

FOOTPRINTS IN THE SAND



NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2011

**THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN
THE BAPTIST, MILTON, DE.
www.saintjohnmilton.org**

Some random thoughts

Over the past few weeks, a number of your brothers and sisters have been gathering on Monday evenings to study that strange, mysterious book that concludes the New Testament, Revelation.

I've been working to dispel some of the old understandings, seeing Revelation as a book of gloom and doom, filled with terror, retribution and punishment. Yes, it is an odd book filled with strange creatures and even stranger symbolism, but under it all is that God is, was and will always be in control.

Yes, there is certainly the note of judgment, but we see displayed and have always been taught that God is not a capricious God, but loving and just.

So much of Revelation is based on the facts that we are made sons and daughters of this loving God in our baptisms. The believing baptized have no reason to be fearful or anxious for we are his and he is our creating and saving God. God has pronounced his judgment in the spirit of baptism, and scripture says loud and clear "he or she who believes and is baptized shall be saved."

If one reads, prays and thinks of the content of Revelation, we are given reason to see and understand it as a book of hope and promise in our Lord Jesus the Christ. Even if you've not been in class, take a look at the book with those "new" thoughts in mind, look for the hope that our forebears in the faith came to understand and live with. Read it with the eyes of Hope.

We've been thinking about the subject for our next class with the Monday night group. I think we'll be taking a look at the lives of the twelve disciples and a few of the other early saints of the Church. It'll be a delightful study that takes a look at the scripture for clues, then to the early writing of the Church Fathers and lastly to the traditions that grew around these early saints, men and women.

We'll announce the start and would urge you to give it a try, you might just enjoy it, learn and grow through the experience.

God's Peace, Fr. John+

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

February

- 1 Sussex Stamp Club 7PM
- 8 Century Club 1PM
- 16 Vestry Meeting 7PM
- 17 Milton Garden Club 6PM
- 21 President's Day
- 25-26 Diocese convention
Sheraton, Dover

BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Shelby Schirmer
- 14 Brandy Bennett

ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Anne & Ray Jung
- 12 Jaime & Joanie Brown
- 20 Mary Ann & David Messenger

VESTRY MEETING

The monthly meeting of the vestry was held on Wednesday, January 19th.

The vestry welcomed the newly elected members Steve Gieser and Stewart Renard, who will serve until December 2013.

The respective chair people gave the usual committee reports.

Elected to another year, as senior warden and junior warden were Gary Lawrik and Ken Keith, Jr.

Topics of discussion were: repairing of the brick sidewalks and along the side of the church and the deteriorating wood timbers; participation in the spring town wide yard sale; spring clean up Saturday; purchase of Wharton Street property and Sanctuary carpet and floor refinishing.

Senior warden read a letter of gratitude for the generous contribution given by the Hudson family in memory of Ruth Wagamon.

Other items discussed are detailed in the newsletter.

NEXT VESTRY MEETING FEBRUARY 16TH

Spring clean up will be held on Saturday, April 16th beginning at 9:00 AM. A sign-up sheet will be posted for both inside and outside cleaning and work chores. Do not worry; there will be plenty to keep us busy for most of the day. Lunch will be provided.

Chili Sunday Luncheon will be held after worship on Sunday, February 13th. This outreach function is to support our missionaries and seminarians. Sign up sheets are on the bulletin board.

Yard Sale: It is that time of year once again to begin planning for the annual Milton town wide yard sale. This year we need new chair people to head the event. With out volunteers to lead this year's effort we will not be able to hold the sale. Please consider co-chairing with someone to keep this project going for it's eleventh season. Contact any member of the vestry to offer your time to this worthy cause. Should we not have anyone volunteer, we will not have the yard sale. This years proceeds will be used towards carpet and refinishing of the floors of our sanctuary.

Chocolate and a Movie: Mark your calendar for Friday, February 11th at 7:00 PM for an evening of fellowship the decadence of chocolate treats and a movie. Bring the family and friends to this fun event. Everyone is welcome.

Lenten Devotional Booklet, Volume II

The Worship committee would like to continue our recent tradition of preparing a Lenten Devotional Booklet. We would once again like to involve all of our members in this project for the coming Lenten season. We will be using a new set of lessons this year.

Members of our Church are asked to pick a lesson from the list that will be posted in the parish hall on the easel. Please read the lesson, pray and think over the message of the lesson. Once your thoughts have been gathered, write a brief article describing your thoughts, perhaps a paragraph or two. Please conclude your article with a short prayer relating to the lesson.

Please feel free to select more than one lesson as the number of lessons available may outnumber our church membership.

We would like to have the devotionals completed by Sunday, February 27, 2011 so that we can have the booklet printed by Ash Wednesday, March 9, 2011. Please give your completed devotionals either in printed format or by e-mail to Stewart Renard or Fr. John. (Stewart's e-mail: ser124@msn.com) We are also looking for volunteers to assemble the booklet for printing.

Please join us as we begin our Lenten journey.

Stewart Renard, worship committee chair.

OUTREACH

Terry and Steve Gieser have delivered the presents and cards to the residents of the Stockley center, which we have been doing for a number of years. Thank you for your contributions that make this possible.

For the month of March we would like to give our support to the interfaith group "The Way Home" with boots, socks, and underwear for newly released inmates from prison. Donations of cash will be collected by either Terry and Steve Gieser or placing your donation in the offering plate on Sunday side marked for March outreach. We will continue collecting until the end of March. The committee will then purchase and deliver these items.

April outreach will be supplying the much-needed supplies for Casa San Francisco in Milton. We will post a list of the supplies needed on the bulletin board. The items will be delivered as collected.

Also Fr. John has suggested at the recent outreach meeting that we should consider something on a large country or worldwide scale in addition to our local projects. We will narrow down the options to be considered for our parish to participate.

Steve & Terry Gieser
Anyone wishing to help the Giesers with outreach please feel free to contact either one.

Sunday School is back in session

A group of dedicated members have volunteered to help get our youth education back on track. A new newspaper style format that is based on the weekly lectionary used in the Sunday service will be used thru Lent. If the teachers and student find it a good program, it will be continued. Please let any families and children you know that we are offering Sunday school for all ages.