

March 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 :-)

Renovation Updates:

If your child is in the Hope Babies or Hope Two learning area, please enter through the Smallhouse Road entrance (marked by the awning) to drop off your children. If in addition, you have an older preschooler/school age child, you may use the CM elevator or stairs to get to the 2nd floor, and then enter the sanctuary from the 2nd floor.

If you have an older preschooler (3-5) and/or a school age child, please enter through the Westen Avenue entrance (at the far end of the building closest to the ROC construction) and go directly upstairs to the 2nd floor to drop off your children.

How do you get to the Hope Babies/Hope Two area if you can't use the preschool yellow hallway?

You have 2 options:

1. If you enter through the Westen side, go upstairs, walk through the adult/preschool area into the Children's area and take the stairs or elevator down to 1st floor. Turn right off the elevator and enter the Baby/Two area.
2. If you are coming from the worship center, stay on the first floor, make a left at the double doors near the bathrooms. Go down the steps, turn to the right and then to the left. Follow the glass hallway around to the Baby/Twos area.

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

A Word from Cindy

I love the description of God's Word printed in the Gideon Bibles:

THE BIBLE contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you.

It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword, and the Christian's charter. Here Paradise is restored, Heaven opened, and the gates of hell disclosed.

CHRIST is its grand subject, our good the design, and the glory of God its end.

It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet. Read it slowly, frequently, and prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory, and a river of pleasure. It involves the highest responsibility, will reward the greatest labor, and will condemn all who trifle with its sacred contents.

I would challenge you to read this often; to be struck by its truth and power and to then feast on the Word of God. Read the Bible, memorize the Bible, meditate on the Bible, quote the Bible, connect the Bible to life, be clothed in its truth so that you are clearly marked.

One of the components of both the preschool and Children's curriculum is that it is driven by the truths of God's Word and that having a Bible is essential to both participation and understanding of what is being taught.

A cute idea...

Here is one of the cutest snack ideas I have seen--this is my grandchildren's new favorite way to eat hotdogs!! (From Family Fun Magazine)

Cut hotdogs into 4 quarters; break spaghetti in half and push 3 or 4 pieces of raw spaghetti through the center of the hotdog. Cook in boiling water until spaghetti is cooked – you now have a hotdog squid:-)! Serve on plate; dip in catsup.

Time is the Currency

Bill forwarded this blog to me recently - well-written.

This is my simple agenda to ensure I am actively and intimately involved in the lives of my children: Read, Pray, Work, Play. I must read God's Word to and with my children regularly. We must bear each others' burdens in prayer and worship the Lord together at his throne of grace. My children need my positive, encouraging involvement in their work (and they need an invitation into some of mine). And we need to bind our hearts with laughter and joy in shared play, both one-on-one and as a complete family. This all requires time, for time is the currency with which I purchase the right to say, "My son, my daughter, give me your heart."

p. 103 from [The Masculine Mandate](#) (Reformation Trust, 2010)

Gift for Christ Challenge

Our Gift for Christ offering is always in November. This year why don't you set a goal now and use some the strategies that we suggested in our November newsletter to save money for your Gift for Christ offering. How much easier and exciting it is to actually have a plan for giving – setting aside an amount each month that is specifically designated for GFC...OR giving up something each month and saving the difference...or saving all your change or a dollar bill denomination for a specific set of time and giving that to GFC.

Imagine if each month you had a different savings plan to meet your GFC challenge!! This would keep missions in the forefront of your mind all year!

Creating and maintaining a missional mindset, a missional lifestyle requires urgent and intentional sacrifice. Christ is sufficient in all things; let us give that He will be proclaimed.

Mark your calendars

Sunday, March 28, 6:30 pm - Sunday Night Stuff Program:

This is the last night for Sunday Night Stuff for kids. Regular electives will start at 5:30, and then parents are invited to join a closing celebration at 6:30 in the Fellowship Hall with reception to follow.

Volunteering....

As you receive this newsletter, we are 3 months away from Summer!! Would you prayerfully consider serving this summer as many of our weekly volunteers take some time off and our college volunteers go home, BUT our children are here and we are constrained to teach and honor the Word of God.

You could volunteer for just one month or every other Sunday or the whole summer, if your schedule allows. Both the preschool and school age ministries will need extra hands.

We have a wonderful, God-honoring curriculum and a dynamite team of volunteers – thanks for praying about your involvement!

If you are new to Living Hope and wanting to connect with the Children's Ministry through volunteering, please contact our office at 270-843-9462 or lbates@lhb.orgwe'll get you connected!

Creating a Renovation Community

Thanks to all for your patience as we have processed Phase 1 of our renovation plan! Our Tool Time Toddler hall monitors have been outstanding and the maps and signs have helped us get where we need to be! Please be extra aware of visitors and guests during this time – it is difficult to not get frustrated and a helpful smile would be so encouraging! I want to challenge all of us to create a caring renovation climate as we live through these changes together.

Stage 2 of our renovation will begin sometime in April – more information will be forthcoming as we begin to confirm a timeline. In this stage, the Babies and Twos will be relocated to the newly renovated space and the existing Babies and Hope Two area will be renovated along with Fellowship Hall. Preschool children will remain on the 2nd floor and school age children should not be affected on Sunday mornings.

Summer plans

Our renovation schedule will not allow us to have an on-site VBS this year. Instead, we are in the process of planning a number of Backyard Bible partnerships. We are very excited about this outreach as we design and implement a "Backyard Blitz in a Box" campaign where YOU will connect with your neighborhood and WE will provide all that you need to host a Backyard Bible Club. Begin praying and thinking right now how YOU can be involved. There will be an informational meeting on Sunday, March 7 at 4:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Join us as we BLITZ THE BACKYARDS OF BOWLING GREEN!