

Michele Fischer, Erika Romine Melissa Schaeetz and Melinda Knapp mug for the camera at MOPS Convention.



More than a Monthly Meeting

MOPS@2BC MOMS FIND INSPIRATION AT NATIONAL CONVENTION

All Michele Fischer wanted was a girl's weekend away.

"It didn't matter to me where I went or who I went with," Fischer said. "I love my house, husband, kids and pets with all of my heart, but I needed to get a way to have a little bit of time to recharge my batteries, so to speak."

When Fischer told her husband, he surprised her by saying, "That sounds like a great idea. Where do you want to go?"

She told him she wanted to go to the 2011 MOPS Convention in Nashville, TN, where she and seven other moms from MOPS@2BC would join more than 4,400 mothers from all around the country.

"We laughed, we cried, we learned, we danced, we giggled, and most importantly we grew closer to God and each other," Fischer said.

Third-time convention-goer Karri George says this year's convention was exactly what the mom of three needed to recharge her spirit: with four days of workshops, inspirational activities and fellowship with other mothers.

"I left for convention doubting much about myself. I felt like I was failing miserably as a mom to my three kiddos. I was short and distant with my husband. I was not being open with my friends or family. My house was a disaster (with no desire to make it better)," George said.

"[At convention] I realized how un-present God has been in my life. During my convention sessions I kept hearing phrases like, 'He adores and delights in you' and 'He gazes at you.' As I kept hearing these messages over and over I began to realize that these were for me."

Melinda Knapp also came home a changed woman.

"I feel more equipped with a deeper passion for not only my husband and children but for people...for life, for truth, for exceeding appreciation!" Knapp said.

In fact, the experience was so powerful that MOPS@2BC coordinator Kristin Wooldridge is already making plans to attend the 2012 Convention in Dallas, TX, and hopes more members will come along with her.

"Convention is not just for MOPS leaders. It's like grad school for moms. You take home so many resources for how to be a better wife, a better mom, a better person," Wooldridge explained.

Fischer added, "All I wanted was a girl's weekend away, but I ended up with my cup running over with God's love and a whole group of new girlfriends to love and support me in case I forget."

in this issue:

Coordinator Corner	2
MOMSNext Info	3
Money Matters	4
Reaching Out: Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities	4
Dates at a Glance	5
Prayer: It Does a Mother Good	6



A Note from Kristin Wooldridge

COORDINATOR'S CORNER

Summer is over, routines are setting in and in my house we have had homework to do each night after school. With all these changes going on around me, it is amazing that I am still so EXCITED about MOPS starting soon. This is the beginning of my sixth year coordinating our MOPS@2BC group and my eighth as a member of this organization. Really, I have been a mom for eight years! With each child, I feel like I have earned a new degree in motherhood. Ian was my undergrad, Kaylee was my graduate

program and I guess that makes Rhett my doctoral program. They have taught me so much and I have stretched and grown with each addition. But as I get them ready for third grade, Kindergarten, and two full days of Parents Day Out, I am just as thrilled about our new year of MOPS.

MOPS over the years has changed for me. Seven years ago, MOPS was an invitation into a group where I only knew one person out of 30. I hoped that I could find friends after leaving my high pressure sales job/identity. I struggled. I look back and I can remember it like yesterday. If someone would have said, "BOO", I would have probably become unglued and sobbed. I was really struggling with my transition into staying home and being alone. Over the years that have followed, I have been blessed with tremendous friends who laugh because I am a riot, who I can call when I am about to lose my grip of sanity, who I know will come out to dinner with me to laugh until we cry, and who I know I can yell out "SOS!" and they answer and know I will do the same.

But it took time. I used to hold back. I used to worry what others thought of what I wore, what I said, how things would look. But when I figured out that in this season, I really need to be a friend to get a friend I got better. Our time is limited, our resources are limited and our days can change with a blink of an eye or a fever of a child. But friends in the same stage of life understand all those things. We approach friendship with less judging, demanding, and planning. We crave time to be together.

"THE MORE OPEN YOU ARE TO TRUST SOMEONE, TO SHARE HOW YOU REALLY ARE DOING, OR EVEN ASK FOR SUPPORT THE QUICKER YOU WILL HAVE A FRIEND."

In all my MOPS years, I have seen it all. (Well, I am sure there is more to surprise me!)

But I know you will each see friendships start, blend, and look easy. The big "trick" is YOU. Ouch! The more open you are to trust someone, to share how you really are doing, or even ask for support the quicker you will have a friend. But the flip side, is even if you are "good", you need to be open and willing to support. That could be a call to a new friend out of the blue or a simple invite to meet at a park to play.

I often say, MOPS is what you make it. BUT that can be so much bigger... LIFE IS WHAT YOU MAKE IT!

Praying for our year together. We are a large group but my prayer is that each of us come to this group with our walls down a little and that we walk away with three or more new friends that we can lean on, laugh with and trust.

Be Open!
Kristin

MOPS@2BC

2011-12 MEETING DATES

September 9

October 7

November 11

December 9

RETREAT:

January 13 7:00 -9:30 pm

January 14 9:30 am - Noon

February 10

March 9

April 13

May 11

SEPTEMBER'S INSPIRATION

"The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts him and I am helped."

Psalms 28:7a

MOPS@2BC Steering Team

2011-2012

KRISTIN WOOLDRIDGE
Coordinator

CARROLL MAKEMSON
Lead Mentor Mom

KARI GEORGE
Finance

CRISTA COCHRAN
Finance Co-chair

CANDI RAWLINGS
Creative Activities

LORI CONWAY
BRIANNE DAUB
Creative Activities
Team Members

JENNIFER HUFFMAN
Publicity

ERIKA ROMINE
DGL Team Leader

HEIDI MILLER
Hospitality Lead

KRISTIN CAREY
Hospitality Co-Chair

KAREN GRAHAM
LIZ THOMAS
Hospitality-Events

MELINDA KNAPP
Hospitality-Care

AMY CORLEW
Prayer

JILL KIMBREL
Outreach Leader

MICHELE FISCHER
Moppets Lead

JENNIFER DILTS
CORI BLACK
ALI TOBIN
JENNIFER PETTY
KAREN TRISCHLER
JONI FLECK
Moppets Team



MOMSnext is for moms with children who are one of the "big kids" now. You have exchanged diaper changes, preschool drop offs and library time for your "big kid" for PTA memberships, packing lunches and explaining to them why someone would call them dumb.

Because your need for community doesn't end just because your kids go to school!

That is just the tip of the school iceberg!

If you would like to gather and discuss "big kid" issues we would love for you to join us this year for MOMSnext. Last year we started this group and we had some very lively discussions. It was great to compare notes, stretch our way of thinking and support one another. Michelle Price is

leading this arm of our group. And she is ready to help us discuss the crazy times of grade/junior/high school. She has 3 girls. And two of them have entered the pre-teen and teen years.

Here is the nitty gritty:

- We will meet this year on Tuesdays (1st and 3rd) from 9:30 - 11am in the Oak Room at Second Baptist Church.
- Babies 1 and under are welcome.
- Not all your children have to be in "big" school to participate.
- If you would love to come but you would really like childcare, please email that to us. NO promises but it would be good to know so we can adjust if we need to.
- Since there is not a childcare plan, we are not limited on the number of moms we can have join. (MOPS@2BC is limited based on childcare spots)
- If you are already part of MOPS@2BC for 2011-12, this group is part of your membership and no fee is needed. All other members need to be chartered for \$23.95.
- This group is a discussion based support group. No frills. Bring your own caffeine and away we will discuss!
- We discuss what is happening to you currently or to a fellow member or we have a discussion topic. Very low key and real!!

MOPSnext Dates

MOPSNext meetings are held in the Oak Room at Second Baptist Church on the first and third Tuesdays of each month.

Below are the meeting dates:

September 6th & 20th

October 4th & 18th

November 1st & 15th

December 6th & 20th

January 10th & 17th

March 6th & 20th

April 3rd & 17th

May 1st & 15th

For more information...

Please request to join the MOMSnext@2BC page on Facebook, or e-mail mops2bc@gmail.com.

Join even if you can't make the meetings and want to have a safe place to talk about school aged issues and life!

MOPS@2BC

MONEY MATTERS

MOPS@2BC Dues - \$65 for the year

These can be paid yearly, by the semester (\$29 for Sept-Dec and \$36 for Jan-May) or \$7.25 monthly. Dues cover supplies for meetings, crafts, special events and anything else we need to help our group run smoothly.

Childcare Fee - \$15 for the year for children with confirmed spots

This is a one-time per year per family payment for MOPPETS childcare. The church provides a portion of our childcare payment each month and we make up the difference. Just think, for a family with 2 kiddos, you pay less than \$1 for 2 hours of mom-time each month!!

MOPS International Fee - \$23.95 for the year.

Membership with MOPS International is required for all MOPS members. With your membership you will receive MomSense quarterly magazine, weekly Mom E-Mails, a reusable shopping bag, MOPS Iron-ons and stickers featuring Veggie Tales.

Everything can be paid for in one check made out to MOPS, which you can mail to:

Karri George
1428 NE 102nd Ter.
KCMO 64155

Paying in advance of the first meeting allows you to bypass the Finance table at the back of the room and come right in to start enjoying some time just for you.

If paying this would be difficult for your family, please contact Karri George at karri.george@gmail.com or 591-0029. All requests will be kept completely confidential. We do not want any mom to miss out on MOPS because of the dues!

Scholarships for the Childcare Fee are not available, but we will gladly make arrangements for payment.

The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to needy children around the world.



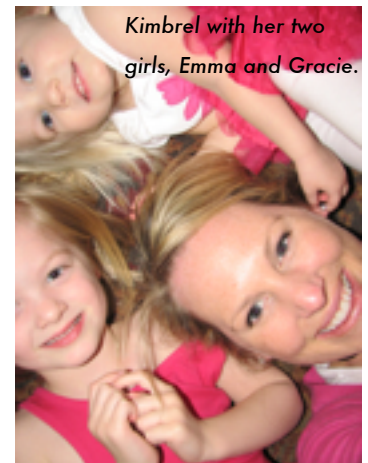
Reaching Out

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES FOR MOPS@2BC MEMBERS

When planning the fall service opportunities for MOPS members, Outreach chair Jill Kimbrel had a brainstorm.

"As a mom, I know my focus is to show my children what it means to serve," Kimbrel said. "My focus this year is to incorporate our children in the projects we do as a MOPS group."

Kimbrel arranged two projects that would allow the children to be involved, opportunities moms can use to "talk with our kids about what we are blessed with and show them the importance of "giving back," said Kimbrel.



Kimbrel with her two girls, Emma and Gracie.

- **HILLCREST MINISTRIES THRIFT STORE**
In partnership with Hillcrest Ministries, 2BC MOPS moms may volunteer to work in the new thrift store right off the Liberty downtown square. The thrift store's mission is to help support Hillcrest Ministries' service to local families. Older children (4 and up), can join in sorting and pricing items as a group. If you have younger children or are unable to serve in this way, feel free to donate a toy given by your child, household items, clothing, etc. for such a great cause.
- **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**
2BC MOPS moms can collect shoeboxes filled with toys and items for children across the globe. "It's a wonderful opportunity to share with your kids," Kimbrel said. "As you fill the box with things we may take for granted, it is a great opportunity to talk with our children about the true gift of giving for the Christmas season."

Dates and specifics for these opportunities will follow. If you have other outreach ideas, please contact Jill Kimbrel at 429-5803 or e-mail her at jillkimbrel@yahoo.com.

Save the Date!

Mark your calendars for upcoming MOPS@2BC meetings and events. We don't want you to miss a thing!

September

9

MOPS meeting
9:30-11:30 in the Social Room
at Second Baptist Church

18

Mom's Night Out at Los
Compos: Put the kiddos to bed
and join the girls for chips and
salsa and grown-up talk at 7
p.m.!

October

7

MOPS meeting
9:30-11:30 in the Social Room
at Second Baptist Church

16

Mom's Night Out at Los
Compos: 7 p.m.

November

11

MOPS meeting
9:30-11:30 in the Social Room
at Second Baptist Church

20

Mom's Night out at Los
Compos: 7 p.m.!



As we dive into another busy year, let us remember the power of a simple prayer. God loves to hear from you, even in the sigh of frustration, God cares for you! He loves you right where you are at and longs to be your closest friend. This article below encouraged me and I hope it will encourage you to pray for your children.

Blessings to you,
Amy Corlew ~ Prayer Leader

PRAYER: IT DOES A MOTHER GOOD

by Cheri Fuller with Cathy Schutt

As a mom, I want what is best for my kids – so I come to God with concerns and requests for them. Just as I looked forward to hearing from my son while he was serving in Iraq, I've come to realize that God enjoys hearing from me. With that in mind, I have made the most of prayer by both talking to and listening to God regarding my kids – when they were young and now that they are grown. I believe it's important for mothers to pray because:

- Prayer is the foundation of parenting. Proverbs 3:5 says, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding." When we acknowledge that God knows best and seek His guidance, we find wisdom to raise our kids.
- Our prayers are bigger than we are. E.M. Bounds, a theologian and pastor, said, "Prayers are deathless. ... Prayers outlive the lives of those who uttered them."

The prayers we speak today have the potential to affect generations to come.

- Prayer invites us to give our worries to God. Scripture tells us, "Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you." (1 Peter 5:7).
- Prayer brings peace to busy moms. As our children grow, we have more to worry about. But God promises His peace in exchange for our worries. "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6-7).

This article originally appeared in the Summer, 2011 issue of "Thriving Family" magazine. Copyright ©