

Life



CYCLISTS RIDE BAYONNE FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The inaugural Bike Bayonne was recently held to benefit New Jersey's WomenRising Domestic Violence program. Sixty cyclists were cheered on by supporters as they wheeled through the scenic route of town. Pictured is Weichert Sales Associate Jim Cody (dressed in black) who placed second in the age 51-59 category with associates of the Bayonne office.

RELIGION

KEEPING CAMP CLOSE

New City Kids offers local summer haven

Faith Matters



Rev. Alexander M. Santora

As a boy, I spent two weeks every summer at Camp Moore in Haskell, which seemed like I was going to another country, when it was only 30 minutes away.

It's in a section of Wayne. It was rustic and in the country. I learned to like it even though I would have preferred staying in Jersey City.

Now children have a closer choice, because the neatest urban camp is right on the corner of Monticello and Fairmount avenues. It's called New City Kids Camps, because it operates out of New City Kids Church, a dynamic worship experience for kids in the city.

Its reputation is so good there are only a few more spaces left to register. So hurry! It only costs \$5 to register for the summer; the camp is actually free. And that includes athletics, music lessons, field trips, dance and prizes, with breakfast and lunch also included, compliments of the city of Jersey City.

Starting Monday morning at 9, some 90 children will fill the cavernous center of a refitted warehouse. It's bright and decorated and full of life, and all that enthusiasm will be properly organized, five days a week, as the children will be scheduled to experience lots of activities.

"It is very full, very structured but fun," said the Rev. Trevor Rubingh, the pastor and leader of New City, who sees that the spiritual is incorporated into the program in subtle and creative ways. The church is affiliated with the Christian Reformed Church and many of the



THE REV. TREVOR RUBINGH, high-fives teen counselors at the New City Kids Church where local children don't have to go very far to enjoy a summer camp.

TO JOIN

WHAT: New City Kids Church
WHERE: 240 Fairmount Ave., Jersey City
DETAILS: Call (201) 915-9896 or visit www.newcitykidschurch.com

churches in the metropolitan area donate to this project.

Each day there will be a worship service but it's nothing like some churches, but everything church should be: alive and moving. The children are divided into four teams, which compete throughout the week in a friendly way. The winning team gets hamburgers the following Monday.

The teams will rotate sessions that include various types of activities like reading, a new feature added this year — the

second year of the camp's existence.

Melody Joachim, 20, an intern from Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Mich., along with Dora McFarland, 21, another Calvin intern, have helped shape this year's program.

"We are trying to get kids to read without them knowing it," said Joachim, who plans to go into ministry but is not sure what field. Older students will read scripts and act them out. Teachers from the acclaimed Mustard Seed School in Hoboken, a nondenominational Christian school, have volunteered to teach this segment of the program.

But it's not just academic. There will be rap classes and the children will record their songs. Students will get a chance to produce their own videos. Music lessons and music activities are a mainstay and Rubingh himself, an accomplished musician, drives the lessons and musical events.

Some of the \$30,000 needed to run the camp came from the Simon Foundation and some fundraisers held at the church throughout the year. About 14 teens have been hired as counselors for the summer program and are paid the minimum

wage and are trained to work with the camp kids.

New City was founded in the basement of the Iglesia Cristiana Reformada Church on Summit Avenue off Five Corners in Jersey City in 1996. But they soon outgrew the space when eventually 300 kids started showing up on Saturday afternoons.

Since they settled into their new location, they have also branched out into the Hudson River. Twice a week, Rubingh takes out four children on a sailboat loaned to the church from Liberty Marina. He would do even more if he had another boat or two. If the boat trips are anything like the camp, the kids will be rocking and rolling.

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COUNSELORS at New City Kids quiz each other on the 10 Commandments, which they will teach to the children at summer camp.