



The Front Porch



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Issue 1, September 11th, 2007 Peace Edition

Good morning and welcome to another year in MOPS! We are very much looking forward to what this year has to offer. It is so comforting to be able to come to MOPS and be surrounded by so many other moms who are experiencing similar struggles and joys of mothering.

This year's theme is: **the HOME factor: BEGIN HERE ... GO THERE.** As moms, we want to create homes where our families can thrive and grow. The theme will deepen our understanding and help us to create a cocoon of home using the following ideas:

Our homes are where we bond, cocoon, and build inwardly.

Our homes are where we refuel so that we can live fully in the world beyond.

Our homes are a picture of Jesus' dwelling within us.

We welcome you to join us for each meeting to get to know other moms, to share ideas and discuss opinions, and to enjoy yourself! We look forward to getting to know each of you during our year together. We also welcome any feedback that you have about our MOPS meetings – we are constantly working to make MOPS an enjoyable place for all mothers with young children.

Love,
Megan VanDerPuy and Minda Roscelli



Check out our new Website!
www.orgsites.com/wa/gccmops

The Living Room

...where you experience life and spiritual growth



Good Morning, Ladies!

Welcome back to MOPS after what I hope was a fun, energizing summer for you and your family. It feels like the end of summer and almost the start of fall as we meet together again to talk about being a mom and a wife, supporting each other, encouraging each other and just having some fun together!

For all of the new gals... I hope you'll quickly notice that each one of us is glad that you are joining us. You can all look forward to an interesting speaker each week, a craft, brunch, and a discussion among all the gals at your table. You can look forward to seeing the same group of gals each time at your table and occasionally a "girls night out" with your group outside of MOPS. Your table leader will talk to you about all of these things today and you will fill out a little paperwork too.

Your table leader(s) and mentor moms are available by phone and email all during the year if you have any questions or suggestions. The numbers are in this newsletter and also in your info packet.

This year's theme for MOPS is "Start here, end there." This theme gave most of us pause, trying to decide exactly what it means. The verse gives us a place to start with the meaning: *John 14:17 ...for he lives with you and will be in you.* If you look at the logo below, you'll notice that a home figures prominently. We can interpret the theme many ways, beginning with a home. Perhaps the home reminds some of us of our home we were born into... and ending where we are now. Another thought is the home might be where we are now (our current home with our husband and children) and we can imagine what it will mean for us to "start" here and the journey it will take to "end there" for us and for our children.

MOPS is, I believe, a really important part of that journey. Together, we will all learn ways to teach, to lead, to nurture, to encourage, to discipline and correct... and much more. I am thrilled that we are beginning this journey together and have an entire MOPS year to learn and enjoy!

I look forward to meeting each and every one of you... come by the pink table and say "hello" and I will reach out too!

Welcome!

Ramona



the HOME factor
BEGIN HERE... GO THERE

"...for he lives with you and will be in you." John 14:17



The Welcome Mat

“The ornament of a house is the friends who frequent it.” – Ralph Waldo Emerson



*Megan VanDerPuy,
MOPS Coordinator
for Peace*

1. Husband's name, years married? Abe and I have been married for 8 years.
2. What are your children's names, ages & any info you'd like to share about them? Owen is 4 and loves anything and everything to do with animals. He's already decided to be a zookeeper when he grows up. Lauren is 2 and is the perfect combination of girly-girl and tomboy. She loves to carry around her dolly and purse, wearing her jewelry one minute, and then she's off catching bugs and frogs with Owen the next.
3. How do you like to spend time as a family? Since Abe coaches, we spend a lot of time in the football stands or in the gym. We love anything that has to do with sports, as well as spending time outside.
4. What are your hobbies/passions? I love to scrapbook, cook, or spend time in the sunshine with a good book or magazine. Housework comes in second when I have a spare moment for myself!
5. What did you do before you were a Mom? Before I was a mom I was a teacher. Some days I feel like our 2 kids are too much to handle, then I think back to when I had a classroom full and wonder how I did it!
6. How long have you been part of the MOPS ministry and what is the best part of MOPS? This will be my 5th year in MOPS. I love helping the moms connect with other moms who are in the same stage in life.

Taking our theme for this year into account: What did you take from your childhood "Begin Here," that you are currently implementing in your life for your family today "Go There"? I grew up with God as part of our family's everyday life. We went to church, listened to Sandi Patty, prayed, and talked about Jesus. Now that we're the parents, we are trying to do the same for our kids. We read Bible stories and pray at bedtime, talk about heaven, and listen to Veggie Tales (over and over!) Although they may not be the most in-depth activities and talks, we want to show our kids how much God is part of our daily life now, just as it was when we were younger.



*Jenifer Kelto,
MOPS Crafts
for Peace*

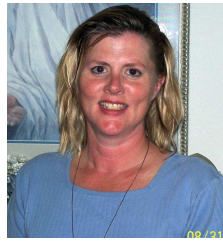
1. Husband's name, years married? Eric. 12 years on December 2nd!!
2. What are your children's names, ages & any info you'd like to share about them? Elizabeth 8 and Evelyn 3.
3. How do you like to spend time as a family? We like unstructured playtime. My husband is a big goofball, so we just hang out and act silly with the girls!
4. What are your hobbies/passions? Cake decorating, scrap booking, creating new cooking & baking recipes, and more recently making jewelry. I'm also in the process of writing and illustrating a book about Elizabeth. (Wow re-reading that sounds so ambitious! Really, I get ½ an hour a week to work on it while she has her karate lesson! Ha Ha!)
5. What did you do before you were a Mom? I worked at the corporate offices of Starbucks (maybe you've heard of them? They are a little coffee company out of Seattle) as a supervisor in the I.T. dept.
6. How long have you been part of the MOPS ministry and what is the best part of MOPS? Last year was my first year. The best part is the friendships I've made with other moms. We had a great table leader (Hi Melissa!) who still organizes monthly girl's nights out. She ROCKS!
7. Taking our theme for this year into account, what did you take from your childhood "Begin Here," that you are currently implementing in your life for your family today "Go There"? Looking back over my life I am amazed at how God's love has changed me for the better. I realize that I am a better person because of the trials and blessings He has given me. I see this theme, as a reminder that everyday is a new beginning. And that every day I should reflect on how much God has done for me and continues to "go there" by making the right choices in my everyday life.





*Candace
MOPS Discussion
Group Leader,
for Peace*

1. Husband's name, years married?
Albert, married for 5 years.
2. What are your children's names, ages & any info you'd like to share about them? Brooke is 2 and Jonas is 10 months.
3. How do you like to spend time as a family? All of us in the same room! Brooke would prefer to play Candy Land, Jonas walking around, Albert playing x-box, and I enjoy participating in all of the above. ☺
4. What are your hobbies/passions? When I have time for a hobby, I enjoy playing soccer and my passion is to raise children who follow after God's heart.
5. What did you do before you were a Mom? I graduated from college. ☺
6. How long have you been part of the MOPS ministry and what is the best part of MOPS? This will be my fourth year in MOPS. My second year I was a table leader and the last year and this year I am a discussion group leader.
7. Taking our theme for this year into account, what did you take from your childhood "Begin Here," that you are currently implementing in your life for your family today "Go There"? I hope that my husband and I are successful in helping our children find the firm foundation that they have in God. No matter what happens in life or the decisions we make, His steadiness never ceases.



*Michelle
MOPS Finance,
for Peace*

1. Husband's name, years married? George, 15 wonderful years
2. What are your children's names, ages & any info you'd like to share about them? Rachel, my shy but smart and beautiful girl, is 7; Josh, my compassionate, very giving, and somewhat outgoing boy, is 6; Aaron, my 'Mr. Personality' who's always entertaining us and has a smile that will melt hearts someday, is 3; and Caleb, my very busy boy, also with an amazing smile (he really likes to flirt with 'older' women), who still has time for quick hugs from Mommy, is 18 months.
3. How do you like to spend time as a family? Every Friday night is taco and movie night, and Sunday afternoons are family time. We also love to play games and Daddy and I try to read to our kiddos (Daddy at bedtime; me during the day) every day. When vacationing, the beach is our favorite family spot.
4. What are your hobbies/passions? I love to read, organize, and go for walks (I've been trying to get into running, but it's a challenge). I really love card-making and would like to get into scrap booking, but just can't seem to find the time.
5. What did you do before you were a Mom? I am an accountant by trade so did the whole 'career thing' prior to kids, but still do bookkeeping on the side. I was also very involved in prayer ministry at my church.
6. How long have you been part of the MOPS ministry and what is the best part of MOPS? This is my 4th year in MOPS; I LOVE it! It's very encouraging to be able to have a conversation with someone who knows exactly what I'm talking about, and it's nice to be able to bear each other's burdens and 'lift' one another up.
7. Taking our theme for this year into account: What did you take from your childhood "Begin Here," that you are currently implementing in your life for your family today "Go There"? Two things come to mind: one I had and one I missed. The first is God. I wasn't raised in a Christian family and always felt like something was missing; but I never knew just what that was. Nor did I have the peace and security of leaning on Jesus when things went awry. Now that I know how wonderful it is to have that, it will never be voided from my children's lives. We grab EVERY opportunity to either include Jesus or point our children to Him, so that He is living and breathing in our family. For example, whenever we hear an ambulance or fire truck, one of our children quickly pipe up a prayer for whoever is at the destination. When the kids fall down and get a 'boo-boo', before we kiss it, we pray out loud and ask Jesus to help to make their 'owies' all better; so they know that while Mommy's kisses do help some, Jesus is the one who heals. The 2nd is love. My family was what most would call dysfunctional, but even in that; I never doubted my mother's love for me. I want my kids to know I'm their biggest fan and even when they disobey or fail, my love for them is unchanging.



*Tracie
Publicity Webmaster
for Peace and Joy*



*Sandi
MOPPETS
for Peace and Joy*

1. Husband's name, years married? Jon, married 5 years
2. What are your children's names, ages & any info you'd like to share about them? Nathan, 14 months old. He LOVES being outside exploring - just like his dad!
3. How do you like to spend time as a family? We hike, camp and like to travel.
4. What are your hobbies/passions? I like to cross-stitch, read and scrapbook.
5. What did you do before you were a Mom? I worked for Nordstrom, in their corporate offices, managing data moving electronically in/out and within the company.
6. How long have you been part of the MOPS ministry and what is the best part of MOPS? Last year was my first year in MOPS. The best part about MOPS is the chance to meet new friends and to have adult conversations.
7. Taking our theme for this year into account, what did you take from your childhood "Begin Here," that you are currently implementing in your life for your family today "Go There"? Reading to Nathan daily. My mom read to my brother and I well into our Jr. high years, sparking our imagination and instilling a love for reading.

Please visit www.orgsites.com/wa/gccmops to read this Newsletter in full color version.



1. Husband's name, years married? Rich, 21 years. We met on a bowling league.
2. What are your children's names, ages & any info you'd like to share about them? I have one son, Chris, who is 29. He works for a coffee importer in Seattle. What a cool job that allows travel all over South & Central America.
3. How do you like to spend time as a family? With there just being Rich and I our family time is probably a bit different from those of you with kids. Much of our time is taken up by church activities. Rich enjoys golfing and I love to take the horses to the mountains.
4. What are your hobbies/passions? I like to do counted cross-stitch and have many projects backed up. I enjoy reading and, of course, spending time with my two boys: Australian Shepherds Casey & Ringo. They like going out with the horses too.
5. What did you do before you were a Mom? I spent over 25 years in the medical and dental fields both before, and while I was a mom. I took a few years off when Chris arrived then went back to work when he was three or so.
6. How long have you been part of the MOPS ministry and what is the best part of MOPS? I joined MOPS childcare in the fall of 2002 taking care of the little ones in the Chimp room. It was fun having many of the same kids on Sunday morning that I knew from Tuesday morning. I was asked to become co-coordinator for childcare year before last and became the coordinator this year. The best part of MOPS for me is knowing the Moms are getting a morning away from the usual routine and are able to spend time in fellowship with others in their same life stage.



Lisa
**MOPS Hospitality,
for Peace**

1. Husband's name, years married?
Ken-8 years
2. What are your children's names, ages & any info you'd like to share about them?
Cameron is 5 years and Sara is almost 3
3. How do you like to spend time as a family?
We enjoy anything fun that makes us laugh! Right now we love playing outside, camping in the backyard, ice cream cones and BBQing-and going to Long Beach where my folks live and playing in the sand or flying a kite. We have had a fun filled summer.
4. What are your hobbies/passions?
I enjoy taking pictures of my kids and tending to my garden. I love being able to go out and cut fresh flowers from my yard.
5. What did you do before you were a Mom? I am a registered nurse and I worked at Valley Medical Center until my 2nd child was born and decided to stay at home for a few years.
6. How long have you been part of the MOPS ministry and what is the best part of MOPS? 6th year at MOPS I enjoy meeting new people who are at the same stage of parenting that I am. MOPS is a fun place to come, I enjoy having the wisdom of our mentor moms. I also enjoy all the fun topics that are presented to us throughout the year.
7. Taking our theme for this year into account, what did you take from your childhood "Begin Here," that you are currently implementing in your life for your family today "Go There"?
My mom is a loving and caring person. She is always willing to lend a helping hand. I saw that early in life and want to model that so my kids will have a kind heart and a desire to do good things.



Michelle
**MOPS Publicity,
for Peace**

1. Husband's name, years married? Jeffrey for 9 years.
2. What are your children's names, ages & any info you'd like to share about them? Jessica Lynn turned 3 in July. She is very verbal and an awful lot of fun to have a conversation with. The way she takes in the world, the little things she notices, and the things she questions amazes me and remind me to appreciate the little things in life. She is exerting her independence with three-year-old tantrums and keeping her mom and dad on their toes to stay consistent with loving discipline.
3. How do you like to spend time as a family? I thoroughly enjoy a family vacation when everyone has a little break from the normal responsibilities of life and can just completely enjoy each other. We were able to fly to San Diego this summer and do the zoo, Water World, the beach and LEGOLAND.
4. What are your hobbies/passions? Water-skiing, Card making, Reading, Writing, MOPS Steering and Soroptimist International of Auburn. I have also been given a growing passion for studying scripture. I keep in a Bible Study year round during Jessica's naptime. When Jessica is too old for naps, we *will* have quiet time, and when she is old enough to learn from the Bible, I envision that we both will be spending our quiet time with God.
5. What did you do before you were a Mom? College (and exchange student), Retail Mgt job on military bases (in Texas, Maine, New York, Kansas), Sales Job selling to retail stores (driving 5 states Arkansas, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, Louisiana), Moved home to manage parents hardware store, Met husband, Moved in to take care of my 89 year old Grandma after my Grandpa passed away, (Realized I wouldn't want to own a hardware store *and* raise a family), Got engaged to my husband, Car accident-undiagnosed broken rib, Immobile, 6 months recovery, Got married, Started Mary Kay, (1 year later quit hardware store, went full time Mary Kay, 3 years later earned Directorship, Developed 3 directors out of my unit), Traveled with my husband for his work (California, France, Italy) ...when I returned from Italy I became pregnant with Jessica.
6. How long have you been part of the MOPS ministry and what is the best part of MOPS? This is my fourth year in MOPS. I have networked with other mom's. Being apart of their lives and of MOPS makes me feel fulfilled, so that I can turn around and be a better wife and mother. I did not have a Christian upbringing in my family. I am always looking for places to learn how to model Christianity for my daughter, and how to teach her at a child's level, about God.
7. Taking our theme for this year into account, what did you take from your childhood "Begin Here," that you are currently implementing in your life for your family today "Go There"? I took my father's motto "Work hard and play hard" with me. When I was in school it was "Study hard, play hard". My parents did a great job of modeling a strong work ethic that centered around integrity, that never became a workaholic ignore your family problem. We played together as a family. Something as simple as dinner was a fun time around the table, swimming and water skiing all summer, snow skiing in the winter, parents attending sporting events we kids were in, and lots of great family time. Taking this example into my adulthood with my own family I intend to *Go There* in the way I work and interact with my children too. I am adding an important phrase to my father's motto:

"Under God's direction, work hard and play hard."



Housekeeping

MOPS announcements, reminders, etc.

Thank you Table Leaders & Steering for the delicious brunch!

Brunch Next Meeting:
Pink table brings Main Dish and Purple brings Salad or Dessert
(Be sure to label your dish, address labels work well.)

Don't forget... be sure to choose a childcare buddy!

Ooops, you wore your nametag lanyard home? Bring it back next meeting please.

NO LINES!!!
If you pre-pay for meetings you can use our new Express Check-In system!
Just sign your name, pick up a newsletter and have a seat.

Volunteers needed to help set up food in the morning with hospitality. Contact Lisa or Naomi on Steering.

**Wanted: People to love on our kids in childcare
Contact Sandi on Steering**

The Study

...your opportunity for personal growth.



*Grace Sunday Morning
Fall Bible Study
Starting in September*

*MOPS Tuesday Morning
Fall Bible Study
Starting in October*

Parenting - From Surviving to Thriving

Cost: \$15.00 per couple (free childcare)

Sunday mornings at 9am in B63/5 starting on 9/16.

We will explore God's plan for successful families using God's Word as a guide. The class will include time for discussion, instruction & small group interaction. Come for an enjoyable time of sharing and learning with other parents. You will be studying from Charles Swindoll's book, From Surviving to Thriving. Led by Tom and Nancy Montgomery and Mark and Kathy Nordlie.

Our own Mentor Mom, Nancy, is one of the four instructors.



There is still time to join!

33 things that happen at the moment of salvation

You cannot fully utilize a gift unless you know what is in it..

Learn exactly what all the gift of salvation entails.

Free childcare provided opposite Tuesdays of your MOPS meetings!

Wouldn't you like to be able to have stimulating conversation with other MOPS moms every single Tuesday?

Jenny Howard

253-638-0542

Ruth VanDerPuy

253-564-1970

Can provide more information about this bible study, or go to

www.orgsites.com/wa/gccmops

Cost: Free! Thank you to Grace Community Church for donating the study materials this year!



Library

...for your reading enjoyment Poems, Book Reviews etc.



Welcome to the 2007-08 year of MOPS;
You will feel "at home" here, we'll pull out all the stops!
We know that in this group you will feel like you belong
And form bonds with other moms, which will, in time, become strong!

'The Home Factor: Begin Here, Go There" what a great theme,
By year-end you will be able to 'Go there" with more than you've ever dreamed!
We'll learn how to create homes where our families can grow and thrive,
And how to keep the moms in us emotionally and spiritually alive!
We'll find creative ways for our children,
to eat, play and rest
And might possibly put our home decorating skills to the test!

Please know that we hold your presence here as dear,
And we will pray that you feel truly blessed while you're here!

Warmly,
Your MOPS Steering Team



In the Kitchen

Cooking up family traditions...

Peach Crumble

Easy and delicious, this dessert will melt in your mouth. Goes great with ice cream.

RECIPE INGREDIENTS:

- 1/2 cup flour
 - 1/2 cup brown sugar
 - 1/2 tsp. nutmeg
 - 1 tsp. cinnamon
 - Pinch of salt
 - 4 tbsp. butter
 - 5 peaches, or 2 16-oz. cans of peach halves, drained and sliced
1. First, make the topping by combining flour, brown sugar, nutmeg, cinnamon and salt in a bowl. Cut in the butter and mix with your fingers until crumbly. Set aside.

2. Peel and slice peaches. Arrange the slices in a buttered 1-quart baking dish. Cover with the crumble topping and bake at 450 degrees for 20 minutes. Serve warm with ice cream or whipped cream. Makes 4 servings.



The Craft Room

Expressing your uniqueness and creativity...

Directions:

Go to the craft table in the back of the room.

Pick up:

- white MOPS nametag
- colored cardstock in your tables' color
- one charm per child
- white lanyard (the rope for around your neck)
- plastic name tag holder

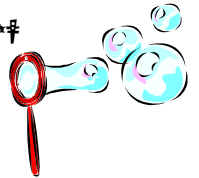
Use sharpie to write your name on the white name tag.
 Attach nametag to colored cardstock with glue stick.
 Slide into plastic nametag holder.

Picture Charms:

Use charm as a template to cut out picture of your child(ren).
 This may take some time to get it the correct size!
 Elmer's glue the picture to the back of the frame.
 Attach charm(s) to lanyard.



Craft for the Kids...Bubble Art



Need: Bubble Solution, Food Coloring, Straws, Bowls, and White Paper

Combine food coloring and the bubble solution in a bowl. Have children use straws to blow into the mixture until it froths. Gently lay a piece of white paper over the bubbles, which will stick to the paper. Watch as they collapse and leave a colorful pattern.

Happy Birthday in September...

	<i>Joy</i>	
Brenda Grainger	5 th	
Krista Williams	20 th	
	<i>Peace</i>	
Anne~Marie Anderson	3 rd	
Michelle Moore	22 nd	