

Church & Community



PASTOR'S CORNER

By Pastor Mark DeSilva
Fellowship Evangelical

Sanctity of Life?

It may have been the single most influential decision made in American history. On January 22, 1973, in the controversial Roe vs. Wade case, abortion was legal. Since then it has been estimated that over 43 million abortions have taken place in the United States alone. This staggering number represents about 40 times the number of Americans who have died in all American wars.

As the 31st anniversary of the Roe vs. Wade decision approaches we are presented with an opportunity to reflect upon this monumental decision and consider its impact. Although there are many who claim the decision has helped to liberate women's reproductive rights, it has done little to substantiate and protect the rights of the pre-born. Despite the fact that pre-born children possess their own unique finger prints, blood type, heartbeat, and brain waves, many today deny the "humanity" of the pre-born and instead choose to describe the child, as a "fetus" rather than a "person". Ironically, a similar controversial decision once marked our nation in regard to the rights of black slaves. In 1857, prior to the Civil War, seven out of nine Supreme Court Justices declared that a black slave named Dred Scott had no personal rights as an American citizen and was considered nothing more than the personal property of his slave owner. Sadly, it took many years and even a Civil War to overturn that decision. Is it possible that in a similar fashion it may be time to re-examine the legal rights of the pre-born and reverse Roe vs. Wade?

To answer this question it is crucial to understand that God Himself, ascribes great worth and personhood to the pre-born in His Holy Bible. In fact, in the Mosaic Law, God made provision for the protection of the pre-born (Exodus 21:22-25). Furthermore, the Bible makes no distinction between pre-born and infant children. Several Greek and Hebrew words are used interchangeably for both. In addition, Scripture also uses personal pronouns to describe a pre-born child (Psalm 139:13-16; Jeremiah 1:5; Galatians 1:15-16). Yet pro-choice advocates continue to argue that personhood is only established when an infant possesses the capacity to live independently from its mother. This argument of viability however, appears to ignore the legal rights of any individual who depends on life support or any other medical treatment for life. While it can be said that the topic of abortion is a "moral" issue, it may also be said that it is a legal issue, which necessitates the human rights of the pre-born to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

CHURCH NOTES

Idetown United Methodist

Idetown Rd., Lehman
The Idetown Congregation will be joining with their sister congregation Lehman UMC at Lehman through March 2004 for Worship services and Christian Education on Sundays. The Idetown Church is not closed, only joining with Lehman for these months as we journey on as the church of Jesus Christ and please note the times for worship and Sunday school under Lehman Methodist below.

Lehman United Methodist

1011 Mt. View Drive, Lehman
Sunday Worship, 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School for preschool through adult, 9:30 a.m.
2nd and 4th Sundays, Youth group at 7:30

Shavertown United Methodist

163 North Pioneer Ave. Shavertown
Prayer time Wednesdays, 7-7:15 p.m.

St. Luke's Reformation Lutheran

Tunkhannock Rd., Noxen
Sunday School is 9:30 a.m. and Church Service at 11 a.m.

St. Paul's Lutheran

RR 4 Box 627A (off of 118), Dallas
Saturday Evening Service at 5:30 weekly.
Annual reports by committee chairpersons and organizations are due in the church office no later than January 2.

St. Therese's

64 Davis Street, Shavertown
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.
Volunteers needed to help with homebound meal preparation. For more information, or to add your name to the volunteer list, contact Jean at the rectory, 696-1144.
Married couples' night away, February 20 and 21.

Trinity Presbyterian

105 Irem Rd., Dallas
Saturday evening services will not be held during the month of January. They will resume Feb. 28.

Trucksville United Methodist

40 Knob Hill Rd., Trucksville
Sunday Services are at 8:30 and 11 a.m.
Sunday School classes for all ages are held at the Educational Facility on Sundays, 9:45-10:45.

St. Therese's Ski Night

Join the Back Mountain Senior High Youth Council for a night of skiing at Montage Mountain January 17 from 4 to 10 p.m.
For more information and to reserve a spot contact Denise Murphy at 696-1144. R.S.V.P. by Thursday, January 12.

Winter Gala

St. Therese's Winter Gala will be Friday, Jan. 30 from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. at the Appletree Terrace. Cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, buffet, open bar and music by Windfall will be featured. Cost is \$30 per person. For information call the rectory at 696-1144.

Back Mountain Senior Citizens

The Back Mountain Seniors meet on the first Thursday of the month, starting at 1 p.m. in St. Therese's Hall at Pioneer Ave. and Davis Street in Shavertown.
For information call Lil at 696-1828 or Marie at 696-3095.

Volunteer

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player. We couldn't see any injury and she really wanted to continue playing. Jeff was in the stands and we called him over to take a look at her and he suggested that she sit out," said Flossy. "We found out later that she could have ended up with a serious surgery if she had continued playing."

Jeff Pace graduated from E.L. Meyers High School in 1972, earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Health and Physical Education from East Stroudsburg State University, a master's degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a degree in Physical Therapy from the Medical College of Georgia.

He started a private practice in physical therapy in 1988 but prior to that, he taught and coached sports teams for Garden Spot High School, Lake-Lehman and Dallas high schools.

"I was fortunate to be a student trainer under Jack Jones, a great football coach for Dallas," said Jeff, who is also a member of the Lake-Lehman Hall of Fame for his work as a sports trainer for the 1981 state championship wrestling team.

Jeff and his wife, Joyce, have two children, Jeffrey, a senior, and Stephanie, a freshman at Dallas High School. "I started coaching Jeff's soccer team when he was 6. I coached his baseball and basketball teams, also," he said.

In addition, Pace coached his daughter's teams for soccer, basketball, softball, and, most recently, he has coached a travel field hockey team. For the last seven years, Pace has been

"He's a remarkable citizen, friend, coach and therapist."

Florence "Flossy" Finn
Dallas

coach for the successful girls travel soccer team called Sting. He didn't even quit when his daughter decided to take a year off.

"I just love seeing the smiles on their faces. I've had the great opportunity to work with them when they're young and to let them know that no person on the team is more important than anyone else," said Pace. "Sports is a wonderful way to encourage kids and make them feel good about themselves."

One of his teaching tactics is to list 10 things such as sportsmanship, team spirit and winning, and to ask the kids to rank them.

"I tell them winning is last but if they do everything else, they'll probably win," he said.

Pace has always made a point of saying each teammate's name and some encouraging word to them after every game. "I learned early on that one of the best things you can hear is your name and I always look them in the eye when I say it," he said.

Upon graduation from the Medical College of GA, Jeff volunteered as a trainer for both the Dallas and Lake-Lehman teams. At that time, their schedules were fixed so that those teams had home games every other weekend and Back Mountain football fans always had a local game to see.

"It was pretty interesting that year because I was trainer for both teams at the Old Shoe game," said Pace. "The coaches were good about it and I went into the locker rooms of both teams."

Pace doesn't limit his volunteerism to sports. He has been a Shriner with Irem Temple for 28 years, worked on the Nursery School Board and the Pastor's Parish Relations Committee for Trucksville United Methodist Church, teaches CPR for the American Heart Association and cleans up a section of Upper Demunds Road.

"I feel very lucky that I've been able to work with great parents and coaches," he said. "I'm not doing anything great. Anybody can do it."

The Back Mountain community has been very lucky to have Jeff Pace as a volunteer. "He's a remarkable citizen, friend, coach and therapist," concluded Flossy Finn. "That's why I wrote that letter."



POST PHOTO/M.B. GILLIGAN

Jeff Pace has become a fixture at youth sports events, as parent, coach, fan and trainer.

The Dallas Post
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