

# FOOTPRINTS IN THE SAND



## NEWSLETTER December 2011

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

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

**Thank you .....**!

As an outgoing vestry member and your Senior Warden for several years, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the support given to me and the vestry. I have been honored and blessed to have served you as well.

The path has been smooth with only a few small bumps during the past years. I have been able to continue and complete the projects started by our previous Senior Warden, Florence Keith.

We finalized the purchase of not one but two parcels of property for future growth. With the unexpected decrease in price, the purchase of the "Tony's TV" property was finally within our budget. The purchase of the Wharton street property always appeared to be the best bet for us. Again, the purchase was affordable.

Keeping a church running on a daily and weekly basis cannot be done by a single person, so I want to say again how blessed we are to have people who are willing to give of their time and talents to help with all that needs to be done.

Thanks to Doris Schirmer and the entire altar guild, for seeing that the altar is properly attired each Sunday for worship.

Shirley Lane who cares for the flowers of the altar each Sunday and on special occasions thank you for your dedication.

Our hard working team of Steve Gieser and Tom Von Bokern who maintain and improve the grounds of the church, thanks.

To the many families who volunteer each week to furnish food and drink for our fellowship time after our worship services I say a very heart felt thank you.

For those who volunteer each week to serve, worship leaders, lectors and acolytes, to make our worship of God an inspiring and meaningful praise I am truly thankful.

I know we have had a meager Sunday school. Thanks to everyone, especially Tammy Rust and Kay Dill, who has helped to make Sunday school more meaningful to the young people who attend.

Having said all the above, I feel blessed to have served with our faithful Pastor, John Barton, who has been a spiritual guide and supporter in each step of the journey.

Our faith community would not be what it is without each and person who comes through the doors of this church to worship and share in the fellowship that is in Christ our Lord.

Of course to my lovely wife, Margot, who had her doubts about the trouble I was getting into with the job? Worried about how the amount of time and stress involved when serving as Senior Warden would affect me. However, through time realized that I had many helping hands, and a loving and hardworking congregation which made my job a pleasure to serve.

Your brother in Christ our Lord,  
again thank you, Gary

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR:**

**December**

- 4 Annual Meeting following  
Morning worship service
- 14 Vestry Meeting
- 18 Bishop's Visit and Luncheon
- 23 Greening of the Church, 9 AM
- 24 Christmas Eve Worship 7 PM
- 25 Christmas Day Worship 10 AM

**Birthdays**

- 3 Jack Horan
- 8 Roland Simms
- 11 John Townsley
- 12 Richard Hill
- 15 Bob Willey
- 16 Bryan Selders
- 17 Rose Sombar
- 18 Marina Hill
- 26 Kenny Meyers
- 28 Anne Jung

**The Bishop's Visit: Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>**

Bishop Wayne Wright will celebrate the Holy Eucharist with us on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at our morning worship. There will be a luncheon following the service in the parish hall giving us time to chat with the Bishop. Please add your name to the sheet on the bulletin board if you plan to attend. Let's fill the pews for his visit.

**VESTRY MEETING**

The most recent vestry meetings covered issues of building repairs including the exterior cleaning and painting of the rose window frame over the altar. Additionally roof repairs over the kitchen and sacristy and gutter work was approved. Minor repair work has been done at the rental property.

The annual fare share contribution to the Diocese was approved at the October meeting.

Next vestry meeting is December 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Annual Church Meeting**

A reminder to everyone, the Annual meeting will be the first Sunday of December immediately following the morning worship service.

**BIBLE STUDY**

Due to many different and unforeseeable delays the Bible study group is back on track delving into the lives of the apostles.

Please feel free to come join our Monday night studies at any time. Fellowship and learning is what it is all about.

## **227<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention**

Our next annual convention is important to our congregation because we are co-hosts with Christ Church, Delaware City. The two day event will be held on Friday and Saturday February 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>.

Our job is to help with registration and the two religious services during the convention. This means we need a commitment from our members to help on these two days at the Dover Sheraton Hotel.

Those who volunteer will receive free meals and hear the keynote speaker, Bishop Curry of North Carolina. We need approximately 12 people. Please see Gary Lawrik to volunteer.

To be honest-yes, it is the business of running the Diocese mixed with fellowship and the inspirational speaker.

Believe it or not the food was very good last year. Let's show our support to the Diocese.

### **Not doing anything Friday 23<sup>rd</sup>**

#### **in the am???**

Come to the church and help us "green it up" for our Christmas services.

We need many hands so it will go quickly and be done by noon. Please come and help.

### **CASA SAN FRANCISCO**

At this time of year we are reminded of the needs of many in our local community and want to continue our support of the local services provided just a few blocks from our church.

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.

#### ***Laundry detergent***

#### ***Cleaning supplies***

#### ***Twin sheets and pillow cases***

#### ***Pillows***

#### ***Blankets***

#### ***Towels***

#### ***Canned and jarred foods***

#### ***Peanut butter***

#### ***Mac & Cheese***

#### ***Tuna***

Bring these items to church and our outreach committee will deliver them to Casa.

### **CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES**

Our efforts to fill shoe boxes for children around the world was a huge success as it culminated with lunch and packaging session one Sunday after church. I counted over thirty boxes ready to deliver to the collection point. Thank you Terry, Steve and Tammy for all your hard work and making this a success.

### **BOOK CLUB**

The next select for the book club is ***Tidings of Comfort and Joy: A Classic Christmas Novel of Love, Loss and Reunion*** by Thomas Nelson.

It is a feel good WWII fiction story set in London. Discussion will be in mid-January.