

World day of prayer planned at Methodist

The World Day of Prayer and fellowship hour, prepared by the women of Canada will be held in the Trucksville United Methodist Church March 3, at 1 p.m. There will be a nursery for the children. Planning committee met in the Dallas United Methodist Church. Attending were Elizabeth Cease, area chairwoman; Liz Greenwood, Prince of Peace Episcopal; Elda Coolbaugh, Lehman United Methodist; Meryl Wagner, Huntsville Christian; Dorothy Pwell, Huntsville United Methodist; Isabel Kreidler, Trucksville United Methodist; Hazel

Garris, Dallas United Methodist; Margaret Molley, St. Theresa, Romas Catholic, Ida Koeb, Trinity United Presbyterian, Helen Searles, Shavertown United Methodist.

Theme for the celebration is "Community Spirit in Modern Living." Women will be united in prayer, meditation and study until the 24 hours ends in the islands off Alaska.

Everyone is invited to attend the celebration. Fourteen Back Mountain Churches will be represented.

UM charges continue Lenten services

The third and fourth services in the Lenten Series sponsored by the Lehman, Maple Grove and Huntsville United Methodist Charges will be held this week.

The third service will be tonight Wednesday, Feb. 22 at Maple Grove with the Rev. Margaret Reid, pastor of Huntsville UM bringing the message, this service will be followed by a meeting of the joint committee.

The fourth service will be Sunday evening Feb. 26 at Idetown at 7:30 p.m. This will be a service of music and drama. All are invited to both of these services.

Rehearsal for the Cantata to given by the six churches on April 2 will be held at Lehman following morning worship on Sunday March 5. Prof. Rosendo Santos is writing the Cantata and will direct it.

Laity to conduct Trucksville UMC service

"The Holy Sabbath" will be the sermon topic of Thomas R. Williams, Chairperson of the Work Area on Worship, at the Trucksville United Methodist church on Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

Wayne Long, lay leader and Ruth Merrel, Friendship Class teacher, will assist Williams as lay

readers. The Chancel Choir, under the direction of Harry G. Trebilcock, will sing the traditional southern hymn, "My Shepherd Will Supply My Need."

Church school will meet at 9:15 a.m. Mrs. Nicholas Mazur, Jr. is coordinator of Bible studies.

LENTEN MEDITATION

The first temptation of Christ

by Rev. Joseph Sammons
Christ was led by the Holy Spirit into the barren desert to fast for 40 days and nights. The fast that we observe during this season of lent, mitigated as it is, is a direct inheritance from the fast of Christ himself. The fast of Christ is a mysterious thing and especially, the fact that he allowed himself to be tempted by the devil. There are a number of circumstances which we do not understand. How did Christ survive for 40 days without food? Certainly by His almighty power. And his temptation with the devil. Did satan assume some form, grotesque or otherwise? We are not told.

We know it was a mortal conflict between the all-holy son of God and the head of all that is evil and corrupt. We note that the devil did not tempt Christ until after the period of 40 days when he must have been ravenously hungry—hungry and tired as well. The devil waited until Christ was at his lowest ebb in human nature—as when he tempts us when our resistance is lowest.

The desert abounded in stones and rocks, many of which looked like loaves of bread. Hence, it was almost natural for the devil to say to Christ: "If you are the son of God, command that these stones be turned into bread." Now scripture scholars are, for the most part, agreed that the devil did not try to induce Christ to commit sin. The devil realized probably that such a thing would be impossible. What the devil really wanted to discover was whether or not Jesus was truly the son of God. If Jesus did these prodigious things suggested by satan, then that would be a clear indication to satan, that, in truth, he, satan, was encountering the son of God himself.

Christ, for his part, when the devil ordered him to turn the stones into bread, refused to do so. It would be an act of distrust of Christ for his Father. Did not his Father send him on a mission to save the world? Was not the desert and its circumstances part of that mission? Every facet, every part of his public life was willed by God his Father—so that if Jesus would have yielded to his pangs of hunger he would have doubted the power of his Father to take care of him in his direst need. As it was, Jesus had absolute trust in his father who would provide for his only-begotten son even among the barren stones of the desert.

And again, Christ was appointed messiah whose mission was to bring salvation to the world. To achieve this end, he would form a band of disciples about him. Wouldn't he be starting a very bad precedent if he began his mission in this world by doing spectacular things like turning stones into bread? Wouldn't his disciples be expecting the like whenever the need arose? Jesus wanted his disciples to give themselves completely to his service for what he was in himself, not for any material gain or worldly show.

And so, Christ said in reply to satan: "Man does not live by bread alone but by every utterance that comes from the mouth of God." That is, to say, to satisfy a man's hunger is not the only thing in life. If we satisfy a man's hunger we are only satisfying a symptom, we are not satisfying the cause. There is more to life than bread and material things. Surely they are need to live. But beyond that there is the spiritual. Man lives by the utterances that come from the mouth of God, by scripture, by meditating on the world of God, by things of the spirit. And so, Jesus

rejected the first temptation.

During this holy season of lent, we pause to salute Christ our captain who emerged victorious in this first battle with his arch-enemy, the devil. We observe how Christ resisted temptation in order to give us an example of what we are to do when we are tempted. Christ resisted immediately. He did not hesitate. And he also prayed. He tells us to

watch and pray. It is not enough to watch, we must also pray to strengthened our will and character to resist the attacks of the evil one. Sacred scripture tells us: "Blessed is the man who resists temptation, for he will receive the crown of life." Christ, our captain, resisted the temptation of the devil and received the crown of everlasting life. We, too, if we resist, shall on blessed day receive this precious crown of everlasting life.

'What a sacrifice!'

by the Rev. Stephen D. McGough

Darn it! It's Lent again. What memories attack us as we see Ash Wednesday approach. Remember trying to give up candy and the guilt feeling when you failed. Remember the frustration that you felt when you discovered that you overslept after promising to attend daily services.

Never will you forget the terrible lunches and suppers of fish, eggs and cheese. If you were wealthy it could be shrimp, crab and lobster. Boy! What a sacrifice! Much of the old Lenten observance was inappropriate, but we wished it away without making sure we had an adequate replacement for that link in our spiritual lives we call Lent.

It would not be helpful to return to that which we left as if going back would be progress. Rather as we begin Ash Wednesday, we are reminded of our humanness. It is a time to look deeply into the intricacies of our human condition. It is not a simple thing to be a man or woman standing in relationship to others with the headwaters of our personalities in stress and difficulty.

If fasting and sacrificing of any sort helps us to thaw the emotions and understand them better then they are valuable. It is not easy to admit how small and mean we can be. Perhaps the death that Lent asks is the one we undergo when we find out who we are and what moves us, a journey into the soul where we purify and clean away the dross gathers as surely as the ice.

It is Lent again, and its promise is that joy that comes from knowing that we made the journey, died to the destructive, dark side within us and rose to The Risen light that is Christ.

Lehman U.M. charge weighs 'motivation'

The services for the third Sunday of Lent at the Lehman United Methodist Charge will deal with the question of motivation. The motivation of Jesus, his enemies and ourselves will all be discussed.

The pastor's confirmation class will meet, if possible at 2 p.m. Sunday.

The evening Lenten service will be held at Idetown.

The Lehman United

Methodist Women will meet on Tuesday Feb. 28, at 7:30 p.m.

The Cluster Council will meet at Lehman on Wednesday March Pastor Robert Harris will be attending the District Council Meeting at Wyoming Seminary on Feb. 23 at 7 p.m.

The Lehman and Idetown U.M.Y.F. have been invited to meet at Huntsville on Sunday March 5.

Mercy Center sponsors renewal for sisters

Mercy Center will sponsor three March evenings of renewal for sisters:

March 2 "Religious Life: Commitment" by Sr. Carlos Maria 7:30-9 p.m. Miller, RSM.

March 9 "The Desert Experience" by the Rev.

William D. 7:30-9 p.m. Campbell,

March 21 "The Cross of Christ—My Cross" by Sr. Rosemarie 7:30-9 p.m. Ippolito, S.C., and Rev. Dominick J. Lorenzetti.

All programs will be held in Blessed Sacrament Chapel, Mercy Center, Dallas.

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New GOH priest looks at assignment

by Joan Kingsbury
Does serving as pastor of a church with a parish population of approximately 900 parish families in addition to

being principal of a parochial school run by that parish differ greatly from being a Navy chaplain?

Father William Cusick,

new pastor of Gate of Heaven Church, is in just the right situation to answer that question.

Father William Cusick was born in Scranton. He attended St. Ann's Monastery School, Scranton, and graduated from the University of Scranton. He continued his education at Mt. St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md. In 1955, he was ordained by the late Bishop Jerome Hannon in St. Peter's Cathedral, Scranton.

For two years, he was stationed on the aircraft carrier "Midway". Although the "Midway's" home port is Alameda, Calif., most of the time the ship was at sea in the western Pacific.

Prior to his present assignment at Gate of Heaven Church, he was stationed at the Great Lakes Training Station, Ill., for four years.

According to Father Cusick, being chaplain on base where there are families is similar to being pastor of a parish. However, his time spent on the Midway was of course different, because only men were on the ship.

He jokingly added that things ran quite smoothly while the ship was at sea, but when weekend passes were issued when they reached port, sometimes some mischief resulted.

Although Father Cusick taught while stationed at the Pocono Missions, and Rose's he has never before been principal of a school and admits it is a new experience.

Father Cusick explained

St. Rose of Lima Church. His appointment this time was for two years.

In 1966, his travels really began, for in that year, he went on active duty as a chaplain with the United States Navy. He served in such diverse places as the Navy base in Newfoundland; the Marine Corps training center at Paris Island, S.C.; and attended chaplain school at Newport, R.I. He also spent one year in Viet Nam on an air base near DaNang.

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Father Cusick explained

that to him, the whole idea of the priesthood is to serve people, whether on ship, on base, or in a parish. Since his arrival 2½ weeks ago he had been heard to say several times that although maintaining the school and church are important goals "working out our salvation together is our primary goal."

Although Cusick remembers traveling to Harveys Lake as a small boy, the Back Mountain is really a totally new area to him. The recent snowy weather and bad roads have made it difficult for him to really get acquainted with the area. Since he has only been living in the community a short time, he said he hasn't had much time to form an opinion, but what he has seen of it he describes as "seeming to be an active and alive place".

Gate of Heaven parish has "really impressed" him. He remarked that the teenagers, adults, and older members of the parish seem to co-operate and work well together.

He also noted that there seems to be a good ecumenical feeling in the Back Mountain and that he is looking forward to meeting other area clergymen.

Being a very busy person, he really doesn't have much time for hobbies. However, when time allows, he enjoys hiking or playing golf.

Father Cusick concluded, "I am glad to be here. I am looking forward to becoming part of the community as best I can."



Fr. Cusick

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