

## **Kids Club Making a Comeback at Stone**

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Pastor Galen Combs said last week that COVID-19 implications had impacted the Kids Club at Stone Church of the Brethren, but since then, "it has blossomed." It started to grow after reopening in 2021, and 2022 has seen increased attendance. The program "... is moving forward now," Combs said.

The Kids Club at Stone is unique in that it serves children ages two years to 17 years. The volunteer leaders work with all ages, even when there are gaps between them. The format is a meal followed by a craft and Bible lesson. Afterward, activities and games related to the Bible lesson involve the children, teaching them how to live the Bible lesson out in real life.

Combs noted, "One of the major projects is to donate livestock for the disaster auction each year." Beyond the disaster ministry focus, the children and youth also go Christmas caroling and make care packages to send to an orphanage in Haiti. Combs added that the care packages support the orphanage with which the late Pastor Preval Meritil was affiliated.

The Kids Club has some fun, too, Combs said. They get together and participate in the local Christmas parade and have certain Sundays each year where a bell choir is formed and perform during the worship services.

What makes the program so special is that it involves every age group, even though it's just for kids. It's a group effort because the adults help with meals and crafts, act in roles during skits, and undertake construction projects for various lessons. "It brings out everyone's individual talents and gifts in the whole church to carry out the project," Combs said.

Combs is enthusiastic about the Kids Club and the congregational members who faithfully support the program. He says future plans for the Kids Club include hosting a live nativity at the church, which is located in downtown Buena Vista.

The Kids Club meets from 4-6 p.m. on the first and third Sundays of each month.

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