

PARISH UPDATE

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

NEWS & NOTES

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 5..... Jeri Ruby
- 14..... Juliann Trischler
- 16..... Joshua Perry
- 20..... Walter Brown
- 22..... Jason Cischke
- 26..... Scott Ross

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 18..... James and Edie Wiggins

Our Deepest Sympathy ...

To Joanne Winkler and family on the recent death of her husband Joseph.

All Saints Party Rocks

Over 100 parents and children packed into the undercroft at the Church of Our Saviour for another successful All Saints Halloween bash. Organizer Stacey Jay and a crew of family and church members provided food, desserts, prizes, and games to a happy crowd of costumed neighborhood friends. Of course, the big hit for young and old was DJ Jimmy Jam who kept the house rockin' with all the favorites. At one point it was hard to tell if it was a grade school dance or a Halloween party. One of the neighborhood parents commented, "this is so nice of your church to do this, we love coming to this party." As our mission statement says, "to serve people in Jesus' name." Well done.



Patronal Feast Breakfast Planned

Fellowship together is an important part of staying connected. On Sunday, November 25 between the services we will be celebrating the annual feast of Christ the King with a breakfast at 10 am. This is a great time to get together with folks from both services. Everyone is welcome. Sign up sheet is in the back of the church.

Shopping Safari

Once again this year we are offering you the opportunity to bag some great bargains out of Africa. Our annual African craft sale will be held this year on November 17 and 24, 2007 between and after our services. There will be a variety of jewelry, carved wooden animals, Christmas decorations, purses, scarves, and other wonderful items. These make great Christmas gifts, so bring your list with you. The proceeds go to African Team Ministries. African Team Ministries provides Anglican Dioceses all over Africa with training for laity, aid to refugees, support for orphans, clean water, medical care, and repairing churches and evangelism.

Rector's Message:

"Realignment" is Not "Leaving"

Dear Friends,

I'd much rather talk about the successful neighborhood All Saints party we just had or the sweet Spirit at our new services, but since we did just finish the most monumental diocesan convention in the history of the diocese, I'll comment on that. Actually, I'll try to add some much needed clarity to the situation.



The best place to begin is with the news media. Every newspaper headline I've read so far is wrong. "Episcopal Diocese votes to leave," "Conservatives vote to split" all are misleading and none send the right message. That's not surprising since even most Episcopalians don't fully grasp the situation but let me make something very clear. For the last three years Bishop Duncan has been unwaveringly consistent with his message, "We haven't changed and we aren't going anywhere." And we haven't. The first Anglican communion service was celebrated in Pittsburgh 250 years ago and the diocese of Pittsburgh has not altered the beliefs represented by that first Prayer Book service one iota. We have run the race, we have kept the faith, we haven't changed, and we're not leaving.

Whenever there is a split in any relationship or institution the first question one has to ask is, "Who changed?" When the Episcopal Church decided to ordain a practicing homosexual - that was a change. When General Convention 2003 voted down resolution B-001 affirming "scripture as containing all things necessary for salvation," - that was a change. On the other hand, the diocese of Pittsburgh can say with complete certainty that it has not changed one foundational element of the faith it has represented for 250 years. Therefore, as the Anglican Primates have said, "the Episcopal Church has chosen to 'walk apart' from the Communion." TEC has changed, TEC has left, TEC has split.

So what did the Diocese of Pittsburgh just do? In a nutshell, given the shift in TEC from historical faith, the diocese did, on its own, what it has been asking the Episcopal Church permission to do, which it denied, and that is align itself with a Province and Primate (bishop) of the Anglican Communion that, likewise, has not changed its faith and order. In essence, what the diocese of Pittsburgh has said is that in order to remain the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh, we need spiritual oversight from an Anglican Primate who shares our unchanging faith. As a Christian body that's what we needed, and as a diocese that's what we voted to obtain.

So what about the property? Since the diocese claims to have not changed and is going nowhere, the leadership believes they have a case for retaining ownership of property as they always have. This concept was reinforced recently by the Archbishop of Canterbury when he wrote that we (in the US) "need to regard the Bishop and the Diocese as the primary locus of ecclesial identity rather than the abstract reality of the 'National Church.'" This seems to indicate that the Diocese and not the National Church has the primary authority,

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Calendar of Events

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

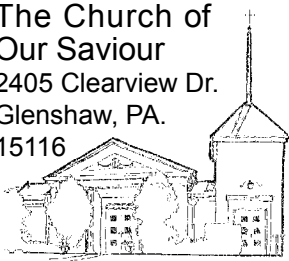
- Sunday 9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I
10:00 a.m. Adult Education
11:00 a.m. Contemporary Service w/Sunday School
Family Service the first Sunday of the month w/o Sunday school
- Tuesday 6:30 p.m. Intercessory Prayer Time
- Last Thursday of the month Healing Service and Lunch 12:00 noon
- Every other Thursday Brownies 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

SCHEDULE FOR JUNE

- Sunday, November 11 Blessing the shoe boxes at the 11:00 a.m. service
- Monday, November 19..... Vestry 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, November 21 Thanksgiving service at Glenshaw Presbyterian Church
Glenn Avenue at 7:30 p.m.
- Sunday, November 18 & 25 African Craft Sale
- Sunday, November 25 Patronal Feast Breakfast at 10:00 a.m.
- Wednesday, November 28 Fr. Martin Chaplain to Senate
- Thursday, November 29 Healing Service & Lunch 12 noon.

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

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



For More Information:

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Rector's Message continued

especially when the diocese continues to be both Anglican and Episcopal. Sadly, however, this understanding may have to be settled in court.

So what do we do as a church? We watch, wait, pray, and do the mission. We stay informed, stay connected, and continue to encourage one another. We continue to believe what we've always believed, worship the God we've always worshipped, and serve the people He wants us to serve. After all, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." May we, in Him, remain rooted and grounded in his unchanging Word and love.

In Christ alone,
joseph

NEWS & NOTES

Grant Applications Available

2008 United Thank Offering Grant Applications are now available from The Bishop's Office. Please contact Melanie Contz contz@pgh.anglican.org for an application. FIRM deadline for submission of applications to The Bishop's Office is Friday, December 28, 2007. Awards will be announced in May 2008.

Video Celebrates Diocese

A new video called *A Year in the Life of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh* is now available for viewing on the diocesan website. The 12 minute video features pictures and images from around the diocese taken and compiled throughout 2007. To view the video visit [/www.pgh.anglican.org/news/local/2007video110207](http://www.pgh.anglican.org/news/local/2007video110207).

A Year in the Life of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh (video)



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Turning the Tide in Johnstown

 By Kathy Walzer

Diocesan Convention this year was more than just a nice drive in the mountains on a beautiful, clear, crisp Fall day. I joined Fr. Joseph, who rode his new Harley up to Johnstown, and Sarah Perry who came up for the Friday business session, in voting on the most monumental decision that this diocese has been faced with its 142 year history. As Sarah put it, the atmosphere was "sober" as we listened to a somewhat subdued address by our bishop, Bob Duncan. Bishop Duncan spoke of the forces and events that had brought us to this fork in the road and to the moment of decision has been forced upon us, largely by forces and events beyond our control. The bishop's demeanor and the knowledge of the threat that had been communicated to him just days before by the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, led me to pray for him and for our diocese through much of his address. He spoke of the need for grace and magnanimity towards one another as we go our separate ways.

The bishop was heartened that the clergy and lay leaders of the diocese, in meetings this summer without the bishop being present, had come to the same conclusions that he had. He spoke of the two events that had led me to believe that TEC is showing us the door and leaving no room for us to remain as Anglican Christians – the Executive Council's presumptuous ruling that our diocesan constitutional changes finalized in 2004, that modified our accession to the Episcopal Church to maintain our continuity with the historic Christian faith, were "null and void" and the difficulties that Fr. Mark Lawrence had in receiving the necessary consent from other dioceses to his election as bishop of South Carolina. As Bishop Duncan said, our diocese, now part of a conservative minority within the wider church, will never again be able to elect a bishop of our choosing, faithful to the Scriptures and apostolic teaching and historic Anglican faith, and be confident of his approval by TEC to be consecrated as our bishop. Sad, but true, we are now at the mercy of a majority that, in my view, is increasingly intoxicated by its new-found power, growing less open to compromise and more unyielding in its purpose to make us conform to their party line, every day.

Fr. Jonathan Millard, who introduced the resolution to make the constitutional change to make our alignment a matter of

our decision and canon (as yet unspecified with whom we will align), said that his children on reading in the paper about the threatening letter that the PB had sent to Bishop Duncan, asked him, "Might they come after you, too, dad?" When he answered, "yes," they asked, "Then why do it?" Fr. Millard answered them, "Because it is the right thing to do." Fr. Joseph Martin, the first person to give testimony on the resolution, prophesied that much of what we would hear would come under the heading, "swatting at gnats and swallowing a camel" and asked the convention to recognize that what was at stake and what we needed to take a clear stand for was nothing other than the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The resolution was passed by an 82% majority of the clergy and two-thirds of the laity. Just last week, the diocese of Quincy delayed making a similar move, possibly because of the threat of loss of their health insurance and the ruling that their insurance would not cover their liability and costs in the event of lawsuits against them and their parishes. The clergy of the diocese of Pittsburgh are aware of these threats as well, but as one priest said in his testimony, "I don't love any of those things more than Jesus."

My friends, the diocese of Pittsburgh is blessed in many ways, but certainly we have the best group of clergy of any diocese in the country. That is why we have not been captured by the spirit of the culture and blown about by "every wind of doctrine" and heresy, like so much of the rest of the Episcopal Church. May God bless our bishop and clergy, our parishes, vestries, and lay leaders to continue in that faith and confidence in Christ and His gospel, come what may. How fitting that at the closing Eucharist, in a city known for a devastating flood, we should sing this verse from one of my favorite hymns, "When through the deep waters I cause thee to go, the rivers of woe shall not thee overflow, for I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless, and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress." When I looked up on the final verse, as we were singing, "The soul that to Jesus has fled for repose, I will not, I will not desert to his foes," I looked up and saw Bishop Duncan, with his face shining and looking up to heaven, full of confidence that "He who has called you is faithful; He will do it." Amen.

