

Ascension Dimension February 2015



Church of the Ascension
Claymont, DE

*1st - Bear Ascenshells
take the plunge for
Delaware Special
Olympics*

8th Sweets Sale

*9th Market Fair
Meeting 7PM*

10th Finance Meeting

11th Ascension Guild

*14th Launch Pad's
Parents Night Out*

16th Vestry Meeting

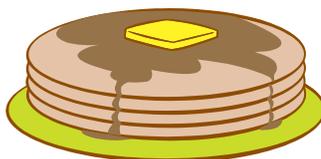
*17th Shrove Tuesday
Pancake Supper*

*18th Ash Wednesday
Noon- Grace*

7PM Calvary- Taize

*25th - Lent4en Program
at Ascension 6PM*

*27th Stations of the
Cross - 12:10 PM*



**SHROVE
TUESDAY**

A Season of New Revelation

Every now and then you may hear yourself or a friend say “I HAD AN EPIPHANY!” By this exclamation we immediately know that someone has received a new insight. Epiphanies consist of many types—a few are quite profound and others are more practical. What is certain is that epiphanies bring to our awareness something new—something that we could not see before this moment of fresh revelation.

The Church celebrates a special day as well as a season that we call the Epiphany. The Epiphany season is a time of greater revelation about the person of Jesus. In fact, the Scripture readings during the entire season of Epiphany are meant to help us see something new about Jesus.

Ideally, as we take the time to know Jesus more intimately, each one of us will likely have a few epiphanies as our spiritual lives develop more fully. Knowing Jesus is not about knowing the story of Jesus. Rather, knowing Jesus is a real and interactive experience—a palpable and growing experience.

We all have the capacity to experience Jesus in our hearts, in our minds, and in the company of others. The most profound epiphany that each one of us can have in our lives is the insight that God knows what it is to be human—that God is highly personal and close—that God is personal and close on account of the life of Jesus—that God comes to us by God’s Spirit and also by means of the many people who, while doing their best to live in faith and love, touch our lives in profound ways.

Faithfully,
Ketlen+

**February 17
5PM-7PM**

Put this on your calendar!!!

Our annual pancake supper is always a fun event and an inexpensive dinner. This year's dinner is a special event! The *Launch Pad* will be hosting Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner as an opportunity to raise money for scholarships to Camp Arrowhead for our COTA kids. They have lots of fun planned. The goal is to provide scholarships for half of a week's camping for those children in our group who want to go to camp. Cost is only \$5 (children 10 and under - \$3). Be sure and come out and support our kids and enjoy an evening of food, fun and fellowship! Bring your friends and family! The more the merrier!



February Birthdays



- 1st Greg Stilwell
- 6th Bonnie Carvajal
Leo Mozzoni
- 8th Noah Mozzoni
- 15th Katherine Oakman
- 19th Thomas Tryon
- 23rd Marvin London
- 24th Kelly McKinley
- 25th Sandy Desmond
Madison Krauss

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

Happy Birthday!!

On Ash Wednesday, February 18th, we will join our fellow worshippers in the Brandywine Collaborative Ministries for services.



A Noon service will be held at Grace Church. Evening worship will be held at Calvary at 7PM and will be a Taize service with imposition of ashes.



There will be a gathering to pray the Stations of the Cross on Friday, February 27th and continuing for the Fridays of March. We will meet at 12:10 near the altar. Everyone is welcome to join us!



February Anniversaries

12th Joanne & Charles Morgan 43 years



We will have a joint BCM Lenten Study which will rotate among the three churches. We will begin at 6 PM with a light supper. Our study series is based on Adam Hamilton's "The Way: Following the Footsteps of Jesus", Using historical information, archaeological data, and stories of the faith, Hamilton follows in the footsteps of Jesus from his baptism to the temptations to the heart of his ministry, including the people he loved, the parables he taught, the enemies he made, and the healing he brought. The series features a DVD which shows the locations of these events in the life of Jesus. It will be supplemented with Bible study. There is also a book by Mr. Hamilton which can go with this study and is available to those who would like to use it. It is available through amazon.com, at Barnes and Noble and other booksellers. Evening will begin at 6PM with a light supper.

Schedule:	February 25	Ascension
	March 4	Grace
	March 11	Calvary
	March 18	Ascension
	March 25	Calvary
	April 1	Grace

The Prayer Chain

Church of the Ascension has an active ministry of prayer that is open to anyone who would be interested in committing a little of their time in prayer to pray for special requests from our Ascension family. If you are interested in this, you may contact Sharman (sharman427@yahoo.com) or the church office to be added to our prayer chain members list. Requests for prayers will be forwarded to you as they come in. Thank you for considering joining our spirit-filled group.



*From the
Senior Warden*



Greetings,

What an exciting year 2014 turned out to be! We witnessed history with the signing of the Brandywine Collaborative Ministry Covenant and then the clergy search ended

joyfully with the hiring of our Covenant Rector, The Rev. Ketlen Solak. Thanks be to God! We saw the formation of the Launch Pad for the children of Ascension, which was more successful then we could have ever imagined. Ascension was home to four baptisms and three confirmations, testifying that we are moving in the right direction.

As good as all that sounds, we had our challenges and disappointments as well. The hail storm broke windows and damaged the roof, far worse than initially thought. We saw some of our faithful parishioners move away. And what was most disheartening, the Lord called home several of our members in 2014. It was hard to say good bye to so many who have given so much of themselves to the life and ministry of The Church of the Ascension.

But it is because of those, who served the Lord here before us, and because of you, serving the Lord here today, that the heart of Ascension is still beating strong.

In 2015, by the Grace of God, we may be looking at a balanced budget once again. But don't be fooled. It is a continuous struggle. This historic building that we all love requires our constant attention to keep it going. We all need to be faithful stewards of this beautiful sanctuary. We all need to continue to minister to each other, the community and the world at large. To accomplish so much takes hard work. It takes the time, talent and treasure of every single member of this church, not just a few. We need to collectively, keep our expenses down and our pledges up. We are a faithful people. We put our trust in the Lord. If we do all this, if we all work together for the glory of God, another successful year is well within our grasp. After all, as the Bible teaches us:

"Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and your plans will succeed." Proverbs 16:3

Yours in Christ,
Janet Middleton
Senior Warden

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Gifts for the Christ Child
We estimated that the value of gifts collected for this program was \$775.00. Included in this amount were 4 boxes/packs of diapers worth \$160.00 donated by our Launch Pad youth group. The congregation donated 10 boxes and/or packages of diapers. Here's an interesting statistic: if you count the diapers donated between the Launch Pad group and our parishioners the total is 1,065 diapers! Launch Pad purchased the diapers with their fundraising proceeds from the sale of the wooden "Three Kings" collectible they made this past year. Thanks so much Launch Pad group and to all those who contributed to this very worthy cause!



Friendship House warehouse operations manager, Karen Johnson and her co-worker picked up the items on Monday, January 5th at COTA to take back to their site. They were truly grateful for our generosity.

Various trinkets and collectibles, included within the baby gift items, were donated to Goodwill of Delaware. We estimate the value of these gifts to be \$30.00.

Food Delivered to Claymont Community Center by Ascension Members

We thank you for your continuing support of this very worthy cause. The estimated value of food donated in December for the Holiday Gift Baskets was \$775.00.

Letter of Thanks

We received a letter from James Thornton, Executive Director, of the Claymont Community Center for our donation of \$250.00 sent in November. In his letter, Mr. Thornton states: "these funds will be used to support our Crisis Alleviation Program. Thanks to your donation, we can continue to provide support to families in the community. Best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season."

Meeting Held on January 11, 2015

At our meeting held on the above date, we voted to disburse funds to the following organizations: Claymont Community Center - \$250.00 and Sunday Breakfast Mission - \$200.00.

Sunday Breakfast Mission – We served dinner at the Mission on Saturday, January 31st, which was the fifth Saturday of the month. More details about this visit will be explained in next month's Outreach article.

Ascension's Lenten Outreach Project for Episcopal Relief & Development.

This year's Lenten Meditations booklets mark not only its twelfth edition, but it is also Episcopal Relief & Development's 75th Anniversary edition. It includes the voices of leaders throughout the Anglican Communion who have personal insights into the impact of Episcopal Relief & Development's work. This work is based on the following core statements:

I believe that everyone should have access to clean water.

I believe that no one should go hungry.

I believe that all children and families deserve a healthy start in life.

I believe that no one should live in poverty.

I believe that together we can heal a hurting world.

Mediation booklets and hope chests (coin boxes) will be distributed soon. More information will be provided in the Sunday service bulletin once we receive the meditation booklets.

Next Outreach Committee Meeting

Our next meeting will be held on **Sunday, April 12th after the 10:00 service**. Please join us in finding ways to help those less fortunate than ourselves.

Refocus for Lent

- Give up complaining — focus on gratitude.
- Give up harsh judgments — think kind thoughts.
- Give up worry — trust God to provide.
- Give up discouragement — be full of hope.
- Give up bitterness — turn to forgiveness.
- Give up hatred — return good for evil.
- Give up anger — be more patient.
- Give up pettiness — become mature.
- Give up jealousy — pray for trust.
- Give up gossiping — control your tongue.
- Give up sin — turn to virtue.
- Give up giving up — persevere.

—Author unknown



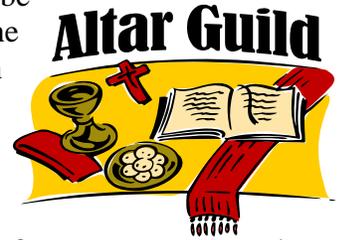
For the past three years, COTA has offered nursery care during the 10am service. Children ages 6 weeks to 4 years old are always welcome. This year's budget money will be used to update some of the toys. Any donations of gently used infant/toddler safe toys are always welcome.

.Leela

During Lent we will be collecting wine for the communion table. Christian Brothers Ruby Port is the wine we use in the 1.5 liter bottles. It can be purchased at any liquor store; Leo

Mozzoni will lay in a supply for us at the Naamans Beverage Mart on Naamans Road in Claymont. Place the wine you purchase in front of the pulpit, next to the food donations, where it will be blessed prior to storage. If you prefer to make a cash donation to this ministry, you can put your check in the offering with "communion wine" on the subject line. Thank you in advance for supporting this ministry.

Beth FitzPatrick



MARKET FAIR



The Ascension Market Fair is a church wide event. The Ascension Guild is active in it, but everyone in the parish is involved and it is our largest fundraiser and is included in our budget. ***A planning meeting will be held in the conference room on Monday February 9th. Plan to attend and share your ideas to make this our biggest and best market fair ever.***

We'll have vendors, raffles, kid's activities, and food. There are lots of opportunities for everyone to help. It is a great time of fellowship as well as fundraising.

Put these dates on your calendar:

Monday, February 9th - Planning meeting

Saturday, May 16th - Ascension Market Fair

ASCENSION'S ANNUAL MEETING



Our annual meeting was held on Sunday, January 25th after the 10AM Service. The Rev, Ketlen Solak was our celebrant that day at both services and attended our annual

meeting and the vestry meeting that followed. The wonderful cooks at Ascension came through and we had a delicious brunch before the meeting. A big thank you to all who contributed food and to all who helped with the cleanup. Special thanks to Beth and Joe FitzPatrick for taking care of the setup. Our senior warden Janet Middleton addressed us about the events of 2014. She also told us that our BCM rector is happy to be called Ketlen; She would like the children and others who are more comfortable with a title to call her Mother Ketlen. For those who prefer a more formal address, feel free to address her as Rev. Ketlen. We then had a report from our junior warden Steve Stephenson about the Brandywine Collaborative Ministries Council. The council had their first meeting with the Rev. Solak on January 3. Sandy Pierce then spoke to us about the music program and the spiritual blessings music brings into our lives. Beth FitzPatrick spoke to us about the needs of the Altar Guild. She then unveiled a beautiful stained glass and sculpture titled "Ascension" generously given to us by The Rev. Rita Nelson and Ralph Peters as they downsize. Be sure to see this inspiring artwork! The work of the Outreach Committee was discussed by Chris Tomasetti. Many collections of food and goods, as well as volunteer opportunities were highlighted. The congregation was thanked for their outstanding support of all of these projects. Jodie Lockwood then told us about the exciting things happening with our COTA kids. Our Sunday School is increasing in size and the Launch Pad Youth Group is successfully holding many events. Adults are encouraged to join in these events so that they can get to know the children better and they can get to know the adults. Our finances were then highlighted by Lyndie Mozzoni our treasurer. We ended 2014 with a surplus but challenges lie ahead of us. Our pledges for 2015

(which make up 80% of our income) are down \$18,000 from last year. If you haven't pledged and can or can't pledge but would like envelopes to track your giving, contact the office or stewardship chair Genia Thomas at 302-475-6990.

Copies of the annual report (which has complete reports from all of our ministries) are available on the signup table in the Parish Hall. If you prefer a digital copy send an email request to newsletter@ascensionde.org.

The Alphabet Prayer

Many of us need to be more like the little girl whom the farmer found lost in his meadow. The farmer said to her, "Do not cry; I'll take you home."

The little child snuggled up to him, and with a smile, said, "I knew you would; I was waiting for you."

"Waiting for me?" said the man. "What made you think I was coming?"

"I was praying you would," she said.

"Praying? When I first heard you, you were saying A-B-C-D-E-F-G. What was that for?"

She looked up again and said, "I'm just a little girl. I was praying all the letters of the alphabet and letting God put them together the way he wanted to. He knows I was lost, and he knows how to put words together better than I do." —*Homiletics*

Commandment #11

During the 17th century, an archbishop traveling through Scotland met theologian Samuel Rutherford but kept his identity secret. Rutherford invited the man to stay with him. When Mrs. Rutherford gathered the servants on Saturday to prepare for worship the next day, the guest joined in and was asked a basic question: "How many commandments are there?"

When the guest replied "11," Mrs. Rutherford said, "What a shame it is for you, a man with gray hairs, in a Christian country, not to know how many commandments there are!"

The next morning, Rev. Rutherford went out in the woods to pray and heard his guest doing likewise. When he discovered the archbishop's identity, Rutherford invited him to preach that morning. The archbishop's topic? The 11th commandment, based on Jesus' words in John 13:34 — "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another" (ESV).

COTA Kids Spotlight

“Anna”



Anna is an active 8 year old, who as you can tell from the picture is a veteran plunger (*Taking part in the annual Polar bear Plunge to support Delaware Special Olympics.*). She started plunging when she was 4 years old. Anna is a 2nd grader at Claymont Elementary. As many of you know Anna has Asperger’s Syndrome. This explains a lot of her quirky behavior...like rocking in the chair with her pink cowgirl boots up in the air. Anna has made a lot of progress over the years and we are grateful for the support of our church family!!! Anna loves dinosaurs, ponies, legos and play-doh. She is a wonderful student and hopes to be a paleontologist when she grows up. Anna lives in her own little world, but if you take the time it is a wonderful place to visit. **To enter the magical kingdom, just take a seat next to her and ask who is her favorite “shopkin”!!!**

This is the second in a series of articles introducing our Sunday School and Launch Pad Kids to the rest of the congregation. We hope you will take a few minutes to talk to our children and get to know them better. We want them to feel like an integral part of our parish family.

January's Launch Pad event was another success. Family Game night was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. February's event is a parent free Valentine's supper to give the parents a chance to go out for a child-free valentines' dinner. March brings a reading and learning opportunity as we have a story hour to encourage an understanding of Lent. A trip to the Blue Rocks is in the works as well as a night of camping at the diocesan SummerFest in June.



The youth also enjoy singing and have supported our worship with anthems on occasion. They add a joyous and beautiful sound to our service as they share with us in glorifying the Lord.



Plan to join us as Ascension, Calvary and Grace invite the rest of the diocese to join in the Celebration of New Ministry for The Rev. Ketlen Solak, Brandywine Collaborative Ministry

Saturday, April 18, 4 pm.

The service will be held at Grace church (the largest of the three) as we clergy from around the diocese and Ketlen's family and friends will be joining the congregations of the three parishes in the official celebration of The Rev. Solak's joining the Diocese of Delaware as our BCM Covenant Rector.

DELAWARE COMMUNION - The February issue of the diocesan newspaper *Delaware Communion* is in. Pick yours up at church.

Claymont Remembered

Saturday, March 14th, 2015 ~ 1:00-3:00

Remember the neighborhood drug store? We do! Our topic will be Claymont Drug Store. This was a family owned and run business. A display featuring items from the drug store will be on exhibit. These items were donated by the Claymont Historical Society.

This event is sponsored by Friends of the Claymont Stone School, and will be held at the Stone School.

Ashes On Ash Wednesday, as Lent begins, worshipers' foreheads are often marked with ashes in the sign of the cross.

The ashes traditionally come from burning palm branches from the previous Palm Sunday. In Old Testament days, ashes were a sign of mourning and repentance. Today, some worshipers wipe off the ashes before leaving church, to symbolize being cleansed from sin by Jesus' death; others wear the ashes the rest of the day, carrying the cross of Christ into the world. The speaking of Genesis 3:19 often accompanies the placement of ashes: "You are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Valentines to give your children

- **Acceptance** – Teach kids that you love them for who and what they are. Give this gift with a kiss.
- **Self-confidence** – Help children understand that they can trust themselves. Give this gift with a hug.
- **Life without needless fears** – Don't let your kids see you as a worrier. Give this gift with laughter.
- **Appreciation** – Help children acquire a spark of gratitude and enjoy all of life. Give this gift as they go out the door.
- **Faith** – Introduce your children to God, the best friend they'll ever have. Give this gift by taking them to church every Sunday.



I received a card today from the family we sponsored from Adopt-a-Family. The front of the card had an old-fashioned Santa with a sack full of toys. The inside inscription read "May Santa arrive at your house with goodies for everyone" and the personal message "Thank you very much from me and my family!"

Thank you again for your generous support of our neighbors in need! Because of Church of the Ascension, Santa was able to arrive at their house!

Sharman Stephenson

Ascension Guild normally meets in the conference room at 7 PM on the third Wednesday of each month.



However dates are adjusted during Lent as we want to attend Ash Wednesday services

and the BCM Wednesday night Lenten series. **Our February meeting will be held on February 11th.**

All women are invited to come and join in the fellowship. We open with a brief devotion and then enjoy some snacks. The business part of the meeting is discussion of what is happening at Ascension and planning for future events.

UPCOMING Guild Events

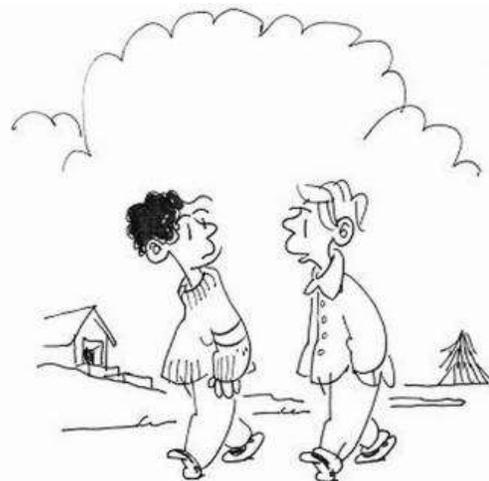
- February 8 Sweets Sale
- March 15 Souper Sunday
- May 2 Spring Tea

Of course we will also be very active in the Ascension Market Fair on May 16th.

Plan to support these events and buy some delicious Valentine treats in February and homemade soups in March. The Spring Tea is a fun event and you are encouraged to bring your family and friends.

Funds raised from these events are used for needs within our parish and missions beyond our walls!

We hope to see many of you at 7PM on February 11th.



"My parents are giving up desserts for Lent, so I'm balancing the family diet by giving up vegetables."

Church of the Ascension

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Collaborative Ministries

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Newsletter Submissions:
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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

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**Pancake
Supper
February 17
5-7PM**

Benefits Youth Fund



**Parent's
Night Out
5-8 PM**