

Church & Community



PASTOR'S CORNER

Pastor Stephen Kotch
River Of Life Fellowship

Revival

When I was growing up, my understanding about being born again and revivals was non-existent. My upbringing was such that participating in tradition was all that was necessary to be classed a "Christian." In that context I would pass by church billboards heralding that "revival week" was to start on Sunday and continue for seven days. I couldn't understand what that meant. I pictured revival was an event whereby one's participation in the week-long program would automatically put a person in "really" good standing in the church, and make he or she more holy than the week before. I also understood one had to faithfully attend every session to experience the full impact the week. That was my perception.

After being born again, and investigating "revival," my outlook changed. I discovered what true revival was and was not.

I realized that revival was not a united city-wide crusade to advance evangelism — though I quickly add that it can be an effective way of reaching people for Jesus — it is not revival. Secondly, revival is not an extended series of meetings at a church for seven days. I came to realize that revival is something God does for us, not something that we do for God. Therefore, one cannot schedule a "revival."

Stephen F. Oxford, a noted evangelical preacher said "revival is not some emotion or worked-up excitement; (rather) it is an invasion from heaven that brings a conscious awareness of God." Richard O. Roberts added that "true revival is the extraordinary move of the Holy Spirit that produces extraordinary results.

The biblical meaning of the word "revive" is taken from the Hebrew word "haya" and the Greek "amazao," both literally meaning "to come back to life from the dead." It seems we have confused "revivalism" with evangelism. Evangelism is good news; revival is new life. Evangelism is man working for God; revival is God working in a sovereign way on man's behalf.

What then marks true revival? To be sure true revival does not depend on money, organization or advertising. You cannot organize or control the fire of God. In reflecting on the Welsh Revival of 1904 it is noted there were no hymn books, no worship leaders, no committees, no choirs, no great preachers, no offerings and no organizations. Jesus Christ was the epicenter.

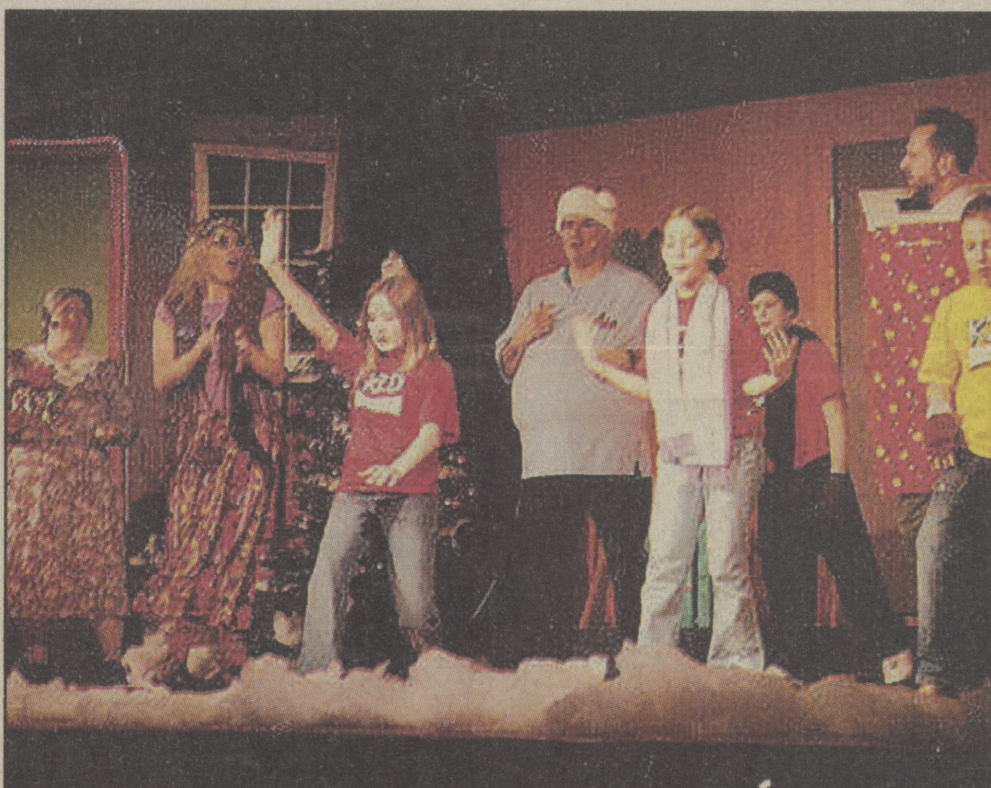
How do we recognize true revival? It will not and cannot come without spiritual preparedness. That means unity and prayer. Acts 1:14 says "(they were gathered) all with one accord continued steadfast in prayer." When people meet these requirements someone has paid the price. Another key is suddenness. Revival is spontaneous when men cannot account for what is taking place in terms of meetings, preachings or activities. It is also a time when men and women become God-conscious. For example, they become acutely aware of the presence of God, a conviction that leads to repentance. Supernatural manifestations are also associated with revival. They can include weeping, laughter, speaking in other tongues, resting in the Spirit, body contractions or "jerks" as occurred during the New England outpouring.

True revival has been, and still is, the product of prayer, repentance and commitment. We are reminded that revivals have begun when God's children, pastors and laymen alike, have fallen to their knees and sought power and fire from on high.



High Point Church Christmas Program

Children involved in High Point Church's Kidstuff youth program participated in a Christmas Program over the holidays. The Kidstuff program teaches core virtues for the whole family. The format is full of lights, action and drama. Pictured from left, back row: J. Musto; G. Gagliardi; J. Austin; C. Simpson; M. Mattis; D. Rittenhouse, Director. Second Row: G. Gagliardi; L. Hawley; C. Warner. Kneeling: P. Griffith; R. Barber.



High Point Kidstuff cast in performance.

St. Paul's Sunday School Valentine's Breafast

St. Paul's Sunday School will hold a Valentine's Day Breakfast on Sunday, February 8 at 9:45 a.m. in the social hall. The church will be helping families that have children attending St. Paul's Head Start Center. All are welcome to attend.

Send us your church news

The Post would like to include every religious congregation serving the Back Mountain and Tunkhannock areas on this page. You can send news three ways: By e-mail to thepost@leader.net; by fax to 675-3650; by mail to The Post, 15 N. Main St., Wilkes-Barre PA 18711. Deadline is 5 p.m. Wednesdays. New contributors are welcome to write for the "Pastor's Corner" column. Please call for guidelines. Call 675-5211 if you have any questions.

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

Mt. Zion United Methodist

Mt. Zion Rd, Harding
Feb. 7 - All-you-can-eat Soup and Salad Supper, 4:30-7 p.m. Soups, chili, salads, breads, desserts and beverages. Adults \$5, children under 12 \$3.
All welcome

Shavertown United Methodist

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

St. Luke's 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. Sunday service, 8:30 and 11 a.m.
Annual reports by committee chairpersons and organizations are due in the church office no later than January 2.

St. Therese's Catholic Church

64 Davis Street, Shavertown.
Married couples' night away, February 20 and 21.
February 27-29, International Student Leadership Weekend for 9-12th grade students. For more info., Call Denise at 696-1144.

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.

Back Mountain Senior Citizens meet Feb. 5

Back Mountain Seniors will meet to discuss business items February 5 at 1 p.m. Those interested in working on sleeping bags for the homeless should arrive an hour early. Members will be asked to pay dues.
Ann Balavage and Genevieve Albosta will be honored. Bakers for the meeting will be Kay Hudak and Therese Harvey.
For more information call 696-1828 or 696-3095.

'Families Helping Families'

"Families Helping Families," a program offering information and support for those seeking answers about chemical dependency, will be meeting at St. Paul's Lutheran Church every Wednesday from 6 to 8 p.m. For more information call Nicholas Colangelo at Clear Brook, Inc., 823-1171.

The Dallas Post Call 1-800-273-7130 For Local Pros

LOCAL PROS

Deadline: Monday At Noon

ADVISOR - CARD READER SPIRITUALIST CLAIRVOYANT CARD READER ADVISOR All problems of life. Reunite the separated. Other readings available. \$5.00 Off With Ad Candles Oils Aromatherapy 451-1773	AUTO Back Mountain Auto Specialists 149 N. Main St., Shavertown Dave Spurlin (Formerly Dallas Exxon) 675-3336	GLASS We Do It All! Auto • Commercial • Residential 596 Carey Ave., Wilkes-Barre 822-8133	TO ADVERTISE ON THIS PAGE CALL 829-7130 ext 6257
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