

Pictures from October MOPS Mom's Night Out



ISSUE  
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# THE MATERNAL JOURNAL

## Cheshire MOPS Newsletter



### COMING UP:

Our guest speaker for the 3rd of December is Nancy, from a company called Simply Fun ([simplyfun.com](http://simplyfun.com)). She will be talking to us about the skills kids learn when they play, why play is so effective as a teaching tool, how it improves a child's self-esteem, the role of a mom as "First teacher" and ideas to make together time more playful, enjoyable and productive.



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There was once a woman from MOPS P.4

### A REMINDER.....TO GIVE THANKS !

This mug was purchased on St. Patrick's Day 2008. I'd stopped by Starbucks while out running errands and a recent talk with Phillip was fresh on my mind. We'd been married 6 years and both felt that we were ready to have a baby.

It was an exciting conversation, but somehow being in that Starbucks alone made my heart ache. Why had I agreed to wait until the end of summer? Five whole months away!

I realize how petty this sounds to those of you who have waited or are still waiting months, even years, to have a baby. The excitement, the anticipation that should have filled my heart on that jolly green St. Paddy's day was overshadowed with a heavy dull ache; it was a longing I had not experienced before, yet many of you know that feeling too well.

In short, I missed a person I did not yet know. Maybe for you, you are missing the tiny beating heart of a person you didn't get to meet on this side of time. I can't imagine the pain and I wish I were close enough to hug you.

In that Starbucks, while waiting for my order, I picked up this mug- in my favorite lime green- and gave my heavy feelings, all of that pink and blue baggage over to the Lord.

In my heart, I told Him that when I drank coffee out of this very cup, I wanted to be reminded to pray for the little boy or girl He had for us- however He chose for us to have this child, as adoption had always been on our hearts, too,- and for the perfect timing when he or she would enter this world.

I started taking my Flintstones gummies daily and vowed to drop 15 pounds in the next five months, in preparation of being pregnant. I put on ten and then at least another fifty on the pregnancy, but that's another story. One with a happy ending, thankfully, as it is all off now.

(Con't. Page 2)

# November

2010

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	2	3	4	5 MOPS meeting	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 MOPS Leaders Mtg 9.30am	13 Happy Birthday Qing Liu!	14
15	16	17	18	19 NO MOPS meeting	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

**Getting Crafty with the kids this Thanksgiving: A Child's Thanksgiving Tree**



**Materials needed:**

white poster board; pencil; tempera paint; markers or crayons; construction paper in red, yellow, green and orange; markers; scissors; glue; glitter glue (optional)

- Draw a basic tree with a branch for each child in the family (for fewer children, it might be fun to include 2 or 3 branches for each child.)
- Using tempera paint, markers, or crayons color the tree trunk brown.
- On construction paper, trace 10 copies of each child's hand. Cut out and give each child their "leaves".
- Each child writes one thing that they are thankful for on each leaf. Decorate the leaves with glitter glue if you like. Next, tape or glue the leaves onto their designated branches.
- Hang the Thanksgiving Tree where the whole family can see it. Later, after dinner, have the children present their tree to the family gathered around. Each child tells what they are thankful for and why.

## The funny side of parenting

Here are some jokes to bring out a few smiles from the kids this Thanksgiving season:

**Can a turkey jump higher than the Empire State Building?**  
*Yes. A building can't jump at all!*

**What did the turkey say to the turkey hunter?**  
*"Quack, Quack, Quack"*

**What's blue and covered with feathers?**  
*A turkey holding its breath*

**If the Pilgrims were alive today what would they be most famous for?**  
*Their age!*

Submitted by Sandy Swank

### A Reminder to Give Thanks

(Con't. from Page 1)

And I prayed. Every morning that I used that mug, I prayed.

I realize waiting six years does not make us the next Duggar brood, nor does it mean that we would not have welcomed - with open arms and hearts - a child the Lord may have blessed us with as a surprise, by our terminology, years earlier. The timing would still have been perfect by His!

Fast forward to Valentine's Day, 2009 As a gift to one another, we went to a 3D movie. We didn't have to wear hideous glasses, either. We went to see a new feature film, one starring our baby, our thirty-two-week-old son.

*"He hath made every thing beautiful in His time."* Ecc. 3:11

Whether or not we got pregnant right away - we obviously did - or it was years away or never, His timing is always perfect.

And...

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you."* Jer. 29:11-12

My mug is neither a magical mug, nor one I treat with more reverence than a porcelain mug should warrant. That is, none. It is, however, a simple reminder. To pray for my husband and son. **To give thanks.** To spend time talking to Him about my dreams. A reminder to listen. - Anna Rambo

## Pumpkin Chocolate Chip cookies with Cream Cheese Frosting

Cookies:

- ½ cup shortening
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup pumpkin puree
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 2 cups flour
- ¼ tsp salt
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1 ½ cups chocolate chips

Preheat oven to 350. Grease cookie sheets.

In medium bowl, cream the shortening and sugar. Stir in the pumpkin and vanilla. In separate bowl, stir together the flour, salt, baking soda, baking powder, and cinnamon; stir into the creamed mixture. Stir in chocolate chips, drop in balls onto pan and bake 10 minutes in preheated oven.

Icing:

- 1 8oz pkg cream cheese
- ½ cup butter
- 1 lb powdered sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla
- dash of salt

Mix it all together and put a healthy dollop onto each cookie. ENJOY!

### Mommy Masterpiece



The first is of Luke making a "cotton candy mustache" at the Big E. :) The second is of Adam about to chow down on his beloved candied apple (also at the Big E). Megan is thoroughly enjoying her first birthday cupcake! What can I say...my kids love to eat!!

Erin Crisci

### Service Opportunities

- We are in need of a Publicity leader and a Discussion Group Leader (DGL). For more details of the position or if you would like to reach out and serve, please contact Sandy.
- Please continue to bring in mini-toiletries for the women at Prudence Crandall and unsharpened pencils to help our MOPPETS reach out to children in Archer Elementary School, NC.

### Mommies Online

Fun Science/ Art with the family

- Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, Hartford

<http://www.wadsworthatheneum.org/do/calendar.php?cat=57>

- Ansonia Nature Center
- <http://www.ansonianaturecenter.org/calendarofevents.html>

- White Memorial Conservation Center, Lichfield

<http://www.whitememorialc.org/calendar.html>