
Coffee Break

Motherhood is *not* for sissies!

Motherhood is *not* for women with weak stomachs, regular sleep patterns or white carpets.

Motherhood is for women who can drink tea from an empty cup, see the genius in tiny scribbles and hear the unspoken feelings of a child's heart.

Motherhood is for women who care enough to say no when it would be easier to say yes, who believe in their children forever, and love them even longer.

Motherhood is for women who are strong and gentle at the same time, who make a difference in the lives they touch and the world around them.

Motherhood is for women just like you!

Happy Mother's Day!

Quiet Time

A Friend of Christ

~ by Sheila Walsh

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. -1 CORINTHIANS 13:1

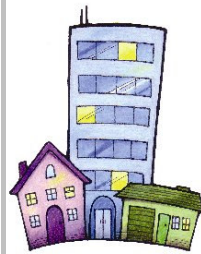
The church can be a noisy place, a venue full of resounding gongs and clanging symbols. It can also be a place of quiet rivers. My husband and I discovered that in the cold winter of 1999.

Barry's mother, Eleanor, was in the last days of battling liver cancer. We spent as much time as we could with Eleanor and William. We took turns holding Eleanor's hand through the night, wiping her brow, singing hymns, and praying for mercy from the ravages of a disease that moved in uninvited and refused to leave. Our greatest worry was that when we were not there, William was alone-or so we thought, until we met one of those quiet rivers. Her name is Terri Doucette.

William and Eleanor were members of Martin Luther Church, and Terri was in charge of the ministry of helps. I'm not sure what her job description is, but I'm sure it didn't include everything she quietly did in the name of the Lord. She stopped by every morning to administer Eleanor's medication. She sat for hours holding her hand and praying. She prepared food for William and stayed late at night to share a cup of coffee or a bowl of soup. She had time for all of us. She stayed till the end. When Eleanor took her final breath, Terri was right there in the room, cheering her all the way home.

Her job title introduced us to her, but Terri's spirit sang with the quiet grace of a friend of Christ.

Lord Jesus, may my life reflect my friendship with you. Amen.



News

from the Nest

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May 2008

My First Mother's Day

Moms detail how they spent their special day.
by MOPS Moms

I'll always consider my first Mother's Day to be the one when I was pregnant with my daughter. I was a single mom, embarrassed to be pregnant and unmarried—and just starting to need maternity clothes.

My parents gave me a card from "The Baby," then took me out on a shopping spree for maternity clothes. What a beautiful picture of grace they showed me that day—surrounding me with love, support and forgiveness when I needed it most.
—Jill S.

We brought our first child home from the hospital the day before Mother's Day. He's the first grandchild on both sides of the family, so naturally both sets of parents were there to welcome him home. Call me crazy, but we hosted Mother's Day at our house that year. It was a day of firsts—my first Mother's Day and my mom and mother-in-law's first Mother's Day as grandmas.
—Megan V.

Well, my little girl was ten months old and sick with an ear infection on my first Mother's Day. It was no fun. She felt terrible and was so fussy. She was crying, I was crying (I'd just turned 18 and was a senior in high school), and my poor mom was trying to help us both. I was truly initiated into the mom's club!
—Shannon B.

My first "real" Mother's Day was a blur. My son was only a week or two old, and we were totally sleep deprived. I never let my husband forget he was totally out of it since he forgot the day was coming, and I didn't even get a gift. But the first Mother's Day I ever celebrated was with my stepchildren. My son (5) bought me a present he thought was the coolest thing ever—a pen that levitates due to magnets. Before I had the chance to say hello, he gave me his present and then unwrapped it. It was a cheap plastic pen that didn't work. But I still have it. I know I'll treasure it for many years to come, because of the love and excitement with which it was given, as well as the memory of that day.
—Megan M.

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Kids Room

Check out these area resources for kids activities this summer:

- Riverside Zoo
- Scottsbluff Public Library
- Gering Public Library
- West Nebraska Arts Center
- Midwest Theatre
- YMCA
- Wildcat Hills Nature Center
- Five Rocks Ampitheatre
- Oregon Trail Days
- Summer Chautauqua
- Scottsbluff County Fair



VBS 2008

Several Area Churches offer Vacation Bible School. We hope you find one that fits your busy summer schedule! Here are just a few.

- 06/02 - 06/06 ~ Grace Chapel ~ 9:00 am
- 06/09 - 06/13 ~ Zion Evangelical Church ~ 8:30 am
- 06/09 - 06/13 ~ Mitchell Berean Church ~ 8:30 am
- 06/23 - 06/27 ~ Monument Bible Church ~ 8:30 am
- 06/30 - 07/02 ~ Northfield Church Kids Crusade ~ 7:00 pm
- 07/12 - 07/17 ~ Bethel Baptist Church ~ 6:30 pm
- 07/28 - 08/01 ~ First Baptist Church ~ 6:30 pm

Looking Ahead

Summertime Play Dates!

Be sure to join us this summer for a little fellowship and fun. We will be meeting at the following parks for play dates. This would be the perfect opportunity to invite that mom you know who may be uncomfortable about going to a 'church' or needs a more informal setting.

- 6/24 - 6:30 pm - Pioneer Park in Scottsbluff
- 7/22 - 6:30 pm - Oregon Trail Park in Gering
- 8/26 - 6:30 pm - Potluck Family Picnic at Frank Park in Scottsbluff



In the Library

The Mommy Diaries: Finding Yourself in the Daily Adventure

In the course of your adventure in mothering, you may not have had time to record all the things you have been learning about yourself. The Mommy Diaries: Finding Yourself in the Daily Adventure will provide reflection, perspective and inspiration to you through the lives of many different women. As you read accounts of how moms just like you have made their way through the adventure of mothering, you will gain insight into your own adventure.



"One Tough Mother", "Oxygen", and "Dwelling" are also worth checking out. Find these books and more resources at www.mops.org.

Mom's Kitchen

Calico Beans

- 1/2 lb diced bacon
- 1 lb hamburger
- 1 diced onion
- 1 c sliced celery
- 2 Tbsp Worcestershire Sauce
- 1 1/2 c ketchup
- 1 c brown sugar
- 1 lg can Pork n' Beans
- 1 lg can drained kidney beans

Directions:

In large dutch oven, brown diced bacon. Add & brown onion, celery and hamburger. Add & combine rest of ingredients. Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hr. Great for picnics!

