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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

The food drop doors will be open again this session. Look for the "D" marked doors.

Easter Services at First Free:
Saturday: "Alternative" *borderlands* @ 5pm
Sundays: Traditional @8:30am and Contemporary @10:15am

Lord,
Penetrate my child's heart with Your love right now and help her to fully understand how far reaching and complete it is.

Dwelling Well

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 3

TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2008

I'm a Mess!

I'm a Mess! I'm an absolute mess. My house is a disaster. I don't remember the last time I mopped my floors. There are toys cluttering every room in my house. My two dogs are constantly dropping hair and scattering their food all over floor (of which, the baby loves to eat!). I swear I hear the dust particles taunting me from the other room saying, "You can't get us...you'll never be able to catch us all!" The fish tank in the boys room is growing things that look like they belong on another planet. My bedroom, which is ideally meant to be kept as an "oasis" for my husband and I is currently a storage room for everyone's clothes that have not found their way back to their closets and dressers. There are children's greasy hand and finger prints and dog's nose prints all over my windows. I lose my car keys, my gloves, my children's gloves. I leave half finished chores and projects all over the house. Everyday I feel like I just "put out fires" instead of getting my weekly cleaning done. Just the other day I was straightening up my bathroom when Henry found his way in and decided to empty an entire bag of

Q-tips in less than half a second (I love my Q-tips and when I buy them I don't mess around I buy the biggest bag I can get). It took me way longer to pick up all those Q-tips than it took him to dump them! That same day I was bled on, peed on, pooped on and spit on. Can you relate? Are you a mess like me? Embrace it! Find humor in your messiness otherwise it will make you crazy. Stop taking yourself so seriously and



laugh at yourself and your children. Like Heather Dellamater said, find humor in everything. If you can do that it is a blessing from God. I know this because since I started sharing my "mommy moments" at MOPS meetings I have begun to look for the humorous side to everything—my kids, my husband, my house. I have been blessed by God in many, many situations and

I can find humor in almost everything! I'm still a mess. I try to look put together, organized and in control when really, I am not. I may be a mess but life is also a mess. Life is not all organized, clean and uncluttered. Life is full of mistakes, mishaps and dirt—in all senses of the word. Nothing will be mess-less until we get to heaven. The only way to heaven is through Jesus Christ, the one who is, was and will be always perfect. If he is in your life and in your heart and you truly believe that he is the one true savior that was sent by God to die to save you from your sin then someday you will no longer be a mess. You will be alive forever in heaven! Heaven will be a wonderful place! No dust, no dog hair, no dirty fish tanks, no fat, no missing car keys, no trying to play catch-up on laundry and cleaning! I am anxious to get there because that is where I know I belong. Remember, this Easter, what Jesus Christ did for you. It was an amazing sacrifice that can never be surpassed. So, I'll take all of the messes here on earth because I know my mess free savior awaits for me in heaven!

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
at
www.firstfreewomen.org

“...he lives
with you and
is in you.”
John 14:17



DWELLING WELL

Silent Auction Donations Appreciated

Every year in late April MOPS of First Free organizes and holds a Silent Auction for all MOPS moms and anyone else interested in attending. The steering team and other MOPS volunteers work together to collect donations from all kinds of businesses and companies in the Rockford and surrounding areas. We have already begun to collect donations and are looking for volunteers to help collect and organize these donations. If you have a business and would like to make a

donation to MOPS it is a excellent way to get your name and business know in our MOPS group and the donation would be greatly appreciated. All of the proceeds from this fund raiser go back into the MOPS fund which helps in keeping the cost of the meeting down as well as funding special functions such as the Valentines dinner, the Christmas and Eater brunches, crafts and paying for the speakers as well as many other aspects in organizing a MOPS meeting

and making the meetings special for you. If you would like to help out in any way we would greatly appreciate your service or donation. Please contact me, Erin Hildreth at 543-6543, Tammy Anderson at 395-1444 or Ericka Yancey at 282-3465 by Tuesday March 18th or as soon as possible!

“Work with enthusiasm, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. Remember that the Lord will reward each one of us for the good we do, whether we are slaves or free.” Ephesians 6:7-8

If You Give A Mom a Muffin...

If you give a mom a muffin, she'll want a cup of coffee to go with it. She'll pour herself some. Her three-year-old will spill the coffee. She'll wipe it up. Wiping the floor, she will find dirty socks. She'll remember she has to do laundry. When she puts the laundry in the washer, she'll trip over boots and bump into the freezer. Bumping into the freezer will remind her she has to plan supper. She will get out

a pound of hamburger. She'll look for her cookbook. (101 Things To Make With A Pound Of Hamburger.) The cookbook is sitting under a pile of mail. She will see the phone bill, which is due tomorrow. She will look for her checkbook. The checkbook is in her purse that is being dumped out by her two-year-old. She'll smell something funny. She'll change the two-year-old. While she is changing

the two-year-old the phone will ring. Her five-year-old will answer and hang up. She'll remember that she wants to phone a friend to come for coffee. Thinking of coffee will remind her that she was going to have a cup. She will pour herself some. And chances are, if she has a cup of coffee, her kids will have eaten the muffin that went with it.

Why I Love MOPS @ First Free

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. See my contact info on page 1.