

FIRST EVANGELICAL  
FREE CHURCH



# Enjoy The Ride!

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 3

TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2009

## 2008-2009 MOPS STEERING

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### REMINDERS:

Please turn your cell phone ringer off or on vibrate. If you have to answer a call please exit

Babies 3 months and younger are welcome during the meeting. Older children should be in

The food drop off doors will be open again. Look for the door marked "D".

Services at First Free:  
Saturday: "Alternative"  
*Bordenlands* @ 5pm  
Sundays: Traditional  
@8:30am and Contempo-

Dear God, Help me focus on my children more than my things.

(<http://www.chinstitute.org/DAILYF/2003/03/daily-03-17-2003.shtml>)



Happy St. Patrick's Day!

March 17, 1737 was the first St. Patrick's Day Celebration in America, on this day, March 17, 1737, the Charitable Irish Society of Boston held a St. Patrick's Day celebration, it seems to have been the first in America. Since then, St. Patrick's Day celebrations across the United States have been full of leprechauns, the wearing of the green, and the celebration of all things Irish. In all the fun and frolic, the true Patrick (who probably died between 455 and 493) can easily be forgotten. Dates and details in Patrick's life are not known with certainty. He was most likely born between 372 and 390, possibly near present day Glasgow, Scotland. His parents, Calpornium and Conchessa, were leaders of the Christian community in the still unidentified village of Bannavem Taburniae.. Patrick did not take the Christianity of his parents seriously and enjoyed having fun with his friends. One day, when he was sixteen, he was amusing himself near the sea when Irish pirates captured him. They sold Patrick as a slave to an Irish Chieftain named Milchu. His job? To care for the chief's sheep. Alone in the fields with the sheep, Patrick remembered the Christianity of his parents, and he accepted it as his own. He later wrote,

*I was sixteen years old and knew not the true God; but in that strange land the Lord opened my unbelieving eyes, and although late I called my sins to mind, and was converted with my whole heart to the Lord my God, who regarded my estate, had pity on my youth and ignorance, and consoled me as a father ...The*

*love of God increased more and more in me with faith and the fear of His name. The Spirit urged me to such a degree that I poured forth as many as a hundred prayers in one day. And even during the night, in the forests and on the mountains where I kept my flock, the rain, and snow, and suffering which I endured, excited me to seek after God...*

Six years later, Patrick managed to escape and returned to his family. In a dream, he saw Irish children pleading with him to bring the Gospel to them. "O holy youth, come back to Erin, and walk once more amongst us." His heart longed to return to his former captors and share with them the gospel of Jesus Christ. He trained for the ministry and returned to Ireland where, despite fierce opposition, he spread the story of Jesus among the pagan tribes in the Irish language he had learned while a slave. From the seventh through the ninth century, legends and myths gathered around Patrick's name. The best known is that he drove the snakes from Ireland. From the start he was regarded as a saint and has long been venerated as the patron saint of Ireland. His feast is held on this day, March 17.

## Moppets Information

If you have a child 0-18 months we ask you to bring a box or refill of wipes for their classroom. If your child is 18months—5 years please bring a bulk snack item (ie. a big box of goldfish or bag of animal crackers). Please NO individual packages for snacks. All nametags will continue to be kept outside your child's room until the new system is put in place. We all know we are in the midst of flu season. To keep all of our children healthy, I cannot stress how important how

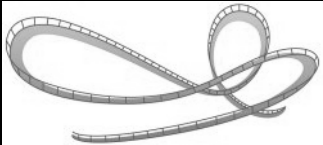
important this is, we ask you to please wash your child's hands with soap and water before entering their room. All children and staff are asked to refrain from attending when ill. Children should not be admitted into class with any of the following symptoms and/or illness; fever or vomiting in the last 24 hours, impetigo, runny nose (unclear), rashes, skin infection-boils, ringworm, measles, mumps, conjunctivitis, diarrhea, coughing/croup, head lice ,including

the presence of eggs or nits. Remember to label all diapers, bags and sippy cups or bottles. If you ever have any questions or concerns., please see one of your steering team members or Teresa Hubbard. FYI - we have a pager system. If you'd like to use it is located in the baby room. Just leave your keys. If you are needed the childcare workers will page you!



Visit our Web site @  
[www.firstfreewomen.org](http://www.firstfreewomen.org)

“...how wide and  
 long and high and  
 deep is the love of  
 Christ...” Eph. 3:18



“It will be gone before  
 you know it. The finger-  
 prints on the wall appear  
 higher and higher. Then  
 suddenly they disap-  
 pear” (Dorothy Evslin).

## The Shamrock:

**The Shamrock is a 3- leaf clover and it is Ireland's most recognized National Symbol. Here are some interesting facts about the Shamrock:**

- In the 5th century when St. Patrick came to convert the Irish information on Christianity could only be spread across the realm from one storyteller, or seanchai, pronounced shan-key to the other.
- In mind of this St. Patrick used the Shamrock to explain the concept of the holy trinity– that God was composed of three entities–the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit–yet each entity was part of the other just like the shamrock has three leaves but a single stem.
- As St. Patrick continued to use the Shamrock in his conversion of

the Irish it grew, through story telling to be seen as a holy plant, just as he was seen as a holy man.

- It is for this reason that the Shamrock is worn on the St. Patrick's day and all other special occasions to celebrate his work and to bring 'a bit o'luck' to the Irish and all their children wherever they may be.
- Before the arrival of the Christians to Ireland the plant was sacred to the Irish Druids because the three leaves formed a triad.
- The word shamrock comes from the Irish work *seamrog* or *samair og*, meaning “little clover.”

• The tradition of wearing shamrock on Saint Patrick's Day can be traced back to the early 1700's.

- For good luck, it's usually included in the bouquet of an Irish bride, and also in the boutonniere of the groom.
- In the 19th century it became a symbol of rebellion and began to be strongly associated with Irish identity. Apparently anyone wearing it risked death by hanging. People even ate shamrock in times of famine.



## “Spring Fever” Anyone? [www.quoteagarden.com/spring](http://www.quoteagarden.com/spring)

“Where man sees but withered leaves, God sees sweet flowers growing.”

~Albert Lighton

“That God once loved a garden we learn in Holy writ. And seeing gardens in the Spring I well can credit it.”

~Windfed Mary Letts

“In the spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt.”

~Margaret Atwood

“If I had my life to live over, I would start barefoot earlier in the spring and stay that way later in the fall.”

~Nadine Stair

“No winter lasts forever; no spring skips its turn.”

~Hal Borland

“Spring shows what God can do with a drab and dirty world.

~Virgil A. Kraft

“If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant; if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome.”

~Anne Bradstreet

“Spring is sooner recognized by plants than by men.”

~Chinese Proverb

“The naked earth is warm with Spring, And with green grass and bursting trees, leans to the sun's kiss glorying, And quivers in the sunny breeze.”

~Julian Grenfell

“Spring has returned. The Earth is like a child that knows poems.”

~Rainer Maria Rilke

“It's spring fever. That is what the name of it is. And when you've got it, you want –oh, you don't quite know what it is you do want, but it just fairly makes your heart ache, you want it so!” ~Mark Twain

## Better Moms Make A Better World.

I believe that who we are as moms really does shape our world in such a huge way. What we instill in our children will continue to be instilled in our children's children. We have a opportunity to leave a legacy with our children. I think about my mom and the values and morals she instilled within me and now I can in turn give that to my children as well. It is so rewarding and fulfilling to see our children begin to possess those values and characteristics that are pleasing to us and most of all God. When we

truly realize who we are as women and mothers we can make a better world. I love that 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. I remember when I first came to MOPS and I was very hesitant to come because I only knew one person. I enjoyed the speakers and the friendly people that were here. I have met a lot of people over the years here at

MOPS. I think that God has used MOPS in my life to help me to realize my potential, and also to increase my confidence as a woman and mother and a leader. MOPS helps us to realize that were not alone in this Adventure Of Mothering. We are all on the same ride so to speak and we need to hold on and not let go of our faith that keeps us moving. Andrew Murray said, “The secret of home rule: first being ourselves what we want our children to be.”