

# PARISH UPDATE

A Monthly Newsletter for Friends and Members of Church of Our Saviour Parish  
 2405 Clearview Drive • Glenshaw, PA 15116 • 412-486-5171 (phone) • 412-487-4520 (fax)

## NEWS & NOTES

### April Birthdays

- 5..... Heidi Martin
- 13..... Robin Acquafondata
- 16..... Joanne Schoyer
- 22..... Robert Schoyer
- 26..... Royanne Mac

### Anniversaries

- 7..... Joseph and Heidi Martin

### Easter Events

Last year's Easter Egg Hunt was an exciting beginning to a year of reaching out to the community with the love of Christ. The Church of Our Saviour Easter Egg Hunt team is headed up again this year by The Very Pregnant Stacey Jay. See sign up sheets for these excellent Easter Outreach events. The schedule is as follows:

#### Saturday, April 8:

Pass out Easter Egg Hunt flyers in neighborhood, 12:00 p.m.

#### Saturday, April 8

Trischler's Party, 6:30 pm all welcome

#### Sunday, April 9

Stacey's Baby Shower, All ladies welcome, 1 pm at the Rectory

#### Thursday, April 13

Casual Seder Meal, Teaching "Christ in the Passover," 6:30 pm

#### Good Friday, April 14:

Movie "The Passion of the Christ" at church, 6:45 p.m.

#### Saturday, April 15:

Easter Egg Hunt, 11 a.m.

#### Sunday, April 16:

Easter Sunday, 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

### The "Passion of the Christ"

It has been two years since the monumental release of Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ." This Good Friday, April 14 at 6:45 pm. the Church of Our Saviour is setting up the big screen and inviting church members, neighbors, and friends to a free showing of the film and an open time of discussion afterwards with our seminary friends. Everyone welcome.

### S.N.I.P. Clean-up Day

The Church of Our Saviour is gathering a team to participate in the Shaler Neighborhood Improvement Program clean-up day. Sign up to join us in showing our concern for our community by cleaning up Shaler on Saturday, April 22, 2006.

### Message From the Rector:

## Reflections on the Dean's Visit

On March 22 the Church of Our Saviour hosted a Lenten dinner and teaching by the dean of Trinity Episcopal school for Ministry, the Very Rev. Dr. Paul Zahl. The title of the evening (chosen by yours truly) was, "The Liberating Distinction between God's Law and the Gospel of Christ." One person commented before the evening, "I don't even know what the title means, what can I possibly get out of the talk?"



Ok, my bad, but don't let the title fool you, the message was as practical and personal as any teaching this writer has ever heard. Dean Zahl says himself, with all his degrees and twenty five plus years of parish ministry that, "this is the topic I'm devoting my life to ... because it works."

So how does understanding the difference between Law (commands & rules) and Gospel (grace & love) affect the lives of everyday people? Two examples are most helpful. First, take the relationship between husband and wife. Usually, when one spouse wants the other to change he or she "lays the law" on the other. The law may sound like one or more of the following: "stop playing so much golf, quit working so many hours, watch less football, bring me flowers, pay more attention to me, quit drinking, start going to church, loose weight, or quit talking on the phone so much." This method attempts to bring about change by applying pressure from the outside. The unspoken message is, "I will love you more if you obey the law."

Sometimes a person will bow to the pressure and alter their behavior slightly but there is no change in their thinking or in their heart. Most often, however, the pressure from the law actually produces resistance and rebellion (along with anxiety, stress, and fear) and in the end brings about the opposite result.

Grace (the Gospel) says, "I love you before you change your behavior and will continue to love you even if you fail to change." When grace enters a person's life the "pressure" of the law is removed and the person is free to change (or not). The miracle of grace is that when it happens, an "internal" change of the heart takes place that often brings about the change that the law, with all its haranguing was unable to accomplish.

The application to parents raising children is just as profound. When parents lay the law on a child in a way that says, "I will love you if you, 'make better grades, wear different clothes, or go out for football,'" the child generally resists or "rebels" against the pressure and does the opposite. Dean Zahl loves to use the illustration of children who move to Oregon. "If you have a child that has moved to Oregon (the other side of the country) there's a good chance he or she is escaping the pressure of the law;" or, in different terminology, getting free from the "control" of their parents who have communicated, "I will love you if..."

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## Calendar of Events

### WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

- Sunday ..... 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I  
 9:15 a.m. Adult Education  
 10:00 a.m. Contemporary Music Practice  
 10:30 a.m. Family Service & Children's Ministries
- Monday ..... 2:00 p. m. Bereavement Group the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday
- Tuesday ..... 6:00 p.m. Intercessory Prayer Time  
 7:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study
- Wednesdays ..... 12:00 noon Healing Service and Lunch
- Thursdays ..... 6:00 -7:30 p.m. Brownies meet bi-weekly
- Saturdays ..... 7:30 a.m. Men's Group the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday (3/11 and 3/25)

### SCHEDULE FOR APRIL

- Monday, April 10 ..... Vestry meeting 7:00 p.m.
- Friday, April 14 ..... Scripture Vigil 1:00 p.m. to Holy Saturday at 1:00 p.m.
- Sunday, April 16..... Easter Day  
 Holy Baptism at 10:30 a.m. for Mitchell and Laurie Klym

### Selah Newsletter & Parish Update

is published monthly.

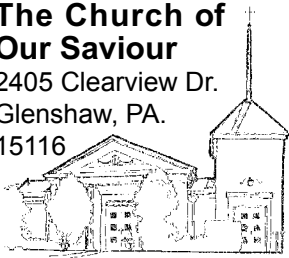
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Please pray for the all the parishioners in the bulletin.

## The Church of Our Saviour

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## Rector's Message (continued)

Grace says to children, "we love before you change and we will continue to love you even if you fail to change." The miracle is that when that message is communicated, the pressure is removed, the freedom comes, and the result that the law could not produce often comes about. Thank you Dean Zahl for your insight!

When it comes to the law of God (His commands and rules for holy living), the demands far exceed our ability to obey, so the pressure mounts. After all, "Be holy as (Jesus) is holy," is a tall order that we can't possibly attain. But when we hear the words of the Gospel of grace, that we are loved by God even though we fall short of the law, that "while we were yet sinners Christ died for us," and believe it in our hearts, the pressure of the law is removed and we are set free to love and serve him. This Easter, may the Gospel of grace penetrate our hearts as we celebrate the death and resurrection of Christ.

Happy Easter, In Christ,

Joseph

## Yes, Lord

by Barb Grundler

The Intercessory Prayer conference had a purpose: to teach basic skills and foster a vision for Intercessory teams at the parish level. I would like to share with you those basic skills.

What is Intercessory Prayer? - Asking God for something for others or yourself. Surprise! You have been doing this as parents, friends, spouses, or persons walking on this planet. We often feel compassion or "burdens" for others. Take those to your Father, ask Him for help.

Who can do Intercessory Prayer? - Anyone who has a relationship (or wants one) with God. You can be a new or mature Christian. Age doesn't matter. You can be busy or bored, happy or sad. You need to be willing to "step into the gap" for others. Lift them and their burdens to the capable hands of your Father.

Where should we do Intercessory Prayer? - You and the Holy Spirit decide where. On your knees, in bed, walking, running, alone or with others, all can be just right. Do not be afraid to approach your Father. Ask for His divine help and guidance for yourself and others.

Why do Intercessory Prayer? - Jesus interceded for His apostles and still does for

us at His Father's right hand. As followers of Christ, we are to be Christ-like in our hearts and actions. Moses was another example of an intercessor. He "stood in the gap" for his fellow Jews many times.

At the conference there was lively devotion. We were blessed to worship with

Bishop Duncan - a very special liturgy. It was very uplifting to sing "Yes, Lord" and to offer intercessory prayer for our bishops and Canon Hays. Our bishop thanked us all for our prayers, which he said "make all the difference". All those prayers we have prayed for him have been intercessory prayer.

Practice does help to make perfect. Pray more often. The actions of asking, thanking, and praising will become unceasing. Giving up yours and other's burdens to our

Father is often all we can do. We wait on His perfect timing, all-knowing wisdom, everlasting love. With God for us, we need not be afraid.

An Intercessory Prayer group meets on Tuesday evening here at our church. All are welcome. Together we can say "Yes, Lord" and appropriate His promises for our church, our families, ourselves and all we love, as well as for those that God loves but who do not yet know Him. His joy will be our strength!



## We Have a Postulant!

Congratulations to our very own Kathy Walzer who has been approved by the Diocese of Pittsburgh

to become a postulant for Holy Orders. Postulancy is the first official recognition by the diocese that a person is qualified and called to be ordained, in Kathy's case, to become a deacon. Kathy is already a faithful servant of the church and we pray her God's speed as this process continues.



## A Little Easter Egg Trivia ...

The Easter Egg predates the Christian holiday of Easter. The exchange of eggs in the springtime is a custom that was centuries old when Easter was first celebrated.

From the earliest times, the egg was a symbol of rebirth in most cultures. Eggs were often wrapped in gold leaf or, if you were a peasant, colored brightly by boiling them with the leaves or petals of flowers.

Today, children hunt colored eggs and place them in Easter baskets along with the modern version of real Easter eggs - those made of plastic or chocolate candy.

Speaking of chocolate ... if you get melted chocolate all over your hands, you're eating it too slowly!

## An Invitation to Join the Battle

"Where the troops are gathering, they are not just meeting for fellowship," said Sam Ewou, the Intercessory Prayer conference main speaker and a member of Ugandan Archbishop Henry Luke Orombi's intercessory prayer team.

There is a battle going on for our Church, our nation, our diocese, our parish, our families, and for the world. We see evidence of the determination and destructiveness of our Enemy's work on our TV screens and in our communities (and even our churches) every day. We hear Satan (his name means the Accuser) whispering in our ears, trying to cause division among us. He is crafty and elusive, but God promises that the gates of Hell shall not prevail over His Church.



Edwina Thomas of SOMA (Sharing our Ministries Abroad) reminded us that intercessory prayer will look different on all of us but we all have an important role to play.

Is God calling you to enlist as a prayer warrior in the army of the Lord? You can do so where you are or join us on Tuesday evenings whenever you can make it. We would love to have you. But do please pray for our spiritual, national, and world leaders and for one another wherever you are.

"Some trust in chariots, and some in horses, but we will remember the name of the Lord our God." (Psalm 20:7) Persistence in prayer will unleash God's power among us and make us ready to face the future he is shaping us for.

Kathy Walzer