

Seeking Both a Will and a Way To Meet Our Housing Needs

By REV. JEREMY MONTGOMERY

"Where there is a will, there is a way!" What we seek to accomplish as a community, what we set our minds to pursuing and what we value as important can ultimately become a reality with whatever means possible.

As a minister and as a public servant to the Town of Westfield, I have an invested interest in the well-being of this community's residents. Actually, the next time you drop off your movie at Video Video, or you pick up your child at the Westfield 'Y' Children's Center, or you park to run into Baron's, take notice of the saying on the side of the First Baptist Church. It reads, "We're here for you." And this claim is true.

I am not attempting to give a promo for First Baptist here. In fact, if you ask any of the other clergy and ministers within this town, they would agree. This community's churches and houses of worship exist as a spiritual and moral compass for our town and society.

Many families are coming to us, seeking to instill within their children a sense of values and ethics that are just not found in other places of our society.

In a biblical sense, we are the priestly and prophetic witnesses that call forth to others, helping them to find their way in a weary land. We assist in orienting people to what is right, to what is true, and to what is positive.

Thus, this motivation leads us to also redirect our emotions and wills toward a segment of our community that is not being properly considered.

For several years, the Westfield/Mountainside Ministerium Associates has conducted serious discussion concerning a solid response to those in this community who are being displaced, evicted and economically forced to leave their homes due to commercial development, gentrification and zoning restrictions.

While Westfield's economy is on the upswing and the town has been commercially developing its downtown, the town is losing its ability to affordably house its residents. The cost of affordable housing has escalated and is reflected by too many statistics to list here.

While the town has experienced new growth that has enriched its economy and commercial development, this new growth has imposed socio-economic costs on low-to-moderate income families by increasing housing demand and driving up rents and home prices.

"Where there is a will, there is a way." It's simply stated. Nothing has been done because there lacks an overwhelming driving force to guide the decision to do so. The majority simply has halted a unified responsive approach within this town. On behalf of this need, people hesitate to stick their necks out for fear of political bashing and embarrassment. At the end of the day, most just do not care.

Our plea to the town is to create affordable housing for people who have high-priority housing needs. Given the urgency of the current housing crisis in this unstable economy, resources should be used both to expand the supply of affordable rental housing and to hold the line on the loss of currently affordable units.

Peggy Foy to Discuss Talents Of 19th Century Weavers

FANWOOD — Peggy Foy, a researcher and collector of antique New Jersey woven coverlets, will be the guest speaker for the Historical Society of Scotch Plains and Fanwood at its opening meeting of the season on Tuesday, September 24.

The meeting will start at 8 p.m. at the Fanwood Train Station, located at North and Martine Avenues. All are invited to attend the program, which will be followed by refreshments and fellowship.

Mrs. Foy, a Scotch Plains resident, will present a slide and lecture program highlighting the artistic expression and abilities of early 19th-century New Jersey weavers.

For further information may be ob-

To accomplish this, we seek to advocate for affordable housing to be centrally developed within the Town of Westfield's Parking Deck Project. Understanding The Atlantic Group's expertise in developing affordable housing in municipalities such as Princeton, we appeal to the town to declare affordable housing development within the parking deck plans.

Our vision is to see the development of aesthetically compatible housing in the community, which will be reflective of the character, quality and care of the surrounding neighborhoods.

The termination of a family's economic ability to live in the town of their choice, where they were raised and where they have raised their children, is needlessly destabilizing. The displacement of low-to-moderate income families in Westfield sends a negative message that Westfield is not a caring community.

Westfield has the development capacity, through its ongoing development plans, to produce and preserve many affordable homes within the Parking Deck Project.

But to adequately serve Westfield households with high-priority housing needs, the political will to expand and target available resources for affordable housing is needed.

I urge the Mayor and Town Council members to seize this moment of Westfield's growth to make a significant investment in affordable housing — an investment that will have an impact on the character of the town and its residents for years to come. I say, "Exert your will and there will be a multitude of ways."

Reverend Montgomery serves as Minister of Local Outreach at the First Baptist Church of Westfield, located at 170 Elm Street in Westfield.

Prayer to St. Jude

Oh Holy St. Jude, apostle and martyr, great in virtue and rich in miracles, near kinsman of Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor of all who invoke your special patronage in time of need, to you I have recourse from the depth of my heart and humbly beg to whom God has given such great power to come to my assistance. Help me in my urgent position. In return I promise to make your name known and cause you to be invoked. Say three Our Fathers, Hail Mary's and Glorias. Publication Must be promised. St. Jude, pray for us all who invoke your aid. Amen. This novena has never been known to fail. This novena must be said for nine consecutive days. G.L.C.

Rosary Society Plans Luncheon Event With Fashion Show

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Rosary Society of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Roman Catholic Church in Scotch Plains will host a Luncheon Fashion Show on Sunday, October 20, at the Westwood in Garwood.

Doors will open at 11:30 a.m. Members of the Rosary Society will model fashions from B.J.'s Dressing Room in Scotch Plains. There will also be a variety of prizes.

Reservations are \$35 and can be made by calling Mary Graham at (908) 232-2746.

tained from club President Richard Bousquet, P.O. Box 261, Scotch Plains 07076 or by calling (908) 232-1199.



OPENINGS AVAILABLE!!!

HOLY TRINITY INTERPAROCHIAL SCHOOL / MOUNTAINSIDE CAMPUS
300 CENTRAL AVENUE, MOUNTAINSIDE
(Located in Our Lady of Lourdes Church)

**3 AND 4-YEAR OLDS
FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN**
LUNCH BUNCH & BEFORE AND AFTER CARE AVAILABLE

**Holy Trinity Interparochial School:
Where Everybody Is Somebody Special**

(908) 233-1899
MIDDLE STATES ACCREDITED



SALE DAYS AHEAD — The Mothers' Center of Central New Jersey will hold its semi-annual consignment sale on Wednesday and Thursday, September 25 and 26, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day at the Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church in Plainfield. Gently-used children's fall and winter clothing, in sizes from newborn to Children's 14, will be among the featured items. There will also be toys, maternity clothing, videos, books and baby equipment. Proceeds will benefit the Mothers' Center, a non-profit, non-sectarian organization offering friendship and support for parents across Central New Jersey. For more information, please call (908) 561-1751 or visit <http://westfieldnj.com/mccnj>.

Fanwood Library to Hold Fall Storytime Programs

FANWOOD — The Fanwood Memorial Library, located at North Avenue and Tillotson Road, has announced that registration will take place for its Fall Session of storytime programs.

Interested individuals are asked to register in person for the Three-Year-Old and the Four- and Five-Year-Old storytime with craft. Registration will begin at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, September 21, and continue until 4 p.m. on Friday, September 27.

There will also be a storytime with crafts for two-year-old children accompanied by a parent or responsible adult. This program is designed for each adult and child to participate and listen, seated together.

Anyone interested in this activity

must attend an orientation on Wednesday, October 2, at 10:30 a.m. Registration for the Two-Year-Old storytime will take place during the orientation. Individuals should sign in for the orientation at the Children's information desk when they arrive.

Family storytime will be held on Mondays at 5:30 p.m. for children of all ages. Youngsters age four and younger must be seated with an adult. Prior registration is not required for this storytime.

Fanwood residents will be given priority with all registrations. All storytimes will begin the week of September 30 and end the week of October 28. For times and other details, please call (908) 322-4377.

Westfield Library to Hold Classes on Internet Uses

WESTFIELD — Librarians at the Westfield Memorial Library will share their knowledge of the Internet during two upcoming programs.

In "Help - I'm in a Book Discussion Group," attendees will learn how to locate good titles for discussion, biographical information on authors and literary criticism in databases at the library and on the Internet.

This discussion will be held on Tuesday, September 24, or Saturday, September 28, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

On Monday, September 30, "Job

Searching on the Internet" will teach people how to search the classifieds online, view employment sites for government and other types of jobs and how to post their resumé online. This class will take place between 7 and 8:30 p.m.

Participants must be Westfield Library card holders and advance registration is required. All classes will be held at the library, located at 550 East Broad Street. For more information or to register, please call the Reference Department at (908) 789-4090.

Bachelor Auction to Benefit Youngsters With Cancer

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Emmanuel Cancer Foundation (ECF), a non-profit organization supporting children suffering from cancer, will conduct its first annual Bachelor Auction on Saturday, October 12.

The event, entitled "A Night for Angels," will take place from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. at the East Brunswick Hilton, 3 Tower Center Boulevard in East Brunswick. Tickets are \$60 per person. All proceeds will benefit youngsters served by the ECF.

An array of bachelors will be bid upon by the women in attendance. Bids will begin at \$25. For their "date," the bachelor and the woman will be treated to a dinner for two at a premier restaurant in the Union, Middlesex and Somerset County areas via chauffeured limousine.

A statewide, non-profit organization, ECF was founded in 1983 by Joseph and Susan Vizzoni in memory of their son, Emmanuel, who died of cancer at age seven.

The Foundation's mission is to help preserve the quality of life for

any New Jersey family whose child has been diagnosed with cancer. ECF provides professional in-home counseling, emergency financial relief and material assistance.

For tickets or additional information, please call Monica at (908) 322-4323, extension no. 17.

National Leaders to Discuss Religion, Politics at Forum

COUNTY — Nationally known pastors, politicians and public officials will lead the second conference sponsored by the Rooks Outreach Institute, to be held at the United Church of Christ Congregational in Plainfield.

The conference will take place on Saturday, September 28, from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. The cost is \$20, which includes a light luncheon.

Guest panelists will discuss ways in which the political and ecumenical communities can foster partnerships to improve and enhance the lives of individuals within the community.

Panelists will give opening presentations; discuss questions and issues directed from the moderator and answer questions from the audience.

Attorney Tyrone Garrett, Executive Director of the Long Branch Housing Authority, will be the moderator for the panel.

Guest panelists are scheduled to include Congresswoman Corrine Brown of Florida; Mayor Debra Powell of East St. Louis, Ill.; Mary Wilhite, Director of Faith Based Services, City of Atlanta, Ga.; Senator Norma Samuel of St. Thomas, United States Virgin Islands, and Pastor DeForest "Buster" Soaries, Jr., former New Jersey Secretary of State.

Others will be Darryl Redman, Director of Faith Based Services, City of Detroit, Mich.; Pastor James A. Forbes, Jr. of Riverside Church in New York City; Mayor Willie L. Brown Jr. of San Francisco; Mayor Roosevelt Dorn of Englewood, Calif. and Mayor Willie W. Herenton of Memphis, Tenn.

Mayor Albert McWilliams of Plainfield will deliver the welcome.

"We are honored to have such prominent speakers coming to our small but diverse congregation," said the Reverend James Colvin, Pastor of the United Church of Christ Congregational.

"Their presence symbolizes our vision of increasing inclusiveness and spiritual presence in church and community life," he added.

To receive registration forms by fax or mail, please call (908) 755-

8658 or send an email to pfducc@cs.com. The church is located at 220 West 7th Street.

Golden Agers Post

Upcoming Activities

SCOTCH PLAINS — After a two-month summer break, the Scotch Plains Golden Agers, a social group for senior citizens, held its first meeting on September 5.

A new slate of officers was elected in June, including President, Olga Bruce; Vice-President, Marge VanDuyne; Secretary, Dot Ranucci, and Treasurer, Jo Masi.

Among the activities planned for this fall are a Dinner and Show at the Lily Langtree Theatre in King Of Prussia, Pa. on Friday, October 25, and a Dinner and Show at Hunts Landing in Matamoros, Pa. on Thursday, November 14. Interested individuals are asked to call Rose at (908) 322-6330.

Planned club programs include "Memory and How to Keep It as We Grow Older" and "Grandma's Yellow Pie Plate - A Look Back to Life as It Was."

The Golden Agers meets every Thursday at 10 a.m. at the Scotch Hills Country Club in Scotch Plains. Each week after lunch, members play bingo and cards. New members are welcome. If interested, please call Marge at (908) 889-4631 or Olga at (908) 322-8530.

Blessing of Pets Slated

At Westfield Church

WESTFIELD — The First United Methodist Church of Westfield will hold a special outdoor service for the blessing of pets on Saturday, October 5.

The service will be held on the church grounds at One East Broad Street beginning at 1 p.m. All are invited to attend.

Each person is responsible for their pet during the service. Refreshments and a light snack will be served (for the people) at the conclusion of the event.

Scherenschnitte on Tap At Miller-Cory Sunday

WESTFIELD — This Sunday, September 22, Evelyn Kennelly of Westfield will demonstrate the paper-cutting artistry called "Scherenschnitte" between 2 and 5 p.m. at the Miller-Cory House Museum, 614 Mountain Avenue in Westfield.

The Chinese developed the craft centuries ago but used knives instead of scissors. It became a popular folk art all over Europe, especially in Switzerland, Poland and Germany.

Scherenschnitte came to America in the 17th century with the Germans who settled in Pennsylvania. Early Americans cut out lacy designs and flowers to decorate house blessing and marriage and birth certificates.

Laurie and Amy Mills of Fanwood and Max Kaplan of Westfield will prepare seasonal foods over the open

hearth, using authentic Colonial recipes and cooking techniques. Visitors will be able to sample taste treats prepared by the cooks.

Costumed docents will guide visitors through the historic farmhouse and answer questions about life in early New Jersey. The last tour will begin at 4 p.m.

The museum's gift shop offers many Colonial gifts and educational items. Admission to the museum is \$2 for adults, 50 cents for students and free for children under age six.

On Sunday, September 29, Joan Bama of Scotch Plains will present a program entitled "Salamanders, Spiders and Other Colonial Kitchen Gadgets."

For information about the museum, its schedule of fall events or volunteer opportunities, please call (908) 232-1776.



Just another stay-at-home mom.

She's had a successful 50-year marriage, raised three children and helped run the family business. Now, she wants to remain in the comfort of her own home. Patient Care can help. Since 1975, our compassionate staff has provided the in-home support services the elderly need to live as fully and independently as possible.

For more information and a free nursing assessment, call 908-654-5656.

patient care inc.

Hourly and Live-In Certified Home Health Aides • Companions • Nurse Visits
24 Hours a Day, 7 Days a Week • www.patientcare.com • 120 Elm Street, Westfield
ACCREDITED BY JCAHO

You Buy The Kit And We'll Build it **FREE!**

20x20 Canterbury \$99 / Mo
24x30 Windsor \$146 / Mo
7.9% Financing
Some restrictions apply

2-Story Room Additions 18x20 \$13,825
Other sizes available

24x24 Oxford \$126 / Mo
Custom Garages Cabins Homes

Call for FREE brochure! 800-722-0466
Visit us on the web at sturdybuilt.com

STURDY-BUILT
P.O. BOX 187 - EAST FREEDOM, PA 16837