

FOOTPRINTS IN THE SAND



NEWSLETTER October/November 2011

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST.
JOHN THE BAPTIST, MILTON, DE.

www.saintjohnmilton.org

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

October

- 4 Sussex Stamp Club 7 PM
- 9 Blessing of the Animals 5 PM
- 10 Century Club (GFWC) 12 pm
- 16 Worship committee Meeting
- 19 Vestry Meeting 7PM
- 20 Milton Garden Club 6 PM
- 23 Safe Harbor, UCC Svc 5 PM

November

- 1 Sussex Stamp Club 7PM
- 6 Safe Harbor, UCC Svc 5 PM
- 8 Century Club (GFWC) 12 PM
- 15 Vestry Meeting 7PM
- 16 Milton Garden Club 6 PM
- 19 Parish Life Day, St. Anne's
School 8:30-3:15
- 20 Last Sunday of Pentecost
Safe Harbor, UCC Svc 5 PM
- 24 Thanksgiving Day Svc. 10 AM
- 27 1st Sunday of Lent

December

- 4 Annual Church Meeting
Safe Harbor, UCC Svc 5 PM
- 5 Sussex stamp club 7 PM
- 14 Vestry Meeting 7 PM
- 15 Milton Garden Club 6 PM
- 17 Bishop Wright's annual visit
- 18 Safe Harbor, UCC Svc 5 PM
- 24 Christmas Eve Services
7PM-10PM
- 24 Green of the Church 9 AM
- 25 Christmas Day

Blessing of the Animals

On Sunday, October 9 there will be blessing of the animals at 5 pm. You are encouraged to bring you own pets and have your friends and neighbors bring theirs as well. Several years ago we had two goats and last year a family of five dogs from the same litter. Big and small bring them all to be blessed.

Editor's notes:

I do apologize for the break in continuity of the newsletter but many family commitments and illnesses have not allowed me to produce the monthly letter for you. I believe we are getting back on track for the coming months. In the interim I have picked up a few bits of information which I found to be very interesting. One of which is that the "Milton Century Club" I had always thought was an "ole folk" club until I talked with one of its members, Mary Ann Donnan. I had no idea it was a part of a worldwide woman's organization which has the acronym GFWC, General Federation of Women's Clubs. It is a service organization dedicated to the goals of community improvement through volunteer service. Currently some of their funds are raised for Milton Library, Kent Sussex Industries, Delaware Hospice, Casa San Francisco, Doctors without Borders, Milton Fire Hall, Educational scholarships and much many more. Boy was I wrong! I am very proud to have the group using our church in their mission of service. In an article in the Cape Gazette it stated that the Milton Club is in its 38th year of community service. Case in point if you are not sure, ask someone. For more information about the Milton Century Club, call Arlene Papp at 302-684-5277 or Carol Thomas at 302-684-3573.

BIRTHDAYS

OCTOBER

Jennifer Sears	10
Gene Millman	10
Ken Keith, Sr.	16
Terry Gieser	26
Kathy Willey	28
Ray Jung	29
Charlie Selders	30
Roxane Whittaker	31

NOVEMBER

Barney Lane	7
Rob Schirmer	8
Jenny Hoch	10
Jamie Schirmer	14
Andrew Townsley	16
Margot Lawrik	17
Arlene Wright	20

ANNIVERSARIES

OCTOBER

Wally & Marge Sheldon	13
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NOVEMBER

Tom & Roxane Whittaker	20
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Tribute to Father James

I visited Father James, our dear friend, at Milford Hospital shortly before his passing. He was suffering so, and calling out to his Father in heaven, "Please dear God, please take me, please take me home. During our ride home, Bob and I had

to question, why God would allow a loving husband, a loving father and such a devoted servant of God to suffer so this way? I prayed on that the very next morning, and God revealed his answer to me. "Those who serve me, and truly love me, and believe in me, will suffer for my name sake; yet will dwell with me in glory, in paradise for all eternity.

Father James is there now, in that paradise. He served God with all his heart and soul. He was loved by his parishioners, his Masonic brothers looked on him as a devoted man of God, and the State Troopers highly respected him. He led an exemplary life. If I learned anything from this, it is not to question how a man died, but what kind of life did he lead. Father James, during his ministry took a couple of floundering parishes and got them back on their feet. Through example he showed many a back slider, the righteous path to follow.

I so enjoyed the way he would call the Sunday school children down to the altar to talk to them. It was so special. Yes, Father James was a true man of God, a man who was filled with the infinite power of wisdom, who took that path our dear Savior had planned for him. You could not help but be convinced, that in some wondrous way, when Father James reached out his hand to you, the brightness of God's spirit came through.

Though I still do not quite understand, why such suffering had to come to such a loving man, I guess I must accept it, because it was part of God's plan. But I'm also thankful our paths just happened to cross, for he always had a warm ready smile, and a kind and thoughtful word to say to brighten up the lives of those surrounding him day after day. He had a way of listening, and spoke words that meant so much.

A man of God, one you could truly trust. There are so many things my heart conceals, no words seem adequate to impart, or truly reveal, and fail to express that empty space that's left with in my heart, now that Father James did depart. For now his battles of life are won, and all his pain and suffering is done the miracle of healing has begun, for his Father in heaven has called him home, where he'll share in his glory , with God on the throne.

Lee Macrane

VESTRY MEETING

Your vestry has had several meeting over the past couple of months. Committee reports as usual have revealed things are moving along smoothly and even the finances of our church are doing well in this difficult economy. Areas of need are Altar Guild volunteers, Sunday school

teachers and general volunteers on a weekly basis for Sunday Services. The rectory property has finally been rented on a year to year basis with very nice couple.

The dry subject of By-laws was taken up to make changes in wordage to make them more in contemporary language of the church and diocese. These should be adopted at the next meeting in October.

A special meeting was held in August to discuss the By-Laws and signage for the use of all the local groups that use our church facilities on a monthly basis.

September was a catch up on items from over the summer and preparing for the fall and winter activities both local and in the Diocese. Several items of discussion are a new cover for the large rose window over the main altar. Improvements to the Federal Street corner property and committee for our part in hosting the next diocesan convention in February in Dover.

NEXT VESTRY MEETINGS

OCTOBER 19th

NOVEMBER 15TH

BIBLE STUDY

We have begun our study of the group of Jesus' followers know as Disciples and Apostles. Do you know
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who they were and what they did for a living prior to meeting up with and then following the master? Can you name them all? These and much more are under consideration in the study of these avid dedicated followers of our Lord Jesus. We are looking at the topic from three perspectives; a. Scripture, b. Church History and c. Tradition. Come join our group Monday evenings at 7PM.

Annual Church Meeting

On Sunday, December 4th immediately following the morning worship service the annual meeting will be convened in the sanctuary.

Reports will be given by the current vestry members on their respective committees' activities over the past year as well as officers

Election of new vestry members to fill three vacancies will be held. If you would like to be considered by the parishes please contact either Sharon Lamando or Tammy Rust who are serving as the nominating committee.

Parish Life Day

Mark your calendars for Saturday, November 19 for the annual Parish Life Day. This year the focus looks to be on the creative aspects of our members with workshops including Poetry writing, Singing, Tai Chi, Flowers throughout

the year, study groups on dreams, Listening to God, and prayer. Sounds like there will be something for everyone. The event will be hosted at St. Anne's School, in Middletown, DE, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. Look for the brochures and information in the church center hall entry.

CASA SAN FRANCISCO

Casa San Francisco will remain an ongoing outreach program until otherwise advised. The following is a list you may want to post somewhere so you can easily access the needs of this vital community service organization that we have supported for a number of years.

- Laundry detergent
- Cleaning supplies
- Twin sheets and pillow cases
- Pillows
- Blankets
- Towels
- Canned and jarred foods
 - Peanut butter
 - Mac & Chesse
 - Tuna

Bring these items to church and our outreach committee will see to delivery to Casa.

CHRISTMAS CHILDS' PACKAGE DRIVE

Our current project is for September thru November is a unique project which Terry and Steve have prepared a display in the parish hall with

information about our "SHOEBOX DRIVE" Operation Christmas Child. I am sure there are some shoeboxes you could fill with school supplies, toys, necessity items, hard candy in zip loc bags, and a letter of encouragement for the child. All the details are in the parish hall and of course you can talk with Terry Gieser. It would be great to get to see how many our parish can gather for this worthwhile cause.

BOOK CLUB

More Than a Carpenter suggested by Tom D'Orio is the next selection for the book club. The book is written by Josh and Sean McDowell who set out to disprove that Jesus is the Christ, but end up knowing that He is. Come join us in November to discuss this fascinating book. Date to be announced.