to hear, and navigating our own busy lives to make room for these simple acts of faith.

The good news is that there is no end point for learning more about these acts of faith and watching them take root and blossom in our lives—and in the life of our community. Paul’s prayer for the Church is for our wisdom about God: that deep knowledge that grows with our reading and hearing of Scripture and through prayer and worship; and for our revelation of God: that knowledge that comes through moments of recognizing how God is present and at work in our lives right now. Through this wisdom and revelation, we “come to know him,” that is, we continue to learn about God throughout our lives.

Our church is the primary training ground as we learn, and what we learn here we take everywhere. Our homes are where we continue to practice our faith, by reading Scripture on our own and with our families, by praying over our meals and our mornings and our children, by sending ourselves and each other out to be a blessing.

Baptism and remembering our baptismal promises. Learning and teaching together. Breaking the bread of Communion and of everyday meals and praying together. Caring for each other’s needs. Simple and consistent acts that lead us closer to God and closer together as a church; simple and consistent acts that enlighten the eyes of our hearts. How can Christ Church keep learning to bless others as we are blessed? Let’s answer that question together.

Faithfully,  
Susanna+

## PARISH NEWS & NOTES

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Mother Susanna is in the office on Mondays through Thursdays. If you would like to meet with her, please do call ahead to ensure she is in. Office hours are Mondays through Fridays from 2:30 to 5:30.

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### 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.

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### YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED



#### **For the sick and suffering, and those in any need or trouble:**

\*Anderson Pedalino, \*Beverly Ryser, \*Bill Balmer, \*Carolyn, \*Cassie Reagan, \*Denzel Donaldson, \*Dianne Regiec, \*Halina Nibbling, \*Jim Miller, \*Joan Landers, \*John Smalls, \*Judi Buncher, \*Julia Walsh, \*Mimi Brown, \*Paul Murgio, \*Richard Brugger, \*Rod Webster, \*Sarah Schmid, \*Tia LaPiana, \*Tom Cameron, Ann, Anthony Anello, Arlene, Barbara, Bob Bark, Candice, Dave, Doris, Gerard, Heather Forrest, Ingrid, Jack Sauber, Jocelyn, John Veil, Julien, Kristy R., Libby Noell, Linda Forrest, Lynn, Lynn McKittrick, Matthew Diamond, Mignon Williams, Robert Spencer, Roger Cuthbert, Sandy Abdelaziz, Scott Diamond, Todd Diamond, The Lam Family

*May they be relieved of their distress.*

*\*Denotes members of Christ Church*

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## IN REQUIEM



Jim Miller

July 2, 1931 – April 3, 2026

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

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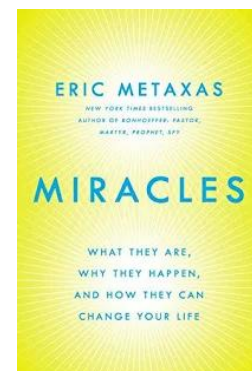
## PARISH LIFE

### PEAK IN THE WEEK FOR MAY

It is often said that April showers bring May flowers. That would be very nice and greatly appreciated. I love flowers! I wonder though, how April coldness connects to May's anything.

I understand that my preferences weather-wise are not part of cosmic planning, but I'll still say, "I am tired of cold weather and really ready for some long term 70 and 80 degree days". Of course, come December, I'll be very ready for piles and drifts of that beautiful white snow. Sigh. Some of us are never satisfied, apparently. I plead guilty to that offense.

It is time for the eagerly awaited announcement of the May 2026 Peak in the Week book and it is, drum roll please, *Miracles*, by Eric Metaxas!



Metaxas has made a name for himself with highly acclaimed works on Dietrich Bonhoeffer and William Wilberforce. Now, as Monty Python is wont to say, "Now, for something entirely

different”, *Miracles*. Let’s take a look, together, at how Metaxas understands, “*What They Are, Why They Happen, And How They Can Change Your Life*”.

Join us at 9:30 on Wednesdays in the parish house for Eucharist and then at 10:00 we start Peaking. Bring a snack if you’d like. We’re quite informal.

Donna

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## JOIN THE COFFEE CREW!



Coffee Hour is a wonderful opportunity to connect, and we need a few volunteers to help make it happen. Hosting is easy and a meaningful way to support our parish community. Hosts are still needed for May 24<sup>th</sup> and May 31<sup>st</sup>.

To volunteer, please sign up on the bulletin board in the parish house or call the church office. Thank you for helping keep this special time of fellowship going!

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## SHREWSBURY CELEBRATES 100 YEARS!

The borough of Shrewsbury will be celebrating its 100th birthday on Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. The borough has planned a big day of activities starting with a parade at NOON and culminating with Christ Church ringing the church bell 100 times at 7:00 pm. We have been asked to join the parade. The parade starts at the Shrewsbury Boro School and will proceed west on Obre Place, South on Samara Drive, and East on Sycamore Avenue to Borough Hall. We need to determine if we have enough parishioners who want to participate and walk in the parade. EVERYONE (families, friends) is invited to walk. I would like to get a head count as soon possible so we can let the parade organizers know if they can count on us. IF you want to participate, please email me to let me know.  
peggy\_james@verizon.net

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## CHRISTIAN ED HAPPENINGS



We made it through Holy Week and the Easter celebrations and are now moving on to discovering the disciples and the Early Church. Last week we met Peter. The kids never knew that he was the original “Rock” or why. We’ll be exploring more about Peter and the other disciples in the coming weeks. Next up – Pentecost!

Mother Susanna’s Peep Sunday on Palm Sunday was a big hit! The Communion Class the day before was very informative and full of action. We’re hoping to keep that momentum going with Family Sunday services. If you missed it on April 27<sup>th</sup>, Mother Susanna introduced her interactive worship service engaging the children and the adults with her sermon about the Good Shepherd. The children were later invited up to the altar for an up-close and personal view of the Eucharist Service. This is something new for our church and it seems to be ramping up excitement for worship service.

There will be Church School on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and May 17<sup>th</sup>, with break days (no class) for Mothers Day on May 10<sup>th</sup> and for Memorial Day on May 24<sup>th</sup>. Family Sunday returns on May 31<sup>st</sup>. After that we’ve only got one class on June 7<sup>th</sup> before we celebrate Youth Sunday on June 14<sup>th</sup> which brings the school year to a close.

Are you interested in children’s ministry or think you could be? You don’t need any special set of skills just an interest in moving the kids along in their spiritual journey or simply being an extra set of hands in the classroom. There are opportunities to volunteer for a day, opt to teach or do a special project. I welcome your thoughts and am always willing to discuss think this ministry might be for you, please don’t hesitate to reach out to me. I’d love to speak with you.

Faithfully,  
Sue Napoletano  
Christian Ed Coordinator

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## SPRING FLEA MARKET



Begin to gather your donation items for the Flea Market on June 27<sup>th</sup>! We will begin to collect these items on June 15<sup>th</sup>. Plan your donations!

Also, any sales help that day would be greatly appreciated!

Thanks,  
Elaine

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## MEMORIAL GARDEN STONE

The long-awaited stone for the Memorial Garden arrived this past week. Uras Monuments with 4 of the strongest guys I know, installed it on the base along the ramp wall. The names of all those who have been interred so far are listed, and as more people are added their names will be. It is engraved on the stone. It is planned that about once a year we will review the names and have the engraver add them to the stone. Parishioners who are interested in space in the Memorial Garden are welcome to secure their spot for the future.

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## ZELLE HAS COME TO CHRIST CHURCH!

Don't want to write a check for your pledge? You forgot to schedule your pledge payment thru your bank's bill pay? You arrive at church and you realize you forgot your money? No problem... you can now send your pledge immediately with Zelle! Scan the QR code, which will always be displayed on the back of the Sunday program. When you scan the code, you will get a message from Zelle that

starts with GREAT NEWS! Then use the START SEARCH button to find your bank. Most banks offer ZELLE and if your bank does, you will be instructed to put your bank's mobile app on your phone. After you log into your banking app, go to SEND MONEY WITH ZELLE. Follow the prompts to continue. You will be asked if you want to use a phone number or an email address. You must use the church email address:

[theparish@christchurchshrewsbury.org](mailto:theparish@christchurchshrewsbury.org).

There is also a place to include the reason you are sending the church money. All you need to say is PLEDGE. It's easy!! If you have any questions, ask me!

Peggy James, Jr. Warden

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## PLEDGE STATEMENTS



This past week the quarterly pledge statements were distributed in church and sent out in snail mail. If you did not get a statement, and expected one, see me. We give you your statements on a quarterly basis in hopes it will help to keep you on schedule with your annual giving. We know you can't always attend church, but it is still important to keep your pledge up to date. Even if you are not here, the church still has a budget to follow. If you are behind, please try to catch up. It is now even quicker and easier to pay your pledge with ZELLE.

Peggy James, Jr. Warden/Stewardship

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## LOOKING FOR A FUN, CREATIVE NIGHT OUT?

Join us for a new fundraising event:

Treasures from the Tide: A Sea Glass Art Experience!

The expert artists from J&J Sip and Paint will host a guided sea glass art experience while you relax and have fun with your friends!

**Thursday, May 14**

**6:00-8:00pm**

**Christ Church Parish House**

BYOB - beer, wine, and cocktails welcome!

Bring your own dinner and snacks!

Register and pay using the QR code or web site on the attached flyer - or by emailing Kristen. (Information attached)

**WEB SITE LINK DIRECTLY TO OUR EVENT FOR REGISTRATION:**

<https://jjsipnpaint.com/event-details/product/69bbf3787dbb06599d944a82>

**CHRIST CHURCH FUNDRAISING EVENT**  
**TREASURES FROM THE TIDE**  
**A SEA GLASS ART EXPERIENCE**  
380 Sycamore Avenue, Shrewsbury

**MAY 14**  
**6-8 PM | \$65**

Join us in making sea glass art on a glass frame using various colored sea glass and shells for a good cause!

- Ages 7+ welcome (with adult)
- BYOB + food

Grab your tickets at  
[JJSIPNPAINT.COM](https://jjsipnpaint.com)  
or call/text/email  
Kristen Downs to pay cash  
732-890-2888  
kristendowns110@gmail.com

Scan to register



The Men's Breakfast Group will hold its May 2026 meeting in the Parish House on **Saturday, May 16th, 2026, from 8:30 to 10:00 am.**

Our gatherings provide a welcoming atmosphere 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, May 14<sup>th</sup>, to register!

## THOSE WHO SERVE MAY

### **May 3**

Celebrant: The Reverend Susanna Cates  
Deacon: Reverend William Balmer  
Acolytes: Denzel Donaldson, Joshua & Matthew Dunford  
Lectors: Kodi Craven, Tara Dunford  
Ushers: Carl Alfano, Judi Buncher  
Organist/Choirmaster: Fiona Smith Sutherland  
Altar Guild: Judi Buncher, Tia LaPiana  
Coffee Hour: Walter Dein

### **May 10**

Celebrant: The Reverend Susanna Cates  
Deacon: Reverend William Balmer  
Acolytes: Abe, Dexter, & Kodi Craven, Denzel Donaldson  
Lectors: Robert Maber, Bob Van Valkenburg  
Ushers: Bramley Maber, Christine Maber  
Organist/Choirmaster: Fiona Smith Sutherland  
Altar Guild: Madna Aubry  
Coffee Hour: Nancy & Bob Stewart

### **May 17**

Celebrant: The Reverend Susanna Cates  
Deacon: Reverend William Balmer  
Acolytes: Judi Buncher, Edgar John, Denzel Donaldson  
Lectors: Connie Goddard, Peggy James  
Ushers: Walter Dein, Elaine Feyereisen  
Organist/Choirmaster: Fiona Smith Sutherland  
Altar Guild: Colleen & Mark Roth  
Coffee Hour: Cassandra & Abigail Murphy

### **May 24**

Celebrant: The Reverend Susanna Cates  
Deacon: Reverend William Balmer  
Acolytes: Jonathan Badal, Denzel Donaldson, Cassandra Murphy  
Lectors: Carl Alfano, Elaine Feyereisen  
Ushers: Peggy James, John Callaghan  
Organist/Choirmaster: Fiona Smith Sutherland  
Altar Guild: Cindy Webster  
Coffee Hour: Host Needed!

### **May 31**

Celebrant: The Reverend Susanna Cates  
Deacon: Reverend William Balmer  
Acolytes: Denzel Donaldson, Joshua & Matthew Dunford  
Lectors: Kodi Craven, Tara Dunford  
Ushers: Walter Dein, George Edwards  
Organist/Choirmaster: Fiona Smith Sutherland  
Altar Guild: Judi Buncher, Tia LaPiana  
Coffee Hour: Host Needed!

# MAY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> <u>10 am – 5 pm</u> Weekend in Old Monmouth
<b>3</b> <u>9 am</u> Holy Eucharist  <u>12 – 5 pm</u> Weekend in Old Monmouth	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> <u>9:30 - 11:15 am</u> Holy Eucharist Peak in the Week	<b>7</b> <u>10 am</u> Choir Rehearsal  <u>5:30 pm</u> The Gathering	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> <u>9 am</u> Holy Eucharist  Mother's Day Celebration + Blessing (No Sunday School)	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> <u>9:30 - 11:15 am</u> Holy Eucharist Peak in the Week  <u>11:30 am</u> The Gathering	<b>14</b> <u>10 am</u> Choir Rehearsal  <u>6 – 8 pm</u> Treasures from the Tide	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> <u>8:30 - 10 am</u> Men's Breakfast Group  <u>12 pm</u> Shrewsbury Centennial Celebration
<b>17</b> <u>9 am</u> Holy Eucharist	<b>18</b> <u>7 pm</u> Vestry Meeting	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <u>9:30 - 11:15 am</u> Holy Eucharist Peak in the Week	<b>21</b> <u>10 am</u> Choir Rehearsal	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> <u>9 am</u> Holy Eucharist  The Feast of Pentecost (No Sunday School)	<b>25</b> Memorial Day – Office Closed	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> <u>9:30 - 11:15 am</u> Holy Eucharist Peak in the Week	<b>28</b> <u>10 am</u> Choir Rehearsal	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> <u>11 am</u> Jim Miller's Service
<b>31</b> <u>9 am</u> Holy Eucharist  Family Sunday						

# Christ Church Shrewsbury

380 Sycamore Avenue, Shrewsbury, NJ 07702

[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

