

# Marriage and Family Ministry (MFM) Newsletter



MARRIAGE AND FAMILY MINISTRY

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## Luncheon and Art Contest to celebrate National Grandparents Day on September 9

The Marriage and Family Ministry, in cooperation with the Children's Ministry, will be hosting a luncheon for the grandparents in our church at the fellowship hall on Sunday, September 9 (National Grandparents Day). An art contest inviting the young people of our church from the age of 5 to 18 was also launched, whereby each artwork made will be dedicated to a grandparent in our church. Winners will be eligible to win trophies or the grand prize of a \$100 gift certificate donated by Around the Corner Art Center in Freehold, NJ. It entitles the winner to attend an art class of his or her choice at the Center which is located at 290 Mount's Corner Drive (Route 537 west).

All artworks should be submitted on or before **Sunday, September 2** to Efren and Benilda Salvador, Marriage and Family Ministry leaders or to Grace McKeown, Children's Ministry leader.

The artwork may be created with any art media such as tempura paint, chalk, markers, crayons, photographs or digitized art and composed of imagery, themes or any interpretation of one or a combination of the following Bible verses: 1) Proverbs 17:6 "Grandparents are proud of their grandchildren ...", 2) Leviticus 19:32 "Show respect to the aged; honor the presence of an elder; hear your God. I am God.", or 3) Proverbs 16:31: "Gray hair is a glorious crown worn by those who have lived right."

All artworks should be dedicated to a grandparent in church or someone in church who has been like a grandparent to the participant. The grandparent chosen should be the one the child had indicated he wanted to give an artwork or someone the child was partnered with. **Each artwork should be clearly identified at the back with the participants's name, home number and email address of the parent (if the child does not have one), the title of the artwork, the Bible verse from any of the abovementioned verses that inspired the artwork and the name of the grandparent to whom it is dedicated.** Each artwork will become the property of the grandparent to whom it will be dedicated as a gift.

## Weekend to Remember Marriage Conference September 21-23 Hanover Marriott, Whippany, NJ

The Marriage and Family Ministry invites all MWC couples including their friends and relatives to "Weekend to Remember," a marriage conference conducted by Family Life. For 30 years, the conference has been helping couples to either refresh good marriages or heal troubled ones.

The MWC group code is **10038**, which couples should use (including friends and relatives of MWC couples who are interested in participating) to register in order to avail of the discounted rate of \$79 per person or \$158 per couple. Registrations using this code can only be made by calling 1-800-FL-TODAY (358-6329), 24 hours a day or by downloading the form at [www.familylife.com/conferences/marriage.asp](http://www.familylife.com/conferences/marriage.asp) and mailing it to Family Life, P.O. Box 241910, Little Rock, AR 72223. The discounted group rate is valid only until 11:59 p.m. of Monday, September 3 (18 days prior to the start of the conference). After this cut off date, interested couples may still register but at the full registration rate of \$119 per person.

The conference will be held at the Hanover Marriott located at 1401 State Route 10, Whippany, NJ 07981. The discounted room rate is \$99/night. Participating couples are responsible for making their own reservations directly with the hotel by calling 1-800-242-8681 or 973-538-8811.

The conference starts at 5 p.m. on Friday, September 21 and ends on Sunday, September 23 at 4:15 p.m. Participants are encouraged to make hotel reservations early and should mention that they are making reservations for the marriage conference conducted by Family Life so they can avail of the discounted hotel rate.



## Focus on a Family: The McCains

We feature in this issue the McCain family: Pastor Joe, Jamaine, Joey, Nadine and Faith. They are on their way to pursue God's calling at this point in their lives. Clearly, the McCain family has been heavily involved at Monmouth Worship Center and will be missed greatly. Our prayers, love and support go with them as they embark on this new journey in their lives. (Rachel Basden)

### When did your family begin attending MWC? What attracted you most when you decided to make this your home church?

**Jamaine:** We visited Monmouth Worship Center in July of 1997, and officially began attending a month later. The thing that attracted us most about the church is the fact that God's Spirit abides here.

### What ministries have you each been involved in?

**Pastor Joe:** I've led the Men's Ministry, been a Youth Group leader, worked with the Intercessory Prayer Ministry, the Upper Room Players Drama Ministry, the Men's Choir, and I have been on staff here as Assistant Pastor.

**Jamaine:** I have both led and been a part of the Worship Ministry. I have also been a Youth Group leader, led and been a part of the Women's Ministry, worked with the Upper Room Players Drama Ministry, Counseling, and Intercessory Prayer Ministry. I have also been one of the Children's Ministry leaders, the Children's Choir director, VBS Coordinator, Discipleship teacher and been a part of the MWC Choir. I have also worked with the *New Hope Women*.

**Joey:** I've been involved with the Youth Group Ministry, Royal Rangers, the Ushers Ministry, the Men's Ministry, the Intercessory Prayer Ministry, the Nursery, the Children's Ministry, Vacation Bible School, the Upper room Players Ministry, the Men's Choir and the Youth Choir.

**Nadine:** Over the years, I've been part of the Children's Ministry and the Youth Group, been a Sunday School teacher, member of the Youth Choir, the Usher Ministry, the Women's Ministry, Missionettes, the Drama Ministry, and the Upper Room Players Ministry.

**Faith:** I have been in the Children's Ministry, Missionettes, the Upper Room Players and the Drama Ministry.

### Pastor Joe, when exactly did you become a pastor of this church?

**Pastor Joe:** January 2001.

### What do you think makes a good and successful marriage and family?

**Pastor Joe:** The presence of Jesus Christ, spending time together, and sharing in each other's victories and defeats.

**Jamaine:** What Joe said, along with patience and forgiveness.

**Joey:** Trust.

**Nadine:** Prayer and trust in God and each other.

**Faith:** Love and respect.

### How have your respective ministries, including marriage counseling, impacted your own marriage?

**Pastor Joe and Jamaine:** It has made us more accountable to God and each other. We are definitely wiser to the enemy's tactics, and more yielded to the Spirit of God.

### What does your family plan to do in North Carolina?

**Pastor Joe:** Clayton, North Carolina will be our home. We have plans to pastor in Raleigh, North Carolina. We believe that we have heard from the Lord, and there are a people waiting to be reached in that area. With God's help, that is what we will do: reach souls with every-thing that God has equipped us.

## Comments on the Family Devotional

**Faye Turner:** Mommy and I used the Family Devotional prepared by the Marriage and Family Ministry for our devotions and it had been a real blessing.

Every day we looked forward to hearing what the devotional had to say for that particular day, the prayers and how we could learn from each other's experiences. The fact that the authors were people that we saw every week in church, people who seemed to "have it all together" yet who bared part of their life experiences and shared specific challenges that the Lord had taken them through was really encouraging. The devotional reminded us that we have all fallen short of the glory of God. It has really helped to crystallize the scripture verses in our minds when we relate them to what they meant to each person who wrote it and the impact the verses had on their own lives.

The devotional served to reinforce the fact that "iron sharpens iron" and that we are indeed to pray for one another and to bear one another's burdens as we are all sinners saved by God's divine grace. May God richly bless you for your work in this ministry and let's do the devotional again!

**John and Karen Marion:** The Family Devotional made our family realize how important it is to have daily devotions. It brought us closer together and helped us to communicate more effectively with each other. We liked how each day cited scriptures, a commentary and then a prayer. It made the scriptures more meaningful and effective in our lives. It also created a sense of unity knowing that others in the church were praying the same prayers and reading the same devotions with their families. We definitely felt the Spirit of God moving when our family gathered for these devotions! We pray that we will be able to continue these daily devotions on our own as a family. The guidelines provided by the Family Devotional will be the cornerstone that will help us begin this endeavor on our own.

**Cara Rounds:** I just wanted to let you know that our family was blessed by the Marriage and Family Ministry Devotional! We included it in our devotional time each evening with the boys. It was amazing to read the testimonies and heartfelt cry of our brothers and sisters in Christ. Thanks to your entire team for such a beautiful job!



During the farewell party for the McCains, the MFM presented a song with heartwarming lyrics adapted to the music of "My Favorite Things" from the *Sound of Music* soundtrack.