

What Would You Take?

“And he said to them, “Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.” Luke 12:15

Are there major changes that would allow you to simplify your life? Are you living a lifestyle you can’t afford? Driving a car or paying a mortgage that is pushing you beyond your means? I want to encourage you, if you feel this stress and it’s keeping you from doing the things God is calling you to do, maybe it’s time to simplify in major things.

Benjamin Franklin had it right when he said, “Contentment makes poor men rich, but discontentment makes rich men poor.” I’d rather you be someone who is poor but who has contentment than someone who has everything and doesn’t even realize it. What is really important in your life? Jesus told us that our life does not consist in the abundance of our possessions. And every once in a while, we finally see that and we get it.

When Southern California was having those horrendous wildfires in 2008, there were a million people who were displaced for a period of time. And there were people like one family, who, in the middle of the night were awakened by their daughter. They woke up and smelled smoke. They looked out their back windows and they watched as the fire leapt the interstate and came up the hill behind their house, with the winds blowing it towards them. It was racing toward their house and they realized they had just a minute to get out. They grabbed their children. They grabbed just a few things. They ran out to the car and escaped just before the flames engulfed a portion of their home and all of their neighbors’ homes. And when people came back, nothing was there. It was all gone. And suddenly there was this awareness: “My life does not consist in the abundance of my possessions.”

What would you save if you knew a tornado was coming and it was going to hit your house? What would you grab and take to the basement with you? You know intuitively that none of that stuff really matters in the end. You know that when you die all the pictures and all the videos and all that other stuff you collected is going in the garbage or maybe going to be sold at a garage sale by your kids or your grandkids. Was it worth it? How long will it take you to learn that our life does not consist in the abundance of our possessions?

The words of the Shaker hymn say it well:

“ ’Tis the gift to be simple, ’tis the gift to be free,
 ’Tis the gift to come down where we ought to be;
 And when we find ourselves in the place just right,
 ’Twill be in a valley of love and delight.
 When true simplicity is gained,
 To bow and bend we shan’t be ashamed,
 To turn, turn will be our delight,
 ’Til by turning, turning we come out right.”

You think about that now. Amen.

Pastor Rick

Sunday Schedule at BPEFC

9:00 AM

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| Worship Service | Sanctuary |
| Nursery (Birth to two years) | Room 100 |
| Chicks (Birth date in 2007) | 102 |
| Lambs (Birth date in 2006) | 103 |
| Giraffes (Birth date in 2005) | 104 |
| 5’s and K (Birth date in 2003 & 2004) | 105 |

Adult Bible Fellowships

| | |
|---|---------|
| Young Marrieds (and Committed Couples) | 112/113 |
| Mosaic (Multi-generational, singles/marrieds) | 108/109 |

10:30 AM

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Worship Service | Sanctuary |
| Nursery (Birth to two years) | Room 100 |
| Chicks (Birth date in 2007) | 102 |
| Lambs (Birth date in 2006) | 103 |
| Giraffes (Birth date in 2005) | 104 |
| 5’s and K (Birth date in 2003 & 2004) | 106 |
| <i>K.Z. & Company</i> (Grades 1–6) | Fellowship Hall |
| Youth Worship Service (Grades 7–12) | Youth Room |

Adult Bible Fellowships

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------|
| Salt (Elem. & Youth Parents) | 108/109 |
| In-Betweeners (Singles/Marrieds, 50+) | 112/113 |
| Prime Timers (Senior Adults) | 114 |

BPEFC Pastoral Staff

Rick Ensrud, Senior Pastor - ext. 11

Dan Carlson, Adult Ministry Pastor - ext. 12

David Durey, Executive Adult Ministry Pastor - ext. 13

Jeff Gagnon, Executive Ministries/Missions Pastor - ext. 22

Leane Gondek, Children’s Ministries Director - ext. 27

Josh Major, Adult Ministry Pastor - ext. 14

David Myles, Community Outreach Pastor - ext. 29

Jena Pietari, Student Ministries Director - ext. 15

Luke Turner, Worship Ministries Director - ext. 37



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Welcome to Brooklyn Park Church!

We're so glad you have joined us today. Our goal is to help you connect with God in worship and connect with others in meaningful relationships. Please let us know if we can help you in any way.

Worship Services Offered:

- 9:00 AM:** Traditions
- 10:30 AM:** Multi-cultural
- 10:30 AM:** Youth Worship Service (Grades 7—12)

Guests . . . after the service, you are invited to the Guest Reception Area (in the West Foyer) to meet with staff and learn more about our church.

All-Church News

- **40 Days of Prayer and Fasting:** January 4—February 14. Start off the year right! Pick up a prayer guide and join in the all-church prayer campaign.
- **Love & Respect Seminar:** This Friday, February 5, 6:30—9:45 PM and This Saturday, February 6, 8:30 AM—1:30 PM. Great for singles and couples. Stop by the Special Events Kiosk for details and to sign up.
- **Super Bowl Party:** Sunday, February 7, 4:30—9:00 PM, Northland Inn, \$10. Watch the big game in a private room, on a 12 x 12 screen, with pool tables and arcade games for added fun. Food provided. Bring a friend! Space limited. Sign up today at the Special Events Kiosk.
- **Alpha Course Kickoff Banquet:** Sunday, February 14, 5:30 PM. Come for a steak dinner, movie and discussion. This course will help you find answers to questions about God and Christianity. It's a great place for you to bring a friend. Other courses also offered: *Freedom in Christ* and *Bible Overview*. Sign up in the Foyer today if you are interested.
- **Congregational Meeting:** Sunday, February 21, 12:15 PM. Details to come.
- **Comedy Club:** Saturday, March 6, 7:00 PM, featuring *Comedy Sportz*. Get ready for a fun night for the whole family! Tickets are on sale next Sunday; Adults: \$10, Kids/Youth: \$5. Invite a friend to join you!
- **New Member:** The Elder Board would like to present Paul Bushey to the Congregation for consideration as a new member of BPEFC. Comments can be directed to Elder Chairman, Tom Jenson.

For more information on other church news, see *News & Notes*.

The Mindset of Simplicity and Generosity: Contentment

Philippians 4:10—19

We live in a consumer culture, a shift from a few years back when we were a producer culture. We are now buyers and hoarders and users. That is how our economy runs. That's how our children are raised. We have to recognize that there are some consequences to that. We find our meaning in the things we purchase. One of the most troubling things about being a consumer culture is that we so easily find our value in what we possess, what we own, or what we purchase. We all fall prey to consumerism, either directly or indirectly. This is the antithesis of how God wants us to live. Let's look at the mindset we need to have if we are to live out our lives as good stewards of His possessions. In Philippians 4:10—19, the Apostle Paul gives us four keys to developing a life of simplicity and generosity.

1. The mindset of simplicity and generosity requires being willing to learn contentment in abundance or in need. (Philippians 4:10—11)

- He is chained as a prisoner in jail as he writes this letter.
- Contentment is a learned trait.

2. The mindset of simplicity and generosity requires the need to be flexible in life. (Philippians 4:12)

brought low → abound → facing plenty → hunger → abundance → need

- We think contentment is something you learn when you don't have anything. But Paul is saying sometimes you need to learn how to be content when you're making a lot of money.

3. The mindset of simplicity and generosity requires being content not in things, but in our relationship with Christ. (Philippians 4:13)

- The purpose of this verse is not to tell you that you *can be rich*; the purpose of this verse is to tell you that you *are rich in Christ*.

4. The mindset of simplicity and generosity requires that we give to others so we can see how God supplies all our needs. (Philippians 4:14—19)

- Give out of personal compassion. (vv 14—15)
- Give generously. (vv 16—17)
- Give sacrificially. (v 18)
- Give to others and you will be provided for. (v 19)

Application: How to simplify our lives:

1. Reduce consumption, live below your means.
2. Ask yourself: Do I really need this? Why do I want this?
3. Use something up before buying something new.
4. Ask yourself: Are there major changes that would allow me to simplify my life?
5. Plan low-cost entertainment.
6. Can you say along with the apostle Paul, "All that stuff doesn't matter. I'm happy. I'm content with Christ.?"

Weekly Calendar

(For more details, visit www.BrooklynParkChurch.org.)

Sunday, January 31

Monday, February 1

7:00 PM

Community Bible Study

Tuesday, February 2

5:45—7:00 AM

5:15 PM

6:00 PM

6:30 PM

7:00 PM

Intercessors' Prayer Time
Prayer Gathering/W. Foyer/Join us!
Support Group Meal and Worship
Quilters' Fellowship
Support Group Meetings

Wednesday, February 3

5:45—7:00 AM

6:30 PM

Intercessors' Prayer Time
Kids *K.Z. Disciples*
Grades 7—12 Small Groups
Women's Bible Study

Thursday, February 4

9:15 AM

Women's Bible Study

Friday, February 5

6:30 PM

Love & Respect Seminar

Saturday, February 6

8:30 AM

Love & Respect Seminar

Stewardship Matters

| | |
|--|-----------|
| 2009—2010 Annual Budget: | 1,493,000 |
| Budget needed fiscal year-to-date: | 861,360 |
| Giving/Revenue year-to-date: | 767,842 |
| Difference in budget needed and giving YTD: | (93,518) |
| Weekly budget needed: | 28,712 |
| Amount received January 24: | 19,548 |
| 4 Our Future (Capital Campaign) Commitments: | 1,100,000 |
| 4 Our Future Giving: | 463,050 |

Next Step Class

You are invited to attend the *Next Step Class* on Saturday, February 27, from 9:00 AM—Noon, to explore ministry and membership at BPEFC. We highlight our Core Values, Beliefs, Missions, Local Ministries, Steps to Membership, and create a Personal Ministry Profile based on your personality, possessions (gifts and abilities) and passion (to help you select a place of service). After attending the class, you have the opportunity to join the church.

Yes! I'm/We're interested in attending the class on February 27.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

(Place form in the Offering or turn in at the Information Desk.)