

Auditor General DePasquale Calls for More Help for Pennsylvania Students Struggling to Pay for College

By Gary Miller

HARRISBURG – Auditor General Eugene DePasquale today released a special report calling for more help for Pennsylvania students struggling to pay for college. The report also follows up on a 2008 performance audit of the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency, the state's student loan agency.

"Pennsylvania is one of the top states for total student borrowing and the average student loan debt in our state is now more than \$37,000," DePasquale said. "Pennsylvania must do more to help students and parents afford college, as well as understand the implications of borrowing for higher education."

A performance audit released in 2008 under former Auditor General Jack Wagner called for PHEAA to halve the number of governing board seats held by legislators, among other changes.

"Overall, I'm glad to report that PHEAA took the audit to heart and made most of the improvements that that it recommended," DePasquale said. "In just the first two years the improvements helped PHEAA save \$74 million to reinvest in Pennsylvania students."

Among the improvements cited by the special report:

- PHEAA has implemented most of the department's 2008 recommendations, including reducing the vehicle fleet, updating the vehicle use policy to prohibit personal use and use by non-employees, and using a standardized form to properly track vehicle expenses across the agency.

- PHEAA updated its travel policy to include specific language defining business expenses, clear explanation of non-reimbursable expenses and approvals required for any business travel. It also instituted new procedures for corporate travel and travel cards, agency fleet vehicles and car rentals.

PHEAA reined in some of its previous spending practices, including by bringing most compensation packages more in line with other state agencies and curtailing most executive and management employee incentive programs. As the 2008 audit recommended, PHEAA is now offering employee events at a discounted rate instead of paying for the entirety of the event.

The 2008 audit found that PHEAA misclassified \$2 million in expenditures. In response, the agency has developed a four-year risk-based audit plan that is updated annually. The resulting audits are reviewed by an audit review committee, which is composed of the PHEAA board.

DePasquale noted that PHEAA's board could benefit from including more individuals with professional backgrounds that directly relate to the agency's financial functions and core mission.

"As was the case in 2008, the PHEAA board is still top-heavy with legislators," DePasquale said. "There's no reason why these important board seats shouldn't go to individuals who have relevant experience in higher education and finance."

Under current law, legislators are essentially allowed to hold onto PHEAA board seats for as long as it suits them to remain. This has effectively kept the board from becoming more diverse and including members with related professional experience in the private sector.

The special report also recommends that Pennsylvania create an independent Office of Student Loan Advocate or similar ombudsman to help borrowers navigate the increasingly complex world of student loans.

"The Pennsylvania Treasury would be the right department to house this type of ombudsman," DePasquale said. "It's an independent office that already operates a college savings plan."

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH WORKSHOP SERIES



Our DVAM workshops are at no cost and will be held every Tuesday in October from 12:00-1:00pm. They can be found on our website and on our Facebook page.

Workshop #1

10/6 - Recognize, Respond, Refer for Medical Professionals

<https://secure.qgiv.com/for/rrrfmpdw/>

This interactive workshop is geared towards students and professionals in any medical practice, clinical setting, mental health or rehabilitation center to learn how to refer someone for services at Turning Point.

Workshop #2

10/13 - Introduction to Domestic and Intimate Partner Abuse

<https://secure.qgiv.com/for/itdaipadw/>

This at no cost, interactive workshop will cover different types of abuse as well as highlight the resources that Turning Point provides to the community.

Workshop #3

10/20 - Teen Dating Abuse: Creating Healthy Boundaries in Virtual Environments

<https://secure.qgiv.com/for/tdachbivedw/>

This at no cost, interactive workshop will explore teen dating abuse and how virtual learning environments are influencing teens' ability to have effective boundaries with dating partners.

Workshop #4

10/27 - Community Forum DVAM Workshop

<https://secure.qgiv.com/for/cfdw/>

Join Turning Point's Outreach Team for the final Domestic Violence Awareness Month Workshop Series. This workshop will be in the style of a Q&A as the Outreach Team fields questions from the community about topics related to domestic and intimate partner abuse.



CONNECT WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND SHARE OUR POSTS AND EVENTS



#MyTurningPointLV

#DVAM2020

#DVAM

Take the pledge to help survivors in the Lehigh Valley.

24/7 Helpline (610) 437-3369

www.turningpointlv.org



DOING THE MOST GOOD®

Merry Christmas Fund for the 2020

By Captain Barbara Cure

PEN ARGYL - The Mission Of The Salvation Army: The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian Church. Its message is based on the Bible. Its ministry is motivated by the love of God. Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human need in His name without discrimination.

The Salvation Army has been in Pen Argyl since the early 1900's, serving the families of The Slate Belt and beyond. Every Christmas an effort is made to serve as many families as possible. For the 2019 Christmas season we served over 125 families with food and gifts.

We would like to begin a Merry Christmas Fund for the 2020 Christmas Season with donations being made to help the Pen Argyl Corps stretch its regular operating budget during the holiday season and beyond. (These donations could be made in memory/honor of loved ones).

Those who wish to contribute to this fund can send donations via check or money order made payable to The Salvation Army, P.O. Box 57, Pen Argyl, PA 18072. Contributors who wish to be recognized in the Blue Valley Times during the month of December 2020 should include a very brief, legible holiday message with their donations.

NOTICE

ALL SUBMISSIONS MUST BE EMAILED ONLY TO BVTIMES@RCN.COM BY FRIDAYS NOON

Ackermanville United Methodist
1410 Ackermanville Road, Bangor
 Sun 10am Worship. Rev. Sukja Bang
 (610) 588-7818,
www.ackermanvilleumc.org

Bangor Church of the Nazarene
150 Bunny Trail, Bangor
 Sun 9:30am SS, 10:40am Worship
 (Children's Church to grade 2), 5pm
 Powerhouse Praise Practice, 6pm Teen
 Straight Talk & Small Groups. Kenneth
 L. Bean, Pastor
 (610) 588-6929

Belfast Bible
483 Belfast Rd., Belfast

Sunday School (all ages) 9:30am, Wor-
 ship 10:45am, Evening Service 7pm.
 Pastor Michael Yaworski.

Belfast Wesley United Methodist
607 School St., Belfast

Children's SS & Adult SS 9am, Wor-
 ship 10am, coffee fellowship following
 worship. Pastor Paul Milligan. (610)
 746-3652.

Benders Mennonite Church

975 Benders Church Rd., Pen Argyl
 Sun Worship service every Sunday at
 10:10am; Food Bank 3rd Saturday of
 the month 9-11am. 610-863-9114.

Bethel Bible Church of Mt. Zion
**7742 N. Delaware Dr. (Rt. 611),
 Martins Creek**

Free Bread Every Saturday, 3eryone
 welcome, questions 908-483-8231;
 Sunday School 9am, Sunday Morning
 Worship 10am. Pastor Rick Tunis, 610-
 250-9890. Learn about us online
www.bethelbiblechurchofmtzion.org.

Christ Presbyterian Church
of the Slate Belt

332 Kennedy Dr., Bangor
 Sun.-Worship 10:30 a.m. Rev Albert Martin
 (610)588-4864
 e mail - presbyterianbr@frontiernet.net
www.facebook.com/Presbyterybr

Christ Ev. Lutheran Church
703 South Delaware Drive

Mt Bethel, PA 18343
 610-588-7056
 The Rev. Larry Laine
 Worship at 9 AM
 Sunday School 10 AM

Clearfield Bible Holiness Church
1502 Bushkill Ctr Rd, Wind Gap

Sun- SS 10:15am, Worship 11:15am &
 3pm. Pastor Donald Herrick.
 (812) 653-3975.

Community Baptist

Weona Park Center, Pen Argyl
 Sun - Bible study 7pm. Separate
 class for age 10 & under.

Community Presbyterian

1755 S Delaware Drive, Mt. Bethel

Sun. - SS 9:15am, Worship service
 10:30am, Coffee hour on last sunday of
 every month following service.
www.mtbethelpresbyterian.org,
 (570) 897-6766.

Cross Road Baptist Church
201 Second St., Bangor

Sun- 9:15am Praise Sing, 9:30am SS,
 10:45am Worship; Wed- 7pm Prayer/
 Bible Study. Rev. Jay VanHorn, Pastor
 (610) 588-3966,
www.crossroadbaptistbangor.org

**The Lady's Guild of Our Lady of Vic-
 tory R.C. Church, Tannersville** will hold
 a Chicken Cordon Blue Dinner on April
 28th. We would appreciate your help
 in advertising this year's event without
 cost to the church.

EAST BANGOR UNITED
METHODIST COMMUNITY CHURCH

136 W. Central Ave.

East Bangor, PA 18013

Thurs., Oct. 8

-7:00 p.m. Bible Study (on ZOOM)

Sat., Oct. 10 -8:00 p.m. AA Meeting

Sun., Oct. 11 10:00 a.m. Worship

Service (LIVE and on ZOOM)

"155th Anniversary Sunday"

Pastor David Goss

(610) 588-4453 Dial-A-Message

(610-588-3896) www.ebumc.org

Faith Alive Community Church
10 Mechanic St, Wind Gap

Tues- 6pm Ladies Prayer Meeting (2nd
 Tues); Wed- 6:30pm Revival Prayer,
 7:15pm Adult Bible Study; Sat- 10-2pm
 Prayer Stop (1st Sat); Sun- 9:15am
 Family Fellowship, 9:30am Interces-
 sory Prayer, 10am Worship, 10:45am
 Children's Church, Communion at
 10:30am (1st Sun). Pastor Matthew
 Whistler. (610) 863-6911,
www.faccpa.org

Family Life Community Church
1115 Richmond Rd, Bangor

Wed- Kidz Night Out at The Hub 6:30-
 8pm (kids 6 thru 6th gr.); Thurs- Teen
 Night Out at The Hub 6:30-8pm (gr.
 7-9); Sun- 10am Celebration Service.
 Pastor Mike Poppa. 610-588-3736,
www.flccbangor.com.

First United Evangelical
25 S 2nd St., Bangor

Sun. - 7pm Prayer Meeting & Bible
 Study; Jan 20- 9am Prayer Meeting,
 9:30am Church School, 10:30am Wor-
 ship. Pastor Ronald Shipman at
 (610) 588-3226

First United Methodist Church
55 N. Third St., Bangor

Worship every Sunday at 11am, Adult
 and Children Sunday Schools 9:45am,
 Communion first Sunday of month,
 Wednesday evening Bible Study
 6:30pm. Pastor Chris Hardy
 (610) 588-4673.

First United Methodist

19 West & Water St., Wind Gap
 Sun.- 9am SS, 10am Worship/Commu-
 nion, 11am Fellowship on 1st Sunday
 of each month. Pastor John Vidal

(570) 426-0645

Flicksville United Church of Christ
 1337 Lower South Main Street

Bangor, PA 18013 Pastor Ken Hess
 610-588-4648

www.flicksvilleuicc.com

Adult Sunday School classes at 9:30
 AM Worship at 10:45 AM
 following social distancing guidelines

God's Missionary Church
of Northampton
**4965 Nor. Bath Blvd (Rt 329),
 Northampton, PA**

Sun- SS 9:30am, Service 10:30 & 7pm,
 Youth Service 6:30pm; Wed- Prayer
 Meeting 7:30pm. Rev. Rodney Keister.
 (610) 262-4412.
<http://GMC-N.com>

Good Shepherd Evangelical
Lutheran Church,

2904 Church Rd, Martins Creek PA
 Sunday Worship Service 9:00 am. Adult
 Bible Study Following Worship. Pastor

Louise Williams.

www.goodshepherdmc.com

Grace Lutheran Church

5907 Sullivan Trail, Nazareth
 Tue. - 6:30pm Choir; Jan 20- 9am
 Service/Communion, 10:15am SS,
 10:30am Confirmation/Adult Forum.
 (610) 759-9080, www.gracebelfast.org

Grace United Methodist

404 Mountain Ave., Pen Argyl
 Sun.- 8:30am Contemporary, 10am
 Blended, 10am SS. Rev. J. Timothy
 Fisher. (610) 863-4811. [www.worshipat-
 grace.org](http://www.worshipat-grace.org)

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church
1501 Trinity Court, Stroudsburg

Divine Liturgy Sundays 9:30 AM;
 Vespers Saturday 6:30 PM. (570) 421-
 4455, www.holytrinitypoconos.org.

Hopesprings Community of Faith
301 Market Street, Bangor

Sun-Services 10am. Jonathan Alman-
 zar, Lead Pastor. 855-INFO-HOPE.
www.hopespringscommunity.org.

Hope UCC

2nd & Cherry St., Wind Gap

Sun- 10:30am Worship (Communion
 1st Sunday of the month). All are wel-
 come! SS 9:30 Sunday Morning.
 Pastor Emily B. Hall. (610) 863-4474

Living Waters Christian Church

396 Sterling Rd. Unit D, Tobyhanna
 Thurs- 6pm Christian Edu Sun- 9:15am
 Christian Edu, 10:30am Worship. Rev.
 Dr. Jacqueline R. Walters
 570-350-4710

Mt. Bethel Church

A Church of the Lutheran Brethren
1270 Belvidere Cr. Rd, Mt. Bethel
 Sun.- 8:30am Traditional Service ,
 11am Contemporary Service Visit our
 website www.mountbethelchurch.org or
 call (570) 897-7142 for info.

Our Lady of Good Counsel

436 South 2nd Street

Bangor, PA 18013

Rectory (610) 588-5445

Parish Webside: [www.ourladystvin-
 cent.com](http://www.ourladystvin-cent.com) Mass Schedule

Weekdays 8AM excluding Thursdays
 (See Church Website)

Saturday 4 PM Sunday 8:30 AM

Holy Days (See Church Website)

Saturday Confessions 3:25-3:45 PM

Our Lady of Victory R.C. Church,
 Tannersville, PA will hold a Free Com-
 munity Dinner on Sunday, July 21st
 from 3pm to 4pm. They would appreci-
 ate your assistance in advertising this
 dinner without cost to the Church.

Portland Baptist Church
601 Delaware Ave., Portland

Sun- Sunday School 9am, Service
 10:30am; Wed- Bible Study 10:30 with
 Prayer Meeting to follow. Elevator and
 ramps We are handicap accessible with
 automatic doors, elevator and restroom.
 (570) 897-6866
www.portlandbaptistchurch.com

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
2445 Lake Minsi Dr., Bangor

Saturday Worship: 1st & 3rd 5:30 pm.
 Sunday School starts at 8:30am
 (September-May)
 Sunday Service- 9:45am
 Holy Communion is served weekly.
 All are welcome!

Richmond United Methodist Church
8538 Delaware Dr, Bangor

Palm Sunday, worship at 10:00 am.
 Maundy Thursday, Soup at 6:00 pm
 and Worship at 7:00 pm. Good Friday
 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm for Personal
 Meditation, Devotion and Prayer
 Easter Sunrise Service at 7:00 am
 (followed by breakfast) Easter Tradi-
 tional Worship 10:00 am Rev. Ed Van
 Arsdale 610-588-7317

Slate Belt Church

1620 Church Rd, Pen Argyl
 (Across from the Wind Gap Middle School)
www.slatebeltchurch.com

Sun.- 9:30am SS, 10:30am Worship &
 Children's Church (nursery provided)
 5:30pm Bible Study, Youth Group & Kids
 Program Pastor Steve Rebert
 610-863-9274

St. Brigid's Episcopal Church, Nazareth.

Delete Sunday school Holy Eucharist @
 9:30 a.m. St. Brigid's Episcopal Church
 310 Madison Avenue Nazareth, PA 18064
 Phone: 610-746-3910 Fax: 610-746-4515

St. Elizabeth's Parish

300 West Babbitt Ave., Pen Argyl
 Sun.- Masses 8am, 9:30am & 11am. Rev.
 Msgr. Vincent P. York.
 610-863-4777

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran

12 N. Westbrook, Pen Argyl
 Sun.- 8:45am SS, 10am Worship/Holy
 Communion. (610) 863-4332

St. Joseph's Episcopal
1440 Verona Dr., W. Bangor

Jan 20- Eucharist 11am; Christmas Eve
 Service 4pm. Rev Joel Atkinson. Coffee

hour after service.

St. Luke's U.C.C. Belfast
471 Belfast Rd., Nazareth (Belfast)

SS 9am, Worship 10:30am. Rev. Cecelia
 Baxter and Rev. Jameson Baxter.
 610-759-0244.
www.stlukesuccbelfast.com

St. Mary's Episcopal
340 Lehigh St., Wind Gap

Sun.- service 9am. Coffee hour follows
 service. Rev. Joel Atkinson.
 Maundy Thursday Service will be held
 at St. Mary's Episcopal Church Wind
 Gap at 5:30 P.M. Easter Morning Ser-
 vice will be held at St. Mary's Episcopal
 Church Wind Gap at 9:00 a.m.

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran
1422 Church Rd, Pen Argyl

(610) 863-6859
 Sunday Worship/Communion
 8am and 10:15am;
 9am SS
www.stpetersplainfield.com

St. Vincent dePaul

720 Delaware Avenue
 Portland, PA 18351
 Rectory (610) 588-5445
 Mass Schedule Weekdays (at OLGC)
 Saturday 6 PM Sunday 10:30 AM
 Holy Days (See Church Website)
 Saturday Confessions 5:40-5:50 PM

The Pentecostal Christian
Church the Truth

(Iglesia Pentecostal La Verdad)
4 Jory Ave Pen Argyl

Sun.- Prayer 14- Sunday School
 (Escuela Dominical) 12 noon, Praise &
 Worrship (Cuho Evangelistico) 1pm.

Temple Israel of the Poconos
Equalitarian Conservative Synagogue

660 Wallace Street, Stroudsburg
 Sabbath Services: Friday evening 7pm
 followed by a Traditional Oneg Shab-
 bat. Saturday morning 9:30am followed
 by a traditional Kiddush. Dr. Sandra
 Alfonsi 570-223-7062.

Trinity United Church of Christ

632 S Delaware Dr. Mt Bethel Pa
 18343 Sunday Worship 10:30 am
 SS and Confirmation 9:00 am
 Rev. Rodney Wells pastor

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran

404 Broadway, Bangor
 Thur - Christian Ed 6:30pm, Choir
 7:30pm; Jan 20- SS 9am, Worship/
 Communion 10am. Pastor Laine. (610)
 588-2023, www.tlcbangor.com.

Zion Presbyterian Church
Water St., Wind Gap

Sun.- Rev. Albert Martin will be speak-
 ing at the 9:30am service. Children SS
 during the service. Visitors welcome.
 (610) 863-8888



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