



The Life and Times

Florida's Light & Life Park, Inc.
Newsletter

May 1, 2026

Volume 14 Issue 5 Page 1

FLORIDA'S LIGHT & LIFE PARK, INC.

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Park Administrator: Lyndon Babcock
Lyndon@lightandlifepark.org
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Email: floridallpark2@gmail.com
Website: lightandlifepark.org

Office Manager: Phil Allen
phil@lightandlifepark.org

Office Assistant: Lori Jones
lori@lightandlifepark.org

Mobile Homes for Sale

5801 Moriah—\$54,500
5317 Jordan—\$130,000

Block Homes for Sale

5332 Bethany Way – \$120,000

RV and Park Models

5323 Hebron Ct.—\$10,500
5242 Zion—\$24,900

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

News from the Park Administrator

As I've now surpassed **100 days** serving as your Park Administrator, I'm thankful for the strong foundation we've built together and excited to move fully into the **execution phase** of several important projects that will carry us forward.

In the months ahead, we'll be focusing on:

- **Road paving and surface improvements**, with contractor quotes underway
- **Improvements to IT and connectivity** for the Park Office and key buildings throughout the Park
- **Pool improvements**, including new chairs and extensive pool cleaning/repairs. New chairs will arrive by May 25th
- Continued progress on a **stormwater drainage review**, working closely with Hillsborough County's "**Rebuilding for Tomorrow**" program
- **Trailer sales success** — all trailers have now been sold except one, and by June we expect to **exceed our \$35,000 fund raising goal**

Behind the scenes, **the Park office** is focused on executing meaningful improvements, strengthening procedures, and refining processes.

As we move into the summer season, please note that **summer office hours** will be **Monday–Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** With summer storms and hurricane season ahead, I also ask residents to continue **cleaning and securing the areas around their homes and rented sheds**, helping keep our Park safe and well cared for. To those traveling or returning home for the summer, please know that you go with our prayers and blessings.

Scripture reminds us:

"The Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore." — *Psalms 121:8 (NIV)*

This promise speaks to every journey — offering assurance of God's protection, peace along the road, and a safe return in His time. We look forward to welcoming you back refreshed and renewed. Thank you for the care, stewardship, and community spirit that make Light & Life Park such a special place.

With appreciation and hope,
Lyndon Babcock, Park Administrator

FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT

Happy May!

This month, we encourage all residents to get involved by joining one of our committees. These groups play a vital role in shaping the future of our community and enhancing the enjoyment of our park activities. If any of the following areas interest you, please reach out to the Social Committee Chair or a Current Board-Appointed Committee Member to learn more.

Application Review Committee: (*Board Members Only*) Ron Foster, Dave Moffitt, Glenn Teal

Building & Grounds: (*Non- Board Members Welcome*)

Contact any of these Board Members to get involved:

Jim Falconer	falconer_j@yahoo.com
Ron Foster	refoster82@gmail.com
Larry Osborne	bwr311@gmail.com

Mission Statement: The Building and Grounds Committee is appointed by the Light and Life Park Board of Directors. Its purpose is to obtain and update information to aid in decisions regarding Park facilities. Building, property and infrastructure needed to maintain and operate the Park. This may include:

- Assist with evaluation to build or repair buildings.
- ◆ Assist with cost quotations for proposals to improve the Park.
- ◆ Meet with contractors, county and state officials to assist with quotes, or approval for projects requiring outside permits.
- ◆ Assist with planning for infrastructure improvements to water lines, sewer lines, storm drains, and electrical service.
- ◆ Make cost reduction suggestions where applicable in the Park.
- ◆ Assist Park maintenance with transit readings when requested.
- ◆ Other projects assigned by the Board of Directors.

Report progress to the Board of Directors on Park projects. Projects assigned to the Building & Grounds Committee may be made by requests from the Office staff, the Park Board, or the committee itself. All requests for assignment to the committee must be confirmed by the Park Board President.

Future Planning (*Non- Board Members welcome*)

Contact any of these Board Members to get involved:

Ken Kendall	ken.kendall@gmail.com
Dave Moffitt	moffitt.dave@gmail.com
Glenn Teal	glennteal@gmail.com

Mission Statement: The mission of the Long-Term Planning Committee at Light and Life Park is to faithfully guide the future of our Christ-centered community through prayerful vision, thoughtful stewardship, and strategic planning. Rooted in our commitment to holiness, fellowship, and service, we seek to preserve the spiritual and physical well-being of Light and Life Park—ensuring it remains a place of light, life, and a lasting legacy for current and future generations of believers

Personnel: (*Board Members Only*) Ron Foster, Becky Smith, Jim Thomas

Rules & Regulations Committee (*Non- Board Members Welcome*)

Contact any of these Board Members to get involved:

Dave Moffitt	moffitt.dave@gmail.com
Larry Osborne	bwr311@gmail.com
Glenn Teal	glennteal@gmail.com
Roger Allen	iflygpslark@gmail.com

Mission Statement: To help promote a better understanding of Light & Life Park Rules & Regulations for Park Members and Visitors by performing periodic review to assess clarity and effectiveness.

Service Animal Review (*Board Only*): Jim Falconer, Ron Foster, Jim Thomas

Condolence Coordinator: The Board is currently seeking a volunteer to serve as our hands and feet during times of loss in our community.

2026 Social Committees

Easter Dinner	Jim & Robin Thomas
Thanksgiving Dinner	Janet Wight
Christmas Dinner	Rose Martin
Hood Hall Decorations	Sue Noble
Fellowship Dinners	Marilyn Stone
Beautification Committee	Denise Tomasello
Park Media	Stan Welton
Fiftieth Anniversary Party	Carolyn Lindley
	(until a replacement is found)

With your continued support and participation, we can begin making plans for an exciting and memorable next winter season. Together, we'll create wonderful events, strengthen our community spirit, and ensure another year filled with fun, fellowship, and activities everyone can enjoy.

Becky Smith
Board President

NEW PARK RESIDENTS

Last month we began introducing new (within the past two years) park members. Hopefully, these brief summaries will be a catalyst to forming new friendships with our neighbors.



HARVEY AND ROBYN BOWMAN

pastor a Brethren in Christ church in West Milton OH.

Harvey started out as an electrician, but after several missions trips (mostly to Mexico), they were called to full-time pastoral ministry, and have served in that capacity for 22 years. Before becoming an associate pastor, Robyn was active in her community, working for a congressman and later, on a community action committee.

Because they are still actively pastoring, their time at Light and Life is limited. But when they are here, you can find them at 5829 Shiloh Path.

The Bowmans have been mega-blessed with a large family. They have seven children – four girls and three boys. In addition, they have 29 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren, with another on the way!

Robyn's interests include catering and drama. She loves to direct church drama presentations. Harvey is a worker, and definitely displays the spiritual gifts of helps and service. They both love their family intensely and love the church—the body of Christ. They love Jesus passionately and love bringing others to Christ.

Baseball's spring training is what drew Harvey and Robyn to Florida, as they are huge NY Yankee fans. While here they visited friends Bob and Kathy Zook, who encouraged them to become members of Light and Life Park.

Welcome Harvey and Robyn!



JEAN BIGOT grew up in Haiti, and lived in Brooklyn NY as an adult. He graduated from high school in Haiti, and later attended a university program sponsored by New

York Mayor David Dinkins—where he graduated as valedictorian.

For several years, Jean worked in the fur industry – holding a variety of positions in several departments. He later served as an organizer and worked his way up to business agent for the United Food and Commercial Workers Union – serving in two different locals.

After retiring, Jean returned to Haiti and served in missions. He bought a 14-room home and started a chicken coop business, which turned out to be very lucrative. He was able to feed over 108 children and housed many of them over the years. He also taught children to play many sports including soccer and basketball. While doing missions work, he met Kendra Luna and they worked together for over 10 years.

One of Jean's hobbies is rebuilding motorcycles – which is a great skill to utilize in Haiti. He enjoys doing mechanical work and is a fix-it guy.

Jean is the father of seven children – four of them are adopted – two in the US and two in Haiti.

Here at the park, Jean lives at 5898 Shiloh Path. He was introduced to Light and Life Park by Kendra Luna. He calls life at Light and Life “pre-paradise.” Haiti had become unbearable due to violence, theft, and political unrest – and Light and Life has been a stress-free environment where neighbor helps neighbor. He feels that most of the people here are very genuine and loving. If you get to know Jean, you'll feel the same way about him!



DEBRA AND MARCUS VETTER are from Ravenna MI. Deb is retired military, having served in the Army National Guard for 24 years. After military retirement, she worked for Spring Lake School District.

Debra was persuaded to join the Light & Life community by her sister, Christine Aurich. When her handicapped son, Marcus, toured the Videto's former home at 5871 Shiloh Path, he stated "I could live here." He didn't realize that he would!

Marcus had been visiting his Aunt Chris from time to time and loves the park. He enjoys the fun outdoor activities like shuffleboard, riding in a golf cart, and swimming in the pool. Harsh winters in Michigan are hard on his body and coming to Florida for the winter has made a huge impact on his health. He loves the peaceful atmosphere and the people here are very friendly.

Debra is mom to two daughters and one other son, and has three grandchildren. She lives a life of service – not only as a grandma and full-time caregiver for Marcus, but as an active church member and chaplain for the American Legion.

Some of Deb's activities include holding church services at a retirement community and officiating at military and civilian funerals. She is very patriotic – you might see her marching or riding on a float in a parade, or at an honors ceremony for veterans.

Deb puts on a monthly dinner for all of the pastors in her area. She strives to encourage pastors and priests in Ravenna, and promote community among the churches.

Besides Christine, Debra is also a sister to Melinda Volkal, who resides on Ebenezer Place. So Light and Life has become a "family affair," and we're pleased that it has!

RICK AND KELLY HALE come to us from Gaines MI.

Rick retired from the manufacturing industry where he worked as an automotive supplier.

Kelly has been a teacher, and currently works with at-risk high school students at Swartz Creek High School.



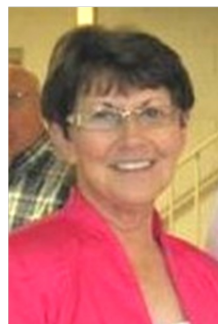
The Hales enjoy camping and kayaking. Rick loves shooting sports (black powder firearms). He also enjoys billiards and boating.

In addition to outdoor activities, Kelly loves to read, sew, quilt, and garden.

The Hales have been blessed with three children. Their daughter Rachelle and her husband live in Uganda. Audrey and her husband are residents of DeKalb IL. Jesse, the Hales' son, makes his home in Flint MI.

When visiting Light and Life Park, Rick fell in love with this place. Kelly's mother, Sharon Beutler is also member of the park. Her grandparents, Clifford and Jeanette Hazzard were member years ago, so they have been familiar with Light and Life Park for a long time.

Rick and Kelly's address here is 5305 Ebenezer Pl. They are a wonderful addition to our Light and Life family!



JANET SIMMONDS has recently purchased a mobile home at 5860 Moriah Pl.

When not at Light and Life, Janet makes her home in Davison MI.

Janet and her husband Dale were married for 59 years before he went to Heaven in 2019. She has three sons, who all reside in MI.

Janet came to Light and Life Park because her best friends, Jane Acton and Flora Walton live here.

Before retiring and moving to Light and Life Park, Janet worked in doctors' offices.

We're so glad Janet chose Light and Life as her winter home—let's make her feel welcome!

IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2027—Mark Your Calendars!!

Golf Tournaments in 2027—save the dates!



January 8th, 2027

Two person (men and women) Tournament (18 holes Scramble)! Bring your partner! Men & women divisions. (Friday) Start time 10:00 AM

February 12th, 2027

Club Championship Tournament (two flights each for Men & Women (18 holes) 10:00 AM start time.

(Note: closest to the pin and longest drive contest will be held as part of the Club Championship.

March 12th, 2027

Last Two person Blind Draw tournament (18 holes) Men & Women Categories (Friday) Shot gun start at 10:00 AM.

April 1st, 2027

Three club Co-Ed tournament (Play you own ball). (Thursday) 18 holes. 9 AM start time.

Any questions? Contact Ed Stockwell edstockwell48@gmail.com

50th Wedding Anniversary Celebration

February 5th, 2027 we'll be honoring several couples who have been married for 50 years. The program is from 2-2:30 pm, followed by a cake and punch reception from 2:30-3:30 pm.

If you were married in 1976 or 1977 we want to honor YOU! Please contact: carolyn_lindley@yahoo.com to be added or for more information. Don't like the limelight? That's okay, we honor several couples at once so no one couple will be singled out.

So far, three couples have agreed to participating and a fourth is considering. So start collecting those gold one-dollar coins. You may need five or more of them next year.



(In lieu of an anniversary card, many choose to bring a one dollar gold coin for each couple and sign a group card. This is actually more thrifty than purchasing a card and it gives each anniversary couple a nice gift)

Honorees: Tom & Cathy Blake, Steve & Lynn Roberts, and newcomers Chris & Nancy Ware. Tentative: Steve & Diane Sayers.

— YOU'RE INVITED TO —

EARL & WILLIE GALLOWAY MINISTRIES

HOMECOMING 2027

MARCH 12-14, 2027 **LIGHT & LIFE LAKELAND, FL**

FRIDAY NIGHT	SATURDAY	SUNDAY MORNING
FACEBOOK LIVE HYMN SING LIVE <i>Be part of the FB Live crowd and sing along!</i>	MINIATURE GOLF TOURNAMENT SHUFFLEBOARD TOURNAMENT SHOPPING EVENING MEAL CONCERT	CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST CHURCH SERVICE

Ebenezer Day & Park-wide Yard Sales

March 5, 2027

Folks who live on Ebenezer celebrate this day with fun activities and a meal or snack. They also have yard sales up and down the street that day and encourage others in the park to do the same. So if you have been wanting to clean out those cupboards and closets, make note of this date so you'll be ready to \$ell.

Thanks for Your Support



The Bucket Listers would like to thank each and everyone of you who participated in our sponsored activities this winter season! As a result of your participation and contributions the Bucket Listers were

able to put \$6719 back into Light and Life Park since December 2025.

Bucket Listers are currently working with the park on a larger serving counter and upgrading the coffee station - both in Hood Hall. We could not have done this without your support and participation.



The Bucket Listers will return next winter season with trivia, movies, cinnamon rolls, sloop, hot dog lunches, root beer floats, ice cream sundaes and banana splits!!!

Enjoy your summer wherever you are!

The Bucket Listers - Brenda, Carolynn, Cheri, Denise, Donna, Eva, Faith, Janice, Kathy, Marie, Pam, Shelly and Janet

STAMPS FOR MISSIONS

THANKS for your tremendous support of the Alliance Stamp Ministry in Fort Myers FL who sell stamps donated to them to raise funds to print Christian Sunday School literature in Spanish to distribute in the U.S. and around the world.

PLEASE continue to carefully cut and save stamps of all varieties.
BRING them to Hood HALL... in the FALL... west WALL!
BLESS you for participating!

-Marilyn Stone, coordinator

Library Notes

This past winter has shown many changes to Hendricks Library. Most changes came about due to Hurricane Milton and the flooding of our library. Losing over half of our bookshelves and over 1,000 library books, many irreplaceable, was devastating. However, it caused many to realize we needed to do something to make the library user-friendly and a place to want to come relax.

All these changes came with challenging adjustments. Thus, it was a multi-team effort that gave us what we have presently, and the end results are ones we can all enjoy.

I want to thank you for your efforts to fill out the library card information. The checkout system is easy, yet still confusing for some. Hopefully those issues can be resolved next fall when you all come back. The new system helps us keep track easier of what books are taken out and when they come back. With one person checking in books daily, it's easier to control who has them and when they are returned.

There are still about 50% of books which come back as not signed out. Thank you for returning them. However, it is important that the staff work with you to learn the procedure which is not complicated. If no one is there, please feel free to call one of us so that we can help.

This summer there will be an inventory completed which will show us how the procedures are working.

Treasures of Books!

We are fortunate to have some hidden treasures in our collection! Hopefully, by fall we will have a bookcase which will showcase some of those treasures from mid to late 1800s to early 1900s. We are looking into obtaining or building a glass-enclosed, locked bookcase to keep these fragile books showcased safely. People will be able to examine them as desired.

We have many books about Free Methodist missionaries, some who presently reside in our park.

Continued on next page

AQUA SPLASH WATER AEROBICS

Are you looking for a fun and healthy activity here at the park this summer? Join us for a low-impact workout in the water to enhance health & well-being. This activity is not only fun, but refreshment from the heat—and limbers up the body!

Routines are choreographed to a variety of tunes and designed to promote improved muscle

strength, endurance, flexibility & core balance without the stress of land exercise.

Participants are encouraged to go at their own pace and to drink water after their workout.

Sessions are offered year round—often in the late morning during the summer months. Bring your towel & a smile.

Monitor L&L Facebook and Neighborhood News for dates & times.

Karen Castle-Williams,
ASFA Water Aerobics Instructor
allforyum@aol.com



FELLOWSHIP DINNER and PROGRAM

Our next event will be in the fall as we are off for the summer months as usual; plan now to be with us on November 9 the second Monday and the Monday closest to Veterans Day. Our program theme will revolve around Veterans Day,



Thanksgiving, and patriotism as we thank God again for the 250th anniversary of our great country and honor all those who served in the military (US and Canada!) This info will help everyone with advance

planning, especially Snowbirds as they decide when to return to our park.

-Marilyn Stone, chairman

GAD-ABOUTS NEWS

Thank you to all the ladies who participated in our many trips this year. Thank you very much to our drivers! We had some good times going together to many places in the area. If you are a lady, and are at Light & Life Park any time in January thru March, please join us for a ladies-day-out. Its not a club and you and your friends and guests are always invited. We usually sign up ahead of time, carpool, and have a lunch stop and enjoy an activity. Highlights of this past season was our trip to Ikea and the monster truck tour of the Citrus Farm.

During the 2027 season, we plan to have six outings. We haven't assigned a place to visit, but we have set the dates: January 14 & 28; February 11 & 25; and March 11 & 25! These are all Thursdays. Times will vary according to drive times and the event.

Some of the ideas presented are Boggy Creek Airboat near Kissimmee, Picassoz - Ceramic and mosaics in downtown Lakeland, a Thrift store expedition to Dade City. Other suggestions were Bob's Train Museum and Train ride near Sarasota, Amazon warehouse tour near Lakeland. Some suggestions to repeat are Silver Springs glass bottom boats, Solomons Castle, or The Tabernacle at Tarpon Springs.

We always announce our plans on Neighborhood News and put a notice on the Bulletin Board at Hood Hall in case you don't do email. Don't miss out, come along and make new friends or enjoy time with old friends.

We are always looking for ideas of somewhere you would enjoy going! Email me at pegjim2000@yahoo.com or text me at 248-766-5537 or give me a call. God bless you all!

From Peggy Dunn (Please let me know if you would like to be on my planning committee) Thanks

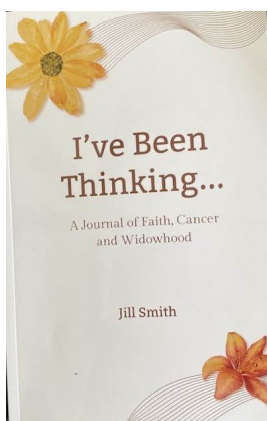
They are their stories and show God's handiwork in their lives and in the lives of those to whom they ministered.

There are also many books rich in history of the Methodists and Free Methodists. Also, there is a wealth of free Methodist authors who reside or have resided in our Park.

Fall will bring a wealth of activities to learn of these treasures and provide some entertainment also. Have fun in future explorations!

Book Review

I've Been Thinking... by Jill Smith



We have a wealth of residents in our Light and Life Park who are authors. Perhaps you personally know of one. If you do, please let us know so we can place their works in our library.

One such author is Jill Smith. Her book is a journal concerning the trials, tribulations and victories during her husband's battle with cancer, death and widowhood. What makes this book outstanding is the way Jill portrays her faith throughout this period of her life. It is obvious that Roger and Jill had a very strong marriage based on our Lord, Jesus Christ. It is evident throughout her book as she talks about the presence of God in her life as well as Roger's.

Little does she speak of the dark and negative aspects of these months. Instead, she focuses on God, His Holy Presence and the Joy He brings to her life. This is shown through her journal entries. The book of Psalms gave her a lifeline and comforted her throughout - as did her love of spirit-filled songs.

Her life is one of faith, delving into God's Word, finding comfort in His promises, and focusing on the ways He has blessed her life. This is way we should all live.

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This is her motto:

THANKSGIVING + PRAISE = PEACE

You can find her book in the *Inspirational* non-fiction section 245 in the front room and in the back room section under *Free Methodist Author* area. May this book bless you as it encouraged me.

-Gloria Welton, Librarian



Please note that the offices are now on the summer schedule. The park office is open M-F from 9 am to 12 noon.

The church office is now open M, W & F from 9 am to 2 pm. The church office is closed on Tuesdays and Fridays.

Cars & Coffee

May 9 8 -10 am



Vehicles of all years, sizes, and shapes can be seen in church parking lot under the trees on the left. Come and have coffee and donuts. Hope to see you there!

-J A Thomas 540-447-0288

Articles, announcements, and items of interest must be submitted by the 20th of each month to ensure publication in the following month's newsletter. Please email carolyn_lindley@yahoo.com Please do NOT send announcements via text.