

Westfield Churches Join To Fight World Hunger

WESTFIELD — On Friday and Saturday, February 25 and 26, five Westfield churches will take part in the annual World Vision 30-Hour Famine, a national event designed to raise awareness and money to help starving children worldwide.

By forgoing food for 30 hours, the youth get a taste of what the world's poorest children and families experience on a daily basis. Victims of the recent South Asia tsunami will be a focus of this year's effort.

Participants will include youth groups from First Baptist, First Congregational, First United Methodist, Redeemer Lutheran and St. Helen's Roman Catholic churches in Westfield. The Reverend Jeremy Montgomery, Minister of Local Outreach at First Baptist, is the local coordinator for this activity.

The event will start at the First Baptist Church, 170 Elm Street, on Friday at 6 p.m. with a Band Night program featuring local teen bands. The cost is \$8 at the door and the program is open to all youth under age 18. All proceeds from Band Night will benefit World Vision. Afterward, the five churches' youth will conduct an all-night fast together at First Baptist.

The teenagers also will spend time

discovering world issues through games and interactive activities, as well as by serving their community.

On Saturday, they will volunteer at both the Community Foodbank of New Jersey in Hillside, where they will sort food items, and with Newark Goodwill doing a painting project.

The fast will conclude at 5 p.m. on Saturday when several local clergy members will lead the youth in an ecumenical communion and a shared meal at the First Baptist Church.

Prior to the 30-Hour Famine, youth participants will seek sponsors and collect donations, with an individual goal of raising at least \$360. This is enough for World Vision to feed and care for a hungry child for a year. Funds raised will be used to fight hunger and poverty in Africa, Southeast Asia and elsewhere.

Youth also are able to produce their own web page for fundraising purposes. For a sample, please visit First Baptist Church's webpage at <http://www.justgiving.com/fp/fbcwestfield>.

Anyone wishing to make a donation to this effort may call Reverend Montgomery at (908) 233-2278 or visit the online webpage. Donations also can be made by calling (800) 7-FAMINE.

Priest to Discuss Challenges Facing the Catholic Church

WESTFIELD — The Reverend Richard G. Rento will speak on "The Church Today" on Thursday, March 3, at 7:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church of Westfield, located at One East Broad Street.

He will discuss various challenges facing the Catholic Church today, including the clergy sex abuse crisis; what has been described as the Church's "failure thus far to become a church of the people of God," and a decline in the availability of the Eucharist.

Reverend Rento will address approaches that may bring about healing and rejuvenation in contemporary Church life. A priest of the Paterson Diocese for 46 years, he served as Pastor of St. Brendan's Roman Catholic Church in Clifton. He also held other diocesan positions, as well as having been a hospital chaplain, radio broadcaster and lecturer.

This program will be the fourth in a series of presentations sponsored by the Union County affiliate of Voice of the Faithful (VOTF), an organization of laity that includes among its goals change from within the Catholic Church through a greater voice for the laity.

Further information on VOTF New Jersey is available on the Internet at www.votfnj.org. For further details and directions to next Thursday's presentation, please call (908) 789-5043.

Jets MVP to Attend Brunch at Temple

WESTFIELD — Former New York Jets player Bruce Harper will be the special guest at a fox and eggs brunch on Sunday, February 27, from 9 to 11 a.m. at Temple Emanu-El of Westfield.

Sponsored by the temple's Men's Club, the brunch will be held in the Temple Gallery. Admission is \$5.

A member of the Jets from 1977 to 1985, Mr. Harper led the NFL with over 2,000 all-purpose yards for two consecutive years and led the AFC for four years in the same category. He was voted the Jets Most Valuable Player in 1980.

Temple Emanu-El is located at 756 East Broad Street. For more information about the brunch, please call Mike Hamerman at (908) 654-3395.

First Baptist Reveals Lenten Service Series

WESTFIELD — All are invited to a series of Lenten services held every other Monday at 7 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of Westfield, located at 170 Elm Street. The remaining service dates are February 28 and March 14.

These special services are a time for testimony and prayer, led by Senior Pastor Darla Dee Turlington, and are followed by meditation at various stations that trace Jesus' "Journey to the Cross."

The stations are left in place during the week. Individuals are welcome to stop by between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, and move among them at their own pace, to reflect on the path Jesus walked to his crucifixion and what it means to them.

First Baptist also offers a regular Bible Study class at the church every Tuesday at 7 p.m. Led by the Reverend Louis Ruprecht, the group is currently studying the New Testament book of James.



A TASTEFUL EVENING...Members of the public are invited to sample wines and food on Saturday, March 5, from 8 p.m. to midnight at Temple Emanu-El, 756 East Broad Street in Westfield. This event has been held twice previously. Organizing committee members from 2003 and 2005, pictured left to right, are: Front row, Robert Kandler, Jacqueline Bass, Lori Blitz, Robin Winter-Bailey, Lucille Rosenberg and Marcia Kandler, and back row, David Schulman and Stephen Rosenberg.

Temple Invites Community To Sample Food and Wines

WESTFIELD — A "Food and Wine Tasting Journey," hosted by Temple Emanu-El of Westfield in partnership with the Sisterhood and Men's Club/Brotherhood, will take place in the temple's Greifer Sacks Hall from 8 p.m. to midnight on Saturday, March 5.

Bayway Liquors of Elizabeth, owned by temple member Saul Leighton, will present a selection of wines as well as wine expert David Greenfield. Mr. Greenfield will share his thoughts and impressions of the wines to be sampled, suggest harmonious food pairings and note the characteristics of each variety.

The evening's wine selections will be accompanied by appropriate food

samples. Participants will have an opportunity to sample the food and wines.

The cost is \$36 per person at the door, which includes the wine education program, music, hors d'oeuvres, cheeses, coffee, dessert and prizes such as dinner for two at the Four Seasons Restaurant in Manhattan, as well as other prizes supplied by local restaurants and merchants.

Temple Emanu-El is located at 756 East Broad Street. All proceeds from this event will benefit the temple's youth and education programs. To reserve a space, please call Lynel Katz at (908) 389-1545 or the temple office at (908) 232-6770.

FUMC Appeals For Donations For Tsunami Medicine Boxes

WESTFIELD — The First United Methodist Church (FUMC), located at One East Broad Street in Westfield, is asking the community to support its Medicine Box project for tsunami relief.

The United Methodist Committee on Relief and the Health and Welfare Ministries of the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church have asked that local congregations, working in concert with Interchurch Medical Assistance (IMA), assemble and contribute Medicine Boxes to aid victims of the South Asia tsunami.

FUMC of Westfield is collecting the following specific Medicine Box items on a per kit basis: Sterile gauze pads (four-inch by four-inch), 50 pads needed; Adhesive tape (either one-half inch or one inch wide by 10 yards or more in length), six rolls needed; Triple antibiotic ointment (one-ounce tube), four tubes needed; Aspirin (acetylsalicylic acid, 325 mg/tablet), 1000 tablets needed; Ferrous sulfate tablets (325 mg/tablet), 500 tablets needed; Children's multivitamins with iron chewable tablets, 500 needed; Adult multivitamins with iron tablets, 500 needed, and Children's acetaminophen chewable tablets (80 mg each), 300 tablets needed (only available in bottles of 30 tablets).

All donated items must have an expiration date no earlier than September 2006. Also, whenever possible, tablets must be packaged in bottles of 100 or

more. Product donations may be left in the marked "Medicine Box" in the church's new entryway.

Monetary donations also are being collected. A total of \$375 must be raised for each Medicine Box kit. This is to cover the cost of prescription medications (including those to treat intestinal worm infections, bacterial infections, scabies, dehydration, nausea, dysentery) that will be procured at a discount from pharmaceutical companies by IMA.

Monetary donations may be mailed directly to FUMC. Checks may be made payable to FUMC, but donors should note that the contribution is to be used for the Medicine Box project.

Newcomers Are Invited To First Baptist Lunch

WESTFIELD — This Sunday, February 27, at noon, the First Baptist Church of Westfield will welcome newcomers to join the deacons and Pastors for lunch at the church, located at 170 Elm Street in Westfield.

Individuals who recently joined the church, have been visiting, or who want to learn more about the church and the denomination, American Baptist Churches, are invited to attend.

There will be time for questions, and lunch will be followed by a tour of the church. For more information, please call (908) 233-2278.

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