

## Local Events

### BAY VILLAGE

#### NEW YEAR'S EVE CONCERT

Rich Mullins, a Christian recording artist, and the Mini-Muffin Band will present a New Year's Eve concert at 10 p.m. tomorrow at Bay Presbyterian Church, 25415 Lake Rd. Mullins performs music in a variety of styles, from folk to rock. The concert will feature a New Year's Eve countdown, followed by a worship service at midnight. There is a \$15 admission charge for the concert.

### CLEVELAND

#### A CAPPELLA CHOIR

The Cleveland Lutheran A Cappella Choir will present its fourth annual Christmas-Epiphany concert at 4 p.m. Jan. 7 at Trinity Lutheran Church, W. 30th St. and Lorain Ave. The choir, under the direction of Linda Kempke, will perform music for the seasons of Christmas and Epiphany by several composers.

David Boe of Oberlin College will be the organist and the Regis Bookshar Trumpet Ensemble will accompany the choir, which is composed of members from Lutheran churches in Greater Cleveland. Donations will be taken to support the Fairview Health System Community Hospice, which is based at Lutheran Hospital.

#### MEDIAEVAL FESTIVAL

The annual Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival sponsored by the Ohio Episcopal Diocese will be at 3 and 5 p.m. tomorrow at Trinity Cathedral, E. 22nd St. and Euclid Ave. The celebra-

tion, based on customs of medieval England, features actors and singers in festive costumes of that period, and music that expresses the joy of the holiday celebration. Trinity Cathedral also will host a service and supper to mark Epiphany, beginning at 6 p.m. Jan. 5.

#### EASTERN ORTHODOX CHRISTMAS

Several Greater Cleveland Eastern Orthodox churches will observe Christmas on Jan. 7, following a tradition that sets the day of the celebration of Christ's birth on a later date than that followed by churches of the Western tradition. Among those who follow the tradition are St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Parma, St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Cathedral in Parma, St. Serbian Orthodox Church in Broadview Heights, and St. Sergius Russian Orthodox Cathedral in Parma.

#### PRINCIPAL SPEAKER

Lydia M. Harris, principal of St. Adalbert Catholic School on Cleveland's East Side, will speak at noon Thursday at the First Friday Club. The Catholic laity group meets at the City Club, 850 Euclid Ave. Her topic will be "Catholic Education in the Inner City."

#### PEACE GROUP SERVICE

Pax Christi of Cleveland, a religious-based peace and justice activist group, will sponsor its annual New Year's Eve service at 7 p.m. tomorrow at Annunciation Catholic Church, 4697 W. 130th St. There will be activities for adults and children.

#### NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE

A New Year's Eve service will

be held at 6 p.m. tomorrow at Glad Tidings Assembly of God Church, 3238 W. 105th St. The Petrucci Family Singers will perform.

### FAIRVIEW PARK

#### HOLY COMMUNION

A family-oriented New Year's Eve celebration will be held tomorrow from 7:30 p.m. until just after midnight at Messiah Lutheran Church, 21485 Lorain Rd. The celebration will begin with a service with Holy Communion.

### LAKEWOOD

#### ORTHODOX BISHOP OFFICIATES

Bishop Job of Chicago, spiritual leader of the Midwest Diocese of the Orthodox Church in America, will preside over the Divine Liturgy at 9:30 a.m. tomorrow at St. Peter and Paul Russian Orthodox Church, 12711 Madison Ave. Job, who is making a pastoral visit to the parish this weekend, will be honored after the service during a luncheon in the church's social hall.

### NORTH ROYALTON

#### MARKING EPIPHANY

A celebration of Epiphany commemorating the baptism of Jesus will be at 6:30 p.m. Friday at St. Matthew the Evangelist Orthodox Church, 10383 Albion Rd. Holy water to be used during the new year for the blessing of houses will be blessed. The blessing of houses begins on Saturday. A meal will be served after the service.

### OAKWOOD VILLAGE

#### CHURCH RENTS RINK

Mount Zion Baptist Church, 24571 Booker Ave., has rented the United Skates of America Skating arena in Parma Heights from 7 until 10 p.m. today to provide an opportunity "for Christians to have fun on New Year's Weekend," the church said. "It will be a family affair." The rink is at 6677 Pearl Rd.

Mount Zion also will host a New Year's Eve service tomorrow at 10 p.m. at the church. The Rev. Larry L. Macon, Mount Zion's pastor, will preach. For further information, call 232-2645.

### SHAKER HEIGHTS

#### KING HOLIDAY BREAKFAST

East View United Church of Christ will sponsor a breakfast and service at the church to honor the late Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., the slain civil rights leader, at 9 a.m. Jan. 15, the national holiday for King. Pupils from Greater Cleveland schools who have earned scholarships in the sixth annual Martin Luther King Essay Contest sponsored by the church will read their essays about important civil rights issues of the day.

A total of \$900 in scholarships will be donated to the pupils, ranging from fourth to 12th grade. Pupils who want further information about entering the contest may contact the church by calling 921-7673. The Rev. Valentino Lassiter is the pastor. Entries are due Jan. 9.

This year's topic is "What do you hope will be gained from the Million Man March?"

## Religion News

### FOLLOWING DAD'S EXAMPLE

In 1968, Cleveland stockbroker Pierre R. Diemer of University Heights was elected president of the First Friday Club, the Catholic laity group that meets monthly in downtown Cleveland to hear speakers on matters of faith and society.

Diemer, an active member of the club, will be at the club's meeting Thursday at the City Club with his son John W. Diemer, who will be the club's president for 1996. John Diemer, like his father, is a stockbroker and an active layman in the Catholic Church.

Pierre Diemer noted recently that when he was head of the First Friday Club it was composed entirely of males. Now, he said, its membership is about 40 percent female. John Diemer will succeed Judge Coleen Cooney as president.

### INTERIM DIRECTOR NAMED

Bishop Robert W. Kelley, who retired this fall as the spiritual leader of the Northeast Ohio Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, has been named interim executive director of the Columbus-based Ohio Council of Churches. He takes over as leader of the top ecumenical agency in Ohio from the Rev. Debra L. Bass, who resigned this year to move to Alabama where her husband is a leader in the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church. Kelley also is bishop emeritus of the Northeast Ohio Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, which he had headed since 1987.

### CHANGES AT YALE

In an effort to rebuild its reputation, which has been battered by high acceptance rates and crumbling facilities, Yale University plans to reduce students and faculty at its Divinity School. But Yale Provost Alison Richard affirmed support for the graduate school's traditional mission of training students for ordination, even as other schools have turned to the more academic pursuit of religious studies as a core curriculum.

An internal review committee recommended that the New Haven, Conn., school reduce the number of students from 350 to 280, and the number of faculty from 32 to 28 over six years. The committee also wants to see the student applicant pool swell by at least 50 percent in the next five years through more aggressive recruiting.

### PROTESTING FOOD GUIDELINES

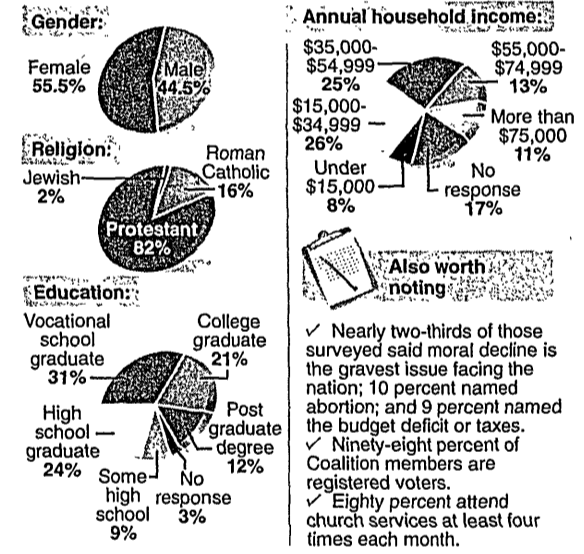
The American Jewish Congress has asked the U.S. Health Care Financing Administration to reconsider its decision not to require nursing homes to take into account the religious dietary needs of their patients. The call came in the wake of guidelines issued by the federal agency, which provides funds for long-term care facilities. The new rules do not require federally aided nursing homes to meet the religious needs of their patients.

The organization said the guidelines should require nursing homes to consider patients' religious beliefs, especially Jews and Muslims, who are required to "avoid certain foods or eat foods prepared in a particular manner or consumed at a certain time."

## THE CHRISTIAN COALITION: WHO ARE THEY?

The 1.7 million-member Christian Coalition, founded by religious broadcaster Pat Robertson, has become a powerful conservative force in local and national politics. But who joins the organization? A survey conducted for the group by a Republican pollster reveals that the typical member is an educated, female Protestant with an annual income of at least \$35,000.

Here are some of the results of random phone interviews with 1,000 Christian Coalition members:



SOURCE: Luntz Research Companies RELIGION NEWS SERVICE

## Christian right fails to address family money

### BELIEFS FROM 6-E

Uncertain economic times, a bland way of saying that many employers are ingrates to those whose labors brighten the annual reports and jolly the stockholders, harm other institutions dear to religious conservatives.

The marriage rate declines. Couples have fewer children, and adopt fewer.

And what the religious right finds anathema, elective abortion, probably rises. Frederica Mathew-Green, who interviewed many pregnant women for her book "Real Choices," lists several "interconnecting reasons" why women abort: "job," "finances," "present concerns" and "future fears." All these factors are roiled by the new economic uncertainty. And if the economy is stifling matrimony, consider that unmarried women are five times more likely than married women to abort.

So why do religious right leaders ignore the new corporate callousness? Maybe they accept an ideology that holds the free market sacrosanct. But past a certain point, the point at which good people get kicked in the teeth, ideologies become artifacts of mere pride, the sin that got Lucifer his big demotion.

What could the faithful do? Well, if believers, can hector Time-Warner over foul rap lyrics, they can scold companies that

play foul with employees. If Christians can boycott products advertised on low TV shows, they can shun the wares of Machiavellian manufacturers.

Last year, days before Christmas, Mattel announced the layoff of 1,000 workers to "create efficiencies" — this in a year when the toy maker was first in market share. What if the 1.6 million member Christian Coalition had responded to this with a simple consumer pledge: No Barbies.

Of course, the religious right could also honor America's many good and caring companies, which realize that long-term success depends on workers with high morale. Meteoric Hewlett-Packard, notes Kanter, "offers displaced workers another job in the company, pays very high wages, and counts on people's skills, not on cheap wages."

But perhaps conservative Christianity's main contribution could be the faith's everlasting one — to call all segments of society to moral account. Communism, as a marching creed, appears gloriously dead. Socialism is discredited. Unions are moribund. What then keeps capitalism in check? Nothing but a spirit of decency, a spirit that the religious right, left and center should try to quicken.

Paul Akers is an editorial writer for Scripps Howard News Service.

## Study lists six ways to make a home a home

An Illinois study of exemplar nursing homes identified six characteristics of high-quality care:

- A two-way street with the surrounding community: Church groups and children are frequently inside and residents, including those without family, get out.

- Strong ethical leadership: The home's administration is focused on the highest quality of care for each resident, which will be different for each resident, rather than efficient warehousing of people until they die.

- Superior management style: A distressingly high number of nursing homes are run by people

with very little education in how to operate one.

- Techniques that de-institutionalize: These can be as simple and important as residents being able to own and display their own possessions, having individual rooms, and choices in food and schedule, instead of having these things imposed on them.

- Innovative care: Nursing

homes in the front ranks can resemble hospitals that put in birthing suites — designed for the maximum homelike atmosphere while meeting medical needs.

- A values history as part of arrival process: These workups help discover a new resident's relationships to family, friends and, if relevant, religion. Getting unfinished business resolved can be made part of the resident's plan.

## Strong community ties vital to county nursing home

### HOMELIKE FROM 6-E

"They've really brought the place up since I came in," said Theresa L. Copley, who moved into the nursing home 29 years ago after a debilitating car accident. "They added carpeting a while back. And the best part was four or five years ago, they put in air conditioning."

Rich believes the work of sociologist Irving Goffman, who studied asylums and prisons, is applicable to evaluating nursing homes.

Goffman identified the qualities that make up a totalitarian place. These include stripping away personal effects on entry, common violations of individual

privacy and little or no control over one's daily schedule. And like prisons, bad nursing homes tend to carry out all phases of life in large groups, with no distinctions made for individuals.

"If you read the literature on life in a nursing home you develop the image of a bunch of difficult children: They don't get up when they should, eat what they should and when," Rich said.

"The message is you have to get down to the dining room and eat a balanced breakfast even if you haven't started a day with anything more than coffee for the last 40 years. Well, that is not you. You're being stripped of your identity."

A good nursing home does not

rob a resident of lifelong habits and identity, Rich said. No resident should wind up thinking, "I can't be myself here. I'm being turned into someone else. Or worse, into no one at all."

Everyone, regardless of age, needs meaning in one's life. And meaning is not supplied by television, canasta or bingo, Rich said.

"Independence has a lot to do with what you have to say about how you live your daily life," Rich said. "If a half a dozen activities are going on and they are all mindless, all basketweaving, then there are no choices."

What makes independence so tricky with the frail elderly is you do them no favors by leaving them alone, Rich said.

Susan A. Shepherd, 29, the benefits coordinator for Capitol American insurance, had no intentions of leaving the county residents neglected, especially for the holidays. But she had a hard time recruiting carolers the week before Christmas among her 300 co-workers downtown.

"We were disappointed about the turnout," Shepherd said. "But even with the three of us, it sounded pretty good. It was worth doing."

"I think time is the big issue with most people. It can be one hour they feel they don't have. And if you don't volunteer regularly, you don't know that warm feeling you get, that you get as much out of it as anyone you serve."

## Jehovah's Witnesses change Armageddon time frame

### RELIGION NEWS SERVICE

After warning for decades that the generation aware of events in 1914 would not die off before seeing an Armageddon bloodbath and the dawn of a new world, Jehovah's Witnesses are now saying, in effect, "Never mind."

A spokesman for the Brooklyn, N.Y.-based sect said that a re-examination of Scripture prompted the leadership to see "this generation" as the people of a historical era rather than the lifespan of certain individuals.

"It doesn't change our belief that we are living in the time of the end," said Robert Johnson, media spokesman for 4.7 million Witnesses, including 900,000 Americans.

Johnson and other Witnesses contended the shift will not lead to a falling away of members.

But some prominent ex-Witnesses predicted the change will take away much of the urgency of the Witnesses' door-to-door message that time is short.

"This is a monumental change after all this time," said Ray

Franz of Winston, Ga., who was on the Witnesses' governing board from 1971 until 1980 when he quit the organization over what he called "a crisis of conscience."

Ex-Witness James Fenton, professor emeritus of history and religious studies at the University of Lethbridge in Alberta, Canada, said, "Now that they have changed the 'generation' argument, they won't be able to put the same pressure on [Witnesses] to go house to house."

Author of entries on the Witnesses for Encyclopedia Americana and other reference works, Fenton said the change had to come sometime soon. "How do you keep saying 'the generation of 1914' when 90 percent of that generation is dead?"

The change was plainly evident in issues of Awake!, one of two major magazines for Witnesses. Previously, the masthead routinely noted that "this magazine

### Independent

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8 & 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
Canon Gary A. Mitchener, preaching  
Nursery & Church School at 10:30 a.m.  
Parking off Prospect  
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3:00 & 5:00 p.m.  
Friday, January 5  
Epiphany Lessons & Carols • 6:00 p.m.

### Presbyterian

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**Worship Directory**

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Dec. 31 Worship and Child Care at 10:00 AM  
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