

**For weekly News Column**  
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## **Better Moms Make a Better World**

Are you a Mom with a life full of diapers, sippy cups and young children? Could you use support and time with other Mothers dealing with the same issues of raising young children? Or do you know a Mother of young children who could benefit from being a part of a supportive group?

If you answered “yes” to any of those questions, MOPS after Dark may be just what you need. The Clinton Christian Church is sponsoring a monthly program for moms and their children called MOPS after Dark. MOPS is an acronym for Mothers of Preschoolers and the program helps mothers celebrate the joys of motherhood and provide encouragement to each mom to get through the challenges of mothering.

Part of my job as a Human Development Specialist with University of Missouri Extension is to provide support and education to parents. This happens in a variety of ways, from phone calls to classes to sending written materials. I’m excited about a local parenting opportunity for Mothers of young children. I will participate as a mentoring Mom and I want to encourage moms to join our group to gain support and have fun with us. Our target audience is moms who work outside the home but any mom is welcome.

MOPS after Dark will meet at the Clinton Christian Church from 6:30-8:30 pm on the third Thursday of the month from September through May. Each meeting will provide an inviting environment where women can come—just as they are—to build friendships, be encouraged, and gain practical parenting strategies—all while their children are lovingly cared for in the MOPPETS program.

This year’s theme is “Momology: The Art and Science of Mothering.” Each month’s program will include a “college class” on such topics as Intro to Momology, The Art and Science of Mothering, Me-ology: Taking Care of Body and Soul, Chemistry 401: Finding Time for My Lab Partner, and Geography 301: Traveling with Children.

MOPS after Dark” recognizes the special needs of working moms and this program is meant to compliment the daytime MOPS group which meets at the First Baptist Church in Clinton. “MOPS,” mothers of preschoolers, is an international organization designed to nurture mothers with children from infancy through kindergarten. They believe “better moms make a better world.”

The next meeting is Thursday, September 16 at the Clinton Christian Church. Further questions can be answered by the church, 660-885-4384, or by contacting the program coordinators, Alexa Thompson at 660-885-9363 or Deb Mills at 660-885-2320.