

PARISH UPDATE

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

NEWS & NOTES

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

2 Hannah Mastren-Williams
12 Gladys Edge
16 Madeline Martin
19 Wesley Martin
29 Julie Ayres
29 Sally Knapp
31 Dorothy Solyan

ANNIVERSARIES

8 Jim & Dody Edge
13 Bill & Juliann Trischler
22 Hank & Eileen Meyer

Flea Market

Saturday, September 11 we will be hosting another flea market in the undercroft. The last one was a huge success in bringing people our way. Be looking for quality items to sell.

Lessons

A Sunday school teacher asked the children just before she dismissed them to go to church, "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?" Annie replied, "Because people are sleeping?"

Another Sunday school teacher asked her class why Joseph and Mary took Jesus with them to Jerusalem. A small child replied: "Because they couldn't get a baby-sitter?"

The teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five- and six-year-olds. After explaining the commandment to "honor thy father and thy mother," she asked "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?" With out missing a beat one little boy answered, "Thou shall not kill."

The Alpha and the Omega!

Accdrnig to rscheearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it deosn't mtttaer in waht oredr the lttteers in a wrod are, the olny iprmoetnt tihng is taht the frist and lsat ltteer be at the rghit pclae.

The rset can be a total mses and you can sitll raed it wouthit a porbelm. Tihs is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe. Amzanig, huh?

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Edited by: Joseph Martin
David Young

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From the Rector

Sometimes Nudges are Necessary

Dear Friends,

Do you remember as child avoiding an activity or game with other kids because you were afraid or intimidated. Then, once you got involved, it turned into a great thing? I'm thinking of the kid whose parents took him to camp but he didn't want to get out of the car. Then, after some convincing and a tearful departure, the experience turned into a real blast. All he needed was a little nudge to get him past the fear and into a new adventure.

I'm convinced that for most mainline church people (Episcopalians, Catholics, etc.), sharing our faith is something like going to camp for the first time: unfamiliar, scary, and intimidating. I'm also convinced that once we get "nudged" out of our comfort zone we might find it to be an exhilarating experience. But what does the nudge look like?

First of all, the nudge I'm talking about is a loving nudge. The parents of the kid at camp didn't swing open the door and give him the boot and drive off. They lovingly convinced him to do what he had to do because they knew what would be best for him. A loving God often gives a loving nudge that convinces us to do the good thing we need to do.

For example, How many Episcopalians over the last thirty years have been actively involved in the Great Commission? You

know, the last recorded words of Jesus in Matthew's Gospel where he tells his disciples (that's us), "Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations"

How many of us have been "going" and "making?" When it comes to this part of the Christian life most of us are sitting in the car clutching the armrest afraid to go outside when, actually, it's a good thing to do.

And so, the nudge. The Holy Spirit is lovingly nudging us at The Church of Our Saviour to go out because it is the good thing to do. And to ease the fear we are offering two ways to go; First, the newcomer packets. All you need to do is get a name off the transfer list at church or pray for a neighbor or friend and take one. Second, Alpha. Plan to attend and pray for someone to invite. Why not? It's the good thing to do and may be more exciting than we know.

Blessings, Joseph




Calendar of Events

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Sunday Holy Eucharist Rite I – 8:00 a.m.
Family Service – 10:00 a.m.
Tuesday Intercessory Prayer – 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday Healing Service and Lunch – 12 noon
Thursday Worship Practice – 7:00 p.m.
Saturday Men's Group - 1st & 3rd weeks, 7:30 a.m.

SCHEDULE FOR AUGUST

Monday, August 9 Vestry meeting - 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, August 21 Men's Group - 7:30 a.m.
Tuesday, August 17 Alpha Team Meeting – 7:00 p.m.

COMING IN SEPTEMBER

Saturday, September 11 Flea Market – 8:00 a.m.
Sunday, September 12 Church Picnic – 10:30 a.m.
Monday, September 13 Vestry Meeting – 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, September 18 Pirate Game – see flyer
Sunday, September 19 Family Service Time – 10:30 a.m.
Tuesday, September 21 Alpha Course – 6:30 p.m. dinner

Please pray for the all the parishioners in the bulletin.

The Church of Our Saviour

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For More Information:

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ALPHA Needs YOU!

ALPHA will be here before you know it. Our new start date is Tuesday, September 21, 2004. We need everyone who can to be involved in prayer for the course, the team, and all those who will be attending ALPHA. We also need team members – small group leaders and helpers are needed, of course, and training will be provided in September for anyone interested in helping with the small groups. But ALPHA needs people to help in other ways as well including coordinating and serving meals, set-up, clean-up, worship music, helping guests find what they need, etc. If you are interested in helping on ALPHA in any way, please come to the ALPHA team meeting on August 17, 2004. (Look for more details in the bulletin or call the office)

Of course, we also welcome you as a participant in the ALPHA course. And everyone is encouraged to invite at least one

person that you care about to attend ALPHA. Invitations are on order and should be arriving soon. ALPHA has changed many people's lives by bringing them into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, including our friend and missionary Margarita Grachen. Come to the first ALPHA session and hear testimonies of how God has used ALPHA to bring people to Him. Pray that he will use the ALPHA course at the Church of Our Saviour to do the same! Please cut out this article and keep in with your prayer list or Bible as a reminder to pray for ALPHA at Our Saviour every day. More information about ALPHA is available on our website or at www.alphausa.org.



Margarita's Visit

Margarita Grachen, our SAMS missionary from Honduras, was with us at our 10:00 service on June 27, 2004, with her two daughters, Hannah and Gabriella

When she was here last spring, she told us that she would be working to helping the bishop of Honduras get the diocesan finances in order, doing micro-enterprise development helping poor women start businesses to support their families, and, of first importance to Margarita (but not necessarily to her bishop), starting an orphanage for the homeless and abandoned children of Honduras.



She testified that when she submitted to the priorities of her bishop, God changed the bishop's priorities! So now she is well on her way with plans to build a day care center in Villanueva near San Pedro Sula and has land in the mountains nearby designated for an orphanage. She came to the US with blueprints in hand for the day care center to raise funds for building it.

SAMS is considering holding special short-term training for groups that want to go to Honduras to help with the project. Look for more information on that in the future. You can pick up one of Margarita's project brochures from the table in the narthex. Please keep her in your prayers. You can find regular updates on Margarita and her project on our website.

Barb's Story

Before receiving Christ I was an empty, depressed, and angry woman. I disliked myself very much and sought the approval of others. I felt I was a disappointment to all, especially God.

On the same day my mother-in-law was buried (she had died of cancer), I was told that I had cancer as well. A biopsy taken weeks earlier came back reporting that I had a malignant melanoma. More surgery was required and my leg was left scarred and it felt twisted.



Larry was certain he would lose me also, and I felt fear about who would help raise our girls. They were 10, 8, and 5 at the time. I drew closer to God out of fear and prayed for ten more years so I could be there for the girls. God gave me a sign, and I felt the peace and comfort that I would be there for them. God has been so good, it's going on 17 years. I have learned to trust Him and saw that He gives even more than we ask for at times.

Unfortunately, as time went on I once again became empty and angry again. More skin cancer was scarring my face and shoulders, and family problems added to my stress. I sank into a deep depression, and I no longer wanted to live. Someone asked the question, "If you are a Christian, how can you be so depressed?" I was both, and I didn't understand.

A hunger for God's word, a book about "desert times," and counseling were beneficial and healing. On the Sunday after 9-11-2001 we found the "Church Worth Finding." Peace and comfort came over me and I finally felt at home.

I wake now with confidence that I am a child of God and trust in Him and His promises. I look into the mirror seeing someone that God knows and loves. Being obedient to my Lord is so freeing. Seeking God's approval is all the pleasing I intend to do. If you see me slipping away please remind me to be still and know He is God. I thank you all for your fellowship, joy, and dedication to the Body of Christ.

Barbara Grundler

Contemporary Worship Receives New Life

The Contemporary Worship Team has received new life in a number of ways. Ever since Fr. Joseph felt called to step down from leading the contemporary worship, many have been praying for God to fill the void and restore the team and indeed He has. First, all the way from Yuma, Arizona and Seattle, Washington we welcome Nick and Aya Lannon. Nick and Aya were married in May and have come to Trinity Episcopal School for Ministry for Nick to study toward ordination. They are both delightful Christians and accomplished worship leaders and we welcome them into the fellowship.

Another blessing to the worship team and to the church has been the donation of some exceptional sound equipment by Dave Roberge. As a professional sound man, Dave used to DJ and provide sound for special events. His equipment will assist us as we continue to offer our best to the Lord. Finally, under girding the new worship team are the faithful and talented Soon Choi, Hank Meyer, and Barb Grundler. We thank God for his provision and welcome anyone else the Lord leads to enhance our team. May God be glorified!

