

## What If God Was One of Us? Thankfully, He Is Greater

By BRIAN NICKLAUS

If you owned a radio in 1995, you probably heard an annoying song by Joan Osborne, "One of Us." The Grammy-winning song was catchy and maybe was an interesting concept, but the lyrics were silly: "what if God was one of us, just a slob like one of us...trying to make his way home, like a holy rolling stone, nobody calling on the phone, except for the Pope maybe in Rome," etc. Good Grief! At least it rhymed, right?

God was at one point one of us, in Jesus. But another interesting question could be, "what if God was one of us?" meaning, "what if God was like us?" Now, that is scary!

What if God was "too busy" to answer your prayers?

What if Jesus had decided that the cross was too painful, or that it wasn't worth it for Him?

What if God was interested in a relationship with you only for what He got out of it?

What if God only did the least required? "I will save you from Hell, but don't expect anything else."

What if God didn't keep His promises?

What if God only blessed you depending on the circumstances of that moment: how He felt, the weather, what was going on?

What if God was only there for you one day a week?

What if God judged us based on our looks or background?

Thankfully, even though God became a man to save us, He isn't like us in these ways. Man has always tried to fashion "god" in his own image. The reality of that is too frightening to consider.

"God is not a man, that he should lie, nor a son of man, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?" Numbers 23:19.

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts." Isaiah 55:8-9.

Mr. Nicklaus is the minister at the Echo Lake Church of Christ, located at 419 Springfield Avenue in Westfield.

### Workshops to Address College Applications

SCOTCH PLAINS - The Scotch Plains Public Library, located at 1927 Bartle Avenue, will hold two free workshops for students and parents facing the college application process.

The first event will take place on Monday, January 29, at 7 p.m. and will address "What to Expect When You Are Applying." It will include topics such as the timeline throughout the high school years; potential conflicts and how to avoid them; parent and student expectations; appropriate roles for each and a general guideline.

The second workshop, "Owning the Application Process," will be offered on Tuesday, February 6, at 7 p.m.

Lisa Bleich and Donna Gerhauser will be the facilitators. Ms. Bleich, president of College Bound, has extensive experience in marketing and education. Ms. Gerhauser is an interpersonal communication expert and a past president of the New Jersey Professional Coaches Association.

The programs will be held in the library's Community Room. Participants may attend a single workshop or both as a two-part series. For more details, please call (908) 789-8566 or (908) 654-7595. More information about library programs or directions to the library may be obtained by calling (908) 322-5007.

### Presbyterian Women Announce Program

FANWOOD - In observance of Church World Service Sunday, the Fanwood Presbyterian Women will host a program at noon on January 28 entitled "Focus on Mission." It will be held in the Fanwood Presbyterian Church dining room, located at the corner of MacDermott Place and LaGrande Avenue in Fanwood.

Marie Varley, regional director of Church World Service-New Jersey, recently returned from the earthquake area of Pakistan and will speak about her organization's response to that disaster. Attendees are invited to bring a sandwich; soup will be provided. The dining room is wheelchair accessible. For more information, please call Cena Pollitt at (908) 889-2029.



PREPPING FOR DERBY DAY...While it was hardly arctic-like weather at 68 degrees on January 6, members of Troop 77 from St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Westfield journeyed to the Watchung Reservation to prepare for the upcoming Klondike Derby. Not only did they get the feel of pulling a sled, but also worked on skills and walked the area.

## District Boy Scouts to Hold Annual Klondike Derby

MOUNTAINSIDE - The Watchung Mountain District of the Boy Scouts of America, Patriots' Path Council will hold its annual Klondike Derby on Saturday, January 27, from 8:30 a.m. to approximately 2 p.m. Now in its 52nd year, the event will take place in the Watchung Reservation in Mountainside.

About 250 scouts will compete, in teams of five to 10 scouts per sled, in a demonstration of their skills. Scouts from Fanwood, Scotch Plains, Westfield, Mountainside, Berkeley Heights, Garwood, Gillette, Long Hill Township, Meyersville, Millington, Murray Hill, New Providence, North Plainfield, Stirling, Summit, Warren and Watchung will participate, as well as those from other areas.

The event is a race in which scouts pull sleds built by the scout troops. For the derby, the area will be arranged to simulate the Klondike region with areas/towns set up in the park. Mayors and scoutmasters will administer skill exercises, including knots, first aid and fire building.

The scouts are sent out in waves of

up to six sleds every 15 minutes. They will race for time and points/gold nuggets. All the equipment needed, including lunch, water and even wood for fires, will be carried on the sleds pulled by the boys.

The competition is divided into two groups: Sleds with teams that include not more than two scouts over the age of 14 and senior sleds with more than two 14-year-old scouts.

If the ground is too soft, all equipment will be placed in backpacks in an effort not to damage the grass. In the event of severe weather, the derby either will be rescheduled or cancelled. For more information, please call Greg Ryan at (908) 447-4880.

### Open House to Be Held For Nursery School

CRANFORD - The Calvary Nursery School and Child Care in Cranford has announced that it will open an afternoon nursery school program for children ages four and above in September.

The school currently operates both a half-day nursery school program and full-day childcare center, which are part of the ministry of the Calvary Lutheran Church. Reverend Carol Lindsay serves as pastor of the church.

Members of the community are invited to learn about the program during an open house registration event on Saturday, January 27, from 10 a.m. to noon at 108 Eastman Street in Cranford.

Calvary's age-appropriate early childhood program utilizes the learning center-based curriculum called The Creative Curriculum®. Teaching and learning expectations also follow the New Jersey State Department of Education's Preschool Guidelines. For more information, please contact the school directly at (908) 272-3962 or calvarynsc@verizon.net.

## Temple Emanu-El Reveals Early Childhood Offerings

WESTFIELD - Temple Emanu-El has announced that registration is underway for its Early Childhood Education Program. The temple is located at 756 East Broad Street in Westfield.

Registration currently is being accepted from all interested applicants for the next semester of "Baby Steps," an interactive class for babies and a parent or other caregiver.

This eight-week program, for children from birth through 12 months, will be offered on Monday mornings from January 22 through March 19. It will include playtime and facilitated parent discussions.

Other classes that will begin in early February for the spring semester include "Me and My Shadow," for children 13 to 23 months and their parent/caregiver, and "Ready, Set,

Go..." for youngsters age 24 months and older who are ready to independently explore their environment.

Registration for the 2007-2008 school year also has begun. Classes are available for children two years old through kindergarten. Temple Emanu-El offers a state-of-the-art, full-day kindergarten program taught by a certified head teacher and an assistant and featuring a low student/teacher ratio.

These programs are open to all members of the community. For information regarding any of Temple Emanu-El's early childhood programs, please call Jill Cimafonte, director of Early Childhood Education, at (908) 232-6770, extension no. 126.

### Miller-Cory to Salute 'Winter's Wonders'

WESTFIELD - The Miller-Cory House Museum, located at 614 Mountain Avenue in Westfield, will present "Winter's Wonders" this Sunday, January 21, from 2 to 4 p.m. There is a snow date of Sunday, January 28, if necessary.

The focus throughout the afternoon will be on snow, winter birds and pine cones, featured in short presentations such as the history of snow globes, as well as four crafts. These will include, for example, a bird feeder bagel and a "snazzy snowman" refreshment to assemble at the museum and take home.

This program is described as most suitable for children age three to seven. The fee is \$3 for children; adults may attend for free. While at the museum, families also are invited to visit the gift shop, which offers a variety of Colonial toys, crafts, books and educational materials.

The church's Board of Christian Education is sponsoring the program. Free-will offerings will benefit Heifer Project International, a non-profit organization that works to end world hunger by giving cows, goats and other food- and income-producing livestock to impoverished families around the world.

For additional details or to register, please call Ms. Berzofsky at (908) 232-0169. Drop-in students are always welcome.

### Moving Meditation To Begin on Monday

WESTFIELD - Moving Meditation classes will be offered again this winter on three consecutive Mondays, January 22 and 29 and February 5, at 7 p.m. at the First Congregational Church in Westfield.

Classes will be held in Room 21 on the second floor of the church's McCorsion Christian Education Building, located at 125 Elmer Street. They are designed for beginners and are open to all.

Moving Meditation is a gentle, graceful movement based on ancient Asian Qigong wellness systems. It is designed to reduce stress and enhance flexibility. The practice is performed standing and ordinary street clothing is appropriate. Laura Berzofsky, a certified Integral Tai Chi and Qigong instructor, will lead the group practice.

The church's Board of Christian Education is sponsoring the program. Free-will offerings will benefit Heifer Project International, a non-profit organization that works to end world hunger by giving cows, goats and other food- and income-producing livestock to impoverished families around the world.

For additional details or to register, please call Ms. Berzofsky at (908) 232-0169. Drop-in students are always welcome.

### Public Invited to Join Friday Bible Study

WESTFIELD - Members of the public are invited to attend a Bible study program every Friday at 6:45 a.m. Study sessions last for an hour and are held at the Westfield Tennis Club. The club is located on North Chestnut Street in Westfield. Bibles are available but individuals may bring their own. For further information, please call Jack Jacobey at (908) 456-1642.

### College Club to Feature Line Dancing Program

FANWOOD - The College Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains will present a program highlighting line dancing at its meeting on Monday, January 22.

The line-dancing program will begin immediately following the 8 p.m. club meeting at the Forest Road Park community recreation building on Forest Road in Fanwood.

Sari Levine of Sole Expressions will teach a few basic line dances at the introductory level so that all attendees may participate. No partner is required. The public is welcome to attend the program free of charge.

Ms. Levine has been a dancer for 13 years and has taught dance for 11 years. Her dance background includes Latin, swing, ballroom and country.

Besides offering dance instruction to individuals, groups and parties through Sole Expressions, she teaches line dancing at Union County College in Cranford and at various sites in Somerset County for the Office on Aging.

The College Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains is dedicated to providing scholarships to young women of high school and college age who reside in the local community. For more information about this event, please call Carolyn Dittus at (908) 233-2948.

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WHEN: Wednesday, January 24th, 2007  
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**RSVP: 908-654-5200**

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