

Church & Community



PASTOR'S CORNER

Pastor Dennis Madeira
New Life Community Church

"The good news is out"

A woman wrote to radio Bible teacher J. Vernon McGee and asked, "Our preacher said that on Easter, Jesus just swooned on the cross and that the disciples nursed him back to health. What do you think?" McGee replied, "Dear Sister, beat your preacher with a leather whip for thirty-nine heavy strokes. Nail him to a cross. Hang him in the sun for six hours. Run a spear through his heart. Embalm him. Put him in an airless tomb for three days. Then see what happens."

With the opening of Mel Gibson's film "The Passion of the Christ" the natural polarization of "sides and views" is running at fever pitch. If we think we have heard a lot about it before the film opened, now that it is on movie screens across America the next days, perhaps even weeks, will find a steady stream of "views" centered around the intent of the producer, the "R" rating of the film, and how the subject matter was dealt with. Ultimately each of us, whether we see the film or not, will be cornered into facing who this Jesus of the Bible is, and we all will respond in one way or another. There will be no neutrality.

This film is about God's love for us, His "good news". It is not a new story. It has been out for a long time. It has entwined its way through the ages and cultures of this world. It will not go away. Long after the hullabaloo that has grown around this film has passed, and the media is on to some new controversy, God's story will continue to find us and face us with God's love and our need for His forgiveness. Facing and acknowledging our sinfulness has never been a popular subject. It is never comfortable.

The gospel writer Luke quotes from the Jewish prophet Isaiah in Luke 3:4-6; "The voice of one crying in the wilderness, 'Make ready the way of the Lord, make His paths straight. Every ravine will be filled, and every mountain and hill will be brought low; the crooked will become straight, and the rough roads smooth; and all flesh will see the salvation of God.'"

God's good news is out, and it will continue to find us and call us to God, the God of all flesh. "All flesh will see the salvation of God". This is not about the Protestant or Catholic God, or the Buddhist or Islamic God, or any other "God" that we want to mentally create. The story does not begin with us, it begins with the God who made us, loves us, and paid a horrible price of physical and spiritual suffering to bring us back to Himself, forgiven and renewed, to live life now and forever in fellowship with Him.

Oh, and about blaming the Jews for the crucifixion of Jesus. Jesus Himself said, in John 4:22,

"You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews". No Jewish nation, no Savior for me and you.



'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 at 675-3616.



Tyler Justin Nulton receives God & Me Scouting Award

Tyler Justin Nulton was presented with the God & Me Scouting Award on Feb. 29 at the First Welsh Presbyterian Church, Wilkes-Barre. Tyler is a Cub Scout in Pack 232 at Gate of Heaven, Dallas and a member of their Wolf Den. He is in the second grade at Dallas Elementary. He was presented with the award during the morning worship service with the Rev Joyce K. Warner, officiating. *God & Me* is the first step in the God & Country program series. It is a program which requires a commitment of time and energy to study and act out the faith, along with an expectation to seek to continue in growth. Pictured from left, front row: Michael Kretchmer, cousin; Erma Nulton, grandmother; Tyler Nulton; Jane Nulton, mother; Timothy Nulton, father; Back Row: Dr. Donald Kretchmer, uncle; Rev Donald Nulton, grandfather; Jordan Nulton, brother; Rev Joyce K. Warner, pastor; Paul Kunkle, uncle.

Susquehanna University Choir to perform

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.

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.

CHURCH NOTES

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.
Wednesday night suppers—free—, 6 p.m.
Thursdays, Praise Team Rehearsal, 7 p.m.

Church of the Gate of Heaven

Machell Ave., Dallas
Lenten opportunities: Mass, 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday.
Communion Services on Monday, Thursday and Saturday.
Stations of the Cross, Fridays in Lent at 7 p.m.
Rosary, Mondays at 6:45 p.m. and following morning Mass and Communion Services.
March 6 and 20, Mimi-treats, 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
For more information about Lenten opportunities call 675-2121.

Dallas United Methodist

4 Parsonage St., Dallas
Sunday School, 9 a.m.
Church Service, 10:30 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.; quarterly business meeting, 7 p.m..
March 10, ladies Bible Study, 10 a.m.
March 11, AWANA, 6 p.m.; Prayer mtg, 7 p.m.
March 21, Sunday Evening Fellowship,

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 with Holy Eucharist, 8 a.m.; Christian education and youth choir practice, 9 a.m.; Holy Eucharist/Sunday School, 10 a.m.; Adult Choir, 11:30 a.m.; Alanon, 7pm; AA, 7p.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. Luke Reformation Lutheran

Main and Market St. Noxen
Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; Church Service, 11 a.m.

St. Therese's

Pioneer Ave. and Davis St., Shavertown

Trinity Presbyterian

105 Irem Rd., Dallas
Saturday Evening Worship, 5:30.
Sunday school, 9:30 a.m., Sunday worship, 11 a.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 church will hold a Service of Lenten Worship and Fellowship Thursdays March through April 1 in Fellowship Hall, North Wing of the William and Melba Dickson Educational Facility. Members and friends are invited to a covered dish supper at 6 p.m., followed by Worship at 7 p.m.

'Families Helping Families' at St. Paul's

"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

<p>ADVISOR - CARD READER</p> <p>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</p>	<p>AUTO</p> <p>Back Mountain Auto Specialists 149 N. Main St., Shavertown Dave Spurlin (Formerly Dallas Exxon) 675-3336</p>	<p>GLASS</p> <p>We Do It All! Auto • Commercial • Residential 596 Carey Ave., Wilkes-Barre 822-8133</p>	<p>TO ADVERTISE ON THIS PAGE CALL 829-7130 ext 6257</p>
<p>APPLIANCES</p> <p>REFRIGERATION PARTS Refrigerators • Freezers • Air Conditioners All Makes • Cold Controls • Fan Motors Relays • Defrost Timers • Door Gaskets Bring in model # and old part. APPLIANCE PARTS & SUPPLY 936 Market Street, Kingston</p>	<p>TO ADVERTISE ON THIS PAGE CALL LINDA or TERRY AT 829-7130</p>	<p>GUTTERS</p> <p>GUTTERS CLEANED & REPAIRED ALUMINUM LEAF GUARDS NO JOB TOO SMALL • FREE ESTIMATES 287-3262 LEAVE MESSAGE</p>	<p>HANDY MAN</p> <p>SMALL REPAIRS Those you don't get to... Those you can't do HANDY MAN PROMPT RESPONSE • REASONABLE RATES Fred (570) 675-0429 Back Mtn. Resident 35 Years</p>
<p>AUTO BODY REPAIR</p> <p>GIADOSH ENTERPRISES Complete Auto Body Repairs 1644 Murray St., Forty Fort Complete Collision On All Makes & Models Established 1975 FREE ESTIMATES 287-4895</p>	<p>FURNITURE</p> <p>BOB'S CHAIR REPAIR Regluing and Caning Free Estimates • Pickup • Delivery 675-3012</p>	<p>HEALTHCARE</p> <p>"Better Hearing is Better Living" Joseph Vavrek, H.I.S. Hearing Instrument Specialist Specializing in Assisted Living, Nursing Homes, and in Home Testing. Fitting in your daily environment, to suit your hearing needs. Phone: 570-388-2283 Voice Mail: 570-881-1115</p>	<p>TRANSPORTATION</p> <p>★★★★ 4 STAR HAULING ★★★★</p> <p>Haul All, Free Estimates Kingston 674-5970 or 1-866-399-5296</p> <p>UPHOLSTERY</p> <p>MAZURS REUPHOLSTERY Sofas • Kitchen Sets • Chairs • Boat Seats, Etc. Free Estimates & Delivery "We're Here To Serve You Better" R.D.#4 Dallas • 639-1721</p> <p>TO ADVERTISE ON THIS PAGE CALL 829-7130 ext 6257</p>