



Nurturing God's Family

Children's and Family Ministry News
From South Presbyterian Church

November 2007

Is Your Home a Spirit Home—by Donna Frischknecht

Eight years ago in November, while on a church retreat in Warwick, NY, I found myself sitting near a fireplace, staring out the window thinking where did I see my life in the next five years. Everyone at the retreat was given the task of developing a logo for how we envisioned our lives. I was an editor of a fine jewelry business publication living in New York City at the time, but as I stared out at the fallen leaves on the rolling hills my heart spoke something very different to me. *This is your bliss.* As the prophet Joel said best, I began to dream dreams and see new visions—visions that were God inspired rather than Donna inspired. I began scribbling some words for my life's logo that would include me still being a writer yet writing about God not fashion. I began scribbling a logo that included me being active in the church with my home base having a fireplace and wonderful views of nature—and perhaps, if it was God's will, a husband and children playing out among the fallen leaves and rolling hills. I began scribbling "Spirit Home." Now many of you who have emailed me know that Spirit Home is part of my email address. And I am sure many of you have wondered what it meant. Spirit Home was the new dream, the new vision given to me that November afternoon which set me on the path towards ministry. I began to think about Spirit Home as being a Christian family magazine. One thing led to another and as I thought more about taking a few courses at a seminary so I would be better equipped to write about God, I discovered God had something else in mind. Eight years later—and just a few days until my ordination—I now sit in

front of my fireplace in my dining room writing this article for two congregations—for those at South Presbyterian Church where I have served for two and half years and for those at First United Presbyterian Church in which I will begin to serve December 2 as your new minister. I share the story of my life's logo with you all because I want you to think about the new dreams and visions God is giving to you and your families. Are you welcoming God's Spirit into your lives, allowing God to transform and lead you to new dreams beyond your wildest imaginations? Is your home a place where the Spirit would be welcomed? Just last week, I had a couple looking at my house in New Jersey and I couldn't believe it when one of them stood in the hallway and proclaimed to the other, "This house has great spirit." Now, it is an old historic home and I am sure this person was talking about the feeling of history that emulates from the walls, but it had a different meaning to my ears. So this month when thoughts turn to families coming together around a table full of bounty, take a look around and ask, "Does this home have great spirit? Is this home a Spirit Home, a place where God is filling your lives with new dreams and visions?" I would love to hear your answers and your thoughts, so please feel free to email me at donnaspirithome@aol.com. Blessings to you all!

Family Date Book

November 4

10 a.m. Church School
4-6 p.m. Family Matters

November 9

Family Movie Night
6 p.m., \$5 adults
Featured Film: Narnia

November 11

10 a.m. Church School
NO FAMILY MATTERS

November 18

10 a.m. Church School
4-6 p.m. Family Matters—
Families with little tots are invited to join an afternoon of pre-Thanksgiving fun and games.

November 25

10 a.m. Church School
NO FAMILY MATTERS

Come Celebrate!

On November 11 at 3 p.m. the congregation is invited to attend the Ordination of Donna Frischknecht to the ministry of Word and Sacrament. Reception to follow in Church House.

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Do you have a family prayer request?

Contact Donna Frischknecht
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Pass It On...

If you know a family who would enjoy reading this issue of *Nurturing God's Family*, please pass it on!

This and That...

Events and Happenings in the Lives of South Church Families

Congratulations to Alyson Kumor for winning a great trophy for her school's Fire Prevention Poster Design Contest. She got first place!

Congratulations to Rebecca Slaman for getting published in *Spider Magazine*, the November issue. Her picture, name and age are on page 32.

Family Matters Goes on a Hay Ride

On October 21, families went to D'Angelo's Farm in Dumont for a festive fall hayride. Kids also got to ride a pony and picked a couple of pumpkins from the pumpkin patch. While the temperature made it feel more like summer, all those bright orange pumpkins reminded everyone it was indeed fall.



Georgianne, Scott and little Haley find the perfect pumpkin, while Clarissa shows her mom her find.



The Kumor clan gets comfy on the bail of hay, waiting for the ride to begin. Pictured right, the Wagner twins, that is, the first set of twins!, Donald and Courtney, enjoy the fall outing.



Bottom: Giddy up, pony! Haley gets ready to ride with a little help from Dad.

