

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

February Birthdays

- 19..... Kathy Brown
- 19..... Warren Neiger
- 23..... Dorothy Donley

Hurricane Katrina Relief Trip

The ECW Family Life Movement is organizing a trip to Ocean Springs, MS to help in the relief and clean-up for victims of Katrina. The trip is from March 31 – April 8, 2006 and is open to anyone age 14 and up. The Rev. Deb Carr is leading this trip and she'd like to have a team of at least 20.

The team will be leaving on March 31 and returning on April 8th. The cost will be approx. \$375 which will pay for transportation and food. Team members will sleep on air mattresses on the floor at St. John's Episcopal Church in Ocean Springs and will do the work that is needed when they get there.

The work involved could be anything from removing debris, cutting down trees, installing drywall, painting, stocking shelves at the distribution center to case work and praying with the survivors. In you are interested in either going on this trip as part of the team or in contributing to the cost of the trip to enable others to go, please see either Fr. Joseph or Kathy Walzer for more information.

Evening at the Symphony

On February 10, the entire Diocese is invited to attend "Episcopal Night at the Symphony," at Heinz Hall in downtown Pittsburgh. Tickets to the concert are available in several sections at a 20 percent discount.

The 8 pm Friday, February 10, performance of the Symphony will be conducted by Charles Dutoit and feature Garrick Ohlsson as piano soloist. Titled "Evening of Romance," the program includes the Rachmaninoff Piano Concerto No. 2 in C minor, his Symphonic Dances, and two pieces by Maurice Ravel: Pavane pour une infante defunte and La Valse.

A block of seats has been reserved in the Gallery. Tickets for these seats are \$19.50. Seats are also available both in the Family Circle and on the Yellow section on the main floor for \$35. Those interested in other seats can still receive the 20 percent discount by calling Marianne Haffey at 412-392-3320.

Selah Newsletter & Parish Update is published monthly.

Edited by: Joseph Martin & Dave Young
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Message From the Rector:

New and Improved?

Second in a series of articles regarding the state of the Episcopal Church as we approach General Convention '06

Dear Friends,

Conversations regarding the new direction of the Episcopal Church often get heated when opinions and feelings are expressed without proper information. The following article, like last month's article, seeks to provide factual and foundational information that can help us better understand the situation and make proper choices for moving forward.

We've all heard the expression "New and Improved" as it relates to consumer products. Sometimes the changes to the old product are beneficial and sometimes they're not. What's really helpful is to know enough about the two in order to make the comparison. In the aftermath of General Convention '03 the commentary from the Episcopal leadership was that God was doing a "new thing" in our Church that was an improvement from the old. Let's look at the two products and make an honest comparison, starting with the old.

Two important labels that have been associated with the "old" Episcopal Church are "Orthodox" and "the faith once delivered by the saints." The word 'orthodox' basically means, "holding to established

beliefs." Episcopalians don't have to look further than the Prayer Book to document what those established beliefs are and what the 'faith once delivered' has always been made of. The key components as documented by The Chicago-Lambeth Quadrilateral (Prayer Book page 876) are the following:

- 1) The Holy Scriptures,
- 2) the Creeds,
- 3) the Sacraments, and
- 4) the Historic Episcopate.

Other substantiating documents include the Catechism (BCP page 845) and the Articles of Religion (BCP page 867).

In short, the well documented, "orthodox" Episcopal Church holds that the Holy Scriptures are the "revealed word of God," 'containing all things necessary for salvation,' and being the "rule and ultimate standard of faith" (BCP page 877). In the preface to the Prayer Book Marriage service, the plain reading of scripture regarding holy matrimony is stated clearly: "Christian marriage is the solemn and public covenant between a man and a woman in the presence of God" (BCP pg. 422). Also in the Prayer Book (pg. 877), the Nicene Creed



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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
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 st and 3 rd Saturday

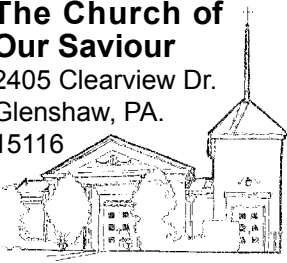
SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY

Saturday, Feb. 11	Valentine Party, 6:30 pm
Monday, Feb. 13	Vestry meeting, 7:00 pm
Saturday, Feb. 25	Brenda & Jason Wedding Shower, 1-4 pm
Tuesday, Feb. 28	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, 6:30 pm

Please pray for the all the parishioners in the bulletin.

The Church of Our Saviour

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New and Improved?

(continued)

is called the "sufficient statement of the Christian faith."

Now compare that to the "new product" as described by a couple of "revisionist" (to change or alter) Episcopal leaders. Take, for instance, the quote from the newly elected Bishop, Gene Robinson, who divorced his wife and children for his same sex partner, "Just simply to say that it goes against tradition and the teaching of the church and scripture does not necessarily make it wrong. We worship a living God, and that living God leads us into truth." Or this statement from the Bishop of Pennsylvania, Charles Bennisson, "Because we wrote the Bible and we can rewrite it. We have rewritten the Bible many times. The text of the Bible is a conveyance of the word of God but is not itself the word of God." Add to that resolution B001, put forth at General Convention '03 by a group of orthodox clergy that simply reinforced the Prayer Book's stated position on the authority of scripture and validity of the Creeds that was soundly defeated, while new, same sex liturgies



were approved, and we have a product that barely resembles the original.

The sad part is that the transition from the old to the new was made incrementally over the past 40 years so that when the new product was unveiled in 2003, most long term Episcopalians were taken by surprise. Some still can't believe there's actually been a change. The above comparison makes it all too clear.

Archbishop Thomas Cranmer, author of the original Prayer Book in 1549 had

brilliant insight regarding the established, orthodox faith, when he said, "If there were any word of God beside the Scripture, we could never be certain of God's Word; and if we be uncertain of God's Word, the devil might bring in among us a new word, a new doctrine, a new faith, a new church, a new god, yea himself to be a god. If the Church and the Christian faith did not stay itself upon the Word of God certain, as upon a sure and strong foundation, no man could know whether he had a right faith, and whether he were in the true Church of Christ, or in the synagogue of Satan."

As for me and my house, we're sticking with the old guys like Cranmer and the original product. May God keep us humble and strong as we grow in the grace of the Lord and the faith once delivered by the Saints.

In Christ alone,


Joseph

Reading This Could Save a Life

During a BBQ a woman stumbled and took a little fall - she assured everyone that she was fine (when they offered to call paramedics) and had just tripped over a brick because of her new shoes. They got her cleaned up and got her a new plate of food. While she appeared a bit shaken up, Ingrid went about enjoying herself the rest of the evening. Ingrid's husband called later telling everyone that his wife had been taken to the hospital. At 6:00pm, Ingrid passed away. She had suffered a stroke at the BBQ. Had they known how to identify the signs of a stroke perhaps Ingrid would be alive today.

If a neurologist can get to a stroke victim within 3 hours he can totally reverse the effects of a stroke. The trick is getting a stroke recognized, diagnosed, and getting to the patient within 3 hours. Sometimes symptoms of a stroke are difficult to identify. Unfortunately, the lack of awareness spells disaster. The stroke victim may suffer brain damage when people nearby fail to recognize the symptoms of a stroke.

Now doctors say a bystander can recognize a stroke by asking three simple questions:

1. Ask the individual to **smile**.
2. Ask him or her to **raise both arms**.
3. Ask the person to **speak a simple sentence**
(Coherently, as in "It is sunny out today.")

If the person has trouble with any of these tasks, call paramedics immediately and describe the symptoms to the dispatcher. After discovering that a group of non-medical volunteers could identify facial weakness, arm weakness and speech problems, researchers urged the general public to learn the three questions. They presented their conclusions at the American Stroke Association's annual meeting last February. Widespread use of this test could result in prompt diagnosis and treatment of the stroke and prevent brain damage.

Be a friend and share this article with as many friends as possible. You could save their lives. And while we are at it, let's invite our friends to receive Jesus as their Lord and Savior so, in case no one is around to intervene on their behalf during a stroke or other crisis, we can rest assured about their eternal salvation. Can we think of three questions to ask that will help us diagnose their need to hear a clear presentation of the gospel?



A crew from Church of Our Saviour arrives at Shepherd's Heart in Oakland on January 15.

Lay Minister Training by Diocese

The diocese and Trinity Cathedral are teaming up to offer an expanded day of training for lay leaders in parish worship on March 25. The day will offer specific training for acolytes, thurifers, lay Eucharistic ministers (chalice bearers), lay readers, lectors and vergers.

The day will start with a general workshop focusing on the basics of altar service, followed by breakout groups focusing on the special roles of each class of lay servers. The cathedral Hot Dog shop is providing lunch for a small fee. The day will conclude with a diocesan Eucharist at 1 pm., which is open to all and will include a mass procession of all participants.

Everyone who participates will receive a letter certifying that they have completed the training. Complete registration materials and a fuller description of the day's schedule is available at www.pgh.anglican.org.