

PARISH UPDATE

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

NEWS & NOTES

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

19..... Kathy Brown
 23..... Dorothy Donley
 26..... Liza Koch
 27..... Joseph Wiggins

CONGRATULATIONS

To Connie Lawther on the birth of her granddaughter, Ashley Erin Kessler and to great grandfather Walt Brown. Baby Ashley was born on January 24, weighing 5lbs 15ozs.

A Fond Farewell

To Jady and Liza Koch who will be departing to Germany in March to pursue further education. We welcome Jady as preacher at the Church of Our Saviour on February 18. We will miss the congos.

Welcome Home

And many thanks to Tom Carter for his service in Iraq.

Dance for Life

On Saturday, March 24, 7 p.m. at the Church of Our Saviour, the Relay for Life team is hosting a fund raising dance for all ages to raise money for the Cancer relay this summer. Suggested donation is \$5 per person. Music will be provided by "Jimmy Jam" Wiggins with snacks and refreshments provided by the church. Donations are welcome. For more info contact Barb Grundler at 412-321-8512.

Movie Night

On Friday night, February 16 at 6:30 p.m. our movie crazed seminarians are offering a movie night for parents with a separate movie for kids. We'll order pizza, watch a good movie, and share some thoughts afterward. Movies to be announced.

Mission Dates to Remember:

- SAMS short-term mission training Feb. 17-19 – Held in Ambridge. A great way to explore and prepare for a short term mission trip.
- "Visit Trinity" Conference March 8 -10 – For anyone interested in theological training at Trinity School for Ministry in Ambridge. www.tesm.edu
- New Wineskins Conference April 11-15 – Held every three years in North Carolina. Speakers and missionaries from around the world, workshops, and exhibits (See brochures in church). www.newwineskins.org

Parish Update

Published monthly by Church of Our Saviour, Glenshaw, PA.

Edited by: Joseph Martin & Dave Young
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Rector's Message:

The Numbers Look Good

Dear Friends,

Don't ever believe a pastor who says he or she doesn't care about numbers. It just isn't true. There's not a pastor on earth who doesn't notice the difference between empty seats and occupied seats, a well attended event or a bomb. And I would venture to say that most lay people are the same. Let's face it, the Rooney's love the perpetual sell out of Heinz Field for the Steelers much more than Kevin McClatchy celebrates the "elbow room" at PNC Park. The world's basic rule of thumb is simply, "more is better than less." God is the only person I know who doesn't subscribe to that motto. So, you can imagine what a relief it was, after our somewhat sparse annual meeting (sure, the snow didn't help), to discover the reading for the next Sunday was about Gideon, the fearful army leader to whom God said, "You have too many men for me to deliver Midian into their hands." (Judges 7:2). Surely, God is the originator of the saying, "Less is more," and there are some good reasons for it.

The basic reason God gives Gideon for reducing his army from 32,000 to a puny 300 is so that "Israel won't boast that her own strength has saved her." Isn't that so true? How often have we seen when groups get big and powerful they also become proud and self-reliant. On the other hand, when a small group is faced with a sizeable task they tend to value each other more and become less self-centered and more group-centered. And so was the atmosphere at our

annual meeting; somewhat of a downer for the numbers people like yours truly but certainly pleasant in terms of humility, unity of spirit, and love for one another, basic fruits of the gospel of Christ.

Friends, this is not an insignificant development. To see the fruits of the Spirit playing out in our relationships with one another is a tremendous blessing. In fact Jesus said that people will know who he is by the way we love one another.

At the same time, even this wonderful development is not something that anyone can boast about. There may be an element of "pruning" involved but in the Gideon story the final 300 men were picked because they lapped water with their hands to drink instead of getting down on their knees - significant in some military sense, but certainly not a major "sorting" of good or bad by character or moral qualification. The same is true with the army at the Church of Our Saviour; we have been blessed with the gospel of Jesus Christ and are experiencing the fruit of his grace so that no one can boast. What we can do is move forward with the ministry that God has for us and give him all the glory for the success we may have. What a good place to start the new year.

Blessings,

joseph




FEB Calendar of Events

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Sunday 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I
 9:15 a.m. Adult Education
 10:30 a.m. Blended Service
 Family Service the first Sunday of the month

Tuesday 6:30 p.m. Intercessory Prayer Time
 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 8:00 a.m. Men's Group the 1st and 3rd

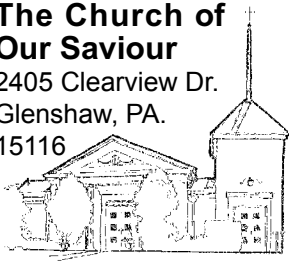
SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY

Saturday, Feb 10..... Valentine Potluck Social at the Purdy's home at 6:30 p.m.
 Monday, Feb 12 Vestry meeting
 Friday, Feb 16 Movie Night, 6:30 p.m.
 Tuesday, Feb 20..... Shrove Tuesday pancake supper at 6:30 p.m.
 Wednesday, Feb 21..... Ash Wednesday service at 12 noon and 7:00 p.m.
 Thursday, Feb 22 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.
15116



For More Information:

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Take Our Annual Meeting Quiz

Perhaps you haven't yet had time to read all the excellent reports in the Annual Report. Well here is some incentive – be the first to submit to the rector (that's Fr. Joseph) the correct answers to this quiz and win an exciting prize (hint: it's a book). (Everyone who submits the correct answers will receive a consolation prize.) So read that Annual Report and fill out your quiz today! Copies available in the office.

1. What is the name of the seminarian from Virginia that the vestry agreed to sponsor this year?

2. What OT book of the Bible gives us lessons for a remnant of the people of God rebuilding for the future?

3. What movie actor is mentioned in the Annual Report?

4. Who said, "The Church exists by mission as fire exists by burning?"

5. Who is helping Fr. Joseph with the monthly healing service?

6. Name one of the new Sunday school teachers this year

7. Name our two seminarians (first and last names)

Church of Our Saviour Family Retreat to North Carolina

The Church of Our Saviour is inviting all families and friends to take a retreat together in the beautiful mountains of North Carolina April 11-15.

The Plan: All those who want to go on this family retreat will travel to Black Mountain, NC on Tuesday, April 11 and return Sunday April 15. We will have time to enjoy the mountains of NC and spend time together as well as have time independently. Those who wish to take part in the New Wineskins Mission Conference happening right down the road at the same time can register and attend as much as they want. See purple registration flyers on the table at the entrance to the church.

Accommodations: Through a good friend of Fr. Joseph who owns a premier Boy's Camp in Black Mountain, NC, participants will be staying in comfortable lodges at the camp for \$50 - \$75 for the week. The camp has a beautiful waterfront, trails, fishing, and is close to other fun attractions.

For more information contact Fr. Joseph.

Operation Clean Shave: Make Bishop Scriven's Beard History

Bishop Henry Scriven doesn't really remember what life was like without a beard, but, in order to help pay for his wife Catherine's upcoming mission trip to Guatemala, he's willing to find out.

Between March 10 - 17 Catherine will be part of a small medical mission team from Church of the Ascension in Oakland that is going to Guatemala. This comes under the auspices of Food for the Hungry. She will be helping as a translator for two doctors and one paramedic (David Hall, David Hennessey and John Archer).

Bishop Scriven is willing to give up his beard (and publish before and after photos in TRINITY magazine to prove it), if people in the diocese are willing to help cover the approximately \$1,500 cost of the trip.

Anyone wanting to contribute to this worthy goal should send their donations either to him at the Diocesan Office or to Church of the Ascension by March 1. Please make out the checks to Church of the Ascension with "Guatemala Scriven" in the memo and mail to:

Church of the Ascension
4729 Ellsworth Avenue
Pittsburgh PA 15213-2888

Men Are Just Happier People

What do you expect from such simple creatures? Your last name stays put. The garage is all yours. Wedding plans take care of themselves. Chocolate is just another snack. You can be president. You can wear a white T-shirt to a water park. You can wear NO shirt to a water park. Car mechanics tell you the truth.



The world is your "potty." You never have to drive to another gas station restroom because this one is just too icky. You don't have to stop and think of which way to turn a nut on a bolt. Same work, more pay. Wrinkles add character. Graying hair adds attraction. Wedding dress, \$5000. Tux rental, \$100. The occasional, well-rendered belch is practically expected. New shoes don't cut, blister, or mangle your feet. One mood all the time. Phone conversations are over in 30 seconds flat. You know stuff about tanks.

A five-day vacation requires only one suitcase. You can open all your own jars. You get extra credit for the slightest act of thoughtfulness. If someone forgets to invite you, he or she can still be your friend. Your underwear is \$8.95 for a three-pack. Three pairs of shoes are more than enough. You almost never have strap problems in public. You are unable to see wrinkles in your clothes.

Everything on your face stays its original color. The same hairstyle lasts for years, maybe decades. You only have to shave your face and neck. You can play with toys all your life. Your belly usually hides your big hips. One wallet and one pair of shoes-one color for all seasons. You can wear shorts no matter how your legs look. You can "do" your nails with a pocket knife. You have freedom of choice concerning growing a mustache. You can do Christmas shopping for 23 relatives on December 24 in 25 minutes.

No wonder men are happier.....

Submitted by Heidi Martin from
"The Willow Tree" publication