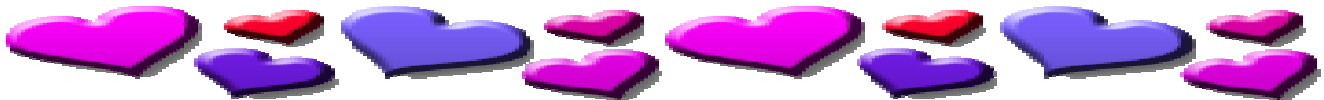


# Mommy Matters



*vrijen*

*faire l'amour*

*anwylodd*

*Love In Any Language*

*Spring Brunch*

*Monument Bible Church*

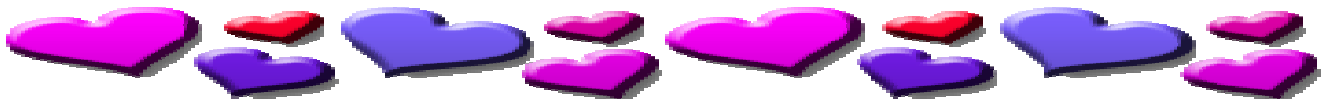
*April 1, 2008 @ 8:45am*

*agape*

*hacer el amor*

*lieben*

*~LOVE~ an intense feeling of affection and to care deeply about another person ~*



*You are cordially invited to attend the MOPS Spring Brunch. We will be enjoying some international flair through food and decorations. We will also be encouraged by our own MOPS Mom, Bridgette Shick, as well as special music. Don't forget to bring a guest. This is a perfect time to invite a new Mom and introduce her to MOPS! It's not too late to be on the brunch committee. Please see Cara Stout, our Hospitality Team Leader, today to let her know you would like to be a part of the fun! She will be scheduling a planning meeting very soon. We hope to see all of you here!*

As a courtesy to our speakers and those around you, please remember to switch your cell phone to vibrate or off during MOPS meetings.



## MOPS Meeting Schedule 2007-2008

| Date     | Time             | Theme/Topic/Speaker/Curriculum   | Creative Activity                        | Refreshments & Clean-up |
|----------|------------------|--|--|-------------------------|
| Mar. 18  | 8:45am – 11:30am | DVD - Underneath the Welcome Mat: Real Hospitality                       | Family/Home Sign                         | Leanna McCoy            |
| April 1  | 8:45am – 11:30am | Spring Brunch - Love In Any Language                                     | Brunch Committee                         | Brunch Committee        |
| April 15 | 8:45am – 11:30am | The Front Porch: Step Out Into the World                                 | Wind Chimes                              | Natalie Spearman        |
| May 6    | 8:45am – 11:30am | Go There... Local Vacations; Vacations on A Budget; Resources & Websites | Activity Pockets for Traveling with Kids | TBA                     |

### Taco John's Helps MOPS!

We will soon be receiving Taco John's coupons that can be used for \$1 off any combo meal. With every coupon used, Taco John's will donate \$1 to MOPS. This is a very easy fundraiser because all we have to do is hand out the coupons. We encourage everyone to participate in this fundraiser.

This fundraiser will help with the MOPS to Moms scholarship fund, which includes the registration fee and meeting fees. The scholarship fund gives any Mom the opportunity to be involved in MOPS who, financially, might otherwise not be able to.

Mark your calendars for...

### ***The "No Frills" MOPS Crop August 8th & 9th***

Times, location and cost will be announced in the future. There will be lots of space the spread out and get some projects completed.

This is a MOPS Brigade fundraiser.

### Antiquities Pictures 2008

Quality Sepia-tone Pictures of your children.  
June 5th, 6th, and 7th at Monument Bible Church.

We will be selling Antiquities coupons for \$10. Each coupon is good for a portrait sitting and a free 10 x 13 photograph of your children together.

Anyone who sells 15 or more coupons (at least 15 must be photographed) will receive a free portrait package (valued at \$149.95).

Any Mom who would like to work some hours during Antiquities can have their name placed in a basket for a chance to win a free portrait package. Childcare will be provided for all who are working during picture days. More details to follow.

If you would like more information, please contact Teresa Thomas at (308) 623-2896.

The following recipes can be used with the master mix we made for our creative activity on February 19th meeting. If you missed this meeting or did not have a chance to make the master mix, the recipe is on the information table.

#### Corn Bread

1 1/2c master mix  
2T sugar  
1/2t salt  
3/4c cornmeal  
1t chili powder (optional)  
1 egg  
3/4c milk  
1c cream-style corn

Preheat oven to 400. Mix dry ingredients together. In a separate bowl combine egg, milk and corn. Stir liquids into the dry ingredients just until moistened. Pour into greased 9-inch pan and bake 20-25 minutes.

#### Pecan Squares

1 1/4c master mix  
3 eggs  
1 1/2c brown sugar  
3/4c chopped pecans

Preheat oven to 350. Grease a 9x13 baking pan. Stir all ingredients until just moistened. Spread mixture into the pan. Bake 20-25 minutes. Cool, cut into squares and sprinkle with powdered sugar.

#### Donut Muffins

1c master mix  
1T sugar  
1/4c milk  
1 egg, beaten  
1/4c melted butter  
1/4c sugar  
1/2t cinnamon

Preheat oven to 400. Stir sugar into the master mix. Combine the milk and the beaten egg. Stir into the mix until blended. Grease the sides and bottom of a muffin tin. Fill 3/4 full with the mixture and bake for 15-20 minutes. Remove from muffin tin and dip the top in the melted butter. Roll the top in the cinnamon sugar mixture. Serve hot.

#### Peanut Butter Cookies

2c master mix  
1c sugar  
1 egg, beaten  
1/2c peanut butter  
1/4c softened butter

Preheat oven to 375. Stir sugar, beaten egg, peanut butter and butter into master mix with a spoon until will blended. Roll dough into small balls. Place balls on cookie sheet and flatten with a fork. Bake for 12-15 minutes. Remove from cookie sheet and cool.



Are you always on the lookout for new and fun recipes that your family will be sure to love? Then this is an opportunity you do not want to miss. Kraft foods offers a **FREE** recipe magazine called Food & Family. It has a great variety of recipes which uses ingredients that are already in your kitchen. Go to [www.kraftfoods.com/share](http://www.kraftfoods.com/share) to sign up and start receiving easy recipes for yummy food.

Get Ready for MOPS 2008-2009!!!  
MOPS International has unveiled next year's theme: *"Adventures in Mothering"*. Does life as a mom feel like a merry-go-round as you go round and round and up and down-but don't seem to get anywhere? Join us next year as we celebrate and embrace the fun in the adventure, even in the midst of our daily mom life that stretches us emotionally and spiritually. The theme verse, Ephesians 3:18 "...how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ", expresses how God is with us in our mothering adventure. So get ready to hop on the rollercoaster with our arms up in the air and enjoy the adventure together!



# ADVENTURES IN MOTHERING

"... how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ..." EPH 3:18

Next month, you will have the opportunity to pre-register for the 2008-2009 MOPS year. Registration should still be \$20 for the year and includes all kinds of goodies for you and your kids. We will be receiving details from MOPS international soon, so listen for more info at the next meeting, as well as in the next newsletter.

## MOMMY MATTERS NEWSLETTER ITEMS:

Do you have poems, stories, ideas for play with the kids, recipes, or just anything you think might be fun for the newsletter? Share your talents, ideas, and funny stories with other moms!

Do you have a new arrival? Make sure we get all the important stats!

Have something you want to sell or an item too large to give away at the "Free to you" table. Post it in the newsletter.

**Newsletter Deadline: April 4th  
(this will be the last newsletter for this year)**  
**Ruth Buck 632-3063  
4bucks@embarqmail.com**

## Community Events

### **Scottsbluff Public Library**

Preschool Storytime for children ages 3 to 6, from 10 to 10:30 a.m. and 7 to 7:30 p.m., Thursdays. Call Deb Carlson at (308) 630-6250 for more information.

### **Gering Public Library**

Preschool Storytime for children ages 3 to 6, from 6:30 to 7 p.m., Tuesdays and 10 to 10:30 a.m. Thursdays. Call (308) 436-7433 for more information.

### **Immunization Clinic at Panhandle Community Services Health Clinic**

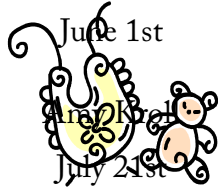
The clinic is open Monday, Tuesday and Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. It is closed on Wednesday and open on Thursday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Appointments are necessary. Call (308) 632-2540 for further information.

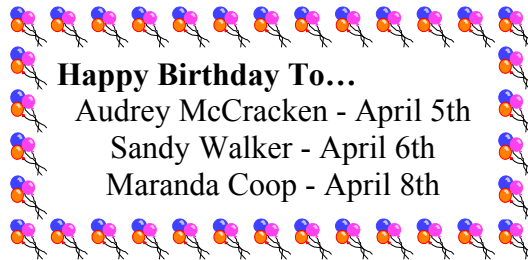


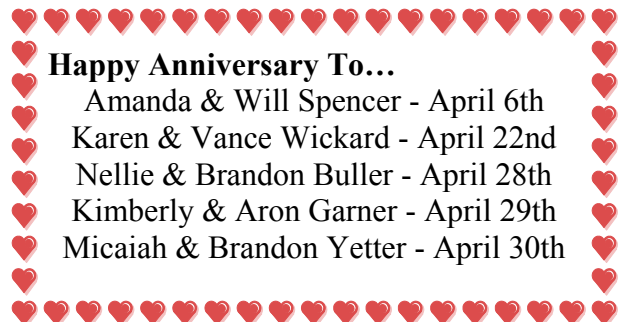
### **Scotts Bluff County Health Department Free Immunization Clinic**

The clinic is open Wednesdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., by appointment only, at Regional West Medical Center Behavioral Health Center South Unit. This clinic is for children under 18. Call (308) 630-1126 for further information.

|                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Moms Expecting: | Brittney Dodson |
|                 | May 19th        |
| Caryn Hinebauch |                 |
| April 4th       | Erin Purdy      |
|                 | May 24th        |
| Nellie Buller   | Kimberly Garner |
| April 18th      | June 1st        |
| Mindy Lively    | July 21st       |
| May 7th         |                 |




**Happy Birthday To...**  
 Audrey McCracken - April 5th  
 Sandy Walker - April 6th  
 Maranda Coop - April 8th


**Happy Anniversary To...**  
 Amanda & Will Spencer - April 6th  
 Karen & Vance Wickard - April 22nd  
 Nellie & Brandon Buller - April 28th  
 Kimberly & Aron Garner - April 29th  
 Micaiah & Brandon Yetter - April 30th

### MOPS Scholarship Info

Scholarships are available to any MOPS moms for either the meeting fees and/or the registration fees. All information is confidential. Please contact Jennifer Reisig - Finance at 635-6831.

## The Invisible Mom

It all began to make sense, the blank stares, the lack of response, the way one of the kids will walk into the room while I'm on the phone and ask to be taken to the store. Inside I'm thinking, "Can't you see I'm on the phone?" Obviously not; no one can see if I'm on the phone, or cooking, or sweeping the floor, or even standing on my head in the corner, because no one can see me at all. I'm invisible. The invisible Mom.

Some days I am only a pair of hands, nothing more: Can you fix this? Can you tie this? Can you open this? Some days I'm not a pair of hands; I'm not even a human being. I'm a clock to ask, "What time is it?" I'm a TV guide to answer, "What number is the Disney Channel?" I'm a car to order, "Right around 5:30, please."

I was certain that these were the hands that once held books and the eyes that studied history and the mind that graduated summa cum laude - but now they had disappeared into the peanut butter, never to be seen again. She's going, she's going, and she's gone!

One night, a group of us were having dinner, celebrating the return of a friend from England. Janice had just gotten back from a fabulous trip, and she was going on and on about the hotel she stayed in. I was sitting there, looking around at the others all put together so well. It was hard not to compare and feel sorry for myself as I looked down at my out-of-style dress; it was the only thing I could find that was clean. My unwashed hair was pulled up in a hair clip and I was afraid I could actually smell peanut butter in it. I was feeling pretty pathetic, when Janice turned to me with a beautifully wrapped package, and said, "I brought you this." It was a book on the great cathedrals of Europe. I wasn't exactly sure why she'd given it to me until I read her inscription: "To Charlotte, with admiration for the greatness of what you are building when no one sees."

In the days ahead I would read - no, devour - the book. And I would discover what would become for me, four life-changing truths, after which I could pattern my work: No one can say who built the great cathedrals - we have no record of their names. These builders gave their whole lives for a work they would never see finished. They made great sacrifices and expected no credit. The passion of their building was fueled by their faith that the eyes of God saw everything. A legendary story in the book told of a rich man who came to visit the cathedral while it was being built, and he saw a workman carving a tiny bird on the inside of a beam. He was puzzled and asked the man, "Why are you spending so much time carving that bird into a beam that will be covered by the roof? No one will ever see it." And the workman replied, "Because God sees."

I closed the book, feeling the missing piece fall into place. It was almost as if I heard God whispering to me, "I see you, Charlotte. I see the sacrifices you make every day, even when no one around you does. No act of kindness you've done, no sequin you've sewn on, no cupcake you've baked, is too small for me to notice and smile over. You are building a great cathedral, but you can't see right now what it will become."

At times, my invisibility feels like an affliction. But it is not a disease that is erasing my life. It is the cure for the disease of my own self-centeredness. It is the antidote to my strong, stubborn pride. I keep the right perspective when I see myself as a great builder. As one of the people who show up at a job that they will never see finished, to work on something that their name will never be on.

The writer of the book went so far as to say that no cathedrals could ever be built in our lifetime because there are so few people willing to sacrifice to that degree.

As mothers, we are building great cathedrals. We cannot be seen if we're doing it right. And one day, it is very possible that the world will marvel, not only at what we have built, but at the beauty that has been added to the world by the sacrifices of invisible women.

Great Job, MOM!

~Author Unknown~



**Mailing Address & Meeting Location**  
Monument Bible Church  
4124 Avenue I  
Scottsbluff, NE 69361  
308-632-4099

**MOPS Coordinator 2007-08**  
Alena Haun  
632-5662  
cchaun@charterinternet.com

**Newsletter Editor**  
Ruth Buck  
632-3063  
4bucks@embarqmail.com



*Better Moms Make A Better World*