

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

Congratulations:

To Lee and Cindy Gilch who will celebrate their wedding anniversary on March 31 (We don't know which anniversary this is, but it's a cinch that it's golden, no matter how long they've been married).

Altar Hangings Craftsmanship:

The purple alter hangings were made by Grace Crane in memory of her late husband Earl Crane 1930 to 1995, who served the church for over 30 years as superintendent of the Sunday school, lay reader, vestry member and Senior Warden for the Rev. John Leggett, and the Rev. Don Gross. He acted as head of the church when there was no permanent priest for a period of 2 ½ years though terminally ill with Leukemia. He continued as treasurer until his death.

Valentine's Day Party:

The February 14 party was joyfully attended by many parishioners. Did you know that one of our parishioners had their first kiss in 6th grade? And one had owned over 30 cars. We laughed at the answers given by the couples who took part in the Newlywed Game. There were plenty of tasty finger foods, including hot wings made by Dave Ernst.

Additional Congratulations:

Kudos to our very own Cindy Gilch for her interview on WQED and a Pittsburgh Business Times article about the exceptional job she is doing with "Rebuilding Pittsburgh." Cindy is executive director and manages some 1000 volunteers a month who work on home repairs for Pittsburgh's seniors. Way to go Cindy!

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The Rector's Message - A Special Lent

Dear Church Family,



Lent is always a special time in the life of a church. Special services, different liturgies, and deeper devotions all help us focus more intently on our faith. This year, I get the sense that Lent around the Episcopal Church and at the Church of Our Saviour has a different feel than ever before. Basically, we all need a lot of comfort and healing and what a great season of the church year to receive it.

My prayer for all is that we will enter fully into the life of the parish this Lent and into the personal devotions that draw us closer to Christ and closer to one another. I want to encourage everyone to make special effort to attend the services and the Wednesday Potluck Teaching Series



Holy Week Schedule

- April 8 Maundy Thursday
Seder Meal -6:30 p.m.
- April 9 Good Friday Service and
Stations – 12 noon
- April 9 Scripture Reading Vigil
Friday - 1:00 p.m. until
Saturday 1:00 p.m.
(sign up to read)
- April 11 Easter Celebration
8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Egg Hunt following

LENTEN POTLUCK SERIES

Wednesday Evenings – 6:30 p.m.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic/Speaker</u>	<u>Potluck Theme</u>
March 3	THAILAND Bill Antolec <i>Northway Christian Community</i>	Oriental
March 10	FAITH STORY Richard Priestly <i>Church Army</i>	Italian
March 17	ENCOURAGEMENT Jerry Smith <i>TESM</i>	Mexican
March 24	SHARING OUR STORY Richard Priestly <i>Church Army</i>	Eastern Europe
March 31	“THE PASSION” & JEWS Tom Atwood Hebrew Scriptures	Soup & Bread

Please pray for the all the parishioners in the bulletin.

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Shepherd's Heart Report - February 8

The evening of Sunday, February 8, was one of worship, laughs (remember to share the last meatball and piece of cake – Ha-Ha), service, and fellowship with all our brothers and sisters in Christ. I would like to continue in saying thank you to all of you who donated your time and self-less love for God's children. Thank you also for your prayers, they too helped make the evening a success!

Each time I go to Shepherd's Heart, I go home feeling humbled and renewed. I truly feel the Lord's presence among their congregation and I can see Him in the faces of those present.

Although they may lack material

possessions so many people over-value these days, they certainly do not lack praise and thanksgiving for their Creator above. Going to a place like Shepherd's Heart reminds us of our common bond in humanity and what really matters in our precious lives.

We need to remember He alone should be our daily desire, He alone our focus, and that only Christ can save us. For me, I feel a little closer to God when serving those society terms as "less fortunate."

As I see it, any of us could be in their positions and I am glad to do what I can for each of these special people whom God loves. *- Barb Grundler*

"A Shower of Blessings for All"

On Sunday, February 8, 2004, the ladies of the Church of Our Saviour, gave a shower for Robin and Hannah Acquafondata. We all were showered with blessings just being there.



Hannah was often awake and always content. She allowed several of her admirers to hold her. Hannah and Robin received many blessings from the generous ladies of our church. Robin graciously opened their gifts to the oohs and aahs of eighteen guests.

We especially were in awe of the beautiful sweater knitted by Gladys Edge. Pictures were lovingly taken, thanks to Kathy Brown. Several ladies provided a tasty lunch and the fellowship was very special.

The ladies at the Church of Our Savior never cease to amaze, as they go about God's work with such generosity and dedication. Thank God for all the blessings showered on all of us that day. *- Barb Grundler*

Missionary Update from Honduras!

The following is an excerpt (edited for length) from Margarita Grachen's latest prayer letter. As you can see the day care/orphanage project is moving right along. Margarita and her children spent Christmas in Puerto Rico with her family. She writes:

"Since my return I tabulated the result of the survey we conducted back in December ... The survey confirmed our suspicions. There is a great need for quality daycare. There are a lot of "maquilas" (manufacturing facilities) near the town of Villanueva. They provide stable employment for Hondurans. However, the mothers are also working and the children are often left with other children, alone, with very tired grandmothers or in very bad, dirty daycare centers.

Our goal is to provide a clean place where the children can be protected from

the streets while getting a Christian education. We hope to provide a secure place with quality meals, bible teachings, Basic English and a lot of love. With God's help we will give the children a hope for their future and the future of Honduras.

At this point, the plans are to care for pre-school age children but I also have a vision for after school programs. That is a concept that is not known in Honduras. I feel that the children need a place to do their homework after school so that they can stay off the streets and are encouraged to continue their education instead of joining the gangs or getting into drugs.

I thank you for your prayers, your encouragement and support. Please send me any specific prayer needs that you may have. I do pray for all of you to see more of Jesus in your lives during 2004."

- By Elisabeth Elliot

ON ASKING GOD WHY

Whatever dark tunnel we may be called upon to travel through God has been there. Whatever deep waters seem about to drown us, he has traversed. Faith is not merely "feeling good about God" but a conscious choice, even in the utter absence of feelings or external encouragement, to obey his Word when he says, "Trust Me." This choice has nothing to do with mood but is a deliberate act of laying hold on the character of God whom circumstances never change. Does he love us? "No, no, no" is what our circumstances seem to say. We cannot deduce the fact of his unchanging love from the evidence we see around us. Things are a mess. Yet to turn our eyes back to the Cross of Calvary is to see the irrefutable proof that has stood all the tests of the ages:

"It is by this that we know what love is: that Christ laid down his life for us" (John 3;16)

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Jeff Acquafondata
- 16 Heidi Fay
- 17 Soon Choi
- 23 Janice Ernst
- 23 Eileen Meyer
- 23 Paul Solyan
- 27 Jim Edge
- 28 Tom Murray
- 26 David Roberge

