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The Word

Published by Christ's Church Greensburg

a Member of the Anglican Communion

www.ccagbg.org



Reflections from Fr. Jeff

"The mission of Christ's Church is to worship God and to make known the love and salvation of Christ."

And Jesus said to him, *"Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head."* Luke 9:58 ESV

This summer was filled with much fun enjoying family, relaxation and a refreshing change of routine. In the midst of the enjoyment, I was rocked by the child abuse cases within the Roman Catholic Church. Four of the names published I knew very well. In fact, one was my home town pastor, mentor, and close friend. Another was the Vice Rector, Dean of Students, and friend in the seminary. The third name I encountered, was one who would make these amazing gourmet meals and taught me how to make a proper Italian meatball. The last name was a person who was two years ahead of me in the seminary who would always encourage me. They all were my role models. They were also some of the ones I felt I let down when I left the seminary. I felt like that I lost to the battle of the world, and in a sense,

secularism outwitted my desire for priesthood. Though I am no longer a part of the Roman Catholic Church, I cannot help to have a strange connection.

My heart first and foremost goes out to all the victims. I cannot imagine what they went through nor what they are still going through. I shudder to think how their faith in Jesus was affected or destroyed by these heinous acts under the guise that it is okay by God. I pray for them for healing and restoration. I also pray for all of those who are hurt and lost by this revelation. I have endured many faith shattering experiences and I will be a liar to tell you that this is not one of those moments for me. Despite my education and more importantly, my relationship with Jesus, I can't help but to ask, Why? and, Where were you Lord? Of course, I know that the Lord's response is that this is a fallen world and He is the only one to put our faith and trust in. In the Old Testament, David is considered the Great

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Christ's Church

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Robert Duncan

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Custodians:

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Senior Warden:

Alan Fleissner

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King, however his sins were scandalous and had far reaching effects to not only himself, his family and those who were immediately affected, but all of Israel which are still seen today. In fact, throughout all of scripture, we see how God is always faithful and how we are unfaithful to him. Every disciple had to wrestle with the question, Who is Jesus?

Some have been asking me questions about these scandals. Questions like, did I know anything about any of this? No, I had no idea. These are the very people I trusted and were friends with. I had no idea that any of the ones I know could possibly do such a thing. I have heard of priests molesting children, but they were all arrested and served time. I knew of the instance after the issue was exposed and the authorities were involved. I had the impression that the Roman Catholic Church no longer hid any unlawful acts a priest would commit. I know many priests who were reported by the diocese for unlawful actions. It was stated to me that in the past the Roman Catholic Church would handle all affairs on their own and did not contact authorities, or even if the authorities were aware of it, they were able to keep things out of the civil courts and media.

I was not aware of any specific case, nor do I have any proof any of this happened or was truthful. I was also told in the late eighties and nineties, emphatically that this is no longer how things are done. I was told about how the Roman Catholic would deal with things of the "church" in its own way, paying families and ensuring that they will always take care of those who were victims, and to emphasize that suing the church is not "Catholic." I was also told that the past cases that were not brought into the light because of the misunderstanding of pedophilia. The general norm of dismissing children's statements over an adult was "normative." I was also told that there were no laws in place that would require nor define what a church must do, in regard to separation of Church and State.

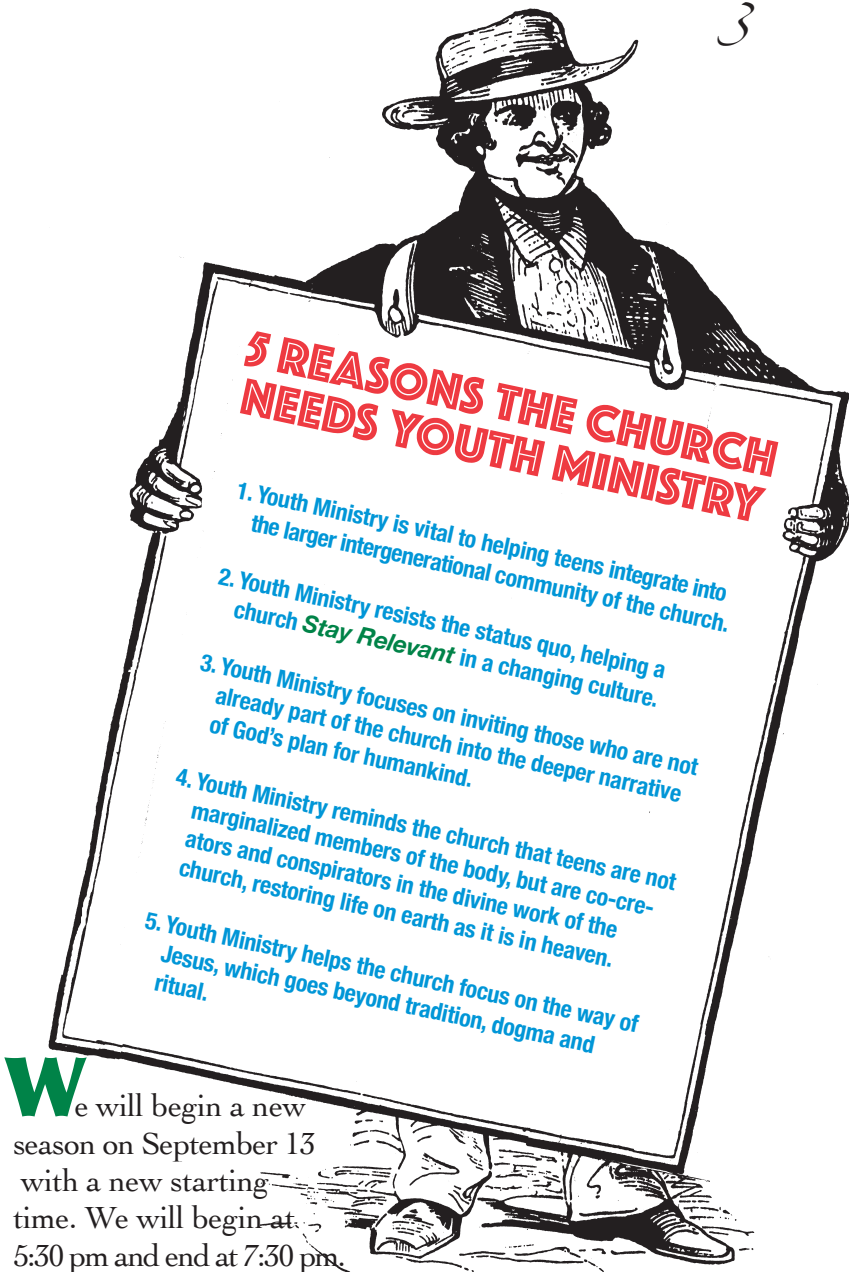
In the early nineties, I was told that the church now reports all wrong doing and has many safeguards in place to protect children, and priests are no longer "protected" as they once were. Looking back, I never realized the glaring problem, that we are people of the light, and to hide things is not the way Christ has asked us to live.

The reality is that Jesus calls us to be transparent. As in the Gospels like Mark 4:21, Luke 8:16, Luke 11:33, Matthew 5:15 not to hide a lamp or cover it but to have it out where we can see the light. I have always thought of this as to let the light of Jesus within us shine through and not be afraid to tell the world about Jesus. I did not realize that anytime we sin, our sinfulness of ourselves obscures the light from shining from within us. By sinning, we in a sense are not the light. That does not mean Christ is not with us, it is that we choose to hide the light from our self. It is interesting to note that Jesus showed the same love to Judas as he did to John. What Judas and John did with Jesus' love was literally the difference of night and day.

Likewise, Luke 9:58 emphasizes that Jesus does not have a home, he also does not have a shelter here in this world. He stands so that all may see who he is. Some may be scandalized, others find his words hard as in John 5, but Jesus does not hide in the shade, nor backs down from who he is nor yield from his mission. We are called in that same manner to be without shade, exposed. When we try to hide, we hide also the light of Christ from ourselves.

I look at my friends who either have or have been accused of grievous acts, which are sinful and unconscionable. But that does not mean that Christ did not work through them and continues to work his salvation plan through them. This is challenging to say the least in our faith, however God will work whenever with whomever. We look at Paul, once a murderer of Christians, who became one of Jesus' most effective evangelist.

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5 REASONS THE CHURCH NEEDS YOUTH MINISTRY

- 1. Youth Ministry is vital to helping teens integrate into the larger intergenerational community of the church.
- 2. Youth Ministry resists the status quo, helping a church *Stay Relevant* in a changing culture.
- 3. Youth Ministry focuses on inviting those who are not already part of the church into the deeper narrative of God's plan for humankind.
- 4. Youth Ministry reminds the church that teens are not marginalized members of the body, but are co-creators and conspirators in the divine work of the church, restoring life on earth as it is in heaven.
- 5. Youth Ministry helps the church focus on the way of Jesus, which goes beyond tradition, dogma and ritual.

We will begin a new season on September 13 with a new starting time. We will begin at 5:30 pm and end at 7:30 pm.

In addition to the weekly meetings we have several outreach events, inviting events, and servicing events scheduled for the upcoming year. As always, you do not have to attend on Thursday evenings to participate in any of the Youth Group activities. We encourage everyone to participate. Hope to see all of you throughout the year.

If you would like more information please contact **Leslie or Jeff Simpson** at 724-757-0317 or 724-787-1519.

Financials

Operating Fund
 Year to Date Income: \$143,069.83
 Year to Date Disbursements: \$134,752.20
 Transferred to Investments: \$6,542.20
 Net gain: \$1,775.36

We are called not to deny reality but embrace it. We are also called not to judge but to love. God will be the eternal judge of us all. Our court system will take my friends to an earthly trial and hopefully the truth will be exposed, and a healing will take place. The victims need their justice to more easily find their peace, so that they can reestablish their faith in God and his church.

As a church, we need to realize that we cannot hide anything, rather be transparent. If one of our brothers or sisters sins, it is not game over, rather it is game on for Christ to bring his reconciliation. We cannot hide wrongdoings but expose it. If we even go through the genealogy of Jesus, we find some less than reputable characters, it shows all the more of God's miracle and grace he has given us. Let us go out seeking to assist those hurt by these scandals to comfort and feed them. After all, Jesus has nowhere to lay his head, also means he is with us all when we feel the most alone. Let all our brothers and sisters know we are with them with the light of Christ shining among us, for our home is in the kingdom come. AMEN.

Property Report

My time for being in charge of property will be coming to an end in the coming year, BUT, I still have a few things in my mind that I would like to get completed. Just like our homes, things are never done, there is always something to be done. I am planning to replace the floor covering in the library, as well as, finally, replacing those blinds. As you are aware, the Scouts will be painting that room as their project, so I hope to do the flooring soon after they are finished. I am also going to try to replace flooring in another area in the C.E. Building. I am certain something more will come up that will need attention. Hopefully, my back and knees, and, my budget will co-operate!!!

Gene DiPrimio, Property

New Wanderings

As you might recall, a few years ago I was chosen to be your district lay representative on the Diocesan Council. This has provided a terrific opportunity to be involved with the activity of the Diocese, as it relates to the continuous development of the Anglican movement. My intention will be to share information that affects our parish congregation.

On November 2nd and 3rd, we will experience our Annual Diocesan Convention. It will be held at St. Stephen's in Sewickley. On Friday evening, we will assemble for a Holy Communion service that will employ the newly adopted ancient text, conducted by Bishop Jim Hobby. The service will begin with a program of music at 5:00 pm, followed by the procession of clergy from throughout the Diocese.

Having experienced this service in the past, it is an opportunity that will remain with you for some time to come. Following the service, we typically enjoy an evening of fellowship with fellow Anglicans, an outstanding catered buffet dinner, and the welcoming session. This evening truly sets the table for the day to come. In this sense, Saturday is being defined as a "Gathering," in which we will unite in a family manner with the various parishes throughout our Diocese. This plan involves three worship slots with three to four choices of programs per slot. Each of these choices will be designed to engage your growth and enlarge your knowledge in the Anglican experience. There will also be children's programs available, so that the parents can fully involve themselves in these workshops. Add this to the camaraderie of being with our fellow Christians, and it makes for a memorable experience.

Everyone is invited to attend this event, so I suggest that you be in contact with the church office to make arrangements.



On July 27th, some of the members of Christ's Church participated in Faith Night at PNC Park. We had a boisterous group from several Anglican parishes that were seated together in the stands. A number of other denominations completely filled three sections on the left field side, cheering the Pirates to victory. After the game, several members of the Pirates organization, as well as some of the fans in attendance, shared their faith testimony, culminating in a wonderful evening.

Tim Moore

Sign Language Classes

These classes are for all ages.

Located at 122 N. Maple Ave., Greensburg
WWW.SignwithTracy.com
 (Registration is required)

Fall Classes

Starting September 10 at 6:00 pm and continuing every Monday at 6:00 pm for six weeks from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

These are beginners classes for all ages for those who have no experience with sign language or you know a couple of signs and maybe some of the ABCs. This is the very beginners class and soon you will be signing away.

Continuing Classes

Starting September 10 at 7:15 pm and continuing every Monday at 6:00 pm for six weeks from 7:15 pm to 8:15 pm.

These are continuing classes for all ages for those who know the ABCs and 123s and other signs. You will learn new vocabulary combined with vocabulary you already know to make conversations.

Operation Christmas Child 2018

This year, a member of our Christ's Church family, Abby Jo Stull, is the chairperson for Operation Christmas Child. She is going into her senior year at Greensburg Salem High School and as a graduation requirement, is to complete a senior project.



Abby Jo is going to incorporate the shoebox project within her high school, as well as the church, as we have done past years. She is asking for box fillers and money donations to cover shipping costs. We plan to have the church packing day on Sunday, November 4th, after the 10:30 service in the undercroft. If you're unable to attend our packing day, you can always pack your own shoebox at home! All boxes need to be collected by Friday, November 16th.

If you have questions, feel free to contact **Abby Jo** at abbyjostull@gmail.com



Women's Day Out

The Women's Day Out Bible studies are starting Tuesday, September 11 and Wednesday, September 12.

The Tuesday's class will do a study by Karen Ehman called *Listen, Love, Repeat*. In this six week DVD study, Karen Ehman helps women look at scriptural examples of those who lived alert and also Jesus – the one who noticed those who least expected to be noticed. With her practical style, Karen inspires women to realize that, in order to find joy in life, we must cultivate a lifestyle that sees and meets the needs of others.

The Wednesday's class will do a study by Andy Stanley called *Five Things God Uses to Grow Your Faith*. Your faith matters to God! Imagine how differently you would respond to life if you knew with unshakable confidence that God was with you. *Five Things God Uses to Grow Your Faith* is an exciting 6-session DVD study from Andy Stanley that establishes the biblical case for five things God uses to build BIG faith.

Both classes run from 9:30 –11:30 and are in the Diane Robertson Room in the CE Building. Please join us! Contact Karen Artuso if you have any questions. ar2so@zoominternet.net or 412-580-8047.

Mission Outreach

Christ Church will be sponsoring a child from Haiti as part of our global outreach program. We will be part of the World Wide Village Student Sponsorship Program which will provide educational opportunities for our child. Our child's name is **Gael Celestin**. We will share more information as we receive it. Parishioners and groups within the church will also be able to send letters and small gifts to our student. What an exciting opportunity to help fight the cycle of poverty in Haiti and share the love of Jesus Christ!

Mission Statement: "To glorify God in relationships and activities, and to encourage a servant's heart toward God, the church family, and our community."

"Thank You" to everyone who have supported our CCW events!

Your delicious recipes continue to please and impress our guests. Also, we have the best team of helpers! A few more good women AND men are always welcome to join us! Just sign up in the undercroft. Did you know that at least 18 to 20 helpers are needed on the day of the salad bar??

Important Dates for Your Calendar

Salad Bars (Fridays)

October 5, 2018
November 2, 2018
February 8, 2019
March 8, 2019
May 3, 2019
June 7, 2019

Frozen Pie Sale: November 14, 2018
(Wednesday)

Lunch, Soup, and Bake Sale: December 7, 2018
(Friday)

Christmas Dinner: January 5, 2019
(Saturday)

Frozen Pie Sale: May 15, 2019
(Wednesday)

Salad Bars

The salad bars offer one of the best opportunities for fellowship between us and the community. This lovely tradition should be maintained to the highest degree possible. You have provided some of the best food, and requests for your recipes are not uncommon from our guests.

Many of you have been quite generous with your food donations and your time as helpers. **Thank you!** Just bear in mind that sometimes it is a challenge to keep the tables full of food selections.

We are proud to serve the best home-made food in town, and this is your invitation to join us for lunch. Don't forget to bring a friend! One person, a regular attendee, said that coming to our salad bars is the highlight of her whole month. . .AND, suggested that we have a salad bar every Friday!!!

You get TWO Sundays to sign up in the undercroft. Don't forget to write the date on your calendar! Food can be delivered to the undercroft on Thursday during choir practice (7:30 to 8:30 pm) or Friday after 8:30 am.

REMINDER: Please use the flashers on your vehicle when parking by the door to the undercroft to avoid getting a ticket! And, do NOT pull onto the sidewalk for the same reason!

Please label your containers AND lids, with your name. After the salad bar,

the containers are displayed on a table in the undercroft. Please get yours as soon as possible.

The young people from Clelian Heights, with adult supervision, continue to walk the many streets in Greensburg to distribute our salad bar flyers to the various businesses. Gwen Diddle is responsible for volunteering their services.

Frozen Pie Sale

The Frozen Pie Sales are scheduled for twice a year - November and May. The first one is Wednesday, November 14. The pies, pumpkin rolls, and apple dumplings are great for the holidays, and they also make thoughtful gifts. Please consider buying at least ONE so we can make our sales profitable.

Lunch, Soup, and Bake Sale

The date is Friday, December 7, for this really "interesting" sale." The home-made soups and baked goods are always a big success, in addition to our great salad bar. People shop first for the soup and baked goods, then they eat! This is our biggest fundraiser and requires the most time and effort.

Christmas Dinner

Our Christmas Dinner will be Saturday, January 5, 2019. Lakeview is our favorite location to enjoy their delicious food and lovely decorations. Prepare yourself to be entertained...it is always a fun-filled evening!!

Greetings FROM THE Choir "Loft"!

It's that time again! Soon the leaves will change and the temperatures will cool. Even now, school buses are heard in our neighborhoods, and students have bouquets of sharpened pencils jiggling in their backpacks! I love the fall for so many reasons, but the number one reason is because **CHOIR SEASON IS BACK!** I have missed your smiling faces and soaring voices, and I am so happy to invite you all back for another great season of singing God's praise and leading our congregation in song.



We will start our practices on Thursday September 6, 2018 and our first Sunday for singing will be Sunday **September 9, 2018.**

Our Thursday practices will begin at 7:15 pm.

Our Sunday practices are at 9:30 am.

If you are thinking about becoming a new member and joining the choir, then think no more! Join us! Please come to any practice on Thursday or Sunday morning, and we will fit you up with a chair, a robe, a folder full of music, and plenty of opportunities for making beautiful music and having lots of laughs. We are a welcoming group, and would love to meet new friends and make beautiful harmonies.

On that "note", cheers to a beautiful year! I can't wait to see and hear you. Feel free to contact me with any questions.

Always,
Sara Frye
724-678-0396

Christ's Church Fall Education

Hard to believe summer is winding down now and we are quickly approach fall. We are excited about the educational opportunities for our congregation that are available to everyone and the growth that's occurring with those who are participating. Knowing God's word is crucial to our growth as believers. God calls us to be salt and light to others in the world. Having a strong foundation in the word helps us better understand God's plan for our lives and allows us to better minister those around us.

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

2 Timothy 3:16-17 NIV

Below is a brief look at our upcoming fall education lineup. We hope that you will take full advantage of these opportunities to grow in the Lord this fall. Get plugged in!!!



Children's Curriculum: Our kids will be looking at specific bible teachings directly from the Gospel of John through years end. Understanding who Jesus is, how he dealt with people and learning to reflect his image through these portions of scripture will be our focus for growth with our children.

Men's Curriculum: Our men's ministry will begin studying the book of Acts on Wed 9/19 at 9 am. We meet every Thursday at that time. This is a great opportunity to jump in and study with us as we approach a new book. For more information you can call **Denny Hyland** at 412-443-1061 or email at dmhyland@comcast.net

Denny Hyland

The History of Aprons

I don't think our kids know what an apron is.

The principal use of Grandma's apron was to protect the dress underneath. Because she only had a few, it was easier to wash aprons than dresses, and they used less material. But along with that, it served as a potholder for removing hot pans from the oven.

It was wonderful for drying children's tears, and on occasion, it was even used for cleaning dirty ears. From the chicken coop, the apron was used for carrying eggs, fussy chicks, and sometimes half-hatched eggs to be finished in the warming oven.

When company came, those aprons were ideal hiding places for shy kids. And when the weather was cold, Grandma wrapped it around her arms. Those big old aprons wiped many a perspiring brow that was bent over the hot wood stove. Chips and kindling wood were brought into the kitchen in that apron. From the garden, it carried all sorts of vegetables. After the peas had been shelled, it carried out the hulls. In the fall, the apron was used to bring in apples that had fallen from the trees.

When unexpected company drove up the road, it was surprising how much furniture that old apron could dust in a matter of seconds.

When dinner was ready, Grandma walked out onto the porch, waved her apron, and the men knew it was time to come in from the fields for dinner.

It will be a long time before someone invents something that will replace that old-time apron that served so many purposes.

REMEMBER: Grandma used to set her hot baked apple pies on the window sill to cool. Her granddaughters set theirs on the window sill to thaw. They would go crazy now trying to figure out how many germs were on that apron. I don't think I ever caught anything from an apron but love!

Favorite Recipes from the CCW Salad Bar

CARAMEL APPLE POKE CAKE

- 1 box vanilla cake mix
- 1 T. apple pie spice
- 1/2 cup water
- 1/3 cup vegetable oil
- 3 large eggs
- 2 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1 can (20 oz.) apple pie filling, coarsely chopped
- 1 cup caramel sauce, warmed
- 1 Cool Whip (8 oz.)
- 2/3 cup toffee bits

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Spray a 9" x 13" pan. In a large mixing bowl, beat cake mix, apple pie spice, water, oil, eggs, and vanilla for 2 minutes. With spatula, fold in apple pie filling. Pour batter into pan and bake for 28-33 minutes. Remove cake to a wire rack and cool for 10 minutes. Poke warm cake every inch with a straw half-way into cake. Drizzle 3/4 cup caramel sauce over the cake to fill holes. Cool cake completely. Top cake with Cool Whip, toffee bits, and remaining 1/4 cup caramel sauce. Cover and refrigerate.

Marji Moore

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