

MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) 2008 Annual Report

MOPS at Erin Presbyterian is a charter group of a worldwide Christian organization called MOPS International. The 2008-2009 theme for MOPS International is "Adventures in Mothering" and the key scripture verse is Ephesians 3:18 ". . . how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ. . ."

MOPS met 15 times during the months of January to May and September to December. Each meeting included a devotional, led by one of our members, a guest speaker or craft project, open discussion, and fellowship. Speaker topics included children's literacy, personal relationships, kindergarten readiness, finding balance in our lives, and early childhood development. During the summer months, MOPS met twice a month for playdates, usually at Erin's playground.

Joy Bornhoeft and Jannette Smith are serving as co-coordinators this year and lead a steering team of 8 dedicated members. Steering Team members plan group meetings, coordinate speakers, crafts, organize a prayer chain and monthly newsletter, oversee finances, lead mission projects, and coordinate the MOPPETS (childcare) program. We have 20 moms registered this year (including 6 moms new to the group) and 26 children in our MOPPETS program. The children are divided into 3 classes, each staffed by a qualified teacher. During our meetings, the children learn simple bible lessons, have craft time, and free play.

Our MOPS moms support each other through prayer and fellowship. We provide meals to moms following the birth of a child and during family illnesses (last year, 4 of our moms welcomed new additions to their families). In addition, we fellowship together once a month during Mom's Night Out. Last year's activities included bowling, eating out, putt-putt golf, movie night, game night, and our Annual Christmas Cookie Exchange.

In addition, Erin MOPS continues to support a variety of outreach projects. Last winter, MOPS hosted a Wednesday Night Dinner at Erin and donated all proceeds to support Lauren Stuart's trip to Africa. In March, we teamed with CASA of East Tennessee (Court Appointed Special Advocates) and donated games and crafts for a gift basket that was presented to the winner of CASA's Student Essay Contest. In October, we collected 173 canned good items which were donated to the food pantry at the Morgan-Scott Project. Lastly, in November, MOPS coordinated the Operation Christmas Child Project with Erin Presbyterian. Together, MOPS and the congregation at Erin packed and wrapped 82 boxes to be shipped to children in underprivileged areas. Also, we collected \$1138 in donations to cover the cost of shipping these boxes and 80 additional boxes.

MOPS Annual Report submitted by Joy Bornhoeft, Coordinator