



The Parish Post

A WORD FROM THE WEISS

Let's be honest. The story of Pentecost is a strange one. It is no accident that, when the first Christians step outside and start speaking about Jesus Christ in a variety of tongues, some folks think they're drunk. The Church, of course, remembers this a pivotal event in its history, a time when the Spirit moved powerfully among its members. I had a seminary professor who called Pentecost "the birthday of the Church".

The Pentecost story is unusual because it involves *glossolalia*, or "speaking in tongues". Generally this has been understood not as babbling incomprehensibly, but speaking in an actual human language (which the person does not know) through the moving of the Spirit. There are two dangers, I think, when it comes to speaking in tongues.

The first danger is to dismiss it as "fake" or "crazy". I once viewed it this way, but I know people who believe they have received this gift...people whom I respect as fairly level-headed folks. *(Continued on p. 3)*

There are two dangers when it comes to "speaking in tongues".

SPECIAL PENTECOST CELEBRATION

**Worship and Fellowship at St. Paul's Lutheran Church
10:30 AM on May 23**



We're invited to join our St. Paul's friends for two special events on Pentecost:

*** * Joint Worship at 10:30 AM * ***

*** * Farewell Reception for Vicar Carl Hendrickson after the service * ***

NOTE: We will meet **AT ST. PAUL'S** for the whole morning.

RSVP (for the Reception) to Michelle Lucarelli (724-942-0719) by May 16.

Park at St. Thomas as usual; we can shuttle folks to St. Paul's side door if they are concerned about the steps.

Feel free to WEAR RED!

Women's Lunch / Mother's Day Brunch

On Saturday, May 1, at Noon, the ladies of St. Thomas will gather for lunch at Max and Erma's, Route 19 in McMurray.. RSVP to Martha Weiss (412-963-0971).

On Mother's Day, during Coffee Hour, our Youth Group will offer a sumptuous (?) Brunch in honor of all our Moms.

EVERYONE, of course, is invited to the Brunch. Please sign up at church, or call Lorra at the church office by May 5, if you plan to attend. This will help the Youth Group with their planning. Thanks!



DIOCESAN YOUTH RETREAT!



All young people in 9th grade and up are invited to the **Diocesan Youth Retreat at Calvary Camp, May 14-16.**

The weekend will have games, discussion, work projects at the Camp, worship, and more! It's a great opportunity to get to know some of the other youth groups around the diocese, and to enjoy Calvary Camp!

More information will be available soon. Contact Fr. Chuck (412-963-0971) if you have questions. **Hope to see you there!**

(Fr. John Thomas will be at St. Thomas on May 16 to lead worship. Please give him a warm welcome!)

Bob Senay Organ Recital –May 2

Our very own organist, Bob Senay, will have an Organ Recital on Sunday, May 2. The title is *In Memoriam: A Requiem Service*. Bob will offer this work (its premier) at 4:00 PM at First Presbyterian Church, Wheeling and College Streets, in Washington.

Everyone is welcome!



Notes from the Sr. Warden



Your Vestry has been active this past month making plans for the year. One of our goals is to continue to build a strong relationship with St. Paul's Lutheran Church. In line with that goal, we will be celebrating Pentecost with them on May 23rd. Fr. Chuck will have an active role in the service. We will also join St. Paul's in a Farewell Lunch for their Vicar, Carl Hendrickson. This summer, we will be inviting Bishop Price to come and talk to the Vestry. He suggested this visit when he was here in January. We will be talking about the direction of the diocese and St. Thomas's role in it.

The Vestry is working on a plan to make taking Communion safer (the steps offer a bit of a challenge). We will be evaluating several ideas and presenting some suggestions to the congregation in the next few months. If you have any thoughts, feel free to pass them along to any Vestry member.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, Ed Denslow needed to resign from the Vestry. We elected Marie DeRiso to serve out Ed's term. She will be responsible for Stewardship. Michelle Lucarelli will now be responsible for both Buildings/Grounds and Fellowship. I will be responsible for Outreach and was elected Secretary of the Vestry. Ed is still planning to be an active part of our parish. We will miss him on the Vestry but will value his talents in other areas.

Faithfully, *Pam Gardner*

A WORD FROM THE WEISS *(FROM PAGE ONE)*

They say that speaking in tongues is something that happens to them, rather than something they make happen. It occurs most often when they pray about someone they're very concerned about; and it usually brings them a sense of peace.

The other danger is to consider speaking in tongues to be a badge of honor. I was part of a Christian group in college that had a smaller group within it, made up of those who spoke in tongues. This group had a strange elitist sense about it—the idea that they were the “real” Christians, just slightly more precious in the eyes of God than the rest of us. As you might imagine, this attitude did little for group unity.

My belief is that speaking in tongues is a real and powerful gift from God...but that it is not a necessary sign of “real” faith. Some receive it, many don't. (See *1 Corinthians 12*.)

What do you think?

Along with you on the journey of faith,

Fr. Chuck Weiss

BIRTHDAYS!



Cole Waszil—May 1

John O'Nan—May 5

Jeremy Yerkey—May 6

Mike Lucarelli—May 8

Bob Senay—May 10

Chuck Weiss—May 16

Katie Edler—May 19

Janis Ramoth—May 23

**DOES ST. THOMAS HAVE
YOUR BIRTHDAY /
ANNIVERSARY INFO?**

*If not, please call the
church office.*

Thanks!

Notes from the Church Mouse!

Wow, have you seen all the NEW FACES around St. Thomas these days? That's exciting! I mean, even MORE people to drop crumbs at Coffee Hour!.....It was really neat to see 78 (!) folks on Easter. What a joyous day, with Erin's Baptism (and cake!), beautiful lilies, wonderful music, and lots of singing!Speaking of lots of folks, I heard there was a great crowd at "Moving Forward Together" at Church of the Redeemer in Squirrel Hill. It was like a big family reunion! (Mice have reunions, too. We just can't travel as far, and we're more concerned about cheese than coffee.).....Boy, those women had a good time at Nonni's! I'm glad they behaved themselves, since Janis and George go there a lot.....Well, I almost got packed into one of those "Cookies in a Jar" centerpieces you all made for Washington Women's Shelter. Not that I'd have minded; I could always eat my way out.....How nice to have Peter Domencic visit us again. He's such a nice man! (I'd like to meet *his* Church Mouse; I bet he's nice, too.)

Well, see you around (but you won't see me!),

TOM



stthomaspg.org
724-745-2013
Canonsburg, PA 15317
139 North Jefferson Avenue
St. Thomas Episcopal Church