



# “STRIVING”

News of the Ministry of Christ Episcopal Church  
222 Clinton Street in Delaware City, Delaware

December 2011/January 2012

## Warden's Corner

*Sandy Janowski*

The last two years as your Senior Warden have been busy. At this time last year I was thankful that we had called Pastor Tammy to be our rector. One year later, Pastor Tammy has returned to her home state of Oklahoma. Once again we are without a rector. We have had an interesting mix of supply clergy; each one bringing a new perspective to the pulpit. In the New Year, vestry will start discussions on hiring a new rector.

Generous donations and memorial gifts made it possible to build a much needed handicap ramp. At the end of June the ramp was completed and dedicated in memory of John H. Nickle, Jr. and Nancy Grayson.

It made me very happy this year that our parish helped send four children to Camp Arrowhead. This is something we should strive to do each year.

Financially our parish survives through this bad economy. Even the extra money needed for camp or Sierra Leone mission manages to be generously funded by parishioners.

I am thankful for the support of this parish and those who volunteer to perform important duties. I would like to see our lay leadership numbers increase. Altar guild, Communion Assistants, and Lay Eucharistic Ministers are down to 2 or 3 people. It is also time for this senior warden to pass the baton to another leader. Please consider taking on a leadership role if you haven't done so already.

I am thankful for this parish family, for the way we share our blessings and our sorrows. I am thankful that this family cares and looks after one another. And, I'm looking forward to February when Christ Church Delaware City co-hosts the 227<sup>th</sup> Diocesan Convention.

## Appreciation to Don Hutcheson

*By Jean Bonner*

One of Christ Church's most faithful, responsible, enthusiastic, caring, and fun parishioners-Don Hutcheson- is "retiring" from his long time service to our church. Oh Don, we will miss you as communion assistant, lay reader, worship leader, usher, and all other positions associated with lay leadership at Christ Church.



Don began attending Christ Church in November of 1974. He and Sheron had found a house for sale in Harbour Estates, and Delaware City became home. The seaman's church beckoned and Don began his 34 years of myriad responsibilities and service.

Even though Don and Sheron eventually moved away from Delaware City, Don has continued his membership here. Asked why he drives from Newark to Del. City every Sunday, Don said, "It's you people who bring me here."

Don taught primary grades in the Colonial School District for 33 years. Former students have included Amanda Kalinowski, Alex Havens, Stephanie Stichberry, and Ashley Kane.

Don was also in the Delaware National Guard for 27 years, achieving the rank of Sergeant Major. He is also commander of American Legion Post 13, planning the Memorial Day service at the Point and engineering special projects.

Last, but not least, Don serves on the board of the Delaware Military Heritage Museum and Education Foundation and is very instrumental in introducing Delawareans to the necessity of honoring our military.

Don -Whew-We know you need a rest. But we are so thankful for all your contributions to Christ Church. Thank you so very much for all your service throughout the years.

One question, however: Are you still gonna help Paul and his crew spread mulch?

## Christian Education

By Liz Saunders

Please note that there will be no Sunday School on December 25<sup>th</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup>. The children's activities will resume on January 8<sup>th</sup>.

The Christmas Eve Service will be held on Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>. It would be great if we could round up enough children to stage the Nativity scene during the singing of "Silent Night" which occurs after Communion. There are no lines to learn; it involves Mary with the Baby Jesus, Joseph, shepherds, sheep, and angels assembling together to recreate that most Holy Night. If the weather is favorable, we may be able to assemble together outside before the service begins. What a great and warming way to greet the people entering into the church. Parents, please try to fit this into your hectic schedules so your children can be part of recreating that memorable scene for all to see. Please contact me on 834-1090 if your child can attend and if he/she would be willing to participate.

May your Christmas be a blessed one and may your New Year be filled with the joy and hope that the birth of the Baby Jesus brings to our lives.

## Financial Facts – As of November 13, 2011

Treasurer, Dan Saunders

Expenses Budgeted	\$ 52,108
Expenses Actual	<u>\$ 46,046</u>
Expenses <b>Under</b> Budget	\$ 6,062
Income Budgeted	\$ 50,602
Income Actual	<u>\$ 55,718</u>
Income <b>Over</b> Budget	\$ 5,116
Pledged Revenue	\$ 43,472
Pledged Received	<u>\$ 48,341</u>
Pledges <b>Over</b> Budget	\$ 4,869

### Notes:

- Through last week, the church has received 22 pledges for 2012 for a total of \$41,046. Based on past pledging, we can reasonably expect 3 to 5 additional pledges. For 2011 the church received 29 pledges for a total of \$42,188. In 2011, three pledging members died, Ethel Aastad, Alberta Banning and John Nickle, Jr., but so far it appears that new pledges are making up for that loss. A positive trend is that none of the 2012 pledges decreased from 2011. All were either the same or

had an increase. The church also has a group of faithful contributors who do not pledge. Based on the amount given from these people in 2011, the church should receive an additional \$10,000 in income in 2012.

- Year to date, total income is about \$5000 above what was budgeted. Christ Church has been blessed this year by its parishioners keeping up with their pledges. About two-thirds of the increased income to date is from some pledges being paid in full early in the year. Interest income is slightly higher than budgeted because all Master A income for 2011 has been received. Plate income is slightly down, but may catch up by the end of the year. Plate income is usually high at Christmas. The church is still expecting to get a check from the Williams Choir Music Fund. Money from this fund is typically distributed at the end of the year. I estimate income at the end of the year will be \$2000 - \$2500 above what was budgeted. The Vestry will decide in its December meeting how to use any extra funds. Historically, the church has used extra fund to increase its Diocesan acceptance, pay down debt like the A&D loan we currently have, give more to local outreach and put it in savings for future needs.
- Total expenses are lower than budgeted but this is mostly due to the church distributing its outreach payments at the end of the year and from Pastor Tammy moving to Oklahoma at the end of August. Using supply priests this fall has decreased our monthly clergy expenses by a factor of 2. Other expenses are running about where we expected them to be although Parish Operations are running about \$1800 less than budgeted. Some of these expenses will get allocated at the end of the year. Overall Property and Utility expenses are about as were budgeted. The higher A&D loan repayment is from our being able to pay the interest on the loan from the operating budget instead of savings. Any maintenance funds not spent will be moved to saving. The Vestry this month has approved using money from the small capital additions and maintenance budget to install a light at end of the front walk next to the steps and one on the river side to illuminate the cemetery.
- Based on slightly higher income and lower expenses, the church is currently projected to end 2011 with a budget excess of about \$4000 versus the \$1700 deficit shown on our 2011 budget.



The annual luncheon was held on November 20<sup>th</sup>.

## Book Group News

By Ron Owens

"The Creation" (from God's Trombones, 1927)  
 And God stepped out on space,  
 And he looked around and said:  
 I'm lonely -  
 I'll make me a world.

With these words, James Weldon Johnson begins his poem placing the Bible's first words into a meaningful portrayal of God's creative purpose and presence in bringing the world and all there is into being.

On Monday, January 16, we will discuss God's purpose and presence in creation as we look at the first words of scripture, Genesis, chapters 1-3. We like, Johnson, want to examine what God is up to in this scripture. It will be an informal discussion in which we learn a lot about scripture, as we open our hearts and

minds. This has certainly been true as we discussed the conversion of Paul and the Book of Jonah in our last two sessions.

So, please join us at noon on January 16, 2012 at the church parish hall. Bring your Bible and something to eat and we will learn together.

## Calendar of Events

- Dec 4 Holy Communion 10:15 a.m.
- Dec 11 Holy Communion 10:15 a.m.
- Dec 12 Vestry Meeting 7 p.m.
- Dec 18 Holy Communion 10:15 a.m.
- Dec 19 Book Group meets at noon
- Dec 24 Christmas Eve Service 8 p.m.
- Dec 25 Christmas Day Service 10:15 a.m.
- Jan 1 New Year's Day Service  
Lessons and Carols 10:15 a.m.
- Jan 8 Holy Communion 10:15 a.m.
- Jan 9 Vestry Meeting 7 p.m.
- Jan 15 Holy Communion 10:15 a.m.
- Jan 16 Book Group meets at noon
- Jan 22 Holy Communion 10:15 a.m.
- Jan 29 Holy Communion 10:15 a.m.

Choir rehearsals are held Thursday evenings at 7:15 p.m.

