

"Help!" Listen For God's Voice And You Will Find Your Way

By REV. KEVIN BRENNAN

During summer vacation a few years ago, I took my son and his cousin to a maze. The kind of maze you might find on a paper place mat in the diner. The kind of maze that you might see mice trying to maneuver their way through. Only this maze was not for mice, it was for humans.

It was square in shape, about 200 feet by 200 feet. The walls were stockade fences about eight feet high. The goal, of course, was to find your way through the maze and out the other side. You were timed to see how fast you could do it.

You could easily see how someone could never get out. My son and his cousin first went into the maze full of energy. They practically ran up the first alley and made the first right, only to run into a dead end. They backtracked and went another way, only to run into another dead end.

It didn't take long before they were walking and not running anymore, and getting increasingly frustrated. And then after several more dead ends, and very little progress, they hardly wanted to try anymore.

They looked exhausted and discouraged and began to wonder why in the world they thought this could ever be fun.

That's when they heard a voice, "Do you want some help?" It was my voice. They hadn't noticed, but there was a tower at the front of the maze. I had climbed into it and could see the whole thing from above. I knew exactly where they were and could see every wrong turn they made.

I could also see how they were just a few turns away from getting out of the maze. If they wanted to find their way to their goal, they would have to listen carefully to my instructions. Eventually, by following my lead, they found their way out.

Life is like a huge maze. We start out full of exuberance, confident that we know how to maneuver our way through. We don't need anyone's help, thank you. A couple of dead ends don't discourage us, but when it becomes a couple of dozen dead ends, our confidence wanes, discouragement sets in.

Our run turns into a walk, our walk turns into a shuffle and our shuffle ends with us leaning up against some wall and wondering, "Why bother?"

If we listen carefully, we may hear a voice from above saying, "Hey, you want some help? You must listen to Me carefully." It's so important, now more than ever, that we listen very carefully to the voice from above to give us the guidance we need in these perilous times.

Jesus said, in John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." Lost your way? Listen for the voice of Jesus and you will find it.

Pastor Brennan is the spiritual leader of the Evangel Church, located at 1251 Terrill Road in Scotch Plains.

St. Luke's A.M.E. To Mark 130th Year Of Service Saturday

WESTFIELD - St. Luke's African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in Westfield will celebrate 130 years of service to God and the community on Saturday, July 20, from noon to 3 p.m.

Bishop Marshall H. Strickland will preach the anniversary message. All are welcome to attend. The church, led by the Reverend Leon E. Randall, Pastor, is located at 500 Downer Street.

Westfield Recreation Events

Adult Tennis Class: Held from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Saturdays: July 20, 27; August 3, 10, and 17. The fee is \$60.

Summer Tennis Class: Junior Tournament age categories are: 12 and under, 14 and under, 16 and under and 18 and under. Adult Tournaments are for ages 18 years and above (singles only). The fee is \$10 for the Junior Tournament and \$20 for the Adult Tournament. Forms may be obtained at the Recreation Department.

Hyper Peppy Robotics: August 14 to 16, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. This event is for children, ages 7 through 12, and will be held at the Community Room. The fee is \$100.

Mad Science: August 26 to 30, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., for ages 5 to 8 and August 19 to 23 or August 26 to 30, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., for ages 9 and above. The event will be held at the Community Room. The fee is \$110 per week.

Art Camp: Session 1: July 22 to 26; Session 2: July 29 to August 2; Session 3: August 5 to 9. The one hour sessions are from Monday to Friday at 10:30 a.m. for ages 4 to 8 and 12 p.m. for ages 12 and above. The fee is \$45 per week.

Crafty Kids: For ages 5 to 13, from August 5 to 9, from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. The fee is \$60 per week.

Westfield Youth Art Expo: Awards Presentation: Friday, August 2, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Open to ages 14 to 17 years. Pieces entered must be matted with shrink-wrap and able to be hung. The entry fee is \$7. Art pieces must be dropped off by July 31, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Kids Art Show: Ages 4 to 13. Pieces entered must be on 8 x 11.5 sized paper. There is no fee.

Summer Concert Series: Held at Mindowaskin Park, Thursday Nights from 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Bring a blanket and a lawn chair.

Wrestling: August 5 to 9 for ages 7 to 11 and August 12 to 16 for ages 12 to 15; Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Roosevelt School Cafeteria. The fee is \$45 per week.

Football: July 22 to 26, for ages 8 to 12, from Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Tamaques Park. The fee is \$45.

Roller Hockey: July 22 to 25, July 29 to August 1, and August 12 to 15, Monday through Thursday 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. for ages 6 through 9 and 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for ages 10 to 13. Roller Hockey will take place at Tamaques Park Basketball Courts. The fee is \$45 per week.

Bowling: To August 27, at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays for ages 5 to 14. The fee is \$9 per week.

Movie Night at Memorial Park Pool: For pool members and Westfield residents only. For children under 10 years and their parent or guardian. The fee is \$1 per person. Shows begin at 7 p.m. and will end approximately at 8:30 p.m.

Teen Night At Memorial Park Pool: Wednesday Nights from 8:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. for grades 6 to 12. The night includes D.J. dancing, swimming and special events. The program began on June 26. The fee is \$3 at the door.

Discount Tickets: Tickets are available for Sesame Place, Hershey Park, Morey's Piers, Dorney Park, Mountain Creek and Great Adventure.

For information, call the Recreation Department at (908) 789-4080 or visit the Recreation Department online at www.westfieldnj.net



PRESTIGIOUS HONOR...Staff members of the Presbyterian Nursery School in Westfield proudly display their NAEYC Certificate of Accreditation that was recently awarded by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. This recognition had been achieved by just 7 percent of early childhood programs in the United States - some 7,850 programs as of January.

Presbyterian Nursery School Earns NAEYC Accreditation

WESTFIELD - The Presbyterian Nursery School, located at 140 Mountain Avenue in Westfield, was recently granted its NAEYC Certificate of Accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

Girl Scout Council Offers Day Camps

WESTFIELD - The Washington Rock Girl Scout Council Summer Day Camps will be offered through Friday, August 2, at three area locations.

Open to all girls entering grades 1 to 8, the camp program offers youngsters the chance to learn new skills and make new friends.

Full day camp is from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and costs \$65 per week. It is offered at W. H. Buie Recreation Center, Hillside Avenue in Hillside and at Emerson School, 305 Emerson Avenue in Plainfield.

Camp is held at the Grace Wilday Middle School on Brooklawn Avenue in Roselle from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. The cost is \$55 per week.

For more information, please call Washington Rock Girl Scout Council at (908) 232-3236, extension no. 1202.

CSH Slates Car Seat Checks; Benefit Car Wash, Barbecue

MOUNTAINSIDE - On Saturday, July 27, Children's Specialized Hospital (CSH) will hold a special community event combining safety and fun.

From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., free safety checks of child car seats will be conducted in collaboration with the Union County Police Department's Comprehensive Traffic Safety Program.

In addition, a fundraiser for the hospital's Friday Night Fever program will include a car wash and barbecue, to be held between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

All the festivities will take place in the front parking lot of CSH's facility at 150 New Providence Road.

Friday Night Fever is a social program offering young people ages 10

to 21 who use mobility aids such as wheelchairs and walkers a chance to socialize with their peers. All proceeds from the barbecue and car wash will support Friday Night Fever activities.

Activities have included movie nights, shopping trips, game nights, a Halloween haunted trail and fundraisers to support Friday Night Fever.

CSH sponsors child car seat safety checks throughout the year to encourage public safety. In addition to the free car seat checks, safety information will be provided at the upcoming event.

For more information, please call Jill Jacobi, CSH's Community Education Specialist and a Child Passenger Safety Technician, at (908) 301-5478.

SAGE Seeking Volunteers To Assist Senior Citizens

AREA - SAGE, a private, not-for-profit eldercare service organization based in Summit, is seeking volunteers to deliver meals, shop for groceries or run errands for senior citizens who are unable to do these chores for themselves.

SAGE Meals-on-Wheels has an urgent need for individuals to deliver meals during the summer months.

Likewise, the SAGE Shopping Service needs volunteers to help with grocery shopping once a week on Tuesday or Wednesday mornings for elderly persons who can no longer do their own shopping.

Volunteers can also provide assistance at the Spend-A-Day Adult Day Center, helping with office tasks, assisting in the Resale Shop or repairing furniture in the SAGE Workshop.

For more information, please call Maryanne McGuire, Director of Volunteer Services, at (908) 273-5550, extension no. 22.

See it all on the Web!
www.goleader.com

Prospective Member Service & Dessert

Friday July 26th
7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Congregation Beth Israel
18 Shalom Way
Scotch Plains

Join our congregation for Shabbat services, storytelling and delicious dessert. Meet Rabbi George Nudell and Cantor Matthew Axelrod. Congregation Beth Israel is a vibrant, traditional yet egalitarian Conservative synagogue. The Synagogue boasts an award-winning, innovative religious school, with classes for 400 students. Congregation Beth Israel has an active Sisterhood, Men's Club, Adult Education Program, and USY and Kadima youth groups. Whether you are single, a couple, or a family we have activities for everyone and truly appreciate your interest in our shul.

Please RSVP to Laurie Zinberg at (908) 889-1830 if you are interested in attending the Prospective Member Shabbat.

Visit our website at
<http://www.scotchplains.com/cbi> to learn more.

Mrs. Groves Finds Rewards As CONTACT Volunteer

SCOTCHPLAINS - Laurie Groves ran a family-owned insurance agency for more than 20 years with her husband. When the business was sold and her husband retired, she joined AT&T, where she spent seven years in a demanding management position before retiring several years ago.

Mrs. Groves' entrée to hotline volunteering began at The Listening Center (TLC), a crisis hotline out of Basking Ridge, where she was President for several years.

"I joined CONTACT in 1999, just after TLC closed due to lack of volunteers," she said. "I was first asked to join the CONTACT board, but signed up for the 50-hour training class to become a CONTACT telephone volunteer because I missed the interpersonal contact with the callers on the hotline."

"I feel a strong connection to the callers because I can identify with them and what they are going through. I've been where some of these callers have been," explained Mrs. Groves, who is now Board President at CONTACT.

"Having been a widow, single parent and cancer survivor, I know the heights and depths of the whole range of emotions one can experience," said the Far Hills resident.

"I truly identify with someone going through hurt and anguish, so I feel compelled to give people a bit of my own optimism. It is an awesome feeling

to help a total stranger, one-on-one, to get through another day and expect nothing in return," she continued.

"I would feel a void if I did not have CONTACT in my life. It is my way of giving back to the community for all the bounties I have received," she said. "Through my relationship with this wonderful organization, I have received more blessings than I can count. These are the kinds of rewards that money can't buy."

Mrs. Groves, who faithfully logs in her eight hours a month, also praised CONTACT's training program and scheduling flexibility. "I like the hours because there is no pressure placed on you and you can choose your own schedule," she noted.

"What is so unique about the training program," Mrs. Groves remarked, "is the high degree of professionalism and care that goes into developing the curriculum, selecting the speakers and trainers and providing internships."

A key component of the program involves training in active listening skills. Volunteers receive ongoing supervision, mentoring and encouragement from the CONTACT staff.

Anyone over the age of 18 is eligible to become a CONTACT volunteer and various opportunities are available.

Individuals interested in volunteering or signing up for a class may call the CONTACT office at (908) 490-1480, send a fax to (908) 490-1483 or send an e-mail to contactw@verizon.net. The new hotline number is (908) 490-1900.



Laurie Groves

Torah Center to Hold Jewish History Course

WESTFIELD - The Union County Torah Center in Westfield will offer a Jewish history course on four consecutive Wednesdays, July 24 to August 14, from 8 to 9 p.m. each night.

Professor Rabbi Mitchell Bomrind, who lectures on this subject at Kean University in Union, will present the course. The sessions will take place at the center, located at 418 Central Avenue.

Like all programs at the Torah Center, it will be open to the public. There will be a \$10 fee for each lecture, or \$20 for the entire course.

The course will provide an historical overview of the destruction of the second Temple in 70 C.E. It will focus on the lives of the great Rabbis and heroes of the Talmud, among other personalities of the time.

The Talmudic perspective on Masada and the relationship between the Rabbis and the Roman emperors will be discussed as well.

Reservations are preferred but not required. For more information, please call the Torah Center at (908) 789-5252.

Mountainside Chapel Sets 'eXtreme Faith' For Grades 6 to 8

MOUNTAINSIDE - Junior high school students going into grades 6 through 8 are invited to attend a week-long activity called "eXtreme Faith" at the Mountainside Chapel.

The program will be held Monday through Friday, July 22 to 26, from 7 to 9 p.m. Participants will be challenged to "fix their eyes on Jesus" to help sustain them through extreme situations.

There will be a well-supervised, all-day trip to Great Adventure on Thursday, July 25; a day of bicycling and skateboarding, and the Mountainside Chapel Olympics, among other activities.

For more information or to register in advance, please call the Chapel at (908) 232-3456. Individuals can also register in person that week. Mountainside Chapel is located at 1180 Spruce Drive in Mountainside.

GOOD NEWS

"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever."

1 Chronicles 16:33-35

The Gospel

MEET EMILY & VINCENT



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The High Holydays
are early this year—
wouldn't you like to
celebrate them as
part of a congregation?



Rosh Hashanah starts at sundown on September 6, and Yom Kippur starts at sundown on September 15. Join us to celebrate Judaism's holiest days. For nearly 90 years, Temple Sholom has been practicing Reform Judaism in Plainfield. This year will be our final High Holydays observance in our Plainfield facility, as we prepare to move to the Scotch Plains area. We invite you to share this very special event with the members of our congregation.

Prospective members are welcome to join us as our guests for dinner and services on Friday, August 2. For reservations, please call us at 908-756-6447 or e-mail us at sholom@sholomnj.org.



Temple Sholom
815 West Seventh Street, Plainfield
(908) 756-6447 www.sholomnj.org