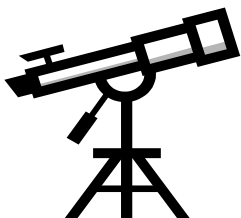




Take Me To Your Leaders

Coordinator	Cheri Eastwood 543-2210
Finance	Elizabeth Skinner 255-0229
Special Events	Denise Bauer 263-7719
Creative Activities	Michele Johnson 264-0345 Ann Combs 271-8197
Hospitality	Dawn Baker 837-0373 Lori Settles 492-3349
Moppets Coordinator	Mary Furnish 219-9111
Moppets Curriculum	Sherry Kenney 421-8254
D-Group Coordinator	Susan Marshall 296-2791
Mentor Moms	Anne Layton 278-1883 Ginny Ellington 223-1517
Publicity	Cathy Cramer 263-9362



"For where two or three come together in My name, there I am with them." Matthew 18:20

Mission Specialist: Susan Freeman

Susan Kay Freeman received her nursing degree in 1984 at Lutheran School for Nursing in Moline, Illinois. She is currently the Director and Co-Founder of Step By Step, Inc. which is a mentoring program to inner city teen mothers and their children in Lexington, Kentucky. Susan has 15 years of experience in mentoring this population, in creative, culturally relevant methods which have been successful in helping these young mothers break cycles of poverty, subsequent pregnancies, addiction, and abuse enabling them to succeed in life and as mothers. Susan has served in various ways throughout the last 15 yrs: volunteer, support group leader, board, leadership, lay counselor, One of the 3 beginning founders, and director for the last 5 yrs.

She says, "My family is the greatest gift and blessing God has and will ever give me. I don't deserve it, I know that I don't. I had two abortions. Yet, He gave me a godly husband who loves me and the kids with all of his heart. My husband is patient

and kind and encouraging and supportive and loyal and hard-working and is my best friend and the most affectionate, loving and wise father, man and husband I know. (Now, it didn't start out that way! When you bring God into your family, He just works on everyone!) My kids, although we have had our share struggles (mostly because I made my share of mistakes as a mom) have turned out to be the most amazing kids that I know. They love Jesus, love their parents and love each other! What more can a momma ask for! We have been through some hard times as a family, which by God's grace has only brought us closer together. My kids are 15, 19 and 20. They enjoy spending time together going to movies, ice skating, hockey games, playing music and watching their favorite TV show, The Office! We laugh and cry and pray and live life together in the good times and the bad. "

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Little Dipper (MOPPET Children)	P.2
Building our MOPS Community—Cheri	P.3
Upcoming Missions	P.8



Fun Websites

- by Denise Bauer

<http://stilltasty.com/>

is a neat website where you can see if your food is still good :-)

<http://kids.niehs.nih.gov/music.htm>

Here you can get the words and music to loads of kids sing-along songs

MOPportunities

Tupperware business:

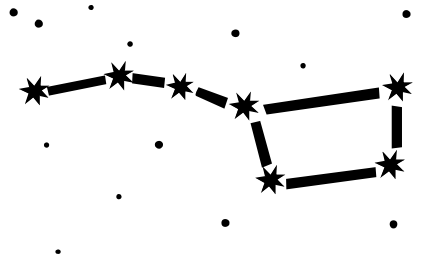
Lori Settles
loristupperware@insightbb.com,
www.my.tupperware.com/lorissettles
859-492-3299

Karen Tallon Photos
504 Rosemont Garden
Lexington, KY 40503
Karentallon.com
(859) 333-9154

Mary Kay Consultant
Jessica Holbrook
jessholbrook914@hotmail.com
(859) 325-0174
(859) 368-0882

Rodan & Fields Dermatology
The Creators of Proactive
Contact Rachelle H. Brown
Phone: 806-3181
Email:
rachelle.higgins@insightbb.com

To include your business, contact Cathy Cramer at accstc@yahoo.com or (859)263-9362



Save the Date

Feb. 25th we will be helping the unwed moms of **Step by Step.**

Spring Dues- \$25

If you have not yet paid your spring dues please remember to turn in your \$25 to Elizabeth Skinner, Finance Mom. Our dues help cover the cost of the activities and crafts that we do together in MOPS. Checks can be made payable to TCCC MOPS. Contact *Elizabeth Skinner, Finance Coordinator* at nicadliz@windstream.net or 255-0229

Stellar Commendations

Rob Silver at **HEARTFIT** for a door prize of four weeks personal training

Dawn Baker for **Melting Pot** gift certificates.

The **Rockin' Rockets** (Pink) group for today's brunch.

Little Dipper (Moppet Children)

By Sherry Kenney

This month our children will be learning about how much God loves them! Our Bible verse is John 3:16. The children will play a game called "Who Does God Love?"

They will also be making "Love Bugs" to take home and give to a friend or family member they would like to tell about God's love.

Children will learn this rhyme based on the Bible verse:

For God so loved the world

(point up, then hug self and spread arms wide),
He gave his only Son.
(cradle arms like you're holding a baby)

Jesus came to show us that

(cradle arms like you're holding a baby)
God loves each little one.
(Point up, then point to a child.)

-Sherry Kenney



Building our MOPS Community

By Cheri Eastwood, Coordinator



It is time for our group to start considering who will be leading us next year and continuing to nurture the wonderful community of moms that Tates Creek Christian Church for the last ten years has allowed us to build through the use of their building, their financial support and the participation of many of its members, especially our Moppet volunteers. Our Steering team helps plan the meetings for the year and creates a welcoming and supportive environment for us as moms to come together to not be alone, to support each other, to make friends, to learn about God, to help others. I appreciate the work that our team has done to do help us accomplish these goals.

It is important for each of us to consider if God is putting a little bug in our ears to get more involved in this wonderful group of moms and children. If so, there are many ways to be more involved. There are smaller roles and larger roles and some with certain requirements, but all help our group. Helping serve our little community is also a great learning experience.

- We have a leader that works with our Discussion group leaders.
- We have a mom that puts together activities for us to do outside of our regular moms meetings.
- We have hospitality leaders who help set up for our meetings, plan games, treats, and/or prizes for our group.
- We have a coordinator that helps lead the meetings and helps everyone's ideas be heard.
- We have a Moppet leader who coordinates all our volunteers and sets up our kids' rooms for each meeting, which is a paid position who must attend TCCC.
- We have a Moppet curriculum leader who plans the activities for the older Moppets using any of the curriculum guides we provide.
- We have a mom who organizes and publishes our monthly newsletter and creates publicity materials.
- There are d-group leaders who help guide our small group discussion time and keep in touch with the members of the group.
- We have one or two moms who plan our crafts or special activities portion of our meetings.
- We could use a couple of Moppet volunteers in the rare event we are short-handed one day to help watch one of the classes.
- We could have a publicity helper in the summer.
- A mom could help organize the Moppet Volunteer Appreciation Brunch in May.
- Another smaller job would be to take pictures and create our photo directory.

If you are interested in any of these areas, please contact or talk to one of our mentor moms, Ginny or Anne, or our coordinator Cheri. Please feel free to ask any of our current steering team about their positions. There are ways for us to share responsibilities that makes the work more evenly spread. If we ask you to serve on this team, please consider it a compliment and an opportunity. Don't wait to be asked! Let us know where you would like to make a difference. We surely can't do it without you, and we appreciate your consideration!

- Cheri Eastwood, Coordinator



Compassion

By Cathy Cramer, Publicity

*As he approached
Jerusalem and saw the city,
he wept over it*

Luke 19:41-42 NIV.

Have you ever wept over a city as Jesus did? As you draw near to Jesus, He will begin to show you what is dearest to Him, and chief among those are people.

Sometimes it is hard to feel compassion for groups of faceless people we've never met. It's easier to feel condemnation for poor choices that they made and for some of them, there may be some truth in those choices leading to either heartache or poverty or both. Jesus wept over such heartache.

*We also know that
the race is not to the swift
or the battle to the strong,
nor does food come to the
wise or wealth to the bril-
liant or favor to the
learned; but time and
chance happen to them all.*
Eccl 9:11. Even when people do things right, they can still be hurting.

It's easier for us to feel superior, that we have deserved our easier lifestyle in some way. But it is more true that *The Lord your God has blessed you in all the work of your hands.* Deut 2:7. Not only that, *But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth.* Deut 8:18.

That is true whether the wealth is money or a loving home or the riches of our faith in Him. The cure for these feelings of superiority is often to meet people, see their faces, and hear



their stories - to care. At the same time, when they see our faces, our faces may represent God's compassion for them.

In the Great Commission, Jesus said, *"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.*

And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20.

Here Jesus expresses His heart's desire for us again. I am not a Greek scholar, but I have been told that this phrase "Go" can be translated two ways: "Go" and "As you go."

Both kinds of going are critical. An "as you go" ministry is the art of doing ministry where you already find yourself - at your child's school, in your child's Sunday school class, visiting your neighbors, or here at MOPS. A "go" ministry takes you into places that you would not ordinarily go, places out of your comfort zone. A mission trip or an unfamiliar ministry would fall into this category.

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost. Luke 19:10. Again, we can see Jesus' heart in what He came to do, and how much He loves all of us that He seeks us out when

we have become separated from Him, like a lost child.

There are also other kinds of ministry and volunteer work that Jesus calls us to do. Among them is the kind of ministry serves other people within a church, like Jesus' example of washing His disciples' feet.

That could also be *teaching them to obey everything [Jesus has] commanded.*, fulfilling the last part of the Great Commission. As natural nurturers, women tend to understand that they don't need to have a title or volunteer officially in order to help someone in need.

As mothers, we can especially see the value of the ministry some individuals have in working with our children, such as here at MOPS. That ministry becomes even sweeter when we hear the King say, *"I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."* Matthew 25:40

Expect Opposition

As strange as it may seem, when we reach out to others with love and compassion, we need to expect opposition. *For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.* Eph 6:12-13 I have seen so many things go wrong in a ministry - ovens breaking, microphones not working, fire-alarms going off, my daughter getting stung by a bee or running into the men's room, and

Continued from Page 4
mix-ups of personalities and schedules. It is important to remember that we are not struggling against people but for them.

One of my favorite prayers for ministry work is *“May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.”* Heb 13:20-21 (emphasis mine)

Get in the Game

To use a sports analogy, even a quiet unassuming volunteer position lets us see what God is doing up close, not just from a seat on the sidelines. If you ever start to feel that you aren't seeing God move in people's lives, then sometimes a volunteer position will change that.

You might see things happen that only God Himself can do, far beyond your own efforts or the efforts of others involved. When you see what you tried to do, and where God took it, you'll know that only He could take it so far.

I remember one time I organized food for a ministry. For one particular meeting, we had no food donors, and I called our list of the usual people who would help us in a pinch. None could. I had been praying during this whole set of phone calls, but exasperated, I found myself praying, not very respectfully, “God, these are Your people, and



if You want them fed, then You're going to have to do it, because I just can't."

I sat down and did something else for awhile. Two different groups of people I had not called (and of whom I had never even heard) called to donate food for the same date for which I had no supplier. Suddenly, through no effort of my own, I went from having no food to feed these people to searching for people with freezers to store the excess for a later date. God Himself provided the food. I remember laughing at myself and my own lack of faith.

Volunteering is a faith-building exercise. Expect to be exercised. But even in that, expect opposition. All you believe will become more alive and more real to you.

Don't Just Build Your Own House

As mothers, we put much of our time and energy into building our own homes and building into the lives of our children, bonding with them, providing for them, teaching them, and loving them. I like the reminder of the story in Haggai.

The people had spent so much time and effort in their own homes, that they had neglected God's House. God asked them, through the prophet Haggai, *"Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in*

your paneled houses, while this house remains a ruin?" Hag 1:4 I can become so focused on my own children and my own home that I forget to contribute my efforts to the House of God.

Don't Neglect Your Own House, Either

I have known grown adults who admit that their parents truly are the Christians they claim to be, and that they truly are at home what they appear to be at church. They admit that their parents' faith is real and that they have "the real thing." But these grown children want little or no part of it. They say that their parents ignored them while they were doing ministry. They felt neglected and less important than the ministry.

This reminds me of the parenting verse *And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.* Eph 6:4 (NKJV) This is a tricky verse to apply, because some training will frustrate and anger our children. Just teaching them not to put their fingers in an electrical socket might frustrate them.

Eventually, our children will need to be able to separate from us. I'm not in a hurry for that. I'm more of a bonding-type-mother than a teach-them-independence-type mother, but really our children will eventually need both bonding and independence. The step of independence while we volunteer may frustrate them, but this could also involve special Daddy or Grandma time. I think the key here is balance

Continued from Page 5
between volunteering and spending time at home with them, and that balance certainly varies based on their ages.

Bring the Kids, Too

Or, another possibility is to volunteer with them. In her talk on friendship last month, **Ginny Ellington** mentioned herself finding friends in our season of life by volunteering, taking her kids with her. That addresses four goals at once: finding friends, reaching out to others, bonding with our own children, and teaching them to be compassionate.

My girls have loved being able to help with some aspects of ministry, such as helping make or carry food into a home for a new mom. They love picking out toys for the underprivileged kids in the *Shoebox* campaign that *Samaritan's Purse* organizes and **MOPS** contributes to every year. All our girls have visited nursing homes, and the residents seem to love seeing their young faces. Even babies are allowed at most nursing homes (but make sure they are well.) It amazed me how much just seeing my kids can raise someone's spirits. My oldest girl loved volunteering by herself by running a game booth at our church's fall festival. That is *one of our parenting goals: to encourage our children's own sense of compassion and involvement.*

I must also say that **MOPS** has been a very good place to volunteer because the people have been very understanding of our other family obligations. When we have a sick kid or some other family crisis, the other leaders take it in stride. We are all moms here.



The Ministry of Motherhood

I love the book by Sally Clarkson titled *The Ministry of Motherhood*, and its companion book *The Mission of Motherhood*. These books affirm the value and sanctity of our work as mothers. I would expand that into other family situations as well - when those we love are suffering or ill - our siblings, our parents, our grandparents, whomever. Still remember not to just build your own house.

Prayer

This balance between mothering and volunteering is one that requires much prayer. Not all callings are for all the time. Moses had a passion for freeing his people, but it took years of wilderness training before he was ready to lead them. So ask God whether now is the time for a particular volunteer position or whether this is a time of preparation. When you are in a volunteer position, continually ask God how much time to spend there versus time you spend with your family at home. Always, always, always ask God to guard your schedule so that the lesser things of life

don't overwhelm the more important things.

You Can't Serve From a Dry Place

Be sure that you are always listening to what God wants you to do in a particular place. If you are not setting aside some time to hear from Him in His Word, then you are trying to run on empty. You cannot last very long that way in a productive manner.

Allow others to serve you and refresh you. We are a body of believers that should work together and we can't always give without receiving. That will run us dry. When you are in a place of volunteering, be sure that you are also in a place (either the same place, or elsewhere) where you receive from others.

When you are hurting, allow yourself time to heal. Volunteering can certainly be part of this, taking our minds off of ourselves and our own troubles. But volunteering should not become a way to avoid facing our own hurts and allowing God to heal us.

Be Faithful

If you have found a place where you can make a difference, rejoice! Those places are rare and beautiful gems. Don't let go of them



Continued from Page 6
easily. There are legitimate reasons to leave a ministry, but that should always be done with a great deal of prayer. Even when leaving is the right thing to do, it can still take a long time to find another place to serve. When Scott and I lived in Pittsburgh, we left a ministry there and it took us years to find another place where we felt we could serve. The search was a dry place all its own and I thank God that He was with us in it.

Looking for Commendation?

Look for commendation from God, not from those you serve. Many people today are so busy they forget to say thank-you. Or they feel awkward expressing how deeply everything the ministry has meant to them. Or they feel cynical and wonder what you are up to. They might suspect that you have an ulterior motive or that you feel superior to them or that you don't understand.

I remember at one place, the people did not seem to respond to me until the day that I threw up from morning sickness there. That strange situation finally broke down some walls. (This is also a reminder that God can use anything. Even morning sickness.)

Look for the blessing from God Himself. We cannot be good enough to earn our way

into Heaven. He's already provided that through His Son. We can't earn "brownie points" with Him. He already loves us beyond anything we can imagine, whether or not we do the right thing. But one thing we can do is to look forward to His pronouncement, "*Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!*" - Matthew 25:21

- Cathy Cramer, Publicity

Susan Freeman

Continued from Page 1

"My kids are committed to walking in righteousness and sexual purity, many times alone because the popular culture chooses otherwise. They are walking out what they have been taught by church and family. I thank God everyday for that!"

Susan would most like to tell the Mothers of Preschoolers, "Make Jesus the center of your life, pray about EVERYTHING and God will give you the wisdom and grace to be a good mom. Let Him refine you, heal you and purify you to be the best woman, wife, mother, friend and person that you were created to be."



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Check familylife.com or wherever books are sold.



Out of This World

Events for Kids (Not associated with MOPS)

Dinosaurs: The Big Picture—John and Jack Hankla's private collection, one of the world's largest, will be available through February 25th **Community Arts Center**, Danville, KY 859-236-4054

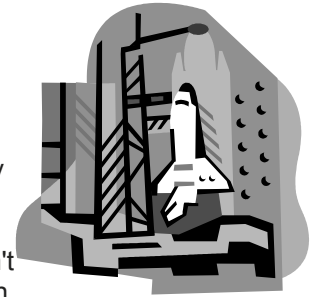
Newport Aquarium Free Admissions—2 Kids get in **FREE** with adult admission during Winter Family Days, Mon—Sun, 10 AM—6PM through February 28th.

Upcoming Missions

Special Events—Denise Bauer

February 3 Moms & Kids, Monkey Joe's

10:30-12:30 Come and monkey around all over their inflatables then enjoy some yummy pizza! Cost is \$8 per child for playtime, pizza and a drink, only \$7 if we have more than 10 kids. There is a special "mini Monkey zone" for kids under 3 (or 3 and under, I can't recall which. Monkey Joe's is brand new and geared for children 12 and under - you can't bounce if you are older! Just right for our kids! Monkey Joe's is located near Hamburg on Bryant Road, behind Chick Fil A & Ethan Allen, next to Ashley Furniture.



February 15 Critterland Playdate 10:00am

February 17 Mom's night out - Scrap & Snack

7:00 at TCCC, bring your scrapbooking, card making, etc and a snack to share for an evening of fun!

February 25 Mom's night out

TCCC MOPS hosts Step by Step's dinner

February 26 The Little Gym

1:00pm bring your older Moppets (3 and up) for a fun filled hour at the brand new Little Gym. The Little Gym is located in the Kroger Shopping Center at the corner of Richmond Road and Man o' War Blvd. Don't worry - we have another date scheduled in March for the younger Moppets!

StarDate

February 2010

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

	1	2	3 Monkey Joe's	4	5	6
7	8	9 MOPS 9:00	10	11	12	13
14	15 Critter- land	16	17 Scrap & Snack	18	19	14
21	22	23	24	25 Step by Step	26 Little Gym	15
28						