

DO SOMETHING GREAT

Community Relations Liaison Update

We have had a busy, productive and exciting year. It continues to be the generosity of each of you that helps us to provide a wide variety of help and support in so many areas to people in need in the broader community. Below are just a few of the initiatives currently operating under the CRL umbrella:

- ~Visits to the Courtyard and Driftwood Motels; rental assistance
- ~Food delivery to several folks through Minary's Dream Alliance
- ~Furniture bedding, , etc. to folks moving into their own dwellings
- ~Clothing to children of a parent succumbing to a drug overdose
- ~Sponsorship of a SHREWSBURY BANNER at KCHS
- ~Awarding of additional Children's Home Foundation Scholarships
- ~Planning for the Fatherhood Initiative to begin in January
- ~Off-site service at a motel upon request
- ~Financial support for pet surgery and ultimate adoptive placement
- ~Rental application assistance and fee support

Please contact me (Carol Niemand) if you want to learn more about the CRL projects currently underway. It continues to be an honor and privilege to serve in this capacity and represent Shrewsbury and YOU in the Kent County Community. Your contributions to Father Henry's Discretionary Fund continue to be used wisely. The need is always greater than our resources allow us to meet, but God always answers our prayers and guides us in this important work.

Carol L. Niemand, Community Relations Liaison

Shrewsbury Episcopal Parish

The Very Reverend Henry Sabetti, Rector
The Reverend Stephan Klingelhofer, Priest Associate
The Reverend Dr. Thomas Sinnott, Hispanic Missioner

12824 Shrewsbury Church Road Kennedyville
(410.348.5944) Email: shrewsburychurch@gmail.com
www.shrewsburyparish.org

Shrewsbury Episcopal Parish Services

7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I
8:45 a.m. Adult Spiritual Formation in the Parish Hall
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II and livestreamed on our Facebook page
4:00 p.m. Sagrada Familia (11/7 & 11/21)

Fall
2021

The Shrewsbury In Vision

SHREWSBURY EPISCOPAL PARISH NEWSLETTER



La Sagrada Member Debuts at the Garfield

Freddie Granillo's star shone brightly as he opened with a 5-song set for the acclaimed "High and Wides" on Friday, October 22nd. The group hadn't performed live in two years, so the concert was truly special in so many ways, especially for Freddie. Though known around Kent County for his amazing pottery and murals, Freddie admittedly has, to date, only performed solo at several restaurants in town and with the choir at the Hispanic services at Shrewsbury. In his own words, "I really had to push myself and practice for this one." He did not disappoint as was evidenced by the spontaneous clapping with and for him throughout the set. The audience was really surprised when he closed his set joined by the entire group singing with him in Spanish. Congratulations!



AGAPE MINISTRY

Agape Ministry is planning its annual Christmas party for our children and their families.

The event is scheduled for **Saturday, December 4th** from **noon until 3 o'clock** at **Christ Church,**

Cambridge. The Optimist Club of Ocean City and Ocean Pines has donated funds for a holiday lunch.

Can you help stock the gift "shop"?

We need new and gently used toys and games for the children's caregivers to choose from and for the children to pick for their siblings. The children also choose presents for caregiver moms, dads, and grandparents. Popular items have included costume jewelry, lotions, scarves, Christmas items and decorative household items. We often fall short of gifts for men: belts, hats, gloves, socks, tools, aftershave, wallets.

Since we will not be doing "Angels in the Attic" we will collect items that would be appropriate for parents (caregivers or guardians) A box will be provided in the parish hall. They will be picked up the first week of December.



What can I get involved in?



THANKSGIVING OUTREACH PROJECT 2021

It is time to be gathering food for the Thanksgiving Outreach project.

This year we have 25 families we will be giving a turkey and other Thanksgiving food items. We encourage you to look at this list of food, purchase what you would like to contribute and drop off in the Parish Hall (Thanksgiving Outreach table will be there after Sunday, October 31st). The turkeys are being provided by one source so no need to buy turkeys again this year. We would like to have all non-perishable items by Wednesday, November 17th so that we have several days to get all missing items, to bag and distribute on Sunday, November 21st.

~Cloth bags for carrying food items for each family

~Bags of rice, potatoes, beans and onions

~Fresh carrots and fruit

~Canned soups, beans, corn and fruit

~Boxed cookies

No other boxed items requested

~Acme Gift Cards or monetary donations are always welcome and should be taken to the Parish office. Checks should be made out to Shrewsbury Parish Church Outreach Program.

Thank you so much for helping us with this very worthwhile project.

Nan Voorhees – 410-348-5612

Sue Edson – 410-348-2159

SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE NEWS



There are several activities that the Shrewsbury Social Ministries is sponsoring during the remainder of 2021:

Socktober collecting socks, hats and gloves for local people in need. You may continue to donate the rest of the year.

Thanksgiving dinners for La Sagrada families and local families we have been assisting throughout the year. The turkeys will be provided. We are asking our Shrewsbury congregation to make donations of these items prior to November 21, 2021. *(Details are available in the Thanksgiving outreach project article on pg. 2)*

Collection for Agape, which is an Easton Diocesan initiative to help children who have an incarcerated parent. The children of incarcerated parent(s) are meeting for a Christmas celebration the first week of December and wrapping gifts for family members. Since we will not be doing "Angels in the Attic" we will collect items that would be appropriate for parents (caregivers or guardians) A box will be provided in the parish hall. They will be picked up the first week of December.

The Angel Tree is back in 2021! The wishes and needs of children will be posted on forms on the tree in the parish hall. Please only provide what is stated on the ANGEL FORM. There have been some hurt feelings when one child in a family gets the one item on the form and another child gets a collection of items. One small gift at Christmas symbolizes the gift to Jesus, the Messiah.

In 2021 we have had several successful programs including:

Souper Bowl Sunday which raised \$1290 donated to Kent County Community pantry thanks to Molly's soup and bowls and a variety of soups and chili from social ministry members. There will be another Souper Bowl for Caring in February 2022. A lunch for the summer program Horizon in July. The meal was provided by Chestertown McDonalds free hamburgers and fixings from the committee. A COVID vaccine clinic at Shrewsbury coordinated with the Upper Shore Regional Health Department.

Thanks go out to all those who donated school supplies which were delivered to Garnet Elementary School and collecting Redner's receipts to help Homeports funds. The receipts can be dropped off in the Church narthex but must be the complete receipt used with a store scan card.

All are welcome to come to our meeting, the next one will be November 9, 2021 at 6 PM in the parish hall.

If you have any questions or ideas, please contact co-chair Emily Cassidy or Sue Coleman

Flowers on the Altar

Sue Coleman will be working on the 2022 Flower Chart and it will basically remain the same as 2021 unless the provider wants to make changes.

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.

There are several Sundays available if you are interested in having flowers on the altar for someone. The following dates are available in 2022: February 6, March 29, June 5, April 24, and November 27.

Please let Sue know if you have any questions or concerns. Her information is in the Church Directory.





HERITAGE SOCIETY REVISITED

The Heritage Society has been on hiatus for the past 15 years. We are resurrecting it to host a supper or picnic in the near future for past and potential new members. This event will take place as soon as it is safe to do so. In the meantime, please read the flyer for more information. Consider including Shrewsbury in some way in your future estate plans.

Contact any one of our clergy members for more details or the Co-Chairmen:

Robert Bryan 410-708-0625
bryanjr.rl@gmail.com

Carol L. Niemand 703-864-7139
mscarolniemand@gmail.com



Heritage SOCIETY

SHREWSBURY PARISH CHURCH

The Heritage Society honors donors who designate Shrewsbury Church as a beneficiary in their will, thus creating a legacy of stewardship that can last for years to come.



WHAT YOU DO TODAY CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR TOMORROW!

Your bequest will enrich the current and future Parish Operations, Mission and Ministry Development and Outreach Ministeries.

WAYS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE:

- § Designate Shrewsbury Church as a beneficiary in your Will
- § Contribute a percentage of your estate
- § Make a bequest in the name of a loved one who has passed
- § Make a contribution to the Shrewsbury Church Endowment Fund

Please consult with an advisor, tax professional, or attorney to set up a bequest in your Will.



Exodus 14:21²¹ And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided.



*In the Red Sea
Larry Samuels*



Thinking it appropriate for the Newsletter this month that I include a brief story that touches on a spiritual theme, I am writing of an episode of a historical religious experience in my life. During the four years that I served in the U.S. Navy from 1971 – 1975 as a Petty Officer, the basis for one of my published collections of stories and essays, I was aboard a destroyer in the Gulf of Tonkin during Vietnam and on a destroyer escort after the war that circumnavigated Africa. In this article I am providing a description of our ship's travel in the Red Sea, which included a passage through the Suez Canal, and a perceived historical religious encounter, from my perspective.

I had returned to the United States from a two-year deployment in the Gulf of Tonkin and was then on a destroyer escort homeported in Charleston, South Carolina. The ship was assigned to an approximately seven-month deployment on the coasts of Africa and throughout the Middle East, stopping in various ports to support the U.S. government's policies in these areas. This included visits to Angola, Kenya, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Pakistan, for example. I was on this ship, personally operating and repairing the main steam boilers, for the remaining portion of my enlistment.

As our mission was winding down, we were preparing to return to the United States by sailing along the east coast of Africa, around the Cape of Good Hope, then across the Atlantic. Just at that time, however, a political agreement had been reached to re-open the Suez Canal which had been closed for the past seven years.

Since we were in the Red Sea, we were going to be the first U.S. warship to go through the canal upon its re-opening. As we moved north through the Red Sea in our approach to the canal, sailors on watch in the various divisions were permitted to leave their stations briefly to stand on the weather decks to witness transit to the canal, and then, subsequently through it.

I had climbed the vertical ladder's twenty-three feet out of the depths of the fire room to the bright hot sunlight above at a point where we began to pass a section of the shore that drew my eyes and sense of spirit toward it. I could not explain why I had this feeling as I looked at this section of the Egyptian bank but slowly felt a stunning sense that here was the place where Moses must have led the Israelites across the sea as they were escaping from Egyptian slavery thousands of years before, based on a Biblical description of an extraordinary historical event. I felt like I was in a very isolated, very secretive place. It was a mystifying experience and an overwhelming vision.

Seeing what I had perceived to be the actual place of the parting of the Red Sea was an extremely reflective moment and revealed a most memorable spiritual encounter. For me, it was almost touching on Thin Places here, where the spiritual atmosphere of this location made it easy to connect with God, almost as though there was no barrier between heaven and earth.

Being connected to my interpretation of this location may or may not have been the case since I had likely seen the 1956 movie version of *The Ten Commandments* too many times. Regardless, my appreciation of where I was is how this view affected me. This was an especially unique and unparalleled occurrence in my life, and I have kept this memory close since then.

From
The
Rector

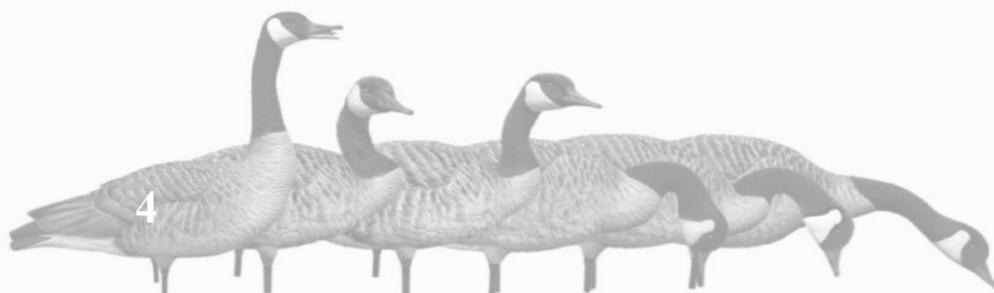
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

When I first arrived at Shrewsbury over eleven years ago I had only been here about a week or so when I received a phone call from the late great Doug Megargee. Over the years we talked often and I miss him terribly as many of us do. But that call I remember well when after some casual conversation Doug asked, “So, what are you doing today? I mean what are YOU doing for Shrewsbury Parish?” Having forgotten the answer I gave, the question remains one for serious reflection.

It has been impossible to measure the effects of the last almost two years on church life. What we see is declining attendance not only in church but across the board really in much of civic life. Participation is down. People either remain still cautious or downright afraid. Many have grown accustomed to doing their own thing on Sundays. Even the numbers in high school athletics is down. Fewer public school kids are joining teams. The hand held phone has become not simply a communication tool but a relationship for some far more important than human communication and contact. While there are signs of great hope and new beginnings, the church and the Church has struggled to figure out this seemingly new way of life we all find ourselves in. Believe me, we are trying.

Yet Doug’s question prompts me to both self-reflect as your priest and urge you to do some of your own reflection. What are you doing for Shrewsbury Parish today? Better yet, what are you doing to worship and honor God today?

Episcopalians are not used to such direct questions. We tend to make a strong effort to be gracious and supportive of where one is in their spiritual journey. We talk about spiritual gifts, knowing them and moving forth with them to better the world we inhabit. That is indeed a good thing, even a holy thing.



What Are You Doing? (Continued)

Yet I am aware that serving God is not always an easy task. Ask those who keep showing up, either in person or on Zoom every Sunday. Ask those who work with our Social Ministries or those who visit the residents of the two local motels, which have become for profit homeless shelters. Ask the woman who sets the altar every Saturday because not enough folks are able to do it anymore. Ask our treasurers who painstakingly watch every transaction and keep us financially in shape. Ask the men who cut our grass every Tuesday. Ask the women who clean our buildings every week. Sometimes service is simply showing up. Sometimes service is simply doing what we need. Sometimes service is asking what needs we may have.

The new reality we find ourselves in my friends is partly caused by the effects of a pandemic we are still struggling to process. I am told that the research on the psychological effects of Covid 19 is still in its infant stages. Put that together with an already declining church attendance culture and well, I think you can figure out where we are. 80% of the Episcopal churches in the United States have less than 75 people worshipping on Sundays. We are a small denomination, a small diocese, a small parish and all three are getting smaller.

The question “what are you doing for Shrewsbury today?” is one that we will have to ask with more frequency now as there are fewer of us to do all that is asked by this parish. I ask this question and I write these words not to scare you away. I ask them because in my mind and heart I know you to be a people capable of handling the plain truth whatever it may be. You are the men and women of an historic parish, which has been in existence since 1692. Imagine the challenges our forebears faced? Think about life out here in the 1700’s or 1800’s with wars, epidemics, famines and the challenges of rural life. I truly believe that as a parish we have in place a Leadership Team, a Vestry and Committees that are poised to seriously pray over and make the decisions necessary to adapt to the new reality we find ourselves in. We will adapt and we will prevail. Shrewsbury stands as a bright light in the community and in the lives of many. If you are content with coming to church an hour a week and praying on your own, you are encouraged to do so. You are welcome and I mean that. That may be your contribution and it will be honored and blessed. If you want to engage in the parish and the community beyond Sunday worship, we can help you answer the question, “What are you doing for Shrewsbury Parish today?” We need everyone. We need you. And we love you.

Thanks Doug. Your gift keeps giving my brother.

Blessings and Peace,

Henry+

The Very Rev. Henry Sabetti

Rector and Northern Convocation Dean