

Better Moms Make A Better World

To Encourage Your Heart

Too Bent or Two Bent?

By all recognizable measures, the holidays are here. I love wandering through the stores all decked out in pumpkins, turkeys and Christmas trees...*while I'm still wearing my flip flops!* While all the retail stores seem ahead of schedule, a lot of the time, I feel behind; not just during the holidays, but in my daily life.

All throughout the year, I love having friends over. But there's one little catch. I'm not all that great of a cook. I'm a good organizer, but not a great cook. Never once have I had a friend enter into our home saying, "I can't wait to dig into your soufflé a-la-something." There's no soufflé, it's just us. While I do serve food, it will most likely be a basic meal, perhaps a COSTCO purchase. Sure, I want to make a nice meal and provide a *relatively* clean home. But I care more about the laughs, the relationships, the connecting and the memories.

One small gesture that I like to do when I entertain is put out fun, festive and other-than-white-napkins. It's not much, just one small gesture, which shows a small amount of honor to our guests. I no longer want to get "too bent" over elaborate preparations but spend more time having fun with our guests. While I still struggle with my culinary expertise deficiency, God continues to deal with me about how I get "too bent" about life sometimes. On one particular day, I felt drawn to kneel before God to pray. Kneeling, like the napkin, is just *one small gesture...that shows honor*. In Luke 10:38-42 you find Mary who sat and welcomed Jesus as she entertained. In contrast, her sister Martha fretted over the details, more than her guest.

I don't want to get *too bent*, but live a life on *two bent knees*...that's the Mary vs. Martha difference in a nutshell. I decided I'm going to pursue to be more like Mary, than Martha, and, I'm not talking about Martha Stewart! The "main course" is fellowship.

This holiday season, will join me as I pursue letting go of being "too bent" and get down on "two bent" as a small gesture, to invite the right Guest before your guests arrive?

- By Steph Fink

For more about Steph, please visit her web site at: www.encouragedinheart.org



An Evening In December



Ladies, grab your friends!

Put aside the Christmas to-do list,
reset your soul and recharge your batteries!

Music by Grammy Nominee & Dove Award Winner

Kathy Troccoli

Message by Christian Humorist & Author

Ellie Lofaro

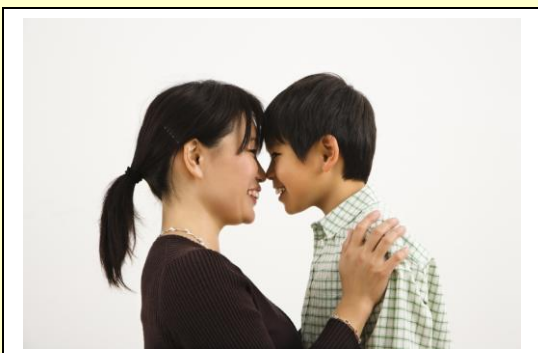
Monday, December 6, 7:30 PM

Tuesday, December 7, 7:30 PM

Floris United Methodist Church

13600 Frying Pan Road, Herndon, VA 20171

Tickets: \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door



Save the Date * Save the Date* Save the Date

Nothing you do for your child is ever wasted. They seem not to notice us, hovering, averting our eyes, and they seldom offer thanks, but what we do for them is never wasted

-Garrison Keillor



Julie Barnhill
March 25-26, 2011

Julie's bold yet friendly kick-in-the-pants speaking challenges audiences everywhere to go (much) broader and deeper in their life with Christ—to get serious about truly loving Him with all their heart and soul and mind and strength.

Friday, March 25th 7-9 p.m., MOPS night- special event for moms (Julie's One Tough Mother Presentation)!
Saturday, March 26th "Running After Jesus"-event for all women-18 and up.

More details coming soon.

Books for Sale!

Our November and December meetings will feature authors/speakers. You will have the opportunity to purchase the speaker's books at the end of the meeting but are under no obligation to buy. Book for November: Entertaining for Eternity by Nan McCullough, \$30, cash or check. In Entertaining for Eternity, Nan shares practical wisdom and easy steps to enjoy a hospitality-based lifestyle that makes evangelism more natural and non-offensive.

Calling All Home Based Businesses

Do you have a home based business you would like to promote? For the month of December, we are looking for door prizes from ladies in our MOMSnex group. We will then recognize your business during the December meeting as well as put your contact information in this newsletter. Please contact Amber Harris with questions or donations. asc2705@yahoo.com or (859) 333-1914



Door Prizes...

have been purchased from www.Gofishguys.com. Their theme is: "Great music for kids that won't drive their parents bonkers!"

Thank you to our sponsors!

2010 – 2011 Meeting Dates

December 16 – Jack & Kathy Stockman
The Advent Book

January 13 - Val Johnson
Teaching Your Children Integrity

February 10 – Paul Goodnight
Marriage

March 10 – Bruce & Montte Christiansen
Teaching Kids the Value of Money

April 14 – Ellie Lofaro – Open House
Motherhood Smotherhood – the Agony and the Ecstasy

May 12 – Neil McNerney
The "tween" Brain

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