

The Splash

Captain's Log by Adrienne Murphy

2 years ago I was one of the last one's getting my stuff together after a MOPS meeting. Carolyn Owens and Laurie Morrison came over and asked those of us at my table if we had filled out an application for steering team. I had no idea what they were talking about; after all it was my first year in MOPS. I took an application not knowing what it was all about and filled it out saying I would be good at a newsletter.

After that, I got a call asking if I would be a Co Coordinator; Laurie Morrison and Kelly Blankenship (the current Co Coordinators) thought I would be a good fit for that. My response was, "Sure! What's a Co Coordinator?!" Good job interview huh? Here I hadn't even paid attention to what steering position did what all year long! Still, I accepted the job saying I would help out however they needed me... I wonder if Karen had a better idea what she was getting into than me?!

That first year was definitely a growing year for me and I think our group in general. Being that it was under new leadership for the first time in a while, Karen and I felt like we had big shoes to fill. I grew in my true understanding of MOPS, I grew in my personal walk with Christ, and believe it or not I even grew in how outgoing I thought I was. It wasn't the theme that year but I definitely learned the true meaning of PLUNGE.

Plunge: to enter quickly and forcibly into something : to thrust or cast oneself into

God asked me to trust Him and "thrust" myself into MOPS not really knowing if I would actually be any good at it. I doubted myself numerous times in the beginning and didn't understand why God had put me in such a position with and in charge of others I didn't even know from the group. On top of that, my best friend and mentor had just been "quickly and forcibly" uprooted from Bragg and sent to Mississippi. How could I lead a group of women without my own mentor? Simple,

"And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?" Ester 4:14

God has now asked me, no, "quickly and forcibly thrust" me out of the same position I was called to. I am being asked to step down from leading MOPS, bible studies, Sunday School and committees. With our move to Kansas, I will be starting over; new church, new friends, new everything ... and ironically I am seeing how God wants this year in MOPS to wrap up ... I am supposed to take everything I've been trying to teach you guys and apply it myself as I prepare to PLUNGE into new beginnings.

It's time now for many new faces to take the position of table leader or steering team and I know God has great things in store for this group just by seeing the passions, talents and gifts these women have. Maybe you aren't being called to some grand position in your eyes, but just know that God is calling you to your own "royal position" specifically "for such a time as this". Will you take the PLUNGE?



Deep Sea Diving: A Mentor Moment with Suzanne Benge

Growing a Good Garden by Trusting in God's Promises

I moved to Fayetteville not very willingly almost thirteen years ago now. My family *had* to leave a church, friends, neighborhood, schools, and a community which we loved and where we had planned to live permanently. My husband had been downsized, and staying was not an option. I left behind friends who had been there for me, friends who had prayed with and for me, rewarding jobs, and groups that really enriched my life. As I was leaving my Moms In Touch group of three years, a mom new to the group came up and presented me with a small ceramic heart filled with cards. She explained that she loved the heart because her sister had given it to her and because on the cards were verses with God's promises. I was hesitant to accept her gift because I could see how much it meant to her, but she insisted, saying that God kept urging her to give it to me. An old story about a king surveying his garden says that he saw almost all of it drying up and dying because each tree and plant wished to be something else or somewhere it couldn't. To the one bright daisy thriving at the end of the garden, the king said, "Well ... I'm glad to find there is at least one happy face in my garden." The daisy replied, "Oh king...one day I realized that if you planted me here, you must have had a good reason. So, I've determined to be the best little flower I can be!" Changes in life, such as moving, additions to the family, health concerns, work worries, and just life in this world can cause stress. As women and mothers, we often excel at taking to heart those concerns. No matter what place or in what situation it is

planted, if your garden of life is *growing negatives* like anger or worry, they are taking up room for trusting in God's promises and all the good things He has planned. God had a plan for placing our family here in Fayetteville. A great church family appeared almost immediately, musical and spiritual opportunities undreamed of for my children have been abundant, more than challenging work is present for my husband (God is still working out His plan for that one!), friends and support have grown in unexpected places, and many opportunities to serve and grow have materialized. Our garden has not escaped hard times and years, but God has been there as He promised. If we had not decided to accept God's promises and focus on the here and the today, we would each have missed out on a lot of happiness and some great growing in this place where God planted us.

Deuteronomy 31:8 "Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord is the one who goes before you. He will be with you; he will neither fail you nor forsake you."

Dear God,

Your word in the Bible is full of your promises. In this garden of life, help all of us to be mindful of the fact that no matter what we face, you promise to go before us and to be with us.

Amen

DON'T FORGET!

Lots of our MOPS Moms are expecting! So please keep an eye out on Facebook and in email for meal train opportunities!



SUMMER PLUNGE CHALLENGE

Do your best to continue the relationships that we have built this semester! Have playdates, text each other or talk on the phone to deepen the connections you have built. Remember:

LOVE AS IF YOUR LIFE DEPENDED ON IT!



Congratulations MOPSCAR winners!

EARLY BIRD AWARD: Sebrell Singleton

LIGHTHOUSE AWARD: Hannah Abbott

MOST LIKELY TO BE LATE: Lea Johnson, Heather Sanchez

ABOVE & BEYOND AWARD: Wendy Weir, Amy Patterson

PERFECT ATTENDANCE: Anna Camp

ANCHOR AWARD: Karen McAmis

MOST MOPS SPIRIT: Kellie Ross

CAPTAINS AWARD: Adrienne Murphy

MOST LIKELY TO BRIGHTEN YOUR DAY: Maddison Caldwell

LIFE PRESERVER AWARD: Jenny Harris, Mary Joy Slesman

LUCKIEST MOM: Tracie Brown

SYNCRONIZED SWIMMING AWARD: Stephanie Lake,
Laura Martina

BEST LISTENER: Tara Crawford

COMPASS AWARD: Gaye Cook

MOST HELPFUL: Jennifer Hannah

WHITE WATER RAFTING AWARD: Laura Peterson

BEST ADVICE: Patty Salinas, Holyn Bogert

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT: Carolyn Owens

SURVIVOR AWARD: Dana Neeley, Kirsten Faircloth,

Kimberly Mahne



The semester is over but that doesn't mean we have to stop seeing our MOPS friends!
Join us the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month during June, July and August!

June 12, July 10, August 14 -Mellow Mango Playdate 3pm

June 26, July 24, August 21-Playdate in the Park 10:30am

Happy Birthday!

SUMMER BIRTHDAYS

5/13-Margaret Barefoot

7/8-Kimberly Mahne

7/16-Carolyn Owens

5/15-Sebrell Singleton

7/10-Tracie Brown

7/30-Lea Johnson

5/30-Anna Camp

7/11-Laura Peterson

8/4-Jennifer Hannah

6/13-Hannah Abbott



Meet Your 2013 Steering Team

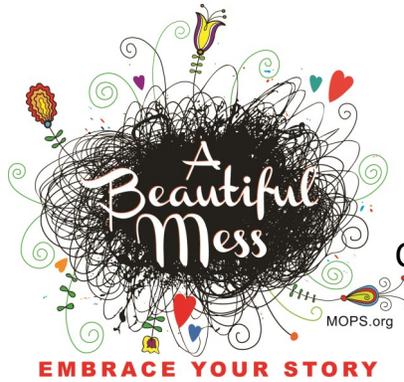
Coordinator: **Karen McAmis**

Co-Coordinator: **Laura Peterson**

Mentor Leader: **Carolyn Owens**

Finance: **Jennifer Hannah**

Communications: **Kellie Ross**



Hospitality: **Stephanie Lake**

Prayer/Care/Service:

Mary Joy Slesman

Creative Activities: **Amy Patterson**

Moppets Leader: **Holyn Bogert**

Jumping In by Karen McAmis

We were at a Birthday party for one of Collin's friends this weekend. It was a pool party. Collin is old enough now that I don't have to get into the pool with him. He can swim by himself, although when I'm not swimming with him I have him wear his "floaties" just to be safe. Maybe it was because he hadn't been in a pool this year without either of his parents, or maybe just because he'd never been to this particular pool, nevertheless my normally bold and risky son was afraid to let go of the side of the pool. I finally convinced him that he could swim on his own and he was definitely not going to sink because his "floaties" would keep him up. Eventually, after performing a few small tests, he let go of the wall and started swimming. Of course, then I couldn't get him out of the pool!

At one point in the afternoon one of the little girls wanted to jump into the pool like she'd seen some of the other kids doing. She was afraid. So Collin, in mid bite of a hot dog, jumped out of my lap and ran to her. He grabbed her hand and said "I'll jump with you!" That gave her just the courage she needed. They spent the rest of the afternoon jumping in together.

That is exactly what I learned about taking the plunge this year. When I'm in a new place without any familiar faces, I get anxious too. I forget that I have THE "Floatie" right by my side all the time. I forget that my God is with me and will not let me sink. This year I

learned to let go of that wall and trust my God.

I also learned that it's easier with a friend. I want to be out there having fun like I see so many other moms doing. But I'm afraid to jump in! It's so much easier to walk into something holding someone else's hand and knowing that you can rely on each other.

Most importantly, I learned that I need to love as if my life depended on it. Collin was in mid bite of his hot dog and recognized the need someone else and didn't hesitate to run to her aid. If only I could love like that! I want to be loved like that! How much easier would motherhood be if we all recognized the needs and ran to the aid of a friend? And how much easier would motherhood be if we all accepted the hand that reached out to help us and obtained strength and courage from it? Love as if your life depended on it!

It's the end of our year. By definition, end is "an outcome worked toward". Let me tell you, we worked hard for this outcome! I hope you all learned something this year. I hope you made a new relationship or strengthened one. I hope you felt or showed authentic love. I hope a lot for each of you!

So what did you get out of MOPS this year? Each of us came wanting something different but I hope we all leave with the same thing...a relationship. Plunge. It's about jumping in.

Until Next Semester...