

FIRST EVANGELICAL
FREE CHURCH

2007-2008
MOPS
STEERING
TEAM

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Ericka Yancey
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Discussion Group
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Hospitality Coordinator

Tammy Anderson
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 session. Look for the marked doors.

Lord, Bring unity between us so that we can be in agreement about everything. May the God of patience and comfort grant us to be like-minded toward one another.

Dwelling Well

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 1

TUESDAY, FEB 12, 2008

Love The One Your With

I love Valentine's day. I love all the decorations of red hearts on windows and doors. When I was a child my mother would put away the Christmas decorations, clean and dust the house then immediately put out the Valentines. Every year she'd buy new heart shaped doilies and stick them on the windows along with all of her Valentine knick knacks that were placed about the house. I loved Valentine's day as a child because my birthday was a mere 4 days afterward. And, who doesn't love their birthday—as a child? As I've gotten older I still love both Valentine's day and my birthday even with the increasing candles on my cake. My husband will joke that my birthday is usually celebrated for no less than a week. That happened one year (since we've been together). But I won't mention the year that my husband tried combining Valentine's Day and my birthday with one present and one card. He won't do that again. This year is different. We have a baby celebrating his first

birthday just two days after my own birthday. I must learn to die to self. It's not an easy thing to do but God is teaching me, slowly, how to do that. Being a mom has been such an eye opening experience in learning "it's not about me anymore". I was the youngest child of five who was the baby and spoiled rotten. My parents led me to believe that it was all about me. Thank the Lord I had older siblings to put me back in my place when I started getting out of hand! I also thank the Lord for the husband he blessed me with. I still have some of that spoiled little girl in me and my husband still married



me and still loves me! Unfortunately, it is so easy to take him for granted by putting others needs first. I often forget to kiss him first in the morning before I

greet my boys with a kiss. And he doesn't even care if I have morning breath! But, being a mom of young ones I often get so wound up in what the children are doing I forget about my husband. My husband is a wonderful man, I have spoke of him before. He is patient, generous and funny. He is also a great dad. I need to remind myself that my spouse is my priority before my children and my God is my first priority over all. When I keep God at the head of my life, when I pray to Him and ask for His guidance everything else fits into place. Our speakers, The Youngs will be speaking tonight on how God has commanded husbands to love their wives and wives to respect their husbands. If you ask God into your life and truly leave it up to Him He will lead you. "For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'" Jeremiah 29:11 He has wonderful plans for us, for our families we just have to let Him show us! So, on this Valentine's day remember to cherish the spouse God has

MOPPETS Information

A new session has started and It's time to get your children registered in our MOPPETS program. 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 at
[www.firstfree
women.org](http://www.firstfree
women.org)

*"...he lives
with you and
is in you."*

John 14:17

Love is di-
minished if
we dwell on
the nega-
tives. Love
grows if we
focus on the
positive.
When you
have God's
heart for
your spouse,
you will be
able to see
through new
eyes.—S.
Omartian



MOPS Spring Silent Auction

Every spring for the past several years our MOPS group has held a silent auction. This is our main fundraiser for the year. The funds raised help to off set the cost of the meetings, supplies, and dinners like the Valentine's dinner. Everything that is auctioned off is donated by local businesses, individuals or our own MOPS moms who have a particular talent or home businesses. In the past we have received donations such as

gift certificates for family weekend passes to water-parks, a lobster dinner for two, gift baskets from Pampered Chef, Tupperware, Tastefully Simple, discounted Moms Day Out registrations and many, many more. This is a fun, exciting day that should not be missed! The silent auction has always been a huge success but we also need a lot of help to assure that this year will be successful as well. We need donations, people to contact local businesses for

donations, people to pick up the donations and people to help organize the donations before the meeting. If you are interested in helping out in any capacity please contact a Tammy Anderson at (815)395-1444 or me at (815)543-6543. We are happy to have as many volunteers as possible!



Coffee Talk—Just For MOPS Moms

Remember that sketch on Saturday Night Live where Mike Myers played a stereotypical Jewish middle-aged woman with an exaggerated New York accent named Linda Richman who had "cawfee tawlk"? If so, you might want to consider signing up for our next book study. You are a generation Xer. Even if your not, you might want to take this study. In March we will be starting our "Coffee Talk" book study series. One of the

books we will be reading and discussing is Generation NeXt Marriage by Tricia Goyer. If you find yourself humming along to love songs from the 80's and the 90's or grew up calling the remote control the "clicker" this study is for you. We will cover topics such as protecting your marriage despite broken relationships modeled in your past, surviving in a society where 50% or more marriages end up in divorce and practical tips on negotiat-

ing kids, work, sex, money and dirty laundry—sometimes all in the same evening. Kathy Langan and I will be leading this 8-10 week study on Wednesday nights at First Free (childcare available). If you are interested in getting together in a small group setting and having a night with good adult conversation please contact me to sign up. If you feel you like to lead a Coffee Talk we are also looking for additional leaders to offer other studies.

Why I Love MOPS and First Evangelical Free Church

When I first moved to Rockford I had no family or friends in the area. I had just had a new baby and was feeling alone. Someone told me about this MOPS group here at First Free. So I came to check it out. I have to say I was overwhelmed at first. There were so many women I felt a bit lost. Being the newest one in the group, the youngest mom with the youngest child I thought I'd never get to know anyone. Fortunately, I came back because my

discussion group leader invited me back and she invited me to attend a church service. My husband and I had been looking for a church to become involved in, tried a few but really felt lead to stay put at First Free. Now we know God really wanted us here. We got *involved* - Sunday School, small groups, bible studies, MOPS leadership, etc. Through all of my involvement I have made all of my friends through First Free. It is a large church and easy to get lost in

but I heeded my sister's wise advice, "Don't get lost just going to Sunday church service—get involved!" she told me. So I did and I have grown so much spiritually here—more than I would have ever imagined and I look forward to all of the other opportunities God has for me. If you'd like to get involved here, at First Free, please feel free to contact me anytime. My e-mail: erinhildeth75@msn.com or call me at 543-6543.