

# PARISH UPDATE

2405 Clearview Drive • Glenshaw, PA 15116 • 412-486-5171 (phone) • 412-487-4520 (fax) www.churchworthfinding.org

## NEWS & NOTES

### December Birthdays

- 2..... William Trischler
- 5..... Amy Klym
- 12..... Linda Ross
- 14..... Doris Neiger
- 18..... Robin Perry
- 22..... Kathy Walzer
- 25..... Patricia Parker
- 29..... Dody Edge
- 31..... Hannah Acquafondata

### Holy Baptism:

We welcome Nathan Thomas into the fellowship of the Church; he is the son of Tom and Melissa Farabaugh and brother to Amanda and Taylor.

### Special Note:

No morning services on Christmas Eve  
Christmas Eve Service Times:

- 4:30 p.m. – children and family service
- 11:00 p.m. – Candlelight service



### Diocesan Calendar Upgraded

Users of [www.pgh.anglican.org](http://www.pgh.anglican.org), the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh's website, will have an easier time both keeping track of events across the diocese and suggesting events to be listed on the newly upgraded diocesan calendar.

The new calendar page, which is available at [www.pgh.anglican.org/events](http://www.pgh.anglican.org/events), now displays information month-by-month. It also uses a color-coding system for quickly identifying particular types of events such as bishop's visitations, ordinations, social gatherings and worship services.

Another new feature is the ability for individuals to submit information about their own parish or organizational events directly from the calendar page. By simply clicking on "Suggest an Event" on the calendar page, individuals can very easily provide information about events they would like to be added to the website calendar. That information is then forwarded to the communications office.

### Christmas Lights Trip

St. Stephen's, McKeesport, is sponsoring a bus trip Dec. 30 to see the Christmas lights in Oglebay Park, West Virginia. The bus will leave St. Stephen's at 4:00 p.m., stop for dinner and proceed to the park. Cost is \$20 for bus and guide -- dinner extra. Contact Sharon at 412-664-9379 if you are interested.

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## Rector's Message:

### When Theology and Real Life Don't Line Up

Dear friends,

We all live with a fair amount of ambiguity in our lives; you know, situations that have two conflicting explanations that make you scratch your head in confusion;

like people fighting while Christmas shopping, or public school Christmas musicals that avoid the name Jesus.

Explanations of such events don't make sense but generally people just move on.

However, when our theology, our understanding

of God, doesn't line up with real life, the confusion produces greater consequences such as weak, and sometimes, abandoned faith. Proper theology, on the other hand, that accommodates real life, strengthens faith and supports the believer in difficult times.

In the wake of my recent seven week bout with pneumonia, I would like to reflect with you on the effects that various popular theologies can have on our faith if we apply them to real life. For our first popular theology, let's take the understanding that God has a great plan for our life and if we follow the teachings of the bible we will experience this "good life" more and more as we grow into better Christians. Now apply real life suffering or tragedy to the equation. If my theology is that God wants me to

experience the good life now by following certain principles, then either I'm not working the biblical principles quite right, or I need to work at them harder, or, at last,

God is either not able or has chosen not to show his favor on me. The ambiguity: How can a God who wants my best life now allow such hardship? The end result: exhaustion (from trying harder), self condemnation (for not

achieving), and finally despair.

If my theology is that God has given me his commandments and expects me to carry them out through religious activity and self discipline, and punishes me when I fail (for which I need to confess, be absolved, and try harder), then when suffering or tragedy comes I have to conclude that I'm only getting what I deserve and must try harder to do what the punishing God wants (or else). The end result of this ambiguity (how can God expect me to do what I'm unable to do and punish me when I don't?) is constant fear, perfectionism, hypocrisy, and ultimately disinterest in such a judgmental deity.

The more accurate, biblical understanding of God is that, whereas he is

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## DEC 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  
Children's Service the first Sunday of the month
- Tuesday ..... 6:30 p.m. Intercessory Prayer Time  
7:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study  
Healing Service and Lunch the last Thursday of the month at 12:00 noon  
Brownies every other Tuesday 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
- Saturdays ..... 7:30 a.m. Men's Group the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>

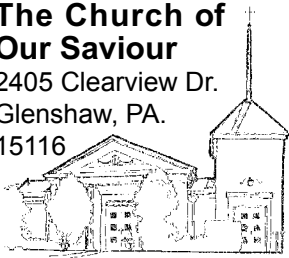
### SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER

- Saturday, Dec 9 ..... Pampered Chef Party 2:00 p.m.
- Monday, Dec 11 ..... Vestry meeting 7:00 p.m.
- Saturday, Dec 16 ..... Martin open house 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
- Sunday, Dec. 17 ..... Lesson & Carols, Church decorating & Greens Lunch
- Sunday, Dec 24 ..... Eve of the Nativity - Services at 4:30 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.
- Thursday, Dec. 28 ..... Healing Service and Lunch at 12 noon

Please pray for the all the parishioners and friends of Church of Our Saviour

## The Church of Our Saviour

2405 Clearview Dr.  
Glenshaw, PA.  
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### For More Information:

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### Pittsburgh Creche

The Nativity scene that is constructed annual in the plaza at USX Tower in Pittsburgh will be available for viewing from 11/18/2006 through 1/7/2007. This amazing piece of artwork is a replica of the famous nativity scene erected each year in St. Peter's Square in Rome, Italy.



### Hartwood Celebration of Lights

The Hartwood Celebration of Lights is a 3.2 mile stretch of holiday light displays leading up to the stunning mansion at Hartwood. More than two million lights are used to illuminate the holiday-themed displays standing 3- to 40-foot tall. The event is sponsored by Eckerd Drugs and Allegheny County and is enjoyed by more than 600,000 people each year!

The Hartwood Celebration of Lights helps raise money for The Salvation Army's Project Bundle-Up, and also help to support the Children's Miracle Network, St. Joseph's House of Hospitality and local non-profit organizations.

The Celebration of Lights can be viewed at Hartwood Acres in Indiana Township, Pennsylvania, from November 17, 2006 through January 8, 2007 (including Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day).

Hours are Sunday through Thursday, 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. (with Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve hours from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.).

Admission is \$12 donation per carload. Buses are \$3 per person (non-profit) and \$5 per person for profit organizations. Proceeds benefit Project Bundle Up, St. Joseph's House of Hospitality, and other Allegheny County charities.

## Parish Update

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## Rector's Message (continued)

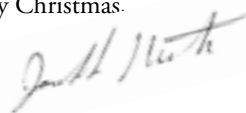
interested and involved in the everyday lives of his people, His main concern is for the redemption, the bringing into relationship with himself, of all of creation including mankind. Thus the Lord says through the prophet Isaiah, "I, the LORD, am your Savior, your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob." And again through the apostle Paul, "But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons (Gal. 4:4).

When we understand that God's chief purpose is neither to meet our needs nor to punish us when we mess up, but rather, by sending his Son into the world and ultimately to the cross, to draw all mankind into a loving relationship with himself for

all eternity (John 3:16), when suffering or tragedy occurs we realize that God is not being stingy with the good life or mean with his punishment, He simply has a larger purpose in mind, "an eternal glory" as the apostle reminds us, "that far outweighs [the suffering]" (2 Cor 4:17). More than that he actually uses the suffering to accomplish his redemptive purpose (Romans 5:3).

This Advent (and Christmas) may we celebrate Jesus Christ, the Savior and Redeemer of the world who, out of love, has come into the world to set us free from striving and punishment and draw us, even through suffering, into a loving relationship with him. Merry Christmas.

In Christ,  
Joseph



## National Church "Response" Falls Short

The Episcopal News Service today released a proposal responding to the request by seven Episcopal dioceses for Alternative Primatial Oversight (APO). It suggests that a "primatial vicar" be appointed by Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori to serve as her "designated pastor in such dioceses." The "primatial vicar" would be accountable to Presiding Bishop Jefferts Schori and perform those functions she chooses to delegate, such as episcopal ordinations.

"We are heartened that the national leadership of The Episcopal Church has realized the time has come for structural change. We will study this proposal," said Bishop Robert Duncan, bishop of Pittsburgh and moderator of the Anglican Communion Network. "However, at first glance what is proposed is neither primatial, nor oversight, nor is it an alternative to the spiritual authority of one who, by



both teaching and action, has expressly rejected the Windsor Report and its recommendations. This is obviously not what was asked for." Bishop Duncan also observed that what is proposed is in fact less than what was offered and rejected at the first meeting held in New York during September.

Bishop Duncan reiterated his commitment to find a mediated solution to the crisis in The Episcopal Church. "We really do want to talk about all the issues. We want to protect everyone who is unable to travel down the path the majority of The Episcopal Church has clearly chosen, not just those in dioceses that have requested APO. We want to have this conversation and find a way forward that allows all of us to get on with our mission. We are committed to remaining in the mainstream of the Anglican Communion as we proclaim the faith once delivered to the saints," he said.

## Invitation

Martin Christmas Open House  
Saturday, December 16  
From 6:00 p.m. — 9:00 p.m.