



stepping stones

living hope children's ministry

November 2009

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

A Word from Cindy...

"It is good to give thanks to the Lord..."

In our family the beginning of November was always marked by making our "thankful turkey" which was decorated through the month with paper feathers that listed all kinds of people and things we were thankful for. I have heard of other families that create a "blessing box" and use it throughout the year as a way to remember the mighty hand of God in their lives. At Thanksgiving they take down the blessing box and read them out loud in celebration. I have used a "thankful journal" through different times in my life as a way of recording the daily reminders of God's watch-care and faithfulness. This is a wonderful time to introduce **responsive reading** to your family – begin with Psalm 136 and then choose other psalms to read together as a family. You might follow the pattern of Psalm 136 and write your own responsive statement for other favorite Psalms.

Happy Thanksgiving – thanks be to God for His gift of Christ, through whom we have life.



Advent begins Sunday, November 29th

Advent is a wonderful way to prepare for Christmas! Traditionally it begins 4 Sundays before Christmas Day, December 25th. Many choose to light an advent candle on each Sunday and celebrate the Christmas season with singing and Bible reading. Watch your child's Sunday School class for an advent calendar from the Children's Ministry, and access our website for a copy of an advent calendar to use through this season.



Events for your family

Stepping Stones Children's Ministry has lots of opportunity for your family to spend time together while giving to others.

Operation Christmas Child Fill a Shoebox Night

Sunday, November 15 ~ 5:30-7:30 pm

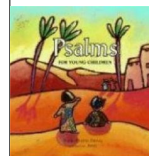
Children that are already involved with Sunday Night Stuff will have the opportunity to fill a shoebox. Parents are welcome to join their children during this event or plan to pack a box as a family at 7:00 pm. We will have several items to help fill your shoebox; you can check out the website at www.livinghopewired.com/children for "pack a shoebox" ideas. Visit www.samaritanspurse.org to find out more about the Operation Christmas Child ministry.

Gift for Christ Bread Banks

Each year Stepping Stones Children's Ministry supports the Gift for Christ offering that helps to send missionaries to the world. Bread banks will be presented during the Gift for Christ worship service on November 22. Let us be challenged for Gift for Christ to give sacrificially. Here are some ideas:

- Identify chores that you will pay for within this season – dusting baseboards, sorting socks, folding laundry, organizing the pantry, straightening up the Tupperware, raking leaves, etc
- Identify things you can do without, calculate the cost and put that money in your GFC fund...Starbucks, ChickFilA, McDonalds, Minute Mart...
- Have a meatless meal and put the money that the meat would have cost aside
- Save all of your change
- See how much of your grocery money you CAN'T spend and put that aside...go without something that is a favorite...cereal, granola bars, fruit snacks, chips...
- Next year make your Gift for Christ giving goal in January and every first of the month put your designated amount into your GFC jar!

Book Suggestion



Psalms for Young Children, paraphrased by Marie-Helene Delval, Eerdmans Books

"All people everywhere, all who love God, let's sing for him today, tomorrow, and every day! First thing in the morning and just before bed, praise God!" Psalm 113

This is a wonderful collection of paraphrased Psalms for children. Within every season of our lives, the Psalms often allow us to redirect our focus on praise and thanksgiving.

The illustrations in this book are bright and primitive; the text easily understood; and the message very appropriate for reflection and teaching. I would recommend this as a family devotional or a meal time/bed time reading book.

Opportunities to Serve

Sunday Morning Volunteer Needs

11:00 - 1 weekly volunteer for the 2 year olds

Transition Time Teams

We are currently recruiting additional security/hall monitors to assist our families during the renovation process. If you are interested in serving in the transition hours - 9:15-9:45 and/or 10:45-11:15 and/or following the end of the 11:00 service, please contact our Ministry office. Men and women are needed.



Renovation Update

The renovations have begun! The first stage of this project began on October 5th and involves a section of the back glass hallway - the hallway that runs around the playground. Traffic is not permitted down this hall at present. In addition, in late November, a section of the front hallway near the main office will undergo renovations. Traffic flow may be affected. Beginning in January 2010, the preschool area — specifically the 3 and 4 year old area — will be closed. All of these class rooms will be relocated to the 2nd floor. Please make plans to attend a Q&A session on Sunday, December 6, at either 8:00 am or 4:00 pm, in Room 314-315. All Children's Ministry volunteers and parents are welcome and encouraged to attend.

November 2009

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. Our standard columns will be:

- A Word from Cindy...
- How Things Work
- Book / Media 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 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.**

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