

FOOTPRINTS IN THE SAND



NEWSLETTER JUNE 2010

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

SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT A MOVIE..

The other night, Peggy and I watched the movie "Invictus" and it is safe to say, we would recommend it to you. I was so taken by it that I actually watched it a second time the next day.

I need to say, up front, that the actual history of the period was not as simple and as easy as is presented in the film, but there is a lot for us to learn about reconciliation, about forgiveness and about hope.

The period of history is one that we all lived through and I only speak for myself, when saying that I largely ignored what was going on in South Africa. I read the horrible stories from the time period, as they

happened, but just didn't fully understand what was happening. It was Bishop Desmond Tutu's writings and experiences that began to get my attention. Sadly, even then, the struggle seemed to be so far away that it really didn't touch me.

Oh, I knew the general story of the colonial period, the Dutch and then the British, the Boer War, independence, the terror of Apartheid, the rise of Nelson Mandela, after almost thirty years in prison, and finally his election as President Mandela.

The movie presents the story of blacks and whites, the desolation that was the racism of apartheid, the poverty of spirit and finance that held all the people in misery and fear, and lastly, the story of a few people, personified by Mandela, who dared to hope and seek a new way. The dream of a future for all people is wrapped up in the 1995(?) international cup of Rugby.

Now, I must say that I very seldom watch a movie more than one time, unless the showings are separated by a number of years. Not so with *Invictus*, I actually watched it twice within twenty four hours.

Make no mistake about it, this is not a "religious" movie, but in it's own special way it is truly a faith oriented movie, filled with scenes and dialogue that are real and at the same time moving and prompted by faith.

As to the real life story of South Africa, I'm realistic enough to know that all is not perfect and even the story as presented is a bit sweet, but the overarching themes of reconciliation, forgiveness and hope should speak to all of us in our daily walk.

The thought struck me that if the people of South Africa can go through the terrors of apartheid and at the end begin to see life in new ways, there is much hope for our nation to heal the divisions that seem to separate us. While the movie did not wax religious, the presentation is certainly one

of people of all stripes, colors and ethnicity daring to look to a new future with new ways of dealing with old problems, of acknowledging that the old was wrong and filled with hate and that each had a new part to play if there was to be a future.

This is more than the story of a nation, it is the story of each of us in our daily lives, as we face the challenges of looking to the future in new ways, of looking at our relationships with one another and knowing and owning, deep down inside, when they are damaged and need to be healed. Certainly within families and between spouses and neighbors, we need to be honest and own the need to offer and receive the gift of forgiveness and reconciliation.

I don't often speak for movies, but "Invictus" is well worth seeing and perhaps risking being moved in new ways.

God's Peace, Fr. John

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

- 8 Century Club Meeting
- 8 Sussex County Stamp Club
- 16 Vestry meeting 7PM
- 17 Milton Garden Club Meeting 6PM
- 20 Father's Day

BIRTHDAYS

- 6 Christine Fletcher
- 11 Tommie Hykes
- 14 Alex Donnan
- 20 Joanne Townsley
- 25 Isabel McGinness
- 27 Christian Green

ANNIVERSARIES

- 13 Rose & Tom Sombar
- 21 Joanne & John Townsley

VESTRY MEETING

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

The usual committee reports were given by the respective chair people.

The vestry accepted the resignation of our Sunday school teacher, Kathleen Messick who will have her last class on June 11th. We are currently looking for someone to assume the responsibility of the Sunday school program.

The vestry spent time exploring short and long term goals for the church, involving membership growth and retention. A new committee for evangelism and outreach will be formed over the summer. As Milton grows so also will St. John's. We need to have programs in place to welcome and keep new members active. A notice will be in the Sunday bulletin announcing the first meeting of the committee with Fr. John.

It was voted to make a donation to both the General Theological Seminary and the Community Service Day for the Park Royal residents of Milton.

NEXT VESTRY MEETING JUNE 16

CONCERTS IN THE PARK 2010!

You may pick up your summer concert schedule from the bulletin board in the hallway. There is a concert each Wednesday at 7 PM. See you at the park!

YARD SALE

Our annual yard sale was held on Saturday, May 1st. We were very fortunate to have another beautiful sunny day and the wonderful support of our members to make the day a great success. I want to thank each and everyone who volunteered their time in the days prior to as well as the day of the sale. THANK YOU ALL. Our time and efforts generated approximately twenty seven hundred dollars. This money will be donated to the building fund.

Thank you, Kathleen.

Kathleen Messick will be retiring from her position as Sunday school teacher which she has faithfully fulfilled for a number of years. We will miss her dedication and enthusiasm for instructing our young people. Thank you, Kathleen.

The **Bishop's luncheon** on September 12th is being co-chaired by Tammy Rust and Sharon Lamando. They will need help to make this occasion as success. Please talk with either Tammy or Sharon to offer your time and talents for this event.

Don't forget to sign up for the special edition **Historical Society Christmas ornament**. This year our church is the subject, so don't wait until it is too late for this limited edition. The cost is \$22.00 each. Sign up sheet is on the bulletin board in the hallway. Any questions please contact Jane Duffield.

Our **prayers and thoughts** are with Rose and Tom Sombar at the passing of Rose's father on May 19, 2010. It is always a difficult time when loved ones leave us and return to the heavenly Father. Please keep the family in your prayers.

A church cook book with a twist is still under consideration. Jane Duffield is looking for people to form a committee for this interesting project. The idea is to have a recipe explaining its family origin and the reason behind why it is a favorite. Please contact Jane to get involved on the committee for this long range project.

Monday Night Bible Study Group is finished for this season and will resume in September. We will be looking into the many facets of the book of Revelations. You do not want to miss the intriguing study. Plan time this fall to delve into the Holy Scripture and interact with other members in the class.

We are in need of people to take over the **Sunday school program** in the fall for all grade levels. If you are interested in this vital and rewarding program to help our young members grow in their faith, we need you. Please contact Fr. John or Gary Lawrik.

The **Book Club** will not meet again until September. If you wish to read the next selection over the summer, the title chosen is Zipporah, Wife of Moses by Marek Halter. If you have any questions please contact Sharon Lamando.

'Be kinder than necessary because everyone you meet is fighting some kind of battle'

In and effort to keep the **prayer list** more current it will be refreshed (all current names to be removed) effective June 1st. Should you have any one to be on the list for a short term of one month or an extended period of four months, please fill out a prayer card and put it in the offering plate. Be sure to put a large number 2 or 6 to indicate the amount of time you are requesting.

Remembering those who are innocent victims of armed conflict is an ongoing outreach ministry of **The Episcopal Peace Fellowship of Delaware**. They are collecting pennies for the approximately 44 million civilian casualties of war in the world. Put the pennies you have collected in the jars and bowls at home to good and wise use. Bring them to church and help fill marked container in the hallway. Thank you.

Out reach and Evangelism, a new committee being formed under the direction of Fr. John is looking for members interested in this important ongoing ministry. Please talk with Fr. John about your interest, so a meeting schedule can be planned.

Welcome back Jenny Hoch. We are very happy to see Jenny back with us on Sunday after an extended recovery from hip surgery. We're glad to see have you among us once again.

The summer season is here and many of you will be traveling about the countryside vacationing. Please plan ahead and volunteer as ushers, readers and acolytes. Sign up so we have coverage for the morning worship services. Thank you very much for your support.

Newsletter editor needed. It is time to pass on the task of news letter editor to an eager person with new ideas. I have enjoyed sending out the letter and creating from time to time new articles but I would like to get more of our members involved in the activities here at St. John's. Please pray on the subject and ask God to help you make a decision to take up this challenge. Please see Gary or Fr. John.

ALTAR GUILD SCHEDULE

JUNE	ARLENE & BILL WRIGHT
JULY	MARGOT & GARY LAWRIK
AUGUST	DORIS SCHIRMER
SEPTEMBER	SHIRLEY & BARNEY LANE

OUR MISSION STATEMENT IS TO SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST BY THOUGHT, WORD AND DEED, AND TO DEMONSTRATE CHRISTIAN LIFE IN OUR CHURCH, IN OUR HOMES AND IN THE COMMUNITY.

Random thoughts worth thinking about!

Life is too short to wake up with regrets! So love the people who treat you right...pray for the ones who do not. Believe everything happens for a reason..God knows. If you get a second chance, grab it with both hands. If it changes your life, let it! Nobody said life would be easy, they just promised it would be worth it.

Friends are like balloons; once you let them go, you might not get them back. Sometimes we get so busy with our own lives and problems that we may not even notice that we have let them fly away. Sometimes we are so caught up in who's right and who's wrong that we forget what's right and wrong. Sometimes we just don't realize what real friendship means until it is too late. I don't want to let that happen so I'm going to tie you to my heart so I never lose you!

We never lose God we in our own hussle of life put him on the back burner and for get he is the co-pilot.

HAVE A WONDERFUL MONTH!