

# 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

**“Seven days without prayer makes one weak”**

From the Rector

## A Mandate and a Challenge

### NEWS & NOTES

#### MAY PARISH NEWSLETTER

#### MAY BIRTHDAYS

11 Virginia Hetzel  
11 Dorothy Saladiak  
20 Diana Guiste  
27 Robert Workman  
28 David Bergstrom

#### ANNIVERSARIES

8 David and Janice Ernst  
9 Tom and Diana Murray  
12 Frederick and Patricia Parker

**Congratulations:** to Patrick and Diana Guiste, on the birth of their daughter Abigail Marie, born on March 18th, weighing 6lbs 13ozs.

**Holy Baptism:** We welcome Ursula Clare, into the fellowship of the Church; she is the daughter of Brian and Jerica Parker and the granddaughter of Pat and Frederick Parker.

**Holy Baptism:** We welcome Hannah Rose, into the fellowship of the Church; she is the daughter of Jeff and Robin Acquafondata.

**The New Address of:** Ginny Russell  
Georgetowne Place, 1717 Maple Crest Road, Ft. Wayne, Indiana 46815

**Ohiopyle Family Hiking/Camping:** on June 11 & 12, all of Church of Our Savior are welcome!

**Mark your Calendar:** Bishop Duncan and the Diocese of Pittsburgh is hosting a National conference for the Anglican Network. The date is September 24 & 25, at the new David Lawrence Convention Center. Over 3000 people are expected. Volunteers are needed see Fr. Joseph.

**“Prevent truth decay.  
Brush up on your bible”**

Selah Newsletter & Parish Update is published monthly.

Edited by: Joseph Martin  
David Young

© Copyright 2004 by the Church of Our Saviour.

Dear Church,

Rather than recap the entire strategic planning meeting (see “SWOT Recap” article), I want to pick up on what I believe to be the most encouraging (and challenging) outcome of our gathering. Namely, that *the Church of Our Saviour is unequivocally committed to maintain itself as a Biblical and traditional parish.*

Now don't let that sentence wiz by as just more of the same church rhetoric. As we've seen in the recent “United” Methodist Convention here in Pittsburgh, we are not alone in our struggle against apostasy and cultural disintegration, and we're not excused either. In declaring our position, all of us members of the Church of Our Saviour, have been given a mandate and a challenge. Let me explain.



A mandate is simply a clearly stated direction given by the constituents of a body. In the Body of Christ, God himself has given the mandate whether people want to agree with it or not, but in a confused and tumultuous organization like the church, to have a mandate is a refreshing and welcomed voice of clarity. We don't have to, in the words of Elijah to the Israelites, “limp along between two opinions. If the Lord is God, then follow him!” (1 Kings 18:21). As members of the Body of Christ *and* as members of the Church of Our Saviour (thankfully) we have a clear mandate to follow Christ

as he has been revealed in Holy Scripture and to follow the teachings of the Church as handed down to us by the apostles and saints of old.

The challenge is an old one and is simply this; how do we, as imperfect and wounded sinners forgiven by the grace of God, tell other imperfect and wounded sinners the good news of Jesus Christ in a way that makes them want to join the fellowship? That, my dear Watson, is the million dollar question. Followers of Christ have been doing it for centuries in various degrees of success and it is certainly the challenge before the Church of Our Saviour. The encouraging part is that by having a clear mandate we

are miles ahead of the rest of the pack. We just need to listen to the Lord and follow his lead, which is what we are doing in our strategic planning. In the meantime, we can focus on the mandate (and challenge) of Jesus when he said, “Love one another. In the same way I loved you, love one another. This is how everyone will know that you are my disciples, when they see the love you have for one another” (John 13:35). We have a clear mandate and a challenge. May God give us grace to live it out so people will know we are disciples of Jesus and want to join the fellowship.

Blessings,  
Joseph



**Sunday, May 2** ..... Holy Baptism at 10:30 a.m.  
**Sunday, May 9** ..... Mother's Day  
**Monday, May 10** ..... Vestry Meeting at 7:00 p.m.  
**Wednesday, May 12** ..... “*The Next Step*” Cook-Out at 6:30 p.m.  
(SEE “STRATEGIC PLANNING”)

#### Weekly Activities For May

#### SUNDAY

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I  
9:10 a.m. 40 Days of Purpose Study  
10:30 a.m. Family Service  
*with Children's Service*  
5:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth Group  
7:15 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group

#### TUESDAY

6:30 p.m. Intercessory Prayer time  
7:00 p.m. 40 Days of Purpose Study

#### WEDNESDAYS

12:00 noon Healing Service and Lunch

#### SATURDAY

Men's Group – Every Sat. thru June 5  
7:00 a.m. Breakfast. 7:30 a.m. Meeting  
(Discussion of the 40 Days of Purpose)

*Please pray for the all the parishioners in the bulletin.*

**The Church of  
Our Saviour**  
2405 Clearview Drive  
Glenshaw, PA. 15116



**For More Information:**

Office: 412-486-5171 • Fax: 412-487-4520 • Email: coosglenshaw@juno.com • website:www.churchworthfinding.org

## John Purdy's Story

The first person I met when I first visited the Church of Our Saviour was John Purdy. Walking into the building that winter morning I was keenly aware of the Episcopal Churches' long history and deep English roots. John was serving as an usher that morning and he gave me a typically warm welcome. John's distinctive British accent struck me right away and as I settled into my pew I thought, "Here I am visiting an Anglican Church and the first person I meet is actually English! How cool is that?" As months went by I got to know John much better as he shared his remarkable story with me.

John was born and grew up in Nottinghamshire, England. After leaving school at 15 he went to work in a nearby coal mine as an apprentice mechanic. As he worked his way up in the mines he married Pat (our parish secretary) and they had two sons, Sean and Richard (daughter Julia came along later, in America). In 1969 a restless and adventurous spirit led John to take his family to Canada for a better job and greater opportunities.

Thus began a trek that took the Purdy family from Alberta, Canada to Sunnyside, Utah. Eventually John took a job that brought him to Pittsburgh. However, John had to travel constantly in his new position which was hard on Pat and the children. So, when an opportunity came his way in 1978 to take a bigger position with no travel and more money, he jumped at the chance.

John resigned his position, the Purdy's put their house up for sale and they prepared to move. That's when disaster struck. The new company required John to take a pre-employment physical. Unfortunately, the exam revealed that John had a serious case of black lung disease. The company withdrew the job offer and John was devastated at the turn of events.

Not that the diagnosis was entirely surprising to the Purdys. Back in 1972 an X-ray had revealed a few spots on John's lungs. It was a common occurrence to coal miners and he was advised to give up smoking cigarettes. However, John stubbornly refused to give up smoking or to avoid going down into the mines, where clouds of coal dust worsened the condition. Now, in 1978, the doctor's grim diagnosis cast John's future, and his very life, in doubt.

Pat and a group of friends at Church of Our Saviour (a place John infrequently visited) had been praying for John's safety and health, unbeknownst to him. Fortunately, the company John had resigned from offered him a new local position. But as a condition they sent him to visit a pulmonary specialist to have his lung problems examined. After a thorough workup the doctor informed John that there was no sign of lung disease or black spots on his lungs. Numerous similar tests confirmed the doctor's diagnosis; John Purdy's lung disease had miraculously healed!



Not long afterwards John found himself drawn to church one Sunday. As he sat in the pew reflecting on his workaholic life-style ("I was the most selfish person in the world," John thought) he began to feel the presence of the holy spirit. John heard the Lord's voice saying "you will witness for me." At that moment John began weeping uncontrollably as he suddenly recognized the power of the lord in his life. Since that moment John has indeed witnessed for the Lord, many times over. Once a medical doctor heard his testimony and confirmed the grace of the Lord at work in John's case, as black lung disease is irreversible!

"I've never preached the Gospel in my life, but I have shared my personal story with many people," he explained. "The Lord healed my lungs and he healed my marriage. The Lord has proved to me that he answers the prayers of true believers, even on behalf of unbelievers!"



**S.W.O.T. Recap:**

## Planning Our Parishes' Future

Our Strategic Planning Session on Saturday, April 24 was very successful. More than 30 members came together at the Holiday Inn to chart the future of our parish. For more than four hours we discussed the Church of Our Saviour's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. Working in teams, we produced a comprehensive analysis that will serve to guide us as we work together to grow as a faith community.

Long term planning is a gradual process that requires several steps. Our first step on April 24 was intended only to identify priorities for change and growth. Our next goal is to reconvene and determine how we can turn our priorities into actions. EVERYONE is invited to join us for this "Next Step" meeting, which will be held on:

**Wednesday, May 12 from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m.  
in the Church Undercoft**

We'll start with a cookout, for which the church will provide grilled chicken breasts (plain or barbecued). We will have a sign-up sheet for everyone to bring something else for the cookout ... side dishes, drinks, deserts, etc.

This will be a fun and productive evening as we join together to develop a set of concrete strategies that we can use to transform our parish and ignite a new era of growth for our faith community!

### Upcoming Youth Events

- Junior High All Night Bowling ..... May 14-15
- Senior High Hike (Elfinwild) ..... May 22nd
- Ohio-pyle Family Hiking/Camping\*  
(all of Church of Our Saviour welcome!) ..... June 11-12
- Relay for Life - Shaler Middle School  
(Sign up with Barb Grundler!) ..... June 26-27
- Senior High Summer Trip (St. Louis) ..... July 10-17
- Junior High Summer Trip  
(Surf City-Michigan) ..... August 1st-6

\*=Some events are subject to change depending upon interest.  
Call Brenda (412) 321-8512 or (412) 606-8446 for more info.