

Church & Community



PASTOR'S CORNER

Pastor Dennis Madeira
New Life Community Church

What is this generation looking for?

In the gospel of Luke, Jesus spoke to a crowd of people about himself and John the Baptist. He reported to them what some people were saying. "John the Baptist is considered as having a demon because he does not eat bread nor drink wine. I am considered a glutton and a drunkard because I eat and drink, and I am a friend of tax collectors and sinners" (Luke 7:33-34). It's as if Jesus is saying that the generation that he was a part of was not sure of what they were looking for. You were most likely to be considered an extremist no matter what position or lifestyle you practiced if you did not agree with the status quo of the day.

In many ways, that thought pattern continues in every age and generation, every country and culture. As I am writing this article, the French government is considering banning Muslim young women from wearing their head pieces in public schools. The ruling, if adopted, would also ban Jewish young men from wearing their head pieces, and Christians from wearing large crosses while they attend school. For all three of these religious groups, these head pieces or crosses are considered parts of their religious expression. The French government wants these individuals, at least in the French public schools, to be more French and secular than they are Muslim, Jewish, or Christian.

These young people face a real dilemma. At what point will they give up expressing their faith outwardly in fear of being misunderstood? Reports from France say that many Muslim girls will be taught at home rather than give up wearing the head pieces. Will Jewish young men and Christians do the same thing? Will not wearing the head pieces and crosses make them any less Muslim, Jewish, or Christian? What is the bottom line you will accept for being able to express your faith outwardly? Can you express your faith in God without having to wear a cross, or close your eyes to pray, or raise your hands to worship and praise God? If you believe you must, are you willing to take the consequences as part of your obedience to the Lord, and give Him thanks?

Each of us faces circumstances every day where we must make decisions about how we express our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. There are many things that we can do that will show we are Christians without having to wear a cross. Acts of kindness and understanding; being patient and gracious when someone cuts us off; forgiving someone when they speak or act against us and then doing something good for them; praying for someone who is sick; telling others God loves them and cares for them. Jesus did these things even though others did not understand.

It is not what this generation expects that should drive us. It is the love of God us. "And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased" (Hebrews 13:16).



Kiwanis works with Meadows Nursing Center

During the past holiday season, Dallas Kiwanis helped the Meadows Nursing Center, Dallas, decorate both indoors and out. This is just one way the organization responds to the needs of the center. The Lehman Key Club along with its advisor, Gail Honeywell, also assisted with the project.

Pictured from left: Kiwanis members, Lloyd Ryman, Tex Wilson, Reese Pelton, Joe Grimes, Cliff Parker and Roy Stair; Meadows Administrator James Alaimo and Executive Director of EEI, Carl Noto.

Shavertown United Methodist to begin 'Mondays in March' series

Shavertown United Methodist invites the public to join them in their "Mondays in March" series set to begin March 8. People of all ages will come together to share a meal and conversation. Adults will discuss the book *The Great House of God* by Max Lucado. Children will watch themed videos and teens will be able to get help with homework. For more information contact the church office at 675-3616.

St. Paul's to host supper

St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Dallas will host a roast beef supper on Saturday, March 6 from 5 to 7 p.m. Take outs will be available beginning at 4. Adult meals will be \$7 and children's, \$3.50. Reservations are encouraged. To reserve a spot, call 675-3859 or e-mail stpaul@epix.net. Tickets will also be available at the door.

Fine Arts Series continues in March

Shavertown United Methodist continues its Fine Arts Series on Friday March 19 when it presents the internationally-known Susquehanna University Concert Choir. In recent years the choir has performed throughout the United States, Austria, England, France, Italy and Mexico. Tickets will be \$5 for adults and \$2 for children.

'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.

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 by e-mail to thepost@leader.net; by fax to 675-3650 or by mail to The Post, 15 N. Main St., Wilkes-Barre PA 18711.

CHURCH NOTES

Cross Creek Comm. Church

370 Carverton Rd.
40 days of Purpose Campaign continues.

Dallas Baptist

Route 415, Dallas
Sunday School for babies to adult, 9:15 a.m.; worship service, 10:30 a.m.; adult choir practice, 5 p.m.; children's choir practice and adult Bible study, 6 p.m.

Tuesdays, Quilting and crafts group, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesdays, night suppers—free—, 6 p.m.

Thursdays, Praise Team Rehearsal, 7 p.m.

February 28, Recycled Teens, 11 a.m.

Grace Community Church

Memorial Highway, Dallas

Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; morning worship, 11 a.m.; evening service, 6 p.m.; youth group, 6 p.m.; GEMS, 6 p.m.

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.

New Life Comm. Church

Brace Rd., Orange
Sunday school, 9:30 a.m.; Worship service, 10:30 a.m.

Prince of Peace Episcopal

420 Main St., Dallas
Sunday service and Morning Prayer, 8 a.m.; Christian education and youth choir practice, 9 a.m.; Morning Prayer/Sunday School, 10 a.m.

Christian Unity Service

A service celebrating Christian Unity will be held Sunday, February 22 at 3 p.m. at St. Therese's Roman Catholic Church on Pioneer Avenue in Shavertown.

Adult Choir, February 22, Dinner Murder Mystery.

February 23, A.A. mtg. February 24, Daughters of the King, 7 p.m.

February 25, Ash Wed. Service 12 and 7 p.m.

February 26, Outreach Commission, 7 p.m.; Memorial Garden Committee, 7 p.m.

River of Life

194 N. Memorial Highway, Shavertown

Sunday morning and worship, 10:30 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.

Tuesdays, A.A. meetings at 7:30 p.m.

St. Therese's

Pioneer Ave. and Davis St., Shavertown
February 28-29, Youth overnight. Call 696-1144 to register.

Trinity Presbyterian

105 Irem Rd., Dallas

Saturday evening services will not be held until Feb. 28 at 5:30 p.m.

Sunday school, 9:30 a.m., Sunday worship, 11 a.m.,

February 23, Deacon's mtg., 7:30 p.m.

February 25, Ash Wednesday communion service, 12 and 7 p.m.

February 28, Saturday Evening Worship, 5:30 p.m.

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.

The Dallas Post

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