

Church & Community



PASTOR'S CORNER

Pastor Jim Pall
Huntsville United Methodist

'Healing and Forgiveness'

I am interested in the relationship between forgiveness and healing. I was working on a message about forgiveness recently. As part of that, I did an informal survey study of all four gospels. I did not find compelling evidence to support my view that healing and forgiveness always go hand and hand. Oh, it's there. Especially in Matthew 9:2 and 6. "Your sins are forgiven...get up, take your mat and go home."

But not every instance of healing is preceded with forgiveness. What may surprise some is that none of the biblical healings by Jesus involved prayer. They do involve a variety of methods. It appears that one or more of the following conditions are present at healings by Jesus Christ:

Attentiveness, (the people listened to Jesus preach the Gospel of the Kingdom. Matthew 4:23). Desire, (John 5:6-8) Exorcism (the naming and driving out of a demon spirit). Faith, (Luke 18:42), Desire, (John 9:1-12). Obedience (Luke 17:11-14) and touch (even unintentional, Luke 8:43-47).

The Gospels record Jesus as healing individuals (Luke 4:38 and 39). Small groups and large crowds (Mt. 15:29-31).

He healed both in the public and in the private and even on the sabbath (Matthew 3:4). Healing is never the "main event." All healings were a sign that God's Kingdom was dawning. The list of those types of ailments from which people are delivered includes: leprosy, seizure, disorders, blindness, deafness, fever, dropsy, or swollen legs, speech impediments, terminally ill children, bleeding (female) and death.

Although forgiveness many not be a requirement for healing, it seems obvious that unforgiveness is surely a roadblock on the highway of the soul, while forgiveness is like balm to any wound.

If you need healing, why not explore first your need for forgiveness. Jesus is recorded as forgiving as a prelude to healing in another place in Mark (2:12). This much is clear, Jesus always sees the need of the person. He defends his method on that occasion by saying "Which is easier, to say your sins are forgiven, or to say arise, take up your bed and walk?"

There is a relationship between forgiveness and healing. "Healing sick bodies is only a manifestation of a deeper healing that we all need — the healing of the soul." Pastor Fred Moore.

Your sins are forgiven in the Name of Jesus Christ — be whole!

Pastor Pall is also Chaplain at SCI Dallas.

Pastor's Corner is a weekly feature that rotates among leaders of Back Mountain churches.

To reserve your spot in the schedule, call Erin Youngman at 970-7184.



Painting donated to church

Recently, the Shavertown United Methodist Church celebrated the gift of the church land given 100 years ago. As part of the centennial, a painting by local artist Sue Hand was purchased anonymously and given to the church. In the future, prints and note cards will be available for purchase. The Church gives thanks for the lovely work of art which stands as a reminder of 100 years of ministry in the Back Mountain. The Rev. Janet Clark pictured with the painting.



St. Therese's Vacation Bible School

170 youth and 35 adults participated in St. Therese's Vacation Bible School "Treasures of the Nile, on an Expedition to Jesus." The Participants, student helpers and adults enjoyed a week of songs, skits, bible stories, crafts, games and making new friends.

CHURCH NOTES

Huntsville Methodist

Huntsville Rd., Chase
November 7, the church will be selling pizza. Deadline for orders Nov. 2. Pick up between 11:30 and 1 p.m. To order call 675-0212.

November 16, 10 a.m. 125th anniversary worship service with Bishop Susan Morrison and current Wilkes-Barre Superintendent Dr. Brolin Parker. Public is invited.

River of Life Fellowship

194 N. Memorial Highway, Shavertown
Thursday night soaking and healing sessions at 7 p.m. For more information call 674-5459

Shavertown Methodist

163 North Pioneer Ave. Shavertown
October 5 - November 23, Confirmation Sundays

October 26, Halloween Party 6-7:30 p.m.

October 31, AA meeting at 7 p.m.

November 3, Roast beef dinner in the social room from 5-7 p.m. Take outs available.

November 16, Annual Meeting of the church in the social room at 7 p.m. Dr. Brolin Parker, Wilkes-Barre District superintendent, will provide information on what's going on with the wider church.

December 7, Christmas Concert featuring the Wyoming Valley Barbershop Harmony Chorus. The second event of the new Fine Arts Series.

St. Paul's Lutheran

RR 4 Box 627A (off of 118), Dallas
October 26, Reformation Sunday 8:30 and 11 a.m. worship. Needy family food collection and first Communion.

St. Therese's

64 Davis Street, Shavertown
October 26, Join the Back Mountain Junior High Council for a hayride. Cost \$6.50. Call 696-1144 for reservations.

October 31, I'm Big Now Halloween Party at 10 a.m.

October 31, Halloween Prayer Service for children pre-k through 4th grade at 5 p.m.

October 31, Back Mtn. Free Med/Legal Clinic

Back Mountain Youth Council accepting new members for junior high grades 6-8 and high school grades 9-12. For more info. call Denise at 696-1144.

Trucksville Methodist

40 Knob Hill Rd., Trucksville
November 2, Open house, 12-4 p.m.

The Suasanna Children and Family Fellowship is planning a trip to the Radio City Music Hall Christmas Show, Friday, December 12. Cost is \$65 or \$75 per person depending on requested seating. Price includes admission to the show and bus fare. Deadline for reservations is November 1. For information call 696-4297 or 696-3897.

The Dallas Post

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