

Greater Connections



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Greater Centennial Marriage Ministry
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"Our God Is Awesome"



Love Notes

A New Year, A New Beginning

By Kim & Tom Umstead

Happy New Year! God has blessed us abundantly, allowing us to experience another year and providing us with more opportunities to cherish life and our love ones.

We tend to welcome the New Year with great intentions to improve our lives. We vow to lose weight, to keep our houses clean or to save a few extra pennies.

But couples rarely put at the top of our "to do" list things that would help enhance our marriages. Even the strongest of marriages can benefit from some things that could further improve our relationships.

--Spend more daily time together. For at least 15 minutes a day put away the iPhone, turn off the TV, shuffle the kids into another room and just talk to your spouse. You could catch up on your day, talk about current events or discuss the important issues in your lives. Staying connected to one another on a daily basis leads to better

communication as well as to greater intimacy.

--Date Your Mate. At least once a month the two of you should go out on the town by yourselves, even if that means just going to dinner at Applebee's, catching a movie at the local theater or going bowling together. Spend at least two to three hours of time together and try to avoid talking about stress-generating topics like finances or the kids.

--Appreciate One Another. Take time to give your hubby a kiss just because or compliment your wife's smile. Hug each other more. Do whatever it takes to show how appreciative you are of your spouse.

--Attend church together. The old axiom is true: the family that prays together stays together. Attending church together on a regular basis, along with daily prayer time, reinforces God's will for our marriages.

Let's all resolve to make our marriages better in 2013!

Every issue we'll spotlight lyrics from a classic R&B love song that captures the essence of marriage.

Always

As Sung by Atlantic Starr

Girl, you are to me, all that a woman should be,
And I dedicate my life to you always.
A love like yours is rare,
It must have been sent from up above
And I know you'll stay this way, for always.

And we both know, that our love will grow
And forever it will be you and me
Ooh you're like the sun,
Chasing all of the rain away,
When you come around you bring a brighter day
You're the perfect one
For me and you forever will be
And I will love you so for always.

Come with me my sweet,
Let's go make a family,
And they will bring us joy, for always
Oh boy I love your so,
I can't find enough ways to let you know,
But you can be sure I'm yours, for always.

And we both know, that our love will grow
And forever it will be you and me
Ooh you're like the sun,
Chasing all of the rain away,
When you come around you bring a brighter day.
You're the perfect one
For me and you forever will be
And I will love you so for always.



Upcoming GCMM Events

Feb. 16

Annual GCMM Valentine's Dinner

The event will feature a romantic evening of dining, soft music and words of love and affection. We are asking \$30 per couple for the event, which will take place in the Fellowship Hall

March 16

Monthly Marriage Enrichment Meeting

How do you keep the music playing in our marriages will be the topic of our March monthly meeting featuring our guest speakers.

April 20

Monthly Marriage Enrichment Meeting (Subject TBD)

May 18

Monthly Marriage Enrichment Meeting (Subject TBD)

GCMM To Celebrate Love During Annual Valentine's Dinner

Love will certainly be in the air as the Greater Centennial Marriage Ministry will present its annual Valentine's dinner on Feb. 16 at 6 p.m. in fellowship hall.

The dinner theme is "I Pledge My Love To you" and we will allow couples to do just that throughout the night. Couples will be treated to a delicious dinner and scrumptious desserts, as well as entertainment throughout the night with poetry readings and a short skit from several of our ministry members. We will also feature an "open mic" for anyone who wants to express to their spouse how much they love and cherish them, not only during the Valentine's Day celebration but through all seasons.

A package of dinner and entertainment at most restaurants and theatres during Valentine's week would cost a small fortune. But we're only asking \$30 per couple for a lovely evening of romance and fun. So come out and bring another married couple or two – we hope to see you there!

Please consider joining the Marriage Ministry in making a donation to the Food Bank For New York City to benefit victims of Hurricane Sandy. We've already raised \$365 to help those still suffering through the aftermath of the storm. Please go to the Greater Centennial website to connect to the ministry's personal website. Our God is Awesome!

“Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful and endures through every circumstance.” (1 Corinthians 13:7) NLT