

GraceNotes



**JAN 20, 21 AND 22
OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND**

Romans 8:37 "Know, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us."

ROCK 2012 Features:



Special Guest Speaker

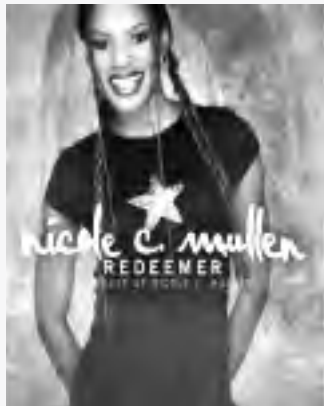
Steve Fitzhugh
www.powermoves.org/bio.html

Former NFL player for the Denver Broncos and Cleveland Browns. Motivational speaker and National spokesperson for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes' "One Way 2 Play - Drug Free" program"

Praise and worship music by:

Nicole C. Mullen
www.nicolectmullen.com

Award winning song writer and performer and 2011 BMA Dove Award Song of the year for ("Redeemer")



ROCK 2011 In Review

Susanna Weaver

ROCK 2011 was a blast! This was my first year going to ROCK and I am so glad I went. It was an adventure, one that drew me closer to God. The retreat was very exciting. During the program we listened, danced, and sang along to bands. We even started a conga line. Our youth group did the polar plunge during our free time, running into the ocean in the middle of the winter! Not only was it fun because of what we did, but also what we learned. The pastor that led worship was very passionate about what she was doing which added to the enjoyment of the program and helped bring me closer to God.



KidsClub Church History Tour

KidsClub will meet on **Sunday, January 22** in the Sanctuary. We will get to know our beautiful Sanctuary and the things in it by participating in a tour of the Sanctuary. The tour begins at 2:00 p.m. and will end at 4:00 p.m. This is a FAMILY event! ALL KidsClub families and children are invited to attend. We will learn about our church's history, see how the tower bell was restored, check out the organ, handbells and more! See Deb Demeritt or Ellie Barnett for more information.

A Thank You From KidsClub

KidsClub would like to thank all the members of the congregation who participated in the Spirit of Giving Campaign this year. On **Sunday, December 18, 2011**, we wrapped and delivered over 200 gifts for Gaithersburg Elementary School. This mission activity would not be possible without your support. Thank you for continuing to support us so that we may help others.

Building Teamwork in Your Marriage

Brittany Gillen

We all know that to have a good marriage you need to work hard at it. One of the best pieces of advice I ever received was that marriage is a choice you make again and again each and every morning. One of the best ways to work on your marriage is to do things together, and Sunday School classes are an excellent opportunity to do just that. In the fall, Robin Smithgall led a wonderful marriage class on Growing Together In Christ. The response was so positive that we have decided to follow it up with another study entitled Building Teamwork in Your Marriage. The goal of the study is to help us understand that marriage is more than just about two people "making it work". Marriage was created by God from the very beginning of creation, and the Bible gives us very clear advice on how to grow and sustain our marriages. Beginning on **Sunday, January 15 join us at 9:15 a.m. in Owen Hall** for a six week study with other married couples in the church. From 9:15 to 9:30 we will fellowship, and then we will dive into the study for the remainder of the Sunday School hour. Please e-mail me at brittany@gillinator.com if you are planning to attend so that I can order the correct number of books. If you have any questions, please let me know. Otherwise I look forward to seeing you on the fifteenth.

Grace Goes Green

Bill Ruff

Renewable energy has made news again with the beginning construction of a solar energy farm at Mount Saint Mary's University north of Frederick MD. The solar photovoltaic system will be the largest in the state, and begin operating in early 2012. It will generate 16 megawatts of DC power in 100 acres of land adjacent to the Schools athletic fields. It is part of Maryland's Clean Horizons initiative, and will be operated by Constellation Energy Co. The energy output will be purchased by the State and the University System. The savings in greenhouse gas emissions relative to the use of fossil fuels are equivalent to removal of 2,975 passenger vehicles from our roads, every year. Perhaps visits to the farm will be permitted next year. A similar new facility is under consideration for locating in Hagerstown MD.

Also, do remember to add your used PC printer cartridges to our collection box in Fellowship Hall - by the GGG board. We recently received credit for our last batch, and now have a total of \$152 in our fund. Thanks to all!

Please give us your suggestions for new energy conservation projects at the Church. You can leave a note at the Office, or send an email to the Office - attn. GGG. And do keep reflecting on things we all can do, at Grace and in our homes, to help God's and our planet cope with human activities - past, present, and future.

Wonder Years Ministry

Kristin Beebe

Attention all families with children in the "wonder years" (ages newborn to 5-years old): Please join us in marking the beginning of our second year by attending one of our January events!

Sunday, January 15, 2012 | Each and every third Sunday of the month, all Wonder Years families are invited to gather for an informal lunch at a family-friendly eatery directly after the 11a. m., service.

Saturday, January 21, 2012 (tentative) | It's Fun-tastic Fun-tivities! All Wonder Years families are invited to join us in Fellowship Hall for our first ever Fun-tastic Fun-tivity Day! We encourage you to bring any age-appropriate sporting equipment from home that you're willing to share (nerf balls, hula hoops, lawn games) for a morning of energy release and fellowship. We also hope to have a potluck brunch including hot cocoa and cider to warm us up in the chilly Winter. Check the bulletin and your email for a firm date and time.

Questions? Please contact Brittany Gillen (brittany@gillinator.com) or Kristin Beebe (beebe@mail.nih.gov). We hope to see you there!

Exploring the Good News: New Study Beginning

Peggy Rhorer

A Study of *The Other Jesus* by Greg Garrett will begin on **January 8, 2012** at Grace United Methodist Church in Gaithersburg. The Exploring the Good News class meets every Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. in the Grace Church's Walker Building Room 205 - you are invited to join us.

Our new book has the subtitle "Rejecting a Religion of Fear for the God of Love". Professor Greg Garrett teaches at Baylor University in Texas; he worked on this book while he was a visiting Fellow of the College of Preachers at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. This excellent book is designed to be a study book for a class, but we suggest that it is also a valuable resource to read and keep on your bookshelf. Garrett talks about the "other Jesus" – different than the Jesus that we sometimes hear talked about by modern TV preachers. A quote from the back of the book says: "The other way of following Christ is not concerned with an array of commandments or with holding the 'right' beliefs. Rather it is centered on loving each other and loving God, or, as Garrett puts it 'love is where the rubber meets the road, where faith meets the world.'"

A book review of *The Other Jesus: Rejecting a Religion of Fear for the God of Love* has been written by our class leader Kaz Kawata. In this review Kaz says: "In more than twenty years of teaching, Garrett has perfected his craft. He has the ability to explain his thoughts in plain English that readers can understand." Kaz's complete review is available in pdf format—Dick Rhorer can send you a copy (rrhorer@rcn.com).

Intentional Choices: Discovering Contentment in Stressful Times

Joyce Derby

A new adult class will begin next month designed to equip each of us with the tools and support we need to find contentment in difficult circumstances. We will be examining scripture and sharing from our own lives about how to manage a host of stressors including anxiety about the future, relationships, loss, anger, change, making mistakes, making decisions, family crises and others. Ample time is provided in each class to build friendships and find support. The class will begin **Sunday, January 8th at 9:22 a.m. in Walker 209**. Don't miss this opportunity to get an uplifting start to the New Year. Call the church office or email Joyce Derby at joyce.derby@verizon.net if you would like to reserve a book for the class.

UPCOMING EVENTS

New Member Orientation Classes

Pastor Derby

Persons who are interested in exploring membership in Grace Church are invited to participate in the New Member Orientation sessions led by Pastors Derby and Kaylor. These sessions provide a rich opportunity to get to know the pastors and leaders of Grace Church as well as all those who participate in these sessions. The sessions which will begin on **January 8th** provide a good overview of The United Methodist Church, Grace Church and our mission and ministries. Please contact the church office if you would like to participate.

January 8 | 6:00 p.m. | Getting acquainted and Overview Sessions | Parlor | Pastor Derby

January 15 | 9:15 a.m. | United Methodist History/Grace Church History | Walker 203 | Pastor Kaylor

January 22 | 9:15 a.m. | United Methodist Beliefs and Membership Vows | Walker 203 | Pastor Kaylor

January 29 | 6:00 p.m. | Grace Church Mission, Vision, Ministries and Structure | Pastor Derby's home

February 12 | New Members are received

New Sermon Series: Prodigal Sons and Daughters and Their Prodigal Father

Pastor Derby

Join us for a new sermon series *Prodigal Sons and Daughters and Their Prodigal Father*. There were actually two prodigal sons: the older brother who kept the rules and the younger brother who broke them all. The reality was that both sons were alienated and lost. They both wanted the father's things (his wealth and status), but not a close relationship with their father. Jesus tells this parable to help us understand that we can be lost by breaking the rules or by keeping the rules as an attempt to prove our worthiness before God. The truth is that God's favor can't be earned and isn't lost even when we rebel against God.

The father loved both lost sons beyond anything they could imagine. The same is true for us. Come find your place at God's table and discover the radical, unconditional love of God for you.

Sermon Schedule (Pastor Derby will be preaching all of these messages)

January 8 – "Beyond the Pig Sty"

January 15 – "Keeping God at Arm's Distance"

January 22 – "Finding Your Place at God's Banquet Table"



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If you are receiving this newsletter in error, please contact Donna Lyon, church administrator, at 301-926-8688, via e-mail at graceumc@graceumc.org, or in writing at:

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Gaithersburg, MD 20877

Thank you!

DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY GRACE NOTES IS JANUARY 5 SUBMIT YOUR CONTENT TO gracenotes@graceumc.org

Happy Birthday to...

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|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Dalafaka Jamabo | 9 Denise Schattenberg | 15 Irwin Spickler | 24 Daniel Dyer |
| 2 Kazuyoshi Kawata | 9 Sandra Spickler | 16 Richard Gray | 26 Myrtle Brewer |
| 3 James Long | 10 Karen Caton | 17 Ann Banks | 27 Sarah Bailey |
| 3 Thomas Moreland | 10 Martha Grimm | 17 Abigail Bonhag | 27 Paul Bowman Jr. |
| 4 Patricia Matthews | 10 Charlie Meininger | 17 Caitlin Cailler | 27 Glen Matott |
| 4 Hollie Mercier | 11 Susan Bonhag | 17 Michelle Matott | 27 Alesya Spickler |
| 5 Elli McCormick | 11 Jan Sims | 17 Betty Jean Small | 28 Marcia Fuoss |
| 5 Paul Tanna | 11 Nick Works | 19 Morgan Ross | 29 Alice Devlin |
| 5 Riley Wheeler | 12 Phyllis Kerr | 20 Matthew Lee | 29 Richard Perry |
| 7 Nix Anderson Jr. | 13 Nell Phoebus | 21 Jake Stockinger | 29 Matthew Strawbridge |
| 8 Bruce Baumgarten | 14 Vivian George | 22 Alayna Butwinick | 29 Olivia Weaver |
| 8 Susan Dunton | 14 Lawrence Perry | 23 Joan Mears | 30 Laura Bartelt |
| 9 Bev Payne | 14 Jacob Wheeler | 23 Eydie Searles | 30 Brian Ferguson |
| 9 Cassandra Powell | 15 Ruth Bowman | 23 Rebecca Strawbridge | 30 Joan Heller |