

FAMILY CONNECTION



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Family Traditions

Excerpt from What Happens at Dinner
by Sarah Anderson | Aug 6, 2014 | Parent Cue Blog

In *The Art of Family: Rituals, Imagination, and Everyday Spirituality*, author Gina Bria quotes Monica Wilson, an early researcher in African rituals, as saying, "Rituals reveal values at their deepest level... [expressing] what moves people most."

Which made me see why dinners together are more vital to the health of our family than I had originally thought—even though they can be just as equally maddening.

Not because of what happens during them,

but because of what they represent. Because they bring to light something our kids can see matters to us—without us having to tell them.

We aren't looking for remarkable memories to be made. **We're looking for rituals to be started.** Because the point isn't even really the meal. The point is for our kids to one day look back and recall just enough about dinners together to know *they happened*. That the time at the table was valued. That there wasn't



necessarily magic every time we got together, but we cared enough about each other to be at the same place at the

same time with no distractions. And that time in each other's presence *is always* worth fighting for.

Message from Pastor Jeanette

Family Ministry Design Team explores vision to improve family engagement

Our Family Ministry Design Team began meeting in August to explore and work towards a vision to improve family engagement in our Children's and Family Ministry and our church.

In our increasingly secular culture and demands on parent's and family time, we

want to be proactive in gathering information and constructive input from parents so we can be effective at partnering with you.

As the Body of Christ (all of us working together), we seek to embody the transforming and unconditional love of Jesus Christ. As I share this,

I must admit I am humbled that while we strive to live into God's will for us, we shall fall short in this. Yet I am energized because when we pray and work as a team, God can do incredible things through us.

The 10 member team consists of Erin Barreira, Sandy Bonaccorsi,

Harun Hutchinson, Jennifer Jensen, Sam Manis, Susie Melody, Sarah Robertson, Shandra Zawacki, Pastor Jeanette and Lisa Stewart.



This month's Parent Cue is about **Individuality**. Pick up your card at KidsConnect.

Ways to Connect

Meet other families at the upcoming FX: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4 11:45-1:15pm. Spiritual Virtue: "Individuality—Discovering who YOU are meant to be so you can make a difference". Bring a potluck lunch item, or make a donation towards the gourmet hot dogs when you come to the event. If you have questions, [contact Lisa Stewart](#), Children & Family Ministries Coordinator.

FX is a way to experience faith together **as a whole family**. Held on the first Sunday of the month from 11:45am-1:15pm, FX helps parents and children experience a different spiritual virtue each month.

Family Spotlight



Harun and Melissa Hutchinson and their kids, Ayana (18), Jolie (9) and Haden (6) have been members since Feb. 2014. Melissa says, "Our family has enjoyed the spirit of inclusiveness offered at Foothills. The concept of Open

Doors, Open Hearts has ministered to all of us. Our children love the education and support they receive through the Children's Ministry. We are profoundly blessed and grateful to call Foothills our church home."

What's Happening in KidsConnect?

KidsConnect is our Sunday morning children's program offered during both worship service times.

October's KidsConnect theme is INDIVIDUALITY—discovering who you are meant to be so you can make a difference! God made each person one of a kind—even identical twins have unique fingerprints! Together, parents and KidsConnect leaders can help children discover how to tap into their God-given potential. If we teach children to find purpose NOW, they'll grow up knowing the even greater potential God has for them in the future.

Our memory verse this month shows how Paul encouraged Timothy to use the gifts God gave him to serve the church. **In 1 Timothy 4:12a, Paul writes: "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young. Set an example for the believers in what you say and in how you live" (NirV).**

Shout Out to...



Danean LeNoir for her contribution to KidsConnect. Danean is serving as a Leader for 4th and 5th grade.

Get Connected!

Here is what is coming up in Children's, Youth & Family Ministries.

- *Family eXperience*, October 4
- *MomsConnect*, October 7 & 21
- *Acolyte Recognition and Promotion*, Oct. 18
- *Children's Choirs in Worship*, Oct. 25
- *4th grade bibles presented*, Oct. 25
- *Trunk or Treat*, Oct. 25
- *Family eXperience*, Nov. 1

Children, Youth & Family Ministries Team

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