

# COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER

## YMCA's Good Friday Breakfast celebrates the season

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PHOENIXVILLE — Over 200 people listened to music and the word of God and enjoyed a hot breakfast at the Phoenixville YMCA's 47th Annual Good Friday Breakfast Friday morning.

Plenty of people woke up early to convene at the Bradley S. Thomson Activity Center at the YMCA, 400 East Pot-house Road, for breakfast and fellowship. The YMCA was closed on Friday for the holiday, except for the breakfast.

Mike Flott, Phoenixville YMCA Branch Advisory Board, gave a Blessing of the Food.

Kevin Christman, board chairman, Phoenixville YMCA Board of Directors, welcomed everyone in attendance, and introduced Greg Porter, who provided the invocation.

Accompanied by Nadine Hoepfl on violin, Phoenixville resident Jan Swarr sang "The Old Rugged Cross." Swarr

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asked everyone to stand and join in the singing with her.

Members of the Phoenixville YMCA Team Leaders Club stood present as attendees helped themselves to a breakfast consisting of eggs, hash browns, French toast and fruit salad.

A table of danishes, cinnamon rolls and muffins, along with a table of coffee, orange juice and milk, were made available against the gymnasium wall.

After a scripture reading from Donald J.L. Coppedge, Michelle English sang a medley of songs, "Prepare Ye The Way Of The Lord," "Day By Day" and "Were You There." She was accompanied by Nancy Deskins on flute.

Flott introduced the guest speaker for the morning, Jim Bracelin, Silent Word Ministries and missionary for Minis-

try To The Deaf. His message Friday morning was both spoken and translated via sign language.

"We're here to speak of Good Friday," said Bracelin. "Today when we think of Good Friday, it is a Good Friday. We must think of Jesus Christ, paid in full for us all."

With a giant cross behind him during his message, Bracelin informed the attendees of their path to Heaven.

"There is one way to lead to Heaven, and it is through this cross," he said. "When you came here today, you came here for him."

Following a beautiful rendition of "Watch The Lamb" by Bob Kirkner, Bishop William Washington Jr. gave the benediction.

YMCA Brand Director Jon Agnew said that the attendance at the breakfast was one of the largest he's seen.

"This is one of the largest gatherings we've had here," said Agnew. "This is my third breakfast and it gets better every year. Many thanks to the YMCA staff and volunteers for a job well done."

After the program, Agnew especially thanked Sue Ellen Plunkett-Masters, pre-school childcare director, for the hard work she put in making the breakfast a success.

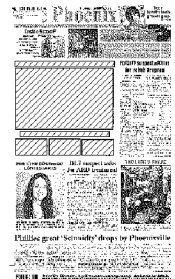
Plunkett-Masters said that this was the first time she and the Team Leaders Club didn't have to arrive way early to prepare breakfast.

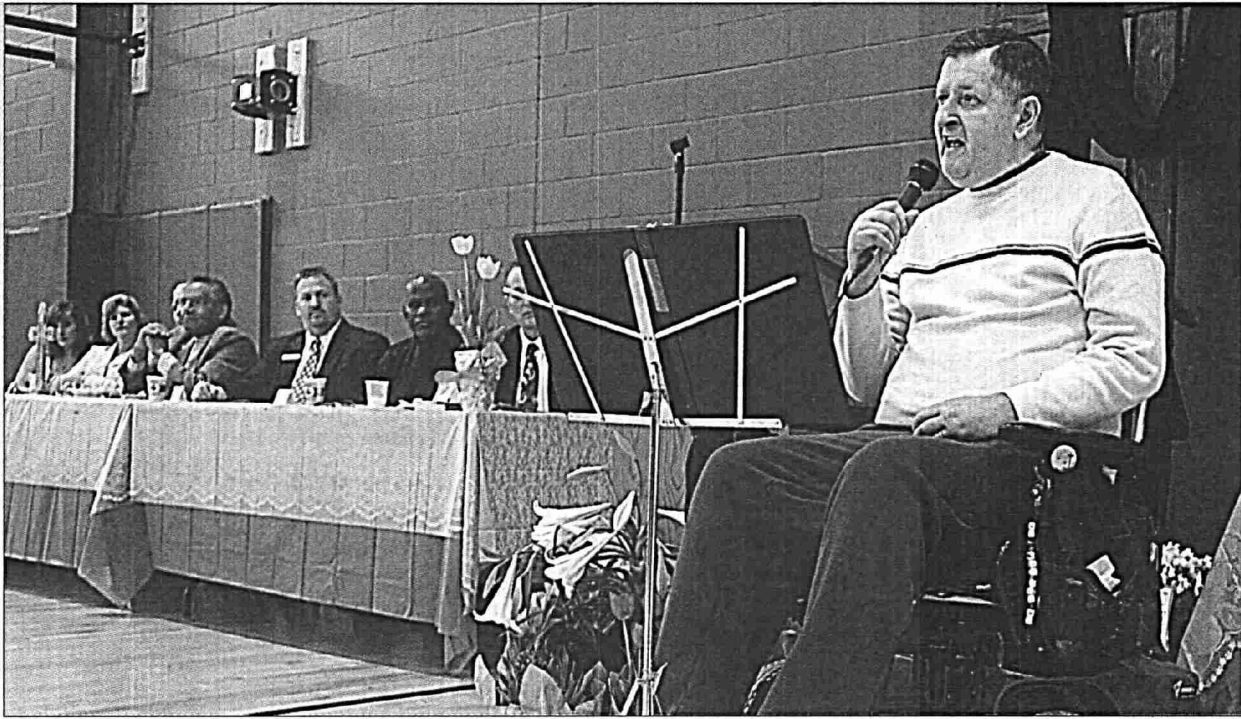
"This is the first year we had the breakfast catered," said Plunkett-Masters. "Due to the renovations, our kitchen capacity was diminished. It seems like everything has worked out well."

The breakfast was catered by O'Neill's in Horsham.

Plunkett-Masters said that the message of the breakfast involves the "C" in YMCA.

"What's important this morning is the 'C' in YMCA," she said. "It is Christian principle that we bring to the community. Everyone has come together this morning for one purpose — Good Friday — and to remember Jesus Christ."





Staff photo by Barry Taglieber/btaglieber@PhoenixvilleNews.com

**Bob Kirkner sings "Watch the Lamb" during the Phoenixville Branch of the Freedom Valley YMCA's 47th Annual Good Friday Breakfast.**