
Ascension Dimension

October 2011



*The Church of the Ascension
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In this Issue

From the Interim Rector	1
Birthdays & Anniversaries	2
Personals	2
Historic Claymont Tour	3
Stewardship	4
Eucharistic Visitors	4
Property	4
Outreach	5
Stewardship	5
Financials	5
Altar Guild	6
Youth & Family	7



From the Interim Rector

"From tiny Acorns..."

Another of my late mother's favorite sayings (she had many!) was "From tiny acorns mighty oaks grow". I found myself employing that phrase – probably from Chaucer - several times earlier today during the *first annual* "Historic Claymont Tour" which may have had up to 150 paying visitors, and perhaps 50 volunteers. Ascension's Nave and Parish Hall were stops of historic note along Philadelphia Pike, along with 9 other sites. We were well represented by a team of 19 persons who offered fine Church of the Ascension hospitality at our front door, in our church aisle and at punch bowl and table in the hall. If you did not take the tour, you should plan to do so next year. If we had 150 this year, how many more could we count on next year? Large and well – known events and festivals each were new at one time, and almost all of them had small beginnings. From tiny acorns...

More than a few of those who came to our church today said things like "I've lived here for more than 30 (or 40, or 50!) years and I've never been in this building... ". They seemed so pleased to be warmly welcomed, and to learn a little about Ascension's past, and what we're doing now. It set me to thinking again about something I'm often reminded of: Episcopal reticence, as in "When was to last time you invited someone to come to church?" Evangelism experts over the past generation have surveyed a lot of Episcopalians for our answer and worked out something like an average of *once every 45 years!* If that's true, then woe betide us, and shame! We have such a good thing, this particular Christian heritage and humane Christian witness, why should we be hiding it under a bushel, or hoarding it for just ourselves?

The same experts who came up with that depressing number of years say that the chances of someone who comes through the doors of our church for some event other than a Sunday service – like we had today – are many times more likely to come back than another new visitor.

Here's a challenge: I hope each of you will make the effort to invite someone you know, who might be receptive, to join you for a service at Ascension before this year is out. We all believe and say we want to parish to grow, here's a way to take action.

On a personal note, please let me acknowledge publicly the notes and expressions of sympathy for many of you after the death of my mother on September 11. We will lay her remains to rest in my father's and her home parish, the Church of the Epiphany in Norfolk, VA on October 1st. My father is doing quite well with the adjustment, and I know this is in no small measure because of prayers being offered here and elsewhere. That means so much.



October Birthdays

- 1st Beth FitzPatrick
Michelle Morgan
- 3rd Rhoda Beideman
- 11th Laura Moore
Hope Mozzoni
- 16th Vi Phillips
- 22nd Nate Burlew
Justin Rider
Helena Stilwell
- 24th Barbara Berheide
- 26th Eleanor Rotan
- 28th Sebastian Hubbard
- 30th RuthAnne Crawford
David Moore
- 31st Forrester Lee
Susan Seward

Please let us know if we missed your birthday or anniversary. YOU are an important part of our parish family.

I publish Banns of Marriage between Lori Leigh Frantz and Matthew Eric Kleiman of Boothwyn. If any of you know just cause why they may not be joined together in Holy Matrimony, you are bidden to declare it. This is the second time of asking.

3 Kinds of Giving

Three kinds of giving "There are three kinds of giving: grudge giving, duty giving and thanksgiving. Grudge giving says, 'I have to'; duty giving says, 'I ought to'; and thanksgiving says, 'I want to.' The latter comes from a full heart. Thanksgiving is an open gate into the love of God."

October Anniversaries

- October 2nd Stephanie & Brian Cooper 13 years
- October 9th Cindy & Frank Oakman 18 years
- October 10th Michelle & Charles Morgan 13 years
- October 12th Sandi & Ted O'Tanyi 43 years
Kathy & Eric Gorman 26 years
- October 13th Nancy & Rick Freebery 27 years
- October 17th Julie & Jim McDaniel 30 years
- October 24th Wendy & Jim Maxwell 19 years
- October 25th Helen & Bill Gwynn 70 years
Debbie & Hal Frantz 35 years

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!!



Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Walter Fox who were married by Fr. Godden on July 16, 2011. Mrs. Fox is the former Tiffanie Pierce, a lifelong member of The Church of the Ascension and the daughter of Sandy and Gil Pierce! We wish them every happiness in their new life together!

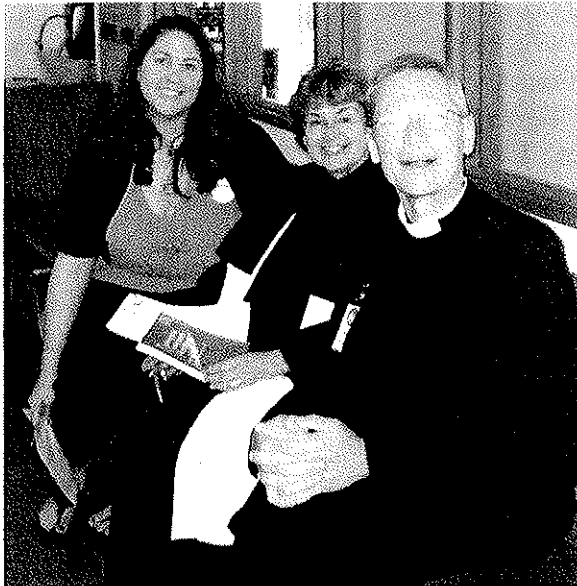
Do you surf the internet and/or shop online?

There is a program for nonprofits that donates a penny for each search. Doesn't sound like much but over the course of a year it can really add up. Go to Good Search. Com and sign up. Be sure you connect to the right Church of the Ascension (there are more than one – this is a national program).

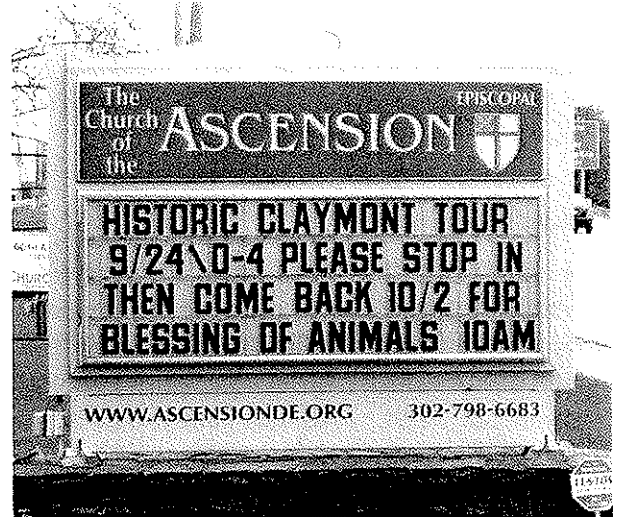
In conjunction with Good Search is a program called Good Shop which is a way for retail stores to give to non-profits. There are over 2,500 stores (including, Target, Staples, Macy's, Kohl's, Penney's etc) that donate a percentage usually between ½ percent to 5 % of your purchase price back to us. To utilize this you must go through Good Shop to get to the store's website, but then you are on their regular website with all of their sales, etc. An added bonus is that it gives you a list of all the stores coupons, free shipping etc.

We welcomed the community into our church home on Saturday, September 24th as part of the Historic Claymont Tour. In spite of the weather, we had about 80 visitors.

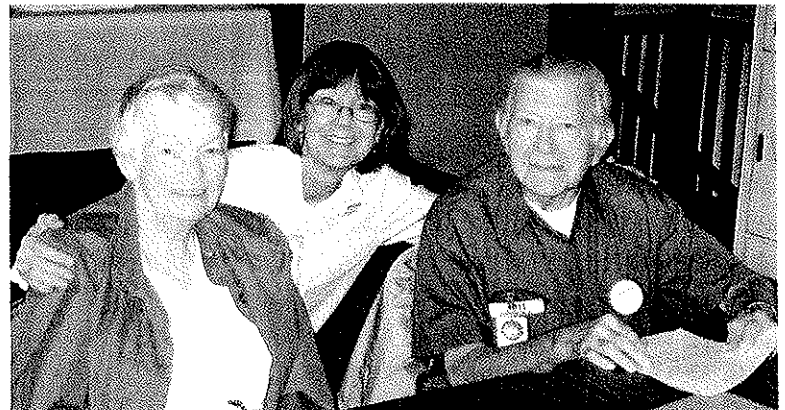
Father Ed was on hand all day to answer questions and greet people. Sandy Pierce was there all day to play three short recitals and when requested by our guests. The rest of our volunteers worked 1 ½ hour shifts at the front door, giving a tour of the church, giving a tour of the parish hall and serving refreshments. Our thanks to Chris Tomasetti, Betty Middleton, Phil Crosland, Janet Middleton, Carol Middleton, Chrissie Lockwood, Br. Carl, Bob Thomas, Tiffanie Fox, Vicki Dixon, Barbara Berheide, Genia Thomas, Greg Stilwell, Dale Gregore, Sharman Stephenson, Steve Stephenson and Hal Frantz for giving of their time to welcome our guests. Thanks also to Beth FitzPatrick for organizing the refreshments and to all who donated them.



Fr. Ed, Sandy Pierce and Tiffanie Fox relax between tour groups.



Our sign welcomed our guests.



Betty Middleton, Chris Tomasetti and Phil Crosland greeted visitors in the Parish Hall.

Tour buses took visitors among the 10 sites that were open. It was a very successful for the first time the historic tour of Claymont was offered. It is hoped that it will become an annual event. There are many interesting sites in Claymont and one often neglects those that are nearby.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS!

All pets are welcome in the church service as long as they can be controlled when with other animals. The first Sunday in October recognizes St. Francis and his love of animals. Bring your pets, stuffed animals, picture of pets, etc. to be blessed as part of the service.



ANNUAL Stewardship CAMPAIGN

Dear friends in Christ,

Despite an anemic economy, we have made praiseworthy improvements to our church: the elegance of the kneelers, the practicality of the stair chair, and the world of talent that shines in the new members of our Misa. Each has contributed according to his or her time, treasure, and talent. The vandals, though they did expensive damage, sought to steal our spiritual treasure; we prayed for them and gratefully praised the outpouring of support our community showed us.

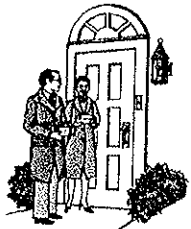
To quote today's devotional meditation from "Forward Day by Day," Jesus taught us to store treasure that lasts:

This means at least having a clear sense of what is important and what is not. Sadly, it is often when we're in hardship that our priorities become clear. Our priorities—what we truly believe to be important—are our treasure, and it is there that our hearts go. Our energy, our passion, our creativity, our efforts, our hard work, and our prayers pursue attaining and protecting our treasure.

After church on October 9th, I welcome you to join the next meeting of the Stewardship Committee. The following Sunday, October 16th, we will begin our annual campaign. See you there.

Yours in faith, fellowship, and stewardship,

Sylvia W. Reid, Stewardship Committee chair



Eucharistic Visitors

work she has done.

It is with regret that I have to announce Sandi O'Tanyi has stepped back from the ministry of Eucharistic Visitor. She has performed this ministry very well and she will be missed by the people she has visited. Please join me in thanking Sandi for all the good

If you would be interested in finding out more about this important ministry, please talk to Fr. Ed or me.

- Brother Carl



From the Property Committee

Property Committee Report October

- 1) Gaynor bid \$1310 including lettering for the awnings. I have \$200 dollars already so I need to start fund raising of \$1,110 for the awning. We will get tickets ready for this. I don't know the color or shape yet.
- 2) Kurt Gilgore has completed painting the Ranch. He painted most of the doors and most of the portico. He cleaned the Church gutters after the storm but then he had to go to the hospital. Roald Sonju will work on helping to finish up as will I. Roald is working on the inside front stained glass holders. They had serious damp damage. He is correcting this ready for contract painting of the wall. This after the glass is returned.
- 3) The sexton is now finished and will be paying rent until she finds a place to move. Right now the Lockwood's are helping out as cleaners as Christine stays with the kids and Jodie works at night. We will hire the professional cleaners as we need them too. **THANK YOU LOCKWOODS.**
- 4) The blower money has been donated for the blower. I still need large pruning shears, and a squeegee for windows that was for 15 foot high window to do the back windows of the Church.
- 5) When the toilets overflowed when the sewer was blocked and it lifted some of the hall tiles then it flooded again from the first storm which lifted more. I hope this can be corrected thru insurance claim. It was an "Accidental discharge of water".
- 6) Kurt, from the outside, cut the paint around the Parish House windows that got painted shut and pried them open again.
- 7) I will bring you all up to date with the floor in the Church floor problem as it progresses. This may also require an A & D loan. The vandalism stopped this forward progress.
- 8) I am working on the top of the frame of the front door. Kurt removed the paint and treated the rot and started using filler on the cracks. I am continuing that process and will repaint but not repent. I'm hoping Roald will help too.
- 9) Janet Middleton getting the Kitchen cleaned up in spite of storms etc not helping. PLEASE HELP FINISH IT UP. It's almost done.

- 10) Bill Suiter is keeping an eye on the outside stuff, weeds, planting etc. with help from others.
- 11) The damage is being handed and will take a while. Clark contracting will fix the foot print room. We have much damage to cover more than can be covered here.
- 12) The property committee decided to replace some of the ceiling tiles in the Amis house as they smell of smoke. Mike Berheide got us the tiles at contractor price.
- 13) Almost all our outside doors need a second coat of paint and I got a different type of paint that's hard to work with but covers better and is expensive. One post rotted out on the portico. It is almost fixed as of now. The side door of the church also had to be painted as the glass was broken out & the railing their needs painting.
- 14) The parking lot cracks need to be filled to prevent winter break up of the amisite. We are very short of money however. We are in the process of getting prices.

Greg Stilwell



OUTREACH

At our meeting on September 18th, the committee decided to disburse the remaining funds of our budgeted money for the year 2011. The balance available was \$725 -- \$675 of this was the balance available in our account, and an additional donation of \$50 was made by friends of Mike and Judy DuRoss in gratitude to the congregation for prayers for the safe return of their son from Iraq.

Following is the list of recipients and the amount awarded: **Claymont Community Center**, \$225.00; **Samantha Sieber** (for missionary work in Romania) \$150.00; **Faithful Friends** no-kill animal shelter, \$100.00; **Charlie McKinley** benefit donation (Martha Fisher's grandson), \$100.00; **Seamen's Center**, \$100.00; and **Contact Lifeline**, a suicide and sexual assault intervention group, \$50.00.

Samantha Sieber is a young adult who grew up attending Ascension. Her parents were long-time members. Samantha has been in Romania for approximately 3 years now. You can read Samantha's blogs by going to:

<http://samsmissionaryadventures.blogspot.com>; you can also go to her Facebook page -- lookup Samantha Sieber; or, you can email her: samanthasieber@gmail.com. We are proud to sponsor Samantha as she continues her service work helping others.

Charlie McKinley was in a terrible car accident at the end of May. He continues to rehab at Bryn Mawr Hospital in Pennsylvania. The above donation will be used to help with his large medical expenses. You can make a donation to help Charlie by writing a check, made payable to Richard Tomasetti or Tracy Tomasetti (good friends with Charlie's parents), or a cash donation. You can mail your contributions to: 603 Delaware Avenue, Claymont, DE 19703 or give them to Chris Tomasetti, Ascension member, and she will be happy to pass these along,

Blessing of the Animals

The Blessing of the Animals will occur on Sunday, October 2nd. We thank you, in advance, for your contributions of food and supplies to Faithful Friends, Inc., a no-kill animal shelter located on Germay Drive in Wilmington. We would also like to thank Jane Pierantozzi, Executive Director of Faithful Friends, for coming to both of our Sunday services and speaking about the valuable work this shelter provides. More information about this organization can be found at: www.faithfulfriends.us or call 427-8514. If you would like to volunteer your time, you can contact Shannon O'Neill, Director of Volunteer Services.

Christmas at Sea – October 23 and 30, 2011

The mission of the Seamen's Center of Wilmington, Inc., is to meet the needs of seafarers who visit the Ports in the State of Delaware. Joan Lyons, Executive Director, will be speaking to us on Sunday, October 23 about how the Center provides the seafarers personal, practical and spiritual assistance.

In support of the Center's Christmas at Sea Program, we will be collecting items for Ditty Boxes on Sunday, October 23 and 30. A Ditty Box is a shoe box filled with essentials which is given to every seafarer arriving in Delaware during December. You can participate by knitting hats and scarves and/or by donating some of the items listed on the next page.. Knitting instructions can be found on the sign-up table in the Great Hall. Please place items in the baskets provided.

The center is asking for **MEDIUM and SMALL** size toiletries.....**PLEASE, NO LARGE SIZE.**

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------|
| Toothbrush | Toothpaste |
| Comb | Soap |
| Knitted hats/scarves | Shampoo |
| Razors | Chap Stick |
| Playing Cards | Hand Lotion |
| Cough Drops | Candy/gum |
| Winter Gloves | Warm socks |
| Sewing Kit | Stationery |

Remember, Sunday, October 30th will be the final day to donate items.

Upcoming Outreach projects – dates to remember

November 12 -- Ditty Box Wrapping Party at Seamen's Center, Port of Wilmington.

Additional wrapping party information will be provided through bulletin inserts.

November 6, 13, 20 – In-gathering of food items for Claymont Community Center’s Thanksgiving Food Drive.

December 4, 11, 18- In-gathering of food items for Claymont Community Center’s Holiday Food Drive.

Sunday Breakfast Mission

We will be heading down to the Mission on **Saturday, October 29**, to serve dinner. If you would like to volunteer, a signup sheet will be placed on the table in the Great Hall. We will meet in the parking lot at 4:30. Dinner is served from 5:00 - 6:30. The Mission supplies all of the food -- we serve it to needy men, women, and children with a smile and a cheery "hello". This is a great way to reach out and help others.

Food Donations -- Claymont Community Center

Thank you for your continuing support of this critical program. Any food items you can supply are truly appreciated -- especially **pancake syrup** -- they can't keep enough of it in stock! The need is great. The help you provide is wonderful!

Our next Outreach meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, February 12, 2012, after the 10:00 service** in the conference room. Join us and lend your voice and opinions to helping those in need.

Income and Expense

2011 Income and Expense year-to-date 8/31/2011

	Income	Expense	Net
Actual	\$97,688	\$99,373	-1,684
Budget	93,028	95,723	-2,695
To Budget	4,660	3,649	1,010

Pledge income for 2011 exceeds budget by \$2,486.
Expenses have exceeded income for the year by \$1,684 but this is better than we had expected.

Thanks to the ladies that helped clean the Kitchen on Sept 10th. Janet Middleton, Christine Lockwood, Vicki and Sami Dixon and Chris Tomasetti. The kitchen is not complete yet and we will be finishing up at a later date to be announced. Any one interested in lending a hand can contact Janet Middleton at 792 - 2107.



Communion Wine.

Thanks to everyone for your generous donation of communion wine! We have a wonderful supply that will carry us for a year or so. If we had a list of those who donated, you would each get a personal thank you... Blessings to all of you.

Thanksgiving blessings for all. *On November 20, we will dress the altar and tables in front of the pulpit with fresh fruits and vegetables to donate to the Claymont Food Pantry.* Remember that any items you bring should be able to survive at room temperature from Sunday morning until Monday when they will be taken to the Food Pantry. The Food Pantry will distribute these items with their Thanksgiving boxes of groceries. When you arrive at church that day, just bring your contribution to the altar and a member of the Altar Guild will help you place them. Suggestions: bags of potatoes or onions, carrots, squash, cabbage, sweet potatoes, oranges, lemons, apples, pineapple, etc. Nothing that must be refrigerated over night, please.

Kneeler Project. The 5th altar rail kneeler has been completed and is in place. The symbols used on this kneeler include the Agnus Dei or Lamb of God with a banner; the Chi Rho, a monogram for Christ; and an oil lamp representing Christ as the Light of the world. This style of lamp traces to ancient times and was made of terra cotta and used olive oil for its fuel. There are two more 7 foot kneelers to complete the project, which should be complete by Easter 2012.

Gift Cards for



your groceries

Don't forget to see Carol and Babak Golgolab to get your grocery gift cards.

They are in the parish hall the first and third Sundays between the 8 and 10 AM services. For every \$100 in cards you buy,

Ascension gets \$5. It's an easy way for us all to contribute a little more to the church. Gift cards are available for Acme, Food Lion, Giant, Shop-Rite and Superfresh. Register your Safeway/Genuardi's shopper's card and the church will receive a percentage there as well. \$775 in sales in August gave us a profit of \$38.75. If you shop these stores, won't you join the program?

On November 6th **Hogar Crea** will have a graduation ceremony at 1:30 p.m. for members of the group who are graduating from the program. We congratulate them on their success and support them in their future undertakings.

Ascension Guild

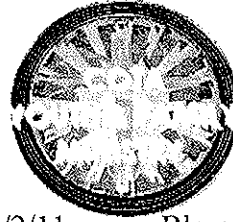


Ascension Guild will be holding **craft nights** on Wednesdays, October 12 and November 9 to work on projects for the craft show held in conjunction with the Claymont Christmas Parade on

December 3rd. All are welcome to come and work with us.

- One can give without loving, but one cannot love without giving.

Amy Carmichael



10/2/11 Blessing of the Animals, Visit from Faithful Friends & Noah's Ark Party

- Following the service: ALL ARE INVITED to listen to the story of Noah's Ark
- Games/ Activities: includes a parade of "animals" through the parish hall, live or imagined, carrying a stuffed or real animal; two by two! "Guess the Animals in the Jar?"; "Pin the Tail on the Monkey;" Coloring animal pictures FOR ALL AGES!

10/16 NARNIA at Delaware Children's Theater! All ages!

- **Following 10:00 service: Join us on the couch in the Parish hall for a discussion Good versus Evil; Images of each (colors, animals, etc); 2PM NARNIA matinee. Meet at Theater. SIGN UP list in the Parish Hall! More than 15 in a group = discount tickets!**

10/22 Road Trip to Lehigh Paintball! All ages welcome!

- **Guys and gals welcome! Bring your Dad or Uncle! Friends! 20 spots available! First Come, First go! SIGN UP in the Parish Hall! Details to follow!**

10/29 Halloween Party: Heroes of the Bible! All ages!

- **Time: 5-7 Parish Hall; Dress as your favorite Bible hero or character! Play Hero-themed games!**
- **Parents: here are a few ideas to carryover the 'Heroes' theme at home:**
 - watch "Veggie Tales: Heroes of the Bible"
 - read the bible stories of strong men and women
 - talk about Real Life Heroes today: what makes a hero? Do you know a hero?

You may have noticed our ministry has expanded its focus! Youth= kids of all ages; family = all of us! We are all children of God! Our November newsletter will have more details regarding the focus and purpose of this ministry; who's new and what's planned! Stay tuned! Peace, Dale Gregore