

Vets

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thing the EPVA does every day of the year. The group, which serves vets from Pennsylvania and several neighboring states, provides regular opportunities for its members to gather. "They have picnics, wheelchair rallies and hand cycling clinics," said Conte. "This year I went to the fishing tournament and I'm really proud to say that I'm learning to scuba dive."

The goal is to encourage paralyzed vets to maintain a healthy lifestyle which includes exercise and socialization. "When you're in a wheelchair it's easy to lose interest in doing things," said Chacko. "Before I got my scooter, I didn't like to go shopping with my wife because it was a hassle, but the EPVA really tries to get you out of the house and you earn points for going places."

Members who accumulate a minimum number of points qualify for participation in the annual wheelchair games. "Anytime I take my grandson to Little League or my granddaughter to pom-pom practice I earn points," said Chacko. "You don't earn them for going to the doctor's office because that is something you have to do."



Andrew Chacko tried a little Latin dancing in Puerto Rico.

This positive reinforcement is important for vets who often have difficulty adjusting to a less independent lifestyle. "I used to be able to take care of the pool myself but now I have it serviced once a week," said Chacko. "I also had to get a hospital bed because I used

to use a rope that I tied to the dresser to get myself up, but when I broke three toes doing that the doctor said it's time."

Challenges like this might overwhelm some, but both Chacko and Conte are undeterred. "I might be disabled but I'm not unable,"



Andrew Chacko won a gold medal in ramp bowling, silver in archery and in motorized wheelchair rally, and bronze in air guns with assistance at the Wheelchair Games, held last month in Puerto Rico.

said Conte. "I have MS but everything else is all right. I exercise at the VA three days a week and do just about anything else I want."

Traveling the world with other EPVA members and with their families is one of the activities these friends enjoy. "Next year the games are being held in Texas and we're going," said Chacko. "We have been a lot of places but a couple of years back my wife and I went to Hawaii on our own and I guess that's our favorite spot."

Another tropical state appeals to Conte, who is anxious to try out his new scuba diving skills, but not in the cool water of Harveys Lake. "I'm thinking more like the warm ocean water off the coast of Florida," he said.

While both men are busily pursuing their own dreams they acknowledge the group also enables them to help others who may not have the same opportunities. "We're a very tight-knit group," said Chacko. "No matter how bad you feel, you can look around and see some of the guys who are in really bad shape or some that don't have families to help them and you have to consider yourself very lucky."



New officers installed at HL Lions Club

The Harveys Lake Lions Club recently elected new officers for the year 1999-2000. The installation dinner was held at the Castle Inn, Dallas. Elected as president was Richard "Dick" Williams. Vice presidents are Kim Shina, William Gallagher, Thomas Traver. Joseph Neilson was elected treasurer, Daniel Williams, secretary; Carl Schreiner, tail twister; Russell De Angelo, Lion Tamer; Charles "Pete" Austin, financial secretary, Thomas Shina, Bulletin Editor. Directors are Keith Harry, Richard Williams II, C. Wesley Boyle. Shown from left, past president Arthur Rhone passing the gavel to newly elected president Richard "Dick" Williams and Lee Watson, Past District Governor who gave the oath of office.

Flea market at Loyalville UMC

Loyalville United Methodist Church is hosting a flea market and bake sale on Saturday, August 7 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Spaces and tables are still available at the following rates: space outside - \$5, space inside - \$10. Call Trudy Steele at 477-2184 if you wish to reserve a space. The church is located one-half mile off Route 29 south - Loyalville Road or off Route 118 - turn onto Loyalville Road - approximately 3 miles.

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McGraw in new pastor at Lehman, Idetown UMC

The Rev. Bonnie R. McGraw assumed the position of pastor of the Idetown and Lehman United Methodist Churches July 11.

McGraw, a former medical researcher, left that career to enroll in the theological seminary at Boston University. She became a full-time United Methodist minister at the Schenevus and Westford United Methodist Churches in New York state on January 1, 1999, where the pastor was ill.

When her interim work ended in New York, McGraw came to Pennsylvania where the position in Lehman had opened up on June 27 with the transfer of Rev. Richard Santella to Deposit, NY.

McGraw enjoys ministering to all ages. "In my preaching I try to draw the congregation close to God by using the Bible as a starting point from which to address current challenges," she said.

As the daughter of missionaries that served in Malaysia, Pastor Bonnie's ministry extends toward mission work. She has

an interest in expanding ministry beyond general worship to include special services and events, which in the past have included youth services, Native American services, and health care ministries.

Rev. McGraw holds a B.S. in Education, cum laude from Indiana State University, an M.A. in Biological Studies from Anna Maria College in Paxton, Massachusetts, and Masters of Divinity from Boston University School of Theology.

The weekly worship service schedule is as follows

Idetown Worship: Sunday Morning at 9:30 a.m.

Lehman Worship: Sunday Morning at 11 a.m.

Sunday Schools begin Sept. 1: Idetown Children's Sunday School, 8:45 a.m.

Lehman Adult/Children's Sunday School, 10 a.m.

Lehman/Idetown Youth Group: Sunday Evenings (call for meeting times)

For more information you may contact Rev. Bonnie McGraw at 570-675-5192.

by John Dawe



REV. BONNIE MCGRAW

Trucksville UMW plan flea market

The United Methodist Women of Trucksville will sponsor their sixth annual "Flea Market on the Lawn" on August 7 from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. Rain date is Aug. 14. The event will take place on the lawn next to the Educational Building on Church Road.

The United Methodist Women will serve lunch and will have a table which will offer for sale the Sesquicentennial Cook book at a sale price of \$5 each or three for \$10. Homemade baked good and candies, plants, greeting cards, church note cards and jewelry will also be offered for sale.

There are still a few spaces available and they will be allotted on a first come basis. Spaces are \$10 each and vendors must supply their own table. Anyone interested can obtain a registration form by calling 696-3897 from 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. Monday through Friday or by calling Barbara Glowach at 696-1093.

The "Flea Market on the Lawn" is one of the many projects which are sponsored by the United Methodist Women. The proceeds are used for the numerous mission projects which the UMW support, local, national and global.

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