

# CHRISTIAN SHELTER

Salisbury, Maryland



## A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2021



### CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF SERVICE

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

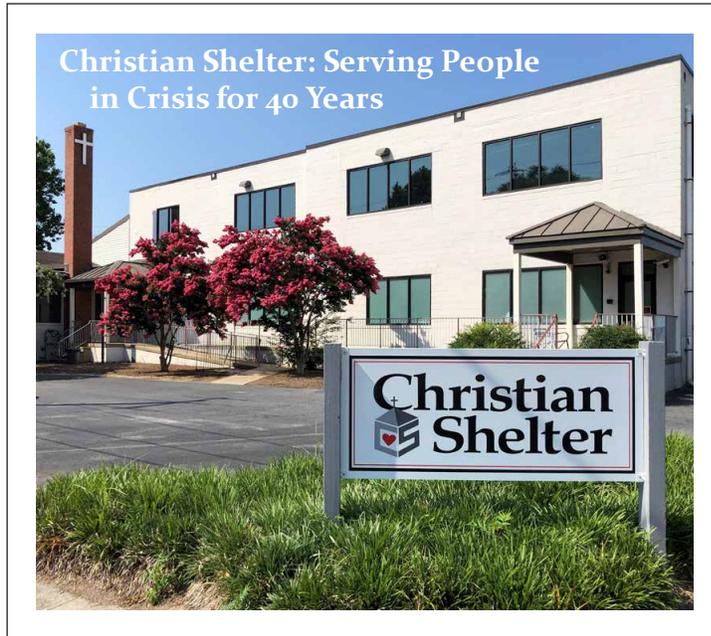
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Christian Shelter: Serving People in Crisis for 40 Years

40 years of history through pictures, articles and text that turned out to be a beautifully written book about how the shelter came to be.

So, to commemorate our 40 years of service, the Christian Shelter proudly unveils a new book about our long history. "Christian Shelter: Serving People in Crisis for 40 Years," was printed and released during September of this year. This colorful history book highlights the shelter's founders, renovation projects, donors, challenges, and the triumphs rooted in God's generosity. Read the fascinating story about how the Shelter was created during the late 70's, and the people who defied the odds by establishing and growing the operation to what it is today.

**F**or many of us, the year 2020 was a year we'd rather forget. The COVID-19 pandemic... lockdowns...election year politics...restaurants closed. It was all a bit much. Lost in the disruptions of 2020 was the fact that the Christian Shelter reached a 40-year milestone in serving people in crisis. It was during this difficult time that our board of directors started thinking about trying to capture the past 40 years of history at the Christian Shelter by publishing a 40th year anniversary history book. The problem was that we had neither the budget nor the expertise to take on such a monumental task, or so we thought! As we prayed about direction and how to proceed, in walked a gentleman by the name of John Rankin who came by the shelter one day and simply asked if there was anything he could do to help the shelter. We quickly learned that John had experience in writing and publishing and asked that he join the Media, Communications & Outreach Committee who was tasked with creating a history book about the shelter. John thankfully agreed to lead a small team of folks to research and then chronical the past

The book's 42 pages include colorful photographs that document the acquisition and renovation of two dilapidated buildings on Barclay Street in Salisbury. One section of the book tells the story of the Shelter's origin; another describes the forces behind the growth from a small building to a much larger, two-story facility. Summaries of the organization's present and future continue the saga. Finally, the book's fifth section honors the hundreds of donors including foundations, churches, businesses and individuals from around the region. Vintage photographs honor many of the donors.

*The book, which is being sold as a fundraising item, was produced and printed with funds donated by dozens of generous supporters. You can purchase your copy via the Christian Shelter's website ([www.christianshelter.org](http://www.christianshelter.org)) The book costs \$25 plus a \$2.50 shipping charge to cover postage. You may also purchase a book in person (avoid the shipping cost!) at the Shelter's office at 334 Barclay Street, Salisbury, MD. Call the Shelter at 410-749-LORD (5673) for more information.*

This shelter  
was planned, built &  
is provided for by...  
GOD  
through  
His people

#### Christian Shelter, Inc. mailing address is:

334 Barclay Street, Salisbury, MD 21804  
Phone: 410-749-LORD • Fax: 410-860-8992  
[www.christianshelter.org](http://www.christianshelter.org)



In the midst of this most festive of holidays – replete with twinkling lights, trees festooned with glittering ornaments, tables laden with massive amounts of food, and countless individual holiday traditions -- it is easy to forget the turbulent circumstances in which our Savior entered this world.

We sometimes forget that Jesus was marked for death even before he came out of his mother's womb. He was born in a cold dark barn, where his family was housed because the inn was full.

The barn reeked of livestock dung and the hide of colts and donkeys and lacked any of the basic amenities to which we have become accustomed.

Immediately after his birth, his parents were forced to flee to Egypt to escape the wrath of a ruler who had decreed the execution of all male children in Bethlehem under the age of two.

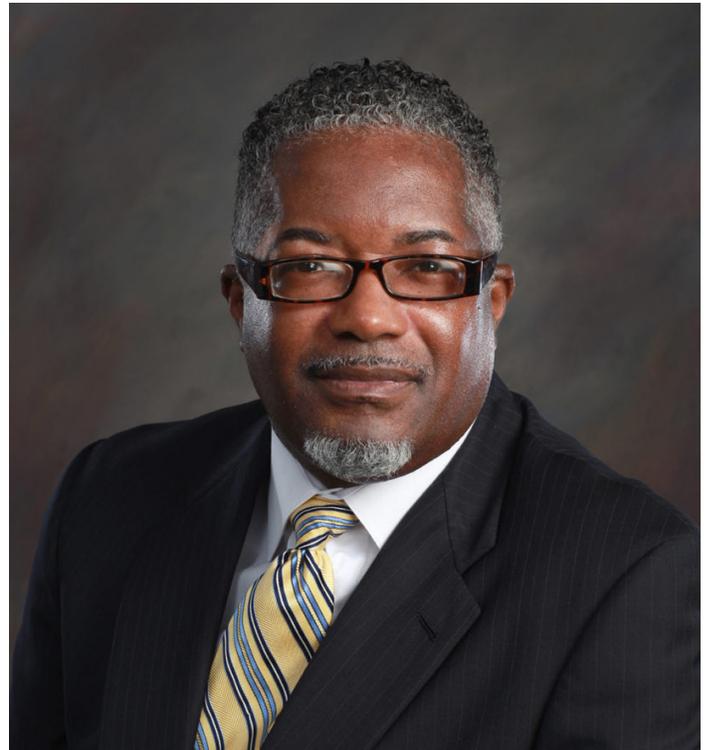
Just like in the era of the early years of the life of Jesus, we are living in a chaotic world, battered by the worst pandemic in a century and the biggest economic crisis since the Great Depression.

But I believe this Christmas season presents an opportunity for all of us to learn that good things can come out of bad times, that life doesn't have to be perfect in order for us to have a silent night and a holy night.

It's true that most of our friends and family may not be joining us for dinner this year, that we will be using smaller pots and pans and that we may not get out to the mall to shop. But if we can still find that quiet place despite the dark, damp barn around us and the threats and chaos, we can experience what really counts: care and concern, love of family, being there for one another, a desire to protect each other and do what is necessary to survive the chaos.

Like the twinkling Christmas lights, there are always glimmers of hope in the darkest night. For Joseph, the father of Jesus, it was the shelter of the barn. For us, it may be assisting the homeless with the basic needs of life.

This may well be the time for a re-imagining or a renewed understanding of what matters most: The real meaning of Christmas is proven in the warm blanket of the love of God, the family who protects what they've been given, and the awareness that angels watch over our homeless generation and God will always use us to meet there needs.



Executive Director  
J. Anthony Dickerson



STAFF HIGHLIGHT – SISTER LOTTIE HARMON

We are excited to have Sister Lottie Harmon as a new member of our staff! She is not a stranger to the shelter, as she worked here as a receptionist through MAC (which employs seniors at various job sites). When her contract expired during July, she acknowledged that she loved being here and that if a position became available, she would apply. Sister Lottie has always been an inspiration to the Christian Shelter's management and staff. She comes with years of experience dealing with broken people.

She exemplifies the word "rightly." When we think of Sister Lottie, we are reminded of Proverbs 31: "she extends her hand to the poor". Indeed, she reaches out her hands to the needy. "She opens her mouth with wisdom, and on her tongue is the law of kindness" (Proverbs 31:26). Sister Lottie is always ready to pray with the staff and guests whenever needed.

This virtuous woman knows that "the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12). We are blessed to have her on our team.

Sister Lottie is the co-pastor of New Life Sanctuary Church in Salisbury, Maryland. She has been ministering for more than twenty years.



Sister Lottie Harmon



## ROTARY BIKE TEAM SUPPORTS CHRISTIAN SHELTER

**O**n Saturday October 9, 2021, a small team of riders braved the Seagull Century Bike Ride at Salisbury University as they sought sponsors to support the Christian Shelter. This year, the group set a new record by raising over \$12,200.00 for the shelter's operating account beating last year's record of \$10,025.00. The ride was a pleasant one covering over 62 miles (this is the metric century course). This team (not always the same riders) has been riding in support of the Christian Shelter for the past 13 years and with the record year this year has been able to add well over \$80,000.00 to the operating account at the Christian Shelter. The Rotary Club of Salisbury along with the Wicomico Rotary Club and the Sunrise Rotary Club all work together to support this annual bike fund raiser by pledging donations to the team as well as having members also ride the event as well as participants. The Christian Shelter board of directors, staff and volunteers extend a heartfelt thankyou to all those that have been a part of this event over the years.



Riders left to right: Dave Downes, Dr. Liz Burke, Dan Williams, Maurine Williams, Gus Lebois



## MAGI CONCERT RETURNS TO DELMARVA

**A**fter a two-year hiatus, on November 13th, the Magi Fund was able to once again present a MAGical Christmas concert with the National Christian Choir along with the Salisbury Children's choir and featuring pianist Michael Faircloth for a single concert at the Emmanuel Church 217 Beaglin Park Drive in Salisbury, MD. As in the past, this concert was done to raise much needed funding for both the Christian Shelter as well as the Joseph House Center. This show was a tremendous success as hundreds of faithful patrons responded to the appeal with many attending the show making this a wonderful event. It was abundantly clear that those that support both organizations were extremely happy to come out and show their support. Just on tickets sales alone, the Magi Fund has once again raised thousands of dollars, all of which will be split evenly between the Christian Shelter and the Joseph House Center. Under the direction of Bonnie Luna, the Magi Fund has been supporting the needs of the shelter as well as the Joseph House Center for the past 29 years through the National Christian Choir concerts and through a Community Foundation endowment fund that was set up early on that has provided sustainable income to both organizations.

The Christian Shelter volunteers were also able to sell their newly published 40th anniversary book entitled "Christian Shelter: Serving People in Crisis for 40 Years" at the concert. Each copy is \$25.00 and all proceeds go toward the operating expenses at the Christian Shelter. Get your copy now! Stop by the Christian Shelter at 334 Barclay Street in Salisbury to buy a copy or visit our web site at [www.christianshelter.org](http://www.christianshelter.org) and follow the link to order a book.

Christian Shelter Celebrating 40 years - Joseph House Celebrating 45 years Christian Shelter Celebrating 40 years - Joseph House Celebrating 45 years

**The Magi Fund**  
presents

**A Magical Christmas Concert**

Featuring  
**The National Christian Choir**  
with pianist **Michael Faircloth**  
and the **Salisbury Children's Choir**



**SATURDAY ~ NOVEMBER 13 ~ 3:00 pm**

Emmanuel Church Auditorium  
217 Beaglin Park Drive, Salisbury, MD

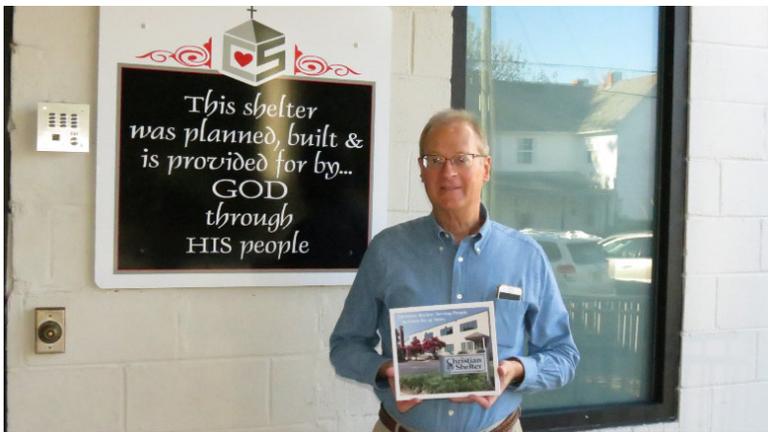
**TICKETS: \$15 IN ADVANCE / \$20 AT THE DOOR**  
Tickets available at all branches of First Shore Federal Savings & Loan and at The Country House (E. Main Street, Salisbury)

**For more information & ticket order form, please visit:**  
[www.magifund.com](http://www.magifund.com)  
or call **Bonnie Luna** at **410-749-1633**

Christian Shelter Celebrating 40 years - Joseph House Celebrating 45 years Christian Shelter Celebrating 40 years - Joseph House Celebrating 45 years

**RETURN SERVICE  
REQUESTED-SEND TO:**  
CHRISTIAN SHELTER, INC.  
334 BARCLAY STREET  
SALISBURY MD 21804

NON PROFIT ORG.  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
Salisbury, MD  
Permit No. 94



**SHOUT OUT TO ONE OF OUR OWN**

**T**his is a shout out to our lead researcher and author of "Christian Shelter: Serving People in Crisis for 40 Years". John Rankin was truly an answer to our prayers as we struggled with just how we were going to capture the rich history of the shelter over the past 40 years in the form of a 40th year anniversary book that would be sold as a fund raiser. John joined our Media, Communications & Outreach Committee late in 2020 and took on the task of researching and writing the beautiful book we have today. Thank you John for the tremendous sacrifice of time and energy in leading this project. You are a true blessing to the shelter.

**CURRENT NEEDS**

- Eggs
- Milk
- Breakfast Meat
- Lunch Meat
- Plastic Cutlery (fork, spoon, knife)
- Paper cups
- Sugar packets
- Creamer
- Coffee
- Detergent
- Sandwich bags
- Quart bags
- Gallon bags
- Wash clothes
- Towels

**PLEASE SEND US YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS  
TO RECEIVE ELECTRONICALLY**

**CONSIDER DONATING ONLINE AT  
[www.christianshelter.org](http://www.christianshelter.org)**