

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)

EASTER EVENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDER NOW!

Easter Outreach Teaming up Again with Seminary

Last year's Easter Egg Hunt was an exciting beginning to a year of reaching out to the community with the love of Christ. This year we are expanding our outreach to include not only the seminary team, headed up by The Rev. Canon John McDonald, but also a Lenten dinner and "Evening of Good News" with the dean of the Seminary, The Very Rev. Dr. Paul Zahl. The Church of Our Saviour Easter Egg Hunt team is headed up again this year by The Very Pregnant Stacey Jay. See sign up sheets for these excellent Easter Outreach events. The schedule is as follows:

Wednesday, March 22:

Lenten Dinner & Evening of Good News with the Very Rev. Dr. Paul Zahl, 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 26:

Seminary team comes to worship with us. Hotdogs during coffee hour for brief planning meeting.

Saturday, April 8:

Pass out flyers in neighborhood, 12:00 p.m.

Good Friday, April 14:

Movie "The Passion of the Christ" at church, 6:45 p.m.

Saturday, April 15:

Easter Egg Hunt, 11 a.m.

Sunday, April 16:

Easter Sunday, 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

An Evening of Good News

If you don't do anything else during Lent, mark your calendars and show up for this special evening. This is our one and only Lenten dinner and will consist of a Lasagna dinner and talk by the Very Rev. Dr. Paul Zahl, current Dean of Trinity School for Ministry. Dean Zahl is a delightful, witty, and tremendously insightful man of faith. Those who heard him preach on Super Bowl Sunday know what a joy he is. The evening is open to family and friends and will be a blessing to all. The date is Wednesday, March 22 at 6:30. See sign up sheets.

The "Passion of the Christ" Now Playing at Our Saviour

It has been two years since the monumental release of Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ." This Good Friday, April 14 at 6:45 pm. the Church of Our Saviour is setting up the big screen and inviting church members, neighbors, and friends to a free showing of the film and an open time of discussion afterwards with our seminary friends. Everyone welcome.

Message From the Rector:

Let's Not Lose Focus

Having devoted the previous two newsletter articles to the National and World wide church crisis, I feel it important, especially as we enter the Lenten season, to focus on the real message of the church and not allow the chaos to distract our attention away from this beautiful season. This month let's focus on the central message of the church – the Gospel of Jesus Christ and prepare ourselves for proclaiming that gospel to the world.



When I say, "the gospel of Jesus Christ" what comes to mind? If some one on the street were to ask you to explain "the gospel," what would you say? Can you give a reasonable explanation for why Jesus came? Why he died? And why Easter is such a joyful celebration? Hopefully many of you can. But for those who can't, don't beat yourself up too badly, because part of the reason the church is in the present chaos is because we haven't done a very good job teaching the flock the basics of the faith, namely the clear understanding of the gospel.

This article will not be exhaustive but let's at least answer the questions posed above. First, why did Jesus come? The quick answer is simply, because mankind needed a Savior. Let's face it; if we had been getting along just fine, God would not have needed to send his Son. The truth is mankind was not doing fine. We were self-centered, rebellious, and sinful and there was nothing we could do to help ourselves. We had broken God's law and

the penalty was death. "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 4:4-5). That's why the gospel is called "good news." We needed a Savior and God sent Jesus "not to condemn the world, but to save the world through him" (John 3:17).

Why did he have to die? Surely God will have to explain this more fully when we get

to heaven but the scriptures tell us that the sacrifice of Christ was necessary to fulfill God's requirements in his law. The book of Hebrews tells us that, "the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness" (Heb. 9:21-22). But again, the "good news" is that, "by that one sacrifice (on the cross) he (Jesus) has made perfect forever those (that's us) who are being made holy" (Heb 10:14). Jesus summed it up this way, "I have not come to abolish the law but to fulfill them." (Matt 5:17-18). By dying he has fulfilled the requirements of the law and set us free from our deserved punishment and death. And if that were not enough, by dying Jesus has actually made us righteous before God. Imagine that; from lawbreakers and criminals, to righteous sons and daughters – all by the death of Christ. Now that's worth a loud "Alleluia!" Even during Lent.

Why is Easter such a celebration? If you live in the North it's because spring is finally

Continued on next page



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 (3/11 and 3/25)

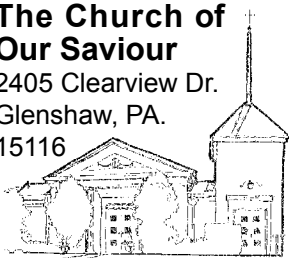
SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY

Wednesday, Mar. 1	Ash Wednesday Holy Eucharist at 12 noon and 7:00 p.m.
Monday, Mar. 13.....	Vestry meeting, 7:00 pm
Wednesday, Mar. 22.....	An Evening of Good News with The Very Rev. Dr. Paul Zahl Dean of TESH. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
Sunday, March. 26	Seminary team comes to worship with us

Please pray for the all the parishioners in the bulletin.

The Church of Our Saviour

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Rector's Message (continued)

here. Aside from that, the short answer to why Easter is such a celebration is because, "the tomb was empty!" The fact that Jesus rose from the dead validates everything he said and everything said about him in the scriptures. We celebrate because we have this glorious hope that we too will rise after death and be united with him and the rest of the believers who have gone before. That's the gospel of Jesus Christ in a nut shell; Mankind is lost in sin, Christ died for sins once for all and, "whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16). Next month, proclaiming the gospel in word and deed. Until then have a blessed and holy Lent,

Joseph

NEWS & NOTES

March Birthdays

3.....Jeffrey Acquafondata
16.....Heidi Fay
17.....Breandan Fay
17.....Soon Choi
23.....Janice Ernst
23.....Eileen Meyer
23.....Paul Solyan
27.....Jim Edge
28.....David Roberge

March Anniversaries

31.....Leo and Cindy Gilch

Our Deepest Sympathies:

To Dorothy Saladiak, on the recent death of her sister Beatrice Richmond in England.

To Lee J. Gilch and family on the recent death of his mother Loretta Gilch.

S.N.I.P. Clean-up Day

Looking for a way to celebrate Earth Day? The Church of Our Saviour is gathering a team to participate in the Shaler Neighborhood Improvement Program clean-up day. Sign up to join us in showing our concern for our community and care of God's good creation by cleaning up Shaler on Saturday, April 22, 2006.

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Intercessory Prayer

You may have noticed the prayer slips in your bulletin last Sunday. This will be a regular opportunity now for you to have specific requests prayed for by our intercessory prayer team. Just fill out the form with a specific request and put it in the offering plate. Not only is this symbolic of offering your prayer to God and a practical reminder to give the problem over to Him, but is also a practical way of collecting the prayer requests and getting them into the hands of the intercessors.

If you would like to be part of the Intercessory Prayer team, the prayer chain, or the Prayers of the People on Sunday mornings, your participation would be welcome. Praying is a ministry that we can all share in and are all called to in some way. Contact Fr. Joseph, Kathy Walzer, or the church office for more information.

If you would like to find out more about intercessory prayer plan to attend the Intercessory Prayer Conference at St. Martin's, Monroeville on March 10-11. All clergy and parish leaders are encouraged to attend this event as well as anyone interested in intercession. Each of three teaching sessions will begin with worship and be interspersed with periods devoted to prayer. The conference is from 7-9 on Friday evening and 9-4 on Saturday with lunch included in the registration fee of \$25.00. Registration deadline is March 8. Flyers are available on the table in the narthex (outside the sanctuary).

Annual Meeting a Great Start for 2006

The Annual Meeting of the Church, held every year on the last Sunday of January, ushered in 2006 with a positive focus on the future. Despite the national church scene and a difficult year in terms of the deaths of many dear members, we, as a church, were able to celebrate many successful outreach events, building projects, and a strong fiscal ending due to an unexpected windfall from the Moyer Trust.

The lunch was excellent, as usual, and many thanks go to Pat Purdy, Joanne Schoyer, and Joyce Cummings. The outgoing vestry members, Barb Grundler, Kevin Jay, and Kathy Walzer were recognized for their faithful service and three new vestry members were voted in. The new vestry members are John Purdy, Jim Edge, and Julie Trischler. They will join current vestry members Jeff Acquafondata (Sr. Warden), Warren Neiger (Jr. Warden), David Bergstrom (treasurer), Heidi Fay, Eileen Meyer, and Brenda Grundler. The members approved the 2006 budget with a \$10k deficit and 7 per cent of income dedicated to mission work.

The annual report can be read on-line at www.churchworthfinding.org. Hard copies are available from the church office.

Super Bowl Pipe Dream Comes True

A number of people have asked how I was able to go to the Super Bowl so I thought I would tell the exciting story. The night of the Division Championship game, I was talking on the phone with my brother in Tampa. The question came up from brother Charlie, "If I get tickets to the Super bowl do you want to go?" It sounded like a wild idea but like anyone in Pittsburgh with a pulse, the long-shot answer was an excited, "Sure!" Being a dentist for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, he thought he had a connection for two tickets and would be in touch. A week went by and still no word. On Monday night, the week before the game, Charlie said that his original tickets were gone but he had one more possibility. He also said that he couldn't make the game but could I find anyone to go. "Anyone to go?" I said, "If the word gets out I'll have the city of Pittsburgh beating down my door."

On Tuesday afternoon, with still no word, I left a voicemail basically saying thanks but "don't go to any trouble, it's getting too late in the week." Wednesday afternoon, however, my cell phone rings, "I've got you two tickets, they're at the "will call" waiting for you." The excitement buzzed through me like 120 volts of electricity. "Are you serious? Unbelievable!" Then, thinking like a parish priest, and knowing that people in Pittsburgh were paying up to \$3,000 for tickets, I asked confidently, "By the way, how much are they?" "I don't know," Just take your credit card, It's a once in a lifetime opportunity. But you need to pick them up before Sunday."

Because God is a Steelers Fan, providence had seen to it that I had scheduled to have a guest preacher at the church that Sunday. Dr. Paul Zahl from the seminary said he would be glad to cover the whole service. The question was, who can go at such a short notice and how do we pick up the tickets in Detroit before Saturday at 3 pm. My good friend David Wilson had informed me that a priest from the diocese of Pittsburgh, Fr Steven Kelly, was rector of St. John's Church right across the street from Ford Field.

The original plan was to leave Saturday morning and then sleep in the van or the church that night. After calls to a few very disappointed friends who couldn't go, Friday morning rolled around and I felt like the biggest loser in Pittsburgh. If you can't get someone from Pittsburgh to go with you to the Super Bowl you might consider becoming a desert monk. That morning one of my first choices (I had to say that) who had declined painfully, Nick Lannon our seminarian, called me with a heavy heart just to find out who I had found. "No one yet," I said. He moaned, "Can I call you back in a half an hour?"

Meanwhile, deciding that I didn't want to drive up Saturday, I called Fr. Kelly at St. John's. Through a series of calls, I was able to pay for the tickets over the phone (face value, \$600) and we arranged for his administrator to go to will call and pick them up. Nick called back and said he could go. He brought the dean to the Church on Sunday morning and we took off after the 8:00 service. By God's grace we were able to get a parking pass from the church that got us through the police barricades. We parked in the church lot right next to Ford Field, walked (skipped like school kids) over to the game with the rest of Steeler Nation and "the rest is history!" We got home at 5 am, still buzzing from the experience.