



# stepping stones

living hope children's ministry

October 2009

For all Children's Ministry info, go to [www.livinghopewired.com/children](http://www.livinghopewired.com/children)

## A Word from Cindy...

Why serve?

I John 3:1 "See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are."

So many of us think about serving in light of need, either someone else's or our own – we serve because a ministry needs help or we serve because it makes us feel good. Our challenge is to think beyond the need to the cross of Christ; to think beyond what is gained and remember the cost; to not measure what we can contribute but rather what was given. We serve because Christ first served us and rescued us and paid our ransom, redeeming us from death and allowing us to be born again to an eternal life as children of God. This is free grace; this is full grace and this is the grace that demands service in response. NOT because God needs us, for God has no need. Instead, there is NO OTHER response BUT TO SERVE out of sheer gratitude for life itself.

When we do indeed experience salvation – we are saved by grace through faith – we know that God owes us nothing for we have everything in Christ alone. We no longer live to prove our worth; or earn our value, but instead we serve out of love for God with hearts that overflow in gratitude.

The church is called to serve, being fully armored, fully equipped, fully trained in the truths of God's Word. We feed on truth so that we can serve with truth. In sheer gratitude we give back to others what we have freely received.

I John 3:1 "See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are."

In gratitude, we serve.

Thank you.

## Events for your family

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

### Trunks of Treats

**Saturday, October 31 ~ 4:00-6:00 pm**

Bring your family to experience Trunks of Treats at Living Hope. Walk through the Bible Story 'story line', meet some interesting people of the Bible, have dinner with us, do a cake walk, play some games and climb on a fire truck.

There's lots to do! Wanna help? Trunks of Treats is a wonderful way to show our community the love of Christ through a personal touch. We need lots of candy, trunks and people to make this a success! Register online at [www.livinghopewired.com/children](http://www.livinghopewired.com/children) or email Dawn at [dfarmer@lhb.org](mailto:dfarmer@lhb.org) ...Most of all PRAY as God is at work.

### Operation Christmas Child Mission Meal

**Wednesday, November 4 ~ starts at 5:00 pm**

Every year the Children's Ministry partners with Samaritans' Purse and their Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Outreach. This year we are excited to offer the first Operation Christmas Child Mission Meal at Living Hope!! We will have boxes available to take home and fill, "work" stations to get materials ready to put in the boxes, and a great meal for \$5.00 per person, or \$15.00 per family. Profits from our Mission Meal will go to help with postage.

### 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](http://www.livinghopewired.com/children) for "pack a shoebox" ideas. Visit [www.samaritanspurse.org](http://www.samaritanspurse.org) to find out more about the Operation Christmas Child ministry.

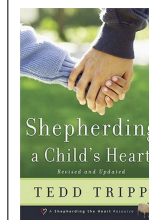
\*\*Take a family treasure hunt! Grab a shoebox, wrap it. Then every time you go to any store between now and November 16 – hunt for items to fit in your shoebox. Talk with your children about items we use everyday that children in other countries do not have. We have about 100 extra boxes that need to be filled to reach our goal of 250.

## Gift for Christ Bread Banks

**Sunday, November 1**

Bread banks for Gift for Christ will be sent home during your child's Sunday School program on November 1. 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.

## Book Suggestion



I saw a chart on parenting that I would like to recommend. Wise Words for Moms by Ginger Plowman is a very powerful tool for parents to use as they instruct the heart of their children. Plowman lists behaviors (lying, bragging, tattling...), followed by heart probing questions directed at that behavior, reproof, encouragement and additional Scriptures for reference. This chart would be a great resource to compliment Tedd Tripp's book, Shepherding a Child's Heart. So often we are caught in the moment, trying to discern the root cause but needing to respond to the situation. Spending some time studying this chart would prove very beneficial as parents strive to reprove sin and encourage righteousness in their children. It is published by Shepherd Press.

## Opportunities to Serve

### Sunday Morning Volunteer Needs

9:30 - 2 weekly volunteers for the older babies area  
11:00 - 2 weekly volunteers for the baby area  
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. We will have an information meeting/training on Wednesday night, October 28th.

## 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. However, the playground is still accessible and safe. Be assured that there will be greater detail in our November Newsletter as many of the structural renovations will occur in the preschool area and the Fellowship Hall. We are even designing a "Tool Time Toddler" to keep us updated through this season!