

Welcome to our Stepping Stones Newsletter!

This newsletter will be published monthly to keep you informed of what's going on in the Children's Ministry. Our standard columns will be:

- A Word from Cindy...
- How Things Work
- Book Review / Suggestion
- Upcoming Events

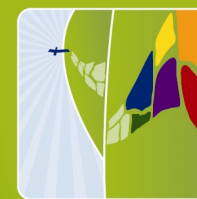
Initially, we will have hardcopies located in the Children's Wing. However, we want to encourage everyone to begin viewing the newsletter online at

www.livinghopewired.com/42046/

Our website provides lots of good info and our hope is that parents will begin to utilize this wonderful resource on a regular basis. It not only provides a wealth of wonderful information but it helps save paper and postage.

As we launch the newsletter, we will be emailing a web link to parents of Hope Babies through 5th graders. **If you have not yet updated your contact info with us, please do so ASAP so you don't miss out.**

If you have any suggestions of how we may serve your family better, do not hesitate to contact us. The door is always open :-)



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April 2009

For all Children's Ministry info, go to www.livinghopewired.com/children

A word about Easter...

As we approach the Passion Week, I want to encourage you to intentionally parent and train. Beginning with Palm Sunday and continuing through Christ's death and resurrection, draw your family into a time of anticipation, preparation, prayer, and praise.

There are many details in this Passion story – choose wisely being sensitive to your child's age, use all of the gospels to show the connection of truth and the breadth of details, encourage personal reflection and worship.

Both The Jesus Storybook Bible and the Read-Aloud Bible Story series have excellent "tellings" of the Easter story. Using the Resurrection Eggs set is also an excellent tool to tell the Easter story. Consider opening a few eggs each day for family devotion time.

I read about a powerful Easter tradition in Noel Piper's Book, Treasuring God in Our Traditions. I will simply quote her explanation. (Note: This will have to be adjusted to fit into the Passion Week only.)

"Lent is a season of waiting. In that sense it is like Advent. But while Advent waits eagerly for the appearance of the Savior, Lent waits, with heavy responsibility, for his death. The light of the Advent candles grow brighter as we approach the Savior's arrival. In Lent all grows darker as we draw nearer to the unthinkable – the death of God.

To symbolize this, we can begin Lent with seven candles. On the first Sunday, one is snuffed out. On the second Sunday, the second candle is extinguished, and so on until Good Friday when the last one is darkened. It is as if we have seen sin growing in power and finally crucifying the Light of the World, leaving us in darkness.

But John 1:5 assures us, 'The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it'. On Easter morning all the candles shine triumphantly. The darkness cannot put out the Light."

HAPPY EASTER FROM THE CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEAM!

"The Power of the Cross"

*Oh, to see my name written in the wounds,
For through Your suffering I am free.
Death is crushed to death; Life is mine to live,
Won through Your selfless love.*



*This, the pow'r of the cross: Son of God—slain for us.
What a love! What a cost!
We stand forgiven at the cross.*

How Things Work:

KEEPING YOUR CHILDREN SAFE AT CHURCH—FOOD ALLERGIES

As mentioned in a prior Hopelines, the Children's Ministry strives to provide a safe environment for children with food allergies. To partner with us in providing safety for all LHBC children, we ask parents to observe the following rules regarding snacks and food:

- No outside snacks or food allowed in the classroom. This applies to ALL children's areas—babies thru 5th grade. 10/40 café food is not allowed in the classroom. Please have your child finish any breakfast/snack before entering the Children's Wing. Outside snacks pose an allergy issue AND a learning distraction.
- We prefer NO treats ever be brought in by parents or teachers. However, if a very special occasion arises, prior approval **MUST** be received from the Children's Ministry Office if you wish to have a special snack. FYI—Our preschoolers have a morning snack provided. These items have been approved and do not pose severe risks to our children. The ingredients are posted outside the preschool classrooms for your review.
- Send empty sippy cups only. We have children with milk allergies and do not want pre-filled sippy cups in the classroom.
- Label all baby bottles with child's name. Babies are held during feeding to prevent possible cross-contamination. It is important that volunteers can easily identify your child's bottle.
- Allergy Alert stickers are important for any age group. Please use these stickers to keep teachers informed of any allergies your child has.

We are very appreciative of your cooperation in helping to keep our learning areas free of potential allergy hazards. Together we can help ensure we have the safest environment possible for all kids.

Book Suggestion:



Short Steps for Long Gains (family edition)

Published by Matthias Media
www.matthiasmedia.com

"This little book has 26 biblical topics for helping children know and follow Jesus Christ. There is a topic given, followed by short memory verse, and then there are questions for training and discussion."

This is a super resource set up in a catechism format. In our desire to "train our children in the truths of God's Word" we often struggle to find materials. This is a great choice.

Upcoming Events:

Summer Camp—3rd thru 5th graders

July 13-17 Centri-kid at Georgetown College

Visit our [webpage for details and online registration.](http://www.livinghopewired.com/childrenscamp)

www.livinghopewired.com/childrenscamp

Spots filled on first-come basis.

*****Registration deadline—April 27th*****

Save the date—Saturday, May 9th

4th & 5th graders and their families will have a wonderful service opportunity. Watch for details!

VBS— Save the dates!

On-site VBS: June 9-11th. Watch for more details...

Enterprise District Backyard Bible Club:

weeks of June 15th and June 22nd.

We are recruiting volunteers for both programs!! Lots of them!! Plan now and save the dates!

Opportunities:

Sunday Morning Volunteer Needs

- 8:00 am—Babies and 3 & 4 yr old areas
- 9:30 am—Two's area
- 11:00 am—Two's and 3 & 4 yr olds areas
- Plan B—all hours—sub once or twice every month.
- Summer Subs—all hours—serve during June & July to sub for vacationing volunteers. Can serve every Sunday or just a few.

Sponsor a Camper

Every year we have families that cannot afford to send their children to camp but scholarship funds have been available to cover the expenses. This year, however, our funds are very limited.

If you would like to help send a child to camp, please contact our office. You can pay for all or a portion of the camp registration amount to help a child go to camp this summer. Thank you for praying about and joining us in this ministry.