



# Blueprints

the HOME factor—BEGIN HERE, GO THERE

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

November 2007

## Upcoming Events:

**Nov. Mom’s Night Out:**  
MOPS & POPS Night Out:  
Nov. 17th Game Night @  
Sherrri’s House

**MOPS Annual Shopping &  
Breakfast Extravaganza**  
Nov. 23rd BEFORE DAWN

**MOPS Playgroup:**  
Nov. 28th @ 10:00 AM  
Location TBA

**Dec. Outings:**  
Mom’s Night Out—  
Christmas Party Dec. 15th

## Welcome to MOPS!

We have a lot of great activities planned for this year, and we look forward to supporting one another in friendship and love.

## MOPS & POPS Night Out

Our MOPS & POPS Night Out this Fall is going to be game night at Sherrri’s House. Directions will be provided on request.

Drop off babysitting starts at 5:00 PM at Trinity UMC (our MOPS church). The cost is \$6.00 per child. Pick up time is 10:00 PM.

We’ll be ordering in food when we get there so be sure to have some cash in hand. It will be BYOB&G (bring your own beer & games) to share.

Hope to see you there!

## Fall Fundraiser— Take Two

For “Take Two” of our Fall Fundraiser, we’ll be selling Tastefully Simple products. If you haven’t already received your packet, please see Kathy or Elena.

Orders will be due at the Nov. 21st meeting. Kathy McLafferty and Elena Carter will be collecting orders at the table in the back of the room.

Our goal for the group is \$700 in profit and the goal per person is \$115 in product. As an alternative to selling the Tastefully Simple products, you can opt-out and just give \$40.00.

## Inside this issue:

- Upcoming MOPS Activities 1
- 1-Minute Devotion: Best Intentions 2
- Parenting Babies 2
- Craft Time: Pilgrim Friend 3
- TUMC Offers Parents Day Out 3
- Thank Heavens for MOPS 4
- November Birthdays 5
- New Recipe: Haystack Supper 5

## Christmas Party Hostess Needed

HOSTESS NEEDED—Our Annual Mom’s Only Christmas Party is scheduled for Dec. 15th. If there is anyone that would be able and willing to host this year’s bash, please contact Maria Malkin or Kathy McLafferty. As the host, you would need to supply paper products (i.e., napkins, cups, etc.) and drinks. You’ll be provided with \$20.00 from the MOPS budget to put toward these items. Food will be supplied by those attending the party.

## 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

Want to get rich quick

Count your blessings!

Children are a lot like wet cement. Whatever falls on them makes an

impression.—Haim Ginott

## One-Minute Devotion: Best Intentions

**Passage:** 1 Corinthians 10:12-13

**Additional Scripture Readings:** Philippians 1:6  
Hebrews 13:21

**W**e want to provide extra income for our family, so we take on a home-based job. Our children constantly interrupt and we find ourselves hollering, grouchy and running on empty. We want to lose fifty pounds, so we take diet pills and skip meals. Consequently, we're shaky and irritable. We plan to

spend quality time in the Bible, but when we sit down, our minds are assaulted by our to-do lists.



Here's where we make our mistake, we who are pilgrims in progress, walking toward God. We think that because we set a

good goal and are intent on reaching it, the road ahead will be easy. But the truth is, because we are focused, Satan will try all the harder to intercept us along the way. Our best intentions will always result in our enemy's great interference. Paul's encouraging words in 1 Corinthians 10:13 remind us that God wants us to succeed. He's on our side!

Want to grow? Get ready to face temptation!

## Parenting Babies

Parenting is a complicated job with very few easy answers. When parents try to simplify the job by setting policies they think will last for years, they are making a serious mistake.

One mom said about her one-month-old son, "I'm going to stop the teenage rebellion right here." She proceeded to set some pretty strict rules about feeding and sleep times.

An important thing to understand about children is that they grow through stages of development. At each stage their needs are different. A young baby must have physical and emotional needs met continually in order to develop a sense of security and to view the world as a safe place. Teens need something completely different as they try to develop their own value system and decide who they are going to be as adults.

Because children go through stages, parents must make several shifts in their parenting. Just because you allow your infant to eat "on demand" doesn't mean that she'll be demanding when she grows up. Several stages of growth and maturity will take place between now and then. You'll want to change the way you parent according to your child's developmental needs.

If your infant is having trouble sleeping, he might benefit from more love and cuddle time. Getting on a schedule will come but we're not just trying to establish authority in a baby's life. We're also helping an infant feel good about being in the world and relating to others in it. There will come a time when you recognize that your child needs to develop some independence at night or to get on a schedule for feed-

ing. When those times come then be ready to make the changes necessary.

Before we are able to effectively set limits, we first need to establish relationship. Infancy is a time to bond and learn the foundations of communication. We want our babies to know some one cares about them and their needs.

Firmness and tight boundaries are important as a child grows but be careful about sacrificing love and security needs in the process.

*Parenting Tip from the National Center for Biblical Parenting Email Newsletter Nov. 5, 2007 .*

*For more practical ideas on working with infants and toddlers, check out the audio CD series, "Parenting Toddlers" available at [www.biblicalparenting.org](http://www.biblicalparenting.org).*



## 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.

## Family Devotional Websites

<http://biblicalparenting.org/Familytime.asp>: Preschool Family Devotions by Kirk Weaver

<http://geocities.com/Heartland/Park/2601/Food.htm>: Children Snack Time Devotions

<http://biblekidsfunzone.com/devotions/00sundayschoollessons.html>: Preschooler Devotions

## Craft Time: Pilgrim Friend

This year, make room for a new Thanksgiving friend. With a few simple materials, you and your child can create a dashing dressed Pilgrim guest for the holiday.

**CRAFT MATERIALS:** Craft glue, 4 1/2- by 6-inch rectangle of tan paper, Cardboard toilet tissue tube, Black and white felt, 1-inch pieces of yarn, Markers, A pipe cleaner, Silver paper, Scissors,

**TIME NEEDED:** About 2 to 3 Hours



1. **Body and Head:** Glue the tan paper around the cardboard tube, then glue a piece of black felt (ours is 2 1/2 inches wide) around the lower portion of the tube for a jacket. Next, glue on a notched 6 1/4- by 1-inch strip of white felt for a collar and yarn pieces for hair, then use the markers to draw on facial features.
2. **Arms:** Cut the pipe cleaner in two, then trim 1 inch from each half. Set aside these smaller pieces. Glue each of the large pipe cleaner pieces between two 3 1/2-inch strips of black felt, letting the end of the pipe cleaner extend past the edge of the felt. Bend each pipe cleaner end into a hand shape, then glue the arms in place on each side of the tube.
3. **Legs:** Place each of the 1-inch pipe cleaner pieces at the end of a long strip of black felt, as shown at left. Top with a matching felt strip and glue the strips together. Glue two felt boot shapes together over the end of the pipe cleaner foot, then glue the top of each leg inside the cardboard tube.
4. **Hat:** Glue a 1-inch-wide strip of black felt around the top of the cardboard tube. For a brim, cut out a 3-inch circle of black felt, then cut a 1 3/4-inch circle from its center. Slide the brim down to the bottom edge of the felt strip and glue it in place. Then glue the smaller felt circle to the top of the tube. Finally, cut three small buckles from the silver paper and glue them to your Pilgrim Pal's hat and shoes.

- Found on [FamilyFun.com](http://FamilyFun.com) website

## Funnies: Kids In Church

3-year-old Reese:

"Our Father, Who does art in heaven, Harold is His name. Amen."

A little boy was overheard praying: "Lord, if you can't make me a better boy, don't worry about it. I'm having a real good time like I am."

After the christening of his baby brother in church,

Jason sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car.

His father asked him three times what was wrong. Finally, the boy replied, "That preacher said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home, and I wanted to stay with you guys."

One particular four-year-old prayed, "And forgive us our trash baskets as we forgive those who put trash in our baskets."

A Sunday school teacher asked her children as they were on the way to church service, "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?"

One bright little girl replied, "Because people are sleeping."

A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin 5, and Ryan 3.

The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake.

Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson.

"If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, 'Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait.'

Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, "Ryan, you be Jesus!"

A wife invited some people to dinner. At the table, she turned to their six-year-old daughter and said, "Would you like to say the blessing?"

"I wouldn't know what to say," the girl replied.

"Just say what you hear Mommy say," the wife answered.

The daughter bowed her head and said, "Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"

## 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.

## Volunteers for MOPS Steering

We are in need a volunteer for our monthly MOPS Steering Meeting that falls on the second Wednesday of each month. If we had several people that could volunteer, they would only have help out once or twice before the end of our MOPS year in May.

The meetings run the same times as our regular meetings, from 9:30—11:30 AM.

If you or someone you know would like to help out in our MOPPETS classroom, please contact Maria Malkin at 724.544.1398.

## 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.

*I never knew how much love  
my heart could hold until  
someone called me  
'Mommy.'* - Unknown



# November 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7  MOPS Meeting (Disc./Devotion) 9:30-11:30 am	8 Parents Day Out Trinity UMC 12:30—3:00 PM	9	10
11	12	13	14  MOPS Steering Meeting 9:30-11:30 am	15	16	17  Mom & Pop's Night Out
18	19	20	21  MOPS Meeting (Craft) 9:30-11:30 am (Turn in fundraiser)	22 Thanksgiving Day	23  Annual MOPS Shopping & Break- fast Extravaganza	24
25	26	27	28  MOPS Playgroup 10 am—noon	29	30	

 = MOPS Activity

## I need MOPS more and more...

When Stephane was born and we found out about her disability I felt alone, I knew I need other mothers to help me through this. When I finally found our MOPS group in April 2005, it was an answered pray. I walked into the meeting and knew this was a place for me and that God was present. Even though there was only a few meeting left in that year for them, they welcomed me with open arms and accepted me.

This group has given me life long friendships, bonds that will never break, support through rough and great times and most of all love. I know I can call anyone and they will be there to help. I do not even have that with my own family. I thank each and everyone of you for making this a great MOPS group. My hope for this group is that we can be there for other mothers who needs support.

Thank you and Blessing in Christ,

*Kathy McLafferty*

TUMC MOPS Asst. Coordinator/Finance

## November Birthdays

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

### MOPPETS:

Joseph Cutler—Nov 3                      Chase Malkin—Nov 11  
 Gage Malkin—Nov 11                      Stephane McLafferty—Nov 25

## MOPS Annual Shopping & Breakfast Extravaganza

There's no better way to kick off the holiday season than to shop 'til you drop... with your MOPS friends!

Join us Friday Nov. 23rd—BEFORE DAWN—for a shopping session at the Pittsburgh Mills. Whether you haven't started your Christmas shopping yet or are already done, it's a fun time for all. Mid to late morning we'll stop and have breakfast together (last year was the Eat 'N Park breakfast buffet... yummy!) and then you can head home or continue shopping. Starting time and location will be determined closer to the event. We hope to see you!



### 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!

### Trinity United Methodist Church

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

## Haystack Supper

### Ingredients:

20 Saltine Crackers  
 1 cup Cooked Rice  
 1 lb ground beef  
 ½ onion, chopped  
 1 small can of tomato juice (6 oz)  
 1/3 cup water  
 1 ½ Tbs Taco Seasoning  
 Seasoned salt, salt and pepper to taste  
 2 cup shredded lettuce  
 2 medium tomatoes, diced  
 ¼ cup butter or margarine  
 2 cups of milk  
 1 pound process American cheese cubed  
 1 ½ cups shredded sharp cheddar cheese  
 ½ jar stuffed olives, drained and sliced  
 1 package tortilla chips

### Directions:

Place crackers in a 13 x 9 baking dish. Top with rice. In a skillet cook beef and onion until meat is no longer pink; drain. Add tomato juice, water and seasoning; simmer for 15-20 minutes. Spoon over rice. Sprinkle with lettuce and tomatoes. In a saucepan melt butter. Stir in flour until smooth. Gradually add milk. Bring to boil; cook and stir for 2 minutes. Reduce heat; stir in American cheese until melted. Pour over the tomatoes. Top with cheddar cheese and olives. Serve with chips. Refrigerate any leftovers.

- Contributed by Kathy McLafferty

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](http://www.orgsites.com/pa/mops). An electronic version of this newsletter is also available on the website.