

## November 6 is Stewardship Sunday

Pot luck brunch after 10 a.m. service ● Bring your pledge!

## We tell our stories of faith community

at [www.christchurchdover.org](http://www.christchurchdover.org)



*“To be grateful is to recognize the Love of God in everything he has given us – and He has given us everything. Every breath we draw is a gift of His love, every moment of existence is a grace, for it brings with it immense graces from Him. Gratitude therefore takes nothing for granted, is never unresponsive, is constantly awakening to new wonder and to praise of the goodness of God.*

*For the grateful person knows that God is good, not by hearsay but by experience. And that is what makes all the difference.”*

**- Thomas Merton**

# Here I am, Lord

OUR COMMITMENT TO SERVICE AND STEWARDSHIP



## Dear Fellow Parishioners:

Our annual stewardship campaign is an opportunity to remind us of our considerable blessings – and challenges.

A few years ago, a discernment group that included current and past wardens and Pastor Celeste prayerfully sought how to apply a significant and undesignated bequest. After vestry approval and presentations to parishioners, several decisions were made:

- We would not treat the fund as an endowment, but recognize it as a gift to further our many ministries in a community that needed Jesus' love and care now, not in the future;
- We paid off our remaining Parish House debt to the Diocese and to PNC bank;
- We paid cash for the replacement of our church roof, which had been leaking for years;
- We seeded the Friends of Historic Christ Dover with a \$50,000 contribution to the Delaware Community Foundation, in hopes of building an endowment for the care of our historic church and churchyard;
- We hired a lay ministry associate to help facilitate the growth of our ministries; and
- The sizeable remainder was invested with the Diocese's Master Fund A, where it has been riding out the market's ups and downs along with the rest of us.

Among our financial blessings is the fact that **we are debt-free**. This is no small accomplishment, as other struggling churches will tell you. Also, because of our love of music and appreciation for the role of our organ in worship and praise, we were able to support the total renovation and modernization of our Moller organ and pipe chamber. That project was a small capital campaign that was relatively short and painless.

All this good news belies a structural deficit, which is the result of rising costs and the upkeep of a historic building and property. Water lines mysteriously leak under the graveyard, air conditioner compressors go kaput, huge trees tumble in a hurricane.

It's not quite as exciting to pay for these operational necessities, as well as salaries and benefits, as it is to pay for an organ renovation. But these necessities keep our parish, our ministries and our mission humming. And although we are continually combing over expenses and looking for opportunities to cut costs, we still rely on your thankfulness and generosity to keep the doors open, the lights on in our classrooms, and our joyful and friendly community of faith alive and thriving.

In Christ,

William Weaver  
Senior Warden

## Love as God loves - fully.

## Give as God gives - abundantly.

## Do the math - and pledge proportionately.

**Why** is it so important to intentionally give as a proportion of your income? Even if it is not a tithe, or 10 percent, it means you have prayerfully considered God's blessings in your life and taken the time to realize that all we have comes from our Creator.

The Biblical notion of proportionality is fair for everyone. You pledge and give in proportion to what you have or make. A person living on a fixed, modest income who gives 5 percent is a more intentional proportional giver than the wealthy person who dashes off a check for \$10,000.

In 2010, Christ Church was blessed to receive 21 first-time pledges out of a total of 126. Our faith community means a lot to us; we need the resources to share that meaning and ministry with our neighbors as a demonstration of Jesus' love.



**2010 average pledge - \$1,788**

**2010 median pledge - \$1,300 (half higher, half lower)**

**Please fill out your pledge card and return it by Stewardship Sunday - the Bishop's visit on November 6**