

PARISH UPDATE

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

NEWS & NOTES

January Birthdays

- 2 Connie Lawther
- 9 Kitty Fullerton
- 9 Thomas Farabaugh
- 10 Leo Gilch
- 11 Bernice Goncar
- 15 Noah Wiggins
- 19 John Purdy
- 20 Helene Maglott
- 21 Pat Purdy
- 29 Henry Meyer
- 30 Shelby Perry

Our Sympathies:

We offer our deepest condolences to Melissa Farabaugh at the passing of her mother on New Years Day.

Craft Sale

Once again our annual African craft sale was a great success. Thanks to all of you who bought jewelry, carved wooden animals, and all the other wonderful items. We raised \$437.00 for African Team Ministries, another new sales record. African Team Ministries provides Anglican Dioceses all over Africa with training for laity, aid to refugees, support for orphans, clean water, medical care, and repairing churches. There are brochures in the undercroft on the table under our missions poster for anyone wanting to learn more about their ministry.

Mission Dates to Remember:

- Margarita's visit on 1/21 – see article in this issue
- 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

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Rector's Message:

A Different New Year Perspective

Dear friends,

I hope you don't mind if I break the New Year trend and talk about something other than “ourselves” in this article. You know, “our” New Year's resolution, “our” new diet, “our” exercise program, or even “our” bible reading goals. Instead, I'd like to start out the New Year focusing our attention outward instead of inward. I hate to use this next word because immediately people move on to something more interesting, but, in Christian terms, I want to talk about “mission;” the act of reaching outside of ourselves to share the gospel with others.

To begin the discussion, I'd like to offer a genuine confession: As rector of the Church of Our Saviour over the past four years I have spent an inordinate amount of physical and emotional energy tending to the needs of our church; our growth, our finances, our building, and, if the truth be known, our problems. Of course, much of that is necessary; after all, I am paid by “our” church and as a church we do have needs that need to be attended to. But recently, due to, I believe, the grace of God working in our midst, I have become aware of the lopsided amount of attention paid to “my” and “our” needs as compared to the call of the great commission to, “go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation”(Matt. 16:15).

This awareness became apparent the other evening when I was opening a stack of neglected mail and found myself tossing aside the ones I recognized as mission letters. I'm not talking about unknown, bulk mailings from strangers; I'm talking about letters from people I know personally, spreading the gospel locally and internationally to people who otherwise might not be

reached - A successful ministry to the homeless and veterans in Pittsburgh, an outreach and counseling center in Ambridge, another one in Shaler, a missionary couple in Thailand, leadership training and theological education in Uganda, another one in Kenya, ministry to the sexually broken, and the list goes on; and me not even having the time to open the letters! The conviction cut me to the core and I repented before the Lord for my busy-ness.

Now, what does this have to do with the Church of Our Saviour?

Maybe nothing. My conviction and the way the Holy Spirit is working in me may be my personal business and have nothing to do with anyone else. On the other hand, if the same work is going on in our corporate life then we need to celebrate and listen to what the Spirit is saying. For years our church has supported financially various missionaries and ministries around the world and hopefully we can continue to do so. But could the Lord be calling some of us to become more actively involved?

Included in this newsletter is a list of various mission partners that we have supported in the past along with an exciting Missions Conference in North Carolina. I would ask that we all take the time to prayerfully read through the letter and see what the Lord says. Then when we come together for the Annual Meeting on January 29 we can take some time to share our thoughts. Who knows, it might be the start of an exciting New Year.

Many blessings,
Joseph




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 1st and 3rd

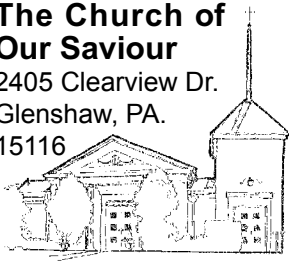
SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY

- Saturday, Jan 6 Men's Group at 7:30 p.m.
- Monday, Jan 8 Vestry meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- Sunday, Jan. 21 Margarita Grachen at 10:30 service
- Thursday, Jan 25 Healing Service and Lunch 12 noon
- Sunday, Jan 28 Annual Meeting

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

The Church of Our Saviour

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For More Information:

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Spotlight on the Sudan

The Church of Our Saviour is blessed to have come to know a former "lost boy" of the Sudan, Michael, who was recently ordained a priest in this diocese. He is currently working with Sudanese congregations all over the US to provide support and ministry training for these churches. The Sudanese congregation he leads in Pittsburgh meets at Shepherd's Heart.

Michael was raised in a village in the Sudan where everyone gathered each week in the Anglican church where Michael was baptized and confirmed. The southern Sudan is largely Christian, and the people although poor and persecuted, have held firm in their faith in Christ, despite many attempts by the Muslims to turn them from their faith by threats and economic incentives. In fact, the Saudi Arabian government has set aside \$300 million dollars since last year's cease-fire to fund the Islamization of the southern Sudan.

Christians have suffered terribly for more than 20 years. During the civil war, sparked largely by the discovery of oil in the south and the desire to control those revenues, churches and hospitals were bombed, some Christian Sudanese were enslaved and many others killed. The Muslims in the North of Sudan raided villages and took Christian children back to the North and enslaved them, forcing many to convert to Islam and even to fight against their own people. Some two million have either been killed or displaced. Michael's own mother and stepfather were pulled from their house and shot. Their bodies were thrown into a ditch. Many people including the "lost boys" tried to escape to Ethiopia on foot. Many died trying. Others made it to refugee camps and some came eventually to the United States. These are the members of Michael's congregations around the country. Joseph, our rector, has become chairman of the board for this ministry and will be explaining more about this opportunity in the near future.

Partnership with Local Ministries

Not all of our partnerships are overseas. We also have important relationships to organizations doing great work in our community.

The Pregnancy Care Center is a very Biblically based and well-run organization that has centers in Wexford and Oakland to compassionately assist women in crisis pregnancy situations to make an informed choice. While not all of their clients choose life, the great majority do, especially after seeing the sonogram of their unborn child. They also provide post-abortion counseling to anyone who, even years later, struggles with the decision, fathers as well as mothers.

Trinity School for Ministry in Ambridge is now the largest of the eleven Episcopal seminaries in the US. Trinity was started in 1976 to provide a Biblically-based, evangelical mission-focused training for ministry for clergy and lay people in the Episcopal Church and other traditions as well. Trinity has been a major force in resisting the liberal shift in the Episcopal Church and training leaders who have provided many orthodox believers a place to stand. The last three rectors of the Church of Our Saviour have been Trinity grads. We also have benefited from many seminarians doing their field work here (as well as

helping to train them).

Shepherd's Heart is an inner-city congregation in our diocese whose mission is to reach out to the homeless, the addicted, and other street people of our city. Begun in Oakland, they have recently moved into a large building across from Mercy Hospital where they now host Dr. Jim Wither's Operation Safety Net ministry to provide health care to the homeless and a congregation of Sudanese refugees pastured by Michael Y, as well as their own ministry and Sunday evening worship services and dinners. Many members of Our Saviour have participated in providing meals on our visits to Shepherd's Heart as well as delivering clothes and the "fruit" of our annual Woolly Tree. Shepherd's Heart was recently given a grant by the Veterans' Administration which will cover approximately two thirds of the cost of getting a shelter for homeless veterans up and running. They are currently raising the other one third of the monies needed.

Redeemed Lives Ministry, run by Trinity grad Mario Bergner, who struggled for many years with homosexuality before finding freedom in Christ, recently moved from Chicago to Massachusetts. They provide help and hope to sexually broken people of all walks of life.



ALPHA Successful

This year's ALPHA was a team effort by our seminarians and parishioners under the direction of David Browder. We had six people from the community attend along with a few of our parishioners and we had a great time learning and discussing the core issues of the Christian faith. ALPHA finished on November 29, 2006, with our Alpha retreat being held on November 11.

Thanks to all who provided all or part of a meal of multiple meals: Robin Acquafondata, Melissa Farabaugh, Barb and April Grundler, Liza Koch, Heidi and Joseph Martin, Sarah Perry, Pat Purdy, Allison Erhardt, Jen Cassidy, and Kathy Walzer. A special thanks to Pat Purdy who set-up every week. And many thanks to the team: David Browder, Kathy Walzer, Matt McCormack, and Barb Grundler. Thanks to everyone for their prayers. We couldn't have done it without you. Look for future opportunities to attend Alpha or be part of a team. We will offer it again when the need and the resources are there.

Mission Briefs

Margarita Grachen continues her work of raising funds for the day-care center in Villanueva and the orphanage still in the planning stages for the diocese of Honduras. She will be with us on January 21, 2007 at both services. You are invited to come and get a first-hand update and ask your questions.

Deacon Shirley Morris is now back in Uganda, after visiting with us in October (and being drafted to do a deacon's mass when Fr. Joseph was hospitalized). She continues her work discipling women and training Bible study leaders as well as her chaplaincy at a girls' high school. Her doll ministry for the children of Uganda was featured in the "Trinity" newsletter.

Frank and Anne B. continue their work of making disciples among the Muslim people of Tunisia. They were here in the states recently and upon returning have faced some new challenges, especially with the team dynamics. It is difficult work that is made all the more dangerous and challenging with incidences like the Danish cartoon of Mohammed and the riots in the Muslim world that resulted.

Anglican Frontier Fellowship is an umbrella organization run by New Wine-skins Ministries of Ambridge (formerly the Episcopal Church Missionary Community), and supports mission work in places where there is no Church in existence to do local work – places like Nepal and parts of the Middle East. These are often the most dangerous places to do mission work. One of the projects supported by AFF is the Yavatmal school for training missionaries and leaders for church planting work in the north of India. Please keep all our mission partners in your prayers.