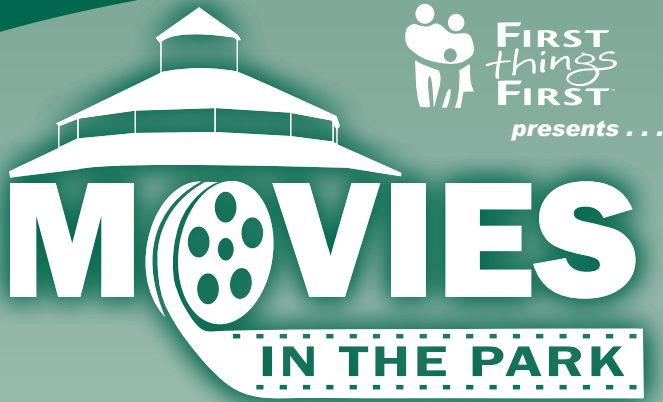


FIRST THINGS

A publication of First Things First



Dig out your lawn chairs, Movies in the Park returns to Coolidge Park this July for its sixth year. Last year brought more than 20,000 individuals out to see family friendly box office hits on the big screen.

Concessions will be available, just bring your family and friends to the park by sundown (a little after 9 p.m.) every Saturday in July. You are encouraged to get there early and bring a blanket or lawn chairs to enjoy the movie under the stars.

The movies are free and open to the public. If weather begins to look questionable, tune in to Sunny 92.3 FM to find out if that evening's movie will be shown. Minors must be accompanied by a parent.

2008 MOVIES

July 5–*Bee Movie*

July 12–*The Waterhorse: Legend of the Deep*

July 19–*Alvin and the Chipmunks*

July 26–*Horton Hears a Who*



ANNUAL FALL BANQUET



Join us for an inspirational evening on Thursday, September 18 for FTF's 11th Annual Fall Banquet.

We are honored to have Chief Justice Leah Ward Sears as our banquet speaker this year. Chief Justice Sears is a pioneer and pacesetter as she has achieved a distinguished position in Georgia's history. She was the first African-American woman to serve as Superior Court Judge in Georgia.

Chief Justice Sears is an advocate for families. While Sears acknowledges the burden that crime places on our courts, she wonders why no one seems to have noticed that the superior courts devote more time to domestic relations cases than they do to all felony and criminal cases combined. Thousands of Georgia's children find themselves in juvenile court settings, and Sears doesn't believe they would have been there if their homes had been stable. She believes that problems that begin in private "have a bad habit of becoming public problems with major social and financial consequences."

"As a judge I am often frustrated that I must work within a system designed only to pick up the pieces after families have already fallen apart or failed to come together," she said. "We must work to prevent family fragmentation, because the consequences for children and society are severe."

Seats are filling up fast so call the FTF office today to reserve your space on Thursday evening, September 18 at the Chattanooga Convention Center. Individual tickets are \$37.50 each or you can sponsor a table of eight for \$500. If you are interested in serving as a Table Host for the event, please contact Eddie Grant in the Development Office for more information!

Doors open at 6:00 p.m. and you will not want to miss a minute of the inspirational evening.

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Forgiving, Forgetting & Moving On

First Things First is bringing Drs. Tom and Bev Rodgers to present a two-day seminar for adult children of divorced parents.

October 3 & 4
Oak Street Center
425 Oak Street
Chattanooga, TN 37403

Call 423.267.5383
or visit www.firstthings.org for details!

Impact of Divorce and Unwed Childbearing on You



Julie Baumgardner
FTF Executive Director

Anovia Braden was expecting her first child. Eight months into the pregnancy, she and her husband decided to move to Chattanooga to be closer to their parents. In 2003, shortly after the birth of their son, her husband walked out and left her to fend for herself and the welfare of their child. Ms. Braden went to the Department of Human Services (DHS) for assistance. Her son needed to have two medical operations in his first year of life. Without insurance, TennCare stepped in to cover the medical bills. She worried whether or not she would face homelessness and moved into her mother's home until she could get back on her feet. Although she had a bachelor's degree, she was having trouble finding a job.

Unfortunately, stories like Anovia's are becoming a part of everyday life. Not only do they impact the people involved, they also affect you and me.

A recently released report, entitled *The Taxpayer Costs of Divorce and Unwed Childbearing*, commissioned by the Institute for American Values, The Georgia Family Council, The Institute for Marriage and Public Policy and Families Northwest found that divorce and out of wedlock childbearing conservatively cost taxpayers \$112 billion annually. **In Tennessee it costs taxpayers \$775 million annually.** The costs are due to increased taxpayer expenditures for anti-poverty, criminal justice and education programs, and through lower levels of taxes paid by individuals whose adult productivity has been negatively impacted by increased childhood poverty caused by family fragmentation.

This report is not a slam toward divorced people or single parents. It is a wake-up call to all of us. For years we have been having ongoing discussions concerning the impact of divorce and unwed childbearing on children and adults emotionally, educationally, economically, physically, spiritually and in many other areas of life. For the first time ever, this report addresses an area that many of us in the marriage movement have suspected impacted our society in a huge way, but had no formula for putting pencil to paper to figure it out.

This is a great reminder for all of us to consider what we can do as individuals and as a community to prevent divorce and unwed childbearing.

What can you do?

- Encourage your teen to participate in a healthy relationship skills class.
- Participate in skill-building classes that can teach you how to have a healthy, long-lasting marriage.
- Come alongside newlyweds to encourage them in their marriage journey and offer wisdom along the way.
- Engage couples and families in places of worship in ongoing programming that seeks to meet them where they are and give them skills, hope, words of encouragement and a network from which to draw strength when the going gets tough.
- Inform your employees about resources available in our community and encourage them to take advantage of them.
- Assist married couples experiencing distress in seeking help to get their marriage back on track.

All of us can do something. If Tennessee experienced a 1% decrease in divorce and unwed childbearing that would mean a savings of \$7.75 million annually.

Father of the Year Winners Announced

Congratulations to our 36 essay finalists and their fathers! More than 4,000 Hamilton County public, private and homeschool students submitted essays in the 2008 Father of the Year Essay Contest.



Pictured: Les Compton and family

Les Compton was named the 2008 Father of the Year. Other winners included DaWayne Ison as the Father Figure of the Year, Jeff Roberts and Mark Burrows as finalists, grade level winners and schools that submitted more than 100 entries.

First place winners in each grade level received a \$50 U.S. Savings Bond. 21st Century Academy Elementary School received a \$500 gift certificate

to the School Box for having the highest percentage of participation under 500 students. Snow Hill Elementary School also received a \$500 gift certificate for having the most participants for schools over 500 students. Jennifer Oliver, a fifth-grade teacher at Chattanooga School for the Arts and Sciences won a \$250 gift certificate to the School Box in a random drawing for all teachers who submitted at least ten entries in the essay contest.



Pictured: DaWayne Ison and family

The 2008 Father of the Year Essay Contest was sponsored by First Things First, The National Center for Fathering, The Chattanooga Lookouts, and the Riverbend Festival.



Pictured: First place essay winners



Pictured: Second place essay winners



Pictured: Third place essay winners

Look for these new television spots now!



FTF has recently produced several new commercials. These include "Thoughts"—a commercial which looks deep in the minds of restaurant patrons; "Nature"—a set of 3 commercials which show people that relationships don't come naturally; and an all new set of "Moments for Families" with Julie Baumgardner.

2008 SUMMER CLASS SCHEDULE

Parenting Classes

Boot Camp for New Dads

August 9 (Saturday)

Location: Parkridge East Hospital
941 Spring Creek Road, 37412
Time: 9 a.m.–12 p.m.

September 27 (Saturday)

Location: Parkridge East Hospital
941 Spring Creek Road, 37412
Time: 9 a.m.–12 p.m.

Love's Cradle

Equips non-married expectant couples with skills and information to make wise relationship and parenting decisions

July 17, 24 and 31 (Thursdays)

Location: The Villages
3750 Hughes Avenue, 37410
Time: 6 p.m.–8:30 p.m.

July 26 (Saturday)

Location: First Things First
620 Lindsay Street, Suite 100, 37403
Time: 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

August 14, 21, and 28 (Thursdays)

Location: Haven's Buffet
480 Greenway View Drive, 37411
Time: 6 p.m.–8:30 p.m.

Teen Classes

Connections

A relationship skills class for teens.

July 15 and 17

(Tuesday and Thursday)
Location: First Centenary
Inner City Ministry
419 McCallie Avenue, 37402
Time: 10 a.m.–2:30 p.m.

July 26 (Saturday)

Location: Crystal Room
Belk at Hamilton Place
2100 Hamilton Pl Boulevard
Time: 10 a.m.–6 p.m., 37421
THIS IS A GIRLS ONLY CLASS

August 9, 15, and 22

(Saturday and Fridays)
Location: New Anointing Pure Holiness
Church of God
420 N. Holly Street, 37406
Time: Saturday, 11:00 a.m.–1:30 p.m.
Fridays 6:00 p.m.–8:30 p.m.

August 23 and 24 (Saturday and Sunday)

Location: Trenton UMC
12500 N. Main Street, 30752
Time: Saturday, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
Sunday, 2 p.m.–6 p.m.

Singles Classes

How to Avoid Marrying a Jerk

Helps singles find a compatible mate.

July 12 (Saturday)*

Location: Oak Street Center,
First Centenary UMC Church
425 Oak Street, 37402
Time: 10 a.m.–6 p.m.

July 17, 24, and 31 (Thursdays)*

Location: First Things First
620 Lindsay Street, Suite 100, 37403
Time: 6 p.m.–8:45 p.m.

August 9, 15, and 22

(Saturday and Fridays)*
Location: New Anointing Pure Holiness
Church of God
420 N. Holly Street, 37406
Time: Saturday, 11:00 a.m.–1:30 p.m.
Fridays: 6 p.m.–8:30 p.m.

Premarital Classes

For couples preparing for marriage.

Secular classes

July 12 (Saturday)*

Location: First Things First
620 Lindsay Street, Suite 100, 37403
Time: 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

July 30 and August 6 (Wednesday)*

Location: First Things First
620 Lindsay Street, Suite 100, 37403
Time: 6 p.m.–10 p.m.

August 23 (Saturday)

Location: First Things First
620 Lindsay Street, Suite 100, 37403
Time: 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
Cost: \$20 per couple

August 4 and 18 (Mondays)*

Location: First Things First
620 Lindsay Street, Suite 100, 37403
Time: 6 p.m.–10 p.m.

September 6 and 13 (Saturday)*

Location: Oak Street Center
First Centenary UMC Church
425 Oak Street, 37402
Time: 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

For Couples Remarrying

September 4 (Thursday)

Location: First Things First
620 Lindsay Street, Suite 100, 37403
Time: 5:30 p.m.–9:30 p.m.
Cost: \$20 per couple

Premarital Classes continued . . .

Faith Based Classes

July 10 (Thursday)

Location: First Things First
620 Lindsay Street, Suite 100, 37403
Time: 5:30 p.m.–9:30 p.m.
Cost: \$20 per couple

August 7 (Thursday)

Location: First Things First
620 Lindsay Street, Suite 100, 37403
Time: 5:30 p.m.–9:30 p.m.
Cost: \$20 per couple

September 6 (Saturday)

Location: Lighthouse Counseling Center
105 Lee Parkway, 37421
Time: 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
Cost: \$20 per couple

For Couples Remarrying

July 17 (Thursday)

Location: Lighthouse Counseling Center
105 Lee Parkway, 37421
Time: 5:30 p.m.–9:30 p.m.
Cost: \$20 per couple

Marriage Classes

Secrets to Lasting Love

For couples interested in learning good relationship skills.

July 7, 14 and 21 (Mondays)*

Dance Class Included
Location: St. Mark's UMC
701 Mississippi Avenue, 37405
Time: 6 p.m.–8:30 p.m.

July 12 (Saturday)*

Location: Valleybrook Church
6001 Hixson Pike, 37343
Time: 10 a.m.–6 p.m.

July 14, 21, and 28 (Mondays)*

Location: ACE Hardware
4921 Hwy 58, 37416
Time: 5:45 p.m.–7:45 p.m.

Blended Family Bliss

July 11 (Friday)*

Location: First Things First
620 Lindsay Street, Suite 100, 37403
Time: 6 p.m.–10 p.m.

From Empty Nesters to Love Birds

July 25 (Friday)*

Location: First Things First
620 Lindsay Street, Suite 100, 37403
Time: 6 p.m.–10 p.m.

Father of the Year Essay Winners:

1st Grade

1. Davis Payne–Nolan Elementary
2. Heath McGowan–Nolan Elementary
3. Corley Compton–Homeschooled

2nd Grade

1. Mia Hammons–Wolftever Elementary
2. Alexis Sholts–Wolftever Elementary
3. Alexander Tuttle–St. Peter's Episcopal School

3rd Grade

1. Kristen Selph–Westview Elementary
2. McKenzie Roberts–Apison Elementary
3. Aubrey Boyd–Homeschooled

4th Grade

1. Antoinette Taylor–Shepherd Elementary
2. Sydney Shepherd–Silverdale Baptist Academy
3. Maddie Siragusa–Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic School

5th Grade

1. Mollie Johnson–Ringgold Elementary
2. Mayci Smith–Snow Hill Elementary
3. Yahna VanHooser–Ganns Middle Valley Elementary

6th Grade

1. Rahul John–CSLA
2. Zach Zettel–Hunter Middle School
3. Jarred Williams–Hunter Middle School

7th Grade

1. Katelyn Couch–Silverdale Baptist Academy
2. Kendall Shoemaker–Silverdale Baptist Academy
3. Ryan Poole–Brown Middle School

8th Grade

1. Jennifer Arnold–Signal Mountain Middle School
2. Jessica Keane–Signal Mountain Middle School
3. Rachel Shelton–Brown Middle School

9th Grade

1. Corinne Burrows–Silverdale Baptist Academy
2. Jessie Anne Compton–Grace Baptist Academy
3. Sharazade Balouchi–CSAS

10th Grade

1. Kayla Baylor–Lookout Valley High School
2. Jaylin Benford–CSAS
3. Matt Hall–Grace Baptist Academy

11th Grade

1. Mike Bruce–CSAS
2. Taylor Sturgis–Silverdale Baptist Academy
3. Sidra Naseer–Hixson High School

12th Grade Finalists

1. Porschia Johnson–Hixson High School
2. Braden Matherly–East Ridge High School
3. Nathan Clark–Grace Baptist Academy

2008 Summer Class Schedule continued . . .

Secrets to Lasting Love continued . . .

July 27 (Sunday)*

The Great Balancing Act
Location: First Things First
620 Lindsay Street, Suite 100, 37403
Time: 3 p.m.–7 p.m.

August 2 (Saturday)*

Spanish Class
Location: First Things First
620 Lindsay Street, Suite 100, 37403
Time: 8:30 a.m.–4 p.m.

August 6, 13, and 20 (Wednesdays)*

Location: Wally's Restaurant
6521 Ringgold Road, 37412
Time: 6 p.m.–8:30 p.m.

August 7, 14, and 21 (Thursdays)*

Location: ACE Hardware
4921 Hwy 58, 37416
Time: 5:45 p.m.–7:45 p.m.

August 9, 15, and 22 (Saturday and Fridays)*

Location: New Anointing Pure Holiness Church of God
420 N. Holly Street, 37406
Times: Saturday: 11 a.m.–1:30 p.m.
Fridays: 6 p.m.–8:30 p.m.

August 10 (Sunday)*

The Great Balancing Act
Location: First Things First
620 Lindsay Street, Suite 100, 37403
Time: 3 p.m.–7 p.m.

August 22 (Friday)*

From Empty Nesters to Love Birds
Location: First Things First
620 Lindsay Street, Suite 100, 37403
Time: 6 p.m.–10 p.m.

August 27 (Wednesday)*

Passionately Married
Location: Wally's Restaurant
6521 Ringgold Road, 37412
Time: 5 p.m.–9 p.m.

September 3, 10, and 17 (Wednesdays)*

Location: Tyner United Methodist Church
6805 Standifer Gap Road, 37421
Time: 6 p.m.–8:30 p.m.

Maximize Your Marriage

For couples in distress.

July 26 (Saturday)*

Location: Lighthouse Counseling Center
105 Lee Parkway, 37421
Time: 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

August 4, 11, and 18 (Mondays)*

Location: Lighthouse Counseling Center
105 Lee Parkway, 37421
Time: 6 p.m.–8:30 p.m.

August 5, 12, and 19 (Tuesdays)*

Location: Lighthouse Counseling Center
105 Lee Parkway, 37421
Time: 6 p.m.–8:30 p.m.

August 16, 2008 (Saturday)*

Location: Lighthouse Counseling Center
105 Lee Parkway, 37421
Time: 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

Maximize Your Marriage continued . . .

August 16 (Saturday)

Location: Lighthouse Counseling Center
105 Lee Parkway, 37421
Time: 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

Maximize Your Marriage Booster Class

For couples who attended a previous Maximize class.

July 24 (Thursday)

Location: The English Rose
1401 Market Street, 37402
Time: 6 p.m.–9:30 p.m.

Aug 21 (Thursday)

Location: The English Rose
1401 Market Street, 37402
Time: 6 p.m.–9:30 p.m.

To register or for more information, call First Things First at 423.267.5383 or visit www.firstthings.org.

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Sign up for our e-news today!

to register, visit:

www.firstthings.org

COMING TO A THEATER NEAR YOU!



FTF, in collaboration with Provident Films, is proud to bring to Chattanooga the movie *Fireproof*, the third feature film from Sherwood Pictures—the creators of *Facing the Giants*.

Kirk Cameron, known to millions as Mike Seaver from the sitcom *Growing Pains*, stars in this action-packed love story. Cameron plays a fireman who lives by the old firefighter's adage, "never leave your partner behind," but at home, in the cooling embers of his marriage, he lives by his own rules.

Fireproof will have audiences laughing, crying and inching toward the edge of their seats as they are drawn into the world of a firefighter, his wife . . . and a marriage worth rescuing.

The movie opens September 26th.



POPULAR TRIATHLON TO BENEFIT FTF

Start your training now for the Sports Barn/Quintana Roo Sprint Triathlon on Sunday, August 10th. Athletes (and athletes to be) are encouraged to come to the Chickamauga Dam, then swim, ride, and run to Chattanooga's Riverfront and downtown.



The Sports Barn and Quintana Roo present this challenging event. For the third year, proceeds benefit First Things First, with special thanks to Scott and Teresa Wade.

Participants will begin at 7 a.m. by swimming a quarter-mile in the Chickamauga Lake, then ride 8.2 miles to downtown Chattanooga via Amnicola Highway. The race will wrap up by running 2 miles around the Riverfront and North Shore. Cash prizes will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners overall and in each age group.



Register now! Space is limited this year there will be NO day of registrations. For more information visit <http://www.sportsbarn.net/sprint.htm>