

Thriving Isn't Just Surviving, But Living By Principles

By MINISTER DOUGLAS MCCULLEY

Our culture is changing so rapidly. The workplace impact is obvious. Very few people I know are confident about what their job description (if they are still with their current employer) will be six months to a year in the future.

The impact on families is extreme as well. In our present day culture, all parents raising children are doing something no one else has done. If you are a parent, you are a pioneer. No parents before you have had to deal with the technology changes, the extreme media and video influences, severe time demands and many other stresses that make rearing children today so difficult.

Yet in the midst of this is an opportunity to look at parenting differently. Often parents are trying to survive or endure the stages that they and their children are going through when they could be thriving.

The difference is that enduring seeks survival techniques or goes with the latest trend, whereas thriving with your family is a byproduct of parenting by principles and priorities, not just trying to find a method that works or going with whatever is in vogue.

For example, Spencer Johnson (author of "One Minute Manager, Who Moved My Cheese?", etc.) writes that two qualities that he wanted to make sure his children developed were self-esteem and self-discipline. Self-es-

teem without self-discipline at best creates brats - at worst creates sociopaths. Self-discipline without self-esteem would produce compliant people who have trouble standing up for themselves.

Situations and circumstances change. Principles remain. The children of today and of every generation need both self-esteem and self-discipline instilled within them.

Thriving as people requires us to live by principles. Micah wrote that God has shown us what is good. "What does the Lord require of you? To act justly and love mercy. And to walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8).

Thriving as people requires us to ask the right questions. What is just, fair, right, true? How can I uphold what is right and what needs to be done and yet show mercy, kindness, compassion, grace? Am I continuing to be humble, open, reverent, teachable before God?

Minister McCulley is the spiritual leader of the Scotch Plains Christian Church, located at 1800 Raritan Road. He also serves as a counselor with the Beacon Light Counseling Center in Watchung.

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



ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION...On October 26, the Second Westfield Senior Citizen Housing, also known as Boynton Gardens, celebrated its 10th anniversary with an open house party. Westfield Mayor Andrew Skibitsky, far right, read a proclamation recognizing the facility as especially geared to the well-being of seniors. The 61 original tenants were pinned with boutonnières and their names read from the proclamation by Ruth Smith, Executive Director of Westfield Senior Citizen Housing Buildings I and II, shown second from right.

Forum to Focus on Healing From Abuse By Clergy

AREA - A conference on "Sex, Power and Surviving" will be held on Saturday, November 19, from 8:30 a.m. to noon at Overlook Hospital in Summit. The conference will touch on healing from sexual, psychological and spiritual abuse from some of the Catholic Church's clergy and hierarchy.

Featured speakers will be Anthony Padavano, a professor at Ramapo College, and the Reverend Robert Hoatson, a priest of the Archdiocese of Newark. A discussion panel will follow that will include a representa-

tion from the clergy, a former member of the Newark Archdiocese Review Board of clergy abuse, parents of an abuse survivor, a representative of those abused by priests and a professor from Rutgers University.

New Jersey Voice of the Faithful (VOTF) and the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests (SNAP) will sponsor the conference. All are welcome. There is no registration required and no admission fee, although any donation will be appreciated. Further information may be obtained at www.votfnj.org.

First Congregational Plans Alternative Gift Market

WESTFIELD - The First Congregational Church of Westfield, located at 125 Elmer Street, has announced that it will present its Annual Alternative Gift Market on two Sundays, November 20 and December 4.

The market will take place immediately following regular church services from approximately 11 a.m. to noon in Patton Auditorium, the church's common area. All are welcome to attend.

At the Alternative Gift Market, participants will have an opportunity to pick out a gift for someone that is a donation to a special cause in their honor. For each donation made, the person making the donation will receive a gift card which can be personalized and given as a gift.

The following six organizations will be represented at the Alternative Gift Market: Doctors Without Borders/Medecins Sans Frontieres, Pedals for Progress, Heifer International, Hurricane Katrina Project of WICC (Westfield Interfaith Caring Community), Camp Sunshine and Back Bay Mission, Biloxi, Miss.

Individuals who are not able to attend the gift market on either date but who would like to make a donation and receive gift cards may send a check made payable to First Congregational Church to the church

Guys and Dolls, Jr. To Debut Tomorrow

MOUNTAINSIDE - Deerfield School's production of *Guys and Dolls, Jr.* will be presented tomorrow and Saturday, November 18 and 19, at 7 p.m. in the school gym and auditorium. Music teacher Jeannette Maraffi is the director. Elizabeth Murad, who also is a music teacher in Mountainside, is the choreographer.

There will be a free special open dress rehearsal for senior citizens tonight, Thursday, November 17, at 6:30 p.m. Tickets for the Friday and Saturday evening performances are \$5. For more information, please call (908) 232-8828, extension no. 324.

Westfield High School Hosts Food Fair

WESTFIELD - Westfield High School will hold its first food fair tomorrow, Friday, November 18, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. during lunch in the cafeteria, sponsored by Chartwells as part of an initiative to introduce healthier and fresher options for students.

"Students have a great opportunity to help make positive changes in the food offerings by tasting the items and letting Chartwells know what they like and don't like," said Lisa Bleich, co-chairwoman of SNAC (School Nutritional Awareness Council).

office.

Participants are asked to note on their check which charity or charities they are supporting and how much should be allocated to each charity. They should also indicate how many cards for each charity they wish to receive.

For further information, please call the First Congregational Church at (908) 233-2494. All donations are tax deductible.

St. John's Announces Fellowship Day Sunday

SCOTCH PLAINS - Family and Friends Fellowship Day will be celebrated on Sunday, November 20, during the 10 a.m. worship service at St. John's Baptist Church, located at 2387 Morse Avenue in Scotch Plains.

This is the day when the membership is asked to bring all their family members and friends to worship with them. The individual bringing the most guests will be awarded a plaque.

Bernard Johnson, a minister-in-training, will deliver his initial sermon. A native of Scotch Plains, Mr. Johnson attended Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School and Michigan State University, and he is currently attending Philadelphia Biblical University in Langhorne, Pa.

At 4 p.m., the Gospel Choir will celebrate its 38th anniversary service. Numerous choirs have been invited, and the public also is invited to attend. For more information, please call the church office at (908) 232-6972.

Gad-about's to See Playhouse Christmas

SCOTCH PLAINS - The Willow Grove Gad-about's has announced a trip on Monday, December 5, to the Hunterdon Hills Playhouse to see *A Playhouse Christmas*. All are welcome to come and to bring a friend for the holiday musical and a lunch-time meal.

The program will feature traditional carols, classic and contemporary yuletide compositions and lively dance numbers. Carpools will leave at 10 a.m. from the Willow Grove Presbyterian Church parking lot, located at 1961 Raritan Road in Scotch Plains, and will arrive back there by 5 p.m. or earlier.

The cost is \$53 per person. Checks should be made payable to: Willow Grove Presbyterian Church, 1961 Raritan Road, Scotch Plains, N.J. 07076, with the notation "WG Gad-about's 12/5." For more specific details regarding menu selections or carpool needs, please call Barbara or Paul Couphos at (908) 322-7892.

Ecumenical Service Set Honoring Thanksgiving

FANWOOD - Temple Shalom and the Fanwood Presbyterian Church have invited all area residents to attend a Community Thanksgiving Service on Monday, November 21, at 7:30 p.m. at the Fanwood Presbyterian Church.

Planned and led by members of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Ministerial Association, this ecumenical service has been held annually for over 10 years in various houses of worship throughout the two municipalities.

The Fanwood Presbyterian Church is located at 74 South Martine Avenue at the corner of LaGrande Avenue in Fanwood and is wheelchair accessible.

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