

Chapel

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tion as a Bible scholar and Christian leader." Lewis and Boultinghouse are sisters. Both gave the church written histories, as they were both original members of the Sunday School and church.

Also, both women were part of the effort to get the Sunday School approved and were later involved with solicitation of funds to get the sanctuary built. Their father, William I. Hawk, drew up the plans for the church. Lewis recalled that, "all the men... and even little boys helped with the digging of the basement and grading. Mr. Gregory provided transportation for the men and boys to come who hadn't ways to get there."

Bob Law and his wife, Mary, raised their three children in the church. They appreciate the church's direct approach to teaching. "It's directly from the Bible, not what a denomination says is right or wrong," said Mr. Law. "It's home. I can go anyplace and worship, but (that church) is home."

Reverend Ron Cease, who has served the church for the past 15 years, is in full agreement with Law.

"People here really love God and truly love each other. No one puts on airs. The church tries to reach people with church of the gospel," said Cease, who said approximately 65 percent of the congregation is from the Back Mountain.

Cease described the congregation as an aging one, with between 40 and 50 "members." Although, the church if due-free, collection is by choice. And the tall, wooden doors are open to anyone.

Recently the church underwent a \$22,000 remodeling project funded entirely by the congregation itself.

"We don't really push membership. We feel that if you love God, it is more important to be a member of His family than a member of a church," explained Cease.

People of all different backgrounds have attended the church. Baptists, Catholics, Methodists, and others have visited and some have joined the congregation.

Cease believes that being non-denominational gives Valley View Union Chapel "the freedom to make decisions that have to be made quickly."

He describes the church as old-fashioned, with no set way of worshiping. "We are free to listen to the voice of God," said Cease.

Dorothy Spencer, whose husband Benjamin is on the church's board of trustees with Mr. Law, has attended the church since



Bob and Mary Law, above, looked through the records at the Valley View Chapel. Three generations of his family has attended the church. At left, Rev. Ron Cease stands on the steps of the modest building.



"No one puts on airs. The church tries to reach people with church of the gospel."

Rev. Ron Cease
Valley View Union Chapel

she was small. "Those of us who have known this church since childhood have found such peace here and such a deep faith in Christ. The dress is casual, you need not be a member to attend... We sing the old hymns that you probably have heard while growing up like, 'The Old Rugged Cross,' 'Rock of Ages,' and 'In the Garden' to name a few," she wrote in a letter to *The Dallas Post*.

Church services are at 8:45 a.m. Sunday morning followed by Sunday School at 10 a.m. An evening service is held at 6 p.m.

Welcome Wagon

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to make an appointment if the phone number was listed, and if not, she would just drive by and stop in unannounced to present the homeowner with a package of Welcome Wagon goodies. She would even visit the Country Club Apartments to uncover who had just arrived.

"She came with a wicker basket full of information and maps — which we still use," says Marianne Mancke, Dallas. "We were not welcomed by Welcome Wagon at our other two homes."

Mickie Lubin, Shavertown, fondly remembers the visit. "She made me feel welcome to the community," says Lubin. "She saw that we had dogs and explained how to get licenses for them."

Fall was the busy season for Welcome Wagon, says Crinnion. Most visits went smoothly, although once a dog did bite her. Men tended to be suspicious, she says, and she would have to prove that she was not selling anything. She happily recounts the times when her visit interrupted a celebration which she was then asked to join. "I had a glass of champagne," she remembers, at a home in Sunrise Estates.

Crinnion's favorite visit occurred when she stopped by the new house of a young doctor and his wife. He had just returned from a long day at the hospital, and was exhausted. After the coupons and brochures and gifts were presented

"She made me feel welcome to the community."

Mickie Lubin
Shavertown

to him with pleasant conversation and Crinnion's calm manner, he was transformed. "He said, 'You turned my day around,'" says Crinnion.

Sadly, times have changed. "Over the years, it has been harder to find people at home," says Crinnion. "More weekend and evening calls were required." More couples work, fewer families hang out at home, and lives are busier. It became harder and harder for Welcome Wagon to reach its market. As a result, the company decided to discontinue home visits and instead concentrate on direct mailings. Crinnion is disappointed. "There won't be the personal touch," she says.

Crinnion's last visit was to the Sidorek family in Dallas. "She is a very sweet person," says Sally Sidorek. They plan to use the coupons and appreciated the visit.

Crinnion's last day was December 20. After 10 years on the job, she received a pearl pin. After 20 years, it was a diamond brooch. But, after 22 years of meeting and greeting newcomers to the Back Mountain, she truly treasures her memories.

Schools

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Education Association as a way to organize the process.

"There was no scientific study for these requirements," said Brezinski. "The standards are slowly decreasing in acceptance of this model. No longer is GPA, test scores and grades as much a determining factor for colleges."

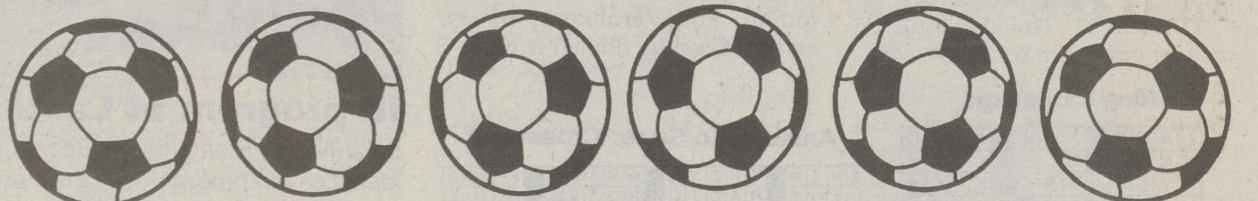
Elements Earthheart believes makes for successful schools producing successful students for the 21st century include positive beliefs and attitudes, accepting that children learn differently, experimental learning, including all groups of children together,

treating education as a privilege instead of a right and character and integrity training.

Brezinski used the Alternative Community School of Ithaca, New York as an example of a successful public school. Entrance is by lottery and only a limited number may attend. Eighty percent of the grade 6-12 graduates go to college, their SAT scores average 1000 or more and there are no grades or tests. Graduation is based on exhibition and portfolio.

"We need to look at what is working and start doing it," Brezinski told the board.

E-mail the Post: dalpost@aol.com



Wilkes-Barre Family YMCA Indoor Soccer

Registration is Jan. 2nd - 10th for All Soccer Programs!

B Division Soccer
7 week program
Practice one night during the week
Games on Saturdays for Boys & Girls
Ages 5-15 years
Price for members \$42.50
Non-members \$52.50
Price includes T-Shirt & Sweatpants

Soccer Clinic for 4 year olds
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2-2:45 p.m.
Basic Soccer Skills
7 week clinic
Members \$30.00
Non-members \$40.00
Includes T-Shirt

We also have team registration!

A Division is all boys teams
U-10, U-12, & U-14
(Ages as of Aug. 1st)

C Division is all girls teams
U-10, U-12, U-14, U-16

D Division is Co-ed (Boys & Girls)
U-8 teams
8 week season

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Team Registration is \$300⁰⁰ team
Teams wear their outdoor uniforms

Begins the end of January!
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Ext 141



Deadline Friday for cash heat assistance

Applications for this year's Low-Income Home Energy Assistance program (LIHEAP) are now available at the Luzerne County Assistance Office.

LIHEAP is a Federal program that assists low-income individuals who cannot pay their heating bills. Eligible households can receive assistance through a direct payment to vendors who supply their fuel, or through a crisis component during weather-related emergencies, such as a broken furnace, leaking pipes, or terminated utility service. Homeowners, renters (including those whose rent includes

heat), roomers and subsidized housing tenants may be eligible. Any type of fuel may be used.

The program opened for both the cash and crisis components began on November 16 with the cash component closing Jan. 8, and the crisis component closing March 15. Besides household income, grants are based on the type of fuel used and the county of residence.

To be eligible for the program, household income cannot exceed 110 percent of the Federal poverty income guidelines, or for a one-person household, \$8,885; two persons

\$11,935; three persons, \$15,015; four persons, \$18,095; five persons, \$21,175; six persons, \$24,255. The guidelines increase by \$3,080 for each additional person.

Last year, 7,778 county households received \$2 million in basic LIHEAP cash grants to offset heating bills. Crisis grants totaling \$113,000 were given to 836 households with heating emergencies.

Help for families with a heating emergency is available 24 hours a day by contacting Crisis Assistance through the Commission on Economic Opportunity at 826-0510.

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