

Ascension Dimension

September 2011

From the Interim Rector

It's good to Share!

When I was little, I could hear my mother's admonition ringing in my ear: "It's GOOD to share!" She wouldn't have had to say it if sharing came naturally, or 100% easily, or without some patience required on my part. But, of course, she was right. Sharing required that I and my brother, or a friend over, or schoolmate, would both need to exercise some patience, and experience a very brief lesson in maturity, for a greater reward. When we *did share*, we'd both have more fun, and we each actually receive much more than we could have individually. My mother knew also that sharing as a child was an important lesson for sharing as an adult; that it was an indispensable lesson, worth repeating.

As you've all heard sometime in the past several weeks, in June the Wardens and Vestry of the Church of the Ascension considered a number of options for our future relationship with an ordained leader, and discerned that the best path forward for us was to *share a full time priest* with another congregation which has pledged to do the same. That priest would minister part time in each congregation, but taken together this would be a full-time position for him or her, with pension and benefits. The intent is to attract a member of the clergy eager for creativity, and whom we expect would wish to make a greater impact in their ministry than they could working part-time with only one parish.

Having a priest part-time is not a new experience for Ascension. I have been working with you 30 hours a week, Sunday through Wednesday or 4/7 of full time -- though of course being present for emergencies, weddings, funerals and the occasional Saturday meeting. Fr. Holland, our last rector, was part-time rector and part-time office administrator. Both priests called to Ascension who preceded Fr. Al, the Reverend Rita Nelson, and the Rev. Susan Cembalisty, were hired as part-time. The difference here will be *sharing*, which your leadership believes could have many benefits yet unknown. Of course, that does mean remembering those childhood lessons of extra patience and the exercise of discipline on everyone's part. Another very big difference this choice leads to: when the search process gets started, Ascension and another congregation can choose from the much larger pool of clergy who are looking for full-time employment, relative to those looking for part-time.

We are well along in the transition process, but there remains much to be done. Right now, our primary task as members is to participate in the September start-ups of ministry, activity and worship. Your leadership and I will be able to keep you posted on developments that bring the transition process to fruition ... to a new rector! For now, let's all rededicate ourselves to weekly worship, to active ministry, and to frequent participation in what Ascension has to offer us, which, thanks be to God, is just so much!



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September



September Anniversaries

September Birthdays

- 1st Reed Pearson
- 2nd Kelly Shimp
- 3rd Joe Milhoan
- 7th Gil Pierce
- 9th Joe FitzPatrick
- 10th Jack Lawson
Frank Oakman
Bob Widenor
- 11th Dianne Burlew
- 13th Paula Widenor
- 15th Nancy Moore
- 16th Carol Clarke
- 17th Andrew Cooper
- 18th Jack Burlew
Eric Gorman
- 20th Tatiana Jallah
- 22nd Killian Catts
- 23rd Peggy Drulik
Gail Mummert
- 24th Jim McDaniel
Janet Middleton
- 26th James McDaniel

September 6 th	Arpie & Hank Maxwell	59 years
	Jan & Ron Richardson	53 years
September 16 th	Dianne & Harry Burlew	44 years
September 22 nd	Helena & Greg Stilwell	60 years
	Margaret & Frank Carter	10 years



Summer's Over!

As the children go back to school and summer vacations end, it's time to get back in gear at church as well!

On **September 11**, we will kick-

off our church program year with a **WELCOME BACK PICNIC!**

Ascension will have a Welcome Back Picnic to celebrate the autumn season. The picnic will be held on Sunday, September 11 beginning at about 12:30 (after the noon service). We will set-up after the 10:00 service like we did for the June Picnic. There will be sign up sheets in the Parish Hall for salads, side dishes, deserts, chips, etc. More details will be sent by e-mail and in the blue insert for the Sunday bulletin. Contact Ned Phillips or Beth FitzPatrick for more information.

We all had a wonderful time at the June Picnic!! Be sure to put this on your calendar and join us on September 11!

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

LADIES,



**SUNDAES
ON WEDNESDAY**

Our first Ascension Guild meeting of the season will be held on Wednesday, September 21st in the conference room. As is our custom, our refreshments for the September meeting will be Sundaes! You don't have to be a guild member to come and join us for fellowship, fun and food. It's a great way to get to know each other and you don't need to join. Come out on the 21st and join us. We would love to get to know you better!

From the Senior Warden

Welcome Back

I hope everyone has had an enjoyable summer and is ready to join us as we embark on a very fulfilling fall schedule. One thing that did not take a vacation this summer was the business of Ascension, what a busy time it has been for your Wardens, Vestry and it's various committees. As you have probably read or heard by now we will soon begin having meetings with other Parishes who may be interested in sharing a full time Priest with us and I will keep you all informed of our progress once we begin. As we move forward do not worry, we have truly been blessed with the presence of Father Godden at Ascension, his guidance and experience have already made their mark and will with no doubt prove invaluable as we shape our future. I look forward to working with him and the members of our Vestry during our transition to whatever the Lord has planned for us and I am at peace as I truly believe our future looks good.

Our wonderful old buildings combined with bad storms have surely been challenging lately. I will continue to pursue the recent insurance claim for the damage to the floors in the Church which was denied and will be filing a new insurance claim as the Rantz wing has suffered considerable damage to the floors in light of recent flooding due to storms. Our Property Committee is performing admirably and I am sure they will have a very busy fall so when you see one of them in your travels, especially Greg be sure to take a minute to thank them for their efforts.

Your help is needed, we need folks to sign up for coffee hour at all services, please consider how you would feel as a visitor or a guest coming up to our parish hall after service to see nothing happening or worse the leftovers from the previous service. Altar flower sign-ups, property clean ups and the like also need your assistance. Look around and think "where can I help", check the table each week in the parish hall as there are sign up sheets and information posted there. We have a lot of things that need tending to and we can certainly use some more hands.

Peace,
Hal Frantz, Senior Warden
hfrantz@comcast.net

Property Committee Report September 2011

- 1) We have prices for the awning over the front church door with a picture from Harper of \$2600 Brown @ \$2000 and Gaynor at \$1300 for the awnings price. This has to have the color selected and the shape (half moon or gothic like the door top) selected too. Let's hear from all of you. What do you think? Then we must raise the funds.
- 2) Our Kurt Drulik cleaned out all the Church gutters with my help so maybe the water won't run over the top.
- 3) Kurt will be staying with us for a while doing outside work and will be paid as he is finding difficulty getting a job. So it is our good luck. The committee will help him and get his supplies.
- 4) No luck in getting any of these items as donations. Such as large pruning shears, leaf blower and a squeegee for windows that was for 15 foot high window to do the back windows of the Church. See the special request listed separately.
- 5) There is still a smell in the Ladies room Greg will pursue this as soon as I can. I have a thought as to the source and I have a new "P" trap for the sink in the room. I believe the pipe is rotted out going thru the wall. When the toilets overflowed when the sewer was blocked it lifted some of the hall tile. I think this can be corrected thru insurance claim. It was an "Accidental discharge of water".
- 6) With lower outside temperature, Kurt, from the outside, will cut the paint around the Parish House windows that got painted shut and pry them open again.
- 7) I am, with the help of my wife, enlarging the music holders mounted on the back of the pews for the choir. This will keep the books off the floor so that the sexton can clean the choir area easier and the choir will have all their stuff in one place. We have 6 books we use plus our folders. A work in progress.
- 8) Kurt is working on the top of the frame of the front door. We need to remove the paint then treat the rot then use filler on the cracks. Then repaint. But not repent. This is underway
- 9) Janet Middleton is organizing a cleanup of the kitchen. We have workers who can't come the 27th working ahead of time hard too. When you read this I hope we got it done.

- 10) We still have a problem with our property line with the neighbor in the back as the previous neighbor seized about a ¼ acre. We are getting a surveyor to start court action.
- 11) I will bring you all up to date with the floor in the Church floor problem as it progresses. We are battling with the insurance co as we feel it's covered. They do not feel it is so it goes.
- 12) Bill Suiter is keeping an eye on the outside stuff, weeds, planting etc. with help from others.
- 13) The property committee decided to replace the ceiling ties in the Amis house as they smell of smoke. They are being ordered with the help of Mike Berheide.
- 14) Almost all our outside doors need painting and repair. The only door that's OK is the double door for the front of the Parish House and the side door of the church but the railing there needs painting. However the portico needs scraping then painting.
- 15) The parking lot cracks need to be filled to prevent winter break up of the amosite. We are in the process of getting prices.
- 16) Another thought is to remove the AC units in the wall of the conference & Nursery rooms but it will mean shingling the outside and plaster board & insulation inside. The committee will get this done if money and time allows.
- 17) The walks that have sunk down will be raised with 2 picks and dry cement will be put under them so they will level out. We have the cement.

Greg Stilwell

Special Request can you donate one?

Can you find one you don't need? How donating about a large pruning shear. We really need a leaf blower - electric preferred. The gas ones get hard to start. We could use a squeegee for windows with a pole attachment for height. That will be hard to find I know. But I can ask.

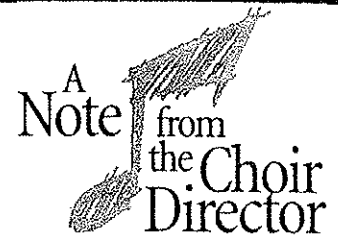
Psalm 23 from a child's view

In a nutshell A Sunday school teacher gave her second-graders a month to memorize Psalm 23. One little boy was excited about the task but just couldn't remember the whole chapter.

When the day came for the children to recite Psalm 23 before the congregation, the nervous boy stepped up to the microphone and said, "The Lord is my Shepherd, and that's all I need to know!"

Join Us

Thursday,
September 8,
7 P.M.



For an open Chancel Choir rehearsal

Experience the joy of Choir ministry; as we together proclaim the Word in song; offer praise and thanksgiving to Christ; and return GOD's gift of music in glory, with the help of the Holy Spirit.

The seventeenth century hymn below captures the beauty and deep meaning in language the whole of the Christian message.

My Song Is Love Unknown

Words: Samuel Crossman (1624 –1683)

Music: Love Unknown, John Ireland (1871 –1962)

Hymn # 458 The Hymnal 1982

*My song is love unknown, my Savior's love to me,
Love to the loveless shown that they might lovingly be.
O who am I that for my sake my Lord should take
frail flesh, and die?*

As church musicians we sing the Word and tell the church's story through the hymns of our hymnal. Music is the medium we use to deepen our experience. I give thanks for GOD's gift of music and ask you to consider giving the gift of your voice to choir ministry that carries with it a personal reflection of GOD's presence in your life.

We pray continually the chorister's prayer:

Bless, O LORD, your servants who minister in your temple.

*Grant that what we sing with our lips
we may believe in our hearts,
and what we believe in our hearts,
we may show forth and practice in our lives.
To the glory of your holy name,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*



The Stewardship Committee welcomes you!

This fall will be a season of exciting challenges for us as we plan the 2011 campaign. To help choose our first meeting date in early September and to share ideas, please contact Sylvia Reid at shevra@msn.com or 302-743-8811. We look forward to your presence.



OUTREACH

A letter of thanks was received from the Boys and Girls Clubs of Delaware for our check in the amount of \$150. In his letter, George Krupanski, President CEO, states: "Your contribution signals your strong belief in the mission of Boys & Girls Clubs. Thank you for your support and for joining in our efforts "to do more for even more kids."

Food Donations – Claymont Community Center

The Claymont Community Center continues to need our help filling their food pantry. When shopping, please keep in mind **pancake syrup** as a donation item. The center can't seem to keep enough on their shelves. Our food closet donations for the months of June and July were valued at \$765. Thank you for your generous contributions to our neighbors in need.

Volunteer Opportunity – Claymont Community Center Thrift Shop

The Claymont Community Center Thrift Shop is currently open Monday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. The Thrift Shop would like to increase their hours of operation and be open a few days a week until 3 p.m., starting in mid-September. They need additional volunteers to accomplish this goal. If you are interested in volunteering in the Thrift Shop, please call Debbie Quinn at 302-792-2757, ext. 158 or email debbiequin@claymontcenter.org to arrange a time to go in and hear more about volunteering.

Collection of school supplies

Our collection of school supplies during the month of July was valued at \$400.00. These supplies were given to the Adopt-a-Student Program housed at the Claymont Community Center. Because of your

generosity, many students will be prepared for school this year with new supplies.

Upcoming Outreach Projects - dates to remember

October 2 – Collection of pet/shelter supplies for donation to Faithful Friends

October 23 – Joan Lyons, Exec. Dir., Seamen's Center, will speak at 8:00 and 10:00 services;

Collection of Christmas at Sea Ditty Box items (toiletries/hats/scarves)

October 30- Collection of Christmas at Sea Ditty Box items

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

Additional information about all of the above will be provided through bulletin inserts.

Our next Outreach meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, September 18**, after the 10:00 service in the Footprints Room. Come and join us. Your thoughts and ideas about how we can serve our brothers and sisters in need are welcomed!

Income and Expense

2011 Income and Expense year-to-date 7/30/2011

	Income	Expense	Net
Actual	\$89,357	\$88,945	412
Budget	84,457	85,110	(653)
To Budget	4,900	3,835	1,065

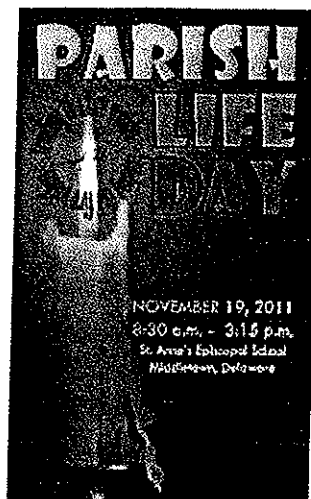
July expenses were over budget due to plumbing bills to clear plugged sewer lines. Pledges were \$619 below budget in July but year-to-date exceeded the budgeted amount. Let's keep up the good work!

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. \$575 in sales in July gave us a profit of \$29. If you shop these stores, won't you join the program.



Don't forget to register for the diocesan **Parish Life Day** to be held in Middletown on Saturday, November 19th. It consists of a wide variety of morning and afternoon workshops that touch on the arts, spirituality, ministry, worship, and just plain fun. Registration for the day (deadline is November

7th - registrations are NOT accepted at the door) can be done online by going to www.dioceseofdelaware.net and clicking on 'Parish Life Day.' The \$15 registration fee covers all the day's activities and includes continental breakfast and lunch. There is a free program for young children. Among the many offerings this year are workshops by two distinguished presenters. **Marilyn Haskel**, Program Manager for Liturgical Arts at Trinity Wall Street in New York City, will offer a musical workshop as well as direct the morning and afternoon worship services. **JoAnn Balingit**, Poet Laureate of Delaware, will offer a poetry writing workshop, and will read some of her poetry as a part of the morning worship. Space is limited, so check it out and register today.

Brochures for Parish Life Day are on the table in the Parish Hall or check it out online to see the other workshops and register. The first 75 to register on line will receive a Diocese of Delaware cap. It's a great way to meet other Episcopalians from around the diocese.

Historic Claymont Tour

Saturday, September 24, 2011

10AM - 4 PM

Cost \$12 adults \$5 children
Buses will run from the Claymont Elementary School to all of the sites. Whether you are new to Claymont or have lived in Claymont all your life, it's a good way to learn more about the area where we live. Of course one of the sites on the tour is our own Church of the Ascension. The church and parish hall will both be opened to the public and Sandy Pierce will also demonstrate our organ.

Tour sites include:

- Robinson House;
- Church of the Ascension;
- Darley House;
- Claymont Stone School;
- The Patio - Archmere Academy;
- Claymont High School History Room;
- Claymont Public Library;
- Overlook Colony's Redmen's Hall / Lamb's Loft

Holy Rosary's Pastoral Center - Grubb /Worth Mansion.

Plan to volunteer to help show our building (and people) to their best advantage. Consider working part of the day and taking the tour as well!



Sunday, October 2

Blessing of the Animals

All pets are welcome as long as they can be controlled when with other animals.

Greg Stilwell provides us with an article written by Regina Brett, 90 years old, of the Plain Dealer, Cleveland, Ohio.

"To celebrate growing older, I once wrote the 45 lessons life taught me. It is the most-requested column I've ever written. My odometer rolled over to 90 in August, so here is the column once more:

1. Life isn't fair, but it's still good.
2. When in doubt, just take the next small step
3. Life is too short to waste time hating anyone.
4. Your job won't take care of you when you are sick.
Your friends and parents will. Stay in touch.
5. Pay off your credit cards every month.
6. You don't have to win every argument. Agree to disagree.
7. Cry with someone. It's more healing than crying alone.
8. It's OK to get angry with God. He can take it.
9. Save for retirement starting with your first paycheck.
10. When it comes to chocolate, resistance is futile.
11. Make peace with your past so it won't screw up the present.
12. It's OK to let your children see you cry.
13. Don't compare your life to others. You have no idea what their journey is all about.
14. If a relationship has to be a secret, you shouldn't be in it.
15. Everything can change in the blink of an eye. But don't worry; God never blinks.
- 16.. Take a deep breath. It calms the mind.
17. Get rid of anything that isn't useful, beautiful or joyful.
18. Whatever doesn't kill you really does make you stronger.
19. It's never too late to have a happy childhood. But the second one is up to you and no one else.
20. When it comes to going after what you love in life, don't take no for an answer.
21. Burn the candles, use the nice sheets, wear the fancy lingerie. Don't save it for a special occasion. Today is special.
22. Over prepare, then go with the flow.
23. Be eccentric now. Don't wait for old age to wear purple.
24. The most important sex organ is the brain.
25. No one is in charge of your happiness but you.
26. Frame every so-called disaster with these words 'In five years, will this matter?'
27. Always choose life.
28. Forgive everyone everything.
29. What other people think of you is none of your business.
30. Time heals almost everything. Give time time.
31. However good or bad a situation is, it will change.
32. Don't take yourself so seriously. No one else does.
33. Believe in miracles.
34. God loves you because of who God is, not because of anything you did or didn't do.
35. Don't audit life. Show up and make the most of it now.
36. Growing old beats the alternative -- dying young.
37. Your children get only one childhood.
38. All that truly matters in the end is that you loved.
39. Get outside every day. Miracles are waiting everywhere.
40. If we all threw our problems in a pile and saw everyone else's, we'd grab ours back.
41. Envy is a waste of time. You already have all you need.
42. The best is yet to come...
43. No matter how you feel, get up, dress up and show up.
44. Yield.
45. Life isn't tied with a bow, but it's still a gift."