

Our Mothers Deserve to Be Honored More Than Just One Day a Year

By REV. KELMO C. PORTER, JR.

The second Sunday in May has always been set aside and revered as "Mother's Day" throughout the entire Judeo-Christian world. But why do we honor her just one day throughout the year, when in our hearts we know that a good mother should be honored and cherished every day.

What do you really think of your mother? How do you best remember her? Do you remember sitting beside her in church while she tried her best to keep you quiet? Can you remember her tucking you in bed as she leaned over to warmly kiss you goodnight? Perhaps you will remember her as she meticulously prepared your favorite meal and carefully placed it on the table to your delight.

Others of you will surely remember her as she knelt down by your bedside and earnestly prayed when a serious crisis invaded your home, while still others among you will never forget how she ministered to you all night long in your difficult times of sickness, troubles and despair.

For most of us, our beloved regal mothers are still with us. And for this, we ought to thank our loving and Almighty God of heaven. But for some of you, you will surely remember how she smiled through her pain, kissed you for the last time and then slipped away into the Eternal arms of God the Creator of all things and us.

But how do you really remember your often-unheralded mother? Whether she's living or deceased, what really is the greatest thing that any of us will remember about our cherished queen of the home?

Certainly, our fondest memories will

12 O'Clock Luncheon To Feature Merry Men

SCOTCH PLAINS - Area senior citizens are invited to join the 12 O'Clock Club at the Willow Grove Presbyterian Church in Scotch Plains on Tuesday, May 10, at noon for lunch and an entertainment program.

The Merry Men, a group of senior singers and a subgroup of the Old Guard of Westfield, will entertain at the gathering. The cost of the luncheon is \$4.

Individuals also are invited to participate in the free Stretches for Health exercise program held every Tuesday from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Willow Grove, and then to stay for the 12 O'Clock Club luncheon on the second Tuesday of the month.

Those interested in attending the luncheon are asked to make their reservations by Sunday, May 8. To make a reservation or to arrange for transportation, please call Barbara Couphos at (908) 322-7892.

The Willow Grove Church is located at 1961 Raritan Road. For more information, please call the church office at (908) 232-5678, e-mail wilgrv@netzero.com or visit www.scotchplains.com/wgpc, the church's website.

not be of her physical beauty, which is so easy for you to see; nor will you dwell on her marvelous capacity to cook. You will not boast about her successes and accomplishments in our gripping and entangled social systems. Oh, no! If you seriously think and remember your outstanding mother at all, you will probably remember her exhibition of faith, her undying faith in God. Her strong faith in a God whom she knew would not and could not fail is the greatest thing any mother can ever possess.

To her, the Bible was not just another book; to her it was the Divine, Infallible Word of God. So amid every crisis situation, she turned to it for her daily comfort and necessary guidance. Thus, she became the example her children needed to see on a day-to-day basis.

From this example, as the queen of her home, she was able to put the necessary daily discipline in the eager and anxious lives of her little ones. Everything a good mother does she joyfully does in a spirit of genuine love. Thus her children will always love and respect her, because deep down inside, they know that their mother genuinely loves them.

Surely this kind of mother deserves more than a bouquet of lovely flowers once a year. She deserves our loyalty, our love and our devotion 365 days a year. For her, every day should be Mother's Day.

Reverend Porter serves as Senior Pastor of St. John's Baptist Church, located at 2387 Morse Avenue in Scotch Plains.

Scotch Plains Baptist Church Plans 'Different Ability Day'

SCOTCH PLAINS - The Scotch Plains Baptist Church will celebrate "Different Ability Awareness Day" during the 11 a.m. worship service on

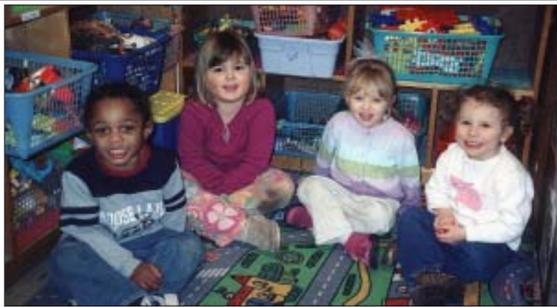
Temple Sholom to Hold Casino Night Benefit

FANWOOD - Temple Sholom, currently located in Fanwood, will host its largest fundraiser of the year, a Casino Night, on Saturday, May 14, at 7:30 p.m. It will be held at the Wardlaw-Hartridge School, 1295 Inman Avenue in Edison.

Tickets are \$36 and include 100 casino chips, plus free appetizers, desserts and more. Among the prizes will be various lavish theme baskets and a week's luxury lodging in Aruba.

Tickets must be purchased in advance and will be held at the door. To purchase tickets, please send a check made payable to Temple Sholom to: Temple Sholom, P.O. Box 539, Scotch Plains 07076.

For more information, please call the temple office at (908) 889-4900. All proceeds raised from Casino Night will directly benefit Temple Sholom.



FOR THE CHILDREN...The Westfield Day Care Center Friends are appealing for donations of children's clothing, toys, books, tapes and small furniture items for its spring sale, which will take place Friday and Saturday, May 20 and 21, in Westminster Hall of The Presbyterian Church in Westfield. The non-profit center has been serving youngsters like those pictured above since 1968.

Day Care Center Friends Seek Spring Sale Donations

WESTFIELD - Clothing items for boys and girls from infant to size 14 are needed for the annual spring sale sponsored by the Westfield Day Care Center Friends.

Children's puzzles, games, educational toys, books, tapes and small furniture items also are being collected. The Friends are unable to accept adult clothing, stuffed animals, cribs, sandboxes and large infant and toddler items. All donations are tax deductible.

The sale will take place Friday and Saturday, May 20 and 21, in Westminster Hall of The Presby-

terian Church in Westfield. Sale hours will be 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday and 9 to 11 a.m. on Saturday.

On Thursday, May 19, there will be a parent and donors' preview sale from 3 to 6 p.m., also in Westminster Hall.

Donations will be accepted Wednesday through Friday, May 11 to 13, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Saturday, May 14, between 9 and 11 a.m. at the center, located in The Presbyterian Church in Westfield's Christian Education Building, 120 Mountain Avenue in Westfield. For more information, please call (908) 232-6717.

Panel Discussion Is Slated Tonight on Clergy Abuse

WESTFIELD - A discussion panel of three survivors of clergy sexual abuse will share their experiences tonight, Thursday, May 5, at 7:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church of Westfield, located at One East Broad Street.

They will address such issues as the impact clergy abuse has had on their lives, faith and spirituality; how the church has responded to them;

and what the church needs to do to reach out to them.

The panelists will include Mark Crawford, an active member of the Support Network for those Abused by Priests (SNAP); John Vega, founder of the first Latino chapter of SNAP, and Ray Skettini.

The goal of this forum is to provide an understanding of the trauma experienced by victims of such abuse, some of who have turned to suicide, alcoholism or drugs, or have developed emotional disorders.

Nora Connors, who serves on the Diocese of Paterson's Review Board for allegations of clergy abuse and is herself a victim of clergy sexual abuse, will be the moderator.

This program, which is open to the public, is being sponsored by the Union County affiliate of Voice of the Faithful. Further information and directions may be obtained by calling (908) 233-8960.

St. John's Baptist Men Set Pancake Breakfast

SCOTCH PLAINS - The Men's Fellowship of St. John's Baptist Church in Scotch Plains will hold its ninth annual Pancake Breakfast this Saturday, May 7, from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m.

The cost is \$7. St. John's Baptist Church is located at 2387 Morse Avenue. For more information, please call (908) 232-6972.

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