

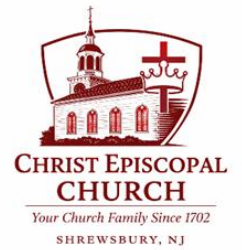
THE CROWN

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 VI

June 2026



Christ Church at the Shrewsbury Centennial Celebration!

"My beloved speaks and says to me: 'Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away, for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone.

The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.

The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance."

(Song of Solomon 2:10-13)

The winter is past! Despite a few chilly days still with us, we're on the brink of summer, and our Beloved is speaking to us in the beauty of the season.

Spring and summer's growing seasons speak to us in God's voice, calling forth renewal and rest. As the school year winds down, we give thanks for students, teachers, school administrators, and families of every kind for the hard work that they've done. As the Sunday School program year comes to a close, we give thanks, too, for the energetic and joyful work that Mrs. Nap and her faithful crew accomplished, and gratitude that our families took such an active part in everything they did!

In addition to some much-needed rest for all of us, summer is also a time in which we're called to plant and tend with an eye to the fall harvest. What are our tried-and-true crops that we're going to replant? What are some new fruits that we'd like to see at Christ Church?

I'd especially like to hear about renewed offerings for our adults and gathered family groups. What are some things we'd like to learn together? What are some ways in which we can teach each other and gather faithfully and joyfully aside from our Sunday morning worship?

This is an especially good time to consider the changes we'd like to make. Summertime ushers in our Saturday evening outdoor worship—how about bringing it indoors when the cooler weather returns? We already love to join together with food and fun—how about a series of Dinner Churches, hosted by folks in their homes (I'll volunteer the Rectory for our first go!)? We all need rest, quiet, and healing—how about a contemplative healing service as part of our regular worship schedule?

When it comes to worship and formation opportunities, I'll gladly hear any ideas you have. Towards the end of the summer, look for announcements about a Parish Town Hall meeting where we can talk about these ideas as a congregation and get ready to make these dreams our reality. We'll never lose the things we already do and love, but we can always create more ways to love God and each other.

May this growing season fill your lives with rest, renewal, and revitalization for the seasons to come. I'm grateful every day to serve with you.

Faithfully,

Susanna+

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

Office hours for the summer beginning on June 10th are Mondays through Thursdays from 8 am to 12 pm. Until then, please call ahead to ensure someone is in the office as the hours may change daily.

ANY CHANGES?

We are in the process of updating our Christ Church directory. Please advise us of any changes in address, e-mail, or telephone number so we have the most up to date information for the directory. Please send us an email or call the Church Office at 732-741-2220.

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED

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

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

May they be relieved of their distress.

PEAK IN THE WEEK

Memorial Day snuck right up on me! Do I have company? So here we are stepping into June, my natal month, normally a time of sun and heat and beach and lounging—we'll have to wait and see if this June fulfills those expectations. It has been an unusual year so far weatherwise.

We don't Peak in June because many of us are generally busy traveling or soaking up sun or maybe feeding and watering roses. Whatever it is that is your summer pleasure—GO FOR IT!! Come back to us in September rested, revived, roarin' to Peak with us.

This is overused—by me-- but none-the-less, See You in September!

Donna Devlin

MUSIC MINISTRY

Thank you to the Choir!

On June 14th, we will have the final Sunday with choir until September. I just want to take a moment to commend all of these wonderful singers for giving so much of their time to the music of Christ Church. Each week, they join to rehearse, pray, laugh, and make music together all the time keeping God always in our midst. The leadership of the hymns, the beautiful texts and notes for the anthems, all of this is vital to a growing and thriving church as we are, and the choir members are essential! My most heartfelt thanks to you all!

In addition, there will be some pop-up opportunities over the summer to come and sing. We hope many of you who are not able to regularly commit will come together to make some music. All are welcome, young and young-in-spirit! Stay tuned!

Fiona Smith Sutherland,
Organist/Choirmaster

ALTAR GUILD

Dear Friends,

We want to thank you for your continued support of the Altar Guild.

The summer schedule begins June 14, 2026. There will be flowers on the Altar and Grenadine, just not the regular ones from the florist. We want our Altar to reflect beauty for your thanksgivings and Memorials.

Thank you again and have a wonderful summer!

Blessings,
Judi & Cindy
Altar Guild Chairs

FLEA MARKET JUNE 27!

Please donate your household items, delivering to the parish house June 15th – 27th.

- No electronics
- Clothing – only if clean and either hung or folded neatly
- Dishes, kitchenware in good condition and clean
- No books
- Games, puzzles, toys with all the pieces intact

There will be many hours when the parish house is open to drop off, but in the event, you want to be absolutely sure, call Elaine at 732-742-1227. I will try to post sometimes it will be open, during the week before.

Please check your schedule to see if you can plan some time during that week to help sort and price the items. If you can be available to help sell items on the day of, let me know.

Thank you,
Elaine

PATRIOT GRAVE MARKING CEREMONY TO TAKE PLACE ON JUNE 6

As Christ Church parishioners, we recognize the historical significance of our cemetery – and this year, we have an opportunity to honor that significance as well as to mark our nation's 250th anniversary.

Our cemetery includes graves of 18 men who served as soldiers in the Revolutionary War. Over the past few years, the DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) has mounted a national effort to mark the graves of all those soldiers, whom it refers to as Patriots. It's an effort that has involved a great deal of verification in archives from here to Washington and beyond.

Our local Shrewsbury Towne-Monmouth Chapter has been particularly active in this effort. The goal -- install a special plaque on the graves of all our Patriots.

On Saturday morning, June 6th, the chapter will hold a ceremony to mark this installation. And as parishioners, we are all welcome to attend. After the ceremony, local DAR members will host a reception in our Parish House; we are all welcome to attend that as well. (RSVPs should be as soon as possible.)

The ceremony and the reception will be held in conjunction with the Presbyterian Church next door; its cemetery also includes the graves of a half-dozen other Patriots, who will be honored as well.

History buffs will be intrigued by the complicated verification process. Come at 11 am on June 6th to witness and ceremony and then come by the Parish House to learn about the process!

Connie Goddard
Our local DAR chapter

HERITAGE ROSE GARDEN

The garden has been weeded, watered, and the rose bushes pruned to start another season. The white iris have bloomed, the purple iris are opening, and the chives have purple flowers. Annuals added to the garden in May include 30 red, white and pink vinca plants, yellow supertunias, yellow and orange lantana, and white fan flowers (new to the garden this year). The garden is maintained by members of the Shrewsbury Garden Club with assistance from our seminarian Denzel.

Nancy Stewart



THE GATHERING



The Gathering has been meeting twice a month, and the Gathering Committee decided to change the meeting schedule. The Wednesday 11:30 a.m. meeting has been well attended, with 10-12 Gatherers actively participating. The Thursday evening Gathering at 5:30 has had at most 5 people attend, with 3 of those also attending on Wednesdays. Beginning in September, we will continue to meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 11:30 a.m. The additional Gathering will be on the 2nd Sunday of the month at 1:00. We hope those in residential placements will be able to attend then.

We are also hoping to open up the Sunday Gathering to people with disabilities of all ages and their families. This is an exciting new development, and we will be putting together a flyer soon and distributing it so you can help us spread the news. This will be a great opportunity for you to attend Gatherings and welcome these members of the Christ Church family. Stay tuned for more news about The Gathering!

Sincerely,
Tia LaPiana
tiathegathering@gmail.com

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

A VOICE FROM THE CHOIR LOFT: What Am I Doing Here?

By: Mark Roth

When I was young, it seemed like I was surrounded by a continuing sound track for my life. I am sure that you can understand this, as, undoubtedly, you also have had a similar experience. We can almost tie every important event in our lives to a song, a genre of music, or, a band that gave us an all-around memorable hinge point between the event and the music we heard. It is also what ties us to our seasons of worship both in the church and in our private musings as we go through the days that God has blessed us with. It is a subconscious, uplifting, bolstering gift that we build upon day by day and carries us throughout our lives. We all recognize that the influence of music fulfills our lives.

Like many of us from the 40s, 50s and early 60s, my parents always had the radio on as they went about their work around the house. My mother would often sing along, and, if the radio were in another room, she would sing on her own. Her voice frequently tamed my restlessness at bedtime with the gentle imagery of "Too-Rahl-Loo-Rahl-Loorah". Often, when my father decided to take a nap, he would play classical music on the phonograph to offer a soothing background to his rest. In this way, my siblings and I listened and learned to appreciate all types of music.

When I entered Kindergarten, Miss Trodden would form us up into a marching band. I loved playing the drums as we paraded around the classroom. It was great fun for us, especially as it was unstructured due to our unfettered creativity. A little bit later, in Grade School, we would enter and exit the auditorium while Miss Southard played the prelude and exit music on the piano for our bi-weekly assemblies.

Devout Catholics, my parents, my brother and I attended Sunday Mass at St. Joseph Church, which had a smaller Cathedral environment. Although, the words were sometimes incomprehensible to me (some songs were sung in Latin), the choir there, offered impressionable music that we did not hear anywhere else. Later, I attended St. Joseph School. Becoming an Altar Boy, we had to learn the Latin responses to the Mass, which helped me to understand the meaning of the songs sung in Latin. The weekly, Friday Student's Mass had a whole other set of emotionally moving songs (in English), a few of which we sing today, here, at Christ Church!

In high school, I spent the first half of my Sophomore Year at the Recollect Augustinian Seminary. It was there that singing was a requirement! This wasn't an issue for me because learning the Gregorian Chant was as interesting as it was "mystical". We learned the value and solemnity of the Gregorian Chant and the associated Latin. It was here at the seminary that I learned that God has many voices; Music being one of them, which, when presented during the church service allows His children to hear the "Love Voice" of God Himself! What this means is that God's voice is a combination of all the Choir members, the organist, and, the full, personal life-long musical experience of each individual who hears it and uniquely interprets it in their own mind. The music in Church, as you have probably encountered, is a powerful, appealing, emotional and soothing voice – perhaps, even more so than the memory of your mother singing a sweet lullaby to you as a baby.

Well, while seminary was an interesting experience for me, I returned to public high school and, harkening back to my Kindergarten exposure, I joined the drum line of my high school marching band. It was so enthralling and invigorating that I immersed myself in lessons, learned to read percussive music

(a big difference from melodic music), and, combining it with my singing, became Lead Singer and Drummer in several Rock Bands throughout high school and into college culminating in our's being the number one Rock Band in Toms River as measured by the turn outs at the local Hullabaloo, 1966 through early 1969!

After service as a jet engine mechanic in the USAF, I gave private drum lessons for several years. As I now had to work to provide for my wife and children, I had to focus on my first career with Bell Laboratories, reducing my interest in music to that of simply an "appreciator". Later, in my second career, as a teacher and college professor, I routinely held three jobs; Who had time for music?

Many life events separated the years. It was not until I met my lovely wife, Colleen, that I felt the return of my long-paused invigoration for music. A truly joyful soul, Colleen routinely sings around the house and along with the car radio. I consider her voice to be that of an angel, and have never failed to tell her so. So, when our new church choir master, Iris Chen, solicited for new choir members, Colleen joined with my profuse support and encouragement.

Anyone who knows us knows that we are well matched with similar interests and very few dissimilarities. Although I had the background and interest, I felt that my self-evaluated talent could be best described as being, well, somewhat less than melodic! The lack of self-confidence after so many years away from it was my main hesitation.

So, what am I doing here? I saw Colleen's joy of purpose, doing something that she relished. I didn't want to interfere with this. Yet, we both missed each other in doing something creative as well as being together in church. After some months of hesitation, I checked with Colleen to ask if she would be alright with perhaps my joining the choir, also. She was very enthusiastic, supporting and encouraging. So, I followed the calling to return to musical performance and have been with the Choir ever since; finding my voice, gaining skill, building my self-confidence, and, feeling closer to my Choir-mates, my fellow parishioners, and, yes, closer to giving God the glory and love He truly deserves. I feel so blessed, no matter my personal opinion of my talent, that I am helping to lead others to hear God's voice.

What do I get out of belonging? Increasing confidence. A growing mastery of music. Overcoming vocal deficiencies – real and imagined. Overcoming and succeeding at challenging music. I have a renewed sense of purpose and commitment while worshipping in a joyful and meaningful way. The pride of delivering my part of a piece to help enhance the overall sound of the Choir. Counting on and being counted upon to contribute to the success of the team. Being a valued member of a respected organization. Providing a worshipful atmosphere for my dear fellow parishioners and a fuller sense of belonging to a church that I love. Of course, there is the camaraderie and joy of helping each other; And, seeing, experiencing and hearing the resulting reaction and participation of the congregants. For me, this avocation is absolutely exciting and so fulfilling!

I am fortunate to be a proud member of St. Gregory's Choir! Our Choir is so privileged to be under the patient, encouraging, phenomenal and understanding leadership of our professional and incredibly talented Choir Master, Fiona Smith Sutherland. She supports and guides us as we learn and perform a wide spectrum of liturgical arrangements that are a joy for us to present!

Maybe, you have wondered if you would like to join a church-based, musical group that is infinitely larger than the sum of its parts? Conceivably, you also have a latent interest in music and would like to try it again? Possibly, you just like singing? We genuinely welcome you! Perhaps you too will marvel at being an integral part of the Voice of God!

WEEKEND IN OLD MONMOUTH

Christ Church opened its doors to visitors for the Weekend in Old Monmouth held May 2 and 3.

Photographs of the church were on display along with the metal orb and our 1717 Vinegar Bible.

Judi and Stuart Buncher in period costumes were among the docents who talked to the visitors about Christ Church history. Other docents included Elaine Feyereisen, Lisa Marino, Peggy James, Madna Aubry, Susan Sellers, Nancy and Bob Stewart and Mother Susanna Cates. In addition, Carl Alfano was in the Parish House on Saturday providing coffee and tea. We recorded 106 visitors for this successful event.



JOIN US!

FLEA Market

AT
CHRIST CHURCH

GREAT FINDS.
GOOD CAUSE. ♥



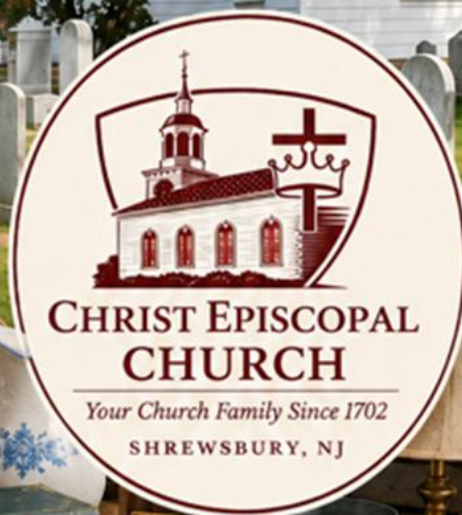
SATURDAY
JUNE 27



9:00 AM – 3:00 PM



Free Entry!



TREASURES
FOR EVERY
ONE! ♥



380 SYCAMORE AVENUE
SHREWSBURY, NJ



PAYMENT:
CASH OR ZELLE

SUPPORT OUR CHURCH • ♥ SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY

**The Shrewsbury Towne—Monmouth Chapter
Daughters of the American Revolution**

*requests the honor of your presence
at an*

***America 250! Commemoration*
Patriot Grave Marking Ceremony**

*honoring
Eighteen Patriots of the American Revolution*

Saturday, June 6, 2026
Eleven o'clock in the morning

Ceremony at Christ Episcopal Church *with additional grave
markings at Presbyterian Church*

Christ Episcopal Church
380 Sycamore Avenue
Shrewsbury, New Jersey 07702

Presbyterian Church
352 Sycamore Avenue
Shrewsbury, New Jersey 07702

A reception will follow in the Christ Church Hall

RSVP by May 6, 2026
Rhonda Aminian, Co-Chair
stmcdar@gmail.com
908-309-7692

THOSE WHO SERVE JUNE

June 7

Celebrant: The Reverend Susanna Cates
Deacon: Reverend William Balmer
Acolytes: Denzel Donaldson, Edgar John, Cassandra Murphy
Lectors: Walter Dein, Tia LaPiana
Ushers: Elaine Feyereisen, Connie Goddard
Organist/Choirmaster: Fiona Smith Sutherland
Altar Guild: Madna Aubry
Coffee Hour: Host Needed!

June 14

Celebrant: The Reverend Susanna Cates
Deacon: Reverend William Balmer
Acolytes: Abe, Dexter & Kodi Craven, Denzel Donaldson
Lectors: Robert Maber, Bob Van Valkenburgh
Ushers: Bramley Maber, Christine Maber
Organist/Choirmaster: Fiona Smith Sutherland
Altar Guild: Colleen & Mark Roth
Coffee Hour: Ice Cream Sundaes

June 21

Celebrant: The Reverend Susanna Cates
Deacon: Reverend William Balmer
Acolytes: Jonathan Badal, Denzel Donaldson, Tia LaPiana (CB)
Lectors: Dash Cassidy, Laura Stroebel
Ushers: Walter Dein, George Edwards
Organist/Choirmaster: Fiona Smith Sutherland
Altar Guild: Judi Buncher & Tia LaPiana
Iced Tea: Peggy James

June 28

Celebrant: The Reverend Susanna Cates
Deacon: Reverend William Balmer
Acolytes: Denzel Donaldson, Joshua & Matthew Dunford
Lectors: Kodi Craven, Tara Dunford
Ushers: Carl Alfano, Connie Goddard
Organist/Choirmaster: Fiona Smith Sutherland
Altar Guild: Cindy Webster
Iced Tea: Nancy & Bob Stewart

JUNE 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4 <u>10 am</u> Choir Rehearsal	5	6 <u>11 am</u> Patriot Marker Dedication
7 <u>9 am</u> Holy Eucharist + Holy Baptism	8	9	10	11 <u>10 am</u> Choir Rehearsal <u>5:30 pm</u> The Gathering	12	13
14 <u>9 am</u> Holy Eucharist Youth Sunday + Choir Appreciation	15	16	17 <u>11:30 am</u> The Gathering	18	19	20
21 <u>9 am</u> Holy Eucharist Father's Day Celebration	22 <u>7 pm</u> Vestry Meeting	23	24	25	26	27 <u>9 am - 3 pm</u> Parish Flea Market <u>5 pm</u> Summertime Service
28 <u>9 am</u> Holy Eucharist	29	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

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

