

On the Spiritual Side

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Community talk promotes post-election healing

Despite the rain and cold of the night after the election, more than 60 area residents of all political persuasions crowded into St. Philip's Episcopal Church on Chapel Road in New Hope.

They gathered to participate in a "Community Conversation" that took as its theme "With Charity Toward All, and Malice Toward None." Those words came from Lincoln's 1865 Second Inaugural Address, when he had to speak to a country torn apart by the Civil War.

The objective of the gathering was to look forward and create positive energy and community spirit, instead of dwelling on any rifts the recent election had created.

The organizers of the event, Gene Underwood, a parishioner at St. Philip's and the Rev. Michael Ruk, the parish priest, believe that by opening a dialog with people with whom you disagree, people begin to create community and fight isolation that leads to the



mistrust and disrespect of others.

The event began with several community leaders offering some personal thoughts about promoting a community spirit. They included Kevin Morrissey, Solebury supervisor, Rabbi Diana Miller of Kehilat Hanahar Synagogue, New Hope; Wangden Kel-

sang, a Buddhist monk at Menlha Buddhist Center in Lambertville, N.J.; and the Rev. Michael Ruk, rector at St. Philip's.

Then audience members volunteered to speak, suggesting ways people can get involved in the

Buddhist monk Wangden Kel-sang of Menlha Buddhist Center in Lambertville, N.J.; Rabbi Diana Miller of Kehilat Hanahar Synagogue in New Hope; and the Rev. Michael Ruk of St. Philip's Episcopal Church, New Hope, spoke at the Community Conversation at St. Philip's on Nov. 9.

A participant observed that a presidential election vote occurs once in four years but we vote every day on the community that we want to live in by volunteering.

As a way to extend the positive mood of the meeting, the organizers distributed green buttons that simply said "Be Peace." They encouraged people to take one for themselves and to give another to someone else as a visible reminder that the participants want to embody a constructive attitude that builds community spirit.

As a result of the meeting, Robert Abueva, a Solebury resident who attended, created a Facebook page called New Hope/Lambertville Be Peace as a way for people to stay connected. On the page, anyone can announce their availability for volunteering, or organizations can outline when they need volunteers for projects they're undertaking.

community to enhance life here and make everyone feel welcome to live here freely.

Ideas ranged from enjoying the natural beauty of a phenomenon like the new Ingham Spring park that Solebury has created, to reaching out to local Hispanic families who may fear what lies ahead for them, to becoming more active in local politics as a way of meeting neighbors and exchanging viewpoints constructively.

Six churches from five denominations hold joint Thanksgiving observance

Five Christian denominations will join with their clergy and combined choirs at 7:30 p.m. Thanksgiving eve, Wednesday, Nov. 23, to observe Thanksgiving as they have for four decades, as recognition of their common belief.

This year they will meet at Lenape Valley Presbyterian Church in Chalfont, 321 W. Butler Ave., New Britain, on Business Route 202, adjacent to the Town Center Shopping Center.

All are encouraged to bring family members, friends or neighbors, regardless of their denomination.

Included in leading the service

will be Chalfont United Methodist Church, Chalfont; Montgomery Square United Methodist Church, North Wales; St. Jude Roman Catholic Church, Chalfont; New Britain Baptist Church, New Britain; Pleasantville United Church of Christ, Chalfont; and host Lenape Valley Presbyterian Church, New Britain.

The respective pastors are usually accompanied by their associate pastors and pastors emeritus, as well as their combined choirs.

The Chalfont-New Britain Ministerium of churches has been meeting for several decades to plan praying together every

Good Friday and every eve of Thanksgiving. They rotate the service with each church taking the role of host.

For many years, they also all share in regularly supporting the community Food Larder located in the New Britain Baptist Church, which provides food for both individuals and families in need of assistance in Central Bucks County.

The Food Larder is a designated food distribution site of the Opportunity Council of Bucks County.

For information, contact one of the six churches taking part in the ecumenical service.

The Crossing hosts Christmas show

Bring your appetite, family and friends to the Community Christmas Dinner and Show at The Crossing.

The annual event, attended by a total of 700 people each year, will be held at 7 p.m. Dec. 8 and 9, at Washington Crossing United Methodist Church, 1895 Wrightstown Road in Washington Crossing.

The evening begins with dinner, which is followed by stand-up comedian John Branyon, a 20-year veteran of clean comedy. He has entertained audiences around the nation with family oriented humor.

Branyon's "Shakespeare" version of the Three Little Pigs has been viewed millions of times. He has been featured on nine recorded comedy projects.

Child care is available only during the entertainment.

Tickets will not be sold at the event.

Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$12 for children ages 2 to 12. Before registering, contact the church office to receive a special discount for families with more than three children ages 12 and under.

Purchase tickets at crossingumc.org or at the church.

Table of Plenty offers Thanksgiving Day meal

Zion Mennonite Church's Table of Plenty will host a community Thanksgiving Day meal at noon Thursday, Nov. 24.

The meal will be held in the Fellowship Hall of the church, 149 Cherry Lane, Souderton. Anyone in the area who does not have someone with whom to share the day, or who wishes to spend the afternoon in fellowship may join the group for appetizers at 11:30 a.m. and the full-course meal at noon.

Volunteers are needed to help prepare, serve and clean up for the meal. If you cannot attend, but

would like to contribute in some other way, contact the church office.

The meal is free to all attendees; however, for better planning, reservations are requested. Call the church at 215-723-3592.

The annual meal is a regular event at Zion, which also hosts a Christmas Day gathering. The Table of Plenty is a Zion community outreach program, which provides free lunches from 11 a.m. until noon Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

For information, call 215-723-3592.

Architect discusses synagogue design

Architect Jan Bishop will discuss "Synagogue Interiors: The Rituals and Culture That Define Design," at Kehilat HaNahar, 85 W. Mechanic St., New Hope, at 6 p.m. Nov. 30.

The focus of her presentation will be on the rituals and cultures that influence how a congregation designs the building it calls its religious home.

Synagogue interiors represent a spectrum of interpretation. Some are ornate with rich history, while others are minimalist and modern, some reach for regal aura, others for serenity.

In designing the interior of its synagogue, each congregation

expresses not only its creativity, but its values, its sense of the past, and its hope for the future.

Doors open at 5:45 p.m. for pre-lecture snacks and socializ-

ing. The talk is from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Admission is free and tickets are not required.

Call 215-862-1912 for information.

HAPPENINGS

St. Stephen's UCC offers Thanksgiving, Advent worship

Join St. Stephen's United Church of Christ, 110 N. 6th St., Perkasia, for Harvest Home worship as it collects nonperishable food items for FISH and share in Thanksgiving worship open to the community at 9:30 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 20.

"Hear God's Word through the power of comedy and faith in "The Thanksgiving Table," a skit for all ages. A Harvest Home covered dish follows.

At 9:30 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 27, join in the First Sunday of Advent, lighting a candle and sharing in Communion.

For information, visit thessperkasie.org, email office@thessperkasie.org or pastor@thessperkasie.org, or call 215-257-6460.

St. Luke's celebrates 125th anniversary of church pipe organ

St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran church celebrate the 125th anniversary of the installation of its organ with an organ program at 2 p.m. Dec. 4, followed by a soup dinner.

The Samuel Bohler pipe organ was installed in St. Luke's church in Ferndale, in 1891. It is in almost the identical condition that Bohler left it in 1891.

The only alteration was in 1929, when electricity became available and an electric blower was added. The Hand Pump and Bellows are still in working order and are used occasionally.

The organ has served the musical needs of the church for the past 125 years and looks and sounds beautiful as it did in 1891.

The Church is at 470 Church Hill Road, Kintnersville. Admission is free.

Covenant Church hosts annual Thanksgiving dinner

Covenant Church hosts its annual Thanksgiving Dinner from 1 to 3 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 24, at 4000 Route 202, Doylestown.

All are invited to attend and enjoy the free meal. You do not have to be a member of Covenant

Church.

There will be fellowship, crafts and games for children. Reservations are not necessary. Come as you are.

For information, visit covenantdoylestown.org.

Friends hold Quarterly Meeting at Lehigh Valley Meetinghouse

The Religious Society of Friends holds its Quarterly Meeting for Worship, Fellowship and Business from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 20, at Lehigh Valley Friends Meetinghouse, 4116 Bath Pike, Bethlehem.

The day includes Meeting for Worship, a children's program, an adult program, lunch and a Meeting for Business.

St. John's Lutheran, St. John's UCC offer Thanksgiving meal

St. John's Lutheran and St. John's UCC Richlandtown together host a Thanksgiving Community Meal, from 5 to 7 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 20, at St. John's Lutheran Richlandtown Activity Center, 26 First Ave., Richlandtown.

Donations of dog or cat food for the Quaker-town Food Pantry are requested.

For information, call 215-536-5027 or visit stjohnsrpa.org.

Reaville Church plans Thanksgiving Eve service

Reaville Church, 191 Old York Road, Ringoes, N.J., holds a Thanksgiving Eve Service at 7 p.m. Nov. 23.

First United Methodist set to carol, stage Nativity display

First United Methodist Church, 501 Market St., Perkasia, will be caroling throughout the Perkasia area on Small Business Saturday, Nov. 26.

The church will have a Nativity display from 5 to 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3. Coffee and goodies will be served.

Worship Directory

SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday, November 20, 2016
No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

9:30 am Worship/Sunday School
Worship Service available

10:30 am Fellowship and Refreshments

www.DoylestownSalemUCC.org • 215.348.9860

186 East Court St. Doylestown

CARVERVILLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH
United Church of Christ
3736 Aquetong Road, Carversville, PA 18913

Worship and Church School 10 AM
Coffee Hour follows church service
Handicapped Accessible

215-297-5166 carversvilleucc.org
carversvilleucc@verizon.net

To advertise, contact Ken Ritter at 215-794-1097

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