

# 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 XXIII Issue V

May 2023

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*New Tables for a New Parish Hall!*

*“I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me,  
because he considered me faithful, putting me into service.” 1 Timothy 1.12*

Dear Friends,

Paul’s prayer is not uniquely his own; it belongs to each and every one of us. For if you are a member of a faith community (like Christ Church) then you *have* been drafted into service. Perhaps you simply do not know it yet.

This really struck me as I came back to Christ Church from my Sabbatical. So much service goes on around this place! One might think that things would simply drift along while the priest is gone, a little sabbatical for everyone. Think again. This place saw a flurry of activity, bustling along each and every week. I think that is the best compliment any rector can receive, for our call is to equip the saints for the work of the ministry, and our “saints” seem very well equipped and out there day in and day out getting the job done.

The Annual Meeting and the elections seemed nearly flawless – the Annual Report never looked better. The renovations for the Parish House continued week after week; who would have known just how much would be involved with that? The Vestry took on new projects, including funding and putting on a new roof on the Parish House (how glad I was that I avoided all of that!) and I was so very happy to get a text from Ms. Nap while I was still in Oklahoma that Eggstravaganza was on and I needed to get my order in. I did. They were delicious!

The Church School has me in total awe. Despite the fact that classrooms were unavailable and everything seemed to be shifting and changing under their feet, our Team of competent teachers handled it all with grace and ease. They have truly been an inspiration to me. They began Communion Classes while I was gone (something that I had traditionally done myself) and are gearing up for Communion Sunday next week. Not only that but I was happily surprised to come back to our children serenading us with beautiful music at Easter. The Altar Guild truly stepped up to the plate, taking on all of the painstaking work of getting the church ready for Holy Week and Easter, making for a beautiful liturgy each and every day. It seems everyone has been put into service.

Other things happened while I was gone, too. The Reverend Bill Balmer joined our staff in January – the day I left for Sabbatical! I am delighted that he and his wife Jane are back here at Christ Church, their home for so many years and the church which sponsored him through his Diaconal training. Deacon Bill’s presence during my absence allowed me to sleep better; I knew between him and Deacon Vicki you were in warm, supportive hands.

Sadly, it was not long after I left for Oklahoma that I received the phone call that our Sexton Kevin Carroll had passed away. I had grown so very fond of Kevin since he arrived at Christ Church some four years ago, and even more so after he joined our staff in August. Being so far away, there seemed nothing for me to do, but the Wardens and Vestry pulled together and our former Sexton Jeff Veil (quite a favorite of mine 😊) stepped in to fill the gap. We thank Jeff for generously volunteering his time even as we mourned the loss of Kevin. And of course, we now are welcoming a new Sexton to our staff (do read about her in this edition of the *Crown*).

There is an old saying that many hands make the work light. How true it is! Each person taking up their part, each one reaching out in service to God and one another What a blessed place to be and what a blessing each one of you is. May we continue to be found faithful in all we do and in who we are.

Peace,

Mother Lisa+

### **NEWS AND NOTES:**

Any Changes? Advise us of any changes in your address or telephone number. Let us know so we can keep our records up to date. Please send us an email or call the Church Office at 732-741-2220

#### Parish Hours

Monday – closed

Tuesday – 9 am – 2 pm

Wednesday - 9 am – 2 pm

Thursday – 9 am – 2 pm

Friday – 9 am – 2 pm

### **SPECIAL THANK YOUS**

To all who helped put the Parish Hall back together.

To Brother Richard Biernacki who secured a grant for us for new tables for the Parish Hall.

To Matthew Dunford for your help in organizing, planning and participating in the Easter Egg Hunt.

To Judi and Stuart Buncher, Halina Nibbling, Colleen and Mark Roth, and Cindy Webster for help polishing the brass and silver.

To Judi Buncher, Halina Nibbling, Colleen Roth, Cindy Webster and Mother Lisa for helping set up the beautiful flowers and everything else that needed to be done to make Easter a special day

**YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED:**

### **SAVE THE DATE: FUNDRAISING EVENTS**

June 11 – Parish Life Event – Pot Luck Luncheon

June 12 – June 24 – Drop off your items for the Flea Market – Please – no early items

June 24 – Flea Market – plan to shop of help out

June 25 – Help organize and clean up flea

**For the sick and suffering, and those in any need or trouble:** \*Mignon Williams, \*Cassie Reagan, \*John Smalls, \*Joan, \*Jim Miller, \*Beverly Eager, Ryser, \*Judi Buncher, \*Carolyn, \*MiMi Brown, \*Sarah Schmid, \*Susan Vän Valkenburg, \*Tara Dunford, \*Irwin Rapolla, \*Lisa Ficarelli-Halpern, \*Jonathan Badal, John Veil, Jennifer Turner, Pam, Stan Brower, Queeni, Jocelyn, Mariwether Schmid, Julie, Heather Lance, Pat and Bob Rivenes, Peedy, Gil, Edie, Julia, Bert, Barbara, Sherrie, the Fontana family, Vivian Hillborn, Lea Gallagher, Judy, Mary Ellen, Tammy, Don Smith, Greg, Judy Gregor, Jack Sauber, Rico and Liesel Rauschmayer, Bob, Jim Halpern, Joe, Jane Barnes, Jay Curlee, Alison, Rick, Geraldine Watson, Katie, Michael, Donna, Michelle Ten Eyck, Evelyn Curley, Marian Bryja, Judy Smith, Mary Andrews, Ann Hatami, Eugene Krikowski, Timothy Keating, Walter Hutchins, Max Garweg,, Lynn McKittrick, Barbara Roth Moore, \*Stacy Reagan, \*William Balmer, Mary T., Max Thomas, Virginia Aiello, Barbara Pica, Larry Nibbling, Kristy, Colleen Roth, Michael Quinlan. *May they be relieved of their distress*

## Welcoming a New Staff Members: Halina Nibbling, Sexton



Born in Poland, Halina came to the United States at the age of 10. She grew up in North Jersey, where her parents still live. Halina and her husband Larry (the love of her life who she describes as kind, sweet, and hilarious) currently reside in Middletown. Their kids, Chelsea and Charlie, have four paws. They also have two in heaven, Cheyenne and Shelby, who she misses everyday.

Larry found Christ Church four years ago and they have loved being members of this community. She considers it a privilege to be a part of this church, and now a member of the staff. Halina also serves as an acolyte and chalice bearer and is a member of the Altar Guild. Previous to working here, she was a dental hygienist for 25 years.



## Bill Balmer, Deacon

After spending 40+ years in the financial services industry, I was fast approaching retirement when I jumped at the chance to follow the road to the Diaconate ~ hoping to do God's good work, have some fun along the way, and stay relevant as long as possible. A cradle Episcopalian, I had many years of experience in a number of different lay ministries, but my main interest was primarily finance (in addition to parish finances, I served for many years as a Diocesan Investment Trust board member). I was ordained a Deacon in the Diocese of New Jersey in May 2015.

Since being ordained, I have become especially interested in preaching and teaching the *Good News* of Jesus Christ, adult faith formation, facilitating weekly lectionary and bible studies, and mentoring first offenders in the local community as well as inmates at the N.J. Youth Correctional Facility in Bordentown. I have also been active in various outreach ministries in central Jersey and beyond, including a diocesan supported medical equipment ministry and a *faith in action* Jubilee center which maintains a weekly community fellowship supper, food pantry, and thrift store serving anyone who comes to them for help.

My wife, Jane, and I have been married for more than 50 years, and together we have two adult children, Evan and Erin, and six grand-children that have brought immeasurable joy and excitement to our lives.



## GFS News

### **FEEDING THE HEART AND SOUL:**

*Gfs Annual Mother/Daughter Retreat!*

It is once again time for our annual Mother/Daughter Retreat. This one will definitely be a feast of a retreat, so bring a Bible (for feasting on the Word) and bring your appetite for feasting on some delicious Foods! It is a wonderful way to get your Mother's Day Weekend off to a joyous and blessed start.

**COST** per Mother/Daughter: \$175 (\$88 for a single) and \$20 for each additional girl sharing a room

**WHO:** All girls ages 5 and up and their mothers (or grandmothers or guardians)

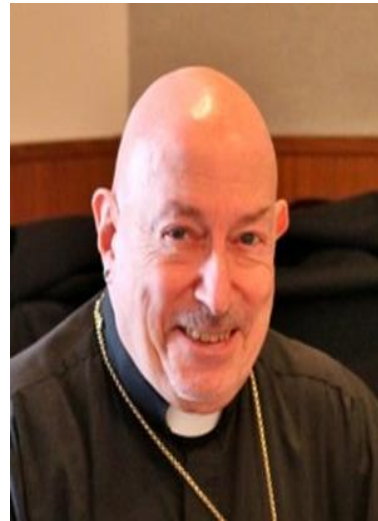
**WHEN:** Friday May 12 @ 5pm to Saturday May 13 @ Noon

**WHERE:** Grove Hall, Ocean Grove New Jersey

*Scholarships are available - don't hesitate to ask!*

RSVP either directly to this email. Friends are welcome! This is a great way to introduce GFS to your friends. Questions? You can call Mother Lisa @ 732-567-5714.

*The Cost is all-inclusive, covering your room, all meals & snacks, and crafts & activities*



### **CALLED TO SERVE**

**The Brotherhood of Saint Gregory** is a Christian Community of The Episcopal Church, its Communion Partners, and the worldwide Anglican Communion, whose members follows a common rule and serves the church on parochial, diocesan, and national levels. Members — clergy and lay, without regard to marital status — live individually, in small groups, or with their families. They support themselves and the community through their secular or church-related work, making use of their God-given talents in the world while not being *of* the world. The trust that all labor and life can be sanctified is summed up in the community's motto: *Soli Deo Gloria*, To God Alone the Glory.

**Flexibility is crucial** in the ministry of the Brotherhood. Each member is encouraged to develop his gifts and talents under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the care direction of the community. Brothers work in parishes as liturgists, musicians, librarians, artists, visitors to the poor and the sick, administrators, sextons, teachers, guild members, and clergy. On diocesan and national levels, brothers serve in a number



of administrative and pastoral capacities. Many of those in secular employment continue the servant theme, and work as teachers, nurses and administrators. The aim is always to follow Saint Gregory the Great as “servants of the servants of God” — whether in church or society.

This the time of the year when the Brotherhood considers grants to parishes and organizations at which the brothers serve and minister. We have just completed the review and have made a grant to Christ Church of \$2,345.00 for various needs in the refurbished parish house, a new coffee maker among other things!

More information about the Brotherhood can be found at [Gregorians.org](http://Gregorians.org). There are videos, history etc. Even music!  
*-Brother Richard Bernarski*

### **Queeni Caay**

To my Christ Church Shrewsbury family, It is wonderful to see that everything is going well at church. I always read the Crown and check the church website at times because it is my only way to connect with you. I saw more people during the holy week events, and everyone looked happy and healthy. The church looks like a new building, and it seems like the much-needed repairs mentioned in the past are successfully done. Mother Lisa is also back, and the holy week activities went smoothly. All good news. I am happy for everyone. And as usual, I loved seeing the kids participate in the Easter Egg hunt. Such pure joy plastered on their faces makes me want to shrink into a 5-year-old and play with them.

But the reality is, I am now a full-grown adult. Of course, we're still allowed to play around regardless of our age. As many of you would say, “*We are always a kid at heart*”. We, adults, do have more things we need to

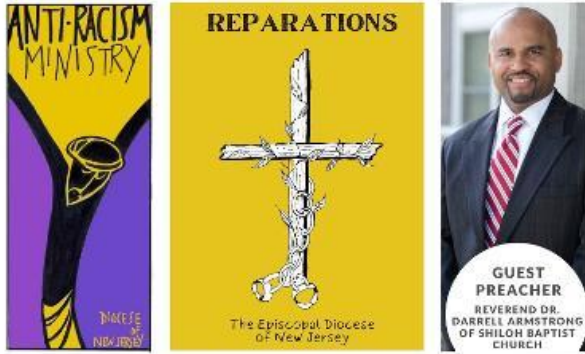
take care of but none of it should stop us from enjoying the life God has given to us. Life on Earth is short, hence, savor the moment. Go ahead, have fun, and dance with life. I admit lately life has been fairly dull and uneventful for me which is why I wasn't able to write anything for you in the past month. Our college department has yet to make any real progress with our deployment.

Technically, all of us are now interns but we are yet to be deployed to our designated media companies. For two months now, we have not done anything more besides reporting to school and attending seminars. It is hard for me to figure out the real problem because our professor is also not giving us a clear answer. I assume it is because of the newly implemented rules post-pandemic. The university is also extremely busy with important events. And the fact that graduation won't happen too soon could mean we have all the time to wait.

Nonetheless, I try to not grow impatient. I spent the holy week at my mother's place, and I am using my free time to be productive. I was mainly assigned to be deployed for TV while most of my friends are assigned to be deployed for radio. When that starts, I will be working for a TV Network here. I am using my free time to hone my skills. Wish me luck!

Love from Ph to USA,

Queeni



# 'TIL EARTH AND HEAVEN RING

A SPECIAL EVENING PRAYER SERVICE FOR HEALING AND GOSPEL JUSTICE AND IN RECOGNITION OF BISHOP STOKES' STRONG SUPPORT FOR RACIAL JUSTICE MINISTRIES.

SUNDAY MAY 7TH, 2023 4:00PM  
 TRINITY CATHDRAL 801 W STATE ST. TRENTON, NJ 08618



Organized by the Diocese of New Jersey Reparations Commission & Anti-Racism Commission



## Heritage Rose Garden

This year marks the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Heritage Rose Garden, which began in 2013 under the guidance of the late Bob Kelly and which was dedicated in memory of Bob and Anne Marie Kelly a year ago on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Members of the Shrewsbury Garden Club have been involved with the garden since the beginning planting the Heritage Roses and adding perennials and annuals.

On June 10<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m., the Shrewsbury Garden Club is planning a celebration at the garden in honor of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. All are invited to attend.

*Nancy Stewart*

## PARISH HOUSE KITCHEN

In anticipation of getting back into using the Parish House, several parishioners over a period of time joined together to empty boxes, line cabinets, wash and dry glasses, silverware and dishware, pots, pans, crock pots, utensils and all sorts of other kitchen paraphernalia and then to re-stock the shelves and drawers. Many thanks to Peggy James, Elaine Feyereisen, Colleen Roth, Mark Roth, Nancy Stewart, Connie Goddard, Carl Alfano, Cindy Webster, Halina Nibbling, Larry Nibbling, Mimi Brown, Gordon Brown, Laura Reilly and Walt Dein who expended a good amount of effort and time to make this happen. Thanks!  
*Sue Napoletano*



### **Caring for our Graveyard**

A reminder that periodically the graveyard is cleaned up – not only from leaves and branches – but also any little remembrances that may be left at the gravesides. Please be mindful of what you place there, as it impacts our ability to cut the grass and keep everything in order. Thank you.

### **Holy Hike for Youth**

St. John's Episcopal Church Little Silver invites youth groups from across the Diocese to join us as we experience the wonder of God in nature. Hike will be followed by an outdoor Communion. This event is intended for youth twelve years and older. We ask that all participating youth/youth groups provide adult chaperones to assist in the event. Consent forms are also required. Healthy snakes will be provided. Please bring water and tick repellent. Registration is required.

Where: Thompson Park, 805 Newman Springs Rd. Lincroft, NJ

When: Sunday, May 7, 2023, 2 – 4 pm

Email: [stjohnslittlesilver@verizon.net](mailto:stjohnslittlesilver@verizon.net)



## Those Who Serve – May 2023

May 7

Celebrant: Reverend Lisa Mitchell  
Deacons: 8 am William Balmer, 10 am Victoria Cuff  
Acolytes: 8 am Judi Buncher, 10 am Joshua and Matthew Dunford, Edgar John  
Lectors: 8 am Sean Griffith, 10 am Tara Dunford  
Ushers: 8 am Walter Dein, 10 am Connie Goddard, Larry Nibbling  
Organist: Iris Chen  
Altar Guild: Halina Nibbling

May 14

Celebrant: Reverend Lisa Mitchell  
Deacons; 8 am William Balmer, 10 am Victoria Cuff  
Acolytes: 8 am Edgar John, 10 am Dexter and Kody Craven, Cassandra Murphy  
Lectors: 8 am Peggy James, 10 am Bill Cuff  
Ushers: 8 am John Callaghan, 10 am Bramley Maber, Christine Maber  
Organist: 8 Iris Chen  
Altar Guild: Phyllis Edwards

May 21

Celebrant: Reverend Lisa Mitchell  
Deacons: 8 am William Balmer, 10 am Victoria Cuff  
Acolytes: 8 am Judi Buncher, 10 am Isabel & Isara Chen-Durek, Andrew Brown  
Lectors: 8 am Walter Dein, 10 am Martie Viets  
Ushers: 8 am Carl Alfano, 10 am Rod Webster, Jim O'Connor  
Organist: Iris Chen  
Altar Guild: Cindy Webster

May 28

Celebrant: Reverend Lisa Mitchell  
Deacons: 8 am William Balmer, 10 am Victoria Cuff  
Acolytes: 8 am Edgar John, 10 am Joshua and Matthew Dunford, Trevor Van Valkenburgh  
Lectors: 8 am Peggy James, 10 am Bob Van Valkenburgh  
Ushers: 8 am Judi Buncher, 10 am Elaine Feyereisen, George Edwards, Steven Rudolph  
Organist: Iris Chen  
Altar Guild: Judy Buncher



# May 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b> Office closed ML+ away	<b>2</b> Clericus in Freehold	<b>3</b> <u>9:30 - 11:15AM</u> Peak of the Week	<b>4</b> Graveyard Commission 7 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Weekend in Olde Monmouth
<b>7</b> <u>8AM</u> Holy Eucharist  <u>10AM</u> Holy Eucharist  Weekend in Olde Monmouth Communion Sunday Evening Prayer at the Cathedral 4 pm	<b>8</b> Office closed ML+ away	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> <u>9:30 - 11:15AM</u> Peak of the Week Finance Meeting	<b>11</b> Choir Practice 7:30 pm	<b>12</b> GFS Mother/Daughter Retreat	<b>13</b> GFS Mother/Daughter Retreat
<b>14</b> <u>8AM</u> Holy Eucharist  <u>10AM</u> Holy Eucharist	<b>15</b> Office closed ML+ away	<b>16</b> ML+ away	<b>17</b> <u>9:30 - 11:15AM</u> Peak of the Week  ML+ away	<b>18</b> Choir Practice 7:30 pm  ML+ away	<b>19</b> ML+ away	<b>20</b> ML+ away
<b>21</b> <u>8AM</u> Holy Eucharist  <u>10AM</u> Holy Eucharist	<b>22</b> Office closed  <u>7PM</u> VESTRY meeting	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <u>9:30 - 11:15AM</u> Peak of the Week	<b>25</b> Choir Practice 7:30 pm	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> <u>8AM</u> Holy Eucharist  <u>10AM</u> Holy Eucharist	<b>29</b> Office closed	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> <u>9:30 - 11:15AM</u> Peak of the Week Boy Scout Visit at 4 pm			

# *Christ Church Shrewsbury*

*380 Sycamore Avenue  
Shrewsbury, NJ 07702*

[ChristChurchShrewsbury@verizon.net](mailto:ChristChurchShrewsbury@verizon.net)

*The Communications Team reminds you to check the web site for current parish news.  
www.christchurchshrewsbury.org*



"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 Victoria Cuff, Deacon  
The Reverend William Balmer, Deacon  
Iris Chen, Organist/Choirmaster  
Debbie Roese, Office Administrator  
Halina Nibbling, Sexton

## **VESTRY 2023**

Peggy James – Senior Warden, Stewardship  
Connie Goddard – Junior Warden  
Elaine Feyereisen  
Dianne Regiec  
Carl Alfano  
Sheila Hatami-Watson  
Sue Napoletano- Church School  
Larry Nibbling – Finance  
Robin Solbach  
Martie Viets – Parish Life  
Treasurer – Stephen Craven  
Asst. Treasurer--Lynn Marengo, Larry Nibbling  
Vestry Clerk – Nancy Stewart