Better Life

What are your priorities for life? A few weeks ago, the OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) released its Better Life Index, a survey that analyzes the priorities and performance of the OECD member nations in areas ranging from income to health to environmental protection. The OECD is a consortium of 34 developed nations that work together to solve common problems.

The findings were interesting; the people of the richest OECD nations ranked income as a lower priority than those of poorer nations. The study authors concluded that once you have more income, it becomes less important to you. The U.S. was notable for a few things. First, Americans ranked “health” below “life satisfaction” as a priority. Most countries rank health first. Second, the U.S. was near the bottom – 29th – in “work-life balance.” We were 1st in income, 1st in housing – in other words, the most money, the best housing, the least balance to enjoy those things.

Why do people love summer so much? Because it’s a time of year when so many people achieve at least some semblance of the balance that feels more appropriate – or should I say, more Godly. And I’m not saying that this is all about recreation or relaxation; I’m talking about focusing on the things that are important: spending time with your children. Taking your kids to visit your parents. Family reunions. Exploring the world.

In the Gospel of John, Jesus spends a lot of time focusing on the importance of spiritual things. Jesus said directly: “I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died.” (John 6:48-49) In other words, manna is great. God provided the manna. God provides our blessings. We’re #1 in income, #1 in housing. But just as people rate income lower when they have enough, I think we are so starved for “life satisfaction” that we have rated it as a higher priority than health. In short, we want life satisfaction more than we want life.

This is why so many of our programs are focused on helping you lead a balanced life. Financial Peace University, along with our entire emphasis on faith & finance, strives to bring these two critical aspects of our life into balance, so that we experience freedom from having our life driven by our finances. GriefShare helps restore us to balance after we’re knocked off-kilter by the loss of a loved one. And the new Orange curriculum in our Church School seeks to put spiritual formation into the lives of the children in our congregation.
of your children back where it belongs: centered in the home, around the family dinner table.

One of the other areas where the U.S. ranked far below the other OECD nations was “civic engagement.” Apparently we were too busy worrying about ourselves to worry about our communities. We need to change that. Through FPC’s mission partnerships, we hope that you’ll get involved with our efforts to engage the world around us and help build God’s world.

I’ve always found it interesting that we actually get more visiting families per week in the summer than in the winter. Those of us who are year-round churchgoers may think of summer as the “slower” time when there isn’t a full choir, etc. – but it’s also the time of year when families seem more able to make room to add something new to their lives.

So you need to decide what your priorities are. As you continue through this summer time, ask yourself: what priorities are you meeting that make summer feel like a better time of year? What can you do to maintain this year-round? What can you do to make sure that the important things stay first in your life all the time – that you’re always making time for your family, time for yourself, time for God?

Don’t just eat the manna in the wilderness. Seek the bread of life.

Peace and blessings,

– John 6:48
FROM THE CHOIR ROOM

SPECIAL MUSIC IN AUGUST

Our wonderful soloists will continue to provide music for our worship services in August during the absence of the Chancel Choir. The Chancel Choir returns September 13:

- **August 2**  Sandra Ruggles, Soprano
- **August 9**  Emily McSpadden, Alto
- **August 16** Iris Karlin, Soprano
- **August 23** Summer Choir
- **August 30** Carson Baker, Tenor
- **September 6** Tai Collins, Tenor

SUMMER CHOIR

If you would like to sing with the Chancel Choir, but don’t have the time for a weekly commitment, the Summer Choir is for you. They rehearse and sing one Sunday of each month during the summer. We meet at 10 AM to rehearse and sing for worship at 11. You are welcome to come for one or come for all, just be prepared to enjoy yourself. The remaining summer choir Sunday is August 23.

HYMNS OF THE FAITH

One of the most rewarding things that I do as an organist is accompany the singing of hymns. Hearing the congregation enthusiastically join in singing becomes part of my own prayer. Every summer when I attend organist conventions, one of the greatest thrills is joining with hundreds of other organists in lustily singing great hymns accompanied by historic or magnificent organs. Group singing is no longer a part of our culture as it was just a generation ago. Church is often the only place where we join in singing with a group of people. Keeping that in mind, I’d like to share a few reasons that motivate me to enjoy hymn singing. This is the first of 8 reasons that I’ll share over the next few months:

1. **The great hymns embed Christian truths in our minds and hearts.**

Some say they can't memorize; as a result they seldom attempt to commit God's Word in their hearts. Without our even realizing it, the hymns do that committing for us. Christians who couldn't quote 10 verses of Scripture could easily sing dozens of hymns that are based on or directly drawn out of Scripture. There are any number of Christian concepts tucked away in our minds ready to be pulled out when we need them, and they were put there by the repeated singing of the great hymns. Thanks to our hymns we know that God is faithful, that He provides a firm foundation for our lives, that we should "Take Time to Be Holy," and that God's love will not let us go. Our hymns teach new truth every time we sing them.
Summer Sunday School Continues for 5 Sundays in August

The theme for 252 Basics for Kindergarten to 5th graders is: “Wisdom” with the memory verse, “Choose my teaching instead of silver. Choose knowledge rather than fine gold. Wisdom is worth more than rubies. Nothing you want can compare with her.” from Proverbs 8:10 – 11. Jeff Spady continues this summer to lead these Kindergarten to 5th grade learners with some great lessons and enthusiastic student responses.

Who will lead our 3, 4 & 5 year old Sunday School Class that meets in the Jungle Room on Sundays, August 9, 16, 23 and 30th? The lesson plans are ready with some good activities to reinforce the biblical lesson as experienced on the DVD. The stories are about Samuel hearing God’s call, Jesus telling the parable of the lost coin, and Jesus making breakfast for his friends after the resurrection, with the last lesson being a review of all the Bible stories in August. First Look for 3, 4 & 5 year olds focuses on the theme, “God Loves You” with the memory verse “I have loved you with a love that lasts forever,” from Jeremiah 31:3.

We are grateful for the volunteer teachers who have led our younger Sunday School Class: Paul Piergentile, Janice Lee, Cecil Oberbeck, Joanna O’Donovan, Carol Cornell with Carol Schulzrinne, Chair of Christian Education, leading and assisting where needed.

CONFIRMANDS GO OUT FOR ICE CREAM

This year’s confirmands, Isaac Baez, Cielo Camacho, and Alyson Kumor enjoyed an evening out with awesome ice cream sundaes at Archetypus in Edgewater with Pastor Rich, Pastor Kellie, and Dorothy V.

Family Vacation Bible Camp

August is Camp-Time at First Presbyterian and we are gearing up for an exciting FAMILY BIBLE CAMP at 3:30 p.m. every Sunday afternoon in August. Have you registered? Can’t come every Sunday? Then register for the Sundays that you can come and pay either $10 per family with one child or $15 with two or more children, but let us know so we have enough food for supper and enough crafts in the Craft Zone.

Music Theatre Camp

Music Theatre Camp is also in August from the 15th to the 22nd. Margot Bennett and Amanda Bogacz along with several talented young adults in the arts are gearing up for a great camp with music and drama and lots of fun! Registration deadline is August 5. There will be a matinee performance in the Chapel at 2 p.m. on Saturday, August 22 with “My Favorite Broadway Songs”. The congregation is invited to attend and enjoy the great talents of these young people!

- Dorothy VanderWerf, Activities Director
MUSIC THEATRE CAMP

August 15-22, 2015

Saturday, August 15, 11 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. - Gathering Time for Parents and Campers
Camp continues until 2 p.m.
Sunday, August 16, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. - Auditions
Monday - Saturday, August 17 - 22 - Camp from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Saturday, August 22 - MATINEE SHOWCASE of FAVORITE SONGS at 2 p.m. in the Chapel

Directed by Margot Bennett & Amanda Bogacz, Musical Theatre Professionals
Staffed by several talented teenagers and adults
The daily program includes: Gathering Time, Scripture & Prayer, Rehearsals, Theatre Workshops, Other Activities for fun, and Snacks!

$60 – 1 child; $80 – 2 children - Registration deadline is August 10, 2015
Registration forms are available at the church.

Wheels Up! Let’s Go! Get ready for:

August from 3:30 – 6:30 p.m. including 5:30 worship at Crossroads.
Can’t come all 5 Sundays?
Register for any Sunday and come with your family for $10 - $15 per Sunday
or $40 - $60 for all five.

First Presbyterian Church of Englewood invites families with children of all ages to jump into action at G-Force Adventure Park! – become Navigators and explore how to serve God and others with active love.

Participate in a variety of activities at the Scripture Zone with Pastor Kellie and Dorothy V; at the Craft Zone with Carol Schulzrinne; at the Science Zone with Carolyn Milne, Linsy Farris, Lesley Pella-Woo, and Pastor Rich; and at the Gaming Zone! Also meet Checkers, the Cheetah Puppet and puppeteer, Blake Simis. Enjoy dinner together prepared by special volunteers!

G-Force Adventure Park is a workout for heart, mind, and body – join the fun!!
**SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY**

The Sunday Morning Bible Study is on a break for the summer and resumes on Sunday morning, September 13.

**BIBLE 101: SUMMER EXPLORATION SERIES CONTINUES**

One of the ways to know who we are is to understand who we are not. Scientology and Mormonism are two systems of faith that generate frequent questions. Bible 101 takes a summer look at Scientology and Mormonism using video, discussion and our own Christian Bible. Join us!

**Wednesday August 12: Mormonism**

6 p.m. – 7 p.m. “Pot Luck” Gathering for dinner. Pastor Kellie provides the lasagna, you bring any side you like. 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Using video, discussion and our own Christian Bible we will explore the Mormon system of faith. We will be watching video from the PBS documentary “The Mormons.”

**CROSSROADS**

Come and check out the CROSSROADS contemporary worship that resumes on Sunday, August 2. We meet every Sunday evening at 5:30 p.m. in the Chapel. It’s casual, lively, and fun, with a great band and the same basic sermon as Sunday morning (with multimedia enhancements). It’s a great alternative – give it a try and invite your friends! Our Crossroads service on August 2 will feature a special Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant, whereby we renew the commitments made in our baptism.

**FPC MISSION 5**

At FPC we are passionate to a commitment to “Build God’s World” and at the center is our FPC Mission Committee. Look for exciting updates this year about new opportunities to be the hands and feet of Jesus in action and welcome new chair Diane Christian. Our FPC Mission Committee has 5 key areas of focus.

**The FPC Mission 5** - 1. Habitat for Humanity 2. Center for Food Action 3. Family Promise 4. FPC Direct Outreach (projects for FPC, local community and wider community including Mission Trips, Pumpkins with a Purpose, Crop Walk) 5. FPC Partner Ministries (relationships with other churches across region including Jan Hus Presbyterian Church in NY)

This past June the Mission Committee met to give out this year’s FPC grants. Amounts ranged between $500-$4500. Congratulations to this year’s FPC Mission Grants and their work to build God’s world!

- Bergen Family Center
- Green Village
- Jan Hus Presbyterian Church
- Pilgrims of Ibillin
- Southern Poverty Law Center

- Center for Food Action
- Habitat for Humanity
- Loaves and Fishes
- SESCIL Senior community center (with an additional gift to celebrate the work of Gwen McLoud)
GET UNSTUCK!
August Sermon Series: August 2, 9, 16 and 23

Are you feeling stuck? Is your life just not moving in the direction you had hoped – or not as quickly as you would like? Pastors Rich and Kellie have been working on a sermon series for August that will help you GET UNSTUCK! Over four weeks we’re going to help you get your life moving as we lead you to think through your life situation with these four messages:

- August 2: Running in Mud – what does it mean to be “stuck”?
- August 9: Letting Go – you can’t change what you won’t change
- August 16: Blindspots – sometimes we can’t see ourselves clearly
- August 23: Move – it’s time to stop thinking and start changing

Summer is a great time to refocus your energies and make a difference in your future. One of the positive changes people can make is to start attending worship regularly. Invite a friend to GET UNSTUCK by coming to FPC with you.

SAVE THE DATES!
FINANCIAL PEACE AND GRIEFSHARE RETURN!

There are some fantastic programs coming once again to FPC this fall.

GriefShare, a bereavement support group, returns on Wednesday evenings beginning October 14 at 7 pm. Led by the Rev. Kellie Anderson-Picallo, GriefShare (www.griefshare.org) is a nationally recognized 13-session program that will lead you from grief to hope. GriefShare is currently accepting names for the upcoming session. If you have a friend, neighbor or loved one who is grieving, please encourage them to email Pastor Kellie at Kellie@englewoodpres.org or call the church office.

Financial Peace University, one of our most popular offerings, resumes on Sunday evenings at 7 p.m. beginning on October 18. Led by Paul Platek, CFP, this nine-week program will set you on the path to financial peace. Find out more at www.DaveRamsey.com. Contact the church office to let us know of your interest.

COPE: CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP
In partnership with the Bergen Family Center / Thursday, August 20, 7- 9 p.m., in the East Room.

Are you feeling the stress of being a caregiver for a sibling, parent, or an adult child? If you are a caregiver looking for resources – or a space to get it all out - come to COPE: FPC’s Caregivers’ Support Group led by Sheila Shur, Elder Care Supervisor of the Bergen Family Center. COPE will provide you with resources as well as a compassionate circle of men and women who support one another in our care of others. For additional information, contact Rev. Hong at rich@englewoodpres.org. Please feel free to forward this invitation to others you know who are feeling the burden of caring for others. All are welcome. Light refreshments will be served.
MONEY LESSONS FOR OUR CHILDREN

I think we can all agree that our children will be faced with significant financial issues during their lifetime and most of them will be ill equipped to make sound decisions. Given how important financial skills are to navigating life, it's surprising our schools don't spend more time and resources to teach our children about money. This situation is exacerbated by the constant noise our children are exposed to on social media. Therefore, it is the parent's obligation to teach their children important financial lessons and it is imperative that they start early. A difficult concept for anyone, but especially young children, is delayed gratification. The ability to delay gratification is an excellent predictor of how successful someone will be when they grow up. It is extremely important that this lesson is taught when your child is very young (you can't start too early) and then reinforced consistently as they get older.

When you take your child to a store make sure you manage their expectations. If you are buying something for someone else, maybe your child's friend's birthday, you need to explain that this is not their time to buy something but you are buying for ....... When you take your child to the store for him or her then you to need to establish a budget. Say, "today you can spend $... so let's pick out something nice for that amount". A great way to teach children valuable money lessons is to get them a piggy bank with three slots, spending, saving and giving. Then whenever they get money teach them how to divide this money into the three categories with the understanding that a portion needs to be allocated to each slot, preferably one third each.

Have your child set a goal for something they want and don't have the money for now such as a toy. Then when they get money for birthdays or for doing chores around the house they can save for this toy (make sure it's not something too expensive so they don't have to wait long to save for it). When you pay your child for doing something over and above what they are expected to do (clean their room, brush their teeth etc.) call it a commission, not allowance, so they know that they need to earn the money and it will not be just given to them automatically. These are just some basic ideas for raising your children to make sound financial decisions. In the near future the church will be offering a class entitled "Smart Money, Smart Kids" which will provide some great teaching skills for parents to help their children learn to make sound financial decisions. Be on the lookout for future announcements. -Paul Platek

ONLINE GIVING IS NOW AVAILABLE!

You can now give to FPC online or through your smartphone! Through our processing partner PushPay, you can give via credit card, debit card, or directly from your checking account (ACH transactions). You can even set up automatic recurring contributions. You can access online giving in one of three ways:

1. Download the FPC App to your smartphone and press the “Give” button.
2. Download the PushPay app to your smartphone and follow the instructions.
3. Go to the church website (www.englewoodpres.org), and on the “Members” tab, choose “Online Giving.”

Once you are setup with PushPay, which only takes seconds, you can get a record of your gifts at any time. There are fees that will be paid by FPC and do not affect the tax deductibility of your contribution. If you are concerned about the fees that FPC will incur, they are similar to what any merchant pays when a customer uses credit cards. Depending on the type of credit card you use, the fee we pay could be as much as 2% of your donation; the lowest fee is if you make your donation via direct transfer from your checking account (ACH transaction). We will credit all contributions received via PushPay to your envelope number.
**Have You Walked the Labyrinth on the Lawn?**

Come, take a walk outside, relax on the bench nearby, take time to say a prayer. The outdoor labyrinth is located in the back of the building off the upper parking lot. Individuals and families are invited to walk the winding path, a metaphor for life with its twists and turns, and sometimes even a change of direction. You are always welcome.

**Adults Play Basketball in July on Thursdays**

In Elmore Hall from 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. Thanks to Philip Soo for organizing and coordinating this Basketball Fellowship Group. The basketball players are collecting a donation of $2 each night they play to benefit the Bergen Family Center. Contact Philip at: soorealtors@gmail.com. Come, enjoy good friends and a fun game on August 6, 13, 20 and 27.

**Deacons Support the Mission Trip to Taos!**

The total donations on June 7th for the Mission Trip was **$1659.00**! The Deacons matched that amount with their special Deacon’s Fund. Thank you to the Deacons for their special support of this mission in October! Our Mission Team will now be Bruce and Rosetta Forshee, David and Sandy Bishop, and Marcy Steele.

**Bring Food to First on the First Sunday: Aug. 2**

Food donations are just not keeping up with the need. CFA is needing to buy many of the basics that go into the emergency food packages – things like peanut butter, soup, pasta, and tuna.

CFA does so much more than provide food assistance. They also provide rental assistance, utility and heating oil assistance, weekend snack packs for kids, special diabetic food packages, ongoing Super Storm Sandy Relief, counseling and advocacy. According to an independent audit, 92.4 cents of every dollar donated is used for direct client services and programs that provide critical assistance to those living in poverty. Food donations or monetary donations are much appreciated. Checks can be made out to the church and earmarked for CFA. With our support CFA can continue to help local families and individuals in need during difficult times. GIVING LOCALLY = HELPING LOCALLY

**Family Promise Thank Yous!**

THANK YOU to 9 volunteers who turned Elmore Hall again after worship on Sunday, July 5 from a home for Family Promise families back into Elmore Hall/the Gym for general use. We are so grateful to Natalie Beaumont and Carol Cornell for managing this mission project from start to completion. It took about 45 people just from our congregation plus 5 other support congregations to host these homeless families for two weeks. It includes setting-up, taking inventory, cleaning bathrooms, serving dinners, staying overnight, donating groceries for breakfasts and lunches, greeting guests, organizing all the details, giving instructions to overnighters, purchasing chairs and other items, donating cleaning and other supplies, dismantling everything and putting it away in storage ready for our next time of hosting, and finally doing the laundry of towels and bedding used by our guests. Our guest families were so gracious and appreciative, and we pray for them that they will each find a more permanent home through Family Promise.
People You Know


CONGRATULATIONS TO: Alan Aluska on the birth of a grandson born on June 22, 2015, Zachary Michael Mounts, son of his daughter, Vanessa Yi and husband, Kevin Mounts.

CONGRATULATIONS TO: Allegra Stanek who received an MBA in Marketing and Sustainability from University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill in May and will be working for Coca-Cola in Atlanta.

CONGRATULATIONS TO: Michael Bello for his “Next to Normal” being nominated for a New York Innovative Theater Award for Outstanding Production of a Musical. Michael is currently working on “What Do Critics Know” in the New York Musical Theater Festival.

"Lucky Ducks", A Miracle of Life!
This past Spring, a mallard duck chose to make a nest and lay eggs under our new bench on the playground. Some of the preschool families actually witnessed Mama duck laying an egg one morning. Fascinating! The bench was blocked off with cones and signs to ensure that the nest remained untouched. Mama duck sat for 5 weeks on her 7 eggs, undisturbed by the children running, playing, laughing and shouting just a few feet away from her. Unfortunately, the 7 ducklings hatched over one weekend in May so no one witnessed firsthand this miracle of life. But we believe that Mama duck and her ducklings are swimming on a nearby pond, so be on the lookout for them in the neighborhood. What a treat for all of us at the preschool - especially because the children had just been learning about birds, ducks and Spring. We certainly were "lucky ducks" at First Presbyterian this Spring. - Terry Howard, Director of First Presbyterian Preschool & Kindergarten

AGING WELL SEMINAR COMING IN SEPTEMBER
Anne Wennhold, a gifted seminar facilitator, is back to lead a 4 session “TAKE CHARGE of Your Own Amazing Aging” on Thursdays, September 10, 17, 24 and October 1 from 9:15 a.m. to 12 noon in the East Room. This seminar provides a dynamic introduction to the rewarding inner work that prepares one for becoming a conscious and wise elder – for oneself, one’s family, one’s community and for the generations yet to come. Plan now to participate in these meaningful sessions. 15 members and friends came to the introductory session in April and requested more. Look for more information.

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER ARTICLES ARE DUE ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 18TH.
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**August 2015**

First Presbyterian Church
150 East Palisade Avenue
Englewood, NJ 07631
201-568-7373
www.englewoodpres.org

Sun - Mon: 8:30am - 12:30pm Worship Service
11:00am Faith & Discipleship Ministries
6:30pm Crossroads Contemporary Worship
Nursery / Child care available from 9:30am - 12:30pm
Crossroads Contemporary Worship
Every Sunday:
- 11:00am Worship Service
- 12 noon Coffee & Conversation
- Music Theatre Camp (CH)
DOWNLOAD THE NEW FPC APP

We are very excited to announce the launch of our very own app for smartphones!

If you enable push notifications, we can stay in touch with you and send you general Group information and even give online.

Search phrase: "Englewood Presbyterian". This is the first version of the app, which contains Groups, Find the app by searching your respective app store using this search phrase.

To FC, Daily devotions, Feel free to send feedback to Rich. Stay connected.

We expect to update frequently. Feel free to send feedback to Rich. Stay connected.

150 East Palisade Avenue
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Happy Easter
April 5, 2015