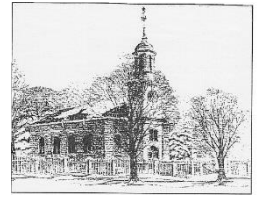


THE CROWN

The Newsletter of Christ Church Shrewsbury
Christ Church is a community committed to exploring the reality of God in today's world



Volume XXIII Issue III

April 2024



A gorgeous day for an
Easter Egg Hunt

A Jelly Bean Easter Poem

Green is for the world God made
Red is for the blood He gave
Yellow is for the sun (Son) so bright
Orange is for the edge of night
Black is for the sins we made
White is for the grace He gave
Purple is for the hours of sorrow
Pink is for a new tomorrow

Dear Friends,

Easter is here! It is truly as colorful as a bag of jelly beans. No matter how many times we experience it, there seems always to be another layer, another flavor, another color to be discovered. Easter may be the most important day we commemorate, and yet do we ever fully understand it? I admit that for me, it still remains a mystery larger than life.

Perhaps that is how it should be – for after all, Easter is all about life. Eternal life, certainly. But also, about our lives right now. How we live them. What really matters. How we make each and every decision.

It is a mystery that God loves us so much that he would send his Son to become one of us. It is a mystery that God allows his Son to die – and such a horrible death of the cross: how could God allow that to happen? How Jesus came to be resurrected from the dead is certainly a mystery! But most mysterious of all is how anyone could not fully embrace all that love. The world is so in need of our Lord, and yet how easily it turns away the free gift of grace that Jesus brings.

But not so yesterday! We had a grand time at Christ Church, celebrating the One who has forever changed our lives.

I have included the Jelly Bean poem I sent home with each of our children. I gave it to the children, but really it is meant for us all. For aren't we all children at heart? Children of God. For whom our Lord lived, died, and rose again.

Do remember that the Easter Season lasts for fifty days! Fifty! We are only at the beginning of it all. Come celebrate with us; we are only now getting the jelly bean party started.

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

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 are not certain, but we are usually here: *(please call before stopping by!)*

Monday – closed

Tuesday – 9 am – 2 pm

Wednesday - 9 am – 2 pm

Thursday – 9 am – 2 pm

Friday – 9 am – 2 pm

Condolences to the Honecker family upon hearing of the death of Bob's father, Robert A. Honecker Sr. who passed away on March 23, 2024.

May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

Special thank you to the Craven family for their help with our Super bowl Sunday fundraiser! With your **all for fun** game day team betting, Christ Church donations were collected in the amount of: \$67.19

Congratulations to Iara Chen-Durek and Jackson Downs who found the Alleluia Eggs on Sunday and took home two delicious Lamb Cakes!



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.

**denotes members of Christ Church*

EGGSTRAVAGANZA Wrap Up!

Just hopping through since by now the eggs have been distributed. I'm hoping that everyone is enjoying the deliciousness of their purchase. 185 eggs were sold, and the Church's profit will be \$462.50 plus. I say "plus" because we received donations from those parishioners who "rounded up" the sales price and from others toward packaging.

Eggs-cellent results!

Thank you everyone for your generosity!

I learned through the Bunny Trail that Fishing Creek Salem FUMC has been experimenting with some new flavors and products. Maybe we'll check that out. Until next year, Hoppo Easter!

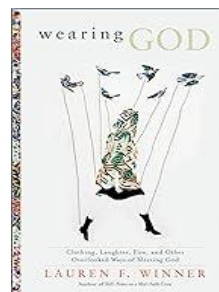
Sincerely, *The Easter Bunny*



Peak in the Week Book

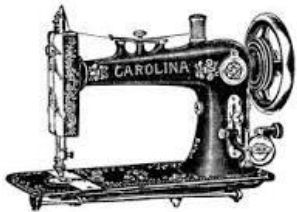
April showers bring May flowers and a new in the Week book. The book for April is **Wearing God** by *Lauren Winner*. I'm sure that everyone has heard about and putting on the armor of God. Ms. Winner goes further and delves into other ways of wearing God. Should be fun and interesting.

Join us on Wednesdays at 9:30 in the parish hall for an informal Eucharist followed by the Peak in the Week book discussion. Great discussions—come even if you don't have the book. We'd love to see you!



Purchase on Amazon for Kindle, paperback, or hard copy.

Hoping you will join us. Donna Devlin



The Shrewsbury Historical Society presents

VINTAGE SEWING MACHINES

Grand Opening - April 4 - from 5-7pm
See more than 30 sewing machines.
Enjoy a glass of wine??

The exhibit highlights the artistry and mechanisms of sewing machines. The oldest sewing machine is from 1876 Domes8c Fiddle base VS Treadle machine. Other machines include an 1887 Singer Sphinx, and a 1923 Singer La Vencadora. An assortment of patterns, spools, buttons, needles, and threads will be on display. 419 Sycamore Avenue, Shrewsbury, NJ 07702 732-530-7974 or 732-747-3635

“It Takes a Village”

**Queen Caay lives in the Philippines and Christ Church sponsored her college education. The letter below was sent to us after the March deadline:*

Dearest Christ Church Shrewsbury family,
It's the third month of the year as of writing, and it is the Lent season once again. The season of prayers, fasting, almsgiving, and of course, miracles! For Lord Jesus shall sacrifice His holy being for our salvation and be resurrected on Easter. Our cute and innocent kids at church must be excited to go Easter egg hunting again. The pictures always show them feeling giddy and happy. Small traditions that remind us of the purpose of Lent and small joys from children that warm our hearts.

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” Galatians 6:9 As Holy Week is coming; I reflect upon this verse from the Galatians. A wonderful message from St. Paul the Apostle that reminds us to remain resilient. For as long as we do good things and persevere through any hardships, we will be rewarded here on Earth and in the afterlife. So, if you feel weary, I hope that you can afford to rest, and if you are hungry, may you have God's bounty on your table. This brings my mind to

the innocent civilians in Gaza, Ukraine, and many other places who are suffering from political and border conflicts. Children can't play because they are beyond frightened that it'll be their last day. They don't have the luxury to sleep on comfortable beds and eat enough food. Let us keep them in our prayers. The news reaches all of us and I know hearing it breaks your heart as much as it breaks mine.

Galatians 6:9 also keeps me resilient in these challenging times. Working here in the Philippines is not easy. We've experienced inflation just like everyone else but our minimum wage (per day not per hour) in our city is only around 462 Philippine pesos (\$8 for USD). That's hardly enough for one person to live comfortably. The job opportunities here are low and many people are unemployed. Trying to earn a living is like a competition. Thus, I was open to working for any kind of professional job as long as it would pay me enough to help with my brother's education. After my visa was rejected, I went job hunting almost every single day. I also kept checking job posts online. After two months, I got hired to work remotely for a consulting company based in Atlanta, Georgia. There's a legitimate website in the Philippines where US, European, and Australian employers hire Filipinos to work for them and I have an account there. It's good for their companies and businesses because they can cut costs, the minimum wage they give has a higher exchange and Filipinos are known to be hardworking. But the job didn't turn out as I expected so I quit. I didn't even finish my training. To make the long story short, I was told that I'd be working as a virtual administrative assistant and would work directly for the boss. I would fill in as an assistant to help manage client relations and do marketing jobs like doing inbound and outbound calls for clients, etc. But when I started training, I learned that they wanted me to lie about my identity for my entire employment. I will be posing as someone else and will be working for another company as an American.

I am perfect for the role because I have good written English and my spoken English is almost natural. But I do not want to lie to earn money. I told my boss that the major reason that I was quitting was not because of miscommunication, because I would work as someone else, or because it seemed a little risky. I quit because I do not like lying. It may not

be a big deal to others, but it is to me. My aim has always been to live an honest life. Even when some of my friends were getting their dream job because they lied about their credentials, I chose to stay unemployed. If I pushed through, my anxiety would manifest. I know it will affect my mental and emotional health.

Although my options are limited and they pay enough for our living costs here, I did not hesitate to quit. Surprisingly, my boss wasn't offended. He was even proud of me and admired my character. He spent money for my router and coaching so I thought he would be upset. But I made it clear that I will never work for anything that does not meet my values even if it promises me a good future. Now, I am back to square one, but I don't regret it. I am so confident that God has stored wonderful things for me. At times, I feel weary. I feel frustrated. But then I take a rest and start again. Someday, this will be one of those days where I'll look back and laugh at what I went through. I just must keep going. To keep planting good seeds and never give up. With all my heart, *Queenie Caay*

Update as of 4/1/2024: Queenie was hired as an Account Manager for an AI Automation Co. based in Germany. This job entails a lot of travel, and she will be able to freely visit the USA. Queenie is very excited and will give us more details for the next Crown.

Hymn Individualism

The predominant trend in Episcopal hymnody in the 19th century United States could be described as group individualism. The music of the era is marked by straightforward harmonies and easily-singable tunes, with texts focused on a personal relationship with Jesus or God. Such hymns, being both approachable and easily sung and remembered, travelled broadly: Sunday School, urban revivals, camps, and church services all featured such hymns. Several of the hymn composers and hymns are listed below.

William Bradbury, a student of Lowell Mason, set music to religious poems by a variety of American writers, both men and women. Examples are "Jesus Loves Me," "Sweet hour of prayer," "He leadeth me" and "Pass me not." Note the emphasis on the individual.

Another composer of the era was the Chicago-based Ira Sankey, who played a harmonium and sang pop gospel hymns in a mellifluous baritone voice. He edited multiple hymn volumes for over two decades and strived to sell his hymn settings as "the most useful and popular STANDARD HYMNS AND TUNES OF THE CHURCH." Examples include "The ninety and nine," Other hymns set by similar composers have the same sentiment: "I've found a friend," and "Wonderful words of life."

At the turn of the century, hymns continued to lighten. Music historian Raymond Glover describes the hymns in the era of Billy Sunday's revivalism as "lighter, semi-sacred, more optimistic, and more commercial." Typical hymns are "His eye is on the sparrow," "Ivory palaces, "Brighten the corner where you are," and the still-famous "The old rugged cross," and "In the garden."

One cannot study a survey of American hymnody without confronting two salient currents inherent to the United States as a nation: individualism and commercialism. While hymnody from the later 19th century, and after, can be dismissed as trite (as many surely are), there are indeed strong hymns from the period—perhaps as many as can be found in the less-individualistic periods preceding. One strength of the self-oriented, commercial hymns of this era is durability: the ones that broke through in popularity are still sung today.

Patrick Durek

A little Stewardship Update

Thank you for keeping up with your pledge commitments. You can use your envelopes and put money in every week, monthly or quarterly. If you want envelopes, email the church and we will assign you a box. When you use your envelopes, please do NOT tape the envelope. For accounting purposes, we save the envelopes and when they are taped, they get torn. Also, you can pay your pledge through your bank's **Bill Pay** program. You can set up your payments automatically, then you don't need to think about it! To keep you up to date on your pledge donations, quarterly statements will be emailed in mid-April.

Peggy James, Stewardship Chair

ALL SING SUNDAY

Once a month, we sing a short, tuneful song in unison (same melody). The music has a contemporary feel and inspiring words. It is open to everyone in the congregation.

The monthly song and date of performance are announced at the beginning of each month.

A YouTube link to a recording of the song is also provided, so you can work on it at home. A pre-performance rehearsal takes place at 9:15 before the service, to help everyone be comfortable and confident. Come on and join us in making joyful noise!

Thank you to those who have participated: **Barbara Carrol, Lynn Marengo, Nancy Stewart, Colleen Roth, Mark Roth, Josie Borden, Sue Napoletano, Br. Richard, Peggy James, Mother Lisa.**

Iris Chen, Organist & Choir Director



Those Who Serve – April 2024

April 7

Acolytes: 8:00am Edgar John
10:00am Halina Nibbling, Isabelle Chen-Durek, Isara Chen-Durek
Lectors: 8:00am Walter Dein 10:00am Bill Cuff, Tara Dunford
Ushers: 8:00am Judi Buncher
10:00am Elaine Feyereisen, George Edwards
Altar Guild: Judi Buncher, Colleen and Mark Roth
Coffee Hour: **NEEDED**

April 14

Acolytes: 8:00am Priscilla Gettis
10:00am Cassandra Murphy, Joshua Dunford, Matthew Dunford
Lectors: 8:00am Peggy James 10:00am Patrick Durek, Isabelle Chen-Durek
Ushers: 8:00am John Callaghan
10:00am Larry Nibbling, Connie Goddard
Altar Guild: Halina Nibbling
Coffee Hour: Colleen and Mark Roth

April 21

Acolytes: 8:00am Judi Buncher
10:00am, Edgar John, Dexter Craven, Kody Craven
Lectors: 8:00am Priscilla Gettis 10:00am Elaine Feyereisen, Bob Honecker
Ushers: 8:00am Peggy James
10:00am Rod Webster, Jim O'Connor
Altar Guild: Cindy Webster
Coffee Hour: **NEEDED**

April 28

Acolytes: 8:00am Edgar John
10:00am Halina Nibbling, Isabelle Chen-Durek, Isara Chen-Durek
Lectors: 8:00am Dianne Regiec
10:00am Robert Maber, Larry Nibbling
Ushers: 8:00am Carl Alfano
10:00am Bramley Maber, Christine Maber
Altar Guild: Judi Buncher, Colleen and Mark Roth
Coffee Hour: The Dunford family

April 2024

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|--|-----------|---|--|-----------|---|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 Sewing Machine Exhibit and Reception @ SHS 5pm to 7pm | 5 | 6 |
| 7 8AM Holy Eucharist 10AM Church School Holy Eucharist | 8 <u>Office Closed</u> | 9 | 10 9:30 - 11:15AM Peak of the Week | 11 | 12 | 13 10am-4pm Workday GFS Board Meeting at 10:00am |
| 14 8AM Holy Eucharist 10AM Church School Holy Eucharist | 15 <u>Office closed</u> 7PM VESTRY meeting | 16 | 17 9:30 - 11:15AM Peak of the Week | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 8AM Church School Holy Eucharist 10AM Holy Eucharist | 22 <u>Office closed</u> | 23 | 24 9:30 - 11:15AM Peak of the Week | 25 | 26 | 27 3:00pm Funeral for Katherine Boneburg |
| 28 8AM Holy Eucharist 10AM Church School Holy Eucharist | 28 <u>Office closed</u> | 30 | | | | |



Game Night (or afternoon) is around the Corner!

At the February Vestry Retreat, several ideas were discussed on how to make our presence known in the wider community. Among these ideas, the institution of a “Game Night/Afternoon” received some serious consideration. The “Game Night/Afternoon” concept was described as follows:

- Family-friendly board games and/or card games would be either supplied by the vestry or brought by those wishing to participate.
- A set time would be established, 3 to 4 hours, during which the parish house would be used as a venue to play these games.
- The event would be a community event, meaning that people outside the congregation would be allowed to participate.
- It remained undecided if a fee to participate would be charged or snacks and water would be sold.
- The input from the congregation would be sought so that this endeavor would have widespread support and participation from within

The above criteria were discussed following Sunday Services on March 10th, at the coffee hour, where further input was received. Those parishioners who participated in this event,

- Favored the idea, some volunteering to help supply the games.
- Asked that the insurance implications of using the parish house for a community event be investigated
- At the coffee hour a decision was made to send out a parish-wide questionnaire.

QUESTIONNAIRE: Please print this page and put the completed questionnaire in the offering basket.

1. Are you in favor of opening the Parish House to a “Game Night”?

Yes

No

2. Would you be willing to pay a small entry fee to attend such an event?

Yes

No

3. Should snacks and water be provided at a nominal fee?

Yes

No

4. Parents / guardians **will be** required to accompany their minor children.

5. What games would you like to play?

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

6. Would you participate in a trial run during the month of April or May?

Yes

No

7. Will you be able to host a “Game Night” at the Parish House?

Yes

No

8. Name (Optional) _____ Phone Number: () _____ - _____ (Optional)

9. Are there any suggestions you would like to add? (Write your comments on the back)

Christ Church Shrewsbury

*380 Sycamore Avenue
Shrewsbury, NJ 07702*

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
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 - Fundraising
Madna Aubry – Stewardship, GFS Representative
Julie Sinn Cassidy – Youth Ministries
Walter Dein - Property
Sue Napoletano – Church School
Larry Nibbling - Finance
Dianne Regiec – Food Insecurity
Robin Solbach – Special Projects
Treasurer – Stephen Craven
Asst. Treasurer - Lynn Marengo, Larry Nibbling
Vestry Clerk – Nancy Stewart





Easter at Christ Church!