

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 2010

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living hope children's ministry



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

A Word from Cindy...

Bill and I went to a conference a few weekends ago put on by Peacemakers Ministry (<http://www.peacemakerconference.net/>) – a ministry focused on teaching and facilitating Biblical forgiveness and reconciliation. One of the breakout sessions was on parenting and I wanted to share one concept from the presentation. Hebrews 12:1

“Therefore since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off every thing that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles...”

From this verse came a very strong challenge to discern the sins that entangle us...the sins that entangle our children. Is it pride? Fear? The tongue? Envy? Anger? This is certainly a matter of prayer as we consider our children and discern what entangles them – what patterns of behavior do we see when they encounter different situations? Are their reactions predictable? Can we identify an underlying similarity in their reactions? Counter these patterns with the power of God's Word by teaching Scripture that addresses the heart.

I have a resource in my office entitled, Wise Words for Moms, that addresses this challenge and you are welcome to a copy of this pamphlet upon request. In addition, pray for discernment about your child's character and what attitudes of the heart entangle them.

Additional Resources:

Link to Halloween outreach <http://betweenthehours.com/2010/09/28/why-all-good-christians-should-celebrate-halloween/>; <http://www.reclaimingthemind.org/blog/2010/09/> - Here are 2 links that offer outreach ideas for Halloween. Prayerfully consider ordering the My Story tract to be a part of your Halloween outreach. In addition, Desiring God ministry (desiringgod.org) offers a simple tract entitled Most of All Jesus Loves You. For the creative, you can always make a Romans Road bookmark.

Link to the gospel message <http://www.reclaimingthemind.org/blog/2010/09/> - The good news/bad news Gospel presentation. I watched this outstanding presentation of the gospel on YouTube and wanted to send you the link. It is easy to watch and listen to. This would be a great tool to watch as a family and then talk through during Family Worship time.

Thought provoking...

“I know with unshakeable certainty that the chaos of sin, suffering, trials, pain, loss and death DO NOT have the final say. Chaos must give way to God, who orders all things, who brings life out of death, healing out of sickness, rest out of chaos, and forgiveness for sin. For those in Christ, rest and everlasting joy are our reward.” (Tracy Klicka)

Upcoming Events:

MOPS—Every third MONDAY of the month our MOPS group meets in the Middle School Room (formerly Fellowship Hall). MOPS is an outreach ministry designed and directed for Mothers of Preschoolers – moms who have children that have not yet begun kindergarten. This is a very small window in the life of a mom and this ministry is designed to offer encouragement, community, laughter, and a special night with YOU in mind. Won't you consider coming and joining us? We would love to build a strong group within our church family so that we can have a strong outreach to MOPS within our community. The October MOPS meeting will be on **October 18th**, beginning at 6:30. For more information you can contact the CM office or Karen at bbuchanon846@bellsouth.net.

Preschool Training - (October 23, 9:00 am) - Continental Breakfast will begin at 8:30 am on the 2nd floor lobby area.

Operation Christmas Child fill a shoebox packing Party (October 31st from 4-6 in the Student Building) - We are asking our children to donate specific items to fill the boxes. We will be collecting these items through Sunday October 24th. Please make note of the information below and bring your donated items to your Sunday school classroom. There will be collection bins at each location.

On the night of our packing party, you can bring a filled box and/or fill a box with us using the supplies that have been provided through donations and our missions outreach money. There will be a photo opportunity and ice cream floats to go!

OCC is a ministry of high integrity. More information can be found on their webpage... www.samaritanspurse.org

Please Donate:

All K-5 BOYS – small truck or car (around matchbox size) AND socks or bandana

All K-5 GIRLS – hair accessories AND socks or bandana

Family Night Worship (November 3, 6:30pm) - Mission meal will be served from 5:00-6:15pm.

Discovering Hope (November 7, 12:30pm) The Membership Class for children is a class designed especially for children in K-5th grade and their parents. This class is offered periodically and is required for children seeking church membership. Parents/guardians are required to attend as well. Lunch will be served. Please RSVP to Sandy at swilliams@lhb.org.

Advent Family Night (November 13) – This year we will offer a family night focused on preparing for Advent. This will be an event for children of all ages – preschool through 5th grade and their families. We will make an advent log, decorate ornaments, listen to stories, sing...and spend time getting ready to the Christmas season. We will offer childcare for our youngest children and activities for all the rest. Mark your calendars...more information to follow.

Gift for Christ (November 21) - Gift for Christ is our annual missions giving celebration. It is our offering that goes specifically to support missions around the world. This year GFC Sunday is November 21st. Let us partner with you in building your child's understanding of giving and missions as you fill your bread bank and bring it back on the 21st to offer at the altar. Here are some ideas to increase your families understanding of sacrificial giving.

- Have a meatless meal and put the money that the meat would have cost aside
- Create a matching gift goal – match the amount that your children earn or match the amount by half.
- Identify chores that you will pay for within this season – dusting baseboards, sorting socks, folding laundry, organizing the pantry, straightening up the plastic containers, raking leaves, etc

Slugs and Bugs (February 12, 2011) - Randall Goodgame is a songwriter/musician out of Nashville who has collaborated with Andrew Peterson to produce the Slugs and Bugs CD. Randall is an engaging, funny, kid-friendly musician who will delight your family with giggles and song. We have booked Randall for Saturday night, February 12th so mark your calendars NOW and invite your neighbors and friends to this music night. More information will be forthcoming BUT please plan to attend and bring another family along.

Tedd Tripp (August 26-27, 2011) – It has taken us almost 2 years to book Tedd Tripp, author of Shepherding a Child's Heart. Dr. Tripp will be here on August 26-27, 2011 for a Friday night/Saturday morning parenting seminar based on his book. There will be more details in the future, but we are so excited about this opportunity that we don't want you to miss this!! Mark your summer calendars now and plan to be in town for this event.