

# Ascension Dimension

September 2014



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

## September Events

### September 7th

Nursery Care and Sunday  
School resume  
Blessing of the backpacks

### September 10th

Craft Night 7 PM

### September 15th

Vestry Meeting

### September 17th

Ascension Guild

### September 20th

Historic Claymont Tour  
10AM -2 PM

Launch Pad Parish Movie  
Night

### September 21st

Sea Sunday



*From the Senior Warden*

Hello Everyone,

I am amazed at how quickly the summer has flown by. Usually in the summer months, the meetings and activities slow down here at Ascension but not this year, it has been just as busy as ever. The vestry agreed not to take a break this August, as we have in the past, in order to keep abreast of the progress with the BCM (Brandywine Collaborative Ministry) search committee and I am happy to report the search is in full swing.

How blessed we have been this summer to have had the various supply clergy celebrate the Eucharist with us. We owe a debt of gratitude to The Rev. Peter Huiner, The Rev. Muriel Debussy, The Rev. Dr. James Morris, The Rev. David DeSalvo and our own Rev. Ruben Rodriguez for leading us in our Sunday worship and sharing God's word. I hope you enjoyed their visits as much as I did. Now, we look forward to welcoming The Rev. Lael Sorenson, who will be with us for the months of September and October.

And although the BCM search is going strong, I am anticipating the need for supply clergy until at least the first of the year. I will be contacting The Rev. Canon Gary Rowe, Canon to the Ordinary, in the bishops office to discuss that possibility. If he agrees, then I will be in contact with those who served us so well over the summer. I pray that we are as successful filling the winter schedule, as we were filling the summer schedule. If not, don't fret, I completed the Worship Leadership training (along with Ned Phillips and Ernst Hellriegel) that was offered by the diocese earlier this month, that will allow me to conduct Morning Prayer services in the event that we are unable to fill all the Sundays needed.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank Ned Phillips, Ernst Hellriegel, Beth and Joe FitzPatrick for completing the Eucharistic Visitor training with me earlier this month. The next step, in order to be licensed by the diocese, is to take the Safe Church Training. Those of us who need to do this will be taking that training this September. If anyone else is interested please contact me or the church office. Pre-registration is required.

So as you can see, it has been a busy summer and we look forward to a full schedule this fall too.

As always,

Yours in Christ  
Janet Middleton  
Senior Warden

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

The Diocesan newspaper, *Communion*, is no longer being mailed to individuals but mailed in bulk to the churches. Pick up your September copy of *Communion* at church.

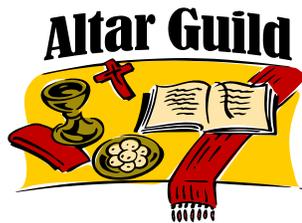
## September Birthdays

- 1<sup>st</sup> Reed Pearson
- 7<sup>th</sup> Gilbert Pierce
- 9<sup>th</sup> Joe FitzPatrick
- 10<sup>th</sup> Frank Oakman  
Bob Widenor
- 11<sup>th</sup> Dianne Burlew  
Walt Fox
- 15<sup>th</sup> Nancy Moore
- 16<sup>th</sup> Carol Clarke  
William Hearn
- 17<sup>th</sup> Andrew Cooper
- 18<sup>th</sup> Jack Burlew  
Eric Gorman
- 19<sup>th</sup> Julian Suiter
- 20<sup>th</sup> Tatiana Jallah
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Peggy Drulik  
Gail Mummert
- 24<sup>th</sup> Jim McDaniel  
Janet Middleton
- 26<sup>th</sup> James McDaniel  
Jenny McFarland
- 30<sup>th</sup> Braylyn Fox



## September Anniversaries

- 6<sup>th</sup> Jan and Ron Richardson 56 years
- 16<sup>th</sup> Dianne and Harry Burlew 47 years
- 20<sup>th</sup> Terri & Doug Collins
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Helena and Greg Stilwell 63 years
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Lisa and Paul McFarland 36 years



The Altar Guild is always busy...and this fall will be no different. Our Supply priests have served us well, and will continue to do so. We, in turn, must present our altar

and our communion kits in the very best way that we can. This requires polishing silver, washing linens and setting the elements for the Eucharist. Maybe you would like to help with this ministry! Our members are on a rotating schedule, and we work in teams. The time commitment is usually a half hour to 45 minutes once or twice a month and a 'spit and polish day' a couple of times each year. A member also sets up for funerals, weddings and baptisms. Talk to an Altar Guild member if you are interested - we will pair you with a seasoned member for training. This ministry is not gender specific.

### Nursery Care and Sunday School will both resume on Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>.

Children, Youth and Family Ministries is very excited about this fall. We are kicking off another year of Sunday school, but this year we have elected to take a different path. After much consideration, prayer and discussion we are breaking away from "Godly Play" to embark on a more study centered Sunday school. This new program will be known as Sunday with COTA Kids, and will include learning through Bible Study, Hands on play and activities. We are excited about this new journey and are hoping to give our kids a strong foundation to build upon.

Another great journey starts the end of August. We are starting the Launch Pad!!! A youth group designed to bring our kids and adults together in a new and exciting way. The youth will embark on a journey of learning and exploring their faith, while gaining knowledge about how the church works. We are excited to help the next generation blast off on their mission with Christ!!!

We would love to share our kids journey with you so please don't hesitate to join us on Sunday's or during Launch Pad events. It takes a village...and we promise to leave no adult behind in a kiddie chair!!!

Chrissie & Jodie



We extend Our deepest sympathy to the family of long-time member Jim Elder who passed away August 20th after a long illness.



### Blessing of Backpacks & Briefcases

On September 7th we will help our students and teachers start the new school year with God's blessing. Have your child bring his/her backpack to church and teacher's bring your briefcase or school bag and they will be blessed at both services. Encourage them to bring their friends for a blessing and to experience Sunday School! Our prayers will go with them for a successful school year!

## ASCENSION GUILD

meetings will be starting up again on Wednesday, September 17th, at 7:00 in the conference room with our traditional "SUNDAES ON A WEDNESDAY"! Come join us and build your own sundae masterpiece! All women of the Brandywine Collaborative Ministries are invited to pray, chat, plan, discuss, and share their thoughts (and some tasty snacks) once a month from September through May (except in December when we all have enough going on). We will be talking about topics of mutual interest and planning outreach and special events. This is a great opportunity for all of us Episcopalian gals to forge new friendships and strengthen current ones. So be there or be square!



### Women's Fellowship

## HISTORIC CLAYMONT TOUR

*Ascension is a member of the Historic Claymont Tour again this year.* If you can give an hour or two of your time to show off our historic church and/or show our neighbors hospitality, we need you. Histories will be available for those giving tours. Hospitality needs include greeting our friends and serving them beverages and finger food.

The tour runs from 10AM-4PM. If you haven't seen some of the places on the tour, take it yourself. Tickets are available at the Claymont Community Center - \$12 for adults & \$5 for children 12 and under.

In addition to Ascension, sites on the tour are: Atonement Methodist, Claymont Community Center, Claymont Public Library, Claymont Stone School, Darley House, Gebhart Funeral Home, Grubb/Worth Mansion at Holy Rosary, Joe & Tony's Service, Inc., Robinson House, and The Patio at Archmere Academy.

## An Invitation



### From the Music Director

Dear Friends,

I cordially invite you to attend an open Chancel Choir Rehearsal on Thursday, September 4 and/or September 11, at 7 PM.

You may have wondered what life is like as a chorister in Ascension's Choir; so please come and enjoy! No musical training is required and no commitment from you is expected. Light refreshments will be served following our rehearsal.

Together we will rehearse our music and discover Christ in the words we sing.

My hope is that you will experience the joy and passion of a lively faith in fellowship with others through God's gift of choir ministry.

Many candles sing as one light.

Faithfully,

*Sandy*

*Sandra Lee B. Pierce  
Organist/Choir Director*

## STEWARSHIP 2014

Each fall we undertake a campaign which focuses on the financial portion of our stewardship. Of course stewardship is a yearlong process which involves our time, talents and financial commitment.

Choir, guild, worship ministries, property, and our mission projects throughout the year are examples of our stewardship of time and talent.

Our financial commitment allows our vestry to plan for the coming year. Salaries, utilities, and upkeep take a large portion of our budget and enable us to have a place to worship and bring ourselves and others closer to Christ: a place from which to spread God's message to our community.

This year we would like all of us to pledge so that we know what financial resources we have going forward. Death and moving have caused us to lose some of our pledge base. We ask that each of us prayerfully consider what we can give and fill out a pledge card so that a budget can be put together. We



### Stewardship Drive

all have our own situations that are unique to us. For some it may not allow us to increase our commitment to the Lord's work in this place. Others of us have been blessed with the ability to increase the percentage of our giving to the church. As we all know we support those things that are important to us. For some it may mean a small sacrifice. "It is in giving that we receive".

This year's campaign will be in October ending on the first Sunday of November - All Saints' Day. Pledge cards will be distributed the week before and available in the church that day. We ask that you fill out your card that day and put it in the offertory plate. If you cannot be in church that day, we ask that you mail it to the office so that we have it by that day.

We ask that you take some time to think about what Ascension means to you. As a help in this for all of us, we ask you to consider music.

"Music speaks what cannot be expressed,  
soothes the mind and gives it rest,  
Heals the heart and makes it whole,  
flows from Heaven to the soul."

What would your life be like without music? What would it be like without Ascension? To prepare for this year's Stewardship Campaign, we are asking you to think about why you belong to Church of the Ascension, and then think about a song that expresses those feelings - a "Why I Belong Song." This song does not necessarily need to be a hymn. Some examples could be "It's a Wonderful World," or "Bless the Beasts and the Children" or "Day by Day." We have enclosed a short questionnaire to fill out with the name of your chosen song, why you chose it, and how it reflects your love for COTA. For example, you might choose "The Sound of Music" because the music at Ascension is so integral to your worship. And maybe the line "My heart will be blessed with the Sound of Music" reflects how you feel about being part of the Ascension Family. We would love to have close to 100% participation, children and absentee members included, and we ask to have your choices back to us by September 21st. We will then make a print-out of everyone's song choice to share with the rest of the congregation. We will also burn a CD with all of the songs on it and make a copy available for everyone who would like one. For our Stewardship Sundays, we will be asking a few of the members to reflect on the Gift of Music and Our Gifts to Ascension. This is an important time of transition for our church and the Brandywine Collaborative

Ministries. What song or hymn expresses Ascension's importance to you?

What song makes your heart sing?

We will listen to our CD on the first Sunday in November as we enjoy a brunch (supplied by your vestry) in celebration of our life together. Be sure to put that date on your calendar and join us!



### Welcome

We warmly welcome Christina Edelman as a new member to our committee!

### Outreach Meeting Held on Sunday, August 10, 2014

At our recent meeting, the committee voted to disburse funds from our budget to the following groups:

Episcopal Relief and Development was awarded \$450.00, Claymont Community Center will receive \$250.00, Seamen's Center of Wilmington contribution will be \$200.00, and Sojourners' Place donation will be \$100.00.

### Adopt-A-Student

Thank you very much for your support of the student supplies program. We estimated that \$400.00 was contributed in either school supplies or monetary donations. Your donations were used to purchase additional supplies at Staples. In addition, during the first week of August, \$100.00 budgeted for Adopt-A-Student was used to purchase two school uniforms at K-Mart. The school supplies and uniforms were taken to the Claymont Community Center in early August for the children to use this upcoming school year.

### 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 June was \$625.00. The estimated value of food donated in July was \$105.00. Items in big demand continue to be peanut butter, jelly, canned tuna, pancake mix, syrup and cereal.

### Food Delivered to Claymont Community Center by Costco on Our Behalf

During the month of July, there were 9 deliveries on our behalf -- 5 on Thursdays and 4 on Saturdays. The total estimated retail value of the food delivered is \$1,772.00. We thank Costco for their generous support of the Community Center!

**Annual Christmas At Sea Toiletries Drive -- Sun., Sept. 14th and Sea Sunday, Sun., Sept. 21st**

The Seamen's Center of Wilmington has held a Sea Sunday celebration on the third Sunday of September annually for many years. Unfortunately, changes in port security have made it nearly impossible to welcome the general public on to port properties. However, the center's hope is that churches will choose to celebrate the labor and sacrifices of the hardworking mariner by continuing to celebrate Sea Sunday in their house of worship.

We will be collecting items for Christmas at Sea ditty boxes on **September 14th and on Sunday, September 21st, in conjunction with our Sea Sunday celebration.** You can participate by knitting hats/scarves (knitting instructions are in the Narthex and on the sign up table in the Parish Hall) or by donating some of the wish list items listed below:

*Travel and medium size toiletries are better.*

- |                   |             |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Toothbrush        | Toothpaste  |
| Comb              | Deodorant   |
| Knitted hat/scarf | Shampoo     |
| Razors            | Chap Stick  |
| Playing Cards     | Hand Lotion |
| Cough Drops       | Candy       |
| Pens              | Soap        |
| Sewing Kit        | Stationery  |
| Warm Gloves       | Warm Socks  |

*Place items in baskets provided near the pulpit*

**Free-Will Offering** -- Envelopes will be provided in the pews for those who prefer to make a donation by cash or check. If you donate by check, please make it payable to **Church of the Ascension** and put **Seamen's Center** on the memo line.

*Please place envelope on offering plate.*

**Upcoming Outreach Projects**

**Collection of Pet and Shelter supplies** -- Sunday, Oct. 5th (Blessing of the Animals) A Buddy for Life shelter presentation hosted by Adam Stephenson and pet supply collections on both Sun. Oct. 5<sup>th</sup> and Sun., Oct. 12th.

**Ditty box Wrapping Party** -- Saturday, Nov. 8th

**Next Outreach Committee Meeting**

Our next meeting will be held on Sunday, November 9th after the 10:00 service. Please join us and lend your voice with ideas about helping our brothers and sisters in need.

During June and July grocery cards were purchased by Fr. Godden, Ann Archer, Barb Berheide, the FitzPatricks, Chris Tomasetti, the Stephensons and the Thomases. Won't you join them in supporting Ascension this way?

*Gift Cards for*



*your groceries*

The \$405 earned so far this year with this program pays the interest on our roof loan. Gift cards for Food Lion, Giant, Shop-Rite and Superfresh are available on the first & third Sundays each month. Cards are available in \$25 amounts and Ascension gets 5% of your purchase amount which goes to retire the loan on our roof. See Carol and/or Babak Golgolab in the Parish House between services to purchase your cards. If you shop at Safeway, register your store card in the escrip program and a percentage of your purchase come to Ascension. Carol will be glad to help you enroll your card.



During the summer we collected 27 Campbell Soup labels and 20 Box Tops for Education.

Let's see if we can't do better this fall. They provide funds to help Claymont Elementary School. Leave your labels in the back of the church and Ann Archer will coordinate getting them ready for Kaden and Anna Lockwood to take to school.



Year-to-date through July

	Actual	Budget
Income	\$99,690	\$108,142
Expense	91,948	97,922
Net	7,742	10,220

Pledge \$72,831 \$77,458

*Grocery card sales in July totaled*

*\$650.00. While our net balance through July looks great, we must remember that the bulk of our expenses for a search for clergy remains ahead of us. Trips for the candidates to come visit us and for our search committee to visit their current parishes have occurred and those bills will be forthcoming. When we get our lead rector pension and health benefits will need to be paid (something we have not had in the past few years as our interim was retired).*



## FEED THE HUNGRY

We continue our weekly collection of non-perishable food items each week to help those less fortunate. Volunteers then take our donations to the Claymont Community Center each Week. If you would like to join this ministry and take a turn once every few weeks, talk to someone in the office and they will put you on the schedule.

### Around the BCM

#### Need a mid-month Spiritual renewal?

The *third Wednesday* of each month a **Taizé worship** service is held at **Calvary Church** at 7 p.m. This lay led service features Taizé music – short songs repeated again and again to give it a meditative character. Using a few words sung many times, it becomes a way of listening to God and praying together.

**Grace on Concord Farmer's Market and Artesian Fair** continues each Friday in September from 3 to 7 PM. Fresh produce and handicrafts.

**Grace Church Fall Flea Market** will be held on Saturday, September 27 from 8AM to 2PM on the front lawn (Rain Date - October 11th). Space is available for \$20. 90+ vendors



**The Delaware Chapter of the National Cathedral Association** is sponsoring a bus trip to Washington D.C. on Wednesday October 8th. The trip includes a special tour of the

National Cathedral's stained glass windows and time to explore the National Gallery of Art (and perhaps explore the Andrew Wyeth exhibit). The bus leaves Wilmington at 7AM and Newark at 7:30 AM. Lunch is on your own. Trip cost is \$60.

This trip is a fundraiser to help the ongoing restoration needed due to damage from the magnitude 5.8 earthquake on August 23, 2011. The Cathedral sustained \$26 million in damage, including broken and twisted pinnacles, cracked stones and mortar, and

displaced stonework in the buttresses. Phase I repairs began in March 2014 and include inspection, cleaning and repair of the nave ceiling and restoration of the six flying buttresses at the east end of the building. Phase II will require raising at least an additional \$16 million to address the buttresses on both sides of the nave and the grand pinnacle atop the central tower for the National Cathedral. Registration forms are available on the sign-up table in the Parish Hall. Call Betty Hoffman (610-274-2045) or Pat Walbert (302-563-4141) with any questions.



### OUR SIGNS

Our thanks to Sharman Stephenson for creating a new sign to cover our former sign for Spanish Services. The beautiful sign is shown at left. Thanks also to her husband Steve for hanging it for us.

Have you noticed that our sign out front is being changed regularly now. When you see Lyndie Mozzoni thank her for doing this to keep a current face of Ascension on view to our community. She would also welcome help if you would like to share in this ministry.





# Announcing Church of the Ascension's New Youth Group The Launch Pad

For Ages 4 - 12

with Special Programs for the Under 4 Group

The Launch Pad is proud to introduce...

The Commanders (Ages 10-12)

The Pilots (Ages 7-9)

Flight Engineers (Ages 4-6)

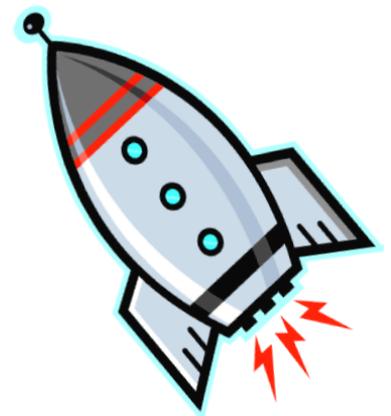
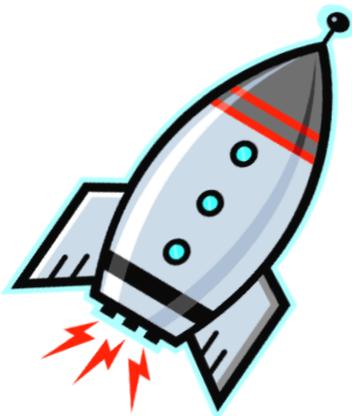
And

Ground Control (Under 4)

Building a Strong Foundation for the Journey Ahead!!!

## -Fall / Winter 2014 Schedule

Saturday, August 30 <sup>th</sup>	Tye Dye Party	Parish Hall
Saturday, September 20 <sup>th</sup>	Movie Night	Parish Hall
Saturday, October 25 <sup>th</sup>	Trunk or Treat	Parking Lot
Saturday, November 15 <sup>th</sup>	Food Prep	Parish Hall
Sunday, November 16 <sup>th</sup>	Food Service	Parish Hall
Saturday, December 13 <sup>th</sup>	Sing-A-Long	Church



# The Church of the Ascension

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3717 Philadelphia Pike  
Claymont, DE 19703

**Phone:** (302) 798-6683

**Fax:** (302) 798-7870

**E-Mail:**

office@ascensionde.org

**Newsletter Submissions:**

newsletter@ascensionde.org

**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*

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**Website**

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

*Like us on Facebook.*



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Wilmington, DE

**September 7 - Sunday School and Nursery - 9:45 AM**

Blessing of backpacks and brief cases at  
both services

**SEPTEMBER 20 - HISTORIC CLAYMONT TOUR**

10AM - 2 PM

**Parish Movie Night** - see Chrissie or  
Jodie for details

**September 21 Sea Sunday**