



Rosedale Connect

August 2015

All Saints Church
5501 Third Street
Verona, PA 15147
412-744-4063
www.aspgh.org

From The Pastor's Desk Stories and Invitations

I wonder how many of you remember our story, the story of All Saints Church (ASC)? Probably most folks in Rosedale have long forgotten our journey that began on the last Sunday in September, 2011. Many of you may be new to the neighborhood since our move.

LKBTIF

One of the greatest movies of all time is Ben-Hur. Did you know Ben-Hur is referenced in the Bible? Take a look at 1 Kings 4:8!

Do you remember
what LKBTIF
stands for?

(Answer on the bottom of
page 4)

Do you know or do you remember that we moved to our current address after leaving our home of nearly 90 years (90!!!) on Randolph Lane? How many of you remember our walk from Randolph Lane to the corner of 3rd and Homestead? We finished our last service at our long time home and walked as a congregation to our new home, where the members of Rosedale United Methodist welcomed us - Methodist and Anglicans standing with and for each other. That Sunday morning, as we left one place and entered another, as we walked those few blocks, most of you knew our story; many of you greeted us as we walked, clapping and sharing words of encouragement. But that was four years ago, life has moved on.

It's time to share our story again. The story of us leaving and the story of us arriving. This obviously refers to arriving at a new physical address but the true meaning is arriving at a new place with God. Our move changed us. We grew in a way we never experienced before – trust and faith became real. In the end our story is about a new commitment to God above all things and how we share this story with those around us. Our purpose, our story, is the sharing of God's story.

LKBTIF #2

Having trouble reading the Bible because it's too long? Did you know that if you read at an average pace without stopping you'd be finished in 70 hours, 40 minutes!

Four years later does the move still make sense, still have purpose? Most importantly, does our story draw others to God's story?

In this issue we invite you to consider your story. Maybe our journey will impact you as it has impacted us. Maybe it will cause you to ask questions or think about the impact of cultural upon you just as we had to choose between culture and God. Most importantly, does our story connect with you? Challenge you? We invite you to come and journey with us as we seek God's purpose for our lives and answers to our questions.

Join us for worship
every Sunday at
9:00AM

Many Blessings!
David

Four Years Later ----- The Decision

On Sept 27th, All Saints Church (ASC) will remember the fourth anniversary of a new beginning. Four years ago, we were All Saints Episcopal Church and we worshipped in our long time home on Randolph Lane. Four years ago, we were faced with uncertainty and many questions and we made final preparation to change our name to simply ASC and to leave our building and share space offered by Rosedale United Methodist Church.

Four years ago, we made the decision to put aside what “we want” or what would be easy and instead honestly seek what God intended for us. We made the decision to trust God and follow His will rather than our own.

Trusting God remains one of the most difficult issues for all churches. Trusting God has been replaced in most places to simply “believing in God while we try to figure out what we should do next”; trusting in God is an entirely different reality. Four years ago we were faced with a decision - figure things out on our own or seek to know God’s true will for us and then trust Him by following His will to the best of our ability. It was a stressful time with a lot at stake.

We found ourselves facing this decision because the leadership of our denomination, The Episcopal Church, was facing its own critical decision: affirm and defend the historic Christian faith or amend the faith to reflect a changing culture. Their choice would have profound impact up-

on all local congregations.

The challenges before us in those days (and still today it seems) were commonly reduced to the issue of homosexuality. The press and most people defined Christians by this one issue: where do you stand on the issue of homosexuality? The problem is that for a Christian, that question does not stand alone. To take a position on homosexuality requires taking a position on the entire Bible and this affects countless issues in life not just sexuality. Is the Bible trustworthy? Is it correct in all circumstances or only some? This required a whole deeper level of questions: what is sin? Does sin change over time? And this leads to yet another deeper level of decision: does God really judge people for sin? Would a loving God allow anyone to go to Hell?

And on the questions go, deeper and deeper, to the very foundation of the Christian faith: what do we believe about God, Jesus Christ and the Bible?

It’s not for us to recount all the decisions the Episcopal Church made surrounding these issues. Anyone interested can find volumes of information on the internet. But at the core we were left with the ultimate decision of the Episcopal Church: that the historic faith and doctrine of Christianity can be changed to new understandings based upon the current culture. All Saints Episcopal Church, alone with all Episcopal parishes had to then make its decision: would we follow the na-

tional leadership or the historic faith? How we would choose would forever alter our parish and our understanding of Christianity.

This may be the most difficult issue for those outside the Church to understand, but our questions did not center on homosexuality, but upon what we believed about Jesus Christ and the Bible. Is the Bible to be trusted or not? Can we pick and choose? Does it matter? Only in context of these questions could we make decisions about any specific question; homosexuality just happened to be the specific question.

In the end, we determined that the leadership of the national church did not have the authority to redefine Jesus Christ and the Christian faith.

We did not make a decision against homosexuals, we made a decision for Jesus Christ. We made the decision to stake our parish and our lives upon the same Jesus that has led His Church for thousands of years. He is not outdated. In His Church there is room for homosexuals and straight and divorced and thieves and me and you. And there is hope in Him, hope for eternity, hope for today. In Him there is life, not as the world would give it but as God gives it.

Four years ago, we made the decision, along with hundreds of other Episcopal parishes, to stand for Christ as He has always

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Four Years Later ----- The Decision (con't)

(Continued from page 2)

existed; we rejected the decisions of man that recast Jesus Christ into something new. The decision was costly - we lost our historic building on Randolph Lane, we lost some members. But we gained something that is worth more than any cost - we gained a new life in Jesus Christ.

We considered the issues - can we trust God or do we do "the expedient thing and go along with the rest of culture?". At a critical moment we made the decision - we would trust God wherever it may lead us.

It lead us down the street as it turns out. To the good folks of Rosedale United Methodist Church who opened their doors

and hearts to us. But that's another story, to be continued in the next issue of the Rosedale Connect. But the story centers on one question - would we trust God? Would we trust Him enough to seek His true will for us and then follow His will? This September 27th, we remember the decision to trust God rather than follow culture.

We Are the Second Generation ~ An Invitation

Things are changing all around us. Quickly. Do we even notice? We're changing quickly as well. Have you noticed? It's interesting to consider the areas of change we give serious (if brief) thought to and those areas that we accept without any real consideration to at all.

For example, purchase a new TV and see how much time you spend trying to decide between the many features. Trust me, you will pour over the options: this is a BIG decision! But other things, not so much - things such as faith and religion. For generations religion had been at the center of our life and culture, but no longer.

It's true, for most people buying a TV (or other such things) demands more of our attention than matters of God. I know many people that have drifted away from church, but I know few people that have thought deeply about their faith and made the decision to leave it behind. Most people are simply following culture.

The Church bears most of the responsibility for this exodus, in my humble opinion. Empty religion, rote "worship", no place to ask questions, no answers, failure to make Jesus Christ "real" or relevant in our lives: why would anyone go to church, what's the point? There seems to be no point.

I'm not surprised people are walking away. If the churches want people to come, the churches need to give a compelling reason to do so.

A number of churches are responding to this new reality, including ASC. We have spent the last four years examining our purpose and our relationship with God. "Empty", "rote", "pointless" - we faced these realities and knew they did not represent true Christianity nor a true relationship with God. All aspects of our life as a congregation were examined: how we worship, sing, pray, learn, fellowship, live daily, and most importantly, how we know Jesus Christ in our personal lives.

In the process we rediscovered the glory of God, His joy, peace and purpose. And we rediscovered Jesus Christ. He is real, alive, seeking us and renewing us individually and as a congregation.

The truth of Jesus Christ is the compelling reason for church. We believe the greatest failure of the Old Church is its failure to share the living Jesus Christ, the Christ that brings life and purpose and freedom and peace. Sharing THIS Jesus is the true purpose of the Church. This is the purpose of ASC.

We are committed to knowing

Jesus, and helping others to know him and all that He is: Lord and Savior, Son of God, Lamb of God. His reality in our lives gives a richness that the old church only hinted of. We invite you to come and see for yourself. Not what culture tells you, but what you find if you seek.

Our commitment to this purpose can be seen in our worship, our Bible studies, and in our fellowship. Our commitment is expanding this fall with a new opportunity to Rosedale - Second Generation.

The name "Second Generation" has an important meaning - the first generation represented a culture that was centered on God and religion. But that generation has passed - we are of the second generation, a generation represented by a culture no longer centered on, or even interested in, God.

ASC and Second Generation is for those of you that want to make up your own mind about God and Jesus, about life and death, for those of you that realize these decisions really are more important than your next TV and are no longer content to simply follow culture.

Second Generation is a three part series about Jesus Christ. Each part is

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We are the Second Generation ~ An invitation (con't)

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five weeks long. The three parts will focus upon the three following core questions: Who is Jesus Christ? Why Did Jesus Have to Die? and Why Does Jesus Matter in My Life? Second Generation will be a place to ask questions and seek answers. It's a place to share the journey with others who are also seeking answers for themselves. It's a place of discovery, and a place to make up your own mind.

Second Generation will meet weekly, beginning on Tuesday September 15th at 6:30 p.m. Refreshments will be provided. If you need child care please call the church office at 412.744.4063 and leave a message. If you can't make the first meeting, come when you can.

You're invited. One week, five weeks, all 15 weeks - How I pray you will come and see.

Many blessings!

David

*Have you ever wondered...
Who is Jesus??
Why did He have to die?
Why does Jesus matter in my life?*

Join us for a 3 part series exploring our faith and the person of Jesus Christ. Each series will last 5 weeks. This is an informal discussion group designed to explore our faith and answer questions with Biblical truth. No prior Biblical knowledge required.

We will meet on Tuesday evenings beginning on Sept. 15th from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Refreshments will be provided. If childcare is needed, please call the church prior to Sept 15th. If you can't make the first meeting, join in when you can. If you have any questions or are in need of childcare, please call the church office at 412.744.8063.

Support Rosedale Community Food Bank



Tickets are also available at the Food Bank - open Wednesdays 4:30 - 7:30 p.m. at the Rosedale Methodist Church, by calling 412.302. 2509 or email prov2411@comcast.net

Calming the Storm: Women's Cancer Support Group

Two years ago my life changed. I knew my family history, but I felt fine and had no signs of anything being wrong. It was just a routine mammogram. Then I heard those shocking and incomprehensible words – ductile carcinoma in situ, invasive carcinoma, bilateral mastectomy – and I started my ride on the emotional roller coaster. Millions of women have similar stories, many right here in our parish and our neighborhood. Stories of rocketing emotions. Stories of facing uncertain futures grateful for God's presence, or wondering where God

is, or even who God is.

It is for all of us that God has called me to start Calming The Storm: Women's Cancer Support Group. The purpose of Calming The Storm is to support one another in the emotional and spiritual challenges of cancer through heartfelt encouragement and compassionate understanding so that we can live each day to its fullest. Calming The Storm is a place where we can share and discuss our triumphs and our struggles. It is a place where we can weep together and rejoice together as we

embrace the hope that comes through Jesus, who is with us providing calm in the midst of our storms.

Starting September 16, 2015, Calming The Storm will meet on the third Wednesday of the month from 7 to 8:30 pm at All Saints Church for sharing, discussing, and praying as we comfort one another with comfort we ourselves have received from God.

Pat Serafini
calmingthestormas@gmail.com
412-328-4403

Women's Bible Study Daniel: Integrity and Prophecy

For many, the book of Daniel is not much more than Sunday School stories – the fiery furnace, the lions' den, the handwriting on the wall, and the mysterious prophecies. Unique and challenging stories that have little to do with us.

Daniel has everything to do with us. Like Daniel, who was an exile in the alien culture of Babylon, as Christians we are exiles in the alien culture of post-modern America. Daniel had a choice to assimilate into the culture and we have the same choice now. Daniel chose to preserve his integrity as a follower of the One and Only God Almighty. Daniel chose to believe that God would deliver him from the fire, through the fire, or by the fire.

We, too, who live in a hostile culture have the same choices. We can choose to believe that God will deliver us from the fire and build our faith, through the fire and refine our faith, and by the fire into His arms and perfect our faith. Whether you are a woman experienced with bible studies or this is your first, Daniel is the study for you to learn how to be resolute in choosing God over culture and believing his promise of a wondrous future.

Daniel: Integrity and Prophecy meets every other Saturday at 10 am at All Saints Church.

The first meeting is a one day retreat on Saturday, September 12 at St. Emma's Monastery, 1001 Harvey Avenue, Greensburg. St. Emma's is a community of Benedictine nuns living for Christ and sharing his love through prayer and hospitality. Retreat cost is \$30. Those wishing to car pool are to meet at All Saints Church at 9 am. Please, RSVP to Pat Serafini by September 7.

Pat Serafini
serafinip@yahoo.com
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Rosedale Connect

WAIT!!!

**PLEASE DO NOT THROW THIS AWAY WITHOUT TAKING
JUST A FEW MINUTES TO LOOK INSIDE.**

- ⇒ What if we told you that 15 weeks could change your life? Your invitation and details are inside!
- ⇒ Think going to church is just a thing of the past, after all it really doesn't have anything to offer. We agree!! Church has failed a lot of people - please read "We Are The Second Generation".
- ⇒ Is someone you know battling cancer or a cancer survivor? Perhaps it is you. Calming the Storm is a new Women's Cancer Support Group beginning on Sept. 16th.
- ⇒ Rock and Roll at the Oaks Theater on Sept 26th! Benefits the Rosedale Food Bank.