



# Blueprints

the HOME factor—BEGIN HERE, GO THERE

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

December 2007

## Upcoming Events:

### Dec. Mom's Night Out:

Mom's Only Christmas Party  
Saturday, Dec. 15th @ 6:00

### MOPS Playgroup:

None scheduled for Dec.

### Jan. Outings:

Mom's Night Out  
Jan 11th—Movie Night

MOPS Playgroup  
Jan 23rd @ 10:00 AM  
Maria Malkin's House

## 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.

## Mom's Only Christmas Party

Our Mom's Only Christmas Party is on **Saturday, December 15th at 6:00 PM** this year. Michelle Williams has offered to be our hostess. Directions to her house will be provided.

There will be a sign up sheet at the first meeting in December where you can sign up with what you'll be bringing to share. We'll be doing appetizers and desserts.

Hope to see you there!

## Fall Fundraiser— The Results Are In!

We made it!

We needed to raise \$700 to cover our expenses for the remainder of our year and get us ready for next year and we reached our goal! We actually even have a little to spare as well. Our total was \$705.00!

The orders will be passed out at our first December meeting. If you're unable to pick up your order at the first meeting, contact Kathy McLafferty.

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## New TUMC Mentor Mom

After several years of waiting and praying, we have found a Mentor Mom... Jane Stiller!

Jane grew up in the New Kensington-Arnold area, graduating from the Arnold campus of Valley High School in 1969. A year after graduating she married and soon became the proud

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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

*A mother is not a person to lean on, but a person to make leaning unnecessary.*

- Dorothy Canfield Fisher

## One-Minute Devotion: A Mother's Friends

**Passage:** Luke 1:39-45

**Additional Scripture**

**Readings:** Ruth 1:16-17

Proverbs 17:17

**M**ost of us fondly remember our childhood best friend, a friend with whom we shared secrets, wrote notes and had weekend sleep-overs.

During the days of mothering children, moms need solid friendships. We long for intimacy. In plain language, intimacy is being understood by another. It means "into-me-

see."

Elizabeth understood Mary and



her situation and lovingly took her into her heart and home. When Mary turned to Elizabeth, she drew strength from the common challenge they faced of upcoming mother-

hood. In touching Elizabeth's swollen belly, Mary grew in her understanding of what to expect of her own body. In watching Elizabeth give birth to a child who would become a man used by God, Mary prepared her spirit to meet her own future as the mother of Immanuel.

Through all the confusing and exhilarating months and years of mothering, a woman needs friends—Elizabeths who can understand us and remind us that we are not alone.

## Teaching Cooperation

We all want cooperation from our children and many parents are disappointed when they don't get it, but do we take time to teach it? Cooperation involves give and take. As parents, we are more than willing to give, expecting that our children will give sometimes too. Unfortunately, some children don't know how to give; they only take. Any negotiation has to have something in it for the child or he won't work with you, and if he does agree to work, he'll do so with a bad attitude. That's not cooperation, that's coercion.

If you have a child who doesn't know how to cooperate, maybe you need to use a technique we call, "Obey first and

then we'll talk about it." This technique simply reverses the sequence of two important elements, discussion and responsiveness. A person who knows how to cooperate can be responsive and give in without necessarily having a personal benefit. The enjoyment of a pleasant relationship is the reward and sacrifice is a way to gain it.

Some parents try to talk their children into following instructions or have discussions to help them want to obey. These children often can't follow a simple instruction without a dialogue and grow up to make poor team members, difficult employees, and demanding friends.

Some parents who see a need for their children to give, not just take, require obedience by saying, "Because I'm the parent, that's why." We believe that although these parents may have a handle on the problem, their solution is inadequate. We simply suggest that a child may need a period of time where following instructions

comes before the discussion to foster the ability to give up one's agenda without always having to get something out of it.

When Jenny is asked to get on her pajamas and responds with, "But I'm not tired," Mom may say, "Jenny, I'd like you to obey first and then we'll talk about it." After Jenny obeys, then a discussion about bedtime may take place. It's surprising though, how many children don't feel the need for a discussion afterwards. Dialogue for them was simply an attempt to delay or avoid obedience.

If your children are having trouble cooperating, try "Obey first and then we'll talk about it" for a while and you'll see a noticeable difference.

*This parenting tip is taken from the book, "Say Goodbye to Whining, Complaining, and Bad Attitudes, In You and Your Kids" by Dr Scott Turansky and Joanne Miller, RN, BSN.*



MOTHERS OF  
**MOPS**  
PRESCHOOLERS®  
*...because mothering matters*

### 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.

## Craft Time: Hands and Feet Reindeer Craft

An easy to make reindeer craft for a Christmas party or with your children at home.

**CRAFT MATERIALS:** Large plastic eyes, Large red pom-poms (glitter pom-poms are a fun addition!), Brown construction paper, craft foam or cardstock paper, Lighter brown or tan paper for the ears (optional), Construction paper in any color; optional if you would like to glue the reindeer onto another piece of paper.

### HOW TO MAKE IT:

First, with one shade of brown, cut the antlers and reindeer, using your child's handprint and shoeprint as a pattern. Then, cut the ears with the other brown. We used a lighter shade of brown to add yet another layer to the ears but that's not necessary. Glue the antlers together at a slight angle. Then add the ears and glue the head on last. Glue the eyes and nose to the head and add a smile with a marker.

It's that simple!

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



## Family Cooking Websites

**www.relishrelish.com:** Relish! serves up affordable meal planning and we supply all the essentials, from easy-to-follow grocery shopping lists to fresh, simple-gourmet dinners.

**www.cookingwithkids.com** - cooking with a section full of recipes to please the whole family—but the easy-to-follow instructions are specially written with kids in mind.

**www.thesneakychef.com** - Do your kids refuse to eat their vegetables? Tired of begging and bribing? Want peace at the dinner table?

## Mentor Mom—Jane Stiller

*(cont'd from page 1)*

mom of two wonderful sons, Ron and Todd Kobelenske.

In July of this year, Ron and his wife, Rosie (Costanza) presented her with a new grandson, Alexander Joseph. Todd and his wife Courtney (Smith) have presented her with two beautiful granddaughters, Emma Rae 5 and Cora Lee 2.

In 1986, after years of making bad decisions and living with the consequences of those decisions, she was presented with the opportunity to accept Jesus Christ as her Lord and

Savior. "That was the single most profound event of my life," Jane says.

In 1991, Jane was remarried to her husband Ed. "I have learned all I know about true love from this man. He is the love of my life and truly the "rest of me."

Her most important personal accomplishments include serving as Supervisor of Volunteers in Western PA and then, with her husband, being named Volunteers of the Month with Compassion International; being a member of the Lay Witness Mission—a team of evangelists who, by invitation, travel

to churches giving testimony of Christ Jesus; and being Coordinator of Women's Ministries at her home church.

The most awe-inspiring events of her life were a 3-day trip to Lima, Peru, to visit her sponsored child from Compassion International, and being the first one to hear her dad say he had accepted Jesus Christ as his Savior.

We welcome Jane to our MOPS group and look forward to her presence and insight into motherhood.

Welcome Jane!

## 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.


*Your children need your presence more than you presents.*

*- Jesse Jackson*



# December 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2	3	4	5  MOPS Meeting (Disc./Devotion) 9:30-11:30 am	6	7	8
9	10	11	12  MOPS Steering Meeting 9:30-11:30 am	13 Parents Day Out Trinity UMC 12:30—3:00 PM	14	15  Moms Only Christmas Party
16	17	18	19  MOPS Meeting (Craft) 9:30-11:30 am (Turn in fundraiser)	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 Parents Day Out Trinity UMC 12:30—3:00 PM	28	29
30	31					

 = MOPS Activity

## I need MOPS more and more...

I have been in MOPS for a very long time-- since Kyle was a baby and that was 9 years ago! First I attended to learn about mothering and get good ideas etc. Soon after I joined MOPS steering and God opened up a whole new world for me. I began to use skills I didn't get to use in mothering and to learn new skills by writing newsletters and being coordinator for my Michigan group. I also love that I have a chance to share with other moms the joy, love, and acceptance I've found in Jesus.

But lately, MOPS has meant so much more to me. I can truly say I have made great friends in this group and at a time when I need them more than anything. Recently, I called a MOPS mom crying and within a half an hour there was a caravan of minivans and cars in my driveway with moms carrying in toddlers, diaper bags, and pizza—this is what MOPS is all about! Don't be afraid to open up to this group of women, before you know it they will be ringing your doorbell with pizza in hand too!

Love you gals!

*Sherrí Smith*

TUMC MOPS Discussion/Devotion

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

## December Birthdays

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

**Moms:**

Tanya Schachte—Dec. 9th

**MOPPETS:**

Adam Gimbel—Dec. 24th

Jesse Maloney—Dec. 28th

## MOPS Christmas Party

It is time again for our annual Christmas Party with the children. It will be on December 19th, during our normal MOPS time.



We will have a visitor from the North Pole, music, activities and crafts for the moms to do with their children... and of course food.

Hope everyone will be able to make it!

## Apple Skillet Pancakes

Weekends are for waking up to the delightful smells of homemade pancakes and maple syrup. These apple-flavored flapjacks are quick and easy to bake. Simply prepare the apples ahead of time, reheat them before adding batter and pop them in the oven.

**Ingredients:**

- 3 eggs
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) milk
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) all purpose flour
- 1 tbsp. (15 mL) granulated sugar
- 1 tsp. (5 mL) vanilla
- 2 tbsp. (30 mL) butter
- 3 medium apples, peeled, cored and sliced
- 1/4 cup (50 mL) brown sugar
- powdered sugar for dusting
- maple syrup, if desired

**Directions:**

Preheat the oven to 500 degrees F (260 degrees C). In the container of a blender or food processor, combine the eggs, milk, flour, granu-

lated sugar and vanilla. Blend until smooth, scraping down the sides of the container to make sure everything is evenly blended. Set aside.

Melt the butter over medium-high heat in a 10-inch (25-cm) nonstick skillet that can go into the oven. When the butter is foamy, add the sliced apples and the brown sugar. Cook, stirring occasionally, for about 10 minutes or until the apples are tender and beginning to brown. Remove from heat.

Pour the mixture from the blender over the apples in the pan and place the pan into the preheated oven. Immediately reduce the oven temperature to 425 degrees F (220 degrees C). Bake for 16 to 18 minutes, or until the batter is browned and slightly puffed. Remove from oven and dust with powdered sugar. Cut into wedges and serve with maple syrup, if desired.

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