

**CHURCH BRIEFS**

**Loyalville UMC plans chicken dinner**

The Loyalville United Methodist Church will hold a chicken and biscuits dinner from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 14 at the church on Loyalville Road. The church is located one-half mile off Route 29 south and 4 miles west of Dallas from Route 118. There will also be a bake sale.

Takeouts will be available and orders should be called in advance. Dinners are \$8 for adults and \$3.50 for children under age 12. For takeout orders or more information, call 477-3521. Be sure to include the number of takeout dinners requested.

**River of Life begins nightly meetings**

Pastors Stephen and Mary Ann Kotch of River Of Life @ Kingdom Power Ministries in

Shavertown will hold special meetings at 7:30 p.m. each Tuesday through Sunday at the church, located at 219 North Memorial Highway. The Sunday meetings will be held at 6 p.m.

The meetings will vary each evening to include teaching on spiritual gifts, prophecy, healing, dreams and visions interpretation, spiritual counsel and worship. The public is invited.

**Men's breakfast held each Tuesday**

The Shavertown United Methodist Church recently began holding a weekly ecumenical men's breakfast. The group meets at 8 a.m. each Tuesday at Pickett's Charge restaurant on Route 415 in Dallas. The Dutch treat breakfast is followed by fellowship and a short devotion period. The breakfast, fellowship and devotion period last no longer

than one hour.

Men from all Back Mountain churches are encouraged to attend. For more information, call Bob Deeble at 696-2148.

**Awana Club meets at Grace Community**

The Awana Club of Grace Community Church meets from 6-7:45 p.m. each Wednesday at the church, located across from Chapel Lawn Cemetery on Memorial Highway. The club holds its meetings through April.

The Bible-based club is open to boys and girls in kindergarten through sixth grade. Awana is one of the largest nondenominational children and youth ministries in the world. Awana clubs are active in more than 110 countries, reaching more than one million young people each week.

For more information, call the church office at 675-3723.

**GOH CONCERT TAKING PLACE TODAY**



Gate of Heaven Church will hold a concert featuring the Singing Boys of Pennsylvania at 4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 7 at the church on Machell Avenue in Dallas. The group performs a repertoire, from chant to contemporary works, sacred and secular music, and a rich assortment of American and international folk music presented with costumes and choreography. The group performs approximately 100 concerts each year in the United States, Canada and Japan. The group was founded in 1970 as the Pocono Boy Singers. It consists of artists ages 10-14 who are trained in vocal techniques under conductor K. Bernard Schade. Members of the Gate of Heaven choir who are hosting the event, from left, first row are Mary Lou Stahovec, Rita Good, Carol Carroll, Marilyn O'Connell and Ann Marie Flanagan. Second row: Cindy Bren, Irene Meren, Isabel Oley, Debbye Field, Victor Matthews and Kim Grundowski. Third row: Karen Wisnewski, Marcia Matthews, Tom Morenko and Pat Manorek.

**SCHOOL BRIEFS**

**Gate of Heaven sets informational night**

Gate of Heaven School will hold an informational night at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 9 at the school, 40 Machell Avenue, Dallas. For more information, call the school at 675-6566.

**Friedman Observatory open Monday nights**

Ever wonder what Neptune looks like? Has the controversy over Pluto piqued your interest in the solar system? The Friedman Observatory at the Penn

State Wilkes-Barre campus in Lehman Township offers opportunities to view the night sky through a computerized 16-inch Meade telescope. The observatory is open to the public starting one hour after sunset on clear Mondays. If Monday is not clear, the observatory will be open Tuesday at the same time.

John Rovnak, acting director of the observatory, and her assistants will be on hand to answer questions. Rovnak is an amateur astronomer, retired aerospace engineer, and Penn State graduate. Small groups are welcome on public nights. Larger groups, such as Girl and

Boy Scout troops, are invited to call for a private session.

The Observatory opened in 1990 and the computerized Meade Schmidt-Cassegrain reflecting telescope is the only one of its kind in the region. The rural setting provides a perfect opportunity for stargazing away from city lights.

For more information regarding viewing opportunities, contact Thomas Winter at 675-9278 or txw2@psu.edu; and Rovnak at 925-2561 or jer32@psu.edu. Information is also available on college's Web site at www.wb.psu.edu. Go to the quick links for the Friedman Observatory.

**GATE OF HEAVEN HONORS SAINTS**



Gate of Heaven School in Dallas is holding a new program, "Feasting with the Saints." The life of a particular saint is highlighted each month and the students are treated to a special item on the lunch menu. In addition, an "action" is planned for each month. In some months, the action is collecting items for a particular group in need. Recently, the students learned about St. Vincent de Paul, known for his work with the poor. The students collected canned soup and vegetables, which were donated to the St. Vincent de Paul Kitchen in Wilkes-Barre. The students also celebrated the life of St. Nicholas, the patron saint of children. The students made donations of baby items to Pennsylvanians for Human Life. A carload of infant clothing, food and toys were donated to organization. Members who organized baby items for the event, from left, are Olivia Zurad, Danielle Olinginski and Erin Williams.

**DANCE BENEFITS CATHERINE MCCAULEY HOUSE**



Gate of Heaven Middle School students recently held a Christmas dance to benefit the Catherine McCauley House, which is sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy. The organization provides temporary shelter for women and their children who are in crisis. The students from sixth, seventh, and eighth grades attending the dance donated items from a wish list and paid admission to the dance. Among the students who organized the dance, from left, are Will Fulton, Chris Boland, and Ryan DeRemer.

**BIRTHDAY PARTY HELD FOR JESUS**



For more than 20 years, the second grade students in the class of teacher Janet Lyons have been celebrating the birth of Jesus with a birthday party. This year, the children sang "Happy Birthday" and enjoyed cake and ice cream. They also played games and learned about the importance Jesus' birth. Attending the party, from left, first row are Julia Randazzo, Connor Kas, Olivia Carichner, Noah Mirro, Justin Marshall and Michael Lyons. Second row: Michael Saracino, Anthony Khoudhary, Nicole Cavanaugh, Janelle Cawley, Matthew Blaum and Janet Lyons. Third row: Keith Williams, Joseph Layaou, Shelby Smith, Monica Morrison, Chester Brennan, Matthew Rogers, Anthony Nyzio and Christopher Huntington.

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