

An Easter Life Calls For Us To Forgive and Love Others

By REVEREND PAUL KRITSCH

On April 27, 1865, 141 years ago today, the Mississippi paddle wheeler *Sultana* was destroyed in an explosion a few miles north of Memphis, Tenn. The greatest maritime disaster in the history of our country, the destruction of the *Sultana* included the loss of approximately 1,700 of its 2,400 passengers.

Most of those on board were Union soldiers recently released from Confederate prisons, including the infamous Andersonville. The Civil War had recently ended. These soldiers were on their way home. Five hundred of the survivors were taken to hospitals in Memphis. The people of that Southern river town opened their hearts to the victims, even though they had been enemies for the past four years.

Christians in our communities are continuing their celebration of Easter. Not just a day or even a season in the church year, Easter is a way of life for followers of Jesus Christ. Christians believe that because Jesus was raised from the dead, we have eternal life. As a result, each and every day becomes even more precious. We have the privilege of loving and caring for others as we have been cared for by

God. Part of that caring includes forgiving others, even our enemies.

In his famous song "Imagine," John Lennon once mused, "Imagine there's...no religion." No doubt, many atrocities have been done in the name of religion, including Christianity. The shame is that people therefore easily confuse the church with Christ himself. In reality, when we Christians truly follow Jesus, we find the power and ability to love others as we first have been loved by him.

This kind of love is unconditional and transcends all boundaries of politics, geography, race and creed. This kind of love motivates us to be willing to give our lives for others. Filled with Easter life, Christians can and do make a lasting difference for the better in the communities where we live.

Recent years have seen a growing trend to try to make religion, especially Christianity, invisible in public life. The real tragedy for our communities would be if that were to come to pass.

Reverend Kritsch is in his 18th year as senior pastor of the Redeemer Lutheran Church and School, located at 229 Cowperthwaite Place in Westfield.



FASHIONABLE WOMEN...Members of the Forever Beautiful dinner and fashion show committee get ready for the event. Hosted by the Ladies Philoptochos Society of the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Westfield, it will be held on Wednesday, May 3, beginning at 6 p.m. at the Chanticleer in Millburn. Pictured, from left to right, are: Avi Kiriakakis, Vice President of the society and committee chairwoman; Barbara Manos, Olga Emanuel and Maria Halkias Doutsis, an artist who is donating one of her paintings, all of Westfield; Cynthia Ladas of Mountainside and Marina LoAlbo of Kenilworth.

Ladies Philoptochos to Hold Fashion Show-Dinner Event

WESTFIELD - More than 300 guests are expected to attend "Forever Beautiful," the annual dinner and fashion show hosted by the Ladies Philoptochos Society of the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church of Westfield, on Wednesday, May 3.

The event will begin at 6 p.m. at the Chanticleer in Millburn. Chaired by Avi Kiriakakis of Kenilworth, it will feature fashions by Noel Brogan Productions of Montclair, Georgia Skeadas of Pennsylvania, National President of Philoptochos, and Metropolitan President Bessie Drogaris of Holmdel are expected to attend, as well as out-of-state guests.

Funds raised will benefit the more than 50 charities and scholarships that Philoptochos supports each year. Last year, more than \$30,000 was denoted to these charities, among them the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, Hospice of America, Ronald McDonald House, the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation, the Valerie Fund, Lainie's Angels, Children's Specialized Hospital, Parkinson's Research, St. Michael's Home for the

Aged, St. Basil's Academy and Sloan Kettering Memorial Cancer Research. To date, over \$2,000 has been given to the Hurricane Katrina appeal in an ongoing commitment addressing the needs of several families.

The on-premise gift raffles will include theme baskets and individual items valued at over \$200 each. There also will be valuable door prizes. Proceeds from the Grand Raffle will be donated to two charities - the National Multiple Sclerosis Research Foundation and IND - Institute For Neurodegenerative Disorders, which include Alzheimer's Disease, Parkinson's Disease and Huntington's Disease.

Tickets are \$55 each and may be purchased by calling society Treasurer Mary Coutros at (732) 494-4641. For more information, please call (908) 233-8533.

Willow Grove Men to Offer Breakfast and Frazee Film

SCOTCH PLAINS - The Men's Group of the Willow Grove Presbyterian Church has invited all men and women ages 16 and up to join them on Saturday, May 6, from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. for breakfast and a screening of the film *Two Lords and a Lady* at the church.

This film tells the story of Scotch Plains baker "Aunt Betty" Frazee and her encounter with two British generals, one of who is played by former Fanwood Mayor Louis Jung.

Frank Thorne and John Fazio pro-

duced the film to raise awareness and funds for the restoration of the Frazee home on Raritan Road in Scotch Plains. The Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club is sponsoring the project. Mr. Thorne will be on hand to introduce the film and answer questions.

Advance reservations by Thursday, May 4, would be appreciated; however, those without a reservation will be welcome as well. A free will offering will be taken to help subsidize the cost of the breakfast, and donations will be accepted to support the Frazee House Restoration project.

For more information or to make reservations, please call the church office at (908) 232-5678 or e-mail wilgrv@netzero.com. Babysitting may be available upon advance request only. Interested persons are asked to inform the church of the number of children requiring babysitting and their ages. The Willow Grove Church is located at 1961 Raritan Road in Scotch Plains and is handicap-accessible.

Thrift Shop Announces Mother's Day Drawing

SCOTCH PLAINS - Area residents are invited to enter a free Mother's Day drawing at the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League's Thrift Shop, located at 1730 East Second Street in Scotch Plains.

This year, two prizes will be awarded - a silk floral arrangement in a 12-inch Lennox vase and a \$25 gift certificate to a local florist for a fresh flower arrangement.

No purchase is necessary. Participants just need to write their name and telephone number on a piece of paper and put it in the contest bag. The drawing will take place on the morning of Thursday, May 11.

Additionally, the shop will have a large variety of floral arrangements for sale in time for Mother's Day, which is Sunday, May 14. These silk floral pieces are created by one of the shop's members who has professional flower arranging experience.

The shop is stocked with summer and lightweight clothing for the whole family. It is open for business on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more information or directions, please call (908) 322-5420. Visitors to the shop also are invited to inquire about membership in the volunteer Service League.

Unitarian Church Sets May Fair Celebration

PLAINFIELD - The First Unitarian Society of Plainfield, which includes members from Westfield, Scotch Plains and Fanwood, will hold its annual May Fair on Sunday, May 7, from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Families are especially welcome to attend this free event, which will take place indoors and outdoors at the church, located at 724 Park Avenue in Plainfield. There will be a May Pole, live music, an inflatable slide, a martial arts demonstration, face painting, a chili cook-off and chair massages. Members of the community are invited to join the celebration.

Admission is free, but in exchange for a donation, attendees will get a hot dog, cookie and a drink. For more information, please call the church at (908) 756-0750 or visit www.fusp.org online and click on Events.

'Benefit Bash' to Support Local Groups' Programs

WESTFIELD - Several organizations will take part in Lord & Taylor's "Benefit Bash" on Tuesday, May 9, from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. at the store on North Avenue in Westfield. Discount shopping will be featured at the store for those who purchase a \$5 ticket from a participating organization.

Each ticket will include a 20 percent coupon that can be used on cosmetics and many designer labels that are ordinarily excluded. Shoppers are welcome to purchase as many tickets as they wish.

Additionally, the event will feature trunk shows, guest authors and complimentary book signings, mini-manicures and hand massages, contests and children's activities including visits by Big Apple Circus clowns and superhero characters.

The College Woman's Club of Westfield will be among the participants, with all proceeds from tickets purchased through the club to be used to fund college scholarships for young women from Westfield. To order tickets through the club, please send a check for \$5 per ticket made payable to College Woman's Club to CWC, P.O. Box 2694, Westfield, N.J. 07091. For more details, please contact cwclub@aol.com or visit WestfieldToday.com/cwc.

Also participating will be the Westfield Area "Y," with ticket proceeds directly benefiting the organization's financial assistance program. Admission tickets may be purchased at the front desk of the "Y"'s main facility at 220 Clark Street in Westfield. For more information, please call Julia Black at (908) 233-2700, extension no. 227, or e-mail her at jblack@westfieldynj.org.

Tickets also may be purchased in support of the Jewish Community Center (JCC) of Central New Jersey's

Preschool and Fitness Departments. Admission tickets are on sale at the JCC, located at 1391 Martine Avenue in Scotch Plains.

Proceeds from tickets purchased through the Preschool office will benefit the preschool; proceeds from tickets purchased through the Fitness office will benefit that department. For more information about the event, please call the Preschool office at (908) 889-8800, extension no. 204, or the Fitness office at (908) 889-8800, extension no. 224.

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For reading room hours and other information: 908-232-3226.

Christian Science Sentinel - Radio Edition
SUNDAYS at 7 AM on WOR Radio (710 AM)
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May 7: The Perfect God: A Good Place to Start for Healing in Our Lives
May 14: Never Too Young to Hear God

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Westfield Adult School presents...

Amadeus!

The Genius Exposed

On Monday, May 1st come hear David Wroe, Westfield Symphony Orchestra's Musical Director, give a fascinating lecture about Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart in preparation for the W.S.O.'s all-Mozart program on May 13th.

Price, (\$60/\$55 senior), includes:

- Lecture at the Adult School Monday May 1, 7:30 - 9:00pm. Westfield High School
- Bronze-level seating at the concert Saturday, May 13, 8:00 p.m. The Presbyterian Church in Westfield
- Invitation to post-concert celebration at James Ward Mansion

Pre-registration is recommended

westfield adult school

(908) 232-4050

Catalogs (w/registration forms) are available at local libraries and online at www.westfieldnj.com/adultschool.

"Great for Mother's Day!"

May 2006 Events at the Westfield Memorial Library

The Library will be closed on Sundays for the summer starting May 21. The Library will be closed on May 29.

ADULT PROGRAMS

May 1	7:00 PM	Great Decisions: Brazil*
May 2	10:00 AM	Computer Class: Puzzled by the Internet I
May 3	10:00 AM	Computer Class: Genealogy
May 5	1:30 PM	TGIF: Senior Resources on the Internet
May 9	10:00 AM	Computer Class: Puzzled by the Internet II
May 9	1 & 7 PM	International Film Festival: Broken Wings
May 11	7:00 PM	Film and Director's Discussion: Street Fight
May 12	1:30 PM	TGIF: Grandma Moses
May 16	10:00 AM	Computer Class: Travel, Travel, Travel
May 16	7:00 PM	Concert: Heather Mulvey
May 19	1:30 PM	TGIF: Miss Marple
May 23	10:00 AM	Computer Class: Business and Investment Online
May 24	7:00 PM	Lecture: Buying and Selling IT Businesses
May 26	1:30 PM	Visions of Aging

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

May 2	10:00 AM	Tots' Storytime
May 5	10:00 AM	Baby Rhyme Time
May 6	10:00 AM	Mother Goose Group
May 6, 13, 20, 27	10:00 AM	Chess

Restrictions regarding pre-registration or age may apply to some programs. Call the library for further information.
* Program is offered through the Westfield Adult School. Fee is required.

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TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THESE LOCAL OUTLETS:

- Country Squire Men's Shop - Raritan Road, Clark
- Michelle's Hallmark - Union Avenue North, Cranford
- Irma's Bag - Martine Avenue South, Fanwood
- New Jersey Workshop for the Arts - East Broad Street, Westfield
- St. Helens - Rahway Ave., Westfield
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