

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.

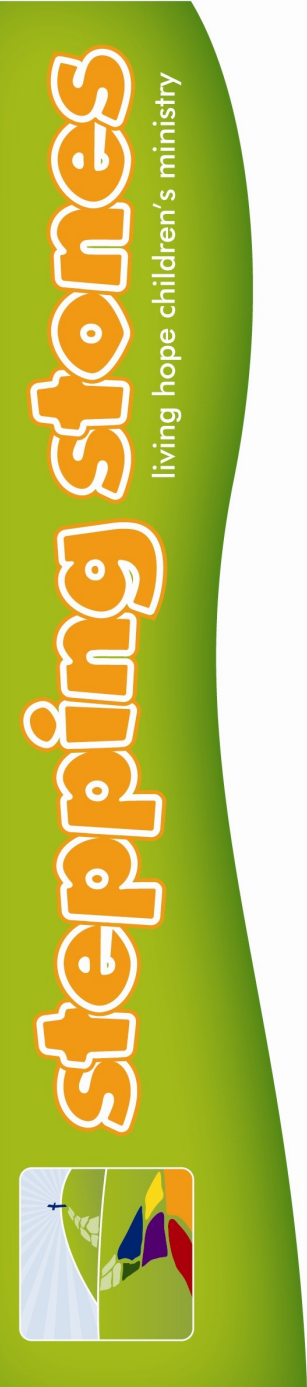
We will have hardcopies of this newsletter located in the Children's Wing at the front lobby welcome center. However, we want to encourage everyone to GO PAPERLESS and view the newsletter online at

**[www.livinghopewired.com/42046/](http://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 on-line.

If you have any suggestions of how we may serve your family better, do not hesitate to contact us. The door is always open :-)

## December Newsletter



**[www.livinghopewired.com/children](http://www.livinghopewired.com/children)**



**stepping stones**  
living hope childrens ministry

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



**Dec 2011**

### **Thoughts from Cindy...**

I wanted to share a few stories of giving that I know will bring you great encouragement.

First, thank you for your generous support for Gift for Christ. The children's contribution is close to 3500.00 and that is simply incredible! God is good...and His name will be proclaimed!

Second, join me in celebrating an outreach that one of our children coordinated in response to listening to Kris Bridgman talk about the homeless ministry. She canvassed her neighborhood with flyers asking for blankets to be donated and then went back the next week and collected well over 25 blankets that she donated to the homeless.

Third, join me in celebrating a middle school student that raised over \$150.00 for Gift for Christ by making and selling duct tape flower pens, pound cake, and *Rolo* pretzel cookies.

God uses us all as we make ourselves available to obey.

*Cindy*



### **Christmas**

"It's the most wonderful time of the year" as we celebrate the promised Messiah - that Christ would come and dwell among us, bringing the hope of redemption to His creation. Reclaim Christmas this year and take time to kneel in wonder and awe. *"And there, in the stable, amongst the chickens and the donkeys and the cows, in the quiet of the night, God gave the world his wonderful gift. The baby that would change the world was born. His baby Son. Mary and Joseph named him Jesus - "Emmanuel"- which means God has come to live with us."Because of course, he had. "*

The Jesus Storybook Bible, p182

### **A Little Box of Love**

*The one who gives to the poor will not be in need (Proverbs 28:27).*

Journey Magazine, Lifeway

"Mom, we need to bring our shoebox gifts for Operation Christmas Child to church on Wednesday night," said my youngest daughter.

I'm embarrassed to admit that I was a tad bit grumpy about spending even more money on gifts for the shoebox ministry. Our budget for Christmas is really tight this year, and this just added to my stress.

We bought pencils, markers, flashlights, batteries, gloves, coloring books, hard candy, and more. And I was still a grump. *How am I going to afford Christmas gifts for my own children?* I wondered.

Shortly after the shoebox deadline, my oldest daughter went to the OCC warehouse with our church's student ministry. They helped sort through the boxes and pack them for shipment. There they met a girl who had received an OCC shoebox about 10 years ago. She talked to them about poverty, and she told them about the gifts she received in her shoebox. And she talked about finding Jesus through this little box of love.

There were other stories. One young girl who loved to write received a pencil and a small pad of lined paper. She filled each page, front and back, with tiny lightly written letters. When the whole pad was filled, she erased each page and started over. And Another story of a boy who received a girl box because there were no boy boxes left. Inside the box was a package of hair bows, and some paper and crayons. He had told the worker he had prayed for hair bows for his sister.

My daughter was deeply moved. So was I. those little boxes of love have changed eternity for so many children; they've changed my heart as well.

### **Allergy Awareness**

Within the preschool and children's area we try to maintain an allergy-free environment. If your child has a food allergy, it is very important that we have an "Allergy Action Plan" on file in our office. We update these files every year. In addition, if your child carries an epi-pen, the CM office MUST know.

A FEW REMINDERS: Please do not bring snacks from home or the 10/40 Café into the preschool or children's Sunday School rooms. Please do not bring sippy cups filled with milk. Kix cereal is gluten and allergy-free. Thanks!

**\*\*In the case of an emergency, we cannot administer the epi-pen without your written permission.**

### **Memory Verses**

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.

#### **Memory Verses for December**

2's - Every word of God proves true. Proverbs 30:5a

3's - I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart. Psalm 138:1a

4's - You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. Deuteronomy 6:5

KG - Philippians 4:4, 6

1/2 Grade - Romans Road - Romans 3:23, 6:23, 5:8, 9:10

3/4 Grade— Romans Road - Romans 3:23, 6:23, 5:8, 9:10

The Bridge - Isaiah 40:28-31

### **Family Night Worship**

**December 7th – Advent – “And He shall be called Immanuel!”**

Celebrate Advent with your church family on December 7<sup>th</sup> – 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 5:00. The service runs from 6:30-7:30.



#### **•MOPS**

December 19th, 6:30 pm - bring 2 or 3 dozen cookies for a cookie swap.

#### **•MOPS Preschool Story Time**

December 9



#### **Centri-Kid Summer Camp 2012 for 3rd - 6th graders**

3rd/4th grade camp—June 14-16, Campbellsville University

• **Note: 3rd/4th grade camp is Thursday—Saturday**

4th-6th grade camp—June 23-27, Campbellsville University

• **Note: 4th-6th grade camp is Saturday-Wednesday**

(4th graders can choose between the weekend and week long camp)