



Diane is wife to Mike and mom to 3 teenage sons:

- Quinn – age 13 and 8th grader at Bryan JHS (attended Timothy Christian until 5th grade) and plays a few instruments
- Garrett – age 14 and freshman at York (graduated from Timothy Christian Grade School), taking Automotive classes, involved in the automobile club, and plays soccer and LaCrosse
- Michael – age 16 and junior at Timothy Christian High School, plays for the golf team and has a clear calling for his future...PGA (Golf) Management!

Diane was born in Chicago and lived there until 5th grade when she moved to Elmhurst. She went to Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, and has lived in many places including Tempe, AZ, Silverthorn, CO, in the Caribbean working on private charter yachts, Schaumburg, Elk Grove Village, and then moved back to Elmhurst to raise her family. She started attending Elmhurst CRC almost 14 years ago in search of parent support, MOPS, Little Lambs and Coffee Break, but didn't "officially" join until 2005.

1) Why do you feel God called you to be a mentor mom?

To be helpful in mentoring Moms during a time in their lives when support for them is greatly needed. Judy Groter's sister Mary Ziegler, was my MOPS mentor and I remember almost every story she told me and absorbed her motherly wisdom. I especially remember things that she did as a young mother and I would go home and try it out!

2) What is your best advice to moms with preschoolers?

Oh boy, I could go on and on about this question....

- Don't sweat the small stuff, because it really is small in the scope of things.
- Take a deep breath before speaking in anger. Realize what is coming out of your mouth to your child. Displaced anger can be so unhealthy. Seeking support or professional help is not a weakness. The investment you make into your mental health is a huge bonus for your family today and for the future.
- Read to them before lunch or bedtime.
- Don't choose laundry or tidying up over reading or playing with your baby, toddler or child. Looking back you will not remember the clean laundry and organized drawers but your child will remember that you read and spent time with them.
- Let your child know when it is "their special time" with mom or dad. On our past vacations together, my husband and I would take each son, separately, and call it their special time with Mom or Dad. This became expected and well worth each of our efforts. Even if we didn't go on a vacation during a school break we did something with each child "one on one". Even going to the library alone with a son meant it was special time with him. It gives them the message that they are worthy of your time in the midst of the hustle and bustle.
- Dr. Phil said directly to his sons, "out of all the boys in this world how did I get so lucky to be your parent!" So, I would say that as I tucked my sons into their beds at night and as I walked out of the room I would softly sing the words from a country song, "I am the luckiest ***Mom***" ... then they would finish the line, "***in the whole USA***" shine on me son shine on....dorky, but never forgotten. What a nice way to end a day. It could have been the worst day filled with frustration or tiredness but they would get a positive message from me before going to sleep.

3) What do you most enjoy doing with your kids?

Playing sports, riding bikes, and now as teenagers I love it when we are all in the same van together! (You will understand that someday.)

4) With your husband?

Golfing together and biking on the prairie path.

5) What is your favorite part of MOPS?

The speakers who give great advice or have their own life story to share.

Moms are always transitioning and adapting to a growing child. I love that we are always seeking out God's words of wisdom and then seeking His guidance and comfort. I remember a mentor mom telling me to always hug your child, and when that child turns into a teenager who no longer wants your hugs, tell him that you, "the Mom", need a hug. It changes everything. What a grand privilege to have the job title "Mother of 3 and Domestic Engineer!" With an open heart I pray that we all absorb what God is calling us to do for HIM in the roles of his child, wife, mother, sister, niece, aunt, friend, and church member.

Thank you for the privilege to be a part of MOPS!