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#### **A NOTE FROM OUR PASTOR**

Hello Gracians! I've been out of town this week on an amazing retreat of PCA church leaders in Virginia who are all passionate about church planting. It was a remarkable time of fellowship and spiritual challenge. I'm looking forward to pondering some of the lessons further. Because of that I don't have much for you this week!

I do want to mention one thing. Because I preached about Human Life on Sanctity of Life Sunday, our series on the "Big Ten" is all out of whack. This week is "Honor your mother and father". I mention this because people were asking about the commandment on Marital Fidelity. Some of you are nervous about that one. A couple of things- First, we are offering an extra session of Children's Church for THIS WEEK ONLY because of the mature subject matter. Secondly, for those of you who are nervous because of your own background, or the pain your family has gone through, let me assure you that I won't leave you only confronted by the demands of God's law, but will comfort you in the hope of the gospel. This is a raw topic because we are a sexually broken culture. We are a huge mess, and the church is not exempt. We carry pain and shame around with us, and our worry is that discussing this commandment will make it worse. And it will make us worse...for a moment...then it will heal us! Jesus came for sinners! So I hope you will be there for this sore subject!

In Him,

Don

## **THIS WEEK AT GRACE:**

### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!!**

This week we would like to wish the following members a very blessed and Happy Birthday!!

Jean Cocks 2/5

Caroline Harris 2/5

Garrett Matthews 2/5

Elizabeth Kidd 2/6

Matt Schorr 2/6

Terry Woodworth 2/6

Hannah Eiden 2/7

Lynda Lutz 2/7

David Piirto 2/7

Terri Wilson 2/7

### **FOUNDATIONS CLASSES**

Join us weekly for our Foundations classes at 9:30am on Sunday. Each age group receives high quality Christian teaching in an interactive format. For adults, we are currently running our Marriage: Communication and Conflict Course in the main worship center.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

### **PRAYING LIFE SEMINAR**

On Friday, February 24, 2012 at 6:00-9:30pm and Saturday, February 25, 2012 8:30am-12:30pm we will be hosting the Praying Life Seminar. The material is based on the book *Praying Life* by Paul Miller- a book that many at GCC have read in the last year or so. The only charge is \$7.00 for the materials. Please register at the table in the foyer. Make checks payable to GCC. Give checks, cash and registration forms to Dawn in the church office. You can also register online at <http://seejesus.net/studies/praying-life/start-here>. Please PLAN to be there. If you need to get a babysitter, call them today!

## **COMMUNITY INTEREST:**

### **INTERESTED IN SINGLES FELLOWSHIP?**

The first Sunday of each month we will meet at Panera at the Hollymead Shopping Center at 7pm. If you are interested or have any questions contact Steve Kalman at [sekalman@gmail.com](mailto:sekalman@gmail.com).

### **HELP SOMEONE SAY YES TO LIFE!**

Do you have a special sensitivity for a woman or teen in an unplanned pregnancy situation? Have you wanted to be God's hope and love to the hurting? Every day there are those who walk into The Pregnancy Centers facing one of the scariest moments of their lives. They need a caring listener who can help them sort out their situation. We are beginning a winter counselor training class with a new weekly schedule! Is God speaking to you at this time to join The Pregnancy Centers ministry? You will be blessed as you serve others! Training is held for 5 sessions, 9am to 1pm each morning. Classes are February 13, 16, 20, 23 and 27. We also need ladies to answer phones as well as Spanish speakers! Call Pat today at 434-817-4554 to sign up!

### **COMING TO A STAGE NEAR YOU!**

VeggieTales® LIVE! God Made You Special at the MLK, Jr. Performing Arts Center at CHS, Sunday, March 11, 2012 at 2:00pm. \$15 per ticket. For Ticket Information Call 800-965-9324 or visit [www.iTickets.com](http://www.iTickets.com).

### **LOVE INC - DAY OF COMMUNITY SERVICE**

Please mark your calendars for Friday, May 4th and Saturday, May 5th. Love INC is doing their annual day of community service projects with all the churches that weekend. Friday evening will be a time to gather and celebrate with prayer, music and general information. Then we will break out into project teams to get specific plans for the event, Saturday morning.

### **ABRO UPDATE**

Charlottesville's American Belarusian Relief Organization (ABRO) is taking shape for the summer of 2012.

To review, children from Belarus come to visit America as a medical respite, because their environment still contains radiation from Chernobyl's 1986 nuclear disaster. Higher rates of birth defects, thyroid cancer, and other illnesses are the results. We don't completely know how they are affected, but we know that a reprieve from the radiation is helpful for

them.

At this point we are praying for seven children and a chaperone to visit our area from mid-June to late July. Five of these will be returning children and two will be first time guests. We'll publish names a little later, when things are more settled.

### **OUR NEEDS:**

- Prayer, especially for our hearts to be prepared and for us to be sensitive to God's leading.
- Prayer for safety for the children, and comfort for the families who give them up for the summer.
- Prayer for our Bible teaching, that it will be what their hearts need, that it will be clear and will really reach them (and us!).

### **Relief Hosts and a Back Up Host Family**

It takes a huge amount of trust for families to send their children across the ocean to people they've never met. For their peace of mind and the safety of the children, everyone who cares for the children, even for a few hours, goes through a screening process. So if you'd like to be available to help out as a relief host family this summer, let us know. Also, we need one really adventurous family who will say "We will step in to host a child if extreme circumstances arise." You're the "on call" folks. We'd like to have these in place by the end of February.

**Funds:** Approximately \$2,200 x 7, which is \$15,400 plus another \$2,600 for the chaperone (expenses plus stipend)—so, \$18,000. In my world, that's a "Yikes! Number". In God's world, it's a "here-you-go, keep-the-change-number." So, please be praying about the mission and whether some of your material blessings might be used for this effort. We need to send half of this in on March 1, so now is a good time to give.

To contribute to the general ABRO fund, make checks payable to Grace Community Church, with "ABRO" in the memo line. To designate funds for a particular family, simply add their name to the memo line, after ABRO. Email me at [bethwallsmathis@gmail.com](mailto:bethwallsmathis@gmail.com) if you have questions about which families are participating this year.

### **Help with our Community Fundraiser:**

Chili Cook Off

Saturday, March 17 at Ruckersville Elementary School 4-7 pm

We're going to have some great chili, great prizes, face painting, and live music.

- We need donations of new or like new prizes: toys, electronics, gift certificates for a service you provide, gift cards, etc.
- We need about twelve volunteers to cook and serve chili
- We need volunteers for several 1-2 hour time slots, including decorating, running games, clearing tables, serving chili, and more.

Also, flyers will soon be available to give to your friends so they can come learn about and support this inside out mission opportunity.

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**Our mailing address is:  
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