



First Evangelical Free Church

Tuesday, December 14, 2010

Motherhood 101

Go Tell it on the Mountain

Saturday morning we finally bit the bullet and dug out all of the kids' snow gear to take their new sleds for a test run. (Why does it take a half hour to equip three kids to play outside for the same amount of time???) They had fun sliding down the tiny little hill that is in our front yard when I saw that "12-year-old boy trapped in a 34-year-old man's body" gleam in Phil's eye. He ran to the garage and came back with a shovel. Before I could say a word he got to work sending snow flying all around him. I asked what he was doing, and he proudly announced, "Moguls!" (For non-skiers, these are little hills on difficult ski runs that people use to jump and heighten the thrill of the whole skiing experience.) He was trying to create a black diamond experience on our little 20-degree-incline hill.

As I remember him trying to make moguls out of snow hills, it occurs to me that, while we all know the classic "making a mountain out of a molehill" phrase, most of us don't realize that we are often guilty of making a molehill out of a mountain.

We make mountains out of molehills when we sweat all that little stuff that doesn't matter in the end, but what about the huge, beautiful blessings in our life that we let blend into the everyday scenery? The most pertinent example: we have a perfect savior that lived and sacrificed His life to give **US** abundant and eternal life. How does that fact get buried under the very cards, cookies, and festivities that exist to celebrate this most precious gift?

Will you join me in taking some time this Christmas season to notice the

mountain instead of letting it blend into the landscape? Try to listen to the Christmas story as one who has never heard it- ponder anew the gift of Jesus. If you have had Him for many years, don't let Him be old news in your heart, shine up a spot for Him in there, or better yet, invite Him to take the whole thing. If He is brand-new to you, read the instruction manual and reach out to somebody who can help you as you learn how to live your life with Him. And please remember that all fabulous gifts are meant to be shared! Merry Christmas!



Current Events– Speaker Bio.

Dawn Gessner and her husband, John, are the parents of three grown children: Jennifer- married to James Guest, Jacqueline- married to Cody Mathers, and son John- a college student. Dawn lived in Rockford until she began a "career" as an Army wife in 1978, completing 12 moves in 15

years. In the mid-90s Dawn and family returned to hometown Rockford, while the Army continued to send her husband to "exotic" locations. Dawn served on staff at First Free Rockford for 13 years in Women's & Adult Ministries. For the last 2 years Dawn and her husband have been living in Washington

DC, where she served on staff for Women's Ministries at Mclean Bible Church. She is an active speaker for women's groups and a Precept Bible study teacher for 20 plus years. In her spare time Dawn enjoys reading, walking, cooking and exploring National Parks and history with her family.

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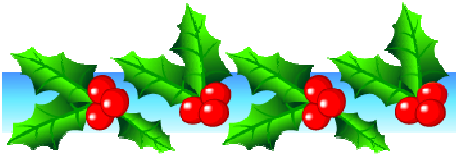
The Scroll Bookstore

- Bring in this newsletter and receive a **20% discount** on any one item.
- Located at the main entrance of First Free across from the church office.
- Open on Tuesday during MOPS!
- Wide variety of Christian books, music, gifts, card and kid stuff.

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firstfreewomen.org/mops.htm

The Mission of First Evangelical Free Church is to bring people into a life-changing and growing relationship with Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

Extra Credit—Announcements



MOPS Christmas Party!!

Please join us this **Friday, Dec. 17th** for a moms-only night of friends, food, and fellowship.

Where: Martha Tuneburg's home
1321 Williamsburg Road, Rockford

When: 6:00 p.m.

Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share, and (if you wish) a wrapped gift— something that you would love to get, but wouldn't normally buy for yourself (ie; cute earrings, fun socks, fancy lotion, pretty mug or platter...) valued around \$10.00.

***Butterbraids** are here! Thank you to those of you that ordered. You can pick up your braids at the end of the meeting.

*If you are looking for somewhere to go Christmas Eve, First Free has a lovely **Candles and Carols service** at 5:00 p.m. Childcare is not available, so feel free to hide in the balcony with me! Let me (Laura) know if you'd like to join the Nothnagels. Fair warning— I may try to pass your offspring off as mine if they are better-behaved.

*Our **next meeting** isn't until next year! We will return on January 11th for a big group play-date/open gym during our normal meeting time. Please bring a play-date-friendly snack to share in lieu of the usual casseroles, salads, etc... Again, I may borrow your children.



For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

-Isaiah 9:6

Things you (still) need to know...



- The childcare rooms open up at 8:45am. You are welcome to come at that time, drop off your children, and join us in the meeting room for coffee and conversation before MOPS begins at 9am.

- In case of bad weather, MOPS will be cancelled if Rockford Public School Dist 205 is closed.
- Refer to the childcare Health and Wellness Policy sheet in your folder when your child is ill.
- To keep all of our children and staff healthy please wash your children's hands with soap and water before placing them in their classrooms.
- Babies 3 months and younger are welcome during the meeting. Children older than 3 months should be in childcare.
- When bringing food, you are welcome to drop it at the "A" entrance where

you can run it to a cart or someone will be waiting for you.

- Please turn your cell phone ringer off or on vibrate. If you have to answer a call please leave the room quietly.
- Feel free to invite a friend! She gets a free visit before she decides if she'd like to join.
- Enjoy your morning!

