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# Ascension Dimension

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November 2011

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The Church of the Ascension  
3717 Philadelphia Pike  
Claymont, DE 19703  
(302) 798-6683

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## From the Interim Rector "Feasting on Gratitude"

"Feasting on Gratitude" is the title of our a series of informal talks, and it describes the sense of Christian Stewardship underlying Ascensions organized effort for having us consider our pledges of support for ministry in 2012. Each Sunday, a member will share a story with us to inspire, pique our interest, and help us pray and think about our need *to be a giving person*.

Christian Stewardship is more than giving to a project, or fund-raising, pledging, or even *tithing* (the giving of ten-percent of one's income toward a goal or good purpose). Christian Stewardship is the faith action of us teaching ourselves, by word, deed, and sacrifice that everything we have or possess, or will ever possess, can be traced back to gifts given to us by God-in-Christ. How does this work? It's not something that just "comes to us naturally" in our fallen, sinful state – what comes naturally to us is the "survival of the fittest". What comes more naturally to us is selfishness. We used to say, when baptizing an infant, that what God was about to bestow on them was something they could not have "by nature". As a fallen human being, my tendency is to think whatever I can amass is *mine*, and even can be *so you'd better keep your hands off of it!* As a mature Christian, what I am to school myself to believe, more and more, is that everything I've been given is a gracious gift from God, including the body, and mind and skill of that body and mind I use to provide for myself, my children – and others, too, whom God calls me to serve.

As mature Christians, our basic stance toward to world and our neighbors should be to grow- up into *gratitude*. It is amazing what real gratitude in one's heart can do: it leads to peace, and then to a longing for connection with our brother or sister, and then to generosity, and then to *giving away* a significant part of what one has. When it comes to giving for the spread of God's kingdom and Christ's Good News of salvation by the church, what I give should be a significant portion, not a token amount, of what I have. If I am grateful, this is only natural. If I am *fearful*, which is the opposite of faithful, then it is difficult. A Christian Stewardship workshop leader I heard years ago said "One way of your knowing what is really important to you, is to take out your checkbook and look at where you've spent your money". That was a sobering thought!

After the end of series of talks on Feasting on Gratitude on November 20, we will each be asked to make a commitment of giving for the ministry and program of the Church of the Ascension for 2012. Our leadership needs a good idea of what to expect from us, time, talent *and* money, if they are to do a faithful job planning, and budgeting the parish's resources. I hope you will be able to pledge out of an abundance of blessing, and a grateful attitude – especially if you have not pledged before – and if you have been a regular giver, you might be in the position of being able to do even more, here and elsewhere in your giving, to the glory of God.



November Anniversaries

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Dale & Kevin Gregore	25 years
28 <sup>th</sup>	Carol & Babak Golgolab	26 years
29 <sup>th</sup>	Sandy & Gil Pierce	42 years



November Birthdays

- 1<sup>st</sup> Harry Burlew  
Heather Burlew
- 2<sup>nd</sup> David Axsom  
Nick Suiter
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Ann Archer  
Sharom Moore
- 5<sup>th</sup> Nancy Smith
- 6<sup>th</sup> Conner Maxwell
- 11<sup>th</sup> Ron Richardson  
Andy Shackelford  
Ansleigh Watson
- 16<sup>th</sup> Jacqueline Coker
- 17<sup>th</sup> David McKinley, Sr.
- 20<sup>th</sup> Sloane Gregore
- 21<sup>st</sup> Betty Middleton
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Margie Adams  
Sam Axsom
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Laura McMillan
- 27<sup>th</sup> Jim Scharp
- 28<sup>th</sup> George Godfrey
- 29<sup>th</sup> Janet Brownhill  
Jim McMillan
- 30<sup>th</sup> Janet LaBree  
Charles Morgan



**Meet Julian Michel Barry**

Julian was born September 19, 2011 weighing in at 9 lb. 3 oz. He is the son of Shannon Suiter and Shawn Barry and the grandson of beaming grandparents Chrissie & Bill Suiter. Congratulations to all!



On October 8, 2011 Lori Frantz and Matt Kleiman were married at Ascension with Fr. Godden presiding. Lori's proud parents are Debby & Hal Frantz.



*Happy Birthday!!*

If you or family members are not listed in the birthdays or anniversaries, please call the office and let us know the date. **YOU** are an important part of our parish family.

On August 28<sup>th</sup> (during Hurricane Irene) Amy Kates and Sean Fullan were married in Honeybrook, PA. Amy's proud parents are Barbara & Skip Kates.



*We wish both couples much happiness!*



**Welcome to Our Family**

On October 9, 2011 we welcomed Gavin Krauss into Christ's family here at Ascension. Gavin is the son of Alan & Michelle Krauss; grandson of Lisa & Paul McFarland and great-grandson of Stella Williams.



## FEASTING ON GRATITUDE

This fall we are looking at the many gifts God has given us as we begin our annual stewardship campaign. We have much to be thankful as a loving community of Christ.

The community recognizes our giving spirit as shown following our recent break-in and vandalism. WSFS bank donated money to help us recover from our loss and offered a team of managers to help us clean up. Trinity Presbyterian also sent a check as did Boy Scout Troop #62. We also received donations from some generous parishioners. Calls were received from others offering us help in our cleanup and space to worship if we needed it. As you can see, the community recognizes us as doing Christ's work in Claymont.

In addition to our outreach programs, Ascension has much to offer our members as well. Each Sunday morning we have a wonderful opportunity to come and worship God and refill our souls with the spiritual food needed to get through the next week. In November we will be resuming Godly Play for our younger members and our youth group continues to plan wonderful activities for youth and for families. The ministries we participate in – choir, guild, altar guild, property, finance, greetres, ushers, acolytes, lectors, communion assistants, outreach, food deliverers and others - all add to the richness of our parish life and to our individual growth.

It is the time of year when we consider what portion of our incomes we can give to further God's work in this place.

This year we are hearing our fellow members talking about stewardship. The final talk will be on November 20<sup>th</sup> when we also bring fresh fruits and vegetables for the community center and celebrate Christ the King Sunday as we prepare for thanksgiving. On that date you will receive a pledge card and be asked to reflect on what you have heard and what you have prayerfully considered giving as you fill out your pledge card. A letter and pledge card will be mailed to those who do not pledge that day. An envelope for your use in returning the card will be included. If we do not hear from you, you will receive a follow-up call to make sure you received your opportunity to support God's work in this place. If you do not receive a card and would like one, please call the office and we'll get you one right away. You can also use your card to request envelopes.

Your pledge card has a guide for proportionate giving on the back to help serve as a guide as you consider your pledge. We realize that all people are different and are in varying spots in their lives. Some people live on fixed incomes, are in between jobs, have pressing medical bills, or may be taking care of a relative. Whatever your circumstances, pledge an amount that is appropriate and stretches you a little, but does not cause you financial hardship.

Again, this is a very personal discussion and decision, and should be made after prayerful consideration. The following Bible passage is offered for your consideration and to give guidance.

*<sup>6</sup>Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. <sup>7</sup>Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup>And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. <sup>9</sup>As it is written: "He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his righteousness endures forever." <sup>10</sup>Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. <sup>11</sup>You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.*

(2 Corinthians 9:6-8)

We look forward to a successful year as we continue to grow in our spiritual lives and our ministries.



## Property Report November

This property report is about what has been done as of now. When I first started my job I had to rebuild most of the toilets and replace lights but when the weather got nicer I went to work on the front door of the Church. It was rotten on the bottom and the rot had to be cut out and replaced with treated lumber. All the bad spots had to have the paint removed and the bare spots treated with a special rot type resin to stop any rot from returning. This took a long drying time but when it dried an undercoating was put on. Then it took 4 coats of red paint to cover.

Now the top area had to undergo the same treatment. I got help for some of it from Kurt Gilgore in the paint removal and Roald Sonju put the last coat of red on it. Then the hardware was put back on. This door will do that again so I asked for an awning to help cover it from the weather. I got the price of \$1,110 dollars for it. It is to be brown with a Gothic arch shape. The lettering wasn't so easy. It is desired to have a Greek cross, or an Episcopal shield or the rose window design on the front. A price will be gotten for each of these requests.

Right now we are almost half way there in money for the awning.

Since we hired Kurt, he has painted most of our problem areas. He got 2 or 3 coats of paint on all the red doors except the front Parish house double doors. He painted & repaired the court yard section of the Rantz windows as well as the damaged windows on the courtyard windows of the Parish House. He painted the Vesting room window that was damaged and right now is painting the side small windows inside which have become rusted. He is working on the Amis house rear step sanding it and painting that too.

Kurt discovered that a post was rotting out on the portico so I fixed that and painted the column and Kurt gave it a second coat. I have to fix the slate yet. Kurt painted all the wood parts on the portico.

Roald prepared the 4 stained glass window areas for the stained glass and Kurt washed the protecting glass. We can go no further until we get the stained glass back, then a contractor will paint the whole front wall as it was gouged out in many places during our vandalism.

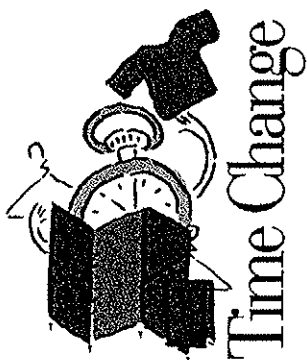
The committee is having working meetings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday and with the great help from Mike Berheide we have replaced the ceiling tiles in the Amis House living room and dining room. We have the Kitchen a small entrance hall and the upstairs bedroom to go.

Good news is that the Lockwood's have been hired as our sexton. They will live in the Amis house as soon as we can obtain it. They have been cleaning without pay for many weeks now and will continue until they can get into the Amis House. WOW, WHAT PEOPLE WE HAVE IN OUR CHURCH!!!

There is much discussion to do away with this method and rent the house and have the place cleaned by professionals. We would all be responsible for security and it will take \$35,000 dollars to bring the house up to standards so that it can get a high rent. This will require all the hung ceilings to be replaced with plaster ceilings, the kitchen counter replaced, the fire place made for gas, and a powder room added & miscellaneous other things. This is how all the other parishes do it except Christ Church Monchanin.

Next time I will write about what we will need going forward. My time will end at the parish meeting in January.

Greg Stilwell



We "fall back" to standard time at 2 AM on Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup>.

**FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN**

As we enter the month of November I hope you all have fallen back into Church from all those summer activities. A lot has been going on at Ascension. Your Vestry is busy and looking for a few new members to fill vacant unexpired terms and for the upcoming elections at our annual meeting. If you would like information in regards to serving on vestry please contact me at your convenience ([hfrantz@comcast.net](mailto:hfrantz@comcast.net))

Update on the Vandalism, the stained glass is being repaired as I write this and should return in a few months. Altar items are being repaired, painting in the front of the Church will be scheduled shortly, carpet and woodwork damage are currently being assessed and estimated, this is only a partial listing of what is happening just in regards to the Vandalism. The business of Ascension has been very busy, I expect these repairs will go well into next year.

The exterior storm damage we suffered which consisted of a utility pole that we owned and three trees coming down taking out the utilities to the Amis House and partial utilities to the Church have been taken care of. We had a new utility pole installed, the three trees were removed with stumps to follow shortly and all the utilities have been restored. Our exterior had been cleaned up, the bushes in front of the Church have been trimmed and the Memorial Garden weeded by our landscaper.

About our sexton, We have a new one (or two). Jodie & Christine Lockwood have been hired effective Nov 1 and will be moving into the Amis House soon. If you have noticed our buildings looking very nice lately they both have been doing a great job volunteering to fill the gap until we hired another sexton and saved us a whole bunch of money by volunteering their time to do so. We owe them a big thanks!

If you have anything of interest for the newsletter please get it to Genia Thomas ([ascensionnewsletter@comcast.net](mailto:ascensionnewsletter@comcast.net)) prior to the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month as we would love to have your input -.

Peace,  
Hal Frantz SW

<u>Income and Expense through Sept. 30, 2011</u>		
Actual	Budget	Difference
<b><u>Income</u></b>		
106,640	101,749	4,891
<b><u>Expense</u></b>		
109,630	105,902	3,728
<b><u>Net</u></b>		
-2,990	-4,154	1,164
Pledges exceed budget by \$3,357*		
*Additional pledgew were received after the budget was prepared.		



## OUTREACH

On October 2nd, Blessing of the Animals Sunday, we presented our animal food and

supply gifts to Jane Pierantozzi. Ms. Pierantozzi is the Founder and Executive Director of **Faithful Friends**. Jane has committed the last 10 years to building Faithful Friends programs which demonstrate exemplary care in a shelter environment. Under her leadership, Ms. Pierantozzi has been able to meet national standards of a 90% no kill rate in Delaware shelters. She spoke about the need to help and house God's creatures, especially in these tough economic times. Faithful Friends is located on Germay Drive in Wilmington. We estimated that the value of these donations was \$280.00. Judy DuRoss presented to Jane a check in the amount of \$100.00 from our Outreach funds. If you would like to volunteer your time at the shelter, please call Shannon O'Neill, Director of Volunteer Services, at 427-8514, or go to their website at [www.faithfulfriends.us](http://www.faithfulfriends.us)

We received a thank you letter from Joan Lyons, Executive Director, of the **Seamen's Center of Wilmington** for our contribution of \$100.00. In her letter, Joan writes: "your support will enable the Center to continue its work of providing services to the seafarers who visit the Ports of the Lower Delaware River and Bay." Time is running out...if you would like to join us for the Ditty Box Wrapping Party at the Seamen's Center on Saturday, November 12th, you need to sign up. There is a sheet on the table in the Parish Hall. Only a few spots remain. The deadline to volunteer is Sunday, November 6th.

We are a generous group! The estimated value of food donations to Claymont Community Center during August and September was \$670.00. The Center thanks you very much for your kindness. Again this year, we will collect food for the **Claymont Community Center's Thanksgiving Food Drive**. The collection dates are: November 6 and 13. Needed items include: canned sweet potatoes, corn, green beans, fruit, cranberry sauce, canned gravy, cereal, pancake mix, syrup, boxed stuffing, mashed potatoes, macaroni and cheese. The food items can be placed in the baskets in front of the podium before and after services.

### Upcoming Outreach project:

Claymont Community Center's Holiday Food Basket program occurs in December. Collection dates are December 4, 11, and 18. Items for this project include: canned sweet potatoes, corn, green beans, canned gravy, cereal, fruit, cranberry sauce, pancake mix, syrup, boxed stuffing, macaroni and cheese.

The next Outreach meeting will be on **Sunday, February 12, 2012 after the 10:00 service**. Come join us as we strive to help those less fortunate than ourselves.

## Sharing Thanksgiving



### thanksgiving

Each year we collect canned and packaged food for the Thanksgiving food distribution at the Claymont Community Center's Food Closet. This year we are adding a collection of fresh fruits and vegetables on Sunday, November 20. We will place the food on and around the altar in the Sanctuary. The food you bring must be able to survive at room temperature overnight. Fruit and vegetables will be taken to the Food Closet on Monday, Nov. 21.

A suggested list of vegetables:

potatoes, carrots other root vegetables - turnips, parsnips, etc. squash (winter hard shell varieties) green, red, yellow sweet peppers onions, sweet potatoes/yams and a list of fruit:

apples, oranges, lemons, clementines, grapefruit

## DECEMBER 3 PARADE DAY!

Put this on your calendar!  
December 3<sup>rd</sup> is the annual  
Claymont Christmas



### Holiday Craft & Bake Sale

Parade. We supply cookies and hot chocolate for all who come in after watching the parade. Cookies are needed. The parade ends at Ascension with the Blessing of the Claymont Weed. Local Civic Associations, politicians and others take part as Fr. Godden blesses the Christmas Weed. If you haven't participated before, come see what it is all about. Either way, come and help us greet our neighbors and make them welcome!

Ascension Guild has been hard at work making crafts this year. See the fruits of their labors and buy gifts for your family, friends - or yourself. Baked goods will also be available for sale. Join us on December 3<sup>rd</sup>! The crafts that don't get sold on the 3<sup>rd</sup> will be available between services on December 4<sup>th</sup>.

## PARISH LIFE DAY

November 19, 2011

8:30 AM - 3:15 PM

Registration Deadline - November 6<sup>th</sup>

Workshops - Worship

Meet with fellow Episcopalians  
from around the state.



## CHILDREN YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY (CYFM)

### Proposal and Outline, 2011

#### FOCUS:

Teaching God's word through stories, readings, activities (drama, music)

Living God's word through action (prayer, worship, daily life)

Service to self and others (church & community: local and broad)

#### HOW:

Integrative ministry: Spanish, English

Inclusive ministry: All are welcome, all are God's children; a house of prayer for all people

Intergenerational: combined cross generational events

#### TASK:

To reach out to those questioning or emerging in faith

To provide support to those in need

To teach and foster a religious foundation and an open, accepting spirit

#### MEET:

Monthly planning meeting: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, at 11:30 to plan/prepare for following month's activities.

#### FORMAT:

Children's ministry: Godly Play. Starting up again November; every other Sunday. 9:45 welcome; lessons 10-10:45; children will process into church following the Sermon.

Youth Ministry: meet monthly/ 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday: plan activities around a central theme / message/ bible verse; participate in diocesan and Province III activities; plan/ participate in church, community and world service projects; etc.

Family Ministry: send emails to parents with suggested readings, activities based on monthly theme/ bible verse; arrange speakers, outings for parents and families to enjoy together; sponsor family movie nights, offer babysitting for parent education sessions, church service, etc.

#### WHO:

Our Lord and Savior, Head of Ministry

**CHILDRENS MINISTRY:** Godly Play: Christine and Jodie Lockwood; Vicki Dixon; Walt and Tiffanie Fox; Sammi Dixon (assistant teacher)

**YOUTH MINISTRY:** Dale Gregore, Youth Ministry, Vestry liaison; Josh McDaniel and Lauren Berheide, Youth Ministry Assistants

**FAMILY MINISTRY: ALL!**

This is our proposal. Comments, suggestions, volunteers welcome. Please join us at a planning meeting for this new and vital ministry focus. Family first. Building a love of Christ through family-centered events: one way Ascension is changing to meet the needs of our parishioners.



## NOVEMBER 2011 CYFM CALENDAR OF EVENTS

COTAs children, youth and family ministry (CYFM) is for all ages; young and old, we are family. We support one another, learn and grow together. It is our hope that this family-focus will bring parishioners together to worship, serve and live God's word.

6 Yummm: Do you have any Halloween candy left?

13 Our first CYFM DINNER AND A MOVIE!

Welcome back to the table! We continue our theme of animals and water: come join us for a modern day Noah adventure. Breaking bread as a church family and sharing in the joy of laughter.

**MENU:** Noodles flooded with two by two meatball spaghetti sauce.

**TIME:** 5:30 PM, children will set the table and cook the sauce while parents meet with the leaders to hear about COTAs CYFM focus, events and mission.

**6PM DINNER**

**6:30 MOVIE:** Evan Almighty.  
Parish Hall.

20 11:15 YOUTH lesson: Matthew 14: 13-21 *Your all is enough*. Teen will learn that whatever they have to give is enough for Jesus to work his purposes out in their life.

Talking points to be shared: Let's eat; our little is enough for God; God wants us to be part of what he is doing (what do you have to offer Him: what's holding you back?); Emphasis and Activity: Your gift to God.

CYFM leader planning meeting 11:45

24 Let us give thanks for life's blessings. "And those who have reason to be thankful should continually sing praises to the Lord" James 5:13.

27 Riddle me this question: in what ways does God want us involved in what he does? Here is your opportunity to help assemble Claymont Christmas Parade give-away bags after the 0800 and 1000 services: Parish Hall. Help us put together 500 good will and information bags to distribute along the parade route, December 3<sup>rd</sup>!

If you have any questions or suggestions for a CYFM event; please let us know!

Dale Gregore; Jodie lockwood; Christine Caratello-Lockwood; Walt Fox; Tiffany Peirce Fox; Josh McDaniel; Lauren Berheide; Vicki Dixon; Sammi Dixon

**COMING IN DECEMBER 2011:**

- 12/2 ANNUAL PRE-PARADE YOUTH LOCKIN
- 12/3 CLAYMONT CHRISTMAS PARADE and Blessing of the Claymont Christmas Weed
- 12/11 Festival of the Virgin of Guadeloupe
- 12/17 CYFM angel cookie baking event and nativity set-up
- 12/18 Keeping Christ in Christmas Nativity Display



**Blessing of the Animals – October 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Father Godden blessed our dogs, cats, box turtles, stuffed animals and other creatures individually during the worship service. Our pets then joined us in the Parish Hall over coffee hour.



Integrity-DE welcomes The Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Kaeton on Saturday, November 12 2011 from

10AM to noon at Christ Episcopal Church, Dover. Elizabeth will present a program on "Commitments, Eovenants and Civil Unions". All are welcome. Refreshments will be served. For more information contact Jon Rania, Integrity-DE Chapter Convener at 302-734-5731 or e-mail Integrity-DE@hotmail.com.



Unitil November 30<sup>th</sup>, donors have the opportunity to have their gifts doubled thanks to a Matching Gift

challenge w hich will match gifts dollar-for dollar up to \$500,000. You can give, online, by mail or by phone & funds will go to the Global needs Fund for wordwide programs to alleviate hunger, promote health , create economic opportunities and obercome disasters.

**PUT THIS ON YOUR CALENDAR AND INVITE YOUR FRIENDS**



**DECEMBER 18, 2011**

**9AM – 4PM**

**Annual Display of Nativities from Around the World.**

# The Church of the Ascension

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3717 Philadelphia Pike  
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The Rev. Ed Godden,  
Interim Rector

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ascensionoffice@comcast.net

Newsletter Submissions:  
ascensionnewsletter@comcast.net

Sunday Worship  
8:00 AM & 10 AM

Domingo Misa 12 Noon



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## Mission Statement

*The Episcopal Church  
of the Ascension  
seeks to be the body of Christ  
in our community through  
worship, teaching, service and  
celebrating life.*

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Website  
[www.ascensionde.org](http://www.ascensionde.org)

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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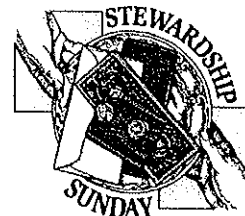
## Resuming in November



Godly Play

All Saints' Day NOVEMBER 6<sup>th</sup>

November 20<sup>th</sup>  
Harvest & Pledge Sunday



*Thanksgiving*

Happy Thanksgiving!