

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)

NEWS & NOTES

May Birthdays

- 2.....Jason Wiggins
- 3.....Michael Klym
- 11.....Dorothy Saladiak
- 14.....Nicholas Lannon
- 27.....Robert Workman
- 28.....David Bergstrom

May Anniversaries

- 8.....David and Janice Ernst
- 12.....Frederick and Patricia Parker
- 22.....Nicholas and Aya Lannon

HOLY BAPTISM:

We welcome Laurie and Mitchell, the children of Michael and Amy Klym, into the fellowship of the Church.

Blessing of the Bikes

The Church of Our Saviour's first ever "Blessing of the Bikes" will be held on Sunday, May 28 at 12 pm after the 10:30 service. Some special guests and all area bikers are invited to the 10:30 service and then to the bike blessing at 12:00. Bring your ear plugs and come pray for the safety of the bikers.

Golf Outing

The 3rd Annual Church of Our Saviour golf outing will be held (rain or shine) at 1 PM at Pheasant Ridge on June 4. All golfers and friends are welcome. Dinner afterward is open to anyone who wants to hear the stories. Contact Jim Wiggins for info.

"Music of the Spirit"

A concert of sacred music will be performed by the Pittsburgh Symphony on June 24, 2006 at Heinz Hall from 8:00 to 10:00 p.m. For more information visit www.pittsburghsymphony.org.

Sheldon Calvary Camp

Sheldon Calvary Camp is offering five sessions of Coed Camp this summer, beginning on June 18. The sessions include three one-week stints and two two-week sessions. Coed camps offer a full recreational program for children aged eight to 16. For info call 412-343-0224 or visit www.sheldonalvarycamp.com.



Bishop's Tenth Anniversary

With a packed house of supporters in Trinity Cathedral, The Rt. Rev. Robert Duncan celebrated his 10 year anniversary as Episcopal Bishop of Pittsburgh on Thursday, April 27. Wife Nara joined the powerhouse diocesan choir in a solo piece of Handel's Messiah. The exquisite evening, topped of with a tasty dessert reception, was a well-deserved tribute to our beloved bishop.

Message From the Rector:

The Best Ever

Dear Friends,

Our daughter Madeline can be a bit dramatic at times. During our recent post-Easter visit with Nana and Papa in the mountains of North Carolina she threw back her head and with jubilant arms lifted high exclaimed, "This is the best vacation ever!" Of course, on other occasions she's been known to exclaim with similar energy, "This is the worst day of my life!"

Best of times, worst of times. Sound familiar? (Name that book). As Episcopalians here at The Church of Our Saviour we're living in some of the best and worst of times.

The best of times has to do with the new life budding here at the Church of Our Saviour. Many of you have commented on the uplifting Sunday worship, the increased attendance, and the new faces beginning to join us. Our Easter baptism service was beautiful and the following "low" Sunday, as it is generally called, actually had a number of returning visitors. As one of our seminarians noted, "Something is happening here."

From the rector's point of view, something is indeed happening here and it stems from two ingredients: The key ingredient is that we are hearing more clearly the true Gospel of Jesus Christ. The second is that we are responding to the gospel of grace through loving outreach to our friends and neighbors. The gospel we are hearing simply says that none of us, Christian or not, can become righteous by trying to obey God's laws (commandments).

Our righteousness is based solely on what Christ has done on the cross. Every time we hear a command whether it be, "Thou shall not take the Lord's name in vain" or "Love your neighbor as yourself," we acknowledge our utter failure to comply and simply receive, through faith, God's love and acceptance.

Then, out of love and gratitude, we respond and do what the Holy Spirit leads us to do. Over the past year we have responded to God's grace by reaching out to those around us in ways that communicate God's love. Neighborhood kid programs, Easter Egg Hunts, parties, dinners, and more are all ways you have responded to grace,

and it seems to be working. Thanks be to God!

Briefly, these are undoubtedly the worst of times for our national church. Never before has there been such irreconcilable division and, in a real sense, irreconcilable gospels. With General Convention only six weeks away it appears the leadership of the Episcopal Church will follow through with cutting itself off from the rest of the Worldwide Anglican Communion by officially abandoning the true gospel of Christ and embracing a revised, man-made alternative. May the Lord continue to bless us here as we hear and believe the Gospel of Jesus Christ and may the best of times continue.

Gratefully in Christ,

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
- Monday** 2:00 p. m. Bereavement Group the 3rd Monday
- 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 1st and 3rd

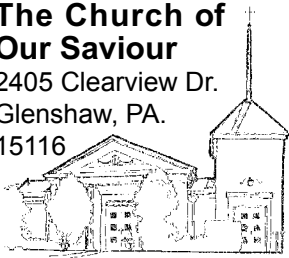
SCHEDULE FOR MAY

- Monday, May 8..... Vestry Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- Friday, May 12..... Brenda & Jason's wedding 4:30 p.m.
- Sunday, May 14 Mother's Day
- Sunday, May 21 Ministry Day during coffee hr.
- Thursday, May 25..... Outreach Ministry Meeting, 7:00 pm
- Sunday, May 28 Blessing of the Bikes

Please pray for the all the parishioners in the bulletin.

The Church of Our Saviour

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For More Information:

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Local Teens Rock at Church of Our Saviour

For the second time this year, the undercroft at Our Saviour was rocking with local teens coming out to listen to their friends jam. Tim Ernst promoted both events, one for a charity fundraiser and the other just for fun. The students expressed appreciation for the use of the church and seemed to enjoy the opportunity to hang out together.



My Seminary Year

by Nick Lannon

There is a comic book artist named Harvey Pekar who created a book called "Our Cancer Year" that chronicled his battle with cancer. I'll call this paragraph "My Seminarian Year." Although not nearly so devastating as the battle with cancer, this year has been no less meaningful to my life than that year was to Harvey's. It seems trite to say that I'll never be the same, but any softer statement just wouldn't be true.

The Church of Our Saviour has meant more to me than any newsletter paragraph could describe. The opportunity to share with you as we watch the amazing effect of the Gospel -- that Christ came into the world to save sinners, even those of us who have been going to church our whole lives -- on the lives of our friends and loved ones has been amazing.

I've learned more about the Gospel as it impacts life in my year at the Church of Our Saviour, in conversations over coffee (and astounding desserts!) than in any seminary class.

You have all enriched my life greatly, and I will be eternally grateful. By the way, for those concerned citizens out there, Harvey Pekar recovered from his cancer and wrote a new book called "Our Movie Year," telling the story of how Hollywood decided to make a movie of his life. It's a great, if quirky, film called "American Splendor" starring Paul Giamatti and Hope Davis.

*Yours, With Love,
Nick Lannon*

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Why We Come to The Church of Our Saviour

by Jady Koch

For those of you who may only know me as the "big drummer boy", please allow me to officially introduce myself. My name is Jady Koch and my wife Liza and I are studying with Nick Lannon at Trinity Episcopal School for Ministry. I am a candidate for Holy Orders from the Diocese of Central Florida and Liza is getting her Masters in Arts and Religion.

At the beginning of my second year at Trinity, the reality of being a "professional Christian" for the rest of my life was slowly starting to dawn. Church is not something that I'll simply be a part of, it's going to be my job! Needless to say, when my wife Liza and I found ourselves beginning to dread this impending reality, I began to wonder if I had in fact heard God's voice correctly. Maybe before I heard the phrase "become a minister" I had missed Him saying "whatever you do, don't. . ."

That's when we came to Church of Our Savior. What attracted us immediately was the clear and powerful Gospel message that Joseph preaches. I don't need a Jesus who is a coach, or a model or even a friend really. . . I need a Savior. I need someone who died for me and took my place and rose again.

This is the message of the Gospel, that God died for the unjust and the ungodly. That is a message that I need to hear every day and one that I certainly hear every week at Church of Our Savior. I am so thankful for this church and for the Gospel message of forgiveness. . . even for seminarians! Thanks be to God.



Easter Egg Hunt Hops

Last year's Neighborhood Easter Egg hunt caught everyone by surprise. The 60 kids plus adults came out of the woodwork. This year the crowd was just as large but the team was ready. Once again we teamed up with Canon John Macdonald's Mission class from Trinity seminary that helped plan, pass out flyers, tell stories, and sing big bunny songs. The Our Saviour crowd, headed up by Stacey Jay, was well prepared with over 800 eggs and a well received lunch afterward. Many thanks to all who helped and prayed!



Which way'd they go?

Rags went in for his summer cut and barely came out with his skin.

Christ our Passover – Sacrificed for Us

By Kathy Walzer

Fifteen people gathered in the undercroft for our Maundy Thursday interpreted Passover seder meal and table Eucharist. "Seder" is the Hebrew word for "order" and the Passover meal (like our Eucharist) is ritual meal that celebrates the salvation of our God in delivering us from the power of our enemies. The Jews annual celebration of the Passover (commanded in the Law) is a commemoration of the deliverance God wrought for the Hebrew people in bringing them out of bondage in Egypt and into the promised land as a free people.

In reenacting this meal annually, the Jews celebrate that foundational event that constituted their formation as a nation, but it is also a participation in that deliverance, an owning of it for themselves, a recognition that "I" was a slave in Egypt and would still be in bondage if God had not acted to deliver "me."

It is no accident that Jesus chose the Passover meal to institute the sacrament of the "new covenant in my blood" that He was about to shed for our deliverance from the bondage of sin and death. In commemorating God's

mighty act in creating His ancient people, He was pointing to the "new thing" He was about to do (prophesied of old by Isaiah and Jeremiah) – to reconstitute the people of God as His Body. He is the Passover lamb whose shed blood covers us and delivers us from the death that our sins deserve. It is faith in Him, and, by faith, participation in the benefits of His passion and death, of His blood shed for our salvation, that now constitutes the people of God. So He offers us His body and blood and asks us to trust in Him for our salvation so that the Destroyer may pass over us.

Tom Atwood was our guest who spoke to us of Christ in the Passover and the origins of various aspects of the seder before and after the time of Christ. After the meal and the Eucharist, following the example of our Lord Jesus Christ, those who wished to participate washed one another's feet as a sign of our service to our Lord and to one another, before proceeding to the sanctuary for the stripping of the altar. It was a holy night of fellowship, commemoration, and participation in Christ and very special way to take part in Holy Week celebrations.

Website Watch: What's New @ www.churchworthfinding.org?

This month, in addition to the May schedule, Joseph's message and our feature articles, www.churchworthfinding.org will also highlight news and announcements from the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh. So stop our website and check it out!