

FIRST EVANGELICAL
FREE CHURCH

2007-2008
MOPS
STEERING
TEAM

Erin Hildreth
Coordinator

Ericka Yancey
Co-Coordinator

Kathy Langan
Mentor Mom
Coordinator

Dana Loner
Discussion Group
Coordinator

Laura Nothnagel
Discussion Group
Co-Coordinator

Sarah Brockman
Hospitality
Coordinator

Deb Smits
Finance Coordinator

REMINDERS:

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

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

The food drop doors will be open again this year. Look for the marked doors.

Dear God, Thank you for the privilege of being a mom—help me to instill in my child that there is nothing little about the responsibilities of being a parent. Amen.

Dwelling Well

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

TUESDAY, SEP 11, 2007

Welcome Home

Welcome! I can't believe that it is time again to start another MOPS year! This summer has absolutely flown by and I am taking my time to mourn its passing. You see, I am a summer girl. I only make it through the tough winter months because I know every day I am another day closer to June 21st—the first day of summer, another day closer to basking in the sun. Even though the summer did pass before I was ready, we did have a great time. Our days were filled with play dates, visits to the pool and Magic Waters, the fair, and vacation (if you can call seven days in a tent a vacation!). It was fun . . . I'm already looking forward to next summer.

I think my children grew at warp speed this summer. It's like watching something grow

through time-elapséd photography. Elijah, my 4-year-old, learned how to ride a bike, pump on the swings in our backyard, and he's made several of his own very best friends. Rylen, my 2-year-old, has not grown so much physically, but he's become very clever. He's good at analogies: "Papa is to jelly beans as Grandma is to presents" or "coins are to gumballs as the pantry is to suckers." He keeps me on my toes and tries my patience, but his adorable faces make up for it. Henry is now 6 months old and is the happiest baby we've had so far. He is always ready to break into a smile and giggle. He loves watching his brothers as he intently waits for their attention. He's on the verge of sitting up, has acquired a tooth with more on the way soon, and is ready to



get start crawling anytime. We are not concerned about him keeping up with his brothers. Chris, my darling husband, has had a busy and hectic summer as the private club he runs has gone through a huge renovation project and he was the only one who knew what was going on at all times. So, he was in high demand and never far from his cell phone. He did get some time to fish and took a day off to build our MOPS signs outside.

The Steering Team and I have been working hard all summer planning and preparing for this year. I am so excited to finally get it started. I hope you all have a great morning!

Love, Erin

MOPPETS Information

To keep all of our children healthy, we ask you to please wash your child(ren)'s hands with soap and water before entering his or her 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 infections such as boils or ringworm, measles, mumps, conjunctivitis,

diarrhea, coughing/croup, or head lice (including the presence of eggs or nits).

If you have a child 0-18 months old, we ask that you to bring one box or refill package of wipes for his or her classroom. If your child is older than 18 months, please bring a bulk snack item (e.g., a big box of Goldfish, a box of animal crackers). Please, NO individual packages of snacks. All nametags will be kept outside your child's room when you

arrive. Please attach the main card to your child and keep the claim ticket until you return (IF you want your child back—Ha!). 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!

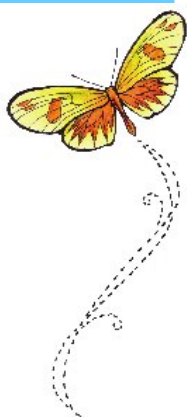


the HOME factor
BEGIN HERE...GO THERE
"...he lives with you and will be in you." John 14:17

2007-2008 MOPS
Theme

*"...he lives
with you and
is in you."
John 14:17*

The butterfly represents the heart of the home, touching rooms with its glow and leaving the cocoon to soar.



the HOME factor: Begin here...Go there

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

Our homes are our safe havens. I love going on vacation; but, there is nothing like the feeling of coming home after an extended time away. That first sleep in your own bed on your own pillow is so nice. Many of us learned the deepest lessons about relationships (anyone have siblings?), developed life routines (coffee in the morning?), and acquired our tastes and preferences (there's nothing like my mom's butter-

milk pancakes on a Saturday morning!) in our own homes growing up. Now we, as moms, long to create a home where our family can thrive.

Some elements of this theme we hope to explore throughout this year are cocooning: creating a safe and cozy home for you and your family to grow, building inwardly and refueling in our homes, and living fully in the world where we can influence and interact with others. We move outward from our home to make a difference.

The heart of the home is a picture of God's desire to interact with us and deeply love us where we really are. He desires to make his home in our hearts and He takes great joy in us.

"For the Lord your God is living among you. He is a mighty Savior. He will take delight in you with gladness. With His love he will calm all your fears, He will rejoice over you with joyful songs." Zephaniah 3:17

Fun Fall Family Activities

Even though I love summer, I do enjoy fall. It is such a beautiful time of the year, and a great time to enjoy God's amazing creation. The Rockford area has many fun fall activities.

One of our family favorites is Edward's Apple Orchard in Poplar Grove. It is, and has always been, a family-run business. There is a great

children's play area with old tractors where the children can stay busy for hours. You can take a ride on a wagon and pick your own apples in the orchard or just grab a peck in the apple barn where the smells of Fall are out of this world. But, the best part of Edward's is the cider donuts they sell individually or by the dozen. I've been known to put a few down at one time, but

I'm not bragging. The orchard is located just off of Route 76 on Centreville Road east of Rockford. Ask any of our Rockford native moms where it is and she'll be sure to know.

The best time to go is during the week as the weekends get extremely busy.

Be sure to say hello to their mascot "Ollie," the one-eyed Golden Retriever pup!

First Evangelical Free Church

If you do not have a home church, or if you are looking for a new church or Bible study, you are invited to visit a service here at First Free.

There are three weekend service times as well as a mid-week prayer and praise service on Wednesdays.

borderlands meets on Saturday nights at 5:00 p.m. This is a

contemporary and casual service held right here in Fellowship Hall. First Free has two Sunday morning services at 8:30 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. in the auditorium with Coffee Café time in between. The early service is a traditional service, while the later service is more contemporary. Adult ministries also has several Bible studies offered for the fall

session. Women's Ministries is offering consecutive studies on Tuesday nights, two studies on Wednesday evenings, and one study on Thursday mornings. For more information pick up a "Weekly Opportunities for Adults" brochure at the information desk, visit www.FirstFreeWomen.org, or call the Women's Ministries office.