



**PLANS UNDERWAY...** Representatives of the Bethel Baptist Church and the Town Bank of Westfield review renovation plans outside the church. Pictured, from left to right, are: Robert Downes, Sr., President and Chief Executive Officer of the Town Bank of Westfield; William McDuffie, Board of Trustees Chairman; Pastor Kevin Clark, and Ed Wojtaszek, Town Bank Executive Vice President and Senior Loan Officer. The bank is helping to fund the project.

## Bethel Baptist Pastor Discusses Renovations, Church Mission Efforts

By MARYLOU MORANO  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

WESTFIELD – For more than 115 years, the congregation of the Bethel Baptist Church in Westfield has been serving God, and come this summer, they will be doing so in a modernized church building.

According to Pastor Kenneth Clark, extensive renovations to the church building, located at 539 Trinity Place, began this past winter. Church services are being held at Edison Intermediate School in Westfield until construction is complete.

The congregation, an offshoot of the First Baptist Church of Westfield, was established in 1889 to serve Westfield's African-American community. Known at the time as the New York Avenue Baptist Church, the first church building was erected by congregants in 1893 on land donated by the First Baptist Church. In 1913, the church was renamed the Bethel Baptist Church.

Funds for the current renovations were raised by members of the congregation through concerts, car washes and special contributions among other avenues.

Currently, there are 250 registered members according to Pastor Clark. He has led Bethel Baptist for 14 years.

The renovations have had little

impact on the life of the church, which, according to Pastor Clark, is as active as ever. In addition to Sunday morning worship at 11 a.m. and Sunday school at 9:30 a.m., the church also holds a Wednesday Prayer Meeting and Bible Study at 7:30 p.m.

Bethel Baptist members are also involved in many different ministries, both at home and abroad. The church's missionary ministry runs soup kitchens and distributes blankets to the homeless throughout Union County, as well as helping countries affected by this past December's tsunami.

In addition, the church offers programs for youths and senior citizens.

"A lot of good things happen here," Pastor Clark told *The Westfield Leader* and *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*. "We try to do whatever we can do."

On Friday, June 17, members of Bethel Baptist will participate in a "Gospel Music Month Celebration" in which "100 Men in White" will come together to sing under the direction of the renowned Reverend Dr. Albert Lewis. The men of the community are invited to join Bethel Baptist in this endeavor, and those interested are asked to call the church at (908) 233-4250.

Pastor Clark serves as the Su-

perintendent for the National Convention of Gospel Choirs and Choruses. He holds a Masters of Divinity degree from the Virginia Union School of Theology, and is the Afro-American Student Consultant at Westfield High School. Renovations to the church building are scheduled for completion this summer, at which time the church will mark the occasion with celebrations and festivities, according to Pastor Clark.



Christopher Copeland

## Christopher Copeland Earns Eagle Scout Designation

WESTFIELD – Christopher Copeland of Maplewood, a member of Westfield's Troop No. 73 of the Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church since sixth grade, has earned the rank of Eagle Scout – the highest award bestowed by the Boy Scouts of America.

Chris has been a scout since joining Tiger Cubs in the first grade. During his scouting career, he has served as a Patrol Leader, Chaplain's Aide and Quartermaster.

He has participated in various scout activities, including community service projects; competitions like the Klondike Derby; the Junior Leader Training program and several High Adventure trips, including a two-week

trek to the Philmont Scout Reservation in New Mexico.

For his Eagle project, Chris planned and executed landscaping improvements for St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Westfield.

The son of Peter and Janet Copeland of Maplewood, Chris is a junior at Columbia High School in Maplewood, where, as a trombonist, he is active in several music ensembles.

He recently completed the New Jersey Performing Arts Center's Jazz for Teens program and plans to major in music in college. Chris' older brother, Zach, also is an Eagle Scout, awarded by Westfield Venture Crew 27.

## VBS Registration Underway At Terrill Road Baptist

SCOTCH PLAINS – Registration is currently underway for a free Vacation Bible School at the Terrill Road Baptist Church, located at 1340 Terrill Road in Scotch Plains.

"Ramblin' Road Trip: Which Way Do I Go?" will be offered Monday through Friday, August 1 to 5, for infants through those children who will be entering the sixth grade.

Free of charge and open to everyone, the program will be held each day from 9 a.m. to noon. Family Night will take place on Friday, August 5, at 7 p.m.

Each day, "ramblers" will "cruise" along Route 254 and discover that the

choices they make daily will affect their journey. They also will learn that by choosing God as their guide, they will arrive at a relationship with Jesus.

Built around an RV road trip across the United States, the week will feature Bible stories, a souvenir shop for crafts, fun music in the Tune-Up Station, and RV camp-related refreshments and recreation.

Registration is free, but space is limited. To register, please call the church office at (908) 322-7151 or visit the Terrill Road Baptist Church website at <http://members.aol.com/terrillrbaptist>. The Reverend William C. Page is Pastor of the church.

## Forum to Explore God's Will Regarding Natural Disasters

WESTFIELD – Members of the public are invited to a discussion of the Science and Religion of Free Will on Tuesday, May 24, at 7:30 p.m. in the Coe Fellowship Room of the First Congregational Church of Westfield, located at 125 Elmer Street.

Based on the book "The Science of God" by Gerald L. Schroeder, this session of the Wisdom's Light ministry will explore how free will is intrinsic to the universe.

A physicist and Biblical scholar, Professor Schroeder demonstrates parallels between various Biblical teachings and the findings of sci-

ence. He argues that not only are science and the Bible compatible, but actually interdependent.

In this session, participants will explore questions such as why a loving God allows natural disasters, and whether God intends any meaning in such disasters.

The Reverend John A. Mills, an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ and Director of the Wisdom's Light Ministry, will be the facilitator. Information about this ministry can be found at <http://wislit.home.att.net>. Reverend Mills can be contacted at [wislit@worldnet.att.net](mailto:wislit@worldnet.att.net).

## LEARN to Offer Second Part Of Cardiovascular Program

SCOTCH PLAINS – On Monday, May 23, the League for Educational Advancement for Registered Nurses (LEARN) will present "Advances in Cardiovascular Care – Part II," an educational program for Registered Nurses and guests.

The two-hour program will begin at 7:45 p.m. in the Parish House of the All Saints' Episcopal Church, located at 559 Park Avenue in Scotch Plains. Karen Cepero, Director of Patient Care Services with Liberty Health in Jersey City, will be the guest speaker.

### Temple Sisterhood To Install Officers

CRANFORD – Installation of Officers for the Sisterhood of Temple Beth El Mekor Chayim will be held on Tuesday, May 24, at 8 p.m. at the temple, located at 338 Walnut Avenue in Cranford.

The officers for 2005-2006 to be installed are: President, Lenore Klein; Program Vice President, Karen Platt; Membership Vice President, Myra Stein; Fundraising Committee, Linda Flaxman, Jessica Hoff-Gottschalk and Laura Rubin; Corresponding Secretary, Joan Finkelstein; Recording Secretary, Sandy Sussman; Financial Secretary, Rachel Lubow, and Treasurer, Liela Bernstein.

Patricia Werschulz, past president of Temple Beth El Mekor Chayim, will be the installing officer and in charge of the evening's program. President Lenore Klein will preside at a short business meeting.

Hospitality Chairwomen Joan Finkelstein and Greta Polonitz will serve refreshments. Harriet Scheiner, Judaica Shop Chairwoman, will have the shop open for business. For further information, please call the temple at (908) 276-9231 during business hours.

The second of a two-part program, it will be complete in format and with Continuing Education Units awarded. Designed to educate and inform nurses of the pathophysiology of coronary heart disease, the program will focus on angina pectoris and acute myocardial infarction. The recognition and management of heart failure will be reviewed as well.

The program offers Continuing Education Contact Hours through the New Jersey State Nurses Association, accredited as an approver of Continuing Education in Nursing by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

This program has been approved for 2.4 Contact Hours. In addition, for school nurses, the New Jersey Department of Ed., Professional Standards Bd., has granted this program Professional Development Hours.

### Tri-County Red Cross Announces Courses

COUNTY – The Tri-County Chapter of the American Red Cross, which serves 22 communities including Fanwood, Garwood and Scotch Plains, will offer several courses during the latter part of this month.

A life guard training course will take place May 23 to 27. Participants will receive training to become an American Red Cross lifeguard.

Individuals must be at least 15 years old to complete this course, which will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center (JCC) of Central New Jersey, 1391 Martine Avenue in Scotch Plains.

CPR/AED (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation/Automated External Defibrillator) for the Professional Rescuer will take place this Saturday, May 21, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Finally, Adult CPR, Child CPR, Infant CPR and First Aid will be held on Saturday, May 28 from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

These courses are open to everyone. To register or for more information, please call (908) 756-6414, extension no. 10.

## 'Miracle Mile' In Westfield To Benefit St. Jude Hospital

WESTFIELD – A Miracle Mile Walk-A-Thon is scheduled for Saturday, June 4, beginning at 3 p.m. at Tamaques Park on Lamberts Mill Road in Westfield to benefit St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Funds raised by the event will benefit research and treatments by St. Jude in its ongoing fight against childhood catastrophic diseases.

All are invited to be Westfield Miracle Mile participants. Individuals may walk or take part in the event with wheelchairs, strollers or wagons. (All participants under age 18 require a parent or guardian's signature).

Miracle Milers may solicit pledges for the number of laps walked or flat donations, and are encouraged to ask their company about its matching gift program to increase participants' giving.

All participants will receive a certificate; those collecting at least \$35

will receive a St. Jude T-shirt, and those collecting at least \$75 will receive a T-shirt and St. Jude Sports Bag. Other prizes will be awarded and refreshments will be available.

Local businesses donating to the event will receive a Thank You certificate from St. Jude that can be displayed in their store. Donations also will be accepted. For more information, please call Donna Kennedy at (908) 803-8292.

### Torah Center to Offer Lag B'omer Festivities

MOUNTAINSIDE – The Union County Torah Center will present a Lag B'omer Family Celebration on Friday, May 27, from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. in Mountainside at the Trailside Nature and Science Center – Fire Ring area.

The program will include inflatable rides, family games, live music, snow cones and cotton candy among other activities. Admission is free and donations will be welcome. For more information, please call the Torah Center at (908) 789 5252.

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by Robin Miller,  
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Tues., May 24 • 6:30-8:30pm

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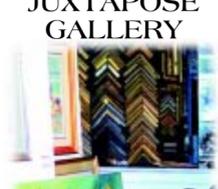
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