

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

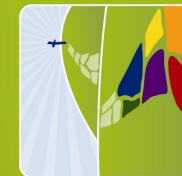
www.livinghopewired.com/42046/

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 :-)

October Newsletter

stepping stones
living hope children's ministry



www.livinghopewired.com/children



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



October 2011

Thoughts from Cindy...

Book Recommendation - I would like to recommend a new book that has been published - 365 Great Bible Stories – The Good News of Jesus from Genesis to Revelation by Carine Mackenzie. This would be an excellent book for family devotions as each story is one page long and the stories are actually categorized around themes or topics such as “Wars and Battles” or Jesus Christ and Salvation”. Mackenzie is one of my favorite authors and I use many of her books with confidence for training. Consider this book for Christmas – you won’t be disappointed.

Gift for Christ:

Every year Living Hope joins together to support our Gift for Christ missions offering. It is this offering that provides support for resources and mission trips allowing us to take the Gospel of Christ to the nations. Gift for Christ is designed to be both intentional and sacrificial. Although the ideal way to prepare for this offering is through a year long giving goal, there is ample time for you and your family to prepare your hearts for generous and joyful giving. The CM will provide each of our children with a "change bank" that will be offered on Gift for Christ Sunday, November 20th. We will begin handing these out on Sunday, October 9th. Begin your conversation NOW about giving and missions. Here are a few Scriptures to help: II Corinthians 8:9, Psalm 68, Revelation 4:8, 11, 5:9,10; I Timothy 6:17-19; II Corinthians 9:6-15. May the glory of the gospel go forth to all the nations...that God will be exalted!

A Word About Bible Translations:

Jason wrote about the preference for the ESV translation in the last HopeLines edition. I simply want to encourage you to consider purchasing a Children’s ESV Bible or the ESV Grow Bible to be released in October when you are ready to buy another Bible. We currently use the NIV 1984 translation and this is a good, solid translation of the Scripture’s. I have consistently recommended this translation and many of you currently have the Adventure Bible. However, the NIV 2011 translation is a gender neutral translation and in response to this, we will begin to use the ESV as our translation of preference in the Children’s Ministry. Please feel free to contact me with questions.

Family Night Worship

Our year of Family Night Worship is coming to an end. I would like to encourage you to come for these last lessons as we move from the Old Testament to the Coming of Christ. Here is the remainder of the year at a glance:

October – Rebuilding, Repentance and the Silence of God

Learn about Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther and the 400 years of silent waiting

November – Prepare the Way of the Lord – John the Baptist

Learn about John the Baptist – a voice crying in the wilderness

December – Advent – “And He shall be called Immanuel”

Celebrate Advent with your church family on December 7th – this will be a service of songs, Scriptures and the lighting of the Advent wreath.

Family Night Worship is the first Wednesday of the month and Wednesday Night Worship/KidSTEPS is the third Wednesday of the month. Both services are preceded by a Mission Meal that begins at 5:15. The service runs from 6:30-7:30.

The Bridge

By now you have heard about our new **BRIDGE** ministry – focusing on our community of 5th and 6th graders. On Sunday morning we are on the 3rd floor worshipping, studying the Providence of God, sharing prayer requests, and building relationships with friends and adult shepherds. On Sunday nights for **Sunday Night at the BRIDGE** we begin in the Connection Center (CC) at 5:15 – move to the 3rd floor for food, fellowship, service and devotions – and then return to the CC for dismissal at 7:00. Our intent is to build a faith based community of friends – please come join us!! Parent participation and support are welcome and needed.

Memory Verses (“The Word I have treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against you.” Psalm 119:11)

This year each class (preschool RED BLOCK – The BRIDGE) is focusing on 6-8 verses or sections of Scripture for memorization. Scripture memory is a very powerful, life changing spiritual discipline. Please join us by supporting this effort at home. Come along side of us and memorize these verses with your children; play games for practice; post the verses on your refrigerator...the Word of God is living and active! Be sure to ask your children’s teacher/shepherds what verses they are working on. We are memorizing out of the ESV version of the Bible.

Dates to look forward to:

•MOPS

3rd Monday of each month

•Preschool Story Hour

October 14, November 11 and December 9

•Children’s Discovering Hope Class

October 23, 12:30, Room 246

•Trunks of Treats

October 31, 5:30 –7:00 pm

•Advent Preparation Party

November 20, 5:30-7:00 pm

Bundles of Hope

The CM has a simple outreach ministry to new moms that is in need of some volunteers. At about the 6 week mark, we make a home visit to our new moms to offer encouragement and a special treat for their family. We feel that this is a great chance for connections to be made and helps to alleviate feelings of isolation that may be felt by our new moms. Won’t you consider joining this team? Contact Lisa Harmon for additional information. lisaharmon71@gmail.com

Volunteers Needed:

As our church grows so does our need for stable, weekly volunteers. Would you prayerfully consider making a year commitment? **We especially need additional help at 11:00 and on Sunday Nights.** Each volunteer opening is for a support role. You won’t be disappointed you volunteered – you are allowing parents to be fed the truth of God’s Word while you testify of the glory of God to the children in your care. There couldn’t be a better mission!