

Summer 2010 newsletter

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.

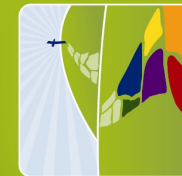
Initially, we will have hardcopies located in the Children's Wing at the front lobby welcome center. However, we want to encourage everyone to begin viewing the newsletter online at

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. You can even register for events online.

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

A Word from Cindy...

Be thoughtful....

A few weeks ago I attended my niece's high school graduation in St. Louis. The speaker was one of their teachers and here are the main points from his talk:

- Follow your heart
- Slow down
- Be open
- Challenge yourself

These points might seem innocent enough and possibly you heard these same sentiments when you graduated from high school. However these four statements were his answer to his opening rhetorical question, "What is the gold standard?". Flippantly he answered, "There is none; there is no gold standard; it is imaginary; everyone must create their own gold standard". At this point, I was alarmed.

As we consider God, there is indeed a gold standard. There are indeed absolute truths and our lives must reflect these truths in both action and thought. So often what seems innocent is actually dangerous and deceptive. We must train our children to think biblically; to listen biblically; to answer biblically so that the truth of God frames their lives. We cannot know what is untrue if we do not know what is true.

Psalm 119:97-101

"O how I love you law; I meditate on it all day long. Your commands make me wiser than my enemies, for they are ever with me, I have more insight that all my teachers, for I meditate on your statutes. I have more understanding that the elders, for I obey your precepts. I have kept my feet from every evil path so that I might obey your word."

Hebrews 4:12

"The word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."

II Timothy 3:16

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be equipped for very good work."

As followers of Christ we can:

- Follow our heart as we yield it to God.
- Slow down when we walk by faith.
- Be open to new ideas only when they align with truth.
- Challenge ourselves when we believe it is God who is our glory. He shines best in our weakness.

Persevere to know well the truths of God and to then train with diligence the next generation.

Be encouraged...

In my quiet time I am reading the gospels The other morning I read Mark 3:27 and was so very encouraged: "Who is powerful enough to enter the house of a strong man like Satan and plunder his goods? Only someone ever stronger – someone who could tie him up and then plunder his house."(NLT)

Who is this someone? Our Redeemer, Our Savior Jesus!! We are at war – know that our victor is Christ alone. This should encourage us each morning to armor ourselves well and to face each day with confidence. Our God is an awesome God who knows all things – He is the strongman. There is no other Rock but our God.

Be intentional...

In May's newsletter I recommended Bruce Ware's book, [Big Truths for Young Hearts](#) as a great summer reading choice. In my office I have another great resource, [The Big Book of Questions and Answers by Sinclair Ferguson](#). This would be a wonderful tool for family worship.

The focus of this book is answering questions only God can answer – questions that God answers in His Bible.

There are 10 chapters and each chapter includes questions, memory verses, and activities to aid in learning. Summer provides additional time – take advantage of this and discover truth together. Stop by my office and take a look at this resource – I have a number of copies.

Be involved...

This afternoon I wore a hardhat and walked through both the renovated and the new construction areas! It is exciting to see the changes that will bring additional space for both learning and gathering!

I know you have read the bulletin and I know you have read the latest HopeLines. In addition, you have received a letter from me making you aware of openings in the CM for volunteers and asking you to pray about becoming involved.

The need for volunteers and the additional space go hand in hand – as these areas open there will be classrooms needing shepherds and teachers, welcome centers needing volunteers, hallways needing monitors, doors needing greeters...our space is growing and we really do need you!

Please contact us and let us get you connected – you won't want to miss this adventure!!

Upcoming Events

Camp Centri-kid—

Grades 4/5—July 12th-16th

Please join us in praying for these kids and chaperones as they experience a wonderful week of Christ-centered camp at Georgetown College.

Prayer Walk Local Schools —

Saturday, July 31st

Save this date and watch for more details in late July.

How Kids Learn: Volunteer Training —

Saturday, August 7th - 8:30 am

Save this date and watch for more details in late July.

Promotion Sunday—Birth-5th grades

Sunday Morning, August 8th

On Sunday August 8th, Sunday School children will promote into their age-appropriate classrooms. Preschoolers will be assigned to classes based on age as of 10/01/2010. Class assignments letters will be mailed home in late July. Elementary children will simply promote into their current graded class. Letters will NOT be mailed for K-5th graders.