

My new title... *Soccer Mom*

This is the first year my girls are playing any type of organized sports. The commitment these two little 4^{1/2} year-olds made to FPC SOAR Soccer has given me the official title of *Soccer Mom*... in the literal form, not the stereotypical definition.

I was so excited watching their first game last week! I was field-side with my video camera, my digital camera, and my enthusiasm (to my dismay, I forgot my chair). The uniforms just about covered every inch of the girls and, in my opinion, they looked absolutely adorable! Before game time, I told them to have fun, to pay attention to their coaches (one of which is their Daddy) and to hustle after the ball. They quickly said, "Ok", but I believe they only heard the "have fun" portion.

When the whistle blew to start the game, I was ready! I tried desperately to capture this significant moment on camera. Players were running everywhere and their excitement was contagious. My competitive nature caught the bug and I began... "Kick the ball, Emma!", "Hustle, Lauren... no - go the other way!". I fell right into what I thought the Soccer Mom role should be. In one of my efforts to help, Emma turned to look my way, stopped and gave me a great, big smile. Her coach saw it too, and confirmed, "Yes, Emma, you are beautiful... now let's play some soccer!". It was my fault and I cringed.

That's when it hit me - being on the sideline while my child is playing a game is a tough challenge! It was easy for me to come up with the encouraging words, such as "Good hustle"... but it was just as easy for me to contribute my coaching tips. I honestly found it almost impossible to not interject.

I've been doing some research into the whole 'Soccer Mom' concept. What responsibilities come with that coveted title? What exactly does a soccer mom do?

Did you know a book has been written that contains poetry just for Soccer Moms? It's true! I also found a website that gives a definition of the term and goes further to describe the political impact Moms falling into this stereotypical group have.** There is also a dedicated website for Soccer Moms, www.isoccermom.com. It is an informative site and well-designed. Here's some valuable information I got from the site:

Six Things Parents Should Say To Their Players

Before the Match

*I love you
Good luck
Have fun*

After the Match

*I love you
It was great to see you play
What would you like to eat?*

I wasn't very surprised that there was no mention of Soccer Moms giving coaching tips from the side-line.

As a Christian, I asked myself, "What does God tell me to do in my role as a parent?" Ephesians 6:4 says, *Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.* The term *exasperate* is defined as "to excite the anger of" or "to cause irritation or annoyance". Was I doing this to my girls? I do not know if they could hear my "coaching tips", but if they did and if I yelled at them like that during the whole game, I believe they would feel overwhelmed. In that type of a situation, most people would become angry, annoyed and irritated. Isn't it true that we all prefer to be encouraged by words instead of continually being told what to do?

Yes, this new title of Soccer Mom excites me. But... being a parent "tops the cake". Even during the difficult times, there is a love shared that is indescribable.

I'm praying about this - I, like most moms, want to be the best mom I can be for my children. I know God can help me with this. He is *so* good to provide His Word that offers specific instructions for parents like us. It's our responsibility to spend time studying the Bible to discover these important Biblical truths. God wants us to take our parental role seriously. And, in that, He wants us to point our children to their dependence on God. He created them, He loves them, He sustains them, and He is the only one that can save them.

*God Bless You,
Debbie Harper
SOAR Coordinator*

Upcoming Youth Events

- **Youth Group**
Wednesdays at 6:30 pm
In gym
(6th — 12th grade)
- **Imagebearers**
Sundays at 6:00 pm
(1st — 5th grade)
- **Family VBS**
June 12th—15th
6:30 to 8:30 pm



Understanding SOAR – a look at one of the ministry goals

One of our goals: To help our players develop a healthy sense of self-worth. We want them to know God thinks very highly of them.

Adam and Eve During the first five days of creation, God created the earth, sun, moon, stars, the animals and the vegetation. At the end of each day, the Bible tells us in Genesis 1 that "God saw that it was good".

On the 6th day of creation,

God created man and woman. When He saw what He had made, God said "It was *VERY* good".

In His sovereignty, God knew that Adam and Eve were going to sin, but He still deemed them worthy to rule over the land and the animals.

Our self-worth comes from God alone. He created us in His image for a purpose. We will always be disappointed when we allow our significance to be deter-

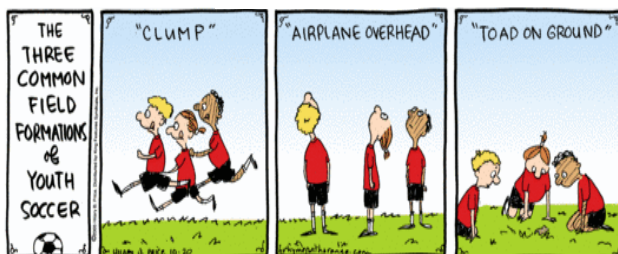
mined by others and measured by their opinions of how we perform.

We want your child to understand just how much God loves them. He loves you, too. Even when we sin (which all of us do daily), in God's eyes we are still worthy. Worthy enough for Him to send His son, Jesus, to die for us on the cross so that one day we could live with Him forever.



Alone we can do little; together we can do much.

Helen Keller



Tough Questions from Kids...

Why do we have to pray when we don't want to?

Eating foods that are good for us, brushing our teeth, getting up when the alarm goes off, working hard in school, practicing the piano, and cleaning up our messes are all good. Afterward we are glad we did them, but not because they are fun.

God tells us to pray because it draws us

closer to Him. It changes us. It helps us understand His will better. It helps us give our worries to Him. So we should pray even when we do not feel like it.

If we wait until we feel like praying, we may never do it. Although we have to work at things that are good and important, the rewards are always worth it.*

Log on Together...

Focus on Your Child ministry helps parents raise healthy, confident, and well-adjusted children. You can find out about topics such as parenting teenagers, being a single parent, and helping your child develop a relationship with God.*

For more information, log on to www.focusonyourchild.com

Visit us online at
www.fpcstanley.org

Team Rosters
Practice Schedule
Game Schedule
Parent's Corner

Acknowledgements

* Generation to Generation, a publication of Focus on the Family, April 2006

** http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soccer_mom

Deuteronomy 11:18-19

Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

**First
Presbyterian
Church**
Stanley, North Carolina

Presenting Everyone Complete in Christ

Morning Service
8:30 Worship Service
9:45 Sunday School
11:00 Worship Service
Evening Service
6:30 Worship Service

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