

# PARISH UPDATE

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

## NEWS & NOTES

### August Birthdays

16.....Madeline Martin  
 19..... Wesley Martin  
 29.....Julie Ayres  
 31.....Dorothy Solyan

### September Birthdays

7 ..... Heidy Wiggins  
 13..... Sarah Perry  
 28..... Matthew Ross (Child)  
 24..... Betty Cushman

### August Anniversaries

8 .....James and Dodie Edge  
 13..... William and Juliann Trischler

### September Anniversaries

4 .....Walter and Sarah Perry  
 15.....John and Patricia Purdy  
 20..... David and Carol Bergstrom  
 29..... Lawrence and Barbara Grundler

### Congratulations to ...

- Jeff and Robin Acquafondata on the birth of their daughter Ella Grace on Saturday, June 23, weighing 7lbs 6oz. Ella Grace is the sister to Hannah.
- Chris and Julia Headley on their marriage on August 7, 2007.
- Rege Kessler and Nadine Dudjak on the baptism of their daughter Ashley on August 19, 2007.

### Our Deepest Sympathies to ...

- Kathy Walzer and family for the recent death of her mother Ruth Walzer.
- John and Pat Purdy for the death of John's dad.

### New Services & Times

In an attempt to reach new folks while accommodating our current members, the Church of Our Saviour will be changing our service times and worship format slightly beginning Sunday, September 16. The services will be held at 9 and 11 a.m. The 9:00 service will remain Rite I but will now include a few hymns from the hymnal on the organ. The 11:00 service will be a more casual and seeker friendly with contemporary worship led by our seminarian Jono Linbaugh, projection, and a shortened version of the communion service. The vestry is grateful for everyone's support of this new arrangement.

### Six week study course offered

Beginning Wednesday, September 19 at 7 p.m. the church will offer a six week study course and discussion on Anglican/Christian theology and the current Episcopal crisis as a way of helping us all understand what we believe and how we will respond to the approaching split in the Anglican Communion. Materials provided, bring bibles. Dessert and coffee will be served.

## Rector's Message:

### My Conversation with the Presiding Bishop (and other National Church Higher-ups)

Dear Friends,

This month I want to share with you my providential exchange with the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, Katherine Schori this summer at a national gathering of Episcopal clergy in Williamsburg, Virginia.

After a morning Eucharistic service at Bruton Parish, one of the oldest Anglican/Episcopal churches in the country, in which Bish. Schori preached, the one hundred and fifty or so National Church conferencees moved to a plenary session where the PB gave an address on "Being an Episcopalian tomorrow" and then opened the floor for questions. The supportive group was pleasant and cheery and the PB was thoughtful and friendly as she fielded the myriad of church related questions.

Eventually the burning on my insides could no longer be contained and my hand went up among the others. Soon I was called upon and rose to my feet to express the churning emotions in my heart. With a broken and somewhat trembling spirit I expressed my deep and personal gratitude for the cross of Christ and the Savior Jesus who had reached out and saved a wretch like me. I went on to explain my life-long relationship with the Episcopal Church and my firm commitment to the foundational Christian teachings found in the Scripture and the prayer book and, in particular, the doctrine of the Atonement, Christ's saving work on the cross for the sin of the world. I expressed my feeling that such doctrines and the people

who hold them are being slowly pushed to the fringes of our church and I asked the PB what she felt was the future for people like me.

You could have heard a pin drop. It was an E F Hutton commercial come to life. With mouths wide open and all eyes on the PB, the conference waited for a response. And to her credit I must say that the caught-by-surprise Bishop was graceful and sincere in her reply. The somewhat brief answer was basically that atonement theology was one of a number of theologies in the church and that people like me are welcome and indeed needed at the Episcopal table. She ended with somewhat of a pause as if to say, is that satisfactory?

The room remained quiet as if waiting for me to respond. So I did. I thanked her for the thoughtful reply and for including folks like me in the church but reiterated my concern that the theology of the cross which was once foundational and primary was now being relegated to what appears to be "skin tag" status on the body of the church. With all sincerity and respect she tried again to affirm my place in the church but was unable to confirm the centrality of the cross in Episcopal faith and belief. I was brokenhearted by the exchange.

My friends, the Church of Christ has splintered and divided way too much over the centuries. Our witness to the

**Continued on next page**



## SEPT Calendar of Events

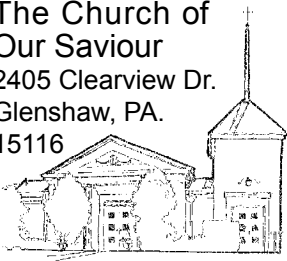
### WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

- 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
- 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.
- Saturdays** ..... 8:00 a.m. Men's Group the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>

### SCHEDULE FOR JUNE

- Friday, Sept. 7.....Pirate's game, meet in parking lot at 6 p.m.
- Sunday, Sept. 9.....Church Picnic, outdoor service 11 a.m.
- Monday, Sept. 10 ..... Vestry meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- Sunday, Sept. 16 ..... Service times change to 9 & 11 a.m.
- Wednesday, Sept. 19..... Bible study/theology course 7 p.m.
- Thursday, Sept 27 ..... Healing Service & Lunch 12 noon.

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



### For More Information:

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### Rector's Message:

world has been compromised by our many controversies. However, if there is one issue that distinguishes Christian theology from all other religions in the world, it is the Atonement of Jesus Christ, his death and resurrection for the sin of mankind. A church that cannot affirm the cross of Christ as foundational and primary is not a Christian church. The night before the above encounter, at a dinner session of the conference, I sat next to a prominent Bishop in the church and asked him whether the Atonement might be the "good news" the church has to offer to a broken world. His reply was, "I've never thought of that." Refraining from banging my head in my mashed potatoes, I simply sat back in my chair and wept inside.

My conclusion is this: Because of 50 – 100 years of poor theological education, the Episcopal Church has drifted so far away from basic Christian doctrine it is, by definition, no longer a Christian Church. A plethora of examples could be cited. Of course, not everyone in the church has abandoned basic doctrine, but surely the vast majority of the priests and bishops and much of the laity has. We have become an Arian church that no longer believes in the uniqueness of Christ and his divine nature but one of polytheistic theologies that tries to welcome everyone and every belief. And like the Arians of the 4th century, who seemed at one time to be the majority in the church but eventually were identified as non-Christian and slowly fizzled out, my feeling, with great sadness is that the Episcopal church is on the same path of self destruction.

In all likelihood, soon and very soon, an alternative Anglican structure will emerge and we will all be faced with a decision. The options will be threefold: 1) remain loyal to the Arian church and continue to go along with the constantly changing innovations, 2) leave all together and join the new structure with those who uphold foundational Christian beliefs, or 3) stay in the Arian church and continue to share the gospel and hold out for change. My prayer is that we will all hear the Lord on what course to take and show grace to those who take a different one.

To learn more about Christian theology, Arianism, and the current church crisis see the note at the bottom of page one regarding the six week study course.

Hopeful in Christ alone,

Joseph

### Parish Update

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### Outdoor Picnic Service to Honor Military, Police, Fire, and First Responders

The annual outdoor picnic service will be held on September 9 at 11:00 am and once again we will celebrate our God-given freedom and honor those who protect our community and country with their dedicated service. Everyone is encouraged to sign up for this fun time as we welcome our service personnel and neighbors put on the spread.

### Margarita's Dream Fulfilled (an excerpt)

My dear friends and supporters,

Oh, what a joyous occasion it was! I shed tears when I first stepped foot at the center and saw the mural! Yes, the mural whose sketch I had left behind hoping that it would get painted! As I saw the children, yes, the children at the center that I had left behind empty, hoping that it would get filled!

Praise God for He fulfils His promises. Praise Him that He kept our energy going and our hopes up so that we could accomplish His will. The consecration (of the orphanage) was a beautiful glorious event. I wish you had been there!

....I thank you my friends, prayer warriors, encouragers and supporters for all you have done. We did it! Please join me in thanking the Lord for His provision and for allowing us to be used by Him.

Next, I have joined the Board of Directors of Osman Hope and I will be working very hard to help them secure 90 more spon-

sorships so that we can get the center filled! If you are interested send me an e-mail and I will send you more information on sponsorships.

Again, thank you and God bless you! For the children of Honduras and God's glory,

Margarita

Contributions to allow our family to continue in this ministry can be made by sending a check payable to SAMS to:

South American Missionary Society  
P. O. Box 399  
Ambridge, PA 15003-0399

Write Margarita Grachen in the memo.

"Yet those who wait for the Lord will gain new strength; they will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not get weary."  
Isaiah 40:31

### Diocese Launches New Website

Pittsburgh Episcopalians now have an online source for materials, opinions and news about the choices facing the diocese and each parish in light of the decision of The Episcopal Church not to place moratoria on same-sex blessings and the election of bishops in same-sex relationships and to unequivocally reject the request of Pittsburgh and six other dioceses for Alternative Primate Oversight.

The website at www.parishtoolbox.org, will collect resources in from both inside and outside of the diocese that parishes and individuals have found helpful in deciding how to go forward. Materials will be formatted for easy printing and distribution at parish and district meetings.

While many of the initially available resources will reflect the mainstream Anglican views of most Pittsburgh Episcopalians, submissions from all perspectives will be published, said Peter Frank, director of communications for the diocese.

Submissions will be clearly labeled by origin. The diocesan office reserves the absolute right to reject or to edit submissions.

To suggest a resource for posting, send an email to frank@pghanglican.org

