



MAN ON A MISSION...Rob Goodwin, a member of Westfield's Redeemer Lutheran Church and currently a student at the Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Mo., will travel to India next month on a mission trip. He is pictured above with wife Sherrill and daughters Mya, left, and Daniela.

Rob Goodwin to Participate In Mission Trip to India

WESTFIELD - During the past four years, the Redeemer Lutheran Church and School of Westfield has sponsored two congregation members who are attending Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Mo. One of them, Rob Goodwin, is among three Concordia Seminary students selected to be part of a mission team that will travel next month to India. The trip, lasting June 3 to 20, is being sponsored by Lutheran Church Missouri Synod World Mission, Concordia Seminary and Christ Memorial Lutheran Church for India Ablaze 2007.

The Yes Men to Be Screened Tomorrow at Local Church

WESTFIELD - The Union County Peace Council will present a free screening of the satirical documentary *The Yes Men* tomorrow, Friday, May 11, at 7:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church at One East Broad Street in Westfield.

The latest in the Union County Peace Council's "Films for Change" series, *The Yes Men* is described in a council release as "mainly the brainchild of two ingenious media pranksters going by the names Mike Bonanno and Andy Bichlbaum (real names Jacques Servin and Igor Vamos)."

The activist duo utilize the concept of "culture jamming," popularized by Kalle Lasn, *Adbuster* magazine founder and author of the book "Culture Jamming." The council release describes it as "a technique of turning tables, or even a funhouse mirror, on dominant corporate and political advertising and media messages to attract attention and make a political point."

Bonanno and Bichlbaum further innovated a practice they term "identity correction" by posing as corporate or official government spokespeople at various conferences, high-level meetings and media platforms. Often, in the process, they succeeded in unleashing a firestorm of debate, backlash and criticism from their corporate or organizational targets. Their appearances at various international meetings provide much of the substance of *The Yes Men*.

All are invited to stay for a post-film discussion and refreshments. The church parking lot is accessible from Ferris Place (off of Prospect Street). Participants are asked to enter through the side door. For more information, please call Diane

at (908) 233-7344, visit UCPeace.com or e-mail unioncountypeacecouncil@gmail.com.

The Union County Peace Council, the First United Methodist Church of Westfield, New Jersey Mobilization for Global Justice and Word Out! are sponsoring the event.

They will visit some of the IELC congregations in the Bombay, Cochin and Trivandrum areas and the Gurukul Lutheran Theological College and Research Institute in Chennai.

The team also plans to trace the steps of the Apostle Thomas, who according to tradition first brought the Gospel to India in the first century of the Christian era. Anyone interested in helping to support this mission trip is asked to call the Redeemer Lutheran Church at (908) 232-1517.

VOTF Plans Program On Challenged Church

WESTFIELD - The Catholic lay group Voice of the Faithful (VOTF) will host "Where Do We Go From Here?" on Thursday, May 17, at 7:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church of Westfield, located at One East Broad Street.

Assistant Professor of History Christopher Bellitto of Kean University will address how the Catholic Church currently faces serious challenges and scandals. He will discuss how the church has survived, and even renewed itself, during difficult times in its past history.

By focusing on six lessons from the history of reform within the church, he will put today's challenges in perspective and explore how both the institutional and grassroots church can move forward in a constructive and Christian way. A question-and-answer period will follow. Admission is free, but free-will donations will be accepted.

To access the church parking lot, turn off East Broad Street onto Prospect Avenue and take the first left onto Ferris Place. The church lot is on the left, opposite the Westfield Area "Y." For directions, please visit www.westfield.org/about/directions.htm. Information about VOTF is available at votfnj.org/.

Scotch Plains Baptist Plans 'Camp Sunday' on May 20

SCOTCH PLAINS - The Scotch Plains Baptist Church invites the community to attend its "Camp Sunday" program on May 20. It will take place at 11 a.m. following the worship service during a coffee hour hosted by the church's Missions Division.

This event will highlight the ministry of Camp Lebanon, which offers weeklong, grade-level camps throughout the summer, and opportu-

Memorial Day Parade On Tap For May 28

WESTFIELD - Plans are underway for the annual Westfield Memorial Day Parade, which is scheduled for Monday, May 28, to honor those who made the supreme sacrifice fighting for freedom.

Opening ceremonies will take place at the Monument to Veterans of World War I at the North Avenue and East Broad Street plaza beginning at 9 a.m. Parade participants are required to assemble in the Lord & Taylor (west) parking lot at 8 a.m.

This year's parade route after opening ceremonies will be straight up East Broad Street, ending at Fairview Cemetery. All Westfield and Mountainside organizations are invited to march in this year's tribute.

The Westfield Memorial Day Parade Committee urges organizations or individuals to march in the parade, sponsor a wreath to be placed at the monument or make a financial contribution to the committee to help offset the costs of running the parade.

The committee also is seeking information about any Westfield or Mountainside residents who have family currently serving in or who recently returned from the Middle East. A tribute is being planned. For more information, please call Stan Cuba at (908) 233-2767.

Parkinson Group Posts Date For Next Meeting

WESTFIELD - The Westfield Parkinson Support Group will meet on Monday, May 14, at 1:30 p.m. in the Parish House Lounge of The Presbyterian Church in Westfield, located at 140 Mountain Avenue.

People with Parkinson's disease and/or their caregivers are invited to attend. Westfield attorney Donald Vanarelli, who specializes in elder law, will provide information on preparing for nursing home placement and disabilities planning. Light refreshments will be provided.

This nondenominational group meets regularly on the second Monday of each month, except during July and August. Meetings are free of charge. Speaker programs and a lending library also are available, as well as other information and support for those coping with Parkinson's disease. For more details, please call Barbara Ringk at (908) 322-9214 or the church office at (908) 233-0301.

Single Parent Families Invited to 'Y' Event

WESTFIELD - The Westfield Area "Y" invites single and divorced mothers and fathers and their children for a pizza dinner and swimming in the Rooke Pool on Friday, May 18, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at its main facility, located at 220 Clark Street in Westfield.

After swimming there will be board games in the sitting area. Participants are asked to bring their bathing suits and a towel. The cost is \$3 per person. Responses are required. To respond, please contact Jill Brown at (908) 233-2700, extension no. 415, or via e-mail at jill.brown1@comcast.net.

nities for involvement in 2007.

Participants will be able to meet with current and former campers and camp staff, pick up registration materials and discuss "campership" funds provided by the church.

Multiple sessions are available for youth who have completed grades 2 to 12. Specialty camps include a four-day, three-night "Mini-Camp" for those who have completed first or second grade; Latino Camp, where most of the sessions are in Spanish; Work Camp; Music Camp; Junior High Sailing Camp and "It's A Shore Thing" - an off-site Jersey Shore camp where youth and leaders are trained to share their faith in non-threatening ways.

Activities include swimming in a new in-ground pool, boating, fishing, hiking, archery, arts and crafts, campfires and Bible studies. Meals are served family style and "The Snackery" will provide campers with a place to buy midday treats, T-shirts or camp souvenirs.

The Scotch Plains Baptist Church is located at the corner of Park Avenue and Grand Street in Scotch Plains. For additional information, please call (908) 322-5487 or e-mail spbc1747@verizon.net.

UMDNJ Board Selects New Gen'l Counsel

NEWARK - The Board of Trustees of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey has selected Lester Aron as new Senior Vice President and General Counsel. Mr. Aron is a member of Sills Cummins Epstein and Gross, where he is co-chairman of the firm's Employment and Labor Practice Group.

An attorney for more than 25 years, he has extensive experience representing companies, non-profits and public entities in employment issues. He has represented New Jersey public school districts and university boards on a wide range of issues. "The hiring of new leadership for our legal department marks an important milestone for the university," said Board Chairman Robert Del Tufo. "During the past year we have implemented an aggressive reform agenda so that our many talented researchers, faculty and clinicians can continue their critically important work. By working collaboratively with the federal monitor, we have identified a talented and dedicated legal professional for our management team to ensure these reforms will continue and flourish."

Mr. Aron said, "I look forward to being part of the management team that continues putting the university back on the right track."

Mr. Aron received his undergraduate degree from Cornell University, and a Juris Doctorate from Georgetown University Law Center. He is a member of the Bar in New Jersey, New York and the District of Columbia. He resides in Livingston.



TIMELESS FAITH...Retired Reverend Charles Brackbill highlights the historic First Presbyterian Church of Elizabeth, and efforts to preserve it, for the Westfield Area Old Guard on April 12. He also had an extensive career in broadcasting.

Reverend Charles Brackbill Discusses Historic Church

WESTFIELD - Retired Reverend Charles Brackbill of Mountainside spoke to the Westfield Area Old Guard at its April 12 meeting on the First Presbyterian Church of Elizabeth, where he was interim pastor.

Reverend Brackbill is president of the Old First Historic Trust, formed to preserve the 343-year-old buildings and burial ground of the First Presbyterian Church of Elizabeth, credited as the site of the first English-speaking congregation in the state.

Fresh out of Princeton Seminary in 1948, he came to Elizabeth as pastor of the Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church. In 1955, he embarked on a new career after being named director of broadcasting for the Presbyterian Synod of New Jersey, the first such position in the denomination.

Subsequently, Reverend Brackbill was the head of radio-television programming for the national church and wrote and produced programs for other denominations, ecumenical and government agencies. He was the first to use the "spot" format for religious messages and won awards from the broadcast industry for creativity.

Additionally, Reverend Brackbill consulted on developing ratings for films; testified in Congress in support of creating PBS; produced a documentary on the Dead Sea Scrolls in Israel and did research and college/seminary lecturing. He ended his broadcasting career as a consultant to the ABC and NBC television networks.

Library Trustees Set Meeting For May 17

SCOTCH PLAINS - The board of trustees of the Scotch Plains Public Library will hold a joint meeting with the Fanwood Memorial Library board of trustees. It will take place on Thursday, May 17, at 6 p.m. at the Scotch Plains Library, located at 1927 Bartle Avenue in Scotch Plains.

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