

Faith

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words, it will pay for the bread, but not the Bible.

The executive order builds on the 1996 welfare reform bill, which allows religious organizations to participate in federal anti-poverty programs. It also includes provisions for broader tax deductions for those who make charitable donations.

President Bush has appointed John J. Dilullo, Jr. to head the new post. Dilullo is a political science professor at the University of Pennsylvania. "We will work with what is effective," Dilullo said. "The criteria will be 'what works.'"

"I have a lot of confidence in John Dilullo," said Pastor Mark Harper of Trinity Presbyterian Church. "He's a good man. I respect his work with juveniles in prison. He is worth listening to and I want to find out more about his plans. There are a lot of faith-based organizations that aren't out for the single purpose of capturing souls. They truly want to respond in love to human need. If federal money becomes available for us to do that, then I'm all for it."

Pastor Charles Naugle of the Trucksville United Methodist Church runs the Back Mountain Food Bank, one of the largest outreach programs in our area. He noted how federal funds could be incorporated into the program and what it would mean to the daily operations, but pointed out potential drawbacks.

"The sole purpose of the food bank is to serve people in need," said Pastor Naugle. "All of our space and food are donated, and our workers are all volunteers. We could certainly use federal money to expand our facility and buy more food, but it would be counterproductive if we didn't also get money to help with staffing. We wouldn't want managerial tasks such as writing reports to deflect from our original purpose. But, since that part is an unknown, I'm open to see how the program could work for us."

Given a choice, Pastor Naugle has his

own ideas about how the church could best be used to serve citizens. "However, the first thing that came to mind when I heard about the faith-based programs was the lack of success of those on probation staying out of trouble," he said. "I think the church could adopt a program that would surround them with good role models, especially if we had funds to hire professional help."

Father Jack Lambert of the Gate of Heaven Church takes a cautious view of the new plan.

"It's a good thing for the government to contract some social services to religious organizations, but I would hate to see our work replace other programs rather than augment other programs," he said. "I have some concern about regulations or stipulations that would determine how the services should be provided or delivered, but there are lots of places and times where help is needed. I'm confident that the gray areas in policy can be worked through for the public good."

Pastor Miller also wants to minimize the bureaucracy that often envelopes federal programs. "I am encouraged by the possibilities and am ready to check it out. If it looks like too much paperwork, we can always say no later. I see so many areas where more money could solve many of our social problems."

"Maybe it's wishful thinking on my part," continued Miller, "but I think the church should play a more active role in the welfare of people. We're not too large, we're local, and we can do a better job. God designed outreach, and if we don't have to hide it any more that we are faith-based to help people, then I think that's wonderful. I'm willing to do the homework to help make it happen."

Several pastors weren't prepared to speak about their reactions to the proposal. Most wanted more time to learn about the program before they formed and offered their opinions.



POST PHOTOS/JIM PHILLIPS

Food for all

Volunteers from the Loyalville United Methodist Church put on a roasted chicken dinner Saturday, complete with homemade desserts. Preparing the feast, in photos, clockwise from right: Barry Aston stirred the pot; Aston, Sandy Traver, Mary Jean

School

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abatement. In other business, Brian Stevens from The Fitness Headquarters made a presentation concerning upgrading weight room equip-

ment in the field house and wellness lab. The new equipment would be more user friendly, gender neutral and would be made available for all students to use. This

project will cost approximately \$28,000 to \$30,000.

It was also announced that Paul Reinert, Assistant High School Principal for the last three and a half years,

will fill a new role in the Dallas School District as Assistant Middle School Principal on or about March 14. James McGovern will replace Reinert at the high school.



"This Is This" band members, from left, James Naylor, Vic Deluca and Stan Marchak. Marchak has organized the concert to benefit the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and Kaleb and Zachary Taylor.

Concert

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friends to go out of their way for the sake of the children. Caring for my two boys is a handful, but they are well worth it."

Two other area bands, "Sunnyata" and "The Stoney Creek Band," are joining "This Is This" to help make this charity event

a success. A donation of \$10 per person will be collected at the door and refreshments will be served.

Christie Taylor plans to be at the concert working at the door to meet and greet everyone. The Idetown Fire Hall is located on the Dallas Memorial Highway.

Lehman United Methodist Women to meet

The regular monthly meeting of The Lehman United Methodist Women will be held at the church on Feb. 27 at 7 pm. A program "Can anyone hear us?" Bruised children of Africa call, will be presented by Judith Dawe.

Hostesses are Ruth and Jennifer Jones. Dorothy Dawe will preside.

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