

The music makes it worth the trip

Jazz vespers draw the faithful

By SUSAN DECOTEAU-FERRIER

VENTNOR — The sultry sound of jazz music is apt to conjure images of a smoke-filled lounge. But the backdrop for the Jersey Shore Jazz Vespers is the small stained glass chapel of the Trinity United Methodist Church in Ventnor. The music style often associated with taprooms may seem inappropriate for a place of worship, but the sanctuary is a logical choice. One attendee put it quite simply, "where there is music there is

God."

The vespers are the inspiration of Rev. Clarence Wilson, better known as Rev. Clancy, an accomplished trumpeter. The idea arose out of his desire to provide a venue for jazz musicians to play and to bring people together for quality entertainment. He has succeeded in doing so for more than fifteen years.

Each month, the church hosts professional musicians, such as vocalist Kitt Moran with pianist Mike Moran and flutist Geri Rizzo. Voluntary contributions from the audi-

ence together with some significant donations pay for the performances.

Following the night's performance, refreshments are served in the church fellowship hall. According to Rev. Clancy, "the relationships that develop are as important as the music." Many attendees would agree. One visitor who comes for the music and the message also confesses she is there for "the food and fellowship."

For others it is all about the music. When he lived closer to the church, Paul Denaro and his wife began to attend. "I

come for the music not so much the spiritual aspect," said Denaro. Now living in Washington Township, they periodically make the trip to Ventnor to drink in the music. Why? "Because it is worth the trip."

Performances are the first Sunday of each month at 5 p.m., at the Ventnor United Methodist Church at 7117 Ventnor Ave. in Ventnor. Refreshments are served following the performance. For more information log onto www.jazzvespers.com.

Making things easier around City Hall

Second floor to become handicap accessible

By PETE BAKER
Staff Writer

VENTNOR - City officials are one step closer to making commission chambers, on the second floor of City Hall, handicap accessible. In

past years, handicapped individuals have found it difficult to traverse the 80-year-old marble staircase to the second floor where the City Commission meetings take place.

Last Thursday, Nov. 6 com-

missioners voted to award a bid for \$442,800 to Haverstick Borthwick Company to construct an elevator shaft within the building. Construction is set to begin within the next two months, according to officials. More than half of the project will be funded through grants. The rest of the balance has been bonded, said McCrosson. An \$80,868 grant from Atlantic County Community Development will assist in funding the construction.

"We want to insure that our building is fully handicap accessible," said Ventnor City Administrator Andrew McCrosson. He explained some of the problems dealt with in the past associated with the second floor chambers. "If there is a court matter and there is someone unable to climb the stairs we have to move those proceedings downstairs," said McCrosson. "For things as simple as paying a parking ticket."

This is not the first step the city has taken to make the

building handicap accessible. In 1991, the city spent more than a half million dollars to install wheelchair ramps around the building. Five years later, the building was added to the National Register of Historic Places.

Because it has been added to the list, the city is not mandated to make the facility, built in 1928, handicap accessible. "We don't actually have to if it means changing the character of the building," said the administrator. "But we want to make it accessible to all of the people that we serve here in Ventnor."

In-house preparatory work has already begun for the construction. The elevator, running from the basement to the second floor of the building will be located on the Cambridge Avenue side of the building. The shaft will replace the former American Legion room on the second floor and a small room in the basement. Officials hope the latest the construction will begin will be January.

Knock down a few pins to raise others up

Bowl-a-thon will benefit Community Food Bank

Bowl to benefit the Community Food Bank on Saturday, Nov. 15 when the FAA Technical Center Federal Credit Union hosts a Bowl-A-Thon from 2-4 p.m. at King Pin Lanes in Egg Harbor Township.

Get a group of co-workers or your family together and join the fun. There will be prizes for the top three pledge collectors, soda and hot dogs for everyone and great participant raffles throughout the event. Prizes include a one-

night stay at the Borgata Hotel Casino & Spa, gift certificates to the Olive Garden, Fred and Ethel's Tavern and much more.

Each bowler is required to collect a minimum of \$15 in pledges. Call 646-3339 ext. 29 for your pledge sheet to help others in need.

The Food Bank provides food to over 300 charitable groups serving the poor and hungry and often falls short of what is needed during this time of the year.

Free tax seminars for seniors

Seven Atlantic County senior centers will host tax seminars for seniors featuring information about the new tax laws and providing tax preparation information and advice. The seminars will be conducted by Nick Cocco from the New Jersey Department of Taxation.

Residents, age 60 and older, are invited to attend any of the free sessions as well as to enjoy lunch following each seminar. Reservations at least two days prior to the session are mandatory. Seminars are scheduled as follows:

Thursday, Nov. 13, 10:30 a.m.
Leinweber - Northfield Senior Center
235 Dolphin Avenue
645-5954

Tuesday, Dec. 2, 11 a.m.
Ventnor Senior Center
6500 Atlantic Avenue
822-9239

Thursday, Dec. 4, 10:30 a.m.
Egg Harbor Township Senior Center
3052 English Creek Avenue
641-7203

In addition to providing tax seminars, Atlantic County's senior centers offer a variety of activities including crafts, line dancing, computer classes, self defense courses and bingo.

The centers are open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday through Friday, and occasionally in the evening for special activities and events.

For more information, please call the Atlantic County Division of Intergenerational Services at 1-888-426-9243.

Jaycees sponsor business etiquette seminar

The Greater Atlantic City Jaycees - Junior Chamber of Commerce - are sponsoring a business etiquette seminar on Thursday, Nov. 20 at Angelo's Fairmount Tavern, Fairmount & Mississippi Aves., Atlantic City at 6 p.m. Cost is \$20 Jaycee members; \$25 guests, and includes buffet dinner and cash bar. R.S.V.P. no later than Monday, Nov. 17 to 926-8743 or acjaycees@yahoo.com.

The event will be hosted by Debra Gitto, executive director of the Northeastern School of Etiquette and Protocol, and topics will include how to make an entrance and work a room; communications skills; handshak-

ing; introducing yourself and others; responding to introductions; how to remember names; corporate culture savvy; etc.

The Jaycees provides people between the ages of 21 and 39 the tools to build success in the areas of business development, management skills, individual training, community service and leadership development.

The Greater Atlantic City Jaycees have been instrumental in the local community for more than 60 years. The Jaycees hold and participate in many civic activities throughout the year to raise money for local charities and causes.

Taste of the Gala preview Dec. 2

On Tuesday, Dec. 2, the second of four "Taste of the Gala" cooking demonstrations and wine tastings will be held from 6-8 p.m. at the Academy of Culinary Arts on the Mays Landing campus of Atlantic Cape Community College.

The event will feature holiday dishes prepared by chefs from local restaurants and the academy. Tickets are \$25 each and reservations are required. Proceeds benefit the ACA through the ACCC Foundation.

Future events are set for Feb. 12 and March 11. They will serve as teasers to the Restaurant Gala scheduled for Thursday, April 22. For more information or reservations call 343-5632.

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