

PARISH UPDATE

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

NEWS & NOTES

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 6.....Mitchell Klym
- 15.....Edie Wiggins
- 20.....Barbara Grundler
- 26.....Megan Linebaugh
- 30.....Helen Kay

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 3.....Scott and Linda Ross
- 5.....Kevin and Stacey Jay
- 12.....Joseph and Heidy Wiggins
- 27.....Jeffrey and Robin Acquafondata

“What We Believe” Study Course

Our “What we believe” class will be held on Wednesday, October 3, 10, 17, 24, and November 7 at 7:00 pm. This study course and discussion on Anglican/Christian theology and the current Episcopal crisis is a way to help us all understand what we believe and how we will respond to the crisis in the Anglican Communion. The class on October 3 is on the greatest debate possibly in the history of the church: St. Augustine vs. the Pelagians. Are we saved by grace or works? Why is this relevant to the current crisis? Great topic. Materials provided, bring bibles. Dessert and coffee will be served.

Come Bless You Pets

The annual Church of Our Saviour Pet Blessing will be held on the church lawn on Sunday, October 7 at 4:00 pm. Bring your pet to this popular event.

Church Flea Market

The church flea market will be held on Saturday, October 13 from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm. Outside vendors pay \$10 for a table, church members can sell their stuff for a small donation to the church. If you have items for the church to sell bring them to the undercroft before Saturday. For more info call Barb Grundler at 412-321-8512 or Heidi Martin at 412-486-9028.

250th Celebration Gearing Up

The City of Pittsburgh and the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh will both soon begin observing their respective 250th anniversaries. A new website, “Celebrate 250,” is an initiative of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh that will mark the occasion, in conjunction with *Pittsburgh 250: Imagine!* A full-featured website celebrating 250 years of Anglican Roots in Southwestern Pennsylvania is slated for launch in Fall of 2007. Included in the celebrations will be a restoration of Trinity Cathedral. For ongoing information visit www.celebrate250.org.

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Rector’s Message:

On Staying in the Church

Dear Friends,

I realize that the last two of my letters to you have pertained to the issues of the Anglican Communion and the Episcopal Church but this really is such a critical time in the history of our church that I feel it necessary to keep you informed.

Attached to my letter this month is a recent press release from possibly the most historic gathering of Anglican bishops in the last century. The result of their meeting is the formation of the new Anglican structure in the US that I referred to in my last letter. The new structure is a result of the Episcopal Church’s refusal to repent of their unilateral dismissal of the Communion’s established position on sexuality and its drift away from basic biblical Christianity. The new structure seeks to maintain an expression of biblical Anglicanism in North America and provide leadership and oversight to dioceses and churches that still believe the historic faith.



The road ahead for our church and the Diocese of Pittsburgh will be difficult depending on the reaction of the Episcopal Church when the diocese votes to align with this new structure at our annual convention in November. Please continue to pray for this development.

Anglican Bishops Take First Steps to New Structure

Anglican bishops from ten jurisdictions and organizations pledged to take the first steps toward a “new ecclesiastical structure” in North America. The meeting of the first ever Common Cause Council of Bishops was held in Pittsburgh September 25–28.

The bishops present lead more than 600 Anglican congregations. They formally organized themselves as a college of bishops which will meet every six months. They also laid out a timeline for the path ahead, committed to working together at local and regional levels, agreed to deploy clergy interchangeably and announced their intention to, in consultation “with those Primates and Provinces of the Anglican Communion offering recognition under the timeline adopted,” call a “founding constitutional convention for an Anglican union,” at the earliest possible date agreeable to all of the partners.

“We met deeply aware that we have arrived at a critical moment in the history of mainstream Anglican witness in North America. God has led us to repentance for past divisions and opened the way for a united path forward. To him be the glory,” said Bishop Robert Duncan, convener of the council.

Calendar of Events

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

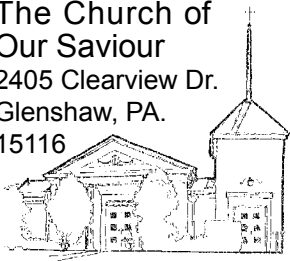
- Sunday beginning Sept. 16** NEW TIMES! 9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I
 10: a.m. Adult Education
 11:00 a.m. Contemporary Service
 Family Service the first Sunday of the month w/o Sunday school
- Tuesday** 6:30 p.m. Intercessory Prayer Time
- Wednesday Beginning Sept. 19** 7:00 p.m. Bible study/theology course
- Last Thursday of the month** Healing Service and Lunch 12:00 noon
- Every other Thursday** Brownies 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

SCHEDULE FOR JUNE

- Wednesday, October 3 What we believe class, 7:00 pm
- Sunday, October 7 Holy Baptism, and Pregnancy Care Center visit, 11:00 a.m.
 Pet Blessing, 4:00 p.m.
- Monday, October 8 Vestry, 7:00 pm.
- Saturday, October 13 Flea Market, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m..
- Thursday, October 25 Healing Service & Lunch 12 noon.

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

The Church of
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Ministering in the Changing of Our Seasons by Kathy Walzer

The summer has now ended and our fall program is underway. Already the leaves are turning and falling; the children are in school; and the night comes earlier. The change of seasons always comes before we are ready, before we've accomplished all that we wanted to do or taken the time to enjoy the special delights of the season just past. Life is like that as well. The changing of our seasons catches us unawares, even though we know it is coming. Still the changes that come upon us as we age come too soon. And we are often not ready to make the needed adjustments.

I spent my Sunday afternoons this summer (and a couple of Thursday mornings) doing an internship at Canterbury Place under the supervision of the Rev. Gaea Thompson, as part of my training and formation as a deacon. I visited and prayed with residents and their families and took Communion to those who had been unable to make it the chapel services. I served as liturgical assistant to Gaea, in the Thursday chapel service and in her on-unit service for the dementia patients, as a lay reader and chalice bearer. Canterbury has a variety of levels of care from skilled nursing to independent living. I visited with women and men from a variety of backgrounds and situations.

One woman my age, in skilled nursing, had had an intestinal transplant and had been at the point of being released to a more independent level of care when she mysteriously developed additional physical problems. Jesus asked the invalid at the pool of Bethesda, "Do you want to be healed?" Sometimes the adjustment from dependence to more independence can be more frightening than remaining sick, especially for those who are alone.

The more common problem is adjusting from independence to the dependence of living at Canterbury. One elderly woman, whom I took Communion to, was well able to go the chapel services, but almost never left her room. Even after two years, she could not adjust to the loss of her home and independence. I convinced her that she could benefit from talking to other residents who had similar adjustment issues and tried to connect her with one such woman. Both are women of faith who could be a tremendous support for one another.

Ministry can and does take place among the residents. One resident asked me to pray for her room-mate. Others need to be challenged to see that they can have a ministry among their peers and that God has not put them on a shelf. There are no throw-away saints. Saints are needed in institutions like Canterbury as much as, if not more than, anywhere else. Those Christians who find themselves in such a place can have a rich ministry of prayer, encouragement, and support, and can be encouraged to use their gifts for ministry as they are able.

In the midst of listening to the residents' stories, praying for their concerns, learning about giving and receiving ministry, and spiritual conversations (in one case, challenging the husband of a resident to exchange his admittedly comfortless Deism for the comfort found in the personal God revealed in the Bible), I found myself having to make adjustments of my own that I wasn't ready for. My mother was hospitalized on July 5 and less than two weeks later I had to face what I knew all along would one day come, but had hoped to put off indefinitely, the season of bereavement.

How gracious of God, in His perfect timing, to bring me to this stage of growth and development in my faith and spiritual life before I had to enter this season.

When I realized that the winter of death might touch my life with its icy sting sooner than I had hoped, I told the Lord that I could only let go of my mother if He would receive her into His loving arms. And then I had the peace of His precious and very great promises that in His infinite love and mercy that "All that the Father gives to me will come to me and him who comes to me I will not cast out." (John 6:37) My mother faced the possibility of her death and told me that she was in good hands, "in Jesus' and God's hands," prepared for whatever the outcome of her surgery might be. After the failed surgery, when I spoke to my mom about Jesus as her Rock and her coming to Him, she squeezed my hand in acknowledgement and I felt greatly comforted and encouraged that she had already made that decision.

My mom died with all her family around her and had the prayers and ministrations of three different clergymen prior to her death. Many people in care facilities are all alone or receive few, if any visitors. The Church must not forget about its older members, but continue to pray for them and to minister to them, empowering them also for ministry to those around them. Likewise, Christians who are in need of care can and should be God's agents where they are. Even shut-ins can minister to other shut-ins and folks in care facilities, and others in need, through prayer, phone calls, cards, and letters.

In all seasons of our lives, we receive from God and are responsible to give and receive ministry as we are enabled by Him. As Christians, we are called to care

for one another because we are all in Christ and what we do for one another, we are doing for Christ. (Matthew 25:34-40) We need to care for our brothers and sisters, because Jesus cares for them and for us and we are all members of Him and of one another.

There are also more opportunities for servant ministry at Canterbury than can be met by the (part-time) chaplain alone. There is a need for lay volunteers to provide pastoral visits. Canterbury might also benefit from more Bible study and other group activities. If you are interested in being trained to do such pastoral visits or facilitating a Bible study group or providing ministry in another way, please let me know. I will be glad to help you find a way to use your gifts for ministry to the elderly.



Ambridge Youth Scholarship Established

The Ambridge Youth Scholarship was established by a current student in May of this year in honor of the Rev. Joseph Martin (M.Div. 1996). During his time as a student at Trinity, Mr. Martin was drawn by God into a ministry of outreach to Ambridge youth through Church of the Savior (COTS), founded by another Trinity graduate, the Rev. Joe Vitunic (M.Div. 1986).

For ten years Martin was youth pastor at COTS, during which time he served – for the purpose of meeting and mentoring kids – in several positions in local schools, including chaplain of the senior high football and basketball teams and assistant coach of the senior high tennis team. He also developed a non-profit ministry of outreach to local youth called Ambridge Teen Ministries. Most important, he left a legacy of cooperation between Trinity and COTS in outreach to youth that continues to bear fruit after 20 years.

The Ambridge Youth Scholarship is awarded to a Trinity student who regularly attends COTS, participates in the Fall/Spring KidzLife program or the summer Ambridge Sports Camp. If you are interested in gifting to this fund, please mark the memo line of your check, "Ambridge Youth Scholarship."

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