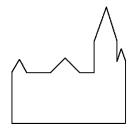
October 2013

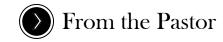
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First Press

A publication of the First Presbyterian Church of Englewood, NJ





Get Off Your Donkey

"Get Off Your Donkey" is the title (an intentional double-entendre) of a new book by Christian author Reggie McNeal. It is an allusion to the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37), in which a man comes upon someone who had been beaten, robbed, and left for dead. The story says that the Good Samaritan put the victim "on his own animal" (presumably the donkey that the Good Samaritan had been riding himself) and took him to an inn to be cared for. In other words, he got off his donkey and helped!

We don't really experience the Christian life until we begin to do as Christ commands. Too often, we view Christian obedience as being about not doing the "thou shalt nots" of the Bible – don't steal, don't murder, etc. There's also one in there about honoring the Sabbath (hint).

But Christian obedience is actually rooted in **living** as Jesus wants us to live, not just **avoiding** certain things. Until we experience life through following Jesus, we won't really understand the joys of discipleship.

Reggie puts it this way: "The best strategy for experiencing the abundant life that Jesus talked about is through loving our neighbors. ... I'm not just inviting you to a life of service; I maintain that you'll get a life through service. I am not suggesting that we love our neighbors for selfish reasons. But service to others carries its own life-enriching rewards for the ones doing the serving."

"I attend church" and "I am a faithful Christian" are not synonymous declarations. Attending worship services is a part of the Christian life, but it's mostly a spectator activity. Attending church is like watching a cooking show. Yes, I love watching cooking shows. I enjoy seeing them make beautiful creations in a short time. I imagine that the dishes are incredibly tasty. But you can't taste it until you make it!

If you attend church – maybe you've just started, maybe it's been for a while – and you aren't feeling the benefits of faith. If you aren't really experiencing the abundant spiritual life Jesus promises to us – then maybe it's time to put your faith into practice in the service of others. The service you render



him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him."

- Luke 10:34



doesn't have to be in the church (the Good Samaritan, as a Samaritan, would not have even been permitted in a Jewish synagogue), though we provide frequent opportunities to serve. Just serve. See someone in need and help. Do it in the name of Christ. Thank God for the opportunity. Pray about the experience and share your feelings about it with God.

Suppose you were asked to list: what did I do in the past week that stemmed from my faith? If that list only has "worship" on it, then you are missing out. You can watch Rachael Ray every day for years and not become a better cook. You have to do it.

Experiencing the abundant life in Christ begins with adopting an attitude of abundance. Share of yourself. Give your skills. Give your money. Give your time. It is in giving that you discover how much you have.

As Reggie reminds us: "Maybe you can't change the world, but you can change your street. You may not be able to change your community's graduation rate, but you mentor one kid out of being a dropout. Wiping out hunger may be too daunting a task, but packing food into schoolkids' backpacks so they can eat over the weekend is doable."

When you act, you will make a difference. When you make a difference, you will understand that you have been God's hands and feet, helping to build God's world. So let us all get off our donkeys.

Peace and blessings,



First Press

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150 East Palisade Avenue Englewood, NJ 07631 Voice: 201-568-7373 Fax: 201-568-7376 www.englewoodpres.org

Staff Extensions and E-mail Addresses

Rev. Richard S. Hong x306 Cell: 973-769-0199 rich@englewoodpres.org

Parish Associate,
Kellie Anderson-Picallo x301
kellie@englewoodpres.org

Activities Director,
Dorothy VanderWerf x307
dorothyv@englewoodpres.org

Music Director,
David Macfarlane x310
music@englewoodpres.org

Office Manager,
Danielle De Laurentls x304
office@englewoodpres.org

Office Assistant,
Diane Lyons x304
office@englewoodpres.org

Bookkeeper,
Mary Stevens x308
bookkeeper@englewoodpres.org

From the Choir Room

CHANCEL CHOIR

Chancel Choir has returned and you might notice a few new faces in the group! We are always in need of additional members, especially tenors and basses. Rehearsals are Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. and include delicious homemade snacks. Add your voice to our celebration!





BRAHMS REQUIEM FESTIVAL CHOIR

Our choir will be joined by several local choirs as well as members of the Middletown Concert Chorale and Newburgh Symphonic Chorale to form a 100 voice massed choir to sing Brahms' "German Requiem". This performance will be in our sanctuary

on Saturday, November 23 at 7:30 PM and will be accompanied by the 55-piece Newburgh Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Woomyung Choe. If you or your friends would like to sing with us for this special performance, rehearsals will be every Sunday at 12:15 in the Choir Room starting September 29. This is a once in a lifetime chance to be a part of such a spectacular event. For more information contact Dr. David Macfarlane at the church or just come to a rehearsal! Scores will be provided.



COME TO THE PARISH CONNECTION BRUNCH ON OCTOBER 20

The DEACONS will host a PARISH CONNECTION BRUNCH on Sunday, October 20th. The entire congregation, including visitors, are invited to join the Deacons after the 11 a.m. worship service for a Fall Celebration in Elmore Hall. In addition to a delicious brunch, there will be live music by The Jazz Doctors, a classic jazz band, with our own Dr. Linsy Farris on the bass.



90 SECOND SERMON

Check out the 90 Second Sermon – a brief, engaging version of the sermon being produced each week by Rich and Kellie. Well-suited for sharing with friends via email or Facebook, we hope you'll find it interesting not just for yourself but as a way to start faith conversations with friends and family. Access the videos from our preliminary website at www.90secondsermon.com.



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Children, Youth, & Family Connection



READ TO FEED

Read to Feed for families has been launched to benefit Heifer International. It's not too late to register for this rewarding program as kids, families, youth and adults find sponsors to support their reading in the month of October. On October 27, we will culminate our fund-raiser and count the dollars to make a difference in the lives of families in the US and abroad for food on their table and income in their pockets.

SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL

We have SEVEN "We Believe" classes this fall for CHILDREN and YOUTH: 1 ½ to 3 year olds in the Nursery, Special Needs class, 3 & 4 year olds, Kindergarten - 2nd Grade, 3rd - 5th Grade, Middle School and High School. Please register your children for these fall classes with 20 enthusiastic and dedicated staff of volunteers.



CHILD CARE IS AVAILABLE EVERY SUNDAY!

Child Care is available from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. every Sunday. Our Nursery is well-equipped with toys, supplies of all kinds, and a pager system. Babies, toddlers and preschool children are invited to enjoy a special place under the guidance of a paid and experienced staff who also provide a Bible story and activity while parents worship.

UNICEF

Middle School students are preparing to introduce the unique and important work of UNICEF to the younger children on October 6th as their mission project for October. They will receive a Trick or Treat box for donations to help the children of the world.





SINGING WITH CYNDI

Singing with Cyndi is an opportunity for children to sing and learn some of our favorite songs. This Church School Chorus will sing "Jesus Loves the Little Children of the World" for World Communion Sunday, October 6th.



SECOND SUNDAY PARENTING GROUP

Alison, Glenn and India Tatem invite parents with their younger children to our SECOND SUNDAY PARENTING Group after Worship on October 13. The Youth Group will present "Animal Crackers", a Heifer program with stories and activities.

PUMPKINS ARE COMING!

Pumpkins are coming on Saturday, October 12 at about 9 a.m., 700 pumpkins of all sizes plus many minis and spookies. With 25 volunteers, the unloading takes only an hour. Will you volunteer? We also need people to Staff the Patch from the 12th to Halloween.



Dorothy VanderWerf, Activities Director

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Mom Connection

Starting October 20th: An FPC gathering, the third Sunday of each month at 10:00am.

Raising kids in grace is sometimes not easy – a sense of humor and prayers are definitely needed. Moms of children from infants to high school seniors are invited to join us the third Sunday of each month to laugh and share thoughts on the topics on your hearts and minds. We'll be serving hefty doses of coffee, muffins and the Holy Spirit! Email Pastor Kellie with any questions at Kellie@Englewoodpres.org.



On the 20th plan to arrive at 9:45 a.m. in the upstairs Center for Learning Youth Lounge for 10 a.m. conversation. Downstairs childcare provided.



WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS

Starting this October: Every Wednesday - Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 at 11:00 a.m. in the Chapel

Parents and caregivers of preschoolers, join us for children's yoga in the Chapel for this free time of play. We'll begin and end each playful yoga session with learning the Lord's Prayer with our bodies. Bring a friend and enjoy! Email Pastor Kellie with any questions, Kellie@Englewoodpres.org.

GRACE UNPLUGGED MOVIE SUNDAY FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

Sunday October 6th 4pm - 7:30pm*



Save the date as we meet at Garden State Plaza AMC movie theater to see the new feature film **GRACE unplugged** and then head back to FPC for pizza and conversation.

What is GRACE unplugged about? Check out the GRACE unplugged website and here's a brief look: Having just turned 18, Grace Trey aspires to more than just singing at her church, where the worship leader is her father—a former pop star. So, with the help of Mossy, her dad's former manager, Grace records a cover version of her dad's old Top-10 hit, runs off to Los Angeles, and begins to taste the kind of stardom she's always dreamed about. Yet with each rung of the ladder she climbs, Grace feels more and more pressure to compromise her values, further straining her relationship with her parents. Will everything she experiences lead her to reject her faith ... or rediscover it? FPC will be buying a block of movie tickets and *times may slightly vary.

Tickets are \$12 each, scholarships available. Sign up for this Movie outing on the FPC Web site in the 'Happenings' section or email Pastor Kellie with any questions, Kellie@Englewoodpres.org.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Our annual Blessing of the Animals service will take place on Sunday, October 6 at 2:00 p.m. in the Memorial Garden. Please bring your four-legged friends of all kinds to a brief, casual service that celebrates the wonder of all God's creatures.



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NEWCOMER'S DINNER

Are you new to FPC? Please join us for a NEWCOMER'S DINNER on Thursday, October 3 at 6:30 p.m. in the East Room. Meet other people who've recently discovered FPC, and learn more about the church. Because we are ordering food, we need you to R.S.V.P. if you are coming no later than noon on Tuesday, October 1. Please call the Church Office (201-568-7373 ext. 0 or office@englewoodpres.org) and also indicate if you have



any dietary restrictions or require child care in the nursery. We will be scheduling these regularly throughout the year. (Save the date: persons wishing to become members of FPC are invited to meet with the elders on Sunday, November 10 and be received in worship on Sunday, November 17.)



GRIEFSHARE: GRIEFSHARE: FPC'S WEEKLY GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

This 12-week, Tuesday night group begins October 15

Anyone who has experienced the death of a family member or friend is invited to attend GriefShare: FPC's new weekly support group for people grieving the death of someone close. Through each GriefShare session you will find encouragement and help in grieving the death of a spouse, child, parent, sibling, other family member or friend. GriefShare is a nondenominational, Christian support group where each session begins with a video presentation followed by discussion led by the Rev. Kellie Anderson-Picallo. Please feel free to forward this invitation to others you know who are grieving the death of a family member or friend to join us for this 12week program on Tuesday evenings beginning October 15 at 7 pm. Sign up for GriefShare on the FPC Web site in the 'Happenings' section or email Rev. Kellie Anderson-Picallo.

COPE: CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

In partnership with the Bergen Family Center / Thursday, October 17, 7:00-9:00 pm, 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. Through an exciting partnership with the Bergen Family Center, we are able to bring you both a wide array of educational programs, information about available resources, and supportive sharing led by Sheila Shur, LSW. Sheila is the Elder Care Supervisor for the Bergen Family Center. COPE will provide you with 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.

CONSCIOUS ELDERING: THE ART OF AGING WELL

There is a wonderful day-long Retreat with Anne Wennhold on Saturday, October 19 from 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. at the Stony Point Conference Center, Stony Point, NY, 45 minutes from the church. It will provide a dynamic introduction to Conscious aging



and the rewarding inner work that prepares one for becoming a wise elder. The cost is \$93 and to register, e-mail Anne at wennhold@aol.com or call 201-266-8473.

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CENTER FOR DISCOVERY & DISCIPLESHIP

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

Sunday mornings, 10:00 a.m. in the East Room with child care.

The Sunday Morning Bible Study continues at 10:00 a.m. in the East Room each week. In this study we review the text that forms the basis of the sermon that day, illuminating issues of history, context, and translation that affect the interpretation of the story into a message for us.



FIRST THURSDAY STUDY GROUP

Thursday, October 3, at 10:00 a.m. in the East Room.

Please join us for an interesting and enlightening time as Rev. Hong leads us in a discussion of a video called "Ed's Story." This is the story of Ed Dobson, a pastor who was diagnosed years ago with ALS, and explores what it means to live a life of hope and purpose in the face of a terminal diagnosis.

COME TO PUMPKIN FEST ON SAT., OCT. 19 AT 12 NOON TO 3 P.M.

All families are invited to buy a Pumpkin at the Patch and bring it to the Fest in Elmore Hall. Then, have fun carving it into a wonderful Jack-O-Lantern with patterns and tools available for your creativity. Enjoy Face Painting and Tasty Refreshments - all sponsored by the Outreach Committee and it's FREE. Please bring a can or box of food for families in need, and invite your neighbors and friends!



ANNUAL AUTUMN AUCTION WITH DINNER ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH

On Friday, November 8, we will stage our Annual Autumn Auction for the benefit of local charities, including the Vivian Farris Scholarship Fund. There will be a Silent, Dutch, and Live auction with last year's auctioneer, Bob Milligan, lots of great food, and music by the Jazz Doctors. It all begins at 6:00 p.m. with browsing in Elmore Hall and buffet dinner at 7 p.m. Tickets are only \$25 and will be available during Coffee and Conversation.

Bob Milligan is a professionally trained philanthropic auctioneer who specializes in calling live benefit and charity auctions. In 2004 Bob graduated from The Missouri Auction School, which is the oldest and largest auction school in the world and has international reputation for producing top auctioneers in all fields. According to Newsweek, the school is "the Harvard of Auctioneering".



Here's how YOU CAN HELP: Secure those Gift Certificates to your favorite restaurants, Gift Baskets you gather, Specialty items (TV's, tech products), Jewelry and Collectibles, Vacation Homes, AND those "services" you'd like to donate (leaf raking, baby sitting, dinner for..., baking for the holidays, decorating a centerpiece, trips to the airport, window washing, music for your special event, photo taking, etc.) All donors do receive a letter for tax purposes. Are you interested in working on the Auction? Please let Phil Tamis know or if you have any questions call or email him at 201-655-9121 / prt148willow@aol.com.

OCTOBER'S CULTURAL SUNDAY



A note from Outeach: Christopher Columbus had a very important mission when he sailed from Palos, Spain in 1492. Columbus thought that by sailing west he would find a quicker and easier route to the East. Instead, he found the new world. Christ our savior also came with a mission. It was to save the world! As we celebrate Columbus Day on October 13th, please bring your favorite Italian dish. It must feed at least 10 people, and if possible, please bring it in a disposable container.

I also invite you to stop by the Information Center and see the 2013 Presbyterian Mission Calendar. In it you can see what we as Presbyterians are doing to share God's love with others throughout the world. Remember, we too were given a great mission. "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit," -Matthew 28:19

On October 27, the entire congregation is invited to celebrate the Everything Pumpkin Sunday. This will be our early thanksgiving celebration as we thank God for his bountifulness to all. We will also thank all of the hard working volunteers that have helped with our pumpkins in the front yard. As you may know, these are Pumpkins with a Purpose, their sales benefit Heifer International. Therefore, let us all bring our favorite pumpkin recipe and share with a thankful heart! It must feed at least 10 people, and if possible, please bring it in a disposable container. Psalm 95:1-3 "Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song".

Blessings, Mercedes Zuluaga

CENTER FOR FOOD ACTION THANKS US FOR OUR SUPPORT

Together we can improve the lives of local families and individuals who are struggling to put food on their tables and keep a roof over their heads. Our food donations have brought in 107 bags of groceries so far this year. Please bring FOOD to FIRST on the FIRST SUNDAY each month and help our needy neighbors. Donations are, of course, welcome any Sunday. Charlene Rees just brought 20 bags to CFA. Next Food Sundays are October 6 and November 3.







DEACONS SPONSOR AED/CPR TRAINING

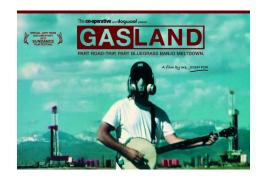
On Saturday, October 26, the Deacons invite anyone wishing to receive AED/CPR Training and Certification to register for the 3 hour class from 9 a.m. to 12 noon conducted by Always CPR Company. The course topics include Adult CPR, Choking,

and Defibrillator use. The course includes a 2 year American Heart Association certification and a book with new guidelines. The class is \$60 but the Deacons are offering the class for \$25.00 only with the rest of the cost underwritten by the Deacons' budget. Please register as soon as possible by calling the church office or sign up at Coffee & Conversation. If paying by check, write it out to the church.

News From First Presbyterian Preschool & Kindergarten

School has gotten off to a wonderful and vibrant start at FPPK. We had our Back to School Night on September 9th. Over 95% of our families attended! We have a great mix of new families as well as old friends joining us this year. Our first week was a success as we phased the children in a little bit each day introducing them to their new classroom, teachers and friends. During that first week, the parents enjoyed coffee and treats down the hallway, as they awaited their children's happy reports of first day findings.

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"GASLAND II" FILM COMING TO FPC SATURDAY, OCT. 19TH

Wonder what "hydrofracking" (a.k.a. "fracking") is, and why it's such a hot topic? There is a screening of GASLAND II, the informative and entertaining documentary about hydrofracking, a controversial method of extracting natural gas and oil, being presented by the non-profit, non-partisan North Jersey Public Policy Network (NJPPN) and sponsored by Food & Water Watch NJ. The film will be shown in the Chapel on

Saturday, Oct. 19 at 7 p.m. (doors open at 6:30 p.m.). A post-film discussion will be held.

GASLAND II by Josh Fox argues that the gas industry's portrayal of natural gas as a clean and safe alternative to oil is a myth and that fracked wells inevitably leak over time, contaminating water and air, hurting families, and endangering the earth's climate with the potent greenhouse gas, methane. In addition the film looks at how the oil and gas industries are, in Fox's words, "contaminating our democracy."

This is part of Global Frackdown, a global effort to raise awareness and educate toward responsible public policies on hydrofracking. Admission is free, but reservations are required. An optional donation will be welcome at the show. To RSVP, email: enviro@njppn.org.

First Presbyterian Church is not affiliated with NJPPN and does not endorse the content of the film or take a position on hydrofracking. As a service to the community, FPC is providing a venue for discussion of important issues of the day.

SINGLES CONNECTION MEETS FOR PIZZA AND "GASLAND II"

Join our active Singles for a different twist. Not only enjoy pizza and soft drinks in the East Room, 6 PM, \$5 contribution, but proceed on into the Chapel for the publicized movie on "fracking" in the gas industry at 7 PM. The evening should provide enlightenment and discussion for both sides of the issue facing areas close to home. RSVP to Dorothy, 568-7373, x 307 by noon on Friday, Oct. 18th.

WALK THE LABYRINTH IN THE CHAPEL

The indoor LABYRINTH on the floor in the Chapel will be open on Friday, October 25 from 4–7 p.m. and again on Sunday, October 27 from 12 noon to 4 p.m. Enter through the East Room, enjoy a candle-lit, quiet and reflective walk. The labyrinth is a 32 foot canvas patterned after the one in the Chartres Cathedral in France. It is a metaphor for the journey of

life with its twists and turns, changes and challenges, but we continue on the path with hope and determination.

CROSSROADS

Come and check out the CROSSROADS contemporary worship that meets every Sunday evening at 5:30 p.m. in the Chapel. It's casual, lively, and fun, with a great band (led by Jane Kelly Williams) and the same basic sermon as Sunday morning (with multimedia enhancements). It's a great alternative – give it a try and invite your friends!

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On Sunday, October 20, 2013 First Presbyterian Church of Englewood will be holding the Financial Peace University "FPU" course for the eighth time starting at 7 p.m. in the East Room.

During the first seven classes more than 100 people have started on the path to financial freedom using Dave Ramsey's seven baby steps. The course will run for nine weeks and go through Sunday, December 15th. During this nine week class you will learn the following:

- * budgeting techniques
- * getting out of debt
- * cash flow planning
- * how to save for retirement and your children's college
- * how to get the most affordable insurance * how to give to charity as you had always wanted to

The cost for the course is \$99.00 which pays for the membership kit. Two people can share the kit so husbands and wives are encouraged to come together or you can come with a friend. In the kit you will receive a workbook, audio CDs for all of the classes, Dave Ramsey's book, "Complete Guide to Money" and more. You also get me. As a certified Financial Planner, I add significant insight to the class and I offer a one on one meeting for any class member.

The class is designed for young couples, newly married, recent parents or soon to be married. However, people of all ages have taken the course in the past and everyone has gotten a lot out of it.

I encourage everyone to seriously consider taking this life changing course. In addition, please tell your friends and family about it as it is not limited to church members. If you are interested please sign up in Elmore Hall or see me. You can also go to the website daveramsey.com/fpu/locations and look for the course given at FPC Englewood.

Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions. -Paul Platek

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER ARTICLES ARE DUE ON OCTOBER 16TH

FPC ON THE WEB

In addition to our new Web site, don't forget that our sermons are available on our Podcast, accessible at no cost through the iTunes store, through our Web site, or directly at fpce.podbean.com. You can also keep up with FPC by joining our Facebook page (just search for First Presbyterian Church of Englewood), follow us on Twitter (@fpcenglewood), or check-in on Foursquare.





SAVE THE DATE: NOVEMBER 17, 2013

Stewardship Sunday: A Gift to God, A Commitment to the Church

150 East Palisade Avenue Englewood, NJ 07631 Phone: 201-568-7375 Fax: 201-568-7376 www.englewoodpres.org

KEĞUESTED ADDRESS CORRECTION FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ENGLEWOOD



October 2013

First Presbyterian Church
150 East Palisade Avenue
Englewood, NJ 07631
201-568-7373
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