

The Life and Times

Florida's Light & Life Park, Inc.
Newsletter

March 1, 2024

Volume 12 Issue 3 Page 1

FLORIDA'S LIGHT & LIFE PARK, INC.

5604 Deeson Road
Lakeland, FL 33810

Phone: 863 858-7504

Fax: 863 859-9775

Emergency: 863 608-3984

Park Administrator: Stan Welton
(Cell: 863 608-3982)

Email: floridallpark2@gmail.com

Website: lightandlifepark.org

Office Manager: Greg Thomas
greg.t@lightandlifepark.org

Office Assistant: Lori Jones
lori@lightandlifepark.org

Resource Specialist
sherry@lightandlifepark.org
(Cell: 863-255-3776)

Office Hours:

November 15 - April 14: 8 am- Noon

April 15 - November 14: 9 am - Noon

News from the Park Administrator

Whew!... The last several weeks have been busy. And, with all the activities that are available, you probably feel that way too. I love that there are so many different things for residents to do. Sure..., you might have to pick and choose, but it may give people who have not been involved something they would be interested in.

The residents at 5580 Deeson Road have all left the property we plan to purchase, which was a condition of closing the sale. I have contacted our attorney, and he has completed the title work and a closing date has been set. When closing has taken place, I will let you know our next steps.

You might have noticed that several of the residents have relocated to the dirt road beside the property. Doug Jones and I have had several conversations with them. When I asked them about moving, some said that they do not have a place to move to. Please pray that they will find a place.

The gate is still malfunctioning. We had a company from Tampa troubleshoot the gate, and they determined that the sensing coils were old and should be replaced. That work was completed a short time ago. Unfortunately, it hasn't stopped the gate from malfunctioning unpredictably. We are in contact with the company for further investigation.

We kicked off many projects for this season at the Sugar Creek Gang organizational meeting in February. The goal is to have several projects running concurrently so that as many of the twenty-plus projects as possible can be completed. The two big projects are to inventory the water lines in the Park (as required by the government) and to start rebuilding the stormwater infrastructure at the end of the Jordan. These two projects are already underway. There are many smaller projects that are planned. Some of those have even been started like relocating the lights on the office/guest room building. This is in preparation for enhancing the building with decorative framing around the doors. There is no cost to the Park for the framing since it was donated.

Lots Available for Lease

There are currently no lots available to lease for a RV or Park Model.

The following lots are available for a modular home to be put on them:

5359 Beulah Land

5885 Shiloh Path

Call the Park Office at 863-858-7504 for information.

Continued next page.

Continued from previous page.

The water line inventory has begun. We had several residents volunteer to help with that. They will be locating your shutoff valves so the material of the pipes connected to the valves can be identified. You may be asked to help find the valve if it cannot be located easily. They will also take a picture of the valve so we can submit that with the report that is due in October.

The survey of the eight acres across from the office has been completed. We now know the location of four corners of that parcel. We plan to install barbed wire fencing on the north and east sides of the property so that people in the Blackwater development have a better understanding of where their property line ends. In the past we have had some four-wheeling happening on this piece of land, and we hope to discourage that.

The Board has authorized several projects to which you can make donations. If you are able, consider helping to fund one of these projects: 1) chairs & tables in Hood Hall, 2) the purchase of 5580 Deeson Road, 3) the improvements to the pickleball court, and 4) installation of a new tennis court.

I encourage you to get involved with something at the Park. If you don't know what is available, stop by the office for a calendar or a list of activities. Enjoy your time at the Park!



Office News

February has flown the coop. Even one more day from Leap Year did not make it last longer. So much is going on, our heads are spinning. March has arrived and there are still plenty of things to do. Just check the Park website and look at the calendar there.

We still have pictorial directories being held for those who have had pictures taken. Please stop in and get your copy if you haven't received it yet.

Thank you to all who have faithfully been communicating your presence in the Park and your

Continued next column.

Continued from previous column.

absence for more than one week. Also, thanks to Residents with visitors who have let us know when they were present in the Park.

If you are a renter and you want to return next season, don't forget to come to the office and complete a Request for Lodging form and leave a \$100 deposit. This will put you on Greg's reservation list for next year. Confirmation Letters will be sent out in June or July.

We had four property transfers in February. Roger and Ellen Haskins purchased Bill and Sandy Ayre's place at 5317 Ebenezer Place. Ed and Linda Lamoreaux purchased Don and Kathy Justice's place at 5898 Shiloh Path. Barb Crisenbery bought Don and Kathy Ross' place at 5311 Hebron Ct. Lynette Trick has taken ownership of her mother's place at 5803 Mizpah Ct.

Places for sale:

1. Rex and Bethel Root at 5311 Sharon Trail, Block Home, \$120,000.00
2. Michael Gardner at 5333 Hebron Ct., Travel Trailer, \$9000.00
3. Deano and Darlene Pulice at 5337 Ebenezer Pl., Travel Trailer, \$16,000.00

Coming Soon:

Ed and Linda Lamoreaux at 5876 Moriah Place, Single Wide.

Monthly payment option. If you are a member and would rather make monthly Annual Fee payments in advance, that is an option. Just mark in the memo of the check that it is for the 2025 Annual Fee. The entire fee amount will still need to be paid by January 15, 2025, but we will be glad to have you pay it ahead of time. If you have any questions, contact the Park office.

If you have friends looking to take a FL vacation during the summer months, mention "Light and Life Park". We have plenty of rooms and cabins available for rent during the summer months. We are an affordable option for families looking to stay in Central Florida.

Continued next page.

Continued from previous page.

Many of you will follow your hearts home for the Easter season. Others of you will wait until after Easter because you know April is usually such a great month in Florida. Either way, enjoy March and be sure to participate in all your best activities.

The Office Staff

News from the Board of Directors

MARCH.....is it really? March madness is here. So how many of you recognize the location of this picture? The three of us visited the property next door for the first time on the afternoon of January 8



Hopefully by the time this newsletter goes out, our Park will have expanded! Stay tuned for details on what is next for cleanup. Future planning has had some discussion on ideas about how this expansion will benefit our Park.

The Nominating Committee has been busy interviewing candidates for the board of directors. The following candidates have been submitted for the election in March.

They are: Ken Kendall, Ida Bunting, James Falconer, Jim Thomas, Ellen Haskins and Max Videto . Please see their biographies displayed at Hood Hall.

Continued next Column.

Continued from previous column.

On February 8, Bob Ferguson held the first ever "New Member Orientation". This will be held periodically to give some important information to new members about life in our Park along with some Do's and Don'ts.

At the February "Members Meeting" you elected Jean Switzer and Glenn Teal to the nominating committee.

Here are some more of the highlights from the February meeting:

Building and Grounds: Work needs to be done on the property at 5570 Deeson. The Jordan outfall work will begin soon and expect a quote soon for a new proposal for an ADA compliant addition to the RV bathhouse. There are many other projects that could use some volunteer help, ranging from small painting jobs to large projects like the Jordan. Contact the office to see where you can help.

As a reminder, with volunteers doing many things to assist the maintenance workers our Park remains an affordable place to live.

Finance: the budget is on track. The committee is looking into options to better fund the endowment funds.

Rules and Regulations and Bylaws have been busy reviewing documents with some help from our partners at NCLL legal ministry.

We live in a very special place here at Light and Life Park. The Lord has blessed this "community" in many ways. Pray for us as we pray for you to seek His will in guiding us down the path.

Don't forget to vote on March 11 in Hood Hall

God Bless

Larry Putnam

Check out the park website!

Copies of the newsletter, the Park calendar, places for sale, and much more can be found there.

www.lightandlifepark.org

Where to Donate your Goods

The donations given at the Park to help others are appreciated. **Please take your donations to the following places:**

Food donations for Briarwood may be left on the designated table in Hood Hall.

Slightly used linens may be donated for Senior Orphans in Hood Hall. Please refer to Senior Orphans article in this newsletter.

Jean Whipple takes several items to Talbot House weekly. See that article in this newsletter for details.

Thank you for your cooperation.

A note about pop/soda cans

Errol, who currently collects other metals, will now be taking pop/soda aluminum cans recycling. **PLEASE** continue to place them in the bins designated for aluminum and keep the metal cans separate.

Errol uses the proceeds to support his son who is a Pastor of a very small church.



Thanks for your help.

Talbot House Ministry

The ongoing deliveries of prescription bottles, unused medicines, good clean clothing that you no longer use, and small household items is an ongoing project. Please continue to save these helpful items for the homeless shelter and the Good Samaritan Clinic. Please deliver them to the Whipple's porch at 5866 Deeson Road any time. Jean will get them delivered.

Jean will take your items to Talbot House on Wednesdays. **Please note this change! Donations will be accepted all day on Tuesdays and until 10:30 AM on Wednesdays.** PLEASE leave your items in Jean's screened porch.

Should you wish to send financial assistance to this work, the address is: 814 North Kentucky Avenue, Lakeland.

Thank you! Jean Whipple

Stamps for Missions


All donated stamps are sent to Alliance Stamp Ministry in Fort Myers where they are sold to dealers. The money is sent to a publisher in Buenos Aires, Argentina where they publish Sunday school material in Spanish that are sold to at least eight Latin American Countries as well as Spain and the US. They are used by over 40 Protestant Denominations.

We recently received some postage stamps that had been in a family's possession for many, many years, even a postcard with the stamp still attached. When you downsize, move, clean out a residence when settling an estate, etc. remember to **BE ON THE LOOKOUT** for postage stamps, new or old, domestic, or foreign, and postcards with or without stamps.

Leave at least a **1/4" border on ALL sides**. Get into the habit of opening either the left or bottom side of envelopes to protect the stamps and that border as they then increase greatly in value. The mission programs that benefit from the sale of these stamps will be grateful.

If you already have or find stamps **without the recommended 1/4" border** and/or with no paper backing, please turn them in at Hood Hall also; they'll be appreciated, just won't generate as much income for missions' projects.

There's no harm in asking your children and grandchildren to save the stamped envelopes for

you when you mail their  **Easter Cards**

Thanks for your support! *Marilyn Stone*

Medical Equipment Available

Maxwell Commons at The Villa has some medical equipment available that can be borrowed by any Park resident. Call someone you know in the Villa to help you. Please sign out the equipment you are borrowing. There are wheelchairs, walkers, rollators, portable pots, and shower seats. Please notify a Villa member when you are returning an item, so we know it has been returned. Please **don't** leave it on the porch. We are **not** presently accepting any equipment donations due to lack of storage space.

SENIOR-ORPHANS

Thank you for your continued support of Senior Orphans through your donations of **gently used bed linens and towels, no bed pillows, however.**

Senior Orphans helps local, indigent seniors living with no family support and meager monthly incomes.

The drop-off location is in the totes in Hood Hall designated for Senior Orphans.

Please label your linens, as this saves our S.O. coordinator valuable time when trying to determine sizes.

See the example below of how to label the item before it is placed in the tote.

Terri Boda Coordinator



Blood Pressure Clinic

Blood Pressure clinics for **March** will be the **14th and the 27th** at Hood Hall 11 am to 12 pm.

But if you are unable to come at that time I can come to your house, or you can come to mine, 5437 Bethel Dr.

JoAnn Willet RN
989-615-8430



**Fellowship Dinners
With Programs**

Monday, March 4th

5:30 pm

Bring your own place setting and a large dish (8-10 servings) to share at your table.

You are encouraged to get acquainted with some new folks by inviting them to join you at your table. ALL are welcome!!



6:15 pm

Several of our park residents will be sharing their talents. You may come for the Variety Show even if you don't wish to attend the Fellowship Dinner.

Marilyn Stone, chairman jaxstone68@gmail.com

**SAVE THE DATE
Saturday 3-23-24
THIRD ANNUAL EBENEZER DAY**

Yard Sales/ Hot Dogs / Ice Cream

Yard Sales on Ebenezer
9:00 am to 1:00 pm

If you don't live on Ebenezer, feel free to clean your closets and have a yard sale at your house also!

At 11:30 am The Wights, at 5328 Ebenezer, will have a hot dog roast. This IS open to all residents. More details will be available at a later date regarding prices and lunch items.

Bucket Listers



Tuesday Night Movies and Trivia Tuesdays will continue every Tuesday night through the month of March. Check neighborhood news and Facebook for weekly updates.

A structurally sound shade structure for the pool area is currently in the works. Your donations will go towards this project! Thanks for your support to make projects like this possible.

The Bucket Listers sold Haagen-Dazs ice cream bars at this year's Beautification Parade.



The Bucket Listers:

- Purchased new pool noodles for you to enjoy at the pool.
- Provided refreshments at several "Tell Your Story" evenings.
- Will be baking CINNAMON ROLL 3-11-24! So come and vote for the board members that are up for the election and pick up some cinnamon rolls for a donation in Hood Hall. Stay tuned for further details.
- Are looking for a volunteer to build a storage system for jig saw puzzle area.
- Will be selling a hot dog lunch on 3-15-24 during the Spring Craft Show. Come check out the crafts and have a hot dog or two!



Earl Galloway and Willy Ming will be here 3-17-24 for a gospel concert at the church.

Thank you for your support and desire to continue to make our park a very special place!



If you or someone you know in the park were married in 1975, you will be celebrating your 50th wedding anniversary next year.

We'd love to celebrate with you!! If you haven't already talked to me, please let me know and we'll add you to the list of those being honored next year.

A big thanks to all who came out in honor of the seven couples that we celebrated with this year.



Carolyn Lindley carolyn_lindley@yahoo.com
50th Anniversary Chair

L & L Aqua Splash Water Aerobics

Come & enjoy fun in the sun with a low-impact workout in the water to enhance health & wellbeing.

March Aqua Splash will be held twice weekly, weather dependent, and on a rotating basis. The schedule will be posted via neighborhood news & on L&L Facebook. *We will attempt to create a regular schedule when the weather is a bit more predictable!*

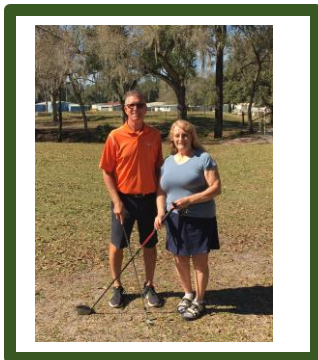
Karen Castle-Williams
allforyum@aol.com
704-502-0466.



CPC Golf



Club Championship Tournament



Kent Enyart won the men's division.

Denise Tomassello won the women's division.

Coming up

March 8, 2024: Blind Draw tournament (Two Person, 18 holes)

- Men & Women Categories
- Registration required by **noon on March 5th**, Text, or email Ed Stockwell.
- Names drawn at **10:00 AM**.
- \$50 to each winning team. Plus, names on a trophy in Hood Hall.

Ed Stockwell
517 861-0481
EdStockwell48@gmail.com
The Player's Club @ CPC

Ladies Golf

Our weekly women's golfing began Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2024, at CPC. It is Mondays and Wednesdays at 10 AM.

All women are welcome to join us regardless of skill level. Our goal is to enjoy golfing and spending time together. Just meet us at the Golf Course.

Gad-About News
Looking Forward

The Gad-Abouts is not a club. All ladies in the Park are invited to go on the trips and get to know others!

Last 2 Gad-Abouts Trips for 2024 Season:

- Mar 14 - Back Porch & Stable Home Decor
- Mar 28 - Russell Stover Chocolate & The Villages

Watch for details in Neighborhood News.

Flo Grabowski
Cell 931-797-2639 coachfollc@gmail.com
Peggy Dunn
Cell 248-766-5537 pegjim2000@yahoo.com

TELL MY STORY!

Please join us: **7 pm** in Hood Hall

Thursday March 7

Come and hear how Leroy & Coralee Campbell survived a very harrowing attack by a Voodoo tribe in Haiti on Easter Sunday, 1989. Come and hear about how God kept them safe in what could have been a very tragic experience.

Thursday March 21

Learn about "Rebecca of Varodel Farms". Becky Bell will share her experiences growing up on a family farm, and her interesting journey of life, including multiple medical issues and surgeries.

Wayne & Barb Vibbert will share "Treasures from our Heart of our missionary life."

Mel Starr will tell us about his passion for writing Medieval mysteries.

The Bucket Listers will offer popcorn and soft drinks for donations.

Ken Kendall 214-695-5448

Library Information



Library Notes

Please note that DVDs are permitted to be taken out for only **TWO Weeks** at a time. One person has had more than 5 for over two months. They need to be brought back!

Someone has checked out The Chosen Season 3 and did not leave the card behind. Please bring the DVD back immediately!

Many books are coming back without the card being signed out and placed in the box to be filed. When this happens and there is no card, I must reprint it. Please be careful.

Book Review

Josiah Manifestor

by Jonathan Cahn

Many of our readers in Light and Life Park ENJOY READING Jonathan Cahn's books. He has a new one out which I highly recommend, entitled *Josiah Manifesto*, Readers are raving that this is "one of the most intriguing, insightful, and thought-provoking books".

It deals with the mysteries that lie behind the dramatic events which have been happening today and are changing our world. This book will show you what has happened in the past and prophecies how these things will affect what's going to happen in our future. It will connect the dots and provide hope!

Find it in the new book section of our library.

He Should Have Told the Bees

by Amanda Cox

This book will keep you wanting to read more. It tackles some deep issues concerning what really makes a family, but still having a safe place to call home. This synopsis tells it best:

Continued next column.

Continued from previous column.

Beekeeper Beckett Walsh is living her dream, working alongside her father in their apiary, until his untimely death sends her world into a tailspin. She suddenly finds she must deal with a new part owner of the family business--one who is looking to sell the property. Beck cannot fathom why her father would put her into the position to lose everything they built together.

When Callie Peterson is named in the trust of a man she's never heard of, she's not sure what to do. Her fledgling business has just taken wing and her mother has reentered her life asking for help getting into rehab for her lifelong substance abuse issues, making Callie's financial situation rather . . . precarious. She's sure she has no right to someone else's farm, but the money from the sale could solve her problems and give her the stability she's always craved. As these two women navigate their present conundrum, they will discover a complex and entangled past full of secrets--and the potential for a brighter future for both of them.

You can also find it in our new book section. Grab

Library2Go

If you are looking for other books that are not in our Library, Library2go will be in our Park **March 14th from 10 am to 11:30 am.**

You will find them up at Hood Hall.

Hillsborough County Library cards can be issued through them as well.

Our Resident Author: A note

Thank you to those who bought books at the last Mugs on Monday. I will be available to sign books at the same venue during the month of March.

You can also order them on Amazon and bring them for signing.

-Mel Starr



Bike Riders



We had 5 riders who rode the Van Fleet trail north from Green Pond to Bay Lake 10 miles each way.

We enjoyed seeing the wildlife along the way, some gators, turtles, racoons, and birds.

We stopped halfway for snacks and had lunch together at Polk City BBQ when we returned.

Please join us for the next adventure, we usually ride 20 miles. Watch Light and Life Park Site on Face Book and Neighborhood News for details.

Rosalie Cox
Rosi8c@aol.com

Cars and Coffee

2nd Saturday of every month 8:00am to 10am,

March 9th and everyone is welcome to come and view great restored autos and custom hot rods.

Join us in L&L Park at the Church parking lot!
Come, join the fun, and have a cup of coffee and a doughnut!

Larry Thomas 540-447-0458

Shuffleboard

With the shuffleboard winter season coming to an end soon, both tournaments being completed, and winners being decided, we are preparing for our spring shuffleboard spring meeting on March 21 at 12:00 PM in Hood Hall

We will start with lunch at 12:00 followed by our meeting.

At this meeting:

- We will make plans for next year,
- Set dates for each tournament and our 2025 meetings.
- Elect officers whose term is ending this year.
- Pass out trophies to the winners of this year's tournaments.

Everyone is invited to this meeting whether you are a club member or not. We are looking forward to seeing you at our spring meeting 3/21/2024.

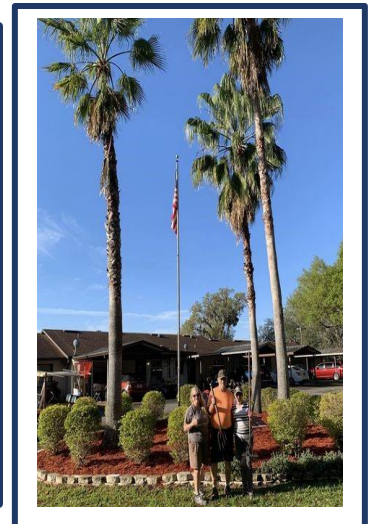
Dale Schantz 989 975 6710

Our beautiful Park



**Thanks to all
who helped
with this
project.**

**Stay tuned for
more ways to
help make
our Park
beautiful.**



Salvation Army Crafting Event

Join us in Hood Hall

Friday March 8, starting at 1:00 pm

Saturday March 9, starting at 8:00 am

Bring your projects to work on in a light hearted atmosphere.

Come and go as you please. Cost is \$20.00 for a half of an eight foot table where you can work on your project.

All proceeds go to the Salvation Army Transitional Housing Program.

Please RSVP by March 1st to Cindy Lower at cindylower950@gmail.com

We will be collecting **Laundry Soap for donation**, which you can bring to HH anytime during those two days **BUT anyone is welcome to just come and watch. Also, some of the ladies have things to sell.**

Best Regards
Cindy Lower

Game Night

Game Night is held on most **Friday evenings** at 7:00 PM in **Maxwell Commons**.

Bring your favorite game and friends and have an evening of fun and fellowship.



Newsletter Deadline

Please be sure that your submissions to ***The Life and Times*** are delivered to the newsletter editor, Barb Hartson by the **20th** of the month prior to publication.

Please use this email: bfhartson@gmail.com Email is the preferred method.

The April deadline is **March 20th** unless the activity is in the latter half of the month. Then check with me to see if you can still make it in.

WOOD ACTIVITIES NEWS

The Wood Shop is again buzzing with work on wood projects. This is your opportunity to try your hand at wood turning or carving. Lee Stevens is in the wood shop most days and is available to help any who have questions or need assistance. Lee is also there on Tuesday evenings for a regular class time for those who wish to do so.

Additional stone has been spread on the parking strip at the shop. A big **Thank You** to Ed Stockwell and all those who assisted in getting this project completed.

The new Compound Miter Saw is in place and working well. Again, a huge Thank You to Dale Schantz and Ken Smith for their help in getting it assembled and in working order.

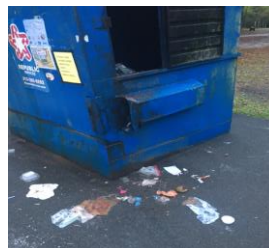
The clean-up efforts in the shop are getting done, but there are a few things that need work yet. If you can spend a little time in the shop cleaning areas that need it and emptying the trash barrels, we urge you to do so. The list of jobs yet to be done is on the table in the shop. As always, we thank you for your time spent making our wood shop look attractive.

Don't forget the very important members' meeting on Friday, March 1st at 9:00 a.m. We will be electing 2 new members to the Leadership Board for the next 3 years. All members are urged to attend.

We encourage you to take advantage of the wood shop for your wood projects or just for an opportunity to learn a new skill in wood turning or carving. Our wood shop is an excellent place to learn.

Jim Falconer Secretary

Just a reminder



Don't forget to shut the door.
I'm sure we don't want our park to look like this.

Beautification Parade

Thank you to all those involved in making this year's Beautification Parade a "Great Success". There were seven golf cart entries plus Motorcycles, a Harley Trike, and cars. The luncheon after the parade served over 144. Thanks to Chef Tom and his crew, Jan and Eldon Troyer, Betty Videto, Barb Lake, Darla Birrell and Sally Jablonski for their work back in the kitchen. Thanks to all for your support of the Beautification Parade. Let's make next year's goal to exceed what was accomplished this year.

The winners of the 2024 Beautification Parade are:

- 1st Place KFC Denice and Chuck Tomasello
- 2nd Place Taco Bell Clairene Zantjers and Pat Kammeraad
- 3rd Place Chick-fil-A Millie Buchanon

The entries were awesome, and the Florida Light and Life Park is very blessed to have such a family of believers that join together to support all events in our park.



**Forever In Christ,
Tom Lake
Beautification Committee President**

Annual Craft Show and Bake Sale

Friday, March 15th, 10am to 2pm at Hood Hall

I would love to have some of our talented Wood Shop and Martha's place Members showing all of us what you've been working on this season-- Please contact me and let me know so I can set aside a table for you.

So Excited to See the Talent of our Residents!

Becky Smith becsmith62@gmail.com
Text or Call: 231.349.2993

Mugs on Monday

2nd and 4th Mondays 8:30 AM

March 11 and 25, come have fun with your friends. **Mark your Calendars.**

Don't forget to bring your **Mug** and your **\$2** for coffee and rolls.

Organized by Marge and Wade Wilson

Light and Life Bowling

The season is a little over halfway completed but it is Cruise Season also.

So....

We are still in need of **substitute bowlers**. If you would like to bowl without commitment, please call me.

Barb Hartson 814-397-6274

Thursday Dinners

In order to accommodate all who would like to participate during the winter season "Dinner at Maxwell Commons" will now be referred to as "Dinner in the Hood" and will be held in Hood Hall during the months of **Jan. Feb. and March**. Bring a passing dish and join your L&L neighbors in Hood Hall from 5:30-6:30 for fun food and fellowship!

Paula Daughenbaugh Mipada3@yahoo.com

**Light and Life
Free Methodist Church**

5730 Deeson Road
Lakeland, FL 33810
Phone: (863) 858-6361
Fax (863) 858-3982
Email: church@lflmc.org

Pastor: Jeff Bellinger
Associate Pastor: Roger Haskins
Secretary: Pam Hill
Email: church@lflmc.org

A Note from our Pastor

Over the past month we have been talking about dropping our stones and instead following the lead of Jesus and washing feet. I have had several deeply meaningful conversations with members of our congregation about the tension they feel and the issues they face in their relationships and even in their own families as they navigate loving people who are broken, and in some cases those who have even hurt them personally. I know this process is not easy. In fact, I think it's nearly impossible to do it on our own. But nothing is impossible with God. When we are obedient to forgive a person who has hurt us, or even just engage a person who we would normally push away from, we are trusting God to meet us in those situations to give us what we need in the moment. When we are obedient to surrender what we need to in our flesh The Holy Spirit will accomplish in us that which we cannot do ourselves.

I am reminded of a story I read many years ago on this very subject from Corrie Ten Boom. The story impacted me deeply so I would like to share it with you and challenge you to allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you through it.

When we are willing to drop our stones and forgive and engage even the most unlovely people, that is when we will actually experience the reality of what we say we want in the Lord's prayer when we say, "Thy Kingdom Come and Thy will be done on Earth as it is in heaven.

Continued from previous column.

Here is Corrie's story.

Corrie herself was put to the test in 1947 while speaking in a church in Munich Germany. At the close of the service, a balding man in a gray overcoat stepped forward to greet her. Corrie froze. She knew this man well; he'd been one of the most vicious guards at Ravensbrück, one who had mocked the women prisoners as they showered. "It came back with a rush," she wrote, "the huge room with its harsh overhead lights; the pathetic pile of dresses and shoes in the center of the floor; the shame of walking naked past this man."

And now he was pushing his hand out to shake hers, and saying: "A fine message, Fraulein! How good it is to know that, as you say, all our sins are at the bottom of the sea!"

And I, who had spoken so glibly of forgiveness, fumbled in my pocketbook rather than take that hand. He would not remember me, of course — how could he remember one prisoner among those thousands of women?

But I remembered him and the leather crop swinging from his belt. I was face to face with one of my captors, and my blood seemed to freeze.

"You mentioned Ravensbrück in your talk," he was saying. "I was a guard there... But since that time," he went on, "I have become a Christian. I know that God has forgiven me for the cruel things I did there, but I would like to hear it from your lips as well. Fraulein" — again the hand came out — "will you forgive me?"

And I stood there — I whose sins had again and again to be forgiven — and could not forgive. Betsie had died in that place — could he erase her slow terrible death simply for the asking?

The soldier stood there expectantly, waiting for Corrie to shake his hand. She "wrestled with the most difficult thing I had ever had to do. For I had to do it — I knew that. The message that God forgives has a prior condition: that we forgive those who have injured us."

Continued next page

Continued from previous page.

Standing there before the former S.S. man, Corrie remembered that forgiveness is an act of the will — not an emotion. “Jesus, help me!” she prayed. “I can lift my hand. I can do that much. You supply the feeling.”

Corrie thrust out her hand.

And as I did, an incredible thing took place. The current started in my shoulder, raced down my arm, sprang into our joined hands. And then this healing warmth seemed to flood my whole being, bringing tears to my eyes.

“I forgive you, brother!” I cried. “With all my heart.”

For a long moment we grasped each other’s hands, the former guard, and the former prisoner. I had never known God’s love so intensely as I did then. But even so, I realized it was not my love. I had tried and did not have the power. It was the power of the Holy Spirit.

Blessings,
PASTOR JEFF

Come Celebrate the Lord!

Let us join together and celebrate God’s blessings and give thanks for His mercy.



A Celebration of Life in the loving memory of Beverly Williams, will be held at the church on Thursday, March 21st at 1PM. A light luncheon will be held in Hood Hall immediately after the service. Continue to support the family in your prayers.

Blessings!
Karen Castle-Williams
704-502-0466

allforyum@aol.com

The Light and Life Church Office Hours

**Monday through Thursday
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM**

Pam Hill Secretary

HOME BIBLE STUDY

Come join us in the Church Annex for this informal Bible study. **Everyone is welcome.**

We are currently discussing the Psalms and how they can impact our lives.

Cindy Igel: 716-803-3961
Pam Hill: 863-808-3779
Email: church.lfmc.org

Ladies Bible Study

Our annual Ladies Bible Study began February 7th, 9:30 AM in Hood Hall.

The Book we are using is “It’s Not Supposed to be this Way” by Lysa Terkeurst.

Lysa is an American speaker and an author of Christian non-fiction. She has written more than a dozen books including 2 New York Times best sellers. She is also the President of Proverbs 31 ministries.

Books are on sale at the church office Monday - Thursday 9:00am to 2:00pm at a cost of \$13 each.

**Come and enjoy
what the Lord
has in store as
Lysa shares.**



Outreach Ministry

SOUPer Bowl of Caring

- We had wonderful cooks preparing 11 kinds of soup.
- Between 66 and 70 people attended.
- 89 canned goods donated with 165 percent a variety of soups. Looks like Campbell's was the clear choice.
- Over 600 dollars raised.

But if you missed the fun and fellowship plan to attend next year.

Food Outreach Update

We were at 18 boxes and 4 in park bags, but we are back to 20 and 5 because of your donations. We have so much positive feedback each week. Our current goal is 350 dollars. We try to provide milk, protein, bread, and healthy foods each week. Some of you folks like to donate your favorite snacks and they are thrilled with those bonus items.

Easter Story

The Outreach Ministry has purchased 21 sand buckets to use as baskets. We also bought a children's story book explaining Easter for each family.


Our primary focus is budget friendly nutritional food BUT if you would like to help with Easter baskets and provide candy or small trinkets that would be awesome.

This is not expected by anyone receiving assistance, we want to be hands and feet of faith and any chance we get to share in an easy non-threatening format the better. No better time than Easter to celebrate our Savior.

Program Director
Christine Aurich
Chrisaurich@hotmail.com
616 402 8241



This Easter Season reminds us:

The Cross 

A symbol of my faith
That strengthens me each day
As I by God's grace
Walk the narrow way.

You see God's own Son
He gave His life for me
And took my debt of sin
To a place called Calvary.

I owe Him my life
And all I'll ever be
All He asks is that
I'll let Him live through me.

So I run the race
Empowered by His grace
And give Him all the glory
As I look into His face.
JESUS is LORD!



Happy Easter