



Fr. Dave Cappelloni posed with three young friends at the Gate of Heaven bazaar, which he founded. From left; Erin Tanner, Fr. Dave, Kelsey and Kaitlyn Moody.

Fr. Dave

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good things like the bazaar and the marathon," said Jane McAndrew, who has been coming to the church for 38 years. "The parish needed his youth and enthusiasm."

Cappelloni ran a marathon last fall that raised \$15,000 for the church and started the highly successful summer bazaar fund raiser two years ago.

"He has affected everybody. His outgoingness is very inspirational. He has brought the church together and we wish him luck in his new endeavors," said Lillian Drust, a church member of 45 years.

Cappelloni is originally from Scranton, where his parents, Geva and Al still live. He has four brothers and one sister. He graduated from the University of Scranton and attended Mary Immaculate Seminary in Allentown. He came to Gate of Heaven four years ago as assistant pastor to

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Lillian Drust
Gate of Heaven parishoner

Reverend William Cusick, who passed away on May 1.

"We'll really miss him, especially after losing our pastor," said Margie Morgan. "It's hard to lose him so soon after." Morgan said he has ways to bring out the symbolic aspects of the religion. She recalls a fountain at Easter mass with beautiful plants around it to represent a new beginning. "He helped the parish feel more like a family," she said.

For Cappelloni, the assignment is bittersweet. "I'm saddened at leaving. It's the hard aspect of it (the job)," he said. "I've enjoyed

my time here at Gate of Heaven. I like the Dallas area, I like the kids. It's a nice place to be." He added that Muncy seems like a nice town.

Although they understand his current feelings, Cappelloni's parents are proud. "We feel for him. He gets attached to the people, but he gets over it," said his mother. "I'm happy he has been made a pastor." His parents came up to help make the move to Muncy.

Cappelloni's love of children is evident. "We'll miss him. He's a great guy with the kids. He's very interested in the younger families in the parish," said Stephanie Baloh of Shavertown.

Joe Drust, a church member for 45 years, summed up the feelings for the departing pastor. "It's a joy to be with someone with so much enthusiasm, love and friendship."

Fertilizer

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page," he said.

Phosphates are a problem in excessive amounts. Mike Case, limnologist and professor in geoenvironmental sciences and engineering at Wilkes University, has been studying Harveys Lake with his students for several years. He explained that although lakes need some phosphorus, "phosphorus does occur naturally in rocks and soil. As soil and rocks decompose, phosphorus is taken up by trees and leaves." When the leaves drop from the trees and decompose, phosphorus is added to the lake.

Necessary phosphorus has positive effects for the lake. Phosphorus helps algae grow. Case explained the benefits of certain types of algae. "Lakes need a healthy and diverse population of algae not dominated by one type. This supports the food web."

Excess phosphorus enters the lake through the watershed when lawn and flower fertilizers are used that contain phosphorus. "Everything that is put onto a lawn or that drips off a car runs into the lake," explained Mike Daley, a member of EVAC. "Algae and rooted aquatic plants are fueled by phosphorus. If they get a good

dose of it, they go crazy."

Daley says that EVAC members act as "stewards of the health of the lake." He said that lawn care companies make arguments against a ban, but he said, "They're not scientists. They have certain fertilizers in stock and it's a hassle for them to get different fertilizer." Daley says many stores don't carry the phosphorus free fertilizers despite the fact that they are made.

Lawn care companies argue that a ban on phosphate fertilizers would not eliminate phosphates from other sources. Karl Swinski, lawn care supervisor for Green Machine Lawn Service, said that one commonly used fertilizer contains only 3 percent phosphorus. For a 50 pound bag, that means approximately 1.5 pounds is phosphorus. One 50 pound bag fertilizes slightly over two average size lawns. The spread of phosphorus per application per lawn is approximately 12 ounces, he explained.

"I'm not disputing there's a problem with phosphates in the lake, but to what degree do lawn fertilizers contribute?" Swinski asks. He explained that phosphorus is important for "seed germi-

nation and development of roots," and feels that phosphorus free fertilizers would not produce the same results.

But Case explained that any amount of phosphorus contributes to algae problems at the lake. "It takes only a very small quantity of phosphorus from human sources to cause nuisance algal blooms in the lake. That's not a matter of opinion. It's well documented, he said. "Phosphorus is the nutrient which limits or controls biological productivity of freshwater lakes."

The effects of algae are more serious than not being able to swim in the lake, Case noted. "When the algal cells die, they decompose in the deeper parts of the lake and use up the oxygen in the lake," he said. Oxygen depletion creates a situation that cannot support cold water fishery.

The ban on fertilizers containing phosphorus can only have positive effects for the waters of Harveys Lake, Case said. "I think the people will be extremely happy with the water quality in about four to five years," he said. "Oxygen levels in deep water will rise and the size and the number of fish will rise too."

L-L budget

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Price said the board had wanted a six mill increase, but cut the preliminary budget from a 14.3 mill increase down to eight. Kopcha felt the board was cutting in all the wrong places. "I think this is a phony budget," she told the board. Kopcha feels more should have been cut out of sports. "We have an eight percent discretionary budget and three percent of that is for sports. It's not showing fiscal responsibility. We have to look at what we need, not what we want."

Karen Whipple said that student activities fees, which includes sports, makes up only 2.2 to 2.6 percent of the budget. "We've already cut supplies within the administration. It's far better to let our kids have things," she said during a phone interview.

Whipple said she is pleased with the budget. "The district as a whole has really pitched in to cut back to the bare bones," she said. "I can't believe they pulled it off. I can't say enough about what (business manager Kathleen) Wil-

"The district has not grown in conjunction with the costs. We don't have a tax base."

Karen Whipple
School board member

liams and Price have done."

Last year, with a slew of early retirements, salary raises and no fund balance, the board agreed to a 23 mill tax hike in Luzerne County and a 18 mill increase in Noxen Twp. The 1996-97 budget began with a \$269,209 deficit, no fund balance and no provisions for early retirees for this year.

Provisions have been made for retirees in the new budget, said Williams.

Whipple said previous boards did not raise taxes when they should have. "Boards tend to not want to raise taxes. That mindset can't move any further," she said.

In 1989, the district had lucrative teachers' contracts, but raised the millage by only five. For the next two years, the board had to make up the shortfalls with a 18 mill increase in 1990 and a 25 mill increase in 1991. In 1993 and 1995 there was no mill increase.

Whipple said it's no one's fault. "The district has not grown in conjunction with the costs. We don't have a tax base. There are no businesses, no industry. We're unique in that," she said. But, said she is more encouraged doing the budget this year than in the past. "I hope this is our last real tough, tight year."

The board also approved an \$850,000 Tax and Revenue Anticipation Note from PNC Bank. Business manager Williams said the note is, "A safeguard for cash flow because there is no fund balance." The note must be paid by June 1998 and if the district could not need to use it, money could be made on its interest, said Williams.

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