

St. Paul's

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many areas, and will give the congregation more accessible and flexible space. The new church will feature more seating, a larger social hall, bigger Sunday School areas, and more administrative space. "It'll give us the opportunity to do more ministry, and ministry we can't do now," said Grube. The church, he said, would be able to have more programs for seniors and children.

St. Paul's has been an important part of the Back Mountain in many ways. "People came to the building for relief during the flood of 1972. That was significant in the life of the community," said Grube.

"I was married in that church. There's a little sadness that my kids won't be married there," said Phil Dale. "The church has meant everything to my Christian faith. It's been a source of comfort for me and my family."

The architect search committee eventually picked George Yu, an architect from Philadelphia who had designed the Jerusalem Lutheran Church in Schuylkill Haven. "It's been a long developmental process," said Grube. "George was very concerned about designing for us. He spent time getting to know us, then came back with six or seven basic blueprints. He was trying to figure out what was best for us."

"George is a visionary," said Hardisky. "He wanted to make the church look inviting."

Hardisky said that serving on the design committee has changed the way he sees the congregation. "I was really able to see positive

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Phil Dale
Congregant who was married in St. Paul's

qualities in a lot of members. So many people with different backgrounds came together. It was an eye opener. It strengthened my faith in God."

Grube said that the congregation was very happy with the final design. Yu took input from the congregation as well as the community organizations that use the church.

At the ground breaking ceremony held Sunday, July 16, members of the congregation heard comments from Grube, Bishop David Strobel of the Northeast Pennsylvania senate, Frank Henry, chairman of the design committee, as well as the architects and the builders. The congregation then gathered at the spot of the main worship area, and dug their shovels into the ground.

Construction is set to begin in a few weeks and will be complete in about a year.

"I view this as a positive step for the whole Back Mountain," said Dale. "Our doors are always open."



Pastor Charles Grube of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, gazes into a model of the new church building that will be constructed in Dallas Twp.

Vets

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also competed in the discus throw. Conte competed in the masters division because he had been to the games several times. This was the second trip for Chacko.

While he won the gold in bowling, Chacko was disappointed in his 330 total score. The week before leaving for the games in San Antonio, Texas, he had bowled games of 177, 188, 188 at Chacko's Bowling Center in Wilkes-Barre. In ramp bowling, disabled veterans roll the ball down a steep ramp to give it the speed necessary to reach and knock down pins.

Chacko and Conte went to the games with about another half dozen members of the Eastern Paralyzed Veterans organization. Participants become eligible by earning points through activities such as parades, working with Scouts and other youth groups, and volunteering at Veterans' Administration hospitals. Chacko is a veteran of the Air Force, while Conte served with the Marines.

Chacko said all 50 states, England and Australia were represented. Next year's games will be held closer to home. "We're already making plans for New York," he said.

Taylor to speak at Dallas Baptist Church

Dr. Larry Taylor of Bethel Baptist Church, Lakeland, Florida will speak at the Morning Worship Service at Dallas Baptist Church on Sunday, July 23. Service begins at 10:30 a.m. His topic will be "The Return of Jesus - End Times." The public is invited. For more information, call 639-5099

Roof

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cipal of the middle level building.

The board also discussed changing the contract length for transportation providers from one year to five years. Longer contracts would allow providers to more easily get loans for new vehicles. One contractor said that some buses can travel 150 miles a day, and those miles add up quickly.

Board members discussed adding yearly reviews into the contract. Many of the transportation contractors have been with the district for a decade or more. Robert Allardyce made a motion to table the contract talks, and the board voted unanimously to do so.

"Five years is too long," said board member Lois Kopcha. "Three years I might go for."

In other business, the board:

- Voted to approve the purchase of a new LED basketball scoreboard and console for the

"The roof is bad. It's been patched to the point where it can't be patched anymore."

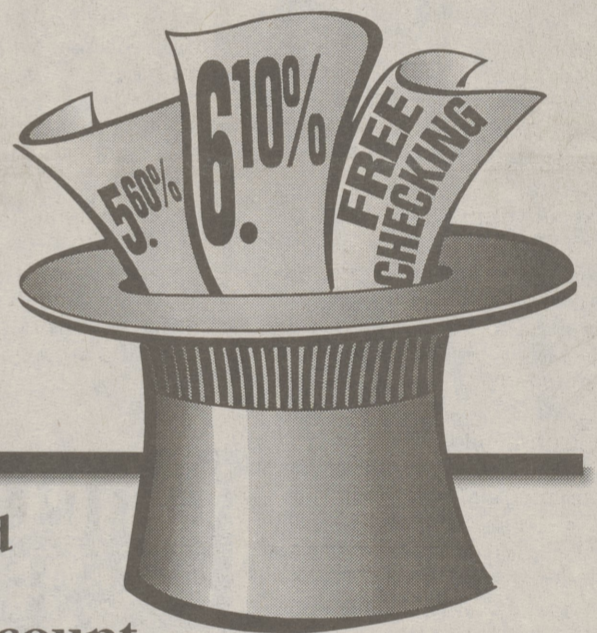
Robert Roberts
Interim superintendent

high school. The current scoreboard does not function properly, despite being repaired.

- Awarded a bid for boiler maintenance to Northeast Technologies for the 2000-2001 school year, for \$4,350. Emergency service would cost \$42 an hour for regular time, and \$63 an hour overtime. Board member Lois Kopcha said the district pays between \$28,000 and \$30,000 a year for this service. She suggested that someone could be hired, and save the district money.

A good maintenance system would keep the district from making more costly repairs down the road, she said.

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