

The Front Porch

Where friends meet to share their stories...



VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

09/20/2013



Welcome to the Beautiful Mess!

If you would have asked me 10 years ago if I thought God's plans for me included having conversations about whether lions are tougher than dinosaurs, picking up toys every night, or removing everything from my car to wipe it down because a two-year-old ate a chocolate chip cookie, I may have laughed in your face. It's funny how God works. Motherhood was nowhere near my radar years ago, but now I wouldn't even want to imagine how different my life would be without my two messes. Most days leave me exhausted, un-showered, and with a house I'd be embarrassed to let anyone into. But do you know what? The grime of raising children brings the beauty of motherhood. That's what "A Beautiful Mess" means to me.

We're all mothers of preschoolers; we know what a mess is and we generally don't think of it as being anything close to beautiful. Our first instinct as mothers is to clean that mess! This year we want to help you embrace the mess...and then help you find ways to "clean" it up. Throughout this MOPS year we will be taking our house, one room at a time, and cleaning it (if you will). Each month our focus will be on a particular room that signifies some sort of mess mothers deal with. We want you to understand that you are not alone in living in messes, so embrace it! However, you are unique and there are things that you bring to the mess that no one else can. That's why you have to "Embrace YOUR Story" in order to

be able to do any sort of cleaning. Then we can help each other find ways to clean the mess.

One thing I've learned about motherhood is that it takes constant cleaning. You know, it's the same with us. But, as our theme verse this year points out, "We are God's masterpiece..." Have you ever watched your child create something? When they are finished with their masterpiece, the look on their face says it all! The accomplishment, the pride, the delight on the face of that child is priceless. I can imagine God looking down on me, after giving me my two boys and watching the daily messes I get into with them, and He has that same look of utter satisfaction because I am His masterpiece.

My goal this year is to embrace my story, my beautiful mess. Although I may not have planned long ago that this life of toys, crumbs, spit-up, stickiness, and sleeplessness was going to be what I get up for every morning, the Artist of all creation painted me into the perfect spot on His canvas and I'm going to be His masterpiece. Will you join me?

Karen McAmis, Co-Coordinator

For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)

About the Author:



Name: Karen McAmis

Hometown: Spearfish, SD

Favorite Movie: How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days

Favorite Book (besides The Bible):

The Velveteen Rabbit

Favorite Song: "His Eye Is On the Sparrow"

Favorite Musical Group: Mannheim Steamrollers

Favorite T.V. Show: Castle

Favorite Quote: "Momma don't raise no dummies!"

Favorite Food: Chocolate

Favorite Hobby: Fantasy Football

Favorite Color: Purple

Lessons Learned-Mentor Moment by Carolyn Owens

Me and My Mess

Our MOPS theme for this year is “My Beautiful Mess”. We often think of the mess in our home, our family, and or in our life. This year the Mentor’s devotionals will feature different women in the Bible and how God used their messy life to glorify Him. You will discover women whom you may have never heard mentioned in the Bible before, hear their story, and realize that if God can love this woman then He can surely love me.

In the first chapter of Genesis, we learn that God created man in His own image, male and female He created them. Notice that we are created in the image of God, so that means He created us for a purpose. Throughout the creation narrative in this chapter of Genesis, God

states that whatever has been created was “good”. After the creation of male and female, it states that “God saw all that He had made, and it was very good”. God didn’t say perfect; He said, “it was very good.” We aren’t going to be perfect and we will have messes in our lives.

We all have things in our lives that we wish we could change. When we think of our theme, “My Beautiful Mess”, remember that the mess is “My” own. However, I am still “Beautiful” to God and He will continue to love me. The first two letters in the word “Mess” spell “Me”. I am the one who has to ask, trust, and rely on Him to make changes in my attitudes and in my choices in order for me to change my “Mess”.

Let’s Take a WALK!

Snyder MOPS has joined the American Heart Association in support of the Sandhills Heart Walk on **October 12** and want everyone who is willing to join the Snyder MOPS team! It will be a day of fun fellowship to support a great cause! It costs nothing to join the team and donations are appreciated but NOT necessary! For more information contact Mary Joy Slesman at :
maryjoy.slesman@gmail.com.

Sign up today!

Pumpkin Patch Play Date

We have scheduled our annual visit to West Produce in Spring Lake for

October 21st at 9:30a.m.

The cost is \$6 per person (1 and under free), and includes the hayride, use of the playground, and a pumpkin! Our hayride is scheduled to take off promptly at **10 am!** You are welcome to bring a picnic lunch or snacks to munch on after we finish our hayride and playground fun! **Please see Jenny Harris to sign up!** We will need a head count ASAP to guarantee as much space as we need!

Can't wait to see you there!



It's time to PLAY!

10 Things HAPPY PEOPLE Do Differently

- 1. Express Gratitude**— When you appreciate what you have, what you have appreciates in value
- 2. Cultivate Optimism**—people who think enthusiastically see the world full of endless possibilities
- 3. Avoid overthinking and social comparisons**—comparing yourself to someone else can be poisonous

- 4. Practice Acts of Kindness**—Selflessly helping someone is a super powerful way to feel good inside.
- 5. Nurture Social Relationships**—The happiest people on the planet are the ones who have deep, meaningful relationships.
- 6. Learn to Forgive**—Harboring feelings of hatred is horrible for your well-being.
- 7. Savor Life's Joys**—Deep happiness can't exist without slowing down to enjoy the day.
- 8. Commit to your goals**—Magical things start happening when we commit to do whatever it takes.

- 9. Take care of your body**—this is crucial to being the happiest you can be.
- 10. Practice Spirituality**—we recognize that life is bigger than us!



Check your Schedule!



- 9/4-Happy Birthday Patty Salinas!
- 9/14-Happy Birthday Halena Luffler!
- 9/15-Happy Birthday Danielle Furrell!
- 9/25-Playdate in the Park 10:30am
- 9/28-MOPS Night Out
- 10/4-MOPS Morning In (Speed Friendship) 9:30am
- 10/11-October MOPS Meeting 9:30am
- 10/21-Pumpkin Patch Play Date 9:30am
- 10/31-Snyder Memorial Fall Celebration

You are a **MASTERPIECE!**
(Ephesians 2:10)

You are important. <small>(1 Peter 2:9)</small>	You are forgiven. <small>(Psalm 103:12)</small>	You are a new creation. <small>(2 Corinthians 5:17)</small>
You are protected. <small>(Psalm 121:3)</small>	You are family. <small>(Ephesians 2:19)</small>	You are strong. <small>(Psalm 68:35)</small>
You are unique. <small>(Psalm 119:33)</small>	You were created for a purpose. <small>(Jeremiah 29:11)</small>	You are victorious. <small>(1 John 5:3-5)</small>

Our Compliments to the Chef!

Thank you Steering team for this months breakfast!

October- Red Table

November— Orange Table

December- Mentor/Table Leaders

TIME OUT!

with the Moppetts

Welcome to all our precious MOPPETS – and MOPS moms!

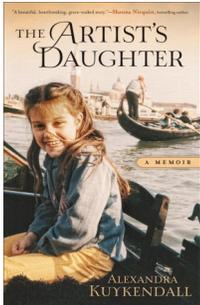
Our teachers and volunteers are so excited to start this new year with your little ones. We have lots of fun activities and lessons planned. The focus of the MOPPETS Bible study this year is 'All Around My Home.' Our children will learn how God wants them to live in, and take care of, their home – their world. All of us pray your children will learn, grow, and have lots of fun during their time in MOPPETS. May this time contribute to the building of your child's firm foundation of faith in, and love for, God!



“Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it.”

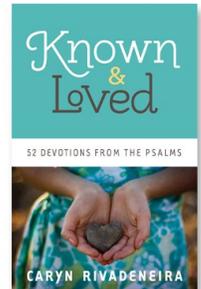
Proverbs 22:6

For questions or more information on the Moppetts program contact Holyn Bogert at 254-220-8424 or holyn.bogert@gmail.com



This years theme book is:

The Artist's Daughter: A Memoir by Alexandra Kuykendall



And this years theme devotional is:

Known & Loved: 52 Devotions from the Psalms by Caryn Rivadeneira

2013-2014 Steering Team

Karen McAmis-Co Coordinator (jkmcamis@msn.com)

Laura Peterson-Co-Coordinator (laura.rosa@maine.edu)

Carolyn Owens-Mentor Leader (carolynowens@nc.rr.com)

Kellie Ross-Communications Leader (kellie.ross0421@gmail.com)

Holyn Bogert-Moppets Leader (holyn.bogert@gmail.com)

Mary Joy Sleesman-Prayer/Care/Service Leader (maryjoy.sleesman@gmail.com)

Stephanie Lake-Hospitality Leader (stelake@aol.com)

Amy Patterson-Creative Activities Leader (amypatterson1@gmail.com)

Jennifer Hannah-Finance/Registration Leader (Jennifer.hannah1@gmail.com)

The newsletter is brought to you by Snyder MOPS. Your ideas and suggestions are welcome.

Recipes, tips, activities...anything goes! Submissions are due by the 5th of each month.

Contact us at SNYDERMOPS@GMAIL.COM