

The Grace Notes newsletter



A Unique Gift, Indeed!

The Christmas song, “The Twelve Days of Christmas” playfully tells of receiving a flurry of unique and extravagant Christmas gifts. Thanks to a Christmas project by students in the high school youth group, some families in different parts of the world will be receiving some pretty unique gifts as well—but more like six geese a-laying than a partridge in a pear tree!

For the third year in a row, the high school group has donated money to buy gifts through the Christian development organization World Vision that will

benefit families in various countries around the globe. These families are located in developing nations and struggle to make ends meet and provide for basic necessities. And that’s where the unique gifts in the program come in.

The money given by the students will be used to provide these families with a goat, six

chickens, a sheep, and five ducks! Imagine finding those waiting under your tree on Christmas morning! These



welcome gifts will help each family immensely by providing a sustainable source of food and income in coming years—a source that

could, of course, multiply! These gifts can truly keep giving over years, possibly helping to change the course of the lives of parents, children, and future generations.



Upcoming Events

- Jan 14 Dorcas Day
- Jan 28 Men’s Huddle
- Feb 5 International Dinner
- Feb 18 Sharpen - ministry workshop

Pastor Tony says that the idea behind the project was to “give students a chance to think about others at Christmas.” They took that opportunity to heart, donating a total of \$140 for the gifts this year. In addition, the Prime Time class agreed to partner with the students this year, matching whatever donations they gave for the project. That means a total of \$280 was given toward the project—able to supply a wealth of possibilities-on-the hoof for families in need!

With such a positive response and result to the project, Pastor Tony indicates that the students will be inviting other Community Groups to join them in giving next year. So if you want to enjoy some of that “12 Days of Christmas” cheer, be sure to save up! There is a great blessing waiting for all involved. And possibly, a partridge in there somewhere too.

Marriage Conference Coming to Cornerstone

Is your marriage in need of a tune-up in 2012? Maybe a few tweaks? Perhaps what you really need is an overhaul. Or maybe you're pondering marriage and want to get prepared. Whatever the case, there will be a great opportunity to invest in this important relationship during Cornerstone's Art of Marriage weekend in March.

One thing is certain: everyone's marriage goes through some bumpy times every once in awhile. But God calls

us to love our spouses and to serve their needs. Doing that effectively means that we need to understand how God has made them—and we need to be able to communicate about issues of significance! These are topics that the conference will cover in full, providing practical, Biblical wisdom for those seeking to have a richer, more satisfying marriage relationship.

The teaching material will be covered in six video-based sessions. These high-quality

presentations deliver instruction from experts in the field in an engaging and thought-provoking format. Couples will also have time to work through interactive material together.

The cost for the conference is not final, but it will be under \$50 per couple. This will be a great opportunity to invite friends and neighbors as well. The conference happens at Cornerstone March 9 and 10. Watch for more info!

**Art of
Marriage
Conference -
March
9 and 10 at
Cornerstone**



International Dinner Returns

The International Dinner is returning again for the 4th straight year! Be sure and join us on February 5th for this delicious celebration of the great diversity that the Lord has woven into our church body.

At the luncheon, a wonderful buffet of dishes from countries and regions around the world will delight your palate. In

fact, this may be one of the largest and most varied collections of international recipes that can be found for miles around! Add to that the festive atmosphere and a spirit of fellowship, and the event is truly a memorable occasion. This year we will have the special privilege of affirming our unity through Communion.

We need your ethnic dishes to

round out the table. To participate in the luncheon, sign up after the services, and please indicate the dish you will be bringing. American food is fine too. We will label the dishes by recipe and region where available. We hope you will join us to celebrate our church family, joined in Christ from so many different backgrounds!