

Marriage and Family Ministry (MFM) Newsletter



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National Grandparents Day Celebrated at MWC

The Marriage and Family Ministry, in cooperation with the Children's Ministry, hosted a luncheon for the grandparents in our church at the fellowship hall on Sunday, September 9 (National Grandparents Day).

After the delicious Italian meal, the grandparents, who sat with their own or "adopted" grandchildren, were each presented with a "Greatest Grandparent Award." Each grandparent also received an artwork dedicated to them by the child who did the artwork.

The kids' artworks were also included in the art contest. The winners were: Group 1 (ages 5-7) - Bryan Antoine (first), Sydney Tankard (second) and the Rivera kids - Sarai, Priscilla and Julia (third); Group 2 (ages 8-10) - Jasmine Tankard (first), Ashley Calo (second), Laura Schulte and Justin Macchiaverna (third); and Group 3 (ages 11-14) - Amber McKeown (first), Joanne Joseph (second) and Michael Hinton (third). Victoria Davi received a special award for her participation since she was the only participant from the 15-18 age group. Amber McKeown also won the raffle prize of a \$100 gift certificate donated by Around the Corner Art Center in Freehold, NJ. It entitled her to attend an art class of her choice at the Center located at 290 Mount's Corner Drive (Route 537 west). The judges were all from our church: Barbara Berman, Elena Fernandez and Brad Nicklas.

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John and Elizabeth Caputo (seated, foreground) enjoy their time with daughter Mari Davi, son-in-law Vic and their granddaughters.

MWC couples attend Marriage Conference

About 600 couples (both engaged and married) and some singles from the tri-state area, including some traveling from as far as Virginia and Florida, converged at the Hanover Marriott in Whippany, New Jersey from September 21-23 for the "Weekend to Remember" marriage conference. It was indeed a weekend to remember for the nine couples from our church who attended the conference organized by Family Life, a division of Campus Crusade for Christ. Amidst a lively, frank, fun-filled and non-threatening environment, some of the topics discussed included: threats to oneness, God's plan for oneness, sexual intimacy, husband's and wife's responsibility for oneness, resolving conflicts, and understanding each other. All topics were followed by application projects, which allowed couples to privately discuss and plan on how to apply the principles learned in each session.

Efren and Benilda Salvador, MWC's Marriage and Family ministry leaders who organized the church group that participated in the conference, would like to extend the invitation to the couples who missed this conference to consider other "Weekend to Remember" marriage conferences being held in other cities around the country (Please visit www.weekendtoremember.com for more information.). The group code of MWC (**10038**) is valid until June 16, 2008 and can be used to avail of the discounted registration fee of \$158 per couple. However, couples should ensure that they register 18 days prior to the starting date of the conference they plan to attend. The next conferences to be held closest to our area this year are both in **Philadelphia: November 16-18 and November 30 - December 2, both at Crowne Plaza Valley Forge.**

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Some of those who attended the conference were (L-R) Lynn and Tony Wilkinson, Jenn and Bill Forquignon, Sheila and Lamarr Rivers, and Benilda and Efren Salvador.

National Grandparents Day

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The kids' artworks were inspired by one 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."



Marriage Conference

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Efren and Benilda Salvador expressed their gratitude to all the couples who attended the conference. They added, "Not only did we come out refreshed and re-energized in further strengthening our marriage but we also had a wonderful opportunity of getting to know better other couples from our church." During the conference, the group managed to get together for lunch twice: first at a Japanese restaurant and the second at a Malaysian-Thai restaurant. Thus it also became an occasion for the group members to sample and be more familiar with cuisine from other parts of the world. Aside from Efren and Benilda, the other eight couples who participated included: Steve and Angela Argila, Rich and Evelyn D'Aloia, Lou and Nicki Derrico, Ngozi and Ngozi Erondu, Bill and Jenn Forquignon, Eloi and Judith Richardson, Lamarr and Sheila Rivers, and Tony and Lynn Wilkinson.



"Gratitude makes a great attitude!" As we celebrate Thanksgiving in November, let us remember to give thanks to God and to cultivate a heart of gratitude, particularly in our children.

1 Chronicles 16:34 "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever."

1 Thessalonians 5:18 "Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus."