

Sharing the Good News of God!

Shrewsbury Parish

Quarterly Newsletter
Oct Nov Dec 2020



A WORD FROM THE RECTOR

Our Dependence

For the past nine years we have had a small group gather for the Holy Eucharist and Litany of Prayers for Thanksgiving on the eve of Thanksgiving. Often the service was attended by members of the Wednesday evening meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous. It was an intimate gathering where the homily was shared by members of the gathered community, who often spoke with passion about what they were most thankful for during the year. Then in our customary fashion, we ate of the Body and drank of the Blood of Christ in our Eucharistic feast.

This year is the first time we will not be able to offer such a service. due to the recent decision to temporarily postpone in-person worship and gatherings in a concerted effort to be safe and keep others safe.

Yet though this decision has been met with a variety of emotions, including genuine sadness, giving thanks may well be the most important element of our ongoing journey with God and with one another.

In the Book of Common Prayer, *A General Thanksgiving* is in my estimation one of the most beautiful and also one of the most little used prayers. Written by the Rev. Dr. Charles Price, the late Professor of Theology at Virginia Theological Seminary, the prayer encompasses an incredible array of meaningful parts of life well worth thanking God for. And this line seems to me to capture the essence of the current state of affairs we find ourselves in as a parish, a community and a nation:

"We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone."

(Continued on page 7)



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Christmas News	2
Altar Flowers	2
Adult Forum Information	3
Plenty of Thanks	3
Community Garden News	4
Covid Information	5
Anniversaries / Birthdays	6

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NEWSLETTERS ENTRIES
TO
SHREWSBURYNEWS
@GMAIL.COM

WHAT ABOUT CHRISTMAS?

As we proceed with monitoring the Covid 19 crisis in our country, state and county, we will make informed leadership decisions about the resumption of in-person worship services for Christmas Eve and Day.

Those decisions will be based on all available information, the context and health needs of our parish community and permissible numbers in the state prior to Christmas Eve and Day. If it is deemed necessary to continue the temporary closure, we will proceed with Virtual options from Shrewsbury, the National Cathedral in Washington, DC and the Cathedral of the Incarnation in Baltimore.

Information will be communicated to the parish closer to Christmas.



FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR

Anthony's flowers have been very gracious during this year of change. Flowers have been provided by parishioners when Shrewsbury began the outside service. If you are the provider of flowers November and December, they will be delivered to the church and grace the altar. You can make arrangements with Sue Coleman to pick them up after the service.

Sue Coleman will be working on the 2021 Flower Chart in the beginning of December. The chart will basically remain the same as 2020 unless the provider wants to make changes. If you notice you do not have the week you asked for, it may be a calendar adjustment, especially during the Easter season. Contact Sue if you want the flowers saved for you. Please let the lady on altar duty know you want them so they can put them in a container for you. If you want special flowers or colors in your arrangement, contact Anthony's Flowers. You will be billed after your week or you may set up automatic payment with Anthony's. Please let Sue know if you have any questions or concerns. Her information is in the Church Directory.

ADULT CHRISTIAN FORUM

Friends,

This fall we have had an excellent program reading and discussing *The Universal Christ* by Richard Rohr. To keep this process going, we agreed to move to a Zoom format beginning Sunday, November 29th at 10:00 am. Our worship will be at 9:00 each Sunday until further notice and following worship we can Zoom in to the Adult Forum.

YOU can still participate, even if you have not read the book. A Zoom link will be sent to the Parish prior to the 29th and you are welcome to join us. If you wish to order the book, please do so on Amazon or your favorite bookseller.

If you have questions, contact Kelly Schelts or Fr. Henry.

An intelligent heart acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge.
18:15) *(Proverbs*

2020 GOOD AND PLENTY OF THANKS

from

Running Strong for American Indian Youth

Good Neighbor Fund

Camp Wright

Millington Food Pantry & Community Food Pantry in Chestertown

Kennedyville Volunteer Fire Company

Compassion International



COMMUNITY GARDEN HIGHLIGHTED IN LOCAL NEWS

The garden project was showcased in a wonderful article the Kent County News. Many thanks to the Diocese of Maryland, the Sacred Places Program, the Community Garden Team, the Bayside HOYAS, volunteers and Macon Foscue for this ministry. Praise the God of Creation!

“The team of planters, parishioners and community members — were out Sunday afternoon, Oct. 18 to install a permaculture area of bushes and trees including aronia, elderberry, hazelnut, persimmon, chestnut, pecan and plum.” So starts the article by David Divilio.

“In the midst of the whole pandemic, this has been a morale builder,” said the Rev. Henry Sabetti of the community garden project during the Oct. 18 planting session. “It’s been fantastic.”

Father Henry explained the genesis of the program. “It came to the fore through a process we were involved in called ‘Sacred Places, Sacred Spaces,’ which is a program that churches in the Diocese of Easton participated in to look at how to use historical sites to reach out to the wider community.”

Bob O’Connell is cited in the article on the scope of the proposal initially encompassed 2 acres of soybean field owned by the church would become a substantial community garden, noting that the project began in May of this year. O’Connell reached out to the Bayside HOYAS (Helping Our Youth Achieve Success), community and church members who participated in the project. Details on the project’s fall plantings and the full article can be found at the Kent County News [website](#)



Photos and excerpts by permission by David Divilio

*For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works,
which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.*

COVID 19 DIRECTIVE FROM THE DIOCESE

Most of you have already heard the Covid-19 emergency actions announced by the Governor of Maryland including recommended restrictions on religious services. Our Diocese of Easton has advised several key protocols and reminders for personal and public safety. The Diocese of Maryland on the western shore has taken action to immediately suspend worship services for at least the next few weeks, noting that this closure could continue through Christmas.

Our Bishop Marray has advised “My pastoral counsel to our faith family is, as far as possible, stay home. Follow worship virtually through your parish's platform.” Having had direct conversations with the Bishop, five clergy colleagues, our Senior Warden and Leadership Team, and other parishioners, I believe the safest course now is to move to Virtual Worship. **I am temporarily postponing in-person worship through the remainder of November. Virtual live service of the Holy Eucharist at now 9:00 am from the church visible remotely on our Facebook page. In addition, the Parish Office is closed to all outside groups and meetings and our Parish Administrator is working from home. Pastoral visitations are restricted to emergencies only. Hospital visits will be only in the case of emergency or for Prayers and Anointing for the Dying.**

I believe that we are at a very tough place now with a resurgence of positive cases, hospitalizations and sadly, even deaths. It is our hope that these further actions will reduce the rate of community transmission in order to return to in-person services. Our most vulnerable age groups are still those over 60 and those with health compromises. The most important protocols of hand sanitization, social distancing and mask wearing remain effective means of preventing the spread of this virus. I thank you all for complying with these often difficult measures.

Your continued prayers are encouraged for the health and safety of all our people and especially those effected by the virus.

May we seek the eternal wisdom of the Lord our God, Jesus our friend and brother and the Holy Spirit our guide and source of strength and hope.

Blessings,

Henry+



Do we have your birthday and/or anniversary information? Email us shrewsburychurch@gmail.com

OCTOBER

ANNIVERSARIES

03 Doug & Mary Megargee

BIRTHDAYS

03 Eliza Mendoza
04 Paige Megargee
08 RJ Crow
08 Paul Samuels
09 Mike Browne
10 Jerry Clabaugh
10 Harriett Lusby
10 Pam Quarstein
12 Sue Coleman
13 Coty Schelts
19 Mary Lou Pagella

NOVEMBER

ANNIVERSARIES

09 Karen & Chuck Reed
22 John & Harriet Silcox

BIRTHDAYS

01 Joyce Jones
04 Seth Powell
13 Karen Boulden
19 Virgil Randolph

DECEMBER

ANNIVERSARIES

05 Rick & Kelly Schelts

BIRTHDAYS

01 Carol Orange
02 Bob Holland
09 Fr. Henry Sabetti
15 Ann Davis
20 Margaret Randolph
21 Jenny Randolph
21 Mary Elma Sutton
25 Harold "Bunk" Miller
23 Will Hughes
29 Mary Watson
31 Barbara Lloyd

SEPTEMBER

ANNIVERSARIES

01 Doug & Sandy Hamilton
02 Bob & KC Holland
07 Kirk & Laura Wade
08 Charles & Deborah Wills
09 Olin & Catherine Davis III
13 Larry & Peggy Samuels
20 Michael & Nancy Browne
20 Will & Katie Hughes
22 Patrick & Jenny Randolph
25 Lisa & Edward C. Raffetto, Jr.
30 Don & Lynea Redman

BIRTHDAYS

02 Priscilla Churchill
04 Jeff Miller
05 Nora Becker
05 Liz Gross
06 Carter Clabaugh
08 Doug Hamilton
16 Sam Clabaugh
19 Roy Crow
19 Chuck Paff
19 Janet Sorrentino
21 Don Redman
27 Sandy Hamilton
29 Amy Yowell

(Continued from page 1)

(A General Thanksgiving, BCP, p. 836)

While many of us feel a lingering and palpable sense of disappointment with the overall trajectory of the pandemic, the recent election, racial unrest and violence and many social issues of our times, we do have the ultimate source of complete relationship and dependence upon God. That is where we may always return for sustenance and the hope of a light yet to come. And giving thanks or *Thanksgiving* remains an open opportunity to maintain and return our thanks to God.

We may not be able to worship in-person. We may not be able to enjoy the usual Thanksgiving gatherings. We may not be able to travel to see those we love or greet those who travel to love us. Yet we can continue to thank God that no matter what happens in this life and in these times, we have God and God has us. This relationship never ceases to be.

As we approach the sacred season of Advent, the message of God as Emmanuel has never been so poignant. Emmanuel, or *God is with us*, may be known, felt and shared across the boundaries of a difficult and scary time in our country. In Advent we wait and this year waiting has been a constant companion. In our waiting, may we meet God, who not only waits with us, but through the scriptures of the Advent season, pushes us into seeing and knowing that our waiting is never for nothing. It is a waiting of insight and purpose and unparalleled expectation and hope.

Our dependence is upon God. In this time and in this place, that may well be a mantra to repeat and take in and repeat again and again. Our dependence is upon God.

We will make it through this time of disappointment my dear friends and as we do we will know that God is truly and always with us and within us.

Be well, love God, love others and love yourselves,

Henry+

The Very Rev. Henry M. Sabetti, Rector and Dean

Be joyful always, pray at all times, be thankful in all circumstances. This is what God wants from you in your life in union with Christ Jesus.
(1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)



**Submissions for the next quarter newsletter are due on
February 9, 2021 before noon**

Shrewsbury Parish
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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE