

PARISH UPDATE

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

NEWS & NOTES

March Birthdays

3 Jeffrey Acquafondata
 23 Paul Solyan
 25 Taylor Slowik Farabaugh
 27 Jim Edge
 28 David Roberge

Our Deepest Sympathy

to Joanne Winkler and family on the recent death of her father Russell Smith.

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 refreshments provided by the church. For more info contact Barb Grundler at 412-321-8512.

Mission Dates to Remember:

- "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

Church Retreat Coming Up

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. 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. Accommodations cost \$50 - \$75 for the week. For more info contact Fr. Joseph.

Palm Sunday Miracle

It was Palm Sunday, and one family's 6-year old son had to stay home from church because of strep throat. When the rest of the family returned home carrying palm branches, the little boy asked what they were for.

His mother explained, "People held them over Jesus' head as he walked by."

"Wouldn't you know it," the boy fumed. "The one Sunday I don't go to church, and Jesus shows up!"

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Rector's Message:

A Special Meeting and A Small Miracle

Dear Friends,

I would like to share with you a small miracle that happened recently at the Bishop's special meeting of the Diocese and offer a reflection. The meeting, called by Bishop Duncan to report on the Primate's "Communique" regarding the rift in the Anglican Communion, was packed out. The hour and a half gathering consisting of the Bishop's report and open questions and answers was about to close when the Bishop said he would take two more questions. The stirring in my stomach prompted my hand to go up along with many others and, low and behold, he chose one other person and then picked me to close out the time.

The miracle about the whole thing is that I had been awakened the night before with the thought of saying something about the gospel at the meeting but had no urge during the meeting to raise my hand – until the last moment. As the person before me poured out her pain and her uncharitable accusations toward the bishop concerning the persecution of the gay community, I felt a divine appointment coming on. When the Bishop called on me I was already springing out of my seat to speak. I can not recall everything that was said but I know the two points that were made: The first was a reminder of a basic theological truth that "everyone in the room, including the bishop and the other primates, had one thing in common – a human nature that is rebellious and sinful before God, and that none of us has a righteousness based on our own goodness that allows us to talk down to homosexuals or anyone else who feels marginalized in society – we are all

sinful" (a point which the bishop has clearly expressed). The second point made was that the "good news of the gospel is that now, because of the atoning sacrifice of Christ on the cross, a righteousness from God, apart from our works, has been given to all who believe. That's the gospel the church stands for and the one I hope we all believe."



Much to my surprise, an ovation broke out in the room that announced overwhelming approval of something I said – and that is the gist of the reflection I want to offer. Usually people clap when something they hear resonates with something they feel inside, and in this case I believe the approval had to do with both points: 1) most people know they are law breakers and sinners; and 2) most people want to hear that they are loved (considered righteous) by God. The two points go together like, well, law and gospel. One condemns us as guilty (law), the other declares us righteous through faith in Christ (gospel), and when the distinction is made clear, it resonates with the heart.

How many people do you think would have applauded if I had said, "everyone in this room is rebellious and sinful towards God and you need to stop it! Or, "the bible says everyone should stop having lustful or hateful thoughtsso you better try harder to do what it says." I don't suspect there would have been much clapping, nor should there have been; there's no gospel (good news) in those statements; it's all law. And yet, that seems to be the way most people interpret the message of the traditional church. Read any commentary

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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
 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

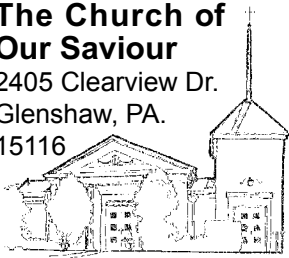
SCHEDULE FOR MARCH

Friday, March 2 Movie Night, Pizza 6:15, Movie 6:30 p.m.
 Thursday, March 8 One Voice Choral performance to honor
 the clergy at St. Martin's Monroeville at 7:00 p.m.
 Friday, March 9 St. Patrick's Day Dinner Party at the Trischlers at 6:30 p.m.
 Monday, March 12 Vestry meeting at 7:00 p.m.

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

The Church of Our Saviour

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Rector's Message (continued)

about the rift in the Anglican Communion and you have the "conservatives" always characterized as those who "believe the bible and expect people to do what it says." As opposed to the "liberals" who handle the bible more loosely and give people a free pass with their behavior. Both interpretations focus on what people should or should not do and fail to emphasize the central tenet of the Christian faith, and that is the good news of what GOD has done through the death and resurrection of Christ on the cross. Bottom line: behavior does not make a person righteous. Or, put another way: what we do on the outside does not change the heart on the inside. The good news of the gospel is that, acknowledging and "bemoaning" our wayward behavior, when we believe in our heart that we are righteous and loved because of what God has done, the actions that flow from the inside out because of the gospel will be more like those required by the law.

May we be careful to distinguish between the two and make sure we include both when we speak.

Blessings, Joseph



Steelers Stars to Touch Down at Diocesan Men's Day

Former Pittsburgh Steelers Tunch Ilkin and Craig Wolfley will be speaking at the first Diocesan Men's Day in many years on March 31. Ilkin, who now works as an analyst for the Pittsburgh affiliate of Fox Sports Net, played offensive tackle for the Steelers from 1980 to 1992, earning two Pro Bowl appearances. He also is the chairman of Light of Life Mission and the director of men's ministry for South Hills Bible Chapel. Drafted in the same year as Ilkin, Wolfley also played offensive tackle for the Steelers. He currently works as a sideline reporter for WDVE-FM.

The day, which will be held at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Sewickley, is being organized by the Rev. David Wilson, rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Kittanning. "Last year, the Catholic community did this and I thought we ought to do the same... It's just been a vision of mine to reach the men of the

diocese and to encourage men's ministry," said Wilson.

The program will begin at 8:30 am on March 31 and end around noon with a communion service. Mark Kwolek, of Church of the Savior in Ambridge, is forming a men's praise band to provide music, said Wilson. Bishop Robert Duncan and Bishop Henry Scriven are also slated to participate.



"This is a great opportunity for the men of the diocese to come together. I encourage all who are able to join us for what is shaping up to be a great day," said Bishop Duncan.

There is no charge to attend. "We are encouraging whole groups of men from parishes to come, bible study groups, as well as junior high and high school youth," said Wilson, who would appreciate it if men's groups who are planning on attending let him know by calling 724-543-1867.

A Word about the Anglican Communion

Many people are asking about the state of the church since the Primate's meeting in Tanzania. For those who don't have the time to wade through the ocean of info on the web and the blogosphere, here's a quick analysis:

All 34 Primates of the Anglican Communion, including the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, signed on to the "communiqué" which basically said that in order to be a "communion," instead of a loose federation of independent churches, everyone in the communion needs to embrace the beliefs and practices established by the communion unless they change. These beliefs and practices have been established at the Lambeth conferences which meet every ten years and have always been the guiding principles of the communion.

Those principles include such fundamental beliefs as Jesus is

the unique Son of God and the way to salvation, the scriptures are the foundation of our teachings, and the tough one, sexual intimacy is confined within the bonds of marriage between a man and a woman. Whether we agree or disagree with those principles, they are what the communion has agreed upon and the Primates have given the Episcopal Church until September 30 to show they want to embrace those principles and remain a part of the communion.

What happens after September remains to be seen. If the church does not want to comply, the communiqué makes provision for an "alternative" Presiding Bishop in the US (Primate's Vicar) that will operate a parallel province in the states for those churches and dioceses that desire to remain a part of the communion. Either way, it's not going to be pretty, and we need to continue to pray that God's will be done in His Church.

Margarita Grachen Speaks at Church of Our Saviour

On Sunday, January 21, 2007, while our rector was soaking up the sunshine in Florida and receiving healing for his asthma, we were privileged to have Margarita Grachen with us to update us on the project she began in Honduras in 2004.

Margarita has been back in the States since last summer, studying at Trinity and trying to discern the next step in her ministry. She has continued to work on the day care center/orphanage project that she started in Villanueva almost immediately upon her arrival in Honduras. She had the day care center construction completed when she left and it was all set to open when the Honduran woman who had been hired to run it quit. Prior to Margarita's return, she turned over the in-country responsibility for the project to Mike and Kim Miller, a missionary couple with a heart for working with children, especially disabled children. Kim is a physical therapist.

Margarita continues to be involved in the project here by raising money, encouraging the Millers, supporting them with



advice and prayer, making contacts, and her excellent administrative skills. Recently Margarita has made contact with an organization called Osman Hope. They are a non-profit group that helps support and run daycare centers/shelters in Honduras. The church owns the centers and Osman Hope helps to administer and provide financial support for them. They provide scholarships for the children. They currently help run two centers in Honduras and were thinking about starting a third when Margarita contacted them. They are working out the details of this arrangement and Margarita will be traveling to Honduras this month accompanied by two board members of Osman Hope to meet with Bishop Lloyd Allen and others. Meanwhile, Kim and Mike have finished language school and will be moving to Chasnigua where the orphanage is to be built (stage 2 of the project).

Margarita asks for your continued prayers for the project and all involved and for the children, families, and orphans they seek to serve in Jesus' name.