



Blueprints

the HOME factor—BEGIN HERE, GO THERE

“...he lives with you and will be in you.”- John 14:17

Welcome to MOPS!

October 2007

We have a lot of great activities planned for this year, and we look forward to supporting one another in friendship and love. Be sure to join me in giving a warm welcome to our new moms:

Brigitte Huffman (Luke)
Erin Pattison (Jacob)
Jenn Dick (Elijah & Ian)

Jennifer Grabowski (Ashley)
Michele Williams (Alysa, Alexis, & Anna)
Kami Claus (Brandon, Nicole, & Matthew)

Upcoming Events:

Oct. Mom's Night Out:

Game & Photo Night
Oct.. 11 @ 7:00 PM
Maria Malkin's House

MOPS Playgroup:

Fall Fun Day—Pajer's Farm
October 24 @ 1:00 PM

Nov. Outings:

Clothes Swap
Nov. 2 @ 6:00 PM

MOPS & POPS Night Out:

Comedy Club
Nov. 17th

Nothing Goes Unnoticed

I'm invisible. It all began to make sense, the blank stares, the lack of response, the way one of the kids will walk into the room while I'm on the phone and ask to be taken to the store. Inside I'm thinking, "Can't you see I'm on the phone?" Obviously not. No one can see if I'm on the phone, or cooking, or sweeping the floor, or even standing on my head in the corner, because no one can see me at all.

I'm invisible. Some days I am only a pair of hands, nothing more: Can you fix this? Can you tie this? Can you open this?

Some days I'm not a pair of hands; I'm not even a human being. I'm a clock to ask, "What time is it?" I'm a satellite guide to answer, "What number is the Disney Channel?" I'm a car to

order, "Right around 5:30, please."

I was certain that these were the hands that once held books and the eyes that studied history and the mind that graduated summa cum laude - but now they had disappeared into the peanut butter, never to be seen again.

She's going ... she's going ... she's gone!

One night, a group of us were having dinner, celebrating the return of a friend from England. Janice had just gotten back from a fabulous trip, and she was going on and on about the hotel she stayed in. I was sitting there, looking around at the others all put together so well. It was hard not to compare and feel sorry for myself as I looked down at

my out-of-style dress; it was the only thing I could find that was clean. My unwashed hair was pulled up in a banana clip and I was afraid I could actually smell peanut butter in it. I was feeling pretty pathetic, when Janice turned to me with a beautifully wrapped package, and said, "I brought you this."

It was a book on the great cathedrals of Europe. I wasn't exactly sure why she'd given it to me until I read her inscription: "With admiration for the greatness of what you are building when no one sees."

In the days ahead I would read - no, devour - the book. And I would discover what

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MOPS Mission Statement

MOPS International Exists to encourage, equip and develop every mother of preschoolers to realize her potential as a woman, mother and leader in the name of Jesus Christ.

Blueprints

There is only one way to bring up a child in the way that he should go and that is to travel that way yourself.

~ Abraham Lincoln



Calling All Volunteers:

The loving children of Trinity United Methodist Church MOPS are seeking child-care volunteers to staff the nursery during MOPS meetings, held the first and third Wednesdays of each month from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. MOPPETS could not work without the hard work and dedication of our volunteers. They provide love and encouragement to our little ones and are compensated with a healthy dose of preschool hugs and moms' undying gratitude. If you know someone that would like to help out in our MOPPETS classrooms, please contact Maria Malkin at 724.544.1398.

One-Minute Devotion: Lavish Love

Passage: 1 John 3:1-2

Additional Scripture

Readings: Psalm 66:20
John 1:12

The house is too quiet. Our intuition tells us something is wrong. We put our book down and begin to make rounds. The playroom is empty, as is the bathroom. We trudge downstairs to the kitchen and, coming around the corner, find our two-and-a-half-year-old baptizing the floor with vegetable oil. One step into the mess too late, we go whizzing across the floor and

skid to a stop at the counter. Looking down at the cherub, we want to strangle him. But he beams back at us and begins to baby-talk the excitement of his discovery. The humor of the moment strikes us. How can we be angry?

"How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!" (1 John 3:1). As much as we love our mischievous toddlers, our irresponsible grade-schoolers, our belligerent teenagers and our know-it-all young adults, God loves us even more. With the love of a par-

ent who loves a child regardless—God loves us. We trip over our stupidity and fall, making a mess of what God



has planned for us. The humor in the moment strikes him. How can he be angry? He loves us with the unchanging, lavish love of a Father.

Sibling Conflict: A Great Opportunity

"When the bickering gets too bad I just go in my room and shut the door!" one mom said in exasperation. The fact is that many parents believe the solution to arguing and bickering is to allow children to "fight it out."

That's one solution parents commonly use when their children start fighting. Other parents separate the children and try to keep them apart in order to maintain peace. They imitate a referee at a boxing match, breaking up the conflict and sending the fighters to their opposite corners. Unfortunately, continually separating children doesn't solve the problem. In fact, the children often come back again to fight some more.

We believe both of these solutions are inadequate because they lack the depth needed to bring about lasting change. When parents only separate the offenders or walk away,

they miss valuable opportunities to help their children grow.

Conflict with brothers and sisters is a child's first class in relationship school. Your home is the classroom, you are the teacher, and honor is the curriculum. Each conflict situation becomes an opportunity for teaching children how to get along.

When two children are fighting, call one out of the room and talk about how to deal with the conflict. Teach children how to confront, ignore, negotiate, compromise, talk about problems, and be peacemakers. Then send the child back into the situation to try again. If necessary, call the second child out and give helpful suggestions before trying again. Whatever you do, don't try to discipline them together. Kids have an amazing way of deflecting discipline when they are together.

Be listening to your children's interaction and continue to coach them in relationships. You may call the same child out of an activity five or ten times in an hour to continue to point out the change that needs to take place. Help children know what right actions are appropriate, and as long as they are willing to try to do the right thing, send them back into the situation to try again.

Use sibling conflict to teach about healthy relationships. It takes a lot of work but you'll be preparing your children to deal with the difficult relationships they'll encounter for the rest of their lives.

This parenting tip is taken from the book, "Say Goodbye to Whining, Complaining, and Bad Attitudes, In You and Your Kids."

Craft Time: Pumpkin Roll

Give your extra toilet tissue a festive look this Halloween.

Needed: Toilet tissue rolls, Orange fabric, Brown paper bag, Glue, 12-inch green pipe cleaners, Green felt leaves

Directions:

1. Set each roll in the center of a 22- by 18-inch piece of fabric, gather the fabric around it, and tuck the edges into the top hole (A).
2. For a stem, roll a strip of brown paper bag and glue the edge (B).
3. For a vine, glue one end of a pipe cleaner to a felt leaf, then curl the pipe cleaner around the stem (C). Insert the stem in the hole.



Trinity UMC Offers Parents Day Out

Parents Day Out is being offered from 12:30—3:00 PM the second and fourth Thursdays through May at Trinity United Methodist Church, 847 10th Ave., Brackenridge.

The free program provides an opportunity for parents of preschool children to run errands or go to appointments while certified volunteers take care of their children. For more information call the church at 724.224.7300. The church has implemented a Safe Sanctuary policy for the safety and security of children.

Games for kids online

<http://www.playhousedisney.com> - Mickey Mouse & Little Einsteins

<http://www.nickjr.com> - Kid's favorites such as Dora, Diego & Blues Clues

<http://pbskids.org/go/> - PBS Website for kids

<http://elouai.com/doll-makers/candybar-doll-maker.php> - Interactive Doll Maker

Fall Fun Day

**Wed., October 24, 2007
Pajer's Market, Sarver
1:00 —3:00 pm**

Our Fall Fun Day this year will be held at Pajer's Market in Sarver. Be sure to come decked out in your Halloween best! Activities will include: hay ride, maze, pick out your own pumpkin, and a treat bag. Cost is \$3 per child.

Help fill our MOPPET Fall Fun Day treat bags. This year we'd like to collect the Fall Fun Day treat bag treats by Discussion Group. Moms in Groups 1&2, please bring in something to cover 20 children that fall into the ages 2 and under. Moms in Groups 3&4, please bring in something to cover 20 children that fall into the ages 3+. Items need to be brought to the Oct. 17th MOPS Meeting. Treat bag items can include candy or non-candy items such as stickers, tattoos, playdough, etc.

Nothing Goes Unnoticed (Cont'd from pg.1)

would become for me, four life-changing truths, after which I could pattern my work: * No one can say who built the great cathedrals - we have no record of their names. * These builders gave their whole lives for a work they would never see finished. * They made great sacrifices and expected no credit. * The passion of their building was fueled by their faith that the eyes of God saw everything.

A legendary story in the book told of a rich man who came to visit the cathedral while it was being built, and he saw a workman carving a tiny bird on the inside of a beam. He was puzzled and asked the man, "Why are you spending so much time carving that bird into a beam that will be covered by the roof? No one will ever see it."

And the workman replied, "Because God sees."

I closed the book, feeling the missing piece fall into place. It was almost as if I heard God whispering to me, "I see you. I see the sacrifices you make every day, even when no one around you does. No act of kindness you've done, no sequin you've sewn on, no cupcake you've baked, is too small for me to notice and smile over. You are building a great cathedral, but you can't see right now what it will become."

At times, my invisibility feels like an affliction. But it is not a disease that is erasing my life. It is the cure for the disease of my own self-centeredness. It is the antidote to my strong, stubborn pride.

When I really think about it, I

don't want my son to tell the friend he's bringing home from college for Thanksgiving, "My mom gets up at 4 in the morning and bakes homemade pies, and then she hand bastes a turkey for three hours and presses all the linens for the table." That would mean I'd built a shrine or a monument to myself. I just want him to want to come home. And then, if there is anything more to say to his friend, to add, "You're gonna love it there."

As mothers, we are building great cathedrals. We cannot see if we're doing it right. And one day, it is very possible that the world will marvel, not only at what we have built, but at the beauty that has been added to the world by the sacrifices of invisible women.

- author unknown

Reminders

Meetings

Our meetings start at 9:30 and end at 11:30 at the Trinity United Methodist Church in Brackenridge, PA. Please plan on arriving in plenty of time to get your child comfortable in the childcare rooms, and also pick them up promptly when the meeting has ended. The first meeting of the month will be a discussion group and the second will be a speaker or a craft.

If you sign up for **Hospitality**, please remember to come a little early to help set up and stay a little late to help clean up.

Childcare

If anyone is bringing a friend to a meeting that is not registered, please contact Maria Malkin prior to the meeting to make sure there will be space available for their children. We are at maximum capacity right now and may not have enough volunteers available. If we don't have enough volunteers, they may be turned away.

Name Tags

Please remember to wear a name tag. If you do not have one, please make a paper tag to wear. Paper tags will be on the table when you first enter our meeting room.

Lending Library

Our lending library is available for all Moms to use. We have a great selection of books that you are welcome to borrow. Please take a look and feel free to donate any books that you may have to our library. Remember to return books on a timely basis.

Semester Dues

Fall Dues should be handed in ASAP. Dues are \$35.00. Checks can be made payable to Kathy McLafferty.

“The joys of motherhood are never fully experienced until the children are in bed.” - Unknown



October 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 BD Jennifer Dick	2 BD Sarah Cutler BD Daniel Edinger	3 MOPS Meeting 9:30-11:30 am	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 MOPS Steering Meeting 9:30-11:30 am	11 Mom's Night Out—Karaoke Night @ 7:00	12	13
14	15	16	17 MOPS Meeting 9:30-11:30 am BD Beth Pifer	18 BD June String-fellow	19	20
21	22 MOPS Pizza Hut Fundraiser	23 Longaberger Basket Party at Elena's	24 MOPS Fall Fun Day: Pajer's Market 1:00-?	25	26	27
28	29	30	31 HALLOWEEN			

= MOPS Activity

Thank Heavens for MOPS!

When my twins, Gage and Chase, were 4 months old, I walked into my first MOPS meeting at a church in Beaver Falls, PA. Recently, I'd heard about MOPS on a local radio station that broadcasted a daily "Focus on the Family" segment. That morning as we were out for a leisurely stroll I saw a MOPS sign in front of the church, turned my stroller toward the entrance and walked in because it just so happened that they were meeting right then.

I was at a point in my life where I felt in need of extra support because my reserve unit was getting activated and sending me off to the desert... thousands of miles from my home and family.

The meeting I walked into was their Tea & Testimony, and the women could not have been more warm and welcoming. Even though it was the last meeting of their year, they kept in contact with me over the summer as well as during my time in the desert that Fall... calling and emailing to find out how I was doing and to let me know they were thinking about me and had me always in their prayers. Even though they didn't know my husband, Mark, these wonderful women called him regularly to ask if he needed any babysitting help while I was away.

When we moved here I knew I needed to find another group like that, and as our MOPS Coordinator, my hope is that I can be there for the moms that come to our group the way that those women were there for me.

God Bless,

Maria Malkin
TUMC MOPS Coordinator

Trinity United
 Methodist Church

847 10th Ave.
 Brackenridge, PA 15014
 Phone: 724.224.7300
 Website:
www.orgsites.com/pa/mops

Steering Team

COORDINATOR:
 MARIA MALKIN

ASSISTANT COORDINATOR:
 KATHY MCLAFFERTY

DEVOTION/DISCUSSION:
 SHERRI SMITH

FINANCE:
 KATHY MCLAFFERTY

CRAFT:
 ELENA CARTER

SPEAKERS:
 BETH PIFER

HOSPITALITY:
 ELENA CARTER

PUBLICITY
 KIM VIVIRITO

MOPPETS:
 VACANT—SEE COORD.

ASSISTANT MOPPETS:
 VACANT—SEE COORD.

MONS NIGHT OUT/MEALS:
 SARAH CUTLER

MENTOR MOM:
 VACANT—SEE COORD.

TUMC PASTOR:
 PASTOR ALYCE

October Birthdays

We just wanted to wish a very HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our September birthdays! I hope you realize how special you are!!

MOMS:

Jennifer Dick—Oct. 1
 Sarah Cutler—Oct. 2
 Beth Pifer—Oct. 17

MOPPETS:

Daniel Edinger—Oct. 2
Volunteers:
 June Stringfellow—Oct. 18

MOPS Fall Fundraiser

ONE DAY ONLY EVENT... On Oct. 22nd, 20% of all orders at the Natrona Heights Pizza Hut (take out included) will go toward our MOPS group. Tickets need to accompany payment in order to track sales for us, so be sure to pick yours up at the next meeting and pass them out to everyone you know.

When: Monday, October 22, 2007

Where: Natrona Heights Pizza Hut

Time: All Day (open to close—includes take in/carryout/delivery)

Phone #: 724.224.8651

Ghoulish Treats

Spider Pretzels

These arachnid treats are easy to make and they look positively lifelike crawling across your child's snack plate.

For each:

2 round crackers
 2 tsp. smooth peanut butter
 8 small pretzel sticks
 2 raisins

With the peanut butter, make a cracker sandwich. Insert eight pretzel "legs" into the filling. With a dab of peanut butter, set two raisin "eyes" on top. Makes 1.

- As found on FamilyFun.com



Monster Toes

Kids will love the gross-out factor of this tasty finger food. Parents will love the fact that it is candy-free. Try some for a party or pre-trick-or-treating dinner.

Ingredients:

Cocktail wieners
 6-inch tortillas
 Ketchup or mustard
 Toothpicks



Heat oven to 350 degrees. Cut a wedge into the end of each cocktail wiener to make a toenail. Cut the tortillas into strips about 4 inches long and 3/4 inch wide. Discard ends. Soften the strips in the microwave between damp paper towels for 10-30 sec. Roll each wiener in a tortilla strip and secure with a toothpick. Bake for 7-8 min. Remove them from the oven, then fill the toenail with ketchup or mustard. Remove the toothpicks before serving.

- As found on FamilyFun.com

MOPS Service Opportunities

Do you love MOPS? Would you like to assist with planning an activity or join the Steering Team? If so, please contact Maria Malkin (724.544.1398) and let her know.

Remember, God doesn't call the equipped, He equips the called.

Newsletter Contributions

Anyone wishing to have something put in the newsletter can contact Kim V. at kvivirito@verizon.net or call me at 724.224.4967. I welcome anything from recipes, poems, and helpful hints, cleaning tips, etc... let's all share our ideas with others!

Stay informed: Our MOPS website is updated weekly with upcoming events, including Mom's Night Out & Play Dates. Check us out at www.orgsites.com/pa/mops. An electronic version of this newsletter is also available on the website.