

**Even there Your hand will guide me,
Your right hand will hold me fast.
- Psalm 139:10**



Holy Spirit MOPS

The Easter Egg Tree

By Sylvia Reese, MOPS International Area Coordinator

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Issue 8

There is something about celebrating Easter when spring is just beginning that feels so good. I remember the special things I did as a child to celebrate Easter, including Easter egg hunts at church, painting Easter eggs, making Easter baskets and anticipating the little chocolate eggs that would be in that basket on Easter morning.

Why eggs? What do eggs have to do with Easter? Well, from a very long time ago, eggs have been considered the seed of life. Easter is the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, how he was raised from the dead. The Easter egg represents that new life.

When we were growing up, my mother would help my sister and I make an Easter Egg Tree every year. She took raw eggs, made holes in each end and blew out the inside. The empty shells were then rinsed out and left to dry. When the eggs were void of all moisture, my sister and I would gather our favorite decorating materials: sequins, feathers, yarn, lace, felt, stickers, paper punch holes, glue and paint. We had a great time letting our imaginations run wild as we turned those hollow eggs into works of art!

It was just the right project for two little girls who were four years apart in age, because we could decorate those eggs to our own abilities and interests, simply or very elaborately. Once the eggs were decorated, we would glue a loop of yarn to one end of each egg. Then my mother would go into our yard and cut some forsythia branches with lots of little unopened buds on them. She would put them in a large vase of water and we would hang our eggs all over those branches — taa-daa — our Easter Egg Tree! Over the next few days, my sister and I would excitedly watch to see all those tiny buds open up into bright yellow flowers, making our ‘tree’ even more beautiful and a great illustration of new life.

www.mops.org

Inside this issue:

Get to Know extra!	2
Get to Know...	3
Sponsors	4
Kid's Activities	5
Book of the Month	5
Calendar	6

EASTER EGGS

Of all the symbols associated with Easter the *egg*, the symbol of fertility and new life, is the most identifiable. The customs and traditions of using eggs have been associated with Easter for centuries.

Originally Easter eggs were painted with bright colors to represent the sunlight of spring and were used in Easter-egg rolling contests or given as gifts. After they were colored and etched with various designs the eggs were exchanged by lovers and romantic admirers, much the same as valentines. In medieval time eggs were traditionally given at Easter to the servants. In Germany eggs were given to children along with other Easter gifts.

Different cultures have developed their own ways of decorating Easter eggs. Crimson eggs, to honor the blood of Christ, are exchanged in Greece. In parts of Germany and Austria green eggs are used on Maundy Thursday (Holy Thursday). Slavic peoples decorate their eggs in special patterns of gold and silver. (Cont. on p.2)

Tips to make your life easier...

- Before you pour sticky substances into a measuring cup, fill it with hot water. Dump out the water, but do not dry.
- Use hair conditioner to shave your legs...cheaper and leaves legs really smooth.
- To get rid of ants put small piles of cornmeal where you see ants. They eat it, take it "home", can't digest it and kills them (may take a week or two).

www.heartofwisdom.com

Do you have a tip for moms you would like to share?
Email...
Karian.hayes@gmail.com

Get to Know...

Jennifer Copelin

Most disliked household chore? Mopping and cleaning the bathroom. For some reason I feel like the bathroom is never clean enough so I have to clean it at least twice sometimes more a week.

Favorite TV show? Desperate Housewives, Modern Family, Parenthood, Grey's Anatomy and Private Practice. Thank goodness for Hulu.

What is your favorite sport? Do you watch or play? Softball/Baseball and Football. I use to play softball a lot and that's how I met my husband. It's quite the love story he played shortstop and I played second base and with our double plays the sparks flew. :) I love hanging out at the K in the summer and watching a good football game in the winter.

What is the best trip you have taken? Our trip to Belize when we got married. It was amazing and it helped that I didn't have to do anything for our wedding except pick out my dress.

Where were you born?/Where did you grow up?

I was born and grew up in Garden City, KS 6 hours away. I moved to Kansas City in 2000 after an impulse decision by my friend and I, needless to say it is the best decision I have ever made.

What else would you like people to know about you? I plan on going to Nursing school when the boys get a little bit older.



Pam Siems

Most disliked chore? Ironing! Some how I make clothes look worse when I attempt to iron.

Favorite holiday? Christmas. I love the spirit of Christmas and how charitable and happy our society becomes around Christmas. I wish that spirit would carry through the whole year for everyone. Looking forward to Gavin's first Christmas this year and creating new traditions with him.

Do you prefer coffee or tea? Coffee with flavored creamer. Great way to start the day with a warm cup of coffee.

What is your favorite season? Fall. I love the colors of autumn and all the fall festivals and fun activities like pumpkin picking.

Favorite movie? Date Night! I hadn't laughed that hard in a long time.



EASTER EGGS (CONT)

Austrian artists design patterns by fastening ferns and tiny plants around the eggs, which are then boiled. The plants are then removed revealing a striking white pattern. The Poles and Ukrainians decorate eggs with simple designs and colors. A number of eggs are made in the distinctive manner called *pysanki* (to design, to write).

Pysanki eggs are a masterpiece of skill and workmanship. Melted beeswax is applied to the fresh white egg. It is then dipped in successive baths of dye. After each dip wax is painted over the area where the preceding color is to remain. Eventually a complex pattern of lines and colors emerges into a work of art.

In Germany and other countries eggs used for cooking where not broken, but the contents were removed by piercing the end of each egg with a needle and blowing the contents into a bowl. The hollow eggs were dyed and hung from shrubs and trees during the Easter Week. The Armenians would decorate hollow eggs with pictures of Christ, the Virgin Mary, and other religious designs.

<http://www.holidays.net/easter/eggs.htm>

More...Get to Know...

Megan Bray

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? A children's book author and a mom

Do you have any pets? We have one orange cat named Felix. He's very playful and loves playing with my son. I always say that they're best friends! He's a special cat to me because I got him when my husband was on the catastrophe team and traveling most of the year, and he kept me from going crazy from loneliness and boredom!

Favorite movie? My all time favorites are the Anne of Green Gables movies and The Sound of Music. Both of them are so romantic and I always tear up a little at the end.

What is your favorite season? Fall- I love the beautiful colors, going to the pumpkin patch and apple orchards, Halloween, and wearing hoodies.

What is your favorite dessert, sweet, or candy? I am a major candy-holic. Candy bars are a major vice for me. My favorite is Reece's Peanut Butter Cups. Basically, I love everything with chocolate and peanut butter - that's always a yummy combination!

What else would you like people to know about you? I'm just here trying to be the best wife and mother that I can be. My husband and my son are the most important people in the world to me. When I looked down at my son when he was born, I knew my purpose was to be a mom!



Emily Mackie

Most disliked household chore? Tie between emptying the dishwasher, and dusting.

Do you have any phobias? Heights

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? A gymnast.

Favorite food? Mexican food, enchiladas, tacos, all of it.

If you could vacation anywhere in the world, where would you go? Hawaii

What do you like doing after the kids are asleep? talk to my husband and watch TV

Favorite TV show? Rehab Addict

What kind of music do you listen to (besides kid's music!)? Everything except country music

Do you prefer Coffee or hot tea? Coffee for sure.

What is your favorite holiday? I Love Halloween

What is your favorite sport? Do you watch or play? Love to watch football, love to play softball

What is your favorite color? Pink

Are you a morning or night person? Morning person

What is the best trip you have taken? Our first family vacation last summer to Myrtle Beach. It was the first time my son had ever seen the ocean. It was priceless.

Where were you born?/Where did you grow up? born in Independence, grew up in Blue Springs

Favorite movie? Tommy Boy makes me laugh every time I watch it.

Do you have any pets? Did you have pets growing up? We have a cat Baxter, and a dog named Ziggy.

What is your favorite season? Summer.

What's your favorite thing to do with your family? Take walks, swim, do anything outside.

What is your favorite dessert, sweet, or candy? Reese's peanut butter cups and really anything chocolate.

What else would you like people to know about you? I am shy, but I love to be around people, and I LOVE being a mom.

Website of the Month:

<http://alphamom.com/family-fun/activities/50-things-to-do-with-kids-in-the-kansas-city-area-before-or-even-after-they-grow-up/>

This is a long obnoxious website address, but just go to www.alphamom.com and search Kansas city then look for the article "50 things to do with your kids in KC"...how many have you done so far?



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Becky Podjenski

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Weds @ 10am – Church of the Resurrection (Blue Springs)
Thurs & Fri @ 10am – St. Paul's Episcopal (Lee's Summit)



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Fun with kids...Egg Dyeing: Rubber Bands Technique

Stretch the uses of an ordinary office supply with this easy technique.

Materials

- Eggs
- Dye
- Rubber bands



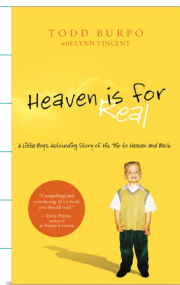
Instructions

1. Just wrap your egg with rubber bands before placing it in a container of dye.
2. Remove it when it reaches a shade you like, let it dry, then remove the rubber bands. Or, to give your egg a few different shades, take off only some of the bands before dyeing the egg in a second color.



For more egg dyeing techniques check out the links at <http://familyfun.go.com/easter/easter-crafts/easter-egg-decorating/egg-dyeing-rubber-bands-technique-668372/>

Egg Dyeing: Aluminum Foil Technique, Bubble Packaging, Light bulb Sleeves, Sticker Stencils Technique, String Technique & more!



BOOK OF THE MONTH

HEAVEN IS FOR REAL: A Little Boy's Astounding Story of His Trip to Heaven and Back

By: Todd Burpo

I saw this book posted on several friend's FB pages...looks good!

A young boy emerges from life-saving surgery with remarkable stories of his visit to heaven.

Heaven Is for Real is the true story of the four-year old son of a small town Nebraska pastor who during emergency surgery slips from consciousness and enters heaven. He survives and begins talking about being able to look down and see the doctor operating and his dad praying in the waiting room. The family didn't know what to believe but soon the evidence was clear.

Colton said he met his miscarried sister, whom no one had told him about, and his great grandfather who died 30 years before Colton was born, then shared impossible-to-know details about each. He describes the horse that only Jesus could ride, about how "reaaaally big" God and his chair are, and how the Holy Spirit "shoots down power" from heaven to help us.

Told by the father, but often in Colton's own words, the disarmingly simple message is heaven is a real place, Jesus really loves children, and be ready, there is a coming last battle.

www.amazon.com

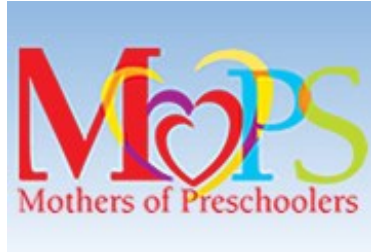
PRAYER REQUESTS

- Deb Marszalek's cousin, Mark, was diagnosed with leukemia about 3 weeks ago. He's 15 years old and lives in Blue Springs. He's had his rounds of chemo and has been declared in remission...but he will have to have a bone marrow transplant to decrease the chances that it will come back. Please pray that the cancer will not come back and that one of his siblings will be able to donate, or that a donor can be found quickly.

- Please send up a prayer for my Angela Stoecklein's neck & back... they have to be healed before surgery and despite all her hard work, they're just not getting better.

- Danielle Gose's dad's recent set of tests come back with little or no change.

- Karian Hayes' husband's mom had back surgery and now has a pain in her leg that they cannot determine what it is. His grandma also fell and had hip surgery and is now in a nursing home.



Birthdays this Month...

- 1—Marla Stout
- 22—MaryJane Seay

Momology

April brings warmer weather (I hope!) and the season of Easter. Enjoy the season and take time to share your love for Jesus with others!

APRIL 2011

Easter Joy

Jesus came to earth,
To show us how to live,
How to put others first,
How to love and how to give.

Then He set about His work,
That God sent Him to do;
He took our punishment on Himself;
He made us clean and new.

He could have saved Himself,
Calling angels from above,
But He chose to pay our price for sin;
He paid it out of love.

Our Lord died on Good Friday,
But the cross did not destroy
His resurrection on Easter morn
That fills our hearts with joy.

Now we know our earthly death,
Like His, is just a rest.
We'll be forever with Him
In heaven, where life is best.

So we live our lives for Jesus,
Think of Him in all we do.
Thank you Savior; Thank you Lord.
Help us love like you!

By Joanna Fuchs
www.poemsource.com

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 April Fool's Day!	2
3	4 7pm MNO at Habaneros	5 9:30am Lil Monkey Bizness in Shawnee Mission	6	7 9:15am MOPS Meeting at Holy Spirit Catholic Church	8	9
10	11	12 10am Harris Park Play Date	13	14 Leaping Lizards in Olathe TBD	15 MNO at Holy Spirit Catholic Church for Easter Baskets & Unfinished Projects 6:30p	16
17	18 9:30am Paradise Park	19 9:30am Deanna Rose Farmstead in Overland Park	20	21 10am Lowenstein Park	22 Good Friday 10am Music with Mar at St. Paul's Lutheran	23
24 Easter	25 10am Legacy Park	26	27 7pm MNO at Olive Garden	28 9:30am KC Zoo	29	30