



# Mom's Day Out Times

November  
2011

Mom's Day Out is a ministry of First Free Church dedicated to providing support for mothers of young children through quality, Christ-centered child care.

3 pages

First Evangelical Free Church \* 2223 N. Mulford \* Rockford \* 815.877.7046 \* www.momsdayout.net

## Count Your Blessings

There is a song I grew up singing in church called "Count your Blessings." The verses in this hymn speak to the hardships and difficulties we often face in this life. Instead of becoming disheartened and discouraged, we are to remember what God has done for us and count our many blessings.

I recently read through the book of Deuteronomy in the Bible. Moses is giving his farewell address to the Israelites. Throughout his impassioned speech, he reminds the Israelites of all that God has done for them. God brought them out of slavery in Egypt, He parted the Red Sea before their very eyes, He fed them manna and brought water from a rock. Yet how often did the Israelites forget these mighty acts and complain about their current circumstances instead.

We all have a choice. We can dwell on the hardships and difficulties that are sure to confront us in this life or we can choose to remember all that God has done for us. Why not take some time to sit down and remember what God has done for you. Take it a step further and sit down with your family and remember together the many blessings you have received. Simply do what the chorus of "Count your Blessings" says... "Count your blessings, name them one by one, count your many blessings see what God has done."

*Deuteronomy 4:9*

*Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them fade from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them.*

Keri Early  
Assistant Director, MDO



**SAVE THE DATE**

Our Mom's Day Out Christmas program is a hit every year! Make sure you put **Friday, December 9th** on your calendar and plan on meeting in the Main Sanctuary here at First Free at noon. Watch for more information to be coming home soon.

## Caterpillars Are Up and Walking!

Blessings, blessings and more blessings!! As we head into the season of giving thanks, there is no better way to express how we feel about your children. What a blessing to have each of them in our Caterpillar room. We are truly blessed and thankful for each one of them. We'd like to extend a great big welcome to yet ANOTHER blessing; Sebastian Azcona is joining our collection of Caterpillars this month! Welcome Sebastian, we are happy to have you with us!!

Safety is our number one concern here @ Mom's Day Out, and we are proud to report that our fire-drill last month went smooth as silk! All of the babies were troopers! We had a couple tears during the initial sound of the fire alarm, but no one got too upset. The kiddos actually seemed to enjoy their short trip outside! It was a BEAUTIFUL day, warm and sunny, which was an added bonus for us all. It was almost sad when we heard the "all clear" and had to retreat back indoors. Soon enough though, everyone was back to play-time and happy routines!

It's hard to believe the leaps and bounds all the children are already making. Miss Kirin was the first in our class to walk, as she started the year off on her own two feet. Congratulations to Mr. Mason in joining Kirin and for being the first of our crawlers to WALK! We absolutely delight in these milestones with you. The other children have been paying close attention and are trying to start taking their own first steps. It won't be long before almost the entire room will be up and mobile on their own two feet!!

Just a little reminder: finger foods are our friends!! Please pack their favorite yummy finger foods for lunch. Not only does it help us get everyone fed during the scheduled lunch time, but it also helps develop your little one's fine motor skills. They also seem to enjoy the independence of being able to self-feed, and even get a kick out of watching one another do the same. If you are already doing this, we thank you. If you haven't tried doing so yet, please feel free to ask for suggestions, we're happy to help! On the same note, if any of you have some great finger food suggestions to share with other parents, please let us know! Bring a short list or share it with one of us at pick-up time and we'll be happy to pass it along!

Also, we seem to be in the "season" of teething right now with many of the children. We would like you to know that if there is a blanket or some other lovey that your child finds comforting during this trying time, please feel free to bring it. We do everything we can to help them, but sometimes a little something from home can be the most help.

Blessings to you and your family as we reflect on what we are most thankful for this time of year. Have a wonderful month of thanks-giving!

With Christ's love,  
Cindy, Sarah and Kory



Ellie Brooks, Samantha Donohue & Zack Butera patiently wait for lunch

## **BIRTHDAY WISHES!!**

Mason Vogelsang	11/03/10
Eli Rock	11/11/10
Gavin Taber	11/12/10
Gavin Costanza	11/28/10





# Happenings This Month

## Announcing MDO's Fall Outreach 2011...

We are excited to welcome Gigi's Playhouse to the Rockford area! Gigi's Playhouse—Rockford LLC is a Down syndrome awareness and educational center that provides resources, specialized tutoring and support to individuals with Down syndrome, their families and the community. All of their programs are free to families, are therapeutic in nature and range in age from pre-natal diagnosis thru adulthood. Check your child's backpack for more information and a shopping list!



### November at Mom's Day Out



**November 7th**— Special visitor Steve Cooper will be visiting the Chimps, Fish, Lions, Giraffes, and Mice classes.



**November 18th**— Children in the Chimps, Fish, Lions, Giraffes and Mice classes will get to visit with Moses and learn all about his relationship with and Love for God.



**November 21st**— The Lions, Giraffes & Mice classes become Indians and Pilgrims for a day and dine together for lunch and a special Thanksgiving Feast.



**November 18th & 21st**—TUMBILI! If your child is in the Hippo, Chimps, Fish, Lions, Giraffes or Mice class, they will be going to the playground these days. Don't forget their socks!

## TEACHERS UNABLE TO ANSWER CALLS DURING THE MDO DAY

The church office does not open until 9:00 a.m. If you need to call before that time, please call (815) 877-7040 and enter extension 272. This will bring you to Patti's voice mail to leave a message. After 9:00 a.m., you can call the church office (815) 877-7046 and either ask for Patti at ext. 272 or (if immediate assistance is needed) ask the receptionist to page Patti. If you should need to get information to your child's teacher any time during the MDO day, contact Patti and she can relay the message to the teacher. Teachers are unable to leave the classroom to take phone calls. We hope this answers any questions.

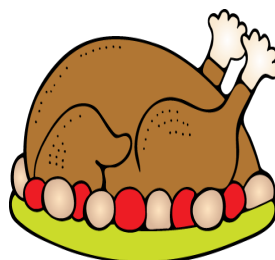
### THE PLAYGROUND IS DONE!

Unfortunately the weather is not the best for playing on an outdoor playground. But... we are still incredibly blessed to have this completed. This playground is the perfect size for our MDO children. We look forward to using it as soon as the nice weather returns. Many thanks to all of our MDO parents who donated to this project as well as to First Free Church and Kids Around the World for installing it—boy were they fast! If you are still interested in donating to the playground, please see Patti.



## MDO FIRE DRILL A SUCCESS!

This past month, MDO had our first fire drill. The fire alarm went off, and all of us (as well as all the First Free Church staff) followed our fire safety procedures and marched outside. It is amazing how few tears there were—most of which occurred when the children had to go back to their classrooms! Many rooms used this opportunity to talk about fire safety. MDO has been blessed with never having to have an actual fire alarm, but it is reassuring to know that we are well prepared in case this situation should occur.



**No Mom's Day Out  
Friday, November 11th  
AND  
Friday, November 25th**

**facebook** join our group +

Mom's Day Out has a Facebook page. "Friend" us to get the latest information about your child's classroom!



# First Evangelical Free Church

Rockford, Illinois

Bringing people into a life-changing and growing relationship with Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord

Love God

Love One Another

Love the World

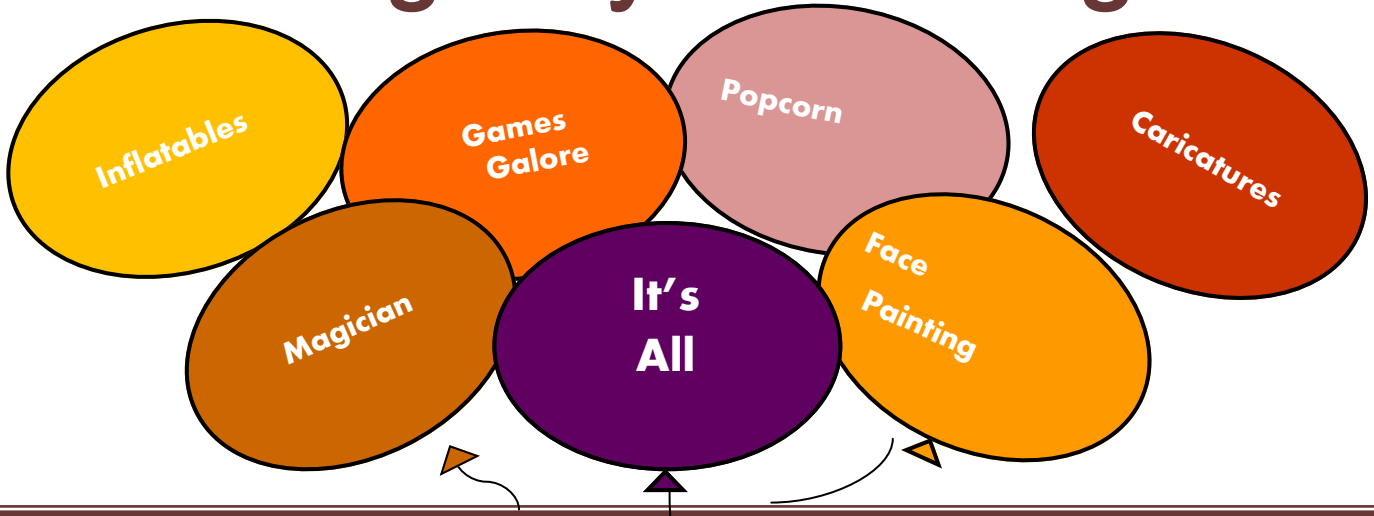
Love

# Family Fun Fair

November 10th ~ 6:00-8:30

It's a Thursday, but there's no school on Friday!

## Featuring Wayne the Magician



### Upcoming Events at First Free for the Holidays:

#### November 23:

First Free Church's Thanksgiving service at 7 p.m. An evening of praise and thanksgiving to God. Music and scripture to encourage.

#### Friday & Saturday, December 2 & 3:

*Candle in the Window* A Holiday drama and dessert for all ages. Contact Church for Times and ticket availability.

#### Sunday, December 18, 6:00 p.m.:

Ernie Haase & Signature Sound Christmas Concert at 6pm. Invite some friends and join us for this special Christmas Concert! Contact church to purchase tickets.



MOPS is a Christ-centered, caring ministry seeking to meet the unique needs of mothers with infant through kindergarten-aged children. MOPS is not a Bible study; rather, it involves instruction relating to womanhood, marriage, child-rearing specifically focused on preschoolers, and family relationships. All of these topics are based on biblical principles. We will be meeting from 8:45-11:15 a.m. here at First Free Church. Our November meeting days are:

Tuesday, Nov. 8th and  
Tuesday, Nov. 22nd

Better Moms Make A Better World



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The mission of First Evangelical Free Church is to bring people into a life-changing and growing relationship with Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.