



FRESH TALK WITH MOPS

Coordinator

Good Morning MOPS!

Here we are at our December meeting already. Time really does fly.

Everyone always told me to enjoy my time with the kids because it goes by so quickly and before I know it they will be going to college! When my kids were infants I actually hoped time would fly so I could finally get a good nights sleep. (Does any mom actually get a good night's sleep anymore?) But as I look at my children, 5yrs, 2 yrs and 3 months old and I can't believe how fast they have grown. I remember waiting desperately to hear my oldest's first words and now it would take a muzzle to keep him quiet! Sometimes I can't wait for the next milestone that I don't enjoy the moment and what is happening now. That needs to change.

I encourage you to try to freeze time this Christmas. Take just a moment to look around you and soak in all that is happening. Really look at your children; their excitement, their expres-

sions, their wonder of Christmas. There will never be another Christmas like this one. Try to put yourselves in their shoes and experience this Holiday Season through them.

I hope everyone enjoys this Christmas for all that it is. Presents are great, but there is nothing better than spending time with our families & friends and celebrating the birth of our Lord.

Merry Christmas and I will see you next year 2007!

Tammy

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Today's Meeting Agenda:

9:00 – 9:20	Food and Fellowship
9:20 – 9:25	Devotional/Opening Prayer
9:25 – 9:35	Fresh Talk – Group spotlight
9:35 – 9:45	Welcome, theme for the day (Fresh Air...Breathe Deeply, Live fully through PERSPECTIVE) and brief announcements
9:45 – 9:50	Mom of the Month, Announce Pregnancies, Recognize new members
9:50 – 11:00	Speaker – Brian Jones
11:00 – 11:20	Value & Time Activity
11:20 – 11:25	Closing Prayer
11:25 – 11:30	Please Help us Clean up
11:30	Pick up Children at Moppets

Upcoming Events:

- ♥ **December 14th Breakfast with Santa**
- ♥ **Next meeting: January 17th 2007!**

Contest Update!

Here is where we stand for the Receipt contest:

WHITE: \$3232.41

YELLOW: \$2408.81

PURPLE: \$1991.21

BLUE: \$1872.37

RED: \$1262.18

GREEN: \$ 977.45

PINK: \$617.60

ORANGE: \$65.00

Just remember to hold on to those receipts and bring them into the next MOPS meeting. Any questions please see Michelle Wilson.



Congratulations Kopec Family! Pam delivered Michael Andrew at last on Nov. 30th at 7:15 AM weighing in at 7 lbs 14 oz and 21 inches long. All is well with this new family of 5!



Read the newsletter in color on our Web site!

<http://www.geocities.com/mopsintrappe/>

Hospitality News and Events

Don't forget – Santa will be here **TOMORROW!!!** Breakfast with Santa is tomorrow, December 14th, 10:00 – 11:30AM, Moyer Hall. Light breakfast, crafts, and the man himself. Cost is \$3 per child and \$2 per adult. If you haven't paid yet and still want to attend, pay today and come join the fun!



SAVE THE DATE!!!!

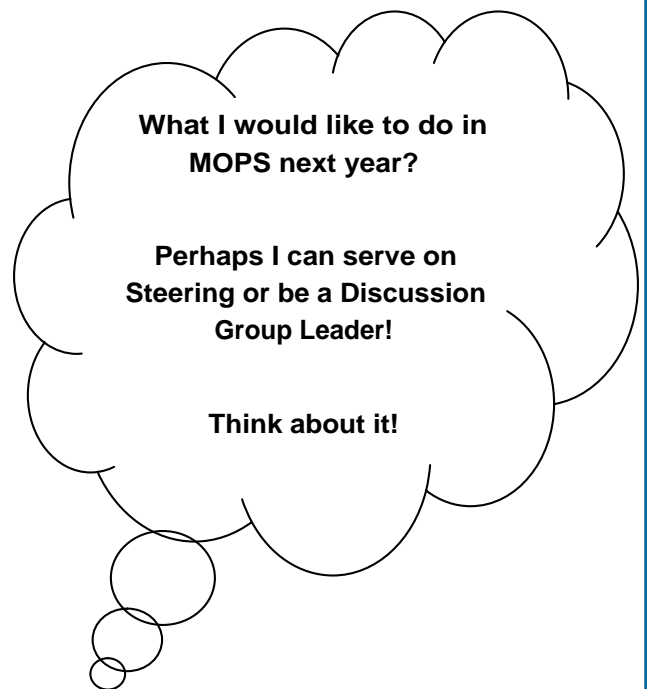
It is time to get out and have some FUN! MOPS And POPS Night will be February 24th. Save the date, get a sitter, and come out for dinner without the kids. Details to come.....

Congratulations **Christine Henson**, our November MOM of the Month!!! We were excited to recognize Christine for her dedication and incredible success with the MOPS Consignment Sale. Thank you for another PROFITABLE sale! But beyond Christine's commitment to MOPS, she is a dedicated mom of two boys, a talented drummer, a dancer, and a friend to many and for these reasons and many more Christine is November's MOM of the month.

And now, **CONGRATULATIONS** to all of our December nominees:

Renee Elsner	Jen Burnett
Lissette Gonzalez	Deena Ottinger
Carrie Walls	Pam Kopec
Beth Welmaker	Eileen Lacascio
Allison Thorne	Joli Groomes
Gia O'Donnell	Sarah Hubbell
Heather Liberi	Kimber Hull
Michelle Nester	

Get your vote in!!! We are all incredible in our own special way – let's recognize each other as the outstanding MOMS that we are!!! Vote today!!!



The 12 Days of Christmas by Helen Haidle

1-A Partridge in a Pear Tree The partridge is a bird that is very valiant and will fight to the death to defend its young, so this is a symbol of Jesus. The pear tree represents the cross, which Jesus died on to save us, his children.

2-Two Turtledoves These are a reminder of Mary and Joseph's sacrifice, both personal and literal. They offered two turtle doves at the temple when Jesus was forty days old. They also sacrificed their reputation when they obeyed the angels and got married and raised Jesus as their own child.

3-Three French Hens Since only rich people could afford to buy French hens, they symbolize the three gifts brought by the Wiseman: gold, frankincense & myrrh.

4-Four Calling Birds These are the four gospel writers, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, because these four men called forth the good news of Jesus.

5-Five Golden Rings Golden rings represent richness and perfection. They stand for the first five books of the Bible. Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy comprise the Torah and are considered to be worth more than gold to the Jews.

6- Six Geese A- Laying Eggs symbolize new life so these are the six days of creation. (God rested on day seven.)

7- Seven Swans A- Swimming The seven swans represent the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit because the Holy Spirit changes us gradually in the same way that a cygnet grows into a beautiful swan. (Remember the story of the ugly duckling?)

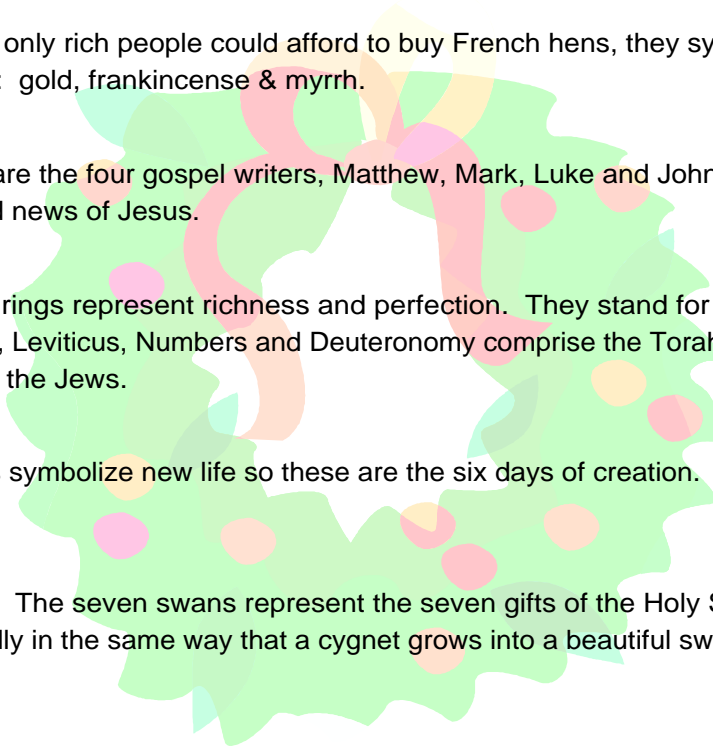
8- Eight Maids A- Milking The eight maids represent the eight Beatitudes. Milk is the nourishment of God's teaching, the most basic food, even fit for babies.

9- Nine Ladies Dancing These graceful and beautiful women symbolize the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit as listed in Galatians: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control..

10- Ten Lords A- Leaping Lords were authorities to command obedience. They symbolize the Ten Commandments.

11- Eleven Pipers Piping These are the eleven disciples who remained faithful to Jesus and followed His "song".

12- Twelve Drummers Drumming Drummers beat out a loud steady rhythm for marchers to follow, just as the twelve tenets of the Apostle's Creed set forth the beliefs of Christians.



Recipes From November Breakfast



Canadian Bacon Stratta —Stephanie Mc Gowan

What you'll need:

Softened butter for pan

4 English Muffins, split, toasted and cut in half

½ pound sliced Canadian bacon, About 10 slices, halved

1-¼ cups (5 ounces) shredded sharp cheddar cheese

1/3 cup finely shredded Parmesan cheese

8 large eggs

3 cups milk

1 ½ tablespoons Dijon mustard

Coarse salt and ground pepper

¼ teaspoon hot sauce, such as Tabasco



What to do:

1. Butter a 2 quart shallow baking dish (oval or square); set aside. In dish, alternately arrange, cut side down, muffin halves and Canadian bacon. Sprinkle with the cheddar and Parmesan cheeses. Set Aside.

2. In a large bowl, whisk together eggs, milk, mustard, ½ teaspoon salt, a pinch of pepper and hot sauce until combined. Pour over muffins and bacon; cover tightly with plastic wrap, Refrigerate at least 2 hours and up to overnight.

Preheat oven to 350°. Place baking dish on a rimmed baking sheet; remove plastic wrap. Bake until puffed and set in the center. About 1 hour and 30 minutes. Tent loosely with foil if strata starts to brown too quickly. Let stand 10 minutes before cutting and serving.

French Toast Bake - Joli Groomes

1 loaf French bread cut into 1 inch slices

3 eggs

3 tablespoons sugar

1 teaspoon vanilla

2 1/4 cups of milk

Beat eggs, mix other 4 ingredients into eggs. Pour over bread in a 9x13 greased pan. Cover & refrigerate overnight - turn bread over in morning.

Crumb Mix:

1/2 cup flour

6 tablespoons brown sugar

1 teaspoon cinnamon

1/4 cup butter/margarine

Mix together, sprinkle on top bake 375° for 50-60 minutes.

Craft Corner

Save the date!!

Scrapbooking / Open Craft Night
Sunday, January 21st from 3:00 – 9:00 pm



Join us for some fellowship and inspiration as we work on our scrapbooks. Bring your own supplies.

Don't scrapbook? Bring a craft you've been working on or trying to find time to start. Ideas include knitting, crocheting, card-making, cross-stitching, organizing your photos, etc.

There is no charge for this event. A pizza dinner will be provided for all those there at the dinner hour. We hope to see you there!

Contact Dana Linton for more details.
dana_linton@verizon.net or 610-831-5650



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**Happy Birthday Wishes
to the following:**

Dec 20 Jennifer Burnett
Dec 26 Martha Schaible
Dec 29 Carolyn Huff
Dec 31 Theresa Torelli
Jan 9 Jacinthe Julien
Jan 11 Becki Kerchner
Jan 14 Kimberly Taormina



Why Do We Give Gifts on December 25?



Ever since the Magi arrived with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh for the baby Jesus, the tradition of giving gifts has become a near-universal part of Christmas celebrations. Yet America's traditional Christmas involving a jolly elf named Santa Claus wearing a red fur-trimmed suit bearing gifts in a reindeer-driven sleigh for the children of the world to open under an ornament-strewn tree at the crack of dawn on December 25 was not always so.

The concept of a mythical figure who brings gifts to children derives from Saint Nicholas, a 4th-century bishop from Asia Minor. Though an actual historical figure, many historians dispute his legend as the most famous of gift-bearers.

The New Testament gives no date for Jesus' birth. In A.D. 350 Pope Julius I declared December 25 as the official date for celebrating the birth of Christ because it coincided with existing rival winter solstice festivals. As Christianity spread among the peoples of pagan lands, many of their seasonal, religious, and national practices—from Christmas trees to feasts, mistletoe to yule logs—were borrowed, blended, and absorbed with those of Christianity.

The Puritans saw no semblance of the true meaning of Christmas in the increasingly hedonistic festival celebrations and banned them in Scotland in 1562 and England in 1644. In America, after the American Revolution, when the celebrations of Christmas was considered "English customs," they fell further out of favor. By the 1820s, Christmas in America had all but disappeared.

England gradually found Christmas again. Prince Albert, Queen Victoria's husband, is credited with having imported from his native Germany the tradition of placing gifts under a decorated tree and of singing Christmas carols. Charles Dickens also played a major role in reinventing Christmas with his popular book *A Christmas Carol* (1843). In it he emphasized the importance of the role of family, goodwill, and compassion. In America, interest in Christmas was revived by Washington Irving's stories, by German immigrants, and by the homecomings of the Civil War years. It was declared a federal holiday in 1870.

Today, though many regional differences exist in the way Christmas is viewed and celebrated, gift-giving is an integral part of the celebrations.

"By the 1820s, Christmas in America had all but disappeared."

8 Cokesbury

MOPPETS would like to thank
Susan Schafer for giving us a
vacuum!

Merry Christmas to all of you.
May 2007 bring
all the best to your home!





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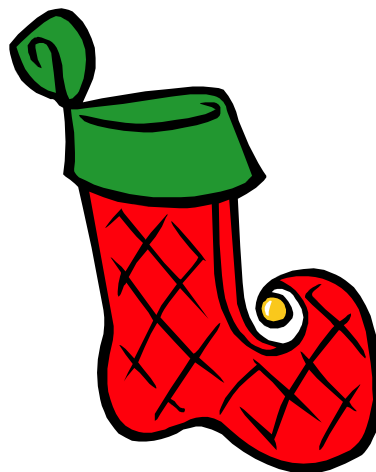
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Closing Prayer

Dear God,

Please bless us as mothers, giving us the wisdom and grace to handle the challenges and joys we will face in the month ahead until we reunite again in friendship and faith.

Amen



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