

Huntsville UMC

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of growing up in the church and being taken from activity to activity, from a United Methodist Women meeting to the women's quilting circle at her grandmother's house. She remembers walking from her home on Chase Road to go to church on Sundays, something she said a person could not do now because of the traffic.

She started teaching Sunday school there when her children were small. "I kind of enjoyed raising my kids in the same church I was," she said.

"There's been a lot of years of good fellowship. We're like a big family," said Nicely.

"When someone has a problem, it's everyone's problem. We melt together."

"It's a thrill to drive down the mountain from Larksville or Plymouth and look over the ex-

"There's been a lot of years of good fellowship. We're like a big family."

Shirley Nicely
Huntsville UMC member

pense of Jackson Township, see the cross at the top of the steeple and know we are still a vital part of this community and people," wrote an unidentified member in the recent annual report.

Huntsville United Methodist Church will mark its 125th anniversary with a series of upcoming special services and dinners.

The church, which was built in 1877 on land donated by the Lamoreaux family, was origi-

nally called the Vanloom Methodist Episcopal Church.

Huntsville United Methodist Church 125th anniversary events

October 11 - covered dish dinner with several former pastors attending.

October 12 - 10 a.m. worship service, special music by Shavertown 5, and special guest Dr. William Reid, former Wilkes-Barre District Superintendent.

November 16 - 10 a.m. worship service, Bishop Susan Morrison and current Wilkes-Barre Superintendent Dr. Parker.

For more information call 675-3375.

Pool

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on the program. Despite the district's best efforts at advertising the pools hours, off-again, on-again construction issues combined with the fact that it was a new program left the public confused about whether the pool was open.

"We did run into a few snags. All through the spring we were still getting phone calls about when the pool would open. Well, the pool had been open for weeks," said Stretanski.

While the district lost money on the five-day-a-week public swim sessions, other swimming programs proved very successful.

"It's a public facility so we just want to be able to pay our lifeguards; we need people to come and swim."

Matt Stretanski
Dallas swimming coach

In the spring, 75 children participated in a middle school swimming and diving clinic, while the American Red Cross Learn-to-Swim program had 40 enrollees aged toddler and up. A second swimming and diving clinic enrolled 35 children and a summer United States Swimming Team was also very well received, said Stretanski.

In the end, the district isn't looking to make a profit off of the public programs, he said, but rather to break even.

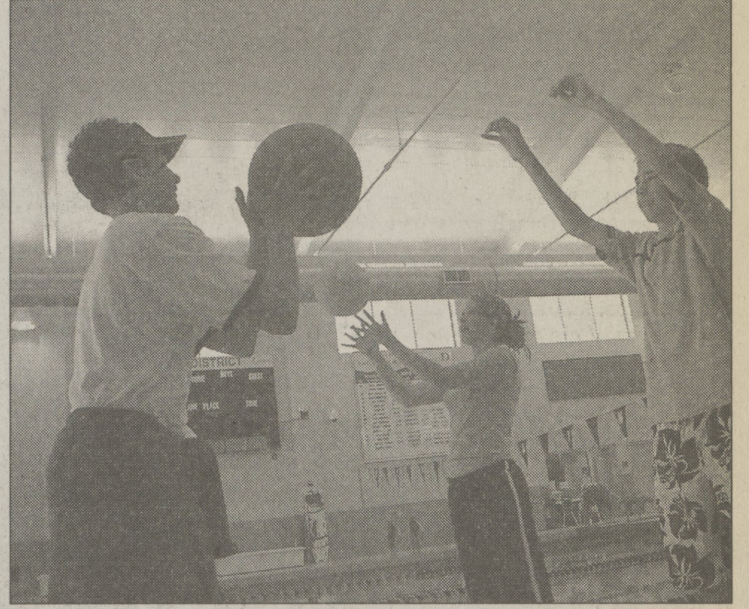
"It's a public facility so we just want to be able to pay our lifeguards; we need people to come and swim."

The varsity swim team had its best season ever last year and Stretanski credits much of its success to the team finally having a pool of its own.

Since the swim program was established in 1994, the team has been traveling for all practices and meets. Having the pool has enabled them to get in extra practice, offer additional clubs and programs and lessen the burden of traveling.

"We didn't beat 'em (the number 1 and 2 teams at district championships), but we're finally at the point where we can be competitive," said Stretanski.

"The pool made us much more successful; it allowed us



POST PHOTO/ERIN YOUNGMAN

Members of the swim team do a pre-season workout in the Dallas natatorium.

From left: Ninth graders Jesse Shrader, 14, and Tom Run-scavage, 14. Behind them, sophomore Marci Romanoski, 15, and junior Rachel Martin, 16.

to make our own schedule, and that's the key."

In addition, he said being able to have home meets brought crowd support the team had not had in the past.

Stretanski sees a larger role for the facility.

"The Back Mountain is, I

think, a very close-knit community," he said. "You can tell how everyone wants to be part of the community and this is a good way to stir interest and encourage that community feeling."

"If we can pay for it, if we can break even, then why not?"

Public programs planned

The Dallas School District is offering a variety of public and school age aquatic programs for fall and winter 2003 - 2004.

Evening Public Swim is offered on Wednesdays and Fridays, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. and on Sunday afternoons from 2 to 5 p.m. The pool is open to the public for lap and recreational swimming. No one under 18 will be admitted without a parent or guardian. Proof of residence and a \$2 daily fee apply.

The Mini Mountaineers, an Age Group Swim Team, part of the Northeast Pennsylvania Age Group Swim League (NEPAGSL), will run from October 20 through March 1. No competitive swimming experience is required, however, members need to be able to support themselves in the water.

Practices will be held Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays from 6:15 to 8:15 p.m. Swim meets will be on Saturdays and on Sundays.

The Mini Mounts age-group swim team is a NEPAGSL ten-team competitive swimming league for swimmers 6 to 14 years of age. There are dual meets between all the teams during the regular season and a championship meet at the end of February.

Volunteers will be needed to help run meets and start a booster organization.

There will be informational meetings and registration for all interested parents on Thursday, October 2 and Tuesday, October 7 at 7 p.m. in the Middle School Natatorium (pool). Those interested who cannot make the meeting should contact Matt Stretanski.

Registration fee is \$200 per swimmer (\$175 for additional siblings) Membership fees include team bathing suit, team swim cap, team t-shirt, insurance and league membership.

For more information contact Matthew Stretanski at mstretanski@dallassd.com or 675-5201.



POST PHOTO/ERIN YOUNGMAN

Pastor Jim Pall stands at the front of Huntsville United Methodist Church. He is a graduate of Lake-Lehman High School. Along with being part-time pastor at Huntsville, he is the full-time chaplain at Chase Prison.

Blood drives scheduled in October

The American Red Cross has scheduled the following blood collections in the Back Mountain during October.

Fri., Oct 10: Meadows Nursing Center, 55 West Center Hill Rd., Dallas, 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Mon., Oct 13: St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Rt. 118, Dallas, 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Correction

In an article in the September 26 issue of The Dallas Post, Angie Nice was described as a junior at Lake-Lehman High School. The Post was given that information by the school office, but it is incorrect; she is a senior.

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