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Carl Goeringer talks to fellow parishioners about the 'Restore the Glory' capital campaign at Prince of Peace Episcopal Church in Dallas. The campaign was created to raise funds to repair and restore the three stained glass windows in the Chancel. The church is trying to raise \$10,000 by April 30 to avoid further damage to the windows.

Fund will preserve windows

By REBECCA BRIA
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The Chancel windows at Prince of Peace Episcopal Church in Dallas are in jeopardy of breaking and church members and the community are asked to help.

The three stained glass windows located behind the altar are in need of repair from expansion and contraction due to sunlight, heat and cold. Church members Dan Monk, Jennifer Martin, Dan Plashinski, Dave Dillon, Carl Goeringer and the Rev. John Major formed a committee and founded the "Restore the Glory" capital campaign, which is seeking approximately \$10,000 to restore the windows.

The campaign began on March 1 and is scheduled to be completed by April 30 to avoid further damage to the windows.

"For more than 60 years, these

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Grant will ease lake pollution

Harveys Lake Borough has been awarded a \$262,534 grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Growing Greener program.

The money will be used to install an approved best management practice to reduce phosphorus pollution into the lake. This type of pollution is caused by excess fertilizers, herbicides and insecticides and other agricultural runoff; oil, grease and toxic chemicals from urban runoff; streambank erosion; acid mine drainage; and bacteria and nutrients from pet wastes and faulty septic systems.

The Growing Greener program is the largest single investment of state funds in Pennsylvania's history to address environmental concerns. Harveys Lake Borough's grant is part of \$21.5 million awarded by the DEP for 144 projects that will clean up rivers, streams and watersheds.

"As the Commonwealth's largest natural lake, Harveys Lake is an important resource for Pennsylvania," said state Rep. Karen Boback. "This grant award will assist the borough in reducing pollution in the lake so it will remain a treasure for everyone to enjoy."



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Dallas graduate's company creates personal tours of China



Jeff Levinson stands among the sand dunes of the ancient Silk Road in Dunhuang, Gansu Province, of western China in October 2008. Levinson, 26, of Beijing, China and formerly of Dallas, owns a travel agency called Lune Tours. The company, run solely by Levinson, creates custom tours of China.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Custom-made China

By REBECCA BRIA
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Jeff Levinson spent the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing sitting among family members of the United States Olympic Field Hockey Team. He was neither a family member nor friend of a player but about 20 of the families were his clients.

Levinson, 26, of Beijing, China and formerly of Dallas, owns a travel agency called Lune Tours, a company, run solely by Levinson, that creates custom tours of China.

"It was nice having that personal connection sitting next to the mothers and fathers of the athletes," Levinson said.

The son of Howard and Susan Levinson, of Dallas, Levinson is a 2000 graduate of Dallas High School. He earned a bachelor's degree in physics from Bates University in 2004 and then found himself in London selling Apple computers for a year. While living in Europe, he had the opportunity to visit France, Spain and Germany.

"That was the first time I'd ever lived outside of the U.S. or by myself outside of a college setting," Levinson said. "That put me in a worldly mindset. That time taught me traveling and living outside of the U.S. wasn't as difficult or scary as I thought it would be originally."

Following his time in London, Levinson visited his college friend, Mike Roberts, who was studying in Mongolia. The two also went to Beijing and other areas of China.



Jeff Levinson stands on the steps of the Ta'er Si Monastery in the Tibetan region of Qinghai Province. The Ta'er Si Monastery is the birthplace of Tsong Khapa, the founder of the Yellow Hat Sect of Buddhism. Levinson, 26, of Beijing, China and formerly of Dallas, owns a travel agency called Lune Tours. The company, run solely by Levinson, creates custom tours of China.

Levinson returned to the U.S. and taught physics during a John Hopkins University summer program. He later gained an opportunity through Roberts to teach English and study Chinese at Capitol University of Economics and Business in Beijing and is now fluent in Man-

darin, a dialect of Chinese spoken in Beijing that is the official language of China.

"I had no plans on living there or even necessarily returning," Levinson said.

When he returned to the U.S., Levinson got in touch with Pete Andreasen of Jysk Travel, a Danish travel company. Andreasen led Levinson's first tour of China and was opening an office for Jysk Travel in Beijing so Levinson jumped on board to work with him in China.

"With that company, I was giving advice to backpackers, telling them what restaurants to eat at, how to get to the Great Wall and book hotels and flight tickets," Levinson said.

Family and friends started contacting Levinson and asking him where they should stay in China and what places to see.

"I guess the real trigger that got me set on starting my own company was when my aunt and uncle were planning a trip to China and they had a few ideas of where they wanted to go," Levinson said. "I said, 'If you want, I'll plan an itinerary for you and use this Danish travel company and I'm guessing it'll come out a lot cheaper than if you use a travel company in the U.S.' And it did."

Levinson founded Lune Tours in the spring of 2008. The company specializes in private, group and scene tours of China. In his standard two-week tour, visitors

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"I think the reason that people have not come to China in the past is there is this perception that China is very far away; geographically, far but also psychologically far from the U.S. I would suggest to people that it's not as psychologically far as they think it is. Life in Beijing and other cities in China is comparable, if not better, than cities in the U.S."

Jeff Levinson
Lune Tours Owner

First Responders plaque making rounds

The Dallas Rotary Club presented the First Responders of the Year Award to Troopers Truman Brandt, William Gross and Robert Rogers of the Pennsylvania State Police and to Dennis Dobinick of the Pennsylvania Game Commission and Lehman Fire and Ambulance Company on May 22, 2008. The engraved plaque was scheduled to make a year's journey, spending six months at Troop P Headquarters in Wyoming, three months at the Tunkhannock

State Police Barracks and three months at the Pennsylvania Game Commission Headquarters in Dallas, PA. The plaque is on its final three-month stay at the Pennsylvania Game Commission after which time it will be returned to the Dallas Rotary Club for presentation to the 2008 winners of the Second Annual First Responders of the Year Award on May 14 at the Appletree Terrace, Newberry Estate, Dallas.



Shown here with the first First Responders of the Year Award are, from left, Trooper Howard S. Platt, Pennsylvania State Police Troop P, Tunkhannock; and Stephen J. Schweitzer, regional director, Northeast Region, Pennsylvania Game Commission.