



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 523-1777 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

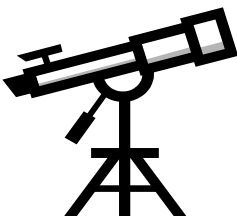
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Mission Specialist: Ginny Ellington

I was born in Cynthiana (Harrison Co) and lived there until I was in the second grade. My Dad was transferred with his job and after we moved the first time to Cincinnati for 6 months, we returned to live in Kentucky, (Bardstown, London, Danville, Somerset) and finally Maysville, after he changed jobs. I attended Morehead State University and my first job teaching Home Economics was at Bracken Co. HS. That's where R. W. and I met my first day on the job. We also have moved several times (I know you think I'm really a gypsy!!) in our 42 years of marriage. We have lived in Ft. Mitchell, Owenton and in 2003 to Lexington. We have two boys, Rob and Chris (married to Julie). No grandchildren!! No animals!! I retired from public education in 2003 and now teach at UK, working with student teachers. Church activities have always been an important part of my life, serving as organist, pianist, Sunday School teacher for pre-schoolers up through college age(and everything in between), Sunday School Superinten-

dent and now at Tates Creek I am in the Worship Choir, J.O.Y. Circle and Crusaders SS class. Being a mother is not an easy job. Fortunately I was able to stay at home with my children when they were babies, until each was 4 years old. I don't see how some moms work outside the home and take care of a home, too. I really admire those who can do that. To me being a parent is the most important job any one can have. To nurture your children and bring them up in a Christian home is a full time job!! Children grow up so fast, they are in school, graduating, marrying, etc. before you know it. Love them, enjoy them and put them in God's hands.



Fun Websites

- by Denise Bauer

www.moo.com - REALLY COOL are their "MiniCards." You can order 100 for \$19.99 and you can choose upto 100 different photos. They are 1.1" x 2.76" TOO CUTE!! They sell business cards, greeting cards, and holders that you can keep about 12 cards in as well as custom frames that hold 20 cards.

www.UpinPieces.com - You can order custom jigsaw puzzles. What a great present for Grandma & Grandpa!! Prices start at about \$10 (4"x6" puzzle) and go up from there. A basic 8"x10" puzzle is \$20.00 shipping will add another \$8.50.

MOPportunities

Tupperware business:

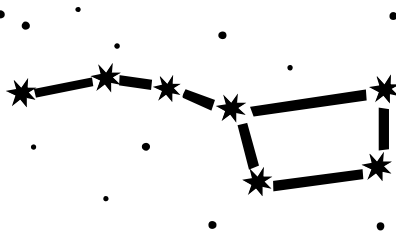
Lori Settles
loristupperware@insightbb.com,
www.my.tupperware.com/
lorissetles
859-492-3299

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
accste@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

Thanks to the Galaxy Gals this month for providing brunch.

Thanks to **Beth Gawlik** for last months' door prize of **Explorium** passes. Thanks to the **Mad Potter** for the gift certificates for door prizes. If you would like to donate passes or tickets as door prizes, contact Dawn Baker at 523-1777.

Little Dipper (Moppet Children)

By Sherry Kenney

This month our children will be learning about what they can do for God. Today's Bible verse is adapted from Proverbs 21:3a, "Do what is right and fair".

Children will talk about how God is happy when we do what's right. They will make clocks and talk about how we should do what's right no matter what time of day it is.

Children will sing the following song to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell":

*Do what's right and fair
(point up with right hand)
Do what's right and fair
(point up with left hand)
God is happy when we all
(turn in a circle)
Do what's right and fair
(wave hands in the air)
God helps us do what's
right (point up with right
hand)
God helps us do what's
fair (point up with left
hand)
God is happy when we all
(turn in a circle)
Do what's right and fair
(wave hands in the air)*

MOPS Community

By Beth Gawlik

Most of us realize that we can't make it in this world all by ourselves. God has already given us some kind of community in our families – both the family we were raised in and the family we started when we married and brought children into our home, whether through birth or adoption. However, God has designed us to seek community outside of that. In reflecting on both my own experiences of community and what the Bible has to say about it, I hope to remind you of what you probably already know and spur you on toward seeking the kind of community God intended us to have.

Thinking back, I realize that community has been important to me throughout my Christian life. I attended church sporadically throughout my childhood, but my mother was the only Christian in my immediate family, and I never really tried to integrate the faith I encountered there into my life.

I had a very lonely and troubled adolescence and partly because of that decided to go on an exchange program to Sweden my last year of high school. In Sweden, I met many people who were church members. However, most of them had a very nominal faith, and I sensed no community within the small, infrequently attended parishes.

However, just a few months before I was to leave, I was invited by a classmate to a youth group at a church in the town where we attended school. Though the "youth group" consisted only of about six teenagers, all girls, I could see that they genuinely cared about and supported one another. They were interested in each others' lives and in my life. Even though I



was new and foreign, they made me feel at home right away and included me in everything.

Shortly after returning from Sweden, I was given an even greater picture of Christian community, which led to a spiritual awakening for me. My mother prevailed upon me to attend a national youth conference which was being held in Colorado. I really only consented to go because of the prospect of rock climbing and white water rafting afterwards, but God had other plans.

There I saw a common love among 5,000 other teenagers. In my own youth group, from which I had been away for a year and infrequently attended before, I saw a kind of love that I've never seen before. The other students and leaders from my church welcomed me with no strings attached. I was adopted by a group within the youth group and I saw modeled in them what had been missing in my life.

I realized that they loved me and each other as they did because of God's love for them and their love for God. I committed my life to Christ that week, and started on a journey of fellowship with God and other Christians which continues to amaze me.

Shortly after this, I started college, and of course sought out fellowship right away. I found a group called *InterVarsity Christian Fellowship* and got involved right

away. My R.A. lead a small group Bible study in my dorm which I attended, and I also started attending the same church as she did. At church, I was able to meet and be mentored by older Christians I would not have met on campus, and in InterVarsity I learned to reach out to my campus with the love of Christ and met fellow believers from many denominational backgrounds. I learned to integrate my faith with the rest of my life and was supported and joined by others as I worked to spread the love of Christ on campus.

I could tell numerous stories about InterVarsity, but my opinion and experience of Christian community is not the only factor to consider here. Whether or not we have had a good experience of it, we must pursue community as Christians because God has called us to it. We can see from the beginning of the Bible that people were designed for community. As Genesis 2:18 says, "*It is not good for man to be alone.*" While this is often, quite rightly, applied to marriage relationships, it is also true of community in general.

The New Testament letters speak often of fellowship. An example is found in the first letter of John, 1:3, which says, "*We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.*" John goes on a little later in the chapter to say that if we walk in the light of Christ we will have fellowship with God and with each other. Paul says in 1 Cor 1:9 that God has called us into fellowship with Jesus. Acts 2:42-47 teaches us that the early believers devoted

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 themselves to the Apostles' teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer. They met together regularly and they shared their possessions. These are just a few of the many examples. Most importantly, in His prayer for all believers in John 17:20-23, Jesus prays that we will be one and that the world will see Him in our unity. While the Christian church is not visibly united as a whole all the time, we are all united at a deeper level because we are all part of the body of Christ. It is important for us to recognize that we do not stand alone as Christians but rather are part of the Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church, which consists of all past, present, and even future believers in Christ.

When it comes to community, God did not leave us as orphans to flounder around and figure out how it is done. God Himself models character in His very being. Just as the trinity is one God and three persons, we are to be one Church, one Body, but at the same time many individuals. Christian community does not call for us to extinguish our uniqueness, but rather to use it in partnership with other believers for the glory of God.

Despite my positive experiences with Christian community, however, I know that not everyone has the same feelings about it, and that can, in part, stem from two common and opposite mistakes Christians can make about community. The first I call "Jesus and me under a tree." These people think they do not need other Christians because, after all, "God will provide all our needs." They may have seen a lot of hypocrisy within the Church and been hurt by it. They may be shy and be afraid to develop new relation-



ships. They know God is faithful, but they're not so sure about His children. Other people may just lead busy lives and decide that, as long as they pray and read the Bible, it doesn't really matter that they're not involved in a local Christian community. After all, that can take a lot of time.

On the other end of the spectrum is the practice that I would call "Coffee without God." These people love to come to church and Christian events, but they come to socialize, not to grow in a relationship with God. They seem to assume that, just because an event is held in the "fellowship hall" it automatically qualifies as Christian fellowship. However, I've been to many events in fellowship halls that, while fun social activities, did not really qualify as fellowship. Just because everyone in the room believes in God does not mean that fellowship is going on or community is being developed. On the opposite extreme, you do not need to mention God in every sentence, but you should acknowledge His presence among you and seek to glorify Him by your actions.

So what, really, do we need to do in order to avoid both of these negative things? First of all, we need to understand that fellowship really is a necessary thing and that we cannot grow as Christians outside of Christian community. Can you imagine a severed toe surviving very long? It would

soon turn into something we'd rather not look at. The same is true, in a sense, of Christians who sever themselves from the body of Christ. We cannot have healthy spiritual lives all by ourselves. Once we understand that we need fellowship, we need also to recognize what it is and what it is not. We must remember that we have fellowship with each other as Christians because God created us to be that way.

So how do you find this fellowship when you're knee deep in diapers and toys? If you're reading this in the MOPS newsletter, you've made a great start. J. Another great idea is to look for other young mothers at your church. Is there another woman with a blanket over her shoulder and a baby on her lap? Introduce yourself. She's probably as eager as you are to find someone who understands her phase of life. When you pick your preschooler up from Sunday school, don't just run to your car. Introduce yourself to the other parent leading their child out of the room. And don't stop at young moms. What about that older woman who comes to the service alone? Maybe her grandchildren live out of town. Maybe she doesn't have grandchildren but would love to take on that role. You'll never know if you don't ask.

God calls us to community in all stages of life. In the stage most of us are in, it's especially important to have community with other adults just so our brains don't turn to mush. And those little eyes that are watching your every move? If they see you making time to develop deep relationships, they'll learn to do that too.
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Friendship

Some friendships are casual ones. We see each other at events or meetings and enjoy each other's company when we are together. We may even know a few details about each other's lives and families. But when the event is over, we go our separate ways and don't get together again until the next session.

Other friendships are for a season. Someone comes into our life for a specific reason or a specific period of time, and when that is over, the friendship fades away. Some of these friendships can grow quite deep and close, with sharing of interests, hopes, and dreams. But when its purpose has been accomplished or when life changes (moves, marriage etc.) occur, the contact lessens, and the friendship withers.

A few of our friendships become lasting ones. Ones that endure through good times and bad. This type of friendship requires work—a give and take between the parties. It may start as one of the other types of friendship, but deepens into a relationship that allows us to be fully ourselves.

Lasting friendships



have many good qualities. Here are but a few:

Forgiveness-

Every relationship has periods where you don't "like" one another.

In a lasting friendship, you know you'll get through that stage because of the unconditional love you have for each other through knowing each other's hearts.

Respect-

No two people agree 100% of the time. Respecting each other's opinions means listening to the other person, and sometimes it means agreeing to disagree on a particular topic. True friends are also **Reliable**—they will do what they said they would do when they said they would do it.

Integrity-

Real friends will be truthful and will be

kind in doing it. They will be loyal to you, defending you when you are not present or are not able to defend yourself. They will help you set boundaries and make sure you stick to them.

Encouraging-

True friends will build you up, not tear you down. If they must tell you something "bad", you can be sure they are doing it out of love because they are your biggest cheerleader and believe in you even when you don't believe in yourself.

Nice-

No one is perfect. A lifelong friend will give you **Nonjudgmental** feedback. They will help or at least try to help when help is really needed. They may do little things just because they were "thinking of you".

Dignity-

Friends will honor you in front of others by speaking highly of you and will not let oth



Continued from Page 5
ers gossip about or speak ill of you in their presence.

Support-

Through **Sharing** hopes, dreams, desires, past hurts and regrets, a friend will know your goals and what makes you tick. They will give what they can to help you reach your goals.

Honesty-

Friends are like mirrors, showing us clearly who we are. They will be direct and forthright. Intentions will be clear, and if something doesn't seem right, they will let you know in a loving manner.

Friends can also provide **Humor** for life's low moments. A true friend will know what makes you laugh.

Intuitive-

If something is bothering you, a friend will know what it is, through good listening skills. After knowing each other for a while, others may even think you can read each

others minds, when really it comes from learning about each other through the years and being mindful of what you have learned. As life changes occur, you may also have to find new **Interests** that you can share.

Patience-

Friends accept you where you are for who you are. They know you will make mistakes and are willing to overlook the minor ones (and sometimes the major ones too!) even if you make the same mistake repeatedly.

By Jennifer Robb. All rights reserved. jgrobbs@yahoo.com

From our Library Cart

The Friendships of Women by Dee Brestin contains practical advice from a thorough study of Biblical role models of friendship: David and Jonathan., Mary and Elizabeth, and Ruth and Naomi. David and Jonathan's friendship demonstrates "hesed," the Hebrew for "unfailing love." Ms. Brestin writes, "Hesed is



what we yearn for from the Lord and from one another.... We want the kindness of friends intertwined with the permanence of family."

Mary and Elizabeth's friendship encourages us towards mentoring relationships and gaining the wisdom, maturity, and perspective of older women. The Ruth and Naomi friendship displays how Ruth loved and helped Naomi out of a difficult time. Her friendship shows how to nurture a hurting friend.

Ms. Brestin's book also warns, "Any relationship, even that between a husband and wife, is in the danger zone when they look to each other for the completion they should have in Christ.... It's important to love our friends ...But we need to learn to be dependent, leaning, on God, because He's the only One Who will never betray us or die or move away."



Out of This World

Events for Kids around Town (Not associated with MOPS)

Tates Creek Public Library— **First Steps Storytime**, Wednesdays 10:30 AM, **free**, for kids 1-2 years old, or **Preschool Storytime Live**, Thursdays 10:30 AM, also **free**, for kids 3-5. They are very good at accepting younger siblings along, as well. If other library branches are closer to you, check <http://www.lexpublib.org> for locations and times.

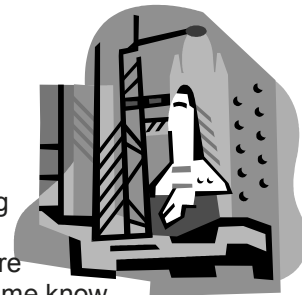
Musikgarten of Lexington—Great music and movement classes for 0-10 year olds. Call Jennifer Tutt at 245-5887.

Upcoming Missions

Special Events—Denise Bauer

Thursday, January 14 Moms & Kids, Gymboree

We'll meet at **Gymboree** (their **new location** is in South Elkhorn Village, off Harrodsburg Road behind Ramsey's) at 12:30 for some playtime, there is no cost for this event. Due to the size of the Gymboree facility, this event is limited to 20 children. If more children are signed up, we will have a lottery. If you sign up and find out you can't make it, please let me know ASAP so another child may attend.



Monday, January 18 Moms & Kids, Berkshire Trains

Not tired of **Thomas** yet? Join us at **Berkshire Trains** on Southland Drive at 10:00am for some fun playtime. If you've never been here, there are two train tables, a ride on train and each child gets a wooden train to paint and take home. Cost is \$2.00 per child (\$5.00 if they want to paint a larger train). Due to the size of the store, this event is limited to 12 children. If more children are signed up, we will have a lottery. If you sign up and find out you can't make it, please let me know ASAP so another child may attend.

Tuesday, January 19 Moms Night Out, Mad Potter

Want to show off your creative side? Join us for an evening of fun. We'll meet at the **Mad Potter** in the Lansdowne Shoppes at 7:00pm. You can make something for yourself, or start on something special for your Valentine. :-) Cost is determined by what piece you choose, you can spend as little at \$7.00 or as much as your VISA card allows!

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

January 2010

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

					1	2
3	4	5 Moms & Kids	6	7 Yoga 7:00 PM	8	9
10	11	12 MOPS 9:00	13	14 Gymboree 12:30	15	16
17	18 Berkshire Trains, 10	19 Mad Potter 7:00 PM	20	21	22	23
24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30

February 2010

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

	1	2	3 Monkey Joe's 10:30	4	5	6
7	8	9 MOPS 9:00	10	11	12	13
14	15 Critterland 10:00	16	17 Scrap and Snack 7:00	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 Step by Step Dinner	26 The Little Gym 1:00	27
28						