

Church & Community



PASTOR'S CORNER

By Pastor Mary Ann Kotch
River Of Life Fellowship

Conquering disappointment

One does not have to be a rocket scientist to observe hurt, sadness and dismay on the faces of our fellow man. It is evidence that tells us of great disappointments that consistently shadow mankind. We can see this in man's actions, his words, and body language. It is, perhaps, one of the great emotional diseases of our times. This "disease" is not only evident in the world, but it has covertly infiltrated the "body of Christ." In 1 Peter 5:6-7 we are instructed by Jesus through His Holy Spirit to "therefore humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time casting all your care upon Him for He cares for you." As spiritual beings in human form, it is, at times, very difficult for us to reconcile this passage of scripture since "we have all sinned and fallen short of God's glory." (Romans 3:23) However, there are ways to be over-comers.

To conduct a war and have victory over disappointment, we must have a definite change of heart. In order to be "able to cast all our cares upon Him," we must first accept Jesus and then build an intimate relationship with Him. By doing so, we recognize that humility is priority. One of the great blessings, that is evidenced by having an intimate relationship with Jesus, is "peace." Examine what Jesus says in John 14:27, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

Whatever disappointments occur, sickness, job loss, broken marriage, broken relationship with a child, a neighbor, employer or a friend, there is a "peace" you can experience. A peace that is beyond all understanding. (Phil 4:7) This will happen if you simply let go, forgive and cast all your cares on Jesus. Because Jesus was fully human and fully divine, we know from His Word that He suffered for us with heartache beyond measure...persecution few of us suffer today. There was loss. There was great disappointment. There was immeasurable physical pain. We can all look at His human life that ended at the cross and know without a shadow of doubt that He experienced it all. When Jesus looked down from that cross on that infamous day, His entire life and all sufferings and disappointments culminated in His wondrous statement; "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do."

We have a tendency to believe that people purposefully hurt us or disappoint us and they know exactly what they're doing. A majority of the time they don't know what they're doing. They don't fully understand the gravity of the hurt they've caused. Following the example of Jesus looking down from the cross, we must forgive and ask God to forgive those who have hurt us, for they "know not what they do." Forgiveness plays an intricate part in conquering our disappointments and casting our care on Him. Placing ourselves in the position of the other is a practical way to climb the mountain of disappointment.

Remember the scripture that teaches us the Lord's Prayer? Luke 11:4 says: "Forgive us our sins for we also forgive anyone who sins against us." Just as we share in the sufferings of Christ, (Roman's 8:17) in our disappointments, hurts and persecutions, we desperately need to respond in like manner modeled by Jesus.

As Christians, we will have the victory in all areas of life if we choose His way and not ours. Be encouraged as you walk through the disappointment of life. Psalm 42:11 says "Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me. Hope in God." Psalm 55:22 we read: "Cast your burden on the Lord and He shall sustain you; He shall never permit the righteous to be moved."



Church league softball champs

The Fellowship Evangelical Free Church of the Back Mountain recently won the 2003 Wyoming Valley Christian Modified Softball league. They defeated Sweet Valley Church of Christ 11-7 in the championship game after defeating Dallas Baptist 15-7 in the first round of the playoffs. This was their second consecutive championship and they completed their season with a 12-2 record.

Pictured from left, first row: Andrew Kirk, Jack Bestwick, Brian Miller and Carmen Pitarra. Second row: Gary Kirk, Dave Lasco, Rick Love, Jim Payne, Carl Mantanya, Mark Zaccane and Bill Fuhr. Not pictured: Dan Fuhr, Dave Katyl, Josh Katyl, Ryan Love and Jim Reese.

Dr. Dave Earley to speak at Cross Creek

Cross Creek Community Church, 370 Carverton Rd., Trucksville, welcomes Dr. Dave Earley, founding Pastor of New Life Church in Gahanna, Ohio. Earley will speak at the church November 9, at the 9:30 a.m. study group and the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

In 1985, Earley led a team of Liberty University graduates to found the New Life church. It has grown from 12 attendees to a weekly attendance of over 1600 and a staff of over 30. "New Life is a cutting edge, team-oriented, purpose-driven, seeker-sensitive church with contemporary worship and drama."

Trucksville U.M. Harvest Home Service

The Membership Committee of the Trucksville United Methodist Church will host the annual Harvest Home Communion Service followed by lunch on Thursday, November 20 at 11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Rev. Michael Bealla, Pastor, will celebrate the Sacrament of Communion. The event is supported by the Anne Vernon Celebration Fund. There is no charge. Reservations should be made by November 17. Transportation will be provided, if needed. Please call 696-3897 to confirm your plans to attend.

It's easy to have your church included in Church Notes. Just send us a bulletin or event notice by noon Wednesdays.

E-mail is best: thepost@leader.net

Fax to 675-3650

Mail: The Post, 15 N. Main St., Wilkes-Barre PA 18711

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.

CHURCH NOTES

Dallas United Methodist

4 Parsonage Street, Dallas
November 22, Annual Ham Dinner, tickets are \$7 for adults, \$3 for children. Children under five are free.

Huntsville United Methodist

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

River of Life Fellowship

194 N. Memorial Highway, Shavertown
Sunday morning worship at 10:30 a.m.
Thursday night soaking and healing prayer sessions at 7 p.m. For more information call 674-5459.

Shavertown Methodist

163 North Pioneer Ave. Shavertown
Through November 23, Confirmation Sundays
November 11, Brown Baggers. Retirees meet for lunch. Bring a sandwich, beverage and dessert is provided.

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.

November 24, decorating for advent, 9 a.m.

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
November 15, Roast Beef Dinner, 5-7 p.m.
Take outs available from 4:30 p.m. Adults \$7, children under 12 \$3.50.

St. Therese's

64 Davis Street, Shavertown
Nov. 15, BM Senior High Youth Council Rake-A-Thon to benefit elderly and home-bound. For the service contact Denise Murphy at 696-1144.

Nov. 15, Children's Movie Night, George of the Jungle II, 7:30. Refreshments supplied.

Nov. 22, Junior High Youth Council Dance, 8-10 p.m.

Nov. 24, Holy Name Society sponsored Thanksgiving Turkey Bingo Party Raffle, 7 p.m. Tickets now available after each mass. Refreshments will be available at the party.

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.

Trinity Presbyterian

105 Irem Rd., Dallas
Special Saturday evening service weekly at 6:30 p.m.

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