



KRISTIN WOOLDRIDGE

“Brrrrr!!!!” her latest e-mail begins, “I’m snuggled on the couch holding my laptop and jotting you this note. First of all, I hope each of your families stay warm and safe over the next few days . . . Secondly, I have some BIG, FANTASTIC, and AMAZING news to share with you about MOPS in the KC area.”

No surprise, Kristin Woodridge is at it again, stirring up Moms and Mentor Moms in our Mothers of Preschoolers group at Second. A Valentine worn on her sleeve? Not this girl. She’s ALL HEART for MOPS!

I’ve heard Kristin say during MOPS meetings, at which she presides as a kind of ring-master (regular MOPS meetings can be like a 3-ring circus, that’s part of their charm), that she was shy coming to her first meeting. Sitting in these monthly gatherings—me one of the Mentor Moms meant as a cross between wise old owl and mother hen)—that’s hard to believe. The person I’ve watched at the helm of MOPS’ nine tables of 8 mothers each in the Social Room can transition from leader to stand-up comedienne in a matter of seconds. If a guest speaker doesn’t show up, not to worry. Kristin’s always ready with a laugh and a prayer.

Kristin Kay Wooldridge grew up in Trimble, Missouri, “A field away from my maternal grandparents,” she would add. “My Grandpa was a farmer for over sixty years, instilling in me from day one the value of hard work, patience, flexibility, and community. My parents,

Keith and Janet Kay, raised my younger sister, Jennifer, and me in a Missouri Synod Lutheran Church. It was there I was confirmed in my faith.

‘I followed in my Dad’s footsteps and attended WJC. My major was Communication. As a Pryor Leadership Fellow, I was blessed with two years’ hands-on experience in leadership projects and internships. In the course of this training I met Amon Wooldridge. During our first semester of dating, he was in Washington D.C. serving as an intern for Kit Bond. I was scheduled to go to DC the following spring as an intern for John Ashcroft, but turned down the opportunity because by then I was crazy for Amon.

‘We’ve been married almost 12 years now, and what a blast it’s been evolving together as people and parents. We have three wonderful children, Ian, 8, Kaylee, 5, and Rhett, 20 months, children who have helped me find my self and my passion for supporting the various needs of mothers with small children.

‘Before motherhood, I clearly didn’t get it. I had no idea that raising Ian could be more satisfying than the career I had nurtured in sales and project management. My life and path was changed forever when he was born December 25, 2002. Immediately after that, we learned Amon would be traveling much more for his work with Cerner. At that point, we chose a lifestyle change for me. I would stay home full-time. My focus: family, faith, and community.

I am Second

by Sue Wright



Kristin goes on to say that key to the success of MOPS at Second Baptist has been the willingness of our men and women to volunteer as Mentor Moms and Moppet childcare-givers—Moppets being the newborns to 5 year olds who need tending during MOPS meetings so MOPS mothers can relax together with a warm meal, a chance to develop lasting friendships, and a couple of hours for “recharging their batteries.” Kristin admits she’s always praying others in our church will want to share in this ministry.

“It was hard leaving my Lutheran heritage and upbringing,” Kristin says. But in November of 2010, the Wooldridge family took the step to join Second Baptist. “We are so happy to be part of a place where all five of us can feel fulfilled and part of a greater whole,” she continues. “We’re pleased to call Second our community home.” Welcome, Wooldridges!

‘I was asked in the spring of 2006 to be the MOPS Coordinator at Second Baptist and have enjoyed serving in that capacity immensely. I actually feel called as well as designed for this role. Our group has grown from 30 members to almost 75. We are forecasting even more growth by next fall.’

Most of the mothers who come to 2BC for MOPS—an international Christian but non-denominational organization—are not members of our church. In fact, it wasn’t until September 2009 that Kristin and her family began visiting Second on Sundays.



Rhett, Kaylee and Ian:
Christmas Fun in a box!



Amon and Kristin



Kristin with Kaylee and Ian
at MOPS Halloween 2009.



Kaylee helps Mom bake
a cake for a MOPS mom
in need



Wooldridge family with Santa
at MOPS Christmas Party 2010