

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

APRIL EVENTS

April 2nd

**Maundy Thursday
7 PM**

April 5th

EASTER SUNDAY

8 & 10 AM

**BRUNCH AFTER EACH
SERVICE**

EGG HUNT 11:30AM

April 6th

**Fair Planning Meeting -
7PM**

April 11th

**Property Clean-up Day
9:30AM**

April 15

Ascension Guild 7 PM

April 18

**Installation of Rev. Solak at
Grace Church 4PM**

April 19

Parish to the Blue Rocks

1:35PM

April 20

Vestry Meeting

April 25

Autism walk 11AM

A Question of Priority

Quite recently I was reading the Gospel lesson chosen for the Daily Office (the everyday prayer services of the Church.) The Gospel reading for that day came from the Gospel of John and, as I was reading, I felt the impact of these words from Jesus:

"Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal." (John 6:26-27, NRSV)

I was particularly struck by the counsel that Jesus gives, which is to work for "the food that endures for eternal life"—the food that he personally offers to his people. I started to think about how relevant these words of Jesus are for our lives today. These words are so important for my life and for your life because Jesus is trying to help us realize our need to constantly reexamine our priorities. He seeks to help us understand that our relationship with him, our relationship with God, is what we truly need first and foremost in order to thrive now and always.

A few years ago I heard a friend talk about his experience at a church service in one of the geographically larger countries in Africa. The service was in the open air, and hundreds and hundreds of people were in attendance. A great number of the people had walked for miles to come to the service—some of them having walked for at least four hours to be present to worship God in the company of other believers. What's more, there were no chairs, no tent, and the entire congregation had to stand in the sun during the entire service. Yet, these Christians worshipped God with great fervor and without complaints. They had come to look for Jesus.

After hearing this story I could not help but think about my own willingness to walk many miles to attend a church service. Would I be willing to walk for hours to go to church? Would you be willing to do that? I know that many of us would worry about the trek, as well as worry about water to drink, about the hot sun, about lunch, and even about snacks. Not to mention that it would take walking back for the same number of hours just to go home! These fellow Christian brothers and sisters appear to have understood the meaning of working "for the food that endures to eternal life."

Sadly, our relatively comfortable American lives have become super full of competing priorities—full of a variety of pressures, and, "working for the food that endures for eternal life" is a constant challenge, to say the least. At times it is difficult to even find time to put our feet up and breathe a little. Yet, the words of Jesus do not go out of style. His teachings are pertinent for our lives today as they were for the lives of all generations past. Our relationship with Jesus, our relationship with God is our most significant need (whether we think so or not.) The words of Jesus teach us that today and every day is the time to reexamine the priorities of our lives and to consider the nurture of our relationship with Jesus, the nurture of our relationship with God, as our first and most important priority ...and today is the day to look for Jesus.

Faithfully,
Ketlen+

April Birthdays

1 st	Fr. Ruben Rodriguez-Yejo Sandra Mummert
4 th	Peggy Groff
6 th	Stephanie Cooper Cheryl Milhoan
7 th	Kevin Gregore David McMillan
9 th	Craig Mummert
10 th	Timaree Stephenson
16 th	Carl Desmond
18 th	Laura Scharp
20 th	Josh McDaniel Jace Melville Milton Melville
24 th	Keith Burlew
26 th	Mary Lou Barnes Amy Kates Jim Maxwell
27 th	Sharman Stephenson Shannon Suiter
28 th	Murphy Reid
29 th	Christina Bartnik Charles Morgan



April Anniversaries

5 th	Margie & Dave McKinley	29 years
6 th	Barbara & Mike Berheide	36 years
30 th	Sharon & George Moore	27 year



Gift Cards for



your groceries

Grocery Store Gift Cards for Acme, Food Lion, Giant, ShopRite, Superfresh, and Thriftway

When we purchase grocery cards Ascension earns \$1 on each \$20 we spend at the store of our choice. Cards are sold between the 8am and 10am Services on the first

and third Sundays of each month

The cards cost us nothing other than advancing the store the value – they are 100% redeemable, and are sold in denominations of \$25, for which Carole & Babak Golgolab, who offer the cards can take either cash or checks made out to The Church of the Ascension.

Your presence is requested

Installation Service for the Rev. Ketlen Solak as covenant rector for Brandywine Collaborative Ministries.

Saturday, April 18, 2015
4:00 PM

At Grace Episcopal Church

This is a joint service of the three churches of Brandywine Collaborative Ministries – Ascension, Calvary and Grace. Members of the three parishes will participate in the service and the three choirs will join in praise.

They will sing a special anthem written by Scott Solak (Ketlen's husband) for her ordination as deacon.

Please plan to join with our sister parishes as we celebrate the gift of Ketlen's leadership to us.

RSVP:

We would like to know if you are planning to attend the reception following the 4:00 p.m. installation service for Ketlen on Saturday, April 18th. A sign-up sheet is now placed on the Parish Hall table, or you can call Chrissie or Lyndie -- 798-6683 and let them know. Part of the event will be catered and it is important to have an accurate head count. The deadline for informing us of your plans to attend the reception will be April 14th.

Thank you,

The BCM Reception Committee: Cathy Diamond, Beth Beck, Chris Tomasetti, and Mary Morgan

Egg-stra facts

- Although Easter eggs were once part of pagan spring festivals, they've become Christian symbols of new life. A cracked-open shell also represents Jesus' empty tomb on Easter morning.

- The early Christians of Mesopotamia began staining eggs red in honor of Jesus' blood shed on the cross. Red eggs remain part of Greek Orthodox celebrations today.

- For Lent, some families used to give up eggs and dairy, so they prepared a pancake feast on Shrove Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday. They solved the egg surplus by hard-boiling them in various broths, which led to colored eggs.



*A Note
from the
Senior Warden*

Greetings All,
You wouldn't know it by looking out the window today but Spring has finally arrived. The arrival of the new season brings many changes. Easter is right around the corner, the bulbs are poking through the ground, and in spite of the snow, the trees are trying to bud. The month of March also brought some unexpected changes to Ascension as well.

Regrettably, your Vestry has accepted the resignation of two of its members, Dale Gregory and Ned Phillips. Due to family and work situations, and after much prayerful deliberation Dale has found it necessary to step down from the Vestry. Dale will continue to be a member of our parish community and she asks for our understanding and prayers.

Recently Ned decided to continue his education and work toward his Master's Degree. This, together with increasing career responsibilities by his employer, will not allow him the necessary time to devote to the duties of Vestry and Property Committee Chair. After great discernment and prayer he too has decided to resign. Ned will also continue to be a member of our parish community and continue as Eucharistic Visitor. He asks that we continue to support him in his endeavors.

On behalf of the Vestry, I want to express my most heartfelt gratitude to both of them, for their dedication to the Church of the Ascension. Dale's leadership and love of the youth of this congregation helped form the faith foundation of many of our younger members. And Ned's expertise in the insurance field was invaluable in guiding us through the insurance claims we filed as a result of storm and vandalism damage. The next time you see them, give them a hug, thank them for their service to the Lord and tell them how much they mean to you.

Now the Vestry is in a quandary . . . we no longer have a quorum . . . uh oh . . . now what? We need one more member to remedy that. According to our By-Laws, the Vestry can appoint a qualified person to the Vestry to finish out the year until the next annual meeting where a congregational vote will be conducted. Thankfully one such person did step forward. And after a unanimous vote by the Vestry, I am pleased to say, Jodie Lockwood has accepted the appointment to the Vestry where she will act at youth liaison. We will welcome her at our next regular

meeting in April. Our thanks and gratitude to God for making the Spirit move within her and to Jodie for answering the call. The next time you see her, give her a hug, thank her for her service to the Lord and tell her how much she means to you.

Yours in Christ

Janet Middleton

I always thank God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. 1 Corinthians 1

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday March 29th

Services at Ascension at 8AM and 10 AM

Maundy Thursday – April 2nd – BCM Service

Service at Ascension at 7 PM. with joint choir Celebrant – The Rev. Ketlen Solak
Commemoration of the first Lord's Supper, Washing of the feet, Stripping of the Altar



Good Friday – BCM Services

Noon – Grace
5:30 Walk from Merchant's Square to Calvary
7:00 PM Service with joint choir at Calvary



Easter Sunday

The Day of Resurrection

Festival Eucharist at Ascension at 8AM and 10 AM

11:30 AM following the 10AM service All children welcome

Potluck brunch follows both Easter services. If you can't bring a dish, come anyway, there is always plenty! If you will be bringing a dish and can sign up, it will help make sure we have a variety of savory and sweet dishes.



POTLUCK BRUNCH



Lenten Service Project

Thank you for your support of Episcopal Relief and Development's work of "Healing a Hurting World". We appreciate your commitment to support people in need. The total Lenten project contribution will be reported in the May newsletter.

Spring Food Drive – Claymont Community Center

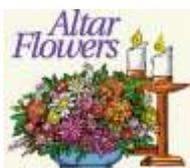
During the month of April, the Community Center conducts its spring food drive. In addition to all of the food donations we supply on a regular basis, the Center would like to call our attention to the most needed ones during the drive: peanut butter, jelly, canned tuna, pancake mix, syrup, and cereal. Thank you for any help you can provide to make their food drive a success!

Save Those Plastic Grocery Bags! – Claymont Community Center Needs Them

The Community Center can use those bags to pack their food items for the local families who depend on these supplies to supplement their daily meals. Look for the recycling bin in the Narthex to deposit your bags. You're not only helping those in need, but also helping the environment as well!

Next Meeting

Our next Outreach committee meeting will be held on Sunday, April 12th after the 10:00 service. Come join us as we strive to help our less fortunate brothers and sisters.



Flowers in 2015!

See Lyndie Mozzoni, sign up in the parish hall or call the church office to reserve your date(s).

Flowers cost only \$35 for the week and are a wonderful way to remember loved ones or share an important date and to beautify God's house for our worship services.

INCOME AND EXPENSE AS OF FEBRUARY 28, 2015

ACTUAL INCOME	BUDGET INCOME	DIFFERENCE
\$7,118.18	\$8,712.00	\$-1,593.82

ACTUAL EXPENSE	BUDGET EXPENSE	DIFFERENCE
\$11,549.27	\$11,822.52	\$-273.25

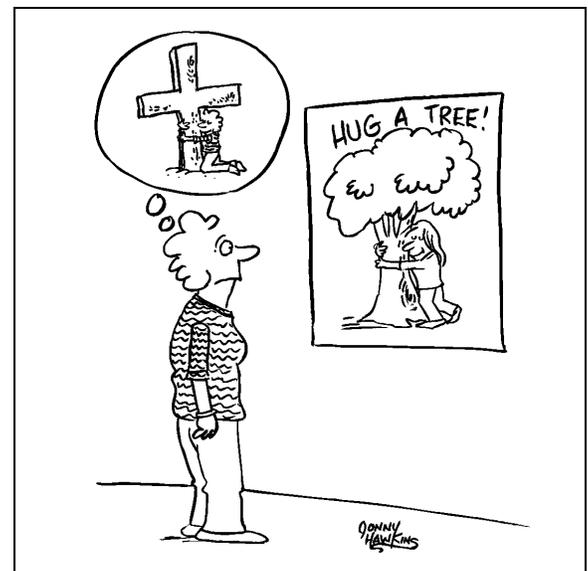
NET ACTUAL	BUDGET
\$-4,431.09	\$-3,110.52

Expenses exceed income by \$4,431.09

PLEDGE ACTUAL VS. RECEIVED TO DATE AS OF February 28, 2015

PLEDGE RECEIVED	PLEDGE BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
\$10,730.00	\$16,167.00	\$-4,850.30

As you can see from the figures above, some of us are behind in our pledges. Some of our shortage was due to the winter ice and snow keeping some people away this winter. If you are behind in your pledge, please try to bring it up to date. If you have not pledged to support the work of the parish and would like to do so, pledge cards are available in the back of the church, on the sign-up table in the parish hall or by calling the office. If you can't pledge but would like envelopes for giving, call the office or see Genia Thomas. Having envelopes helps you track your giving and supplies a statement for tax purposes at the end of the year.



Launch Pad / COTA Kids

-Jodie Lockwood

Here's what we've done and what we're doing:
March 14th the Launch Pad enjoyed story time with homemade cookies!



Kids bake cookies with Chrissie, Sarah and Jodie

The kids heard the Tale of the Three Trees which started our journey to Easter. If you are not familiar with the folktale stop one of the kids and ask...they were tuned in as I read the story!!!!



Jodie reads the Lenten story "Tale of The Three Trees" to Launch Pad.

On April 19th Launch Pad will be taking a field trip to see **a 1:35pm Blue Rocks game. Everyone is invited!!!** There is a signup sheet in the Parish Hall and tickets are \$8 each!!!



A BIG thanks to everyone who supported our Hot Cross Buns fund raiser to offset the cost of Camp Arrowhead!!! We will let you know our final total as soon as we have the information!!!

Spare Change for Change is ongoing!!! There is a 5 gallon water bottle in the Parish Hall just waiting for your spare change! The money collected will help offset the cost of Camp Arrowhead!!! Every penny counts!!!

April 25th is the Annual Autism Walk. If you are interesting in walking please see Chrissie and she will make sure you get signed up! Also we will be ordering shirts for our new walkers so please let Chrissie know if you need a shirt!!!

As always thank you for your support of our children and the future of Ascension!!!
You Guys and Gals ROCK!!!

COTA Kids Spotlight "Josephine"

Josephine is an incredible 5 year old, who as you may have noticed, is a fashion guru!!! "Jo" is the middle child amongst bookend brothers and how does she feel about that..."it's okay until I have to wrestle all the time!!!"



Josephine is in Kindergarten at Claymont Elementary and is very excited about her birthday that is coming up in May! In fact she is currently preparing her birthday wish list!!! Josephine loves to play with her dolls and on occasion actually gets a brother or two to play along...LOL! Josephine is an excellent artist and loves all things pink and purple. Take a moment this month and get to know Josephine a little bit better. Then maybe you can answer my *COTA Kids Question of the Month Challenge...*

What are some items on her birthday wish list?

A POTLUCK OF PEOPLE



Many congregations enjoy gathering for potluck dinners — meals largely unplanned, when people bring food to share. Usually, the main dishes, salads and desserts balance out. The fun is the variety mixing together on a plate and the surprise factor

of what's contributed.

Churches and communities — even families — are potlucks of a sort, too. When groups assemble, each person contributes something unique and sometimes unexpected. When all is mixed together, the whole is truly greater than the sum of the parts. A beautiful balance often results: One is a good singer, the other writes well; some are strong leaders, others dependable team members; some are traditional, others innovative. Together, it's delicious!

Potlucks are sometimes called covered-dish dinners. But don't keep your gifts "covered"! Share them because you're a valued part of the whole.

Personal Reflection

At the start of our vestry meetings, Ketlen has asked for one member to give a personal reflection. In March Chris Tomasetti shared her thoughts. Her thoughts provoked conversations and it was thought they could be of value to us all.

"Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it."

Ferris Bueller, from the movie, "Ferris Bueller's Day Off"

A few teacher friends of mine were surprised recently that I never saw this movie. While shopping, my husband found it in a discount bin for \$5.00. We watched it last week, and the ending line of the movie was powerful, so I wrote it down. In the movie, Ferris is a high-school senior who fakes a sick day. He and his friends decide to have fun in the city of Chicago — a nice restaurant meal, an afternoon at a Cubs baseball game, and watching and participating in a parade.

This got me thinking...when was the last time I stopped and really looked around at every day occurrences in my life? With this in mind, I took time to do the following over the course of a week:

- 1) I picked up a handful of snow and really looked at the individual crystals;
- 2) I stopped my car and observed two hawks sitting on a street lamp;
- 3) I watched the sunset over my house;
- 4) I watched a fox run across the street into the woods on the other side.

These are just a few examples of what goes on around us that can bring simple joys into our lives. While I wouldn't suggest taking a sick day like Ferris did, observing and looking around only takes a few minutes of time. We often get caught up thinking and focusing on our jobs, families, activities and errands. However, it's important to take a few minutes in our fast lives to "stop and look around" and "smell the roses" before we miss it.



February Property Report

- Ned Phillips, Chair

1. Lawn contract renewed by Creative Lawn Care at 2014 rates.
2. Creative Lawn care to do light clean-up of property April 3rd.
3. COTA Spring Cleanup – Saturday, April 11th 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM. Lunch and brief property committee meeting follow.
4. Roof repairs completed by Lane Roofing.
5. Thanks to Mike DuRoss for replacing the sign at the parking lot entrance, hanging the donated "Ascension", installing the new toilet in the bathroom behind the stage and coordinating the refinishing of the parish hall floor.
6. Roald Sonju will be repairing the walls and reattaching the paper towel dispenser behind the stage, installing six 12x12 stepping stones on the left and rock of the front entrance for seasonal displays, placing small rocks with underlayment at the front sign and minor electrical repairs. Estimated completion is the end of April.
7. Greg Stilwell is coordinating the repair of the dusk to dawn light near the church office (cherry picker is needed).
8. Office area lamp bulb will be replaced.



April 11 9:30 AM



Thanks again this month to everyone for the Campbell's labels & box tops for education which help Claymont Elementary School. Keep an eye out for them as you eat soup and cook this winter and save the labels and box top tags. Keep an envelope handy in the kitchen to collect them as the project is ongoing. You can leave the labels and box tops in the back of the church or drop them off in the office.



SATURDAY

MAY 16

8AM-2PM

Vendors

Raffles

50/50

Bake Table & Lunch Items

Moon Bounce & Kid's Activities



If you have things to sell you can rent a table for only \$20.00. Tell your friends and neighbors and come out to support your parish while having fun, finding bargains & having lunch! It's also a great opportunity to meet our neighbors. Look for opportunities to help – sign-up sheets will be available.

Planning Meeting for the fair – Monday, April 6
Your ideas and help us plan a fun and successful fundraiser.



Tea Party The Ascension Guild will again sponsor a tea. This year it will be May 2, 2015 from 2-4PM. Cost will be \$10. Plan to attend and bring family and friends. It is a great fun event!



A picnic is being planned for June 7. Keep tuned for details as plans are developed.

Save the Date for Summer Fest 2015!



This year's Summer Fest is slated for Saturday, June 13, at Killens Pond State Park, with optional camping the night before. Please plan to join us and share the date with your parish friends. With many activities for the whole family to enjoy, it's a great way to start the summer! Registration and program details available in April. All are welcome!

Spring at the Washington National Cathedral
May 13, 2015--Register early, seats are limited

The Delaware Chapter of the National Cathedral Association is sponsoring a bus trip to the Washington National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. on Wednesday, May 13th exploring their Gargoyles and Gardens. The day includes free time to discover the beauty and history of this sacred space and worship for the noon Eucharist. The bus leaves from Wilmington at 7:00 am and from Middletown at 7:45 am. Lunch and special tours are included in the trip cost \$75. *All profits go to support the Cathedral's restoration & preservation. For additional information, call Greer Silliman (302)654-1256 or Robby Chabalko (302)652-2647.



The Church of the Ascension

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Claymont, DE 19703
*Member Brandywine
Collaborative Ministries
The Rev. Ketlen Solak,
Covenant Rector*

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Newsletter Submissions:

ascensionnewsletter@comcast.net

**Sunday Worship
8:00 AM & 10 AM**



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*

Website

www.ascensionde.org

Like us on Facebook.



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APRIL 2 - 7 PM

Foot washing, Last Supper
stripping of the altar.
Joint choirs of the BCM

*April 5 – Easter Sunday
Festival Eucharist at
8 AM & 10 AM
Brunch after each service*



EASTER DAY 11:30 am
After 10AM service

**Installation of The Rev. Ketlen Solak
as BCM Covenant Rector**
Saturday April 18 - 4PM
at Grace Church - Reception follows