

# 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 VIII

August 2023

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***Second Annual Independence Day Service with the Presbyterians;  
Guest Speaker The Honorable Donald Burden, former Mayor of Shrewsbury,  
President of the Shrewsbury Historical Society, and noted local Author***

*“God makes grass to grow upon the mountains and green plants to serve humankind. God provides food for flocks and herds and for the young ravens when they cry.” Psalm 147.9-10*

Dear Friends,

We are in the heart of summer, the month of August. I imagine we all can conjure up childhood memories of this carefree month in a moment's notice; there is nothing more pleasant than the freedom of a sunny blue sky, ocean and pools beckoning, and for the present, no school. But times, they are a changin'.

As I write this, I am reading the last few chapters of the Psalter which are appointed for the end of every month. They are filled with images of God, nature, and the interplay between the two. I love them. I also love seeing them play out in my own backyard: the little chipmunk who greets me every morning on my back porch to eat his breakfast. The rabbits munching clover, and the family of groundhogs savoring those slices of watermelon we toss out their way. Even the plethora of bugs and insects I meet up with as I continue my battle with the weeds on the front lawn – they all make me so very glad to be alive and to be a part of this wonderful planet we inhabit.

But times, they are a changin'. We have been hearing about climate change and global warming for years, but all of a sudden it is here. We don't notice it so much in the Garden State. Here our summers are quite pleasant! We can still get out and do things, and if the temperature hits the 90s, then we call it a heat wave. But for the most part, we inhabit an idyllic part of the world.

Not so elsewhere. The recent report of over 100 degree water temperatures in Florida was quite shocking. The outlandish number of forest fires, tornados, torrential rains and flooding, and whatever else we might imagine are really unreal. It was not so long ago that I could simply switch the station and not have to deal with what were once freakish outbursts of nature. But no more.

I am not sure what we as a people of faith are to do with all of this. We have always celebrated creation – particularly as we see God's hand (and heart) reflected in the beauties of our planet earth. We have felt a special responsibility to it from the first chapters of scripture where we are charged to take care of our world and all that is in it, to be good stewards of the bounty of our Lord.

Listening to the scientists is not very hopeful. We humans have got to get our act together and figure this out before there is nothing left to figure out. My hope lies in my belief that there is a God, and that this God is just as concerned as we are. More so, even. I also think it is the Church's special mission (as well as people of all Faiths) to raise our voices in solidarity. It is time to bend our knees in prayer, serious prayer. It is time for us to act. I am still not sure how we do all of this, but I believe our Lord will lead the way and show us what we need to do – if we will ask him.

Let us indeed stand in the gap. May we pray for our planet and her inhabitants. May we call upon the God who makes grass to grow and provides food for every living creature. May we encourage one another to action, for to do nothing is simply not an option. May our Lord continue to bless us and keep us, and may God's grace and mercy be felt in all places among all peoples.

Peace,

Mother Lisa+

### **September means Coffee Hour!**

Before you know it, we will be hosting Coffee Hour back in the Parish Hall – after more than three years! Watch for information about signing up. We miss you all!

## 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

### Birth Announcement:

Congratulations to Mariah Honecker and Frank Thomas on the birth of their son, Otto Alexander Thomas born on 7/11/23 at 7:10 am in his home in Sea Cliff, NY. Otto weighs 7 lbs 11 oz. All are doing fine.



### YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED:

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

\*Mignon Williams, \*Cassie Reagan, \*John Smalls, \*Joan, \*Jim Miller, \*Beverly Ryser, \*Judi Buncher, \*Carolyn, \*MiMi Brown, \*Sarah Schmid, \*Susan Van Valkenburg, \*Tara Dunford, \*Irwin Rapolla, \*Lisa Ficarelli-Halpern, \*Jonathan Badal, \*Larry Nibbling, \*Halina Nibbling, \*Stacy Reagan, \*Bill Balmer, \*Colleen Roth, John Veil, Jennifer Turner, Pam, Stan Brower, Queeni, Jocelyn, Mariwether Schmid, Julie, Heather Lance, Pat and Bob Rivenes, Peedy, Gil, Ed, Julia, 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, Alison, Rick, Geraldine Watson, Katie, Michael, Donna, Michelle Ten Eyck, Marian Bryja, Judy Smith, Mary Andrews, Ann Hatami, Eugene Krikowski, Walter Hutchins, Max Garweg, Lynn McKittrick, Barbara Roth Moore, Mary T., Max, Thomas, Barbara Pica, Kristy, Jim Kilroy, Peter Janosz, Lisa Nastasi, Anne Bryja, Tony Chen, Maryann Binn, Dale and Pam Diamond, Anna Zarebczan, Doug Stives, Edie K.

*May they be relieved of their distress*

*\*denotes members of Christ Church*



### From Queeni Quaay

Dearest Christ Church Shrewsbury family,

My internship is over, and I am now accomplishing graduation necessities such as the yearbook pictorial. I listed our loving Mother Lisa, the diligent Mr. Walter Dein who guided me and stood as my father figure, and our kind Ma'am Peggy James in my yearbook as my sponsors although I did not solicit from anyone. It is just the right thing to do because they're literally some of the people who built the pathway for me to reach this point.

All of you have been equally supportive and I wish I could add everyone's names but please know that I cherish you in my heart and you are always in my daily prayers. I hope more students could get this kind of help because there are deserving young people all around the world who crave education. I remember during our senior high yearbook pictorial I wore a black suit that fits me nicely and my friends were like, "You'd look really good on TV. You have the aura and the stance of a reporter." And just recently, I got to be an intern reporter for television. I went to many places to cover disasters, crimes, and issues that need urgent attention. The news I wrote all by myself was aired over the region.

I singlehandedly interviewed sources, assisted inside the studio and control room, and was sent to events as their representative. As shown in the

image from last month's *Crown*, we also got to experience what it is to be a news anchor. It was dreamy for me, and I felt accomplished. My final grade for the internship subject is 96%. I consider it an achievement because the veterans in the field of media are the ones who gave the evaluation so to be complimented that I have more than adequate knowledge and skills to work in the real world makes me happy. I worked hard not just for my family and myself but because I want to be deserving of your help all these years.

You deserve to know that I am very qualified to graduate with Latin honors because my grades are satisfactory enough to receive recognition. But if you can recall, when I was in my first year, I had to stop studying for a while to help my family because we faced a financial crisis. I have no regrets. I know I'll reach my dreams no matter the circumstances. However, it cost me the Latin honors that I should have been qualified for. At that time, I didn't have a choice but to drop a few classes. Dropping subjects will affect a student's qualification for Latin honors. I will be lying if I say I did not get a little disappointed, but I am okay now. It will not change the fact that my transcript of records is more than satisfactory. I have no grades below 86%. I know that I have been a remarkable student and so my heart is contented.

Your student from Philippines,  
*Queenie*



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### **Spiritual Popular Songs and e pluribus unum**

This month's *Crown* article takes a slightly different look at hymns. Last month, we explored the development of a uniquely American style hymn: the spiritual folk song. This month, we will look at some instances in which popular songs were successfully turned into spirituals.

Swiping popular songs for melodies to use with sacred text is not new. After all, as Martin Luther himself asked, "Why should the devil have all the

good tunes?" And, from a purely evangelizing perspective, this makes absolute sense: popular songs are *popular*, people already like the music. All that's got to be done, the reasoning goes, is replace the worldly, sinful words with spiritual words. This is easier conceptualized than done, however. People don't just like the tunes, in songs they enjoy, but also the words. Hoodwinking unsuspecting popular song fans into religious exaltation is no easy task. That said, some have been successful.

"Singin' Billy Walker," from Spartanburg, South Carolina, was one of them. In 1835, he published the enormously successful *The Southern Harmony*. The hefty hymnbook of 334 spirituals included existing hymns, newly-composed spirituals by himself. (Walker admits in the preface that, while he "composed several tunes wholly," he additionally "composed the parts to a great many good airs which I could not find in any publication, nor in manuscript, and assigned my name as the author.") The American music historian H. Wiley Hitchcock describes *The Southern Harmony* as the book exhibiting popular tunes transformed into spirituals. A salient example is "Auld Lang Syne," which was given the title "Plenary," and set to Isaac Watts's hymn "Hark! from the tombs a doleful sound." The Ozark Mountain party song "Where, O where is pretty little Susie?" (also known as the college song "Where, O where are the pea-green freshmen?") was reclothed as "Wonder where is good ole Daniel?"

*The Southern Harmony* comprised tunes not just from Appalachia and the rural South but also from Yankee tunesmiths, including some by Lowell Mason. The patriotic ditty "Hail! Columbia" was set to religious text, as were Scottish folk songs and Irish reels. Black spirituals—often themselves based in popular song—also found their way into his book. Its eclecticism was its strength. By drawing from a huge variety of existing hymns and spiritually-transformed popular songs, Walker hit upon an American verity: to reach the greatest number of people the material needs to be sourced from the great variety that is inherent in America itself.

By Patrick Durek

## Thinking Ahead...

Do you like to paint? Have I got a paint brush and a paint can with your name on it. There are 5-6 bookcases and a metal desk that really need a fresh coat of paint before we start back to Church School in the Fall. Not a painter? There are several other relatively easy tasks as well. Thanks to Walter and his merry band of cleaners, the choir room has been cleared out, is tidy and freshened up. So next it's on to the classrooms. I will be coordinating and overseeing the set up and cleaning of those 3 areas. None these projects will be starting until after the first week of August when I return from vacation. If you have some spare time and would like to volunteer for any of these tasks, please email me at [susienap@yahoo.com](mailto:susienap@yahoo.com), text or give me a call at 732-272-5135. We'll work up a schedule. Kids always welcome!!!!!! Looking forward to hearing from you.

Now, on to the next fundraiser -- Did I hear someone mention BOSCOVS? Oh yeah, that was me. Friends Helping Friends in-store shopping night is happening on October 18, 2023. As soon as the \$5.00 coupons are available, we'll announce it and then we're off and running. Don't miss out. Start putting aside your spare change now. That way you'll have lots of cash on hand to purchase lots of coupons to maximize your shopping pleasure as well as increase our fundraising account balance.

One last thing, ever notice that Boscovs and Bazaar both start with a B? That's to remind you that great deals can be scored at Boscovs in October at the sale to fill up your basket for the Christmas Bazaar.  
*Faithfully, Sue Napoletano*

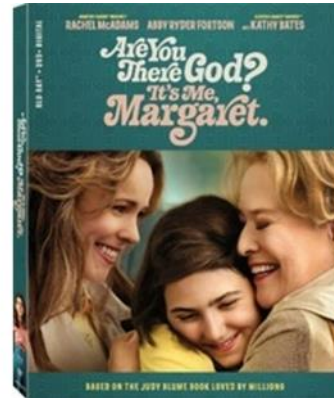
## Girls Friendly Society News

It has been a fun summer for GFS girls! After a four-year hiatus, we finally made it back to Holiday House in July for a weekend of Camp, which we shared with GFS of Pennsylvania. Juli Bustamante, Amelie Aubry-Bates, Isabelle Chen-Durek, Cassie Reagan, Stacy Reagan, Peggy James, and Mother Lisa attended from our local GFS Chapter. We did a camp presentation for the congregation on Hymnfest Sunday, July 30th.

**In August**, World Council will be taking place in South Africa. Although no one in our chapter will

be traveling there, there will be a zoom from Holiday House in Cape May.

Our Program Year will begin in **September** with an Induction Ceremony and Reception on **Sunday, September 10th following the 10:00am service.** We will meet in the Parish House Chapel for our ceremony, followed by some delicious treats. All girls and interested women are invited to attend. Our next event will be making Dog Biscuits on Sunday, October 1st. Stay tuned!



## Peak of the Week

So, it's time to start thinking of September. Things that were just put On Hold a short time ago now must be switched to On. Like Peak in the Week! Yes, it's getting close to Peaking time—we'll start on Wednesday, SEPTEMBER 6 so no need to get revved up **quite** yet--but it's time to get the book we'll be reading--Judy Blume's **Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret.** This is a very easily read book but there are not so easy insights to be gained--read well. See you September....

*Donna Devlin*



## Monmouth County SPCA

The SPCA continues to seek donations of sheets, towels, blankets that are NOT quilted and box lids (ie: box that comes under cases of bottled water, canned goods, etc. ) Please bring items to the parish house during office hours. Thank you.

*Elaine Feyereisen*

## SCENES FROM GFS SUMMER CAMP



*Shrewsbury Chapter*



*Holiday House Juniors*



*The Chapel: The Vine and the Branches*



*Displaying their Grapevine Wreaths*

## Those Who Serve – August 2023

*Please check your calendars for September, October and November.*

*We will be back to 8:00am and 10:00am services, and will be working on the schedules.*

August 6 –

Celebrant: Reverend Lisa Mitchell  
Deacon: Reverend William Balmer  
Acolytes: Joshua and Matthew Dunford, Edgar John  
Lector: Bob Honecker  
Ushers: George Edwards, Walter Dein  
Organist: Iris Chen  
Altar Guild: Phyllis Edwards  
Iced Tea: Carl Alfano

August 13 –

Celebrant: Reverend Lisa Mitchell  
Deacon: Reverend William Balmer  
Acolytes: Joshua and Matthew Dunford, Brian Wachter, Andrew Brown  
Lector: Tara Dunford  
Ushers: Rod Webster, Jim O'Connor  
Organist: Iris Chen  
Altar Guild: Cindy Webster  
Iced Tea: Elaine Feyereisen

August 20 –

Celebrant: Reverend Lisa Mitchell  
Deacon: Reverend William Balmer  
Acolytes: Isabelle and Isara Chen-Durek, Cassandra Murphy  
Lector: Connie Goddard  
Ushers: Bramley Maber, Christine Maber  
Organist: Iris Chen  
Altar Guild: Judi Buncher, Colleen Roth  
Iced Tea: Steve Craven

August 27 –

Celebrant: Reverend Lisa Mitchell  
Deacon: William Balmer  
Acolytes: Trevor Van Valkenburgh, Joshua and Matthew Dunford  
Lector: Bob Van Valkenburgh  
Ushers: Judi Buncher, Connie Goddard  
Altar Guild: Halina Nibbling  
Iced Tea: Sheila Hatami-Watson

***Don't forget to let the office know when you can host the Coffee Hour!***

# August 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>  Mass on the Grass 5 pm
<b>6</b> <u>9 am</u> Holy Eucharist	<b>7</b> <u>Office closed</u>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>  Mass on the Grass 5 pm
<b>13</b> <u>9 am</u> Holy Eucharist	<b>14</b> <u>Office closed</u>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>  Mass on the Grass 5 pm
<b>20</b> <u>9 AM</u> Holy Eucharist	<b>21</b> <u>Office open</u>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Debbie Off	<b>24</b> Debbie Off	<b>25</b> Debbie Off	<b>26</b>  Mass on the Grass 5 pm
<b>27</b> <u>9AM</u> Holy Eucharist	<b>28</b> <u>Office closed</u>  Vestry Meeting	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>Sept. 4</b> <b>Labor</b> <b>Day</b>	



# *Christ Church Shrewsbury*

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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](http://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