

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 XXIV Issue II

March 2024



*Despite the cheery predictions of a certain groundhog,
winter comes to Shrewsbury*

“We press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 3.14

Dear Friends,

We have a new vestry. Let me be clear: it is not *exactly* a new vestry as we have many returning members. Some are in the middle of their three-year terms, others asked if they could stay on. One person is returning, having served several years ago. And we have one brand-new, first-time member. But every vestry is different: the configuration of parishioners who step forward each year to help lead our parish makes for a unique body of leadership. This one is no exception.

This newly formed vestry met on February 23rd for dinner at the home of Peggy James for a very casual and fun “meet-and-greet”. Now, you might think that in a parish the size of Christ Church we already know one another, and quite well. But that isn’t exactly the case. We took turns at dinner introducing ourselves and how we came to be a part of Christ Church. After all these years together, there were still plenty of surprises.

Saturday morning, we met in the Parish Hall with a more serious agenda. Breakfast and a little Bible Study (the verse above was from the passage we reflected upon) which helped us to focus on the work at hand. We discussed just what the work of the vestry is – and what responsibilities one has a member of the vestry.

Finally, we discussed our goals for this year of 2024. What is most pressing for us at Christ Church at this particular moment in our parish? When I asked our Vestry what they would like to explore first, I was delighted that they immediately mentioned the ministries of Christ Church. We talked about expanding what we have started involving Food Insecurity (Martha’s Cupboard has been with us for nearly 20 years) to meet further needs in our community. We talked about our Church School and especially our Youth Group. Both the adult and children’s choirs were on our minds; such exciting things happening with both of them. This consensus is that this is the time to expand our Outreach Ministries, now that the pandemic is mostly behind us and our buildings are in good shape. We are primed and pumped for expansion.

We also discussed our financial solvency, which is the primary responsibility of the Vestry, including what is going on with the staff positions, how to communicate our concerns better with the congregation, increasing the use of our buildings to outside groups, and a couple of new events that will both increase our sense of community (don’t we all want a little fun?) and raise a few additional dollars. However, we are so encouraged by the way the parish has turned things around in the past few months that we are all ready to breathe a sigh of relief and get back to the kingdom work at hand.

So: just who is it that sits on your Vestry (for it really is *your* Vestry)? Our Senior Warden is Peggy James. Junior Warden is Elaine Feyereisen. Both of whom have served in these positions many times; we are blessed to have them leading the charge. Our Vestry Members are: Carl Alfano, Madna Aubry, Julie Cassidy, Walter Dein, Sue Napoletano, Larry Nibbling, Dianne Regiec, and Robin Solbach. In addition, Stephen Craven serves as our Treasurer and Nancy Stewart as our Clerk.

It is quite a formidable team! Together, they have many years of church experience and even more of life experience. They are a most dedicated team: they love Christ Church and I think they feel privileged to be leading our congregation through some difficult times. Together, it is our goal to strengthen our Church and make it ready for the next generation. We are indeed *pressing on for the goal*, and together with all of you, we are sure that our Lord will lead us to fulfilling our hopes and dreams for this wonderful place.

Pray for us. Talk to us! Work with us as we move forward to the goal of our call in God in Christ Jesus.

Peace,

Mother Lisa+

News and Notes

Congratulations to Hailey Maria and Harper Angelica Spengler, twin daughters of Ryne Spengler and Ashley Drew, who were baptized on January 14.

Eleanor Lawes passed away on December 28, 2023. A funeral service was held for her at Thompson Funeral Home on January 2 and she was buried at Fairview Cemetery in Middletown.

Betty Cashion passed away on January 23. She and her husband Bob Cashion (who had died in 2018) were laid to rest in the Sycamore Section of our graveyard.

Phyllis Edwards passed away on January 28. A Funeral Mass was celebrated for her on February 25.

Robert Gall passed away on February 19. A Funeral Mass will be held for him on Saturday March 16 at 11:00am. The Church will be open at 10:00am for visitations.

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED:

For the sick and suffering, and those in any need of trouble: *Cassie Reagan, *John Smalls, *Joan, *Judi Buncher, *Carolyn. *Mimi Brown, *Sarah Schmid, *Lary Nibbling, *Halina Nibbling, John Veil, Jocelyn, Mariwether Schmid, Pat & Bob Rivenes, Peedy, Jack Sauber, Pam Diamond, Mignon Williams, *Jim Miller, *Bill Balmer, Lynn McKittrick, Pam, Dianne Regiec, Michele & Jim.

If you put someone on the prayer list that should come off, or you want to add someone, please e-mail us.

Lenten Study: Why Easter Matters

Lent provides a unique opportunity to build a deeper relationship with Jesus ~ to consider his suffering and his sacrifice, his life, death, and resurrection; and how it impacts our modern lives.

The Church is here to help. During Lent, Deacon Bill will be leading a four-session Lenten Study of Andy Stanley's very manageable little book, *Why Easter Matters*, which looks at some of the people whose lives intersected with Jesus' life in the days and weeks leading up to his crucifixion. Each of them had an agenda that put them at odds with God and with Jesus, and the study group will meet for 45 minutes in the library of the Parish House at 9:00 A.M. each Sunday, beginning March 3, 2024. Further information will follow in the Weekly Emails and Monthly Newsletter on the roll-up to Holy Week.

Communion Class and Communion Sunday

A Communion Class will be held on **Saturday, April 6 from 10:00am to 2:00pm** for all children four years old and older. Whether your child has never received communion or is a pro, this class will help deepen their understanding of what we do in church and what it means for them. We will bake bread, have a light lunch, and have lots of fun.

The following day, **Sunday April 7**, will be Communion Sunday. A special service with a children's homily (which they will help to present) and a time for the entire congregation to celebrate with our families.

Come join the fun! Mother Lisa could use some assistance from either parents or teens, so do let her know if you are available on that day. Who knows? The little ones might not be the only ones learning a thing or two!

Youth Group

The Youth Group will have a very special night together on Thursday, March 28th. We will begin worship together at the Maundy Thursday Service in the Church at 7:00pm. Following that, we will head to the Parish House to have supper together, bake cupcakes for Easter, and learn more about this important week we call Holy. Please contact Julie Cassidy or the church office for more information.

Flowers for Easter

Dear Friends, Thank you for your continued support of the Memorial Flowers for our beautiful Altar. EASTER Memorial donations are being accepted now. (By March 25th). Please send your list & donations to the Church Office or place in the offering on Sundays. Thank you again.
Cindy Webster, Altar Guild Flower Chair.

ON THE HUNT, AGAIN! Whoa- Easter's coming and I could really use your help! Seeking filled plastic eggs for the annual Easter Egg Hunt. It's such a popular event we need lots of goodies to find. As I will be hopping all over town between now and then, Mrs. Nap will collect the filled eggs for me starting this Sunday. She'll also answer any questions. Much thanks. Easter Bunny

Girls Friendly Society

Sorry, we did not receive an update prior to our deadline.



***A Blast from the Past:** Can you identify the women in this picture? Do you know when it was taken?
L-R: Diana Michel, Pamela Falzone, Elaine Marcus, Shirley Badal, Bonnie Meade, Barbara Raspanti,
Pam Diamond, Joyce Martin*

Peak in the Week

March is Women's History Month and so we're looking at a novel by a woman, Judy Blume, about three generations of women set in Elizabeth, New Jersey in the 1950's. The book is **In the Unlikely Event**. Join us at 9:30am on Wednesdays in March to talk about this and that, the book and other matters of importance. Eucharist at 9:30, book discussion at about 10:00. Join us—we'd love to see you!

Parish House Steps

The repair work for the parish house steps should be starting the first week in March. There was a delay because we were waiting to settle with the insurance and then the weather put a damper on the repair work. The masonry work cannot be done if the temperature is below 35 degrees or if it is raining or snowing! Looks like some nice weather has arrived, at least for a while!

Calendar

Convention: March 9

ML+ gone – through March 5

ML+ gone March 18 – 24

March 16 at 11:00am Bob Gall Funeral (Visitation at 10)

March 18 Vestry Meeting

March 27 Tenebrae at 7

March 28 Maundy Thursday Service at 7; Youth Group meets

March 29 Good Friday service at noon

March 30 Holy Saturday Service at 10:00

March 31 Easter Service at 10:00

A Message from the Sr Warden

I will be working part-time in the office until Casey can confirm her schedule. Still call before you come in. Be patient with me! I would love to see more people join the choir. About 9 of us sang at Phyllis Edwards memorial service, and, in my opinion, we sounded pretty good. The seasoned choir members were very pleased to have the newbies. No music knowledge necessary. You will learn!

“It Takes a Village”

**Phoenix Canoy is a Philippine student Christ Church supplies a scholarship for college.*

Good day Mother Lisa and Christ Church Shrewsbury family. May we have a blessed and joyful Sunday. This month of February we only have a few days of classes. Last week we had our provincial meet. This activity is where all the athletes around Davao de Oro compete. Athletes from Margusan use our school to stay for one week. That is why we have only had homework. Today they'll be leaving from Pantukan to their respective municipality. Tomorrow our classes will resume back to normal. This week we will have our immersion. We will be training for a public services. I hope I will be doing fine. With your prayers as my extended family. I thank you for all the support. *Phoenix Canoy*

A Maundy Thursday Hymn

By Patrick Durek

While the sacred (and secular) music of Christmas is concentrated and snugly-wrapped, the music of Easter ranges as scenes in an epic—indeed, the traversal from Palm Sunday through the days leading up to the crucifixion and resurrection contain the multitude of emotions, thoughts, and passions of humankind. As music goes, the bulk of great works has been devoted to settings of the Passion (last year, we looked at Bach's several, magnificent Passions, as well as Telemann and others). And a smaller, but delightful, number of compositions have been reserved for Easter Day (such as Bach's own Easter Oratorio). Outside of these masterpieces, we have a huge collection of hymns for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil, and Easter Day. This month we will be looking at one particular hymn—Isaac Watts's poignant Maundy Thursday hymn, “When I survey the wondrous cross” (474).

The lyrics to “When I survey the wondrous cross,” composed in 1707, are among Watts's most poignant. He ponders the significance of Christ's death on the cross, and how it affects him. The trivial things he takes pride in, he asks God to help him dispose of: “Forbid it, Lord that I should boast, save in the cross of Christ my God: all the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood.” (verse 2)

The outpouring of Jesus' love in spite of his physical suffering is what really affects Watts; he marvels at the magnitude of this verity: “See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down! Did e'er each love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?” (verse 3)

“When I survey the wondrous cross,” in its current musical setting, first appeared in the Anglican hymnal in 1826. As for the music, the bulk of it is set to the old English melody known as “Rockingham,” an English folk tune. Part of the music derives from the English hymn “Turnbridge,” according to Edward Miller, in his 1790 book *Psalms of David*. As we have seen with other successful hymns, the musical component is as important as the literary component. As testament to its endurance, “When I survey” has appeared in every Episcopal hymnal since the mid-1800s and is a staple during Holy Week. Keep your ears (and voices) ready for its appearance at Christ Church Shrewsbury, on Maundy Thursday!

Eulogy for Phyllis Edwards given by her husband George Edwards – For those of you who missed it.

Phyllis grew up in Park Ridge, Illinois. Her father and grandfather started a successful white board carton business. They made the strongest cartons in the United States during World War II due to their resourcefulness. Her mother's side of the family were a large & successful Norwegian-American family. Her grandfather started a very successful window business. Among other projects, his company installed over 4,000 windows in the Chicago Merchandise Mart, the largest retail building in America at that time. Her great uncles had five jewelry stores in downtown Chicago. They started two banks. One was started in the 1920's and the other one was formed by her uncle with four other contractors. That was O'Hare Bank by the Chicago O'Hare Airport and is now called Northern Trust Bank which is still in existence.

Phyllis and I met at the University of Miami in Florida in 1964. She had overslept and needed an IBM punch course card for a required Class to complete her Degree in Elementary Education. The lines for the punch card class admission were very long. She asked if she could go ahead of me in line because if she didn't get the class card, she would have to drop out for a semester and come back the next semester to get her Class Card. I let her in. She sat next to me in the LIRC building. I had torn off three of my fingers and had what looked like a plaster club on my left forearm and hand. I kept dropping my class cards. She held them for me while I filled them out. I thought she was very nice to do that, and she was very good looking, also. We started dating and within 3 months, we were exclusive and serious about each other.

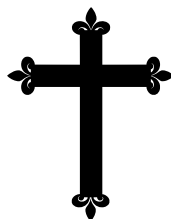
We got married four years later, after I was discharged from the U.S. Navy in 1967. She was not only my wife, but she was my best friend. We accepted each other fully, both our faults and our strengths. We never fought. She was the most loving person I have ever known. Almost every day, She would give me a serious look and say "this is very important" and, then she would kiss me!

We were married for 55 years, 7 months and 20 days. We had no regrets in our life together.

Phyllis worked for the American Auto Club for 37 years as a Travel Agent. She always gave her best effort to make sure that her clients got the very best advice to help them have an enjoyable trip. She enjoyed the people she encountered—be it on the phone, her co-workers, her Parish Family or her friends. She was a joyful person and was always concerned about other people's well-being. She was too honest to be deceitful. Phyllis would tell you what she thought but in a tactful way.

Phyllis took great interest in the lives of our cousins and their children. We enjoyed our friends and our Parish Family of over 54 years.

Phyllis had never been in a hospital, had had no operations except for cataract surgery, nor had she had any major sickness in her life until last December and January. Her death was very quick and painless. I was by her side the entire time. I think God took her in the most gentle way that He could. She died without knowledge of what her condition was and was spared the terrible treatment, the suffering, and the pain that would occur in the near future. God was merciful to her! Her Passing was a Blessing!



THOSE WHO SERVE March 2024

March 3

Deacons: 8:00am Bill Balmer 10:00am Victoria Cuff
Acolytes: 8:00am Judi Buncher
10:00am Andrew Brown, Dexter & Kody Craven
Lector: 8:00am Dianne Regiec
10:00am Connie Goddard/Mark Roth
Ushers: 8:00am Peggy James
10:00am Elaine Feyereisen, George Edwards
Altar Guild: Judi Buncher, Mark Roth, Colleen Roth
Coffee Hour: Kristen Downs and Family

March 10

Deacons: 8:00am Bill Balmer 10:00am Victoria Cuff
Acolytes: 8:00am Judi Buncher
10:00am Cassandra Murphy, Isabel and Isara Chen-Durek,
Brian Wachter
Lector: 8:00am Walter Dein
10:00am Robert Maber
Ushers: 8:00am Carl Alfano
10:00am Bramley Maber, Connie Goddard
Altar Guild: Halina Nibbling
Coffee Hour: Diane Regiec

March 17

Deacons: 8:00am Bill Balmer 10:00am Victoria Cuff
Acolytes: 8:00am Edgar John
10:00am Joshua & Matthew Dunford, Halina Nibbling
Lector: 8:00am Priscilla Gettis
10:00am Tara Dunford
Ushers: 8:00am Judi Buncher
10:00am Elaine Feyereisen, George Edwards
Altar Guild: Cindy Webster
Coffee Hour: Bob and Nancy Stewart

March 24

PALM SUNDAY

Deacons: 8:00am Bill Balmer 10:00am Victoria Cuff
Acolytes: 8:00am Priscilla Gettis
10:00am Andrew Brown, Brian Wachter, Isabel and Isara Chen-Durek
Lector: 8:00am Peggy James
10:00am Elaine Feyereisen, Bob Honecker
Ushers: 8:00am Carl Alfano
10:00am Larry Nibbling, Walter Dein
St. Mary's Choir Brother Richard Biernecki
Altar Guild: ALL
Coffee Hour: Connie Goddard

March 27 Tenebrae Wednesday at 7:00pm

Acolyte: Trevor Van Valkenburgh
Readers: 1st Nocturn Deacon Cuff Bill Cuff
2nd Nocturn Elaine Feyereisen Robert Vanvalkenburgh
3rd Nocturn Connie Goddard Robert Maber
Lauds Priscilla Gettis Bill Balmer
Ushers: Walter Dein, Bramley Maber

March 28 Maundy Thursday at 7:00pm

Deacons: Bill Balmer, Victoria Cuff
Lector Dash Cassidy, Bob VanValkenburgh
Acolytes: Judi Buncher, Trevor Van Valkenburgh, Matthew Dunford,
Joshua Dunford
Ushers: Rod Webster, Jim O'Connor
Altar Guild: ALL

March 29 Good Friday 12:00 noon

Deacons: Bill Balmer, Victoria Cuff
Acolyte: Judi Buncher
Lector: Elaine Feyereisen/Bill Cuff
Usher: Walter Dein, George Edwards
Altar Guild: ALL

March 31 EASTER SUNDAY 10:00am

Deacons: Bill Balmer, Victoria Cuff
Lector: Larry Nibbling
Acolytes: Judi Buncher, Edgar John, Cassandra Murphy, Dexter & Kody Craven
Ushers: Peggy James, Bramley Maber
St. Mary's Choir Brother Richard Biernecki
Altar Guild: ALL
Coffee Hour: Walter Dein. Any volunteers to help him?





Lunch Break

HELP FOR TODAY • HOPE FOR TOMORROW

Urgent Message:

The number of clients shopping in our pantry since last year is up **66%**.

Please help us by donating our most needed items.



Lunch Break

PLEASE HELP TODAY.

The number of guests shopping in our pantry is up 66%. Lunch Break's Your Choice Pantry needs the following items:

- Soups (preferably low sodium, any kind except we do not need tomato soup)
- Shelf Stable Almond Milk (unflavored)
- Oatmeal
- Dried Beans (black, kidney, great northern, garbanzo)
- Canned Beans (black, kidney, pinto, do not need garbanzo)
- Lentils
- Any type of Pasta (do not need spaghetti)
- Cereal
- Apple Sauce (low sugar)

Food Donations are accepted Monday through Friday from 10am to 2pm and on Saturdays from 10am to 12pm. Please pull around to the back of the building with your donations.

Thank you in advance for your kindness and generosity!

March 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 ML+ away	2 ML+ away
3 <u>9:15am</u> Guitar club <u>9:15am</u> ALL SING rehearsal ML+ away	4 ML+ away	5 ML+ away	6 <u>9:30am</u> Holy Eucharist & Peak of the Week	7	8	9 Diocesan Convention
10	11	12	13 <u>9:30am</u> Holy Eucharist & Peak of the Week	14	15	16 <i>Funeral for Bob Gall</i> 10am Visitation 11am Service <u>1-7pm</u> Parish hall rental
17 9:15 Guitar club	18 <u>7PM</u> Vestry meeting ML+ away	19 ML+ away	20 <u>9:30am</u> Holy Eucharist & Peak of the Week ML+ away	21 ML+ away Peggy James away	22 ML+ away Peggy James away	23 ML+ away Peggy James away
24 PALM SUNDAY	25	26	27 <u>9:30am</u> Holy Eucharist & Peak of the Week 7pm TENEBRAE service	28 Maundy Thursday 7pm service Followed by Vigil	29 Good Friday 12noon service	30 Holy Saturday 10am service
31 EASTER SUNDAY 10am service only						

Christ Church Shrewsbury

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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
Brother Richard Biernacki, Children's Choir
Peggy James, Temporary Office Administrator
Halina Nibbling, Sexton

VESTRY 2024

Peggy James – Senior Warden, Stewardship
Elaine Feyereisen – Junior Warden
Carl Alfano
Madna Aubry
Julie Sinn Cassidy
Walter Dein
Sue Napoletano
Larry Nibbling
Dianne Regiec
Robin Solbach
Treasurer – Stephen Craven
Asst. Treasurer - Lynn Marengo, Larry Nibbling
Vestry Clerk – Nancy Stewart

