



The Life and Times

Florida's Light & Life Park, Inc.
Newsletter

November 1, 2023

Volume 11 Issue 11 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

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.

News from the Park Administrator

Time passes by so quickly! It is already November and that means we will be seeing many of you return to the Park. We are looking forward to seeing you again and spending time together.

So far it has been a quiet hurricane season, but it is not over! If you have not been here during the hurricane season before, please be aware of some basic instructions.

Make sure you have notified the office when you arrive and when you have left the Park so we know who should be here in the event of severe weather.

If you are in the Park when a hurricane watch or warning is issued, you must ensure that all outdoor articles are secure—either tie them down or put them indoors.

Although a hurricane is not in the forecast as I write this, it is important that you prepare yourself and your family. Visit <https://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/en/residents/public-safety/emergency-management/hurricane-and-tropical-storm-preparedness> to review how you need to prepare for a storm.

Things have been a bit crazy at my desk for the last several weeks. We changed our accounting system from a desktop version to an online solution which demanded much of my time. Hopefully this did not have an impact on your experience in the office.

The A/V center in Hood Hall is nearing completion. All the speakers and microphones work with the new system. This is always a bit of an unknown when you use new cable, and I was thrilled to hear everything works!

Dave Blough has been working diligently on the pickleball/tennis court when he is not driving truck. Earlier this year we poured new concrete pads to extend the courts to the north. Since then, Dave has filled the cracks, leveled the surface, and started sealing the court. It won't be long until they are ready for your games!

Continued next page.

Continued from previous page.

The owner of the property we are trying to buy outside the gate has been following the process to have the current residents vacate. It is a long process, especially when the residents do not heed the letters or visits from the county. One of the residents has contested the process that delays closing even further. We have extended the closing with the seller and expect closing will not happen until after the first of the year.

Thank our staff for working hard to get the Park looking great. The tall grass at the Jordan has been cut, low hanging branches throughout much of the Park have been trimmed, and the yards are mowed.

Please welcome our newest employee. Junior Sinsmyr began working last month. He will be cleaning the guest rooms and Hood Hall. In addition, he will be assisting the "Maintenance and Grounds" staff as needed.

It is very important for the office to have a copy of the keys to your residence. If you have changed locks, please provide a copy to the office. If you are a new resident, please bring the keys you have for your residence to the office so we can verify that we have the current key.

There have been questions recently about when the pool can be open. Generally, the pool is open from dusk to dawn. However, if the air temperature is below 65°, the pool blanket will not be removed, and the pool will remain closed.

The gate at the entrance to the Park has not been operating correctly recently. When visitors enter your gate code, the call is not completed so that you cannot open the gate. When things are operating correctly, I will let you know. In the meantime, you should instruct visitors to call you when they arrive (or are close), and you meet them at the gate for entrance.

We will be celebrating Thanksgiving soon. I know it's early but let me be the first to wish you a meaningful Thanksgiving. Even if your circumstances are especially difficult right now, remember Paul's admonition, "Give thanks in everything, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." (HCSB)

Jan

Office News

November means the new season is upon us. We are beginning to see our snowbirds come back. Some are here for the season, and some are coming for a temporary visit before the season. This is the season for Thankfulness.

We have begun to prepare invoices for Rent, Annual Fees, and Stormwater taxes. The plan is to mail them out in November. Remember, if you get billed for Property and Stormwater taxes, they are due by December 15th. Late fees will apply if you are late. The new Annual Fee is \$2,180.00. That is due by January 15th. Late fees will apply if you miss that date.

We are also preparing the paper directories. If you are in charge of a Park event or regular activity and you would like to have information in the introductory section, please let us know what you think it should say about your activity.

If you have an event or activity during the season, please be sure we know the date or dates. We want to be sure the events are all on the calendar. Also, if you need supplies specific to your event, please let Greg know so we can order them.

Enjoyment Books have arrived in the Office. They are \$30.00 again this year. Come and get your copy when you return.

Library 2 Go is ready to begin again. We are clarifying the date in November. Watch for more information.

The new pictorial directory needs a correction. Following the Worship page is the Special Services page. At the bottom it says "Sharing our Woodshop with a Local Boy Scout Troop. We need to correct that, and you may mark your books. The group was a Trail Life Troop. They were brought here by Eldon Babcock through his Camping Sticks ministry.

The only property changes this month is that Doug and Lori Jones have purchased the former home of Dick Zinck at 5341 Sharon Trail. Congratulations to them on their larger home.

Continued next page.

Continued from previous page.

We are sorry to lose Dick Zinck, but he is having some problems that required more assistance, so he has relocated to Port Orange, Florida to be nearer to his son. His new address is 941 Village Trail, Apt. A101, Port Orange, FL 32127. He would love to hear from you if you want to drop him a note or card.

The office will be closed Thanksgiving Day and the day after, November 23-24.

We are drawing close to December when we will be ready to celebrate the birth of our Savior.

If you are on your way to the park, safe travels. If you are coming later, enjoy your holidays with family. Be blessed as we draw closer to the end of 2023.

The Office Staff

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



News from the Board of Directors

It's November already! Where has the summer gone? This month we celebrate Thanksgiving (in the US that is). Daily thank the Lord for the freedom we all enjoy "to live where we do".

On October 2nd we held our last scheduled BOD meeting for the summer via Zoom. It is a good means to keep us all up to date on the business of the Park.

Continued next column.

Continued from previous column.

We all are looking forward to getting together in person in January, today's technology is great, but in person is much better.

Here are some highlights of our last meeting:

- Financially we are remarkably close to the budget. Maintenance expenses have been unexpectedly higher because of equipment breakdowns, water/wastewater unforeseen expenses and tree trimming. The water/wastewater is now being covered by the company **Consta Flow**. Utilities are also up some. It is especially important that we attempt to keep expenses down where we can.
- Fund raising projects continue for land purchases, Hood Hall tables and chairs, pickle ball courts, umbrellas for pool area and disc golf equipment. Prayerfully consider giving to these. Contact the office for more information.
- We also approved the rates for the 2024 year with a 6% increase. We did receive a favorable report from an independent financial review service. Quoting from the report: "all of the financials appear to be in good order".
- The "Rules and Regulations Committee" report was submitted and approved with the changes and reorganizing. The result is a better and easier to use document.
- The two land purchases are stalled due to circumstances beyond our control. Continue to pray that these will be resolved soon.

Happy Thanksgiving to all

Larry Putnam

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.

We will now be accepting "linens" for Senior Orphans. 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.

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.

Try to leave at least 1/4 inch or more around each stamp or strip of stamps. They also collect picture post cards both unused and used. If used, please leave the stamps on the cards. The container is in **Hood Hall** for your convenience.

"Little is much when God is in it." The small amount of time it takes you to carefully cut stamps from envelopes and packages can greatly benefit others through the sale of these stamps. Additionally, you could pray for lives being touched through this ministry during those brief moments.

Thanks for your support! *Marilyn Stone*

A note about pop/soda cans:

Thank you for saving your aluminum cans which are taken by us to a recycling center in east Lakeland. The money received is being used to help our Park.

I am happy to pick up your pop/soda cans to haul to the Recycling Center, however it will make my job a lot easier if you remember the cans from canned goods **CANNOT** go in with the aluminum pop cans. These are picked up by someone else and need to be kept separate.

There is a bin in the metal recycling collection center near the dumpsters which is marked "POP CANS"--that's the one to use!

Thanks for your help.

Wes Crist

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.

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

Update on Benches

Ed Hamilton has just made a delivery on benches he had ordered. He is working with the new manager who is making the benches and would like requests to be made to the Park Office until the details are sorted out on his process.

You may continue to collect plastic lids. **Please be sure they are clean.** They may be stored at his place while he is away, but they need to be put inside his storage containers.

We will keep you posted if anything further develops.

SENIOR-ORPHANS

Thank you for your continued support of Senior Orphans through your donations of **gently used** bed linens.

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.

Attached is a picture of an example of how to label each item.

Terri Boda Coordinator



Blood Pressure Clinic

Blood Pressure clinics will start again January 1st. Watch for further details. I am a full-time resident now and am willing to take anyone's blood pressure at any 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**

Our first Fellowship dinner of the winter season will be **Monday, November 6 at 5:30** at Hood Hall with the program immediately following at 6:15. Carol Zeller will be coordinating a "What's My Line?" game show you won't want to miss.

You may arrange a menu for eight people at your table ahead of time ... OR ... just bring a large dish to share with others at the table you join. Some prefer planning ahead as accommodations can be made for special diets (diabetes, heart, gluten-free, etc.) whereas some others like the surprise elements of not knowing who or what will be at their table. Remember to bring your own place setting. Coffee is available for purchase; water is provided.

Residents with surnames beginning A-M will do the set-up and clean-up. If you can oversee that responsibility, **PLEASE** contact Carol Zeller. Additionally, greeters are needed at the doors. We really appreciate everyone who volunteers.

On **Monday, December 4** our program will have a Christmas theme planned by Carolyn Lindley. Residents with surnames beginning N-Z are asked to do set-up and clean-up. Again, volunteers are needed to oversee that responsibility and to greet at the doors. If you are willing to assist in one of these roles for Dec. **PLEASE** contact Carolyn Lindley. We really appreciate everyone who volunteers.

Giving everyone a heads-up, especially for snowbirds who may need to pack costumes, props, etc. the Variety Show will be in March. Begin to think about how you can participate or recommend someone else for a skit, instrumental or vocal music, individual or group act, serious or silly, but short, limited to 3-5 minutes.

These events are always very well attended, and we appreciate everyone's help and suggestions; contact me to offer assistance.

Thanks!

Marilyn Stone, chairman jaxstone68@gmail.com

Bucket Listers



We are excited to return to the park this fall. What a special place this is!

The Bucket Listers are pleased to announce they will be grilling and selling **Koegel's** Hot Dogs for the December Craft Show! If you don't know what a Koegel Hot Dog is, ask someone from Michigan.



Gourmet caramel popcorn and a gift-wrapping service will also be available at the craft show. We have plenty of wrapping paper and gift bags. Let us wrap your Christmas gifts for a donation.

The Craft Show is scheduled for 12-1-23 at Hood Hall

The Bucket Lister projects for this coming winter season include buying televisions for Hood Hall, building a shade structure at the pool, buying new side tables for the pool area, screening in the lanai by the pool and building a pavilion near Hood Hall!

The Bucket Listers will continue to offer Tuesday Night Movies and Tuesday Night Trivia on alternating Tuesday nights in Hood Hall during January, February, and March.



Thank you for donating jig saw puzzles to the puzzle corner in Hood Hall. Come check out the wide variety of puzzles including Christmas themed puzzles. You are welcome to do a puzzle at Hood Hall or take one home to complete.

Your support of all these activities is amazing and appreciated! See you soon.

50th Anniversary Celebration



Celebrating your golden wedding anniversary in 2024?

A reminder for those celebrating - please submit your pictures to Carolyn Lindley by November 15th via email.

Those being honored include: EJ & Brenda Miller, Stan & Gloria Welton, Randy & Faith Reesman, Fred & Barb Hartman, David & Gayle Hooks, Dennis & Jill Wood, Bruce & Debbie Fitch, and Vernon & Kathy Kauffman. If I have excluded anyone, please let me know.

Want to be involved? We'll need help with planning, setup, decorating, greeting, serving, and clean up.

Thank you,
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.

Routines are choreographed to music and designed to promote improved muscle strength, endurance, flexibility & core balance without the stress of land exercise.

Splash times are offered **year-round**, twice weekly.

Weather permitting, **November Aqua Splash** will be held on Mondays & Fridays at 2PM.

Updates are sent via group email (neighborhood-news@googlegroups.com)

and also posted on Facebook (Light & Life Park, Lakeland, FL).

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



2024 CPC golf tournaments!

Save the dates!

Two-person (men and women) Tournament (18 holes Scramble)! Bring your partner!
Jan 5, 2024 (Friday) Earlier start time 10:00 AM

Club Championship Tournament (two flights) for Men's & Women's categories (18 holes) Feb 2, 2024 (Friday)

Note: if Field Day doesn't happen in 2024, the closest to the pin and longest drive contest will be held as part of the Club Championship!

Two-person Blind Draw tournament (18 holes) March 8, 2024 (Friday) Shot gun start at 10:00 AM. Men's & Women's Categories. \$50 to each winning team, plus, names on a trophy in Hood Hall.

Three club Co-Ed tournament
April 1, 2024, Monday, 18 holes. 10:00 AM

The Player's Club
Ed Stockwell 517 861-0481
edstockwell48@gmail.com

Light and Life Bowling

It is getting closer to bowling season. When you come south you might want to take advantage of the \$80 four-month pass that lets you bowl 4 games a day, 7 days a week.

Our organizational meeting for 2024, will be Tuesday January 2nd, 1PM at Hood Hall. We will start bowling on January 9th. Please make sure at least one of the people on your team is at the meeting.

If you haven't joined a team and would like to, please be at the meeting and we will get you set up.

The repairs at Orange Bowl Lanes goes on and they are now working on the snack bar area. But no fears they have a food truck outside and your food will be delivered to you.

Barb Hartson

Gad-About News

Thank you to all the ladies that joined us on the trips in 2023.

A special "Thank You" to all the ladies who drove us there and back safely.

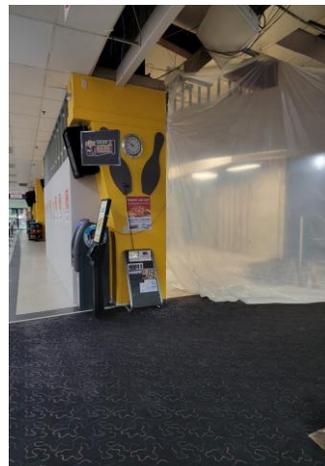
Here is a peek into what we have planned for next season, 2024

- Jan 11 - HSN Shopping Outlet
- Jan 25 - Secret Staircase Restaurant
- Feb 15 - Lunch on Limoges & Giraffe Ranch
- Feb 29 - Silver Springs Park & Glass-bottom Boat Tour
- Mar 14 - Back Porch & Stable Home Decor
- Mar 28 - Russell Stover Chocolate & The Villages West Tour

Things are subject to change until we can confirm all the details in November/December when we return to the park.

Keep thinking of things for the future and let me or Peggy know. Our hope is that we can keep the away trips to 2 hours or less whenever possible.

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



Construction



Food truck

Library Information



Library Notes

As you come back, you will see a few changes. First please be aware of the yellow slip of paper in the card pocket. This is where you write the date when the book is due, one month from the time you signed it out. This should help you remember when it needs to be returned.

The New Books also have white circles on the spine. This shows they are brand new or "new to our library" books.

By the way, DVDs may be taken out for 2 weeks only. They too have the yellow "date due" sheet in the card pocket.

Do you have a magazine you would like to see in our library? Please let us know so that we can serve you better.

Book Review

Light of Day

by Elizabeth Goddard

If you want a page turner from the first page to the last, this book is for you! A small town in Alaska where the police chief is Autumn Long and those in politics desire to see her ousted. Bring in a string of murders which somehow affect her father, the former police chief, and a stranger trying to hide in Shadow Gap. They are all interrelated.

Grier Brenner is new in town, and fits right in. He is a handsome and charming stranger whom everyone likes but no one knows anything about. He has secrets. Bodies are piling up and the chief is being followed. Close encounters and attacks make this a suspenseful read with surprises and lots of action. As the stakes rise and the dangers increase, Autumn and Grier must rely on each other to extinguish the deadly threats.

Continued next column.

Continued from previous column.

Light of Day is well worth the read. This is the first in a series, Missing in Alaska. Guess what? We have the second book too! You'll find them in the new book section with a white circle on the books.

Gloria Welton
Librarian

Our HORSESHOE pits are open.

The pits are located between the miniature golf and shuffleboard courts.

For nighttime play the light switch is inside the miniature golf shed on the east wall.

Looking for someone to schedule this for the winter season.

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.



Cars and Coffee

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

November 11th 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

A Good Read

Mel Starr, our resident author, has copies of his medieval mysteries, including the newest, #15, **SUPPRESSION AND SUSPICION**, which was released in October.

He has a new book being released in October just in time for the next winter season here in the park.

Even though the Starr's have left the park for the summer, you can find all his books at Amazon.com.

“Growing old is like a grammar lesson: we find the present **tense** and the past **perfect**.”



Pickle Ball/Tennis court is looking good

Pickleball and Tennis

The pickleball/tennis players would like to thank those who attended and supported the two fundraisers/dinners this year.

The courts are always open but are undergoing some construction so play carefully.

See you in the Fall.

Denise Tomasello
517-250-1420



Shuffleboard

With fall season here and our snowbird friends arriving back at L&L we will be getting shuffleboard in full swing. We will be Meeting on **Mondays at 1:00** and **Tuesday, and Thursday nights at 6:30**. The courts are always open to play anytime except when a church service is on.

If you are new to shuffleboard and want to learn, just come down on Mondays, Tuesdays or Thursdays and someone will be glad to help you learn the game. Or you can call me, Dale Schantz, and I will be glad to go over and help you get familiar with the game. We are looking forward to many new players this year.

We have three projects that need to be done this year.

- Both buildings need to be painted,
- we need to seal the courts and
- We want to put up LED lights on the score boards.

Projects that have been completed this summer are:

- court benches have had the wood replaced with composite boards,
- The long bench on the west side has been shortened and the wood replaced with composite boards.
- We have shortened the gates so that they are the same height as the fences.

We hope that you had a blessed summer, and we are looking forward to having you spend the winter with us.

Dale Schantz
863 816 5422



Salvation Army Crafting Event

Join us in Hood Hall

Friday November 17, starting at 1:00 pm

Saturday November 18, 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 November 10th to Cindy Lower at cindylower950@gmail.com

We will be **collecting socks this month**, 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

A Note from the Editor

I feel like I need to further explain the reference to "Boy Scout Troop" in the Pictorial Directory. Even though they have similar uniforms this troop is part of "Trail Life USA". Some of the leaders broke away from the original organization when it became too Liberal. They adhere to the original Christian concepts that Boy Scouts was founded on.

On another note, Fred and I are leaving on a 22-day vacation to Australia starting the 16th of November. So, I am asking you to send all your articles for the December news letter to Sherry at sherry@lightandlifepark.org She has graciously consented to get the newsletter out because I am not sure of Wi-Fi capabilities where I am going.

Thanks, Barb Hartson

Our beautiful Park



Don't forget to look for the amazing foliage and the creatures who don't seem to be scared of us
By Marua Peck

An update on the Pictorial Directory

The pictorial directories have arrived. If your picture is in the Directory, you may pick up your free copy at the Park Office. New members of the Park may also pick up a free directory.

If you want a second copy, a limited number of directories will be available later in the season at a cost of \$3.00 each.

Barb Hartson and Pat Wilkins

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: sherry@lightandlifepark.org Sherry LaBrie. Email is the preferred method.

The December deadline is November 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.

Thanksgiving Dinner

This Holiday is coming up faster than you think. We will again get together as a park to celebrate on Thursday the 23rd at 12 noon.

There will be a sign-up sheet in Hood Hall on the credenza which will give us an idea of how many to plan for. Please let us know how many in your party and what kind of dish you wish to bring.



A singular Christmas Event

Calling all Single Adults in the Park and/or Church.

Once again Arlene Mahen will host the Christmas Gala you have all been waiting for.

Come to 5416 Zion Ave. at 6 PM, December 2nd. You won't be disappointed.



Craft Sale

If you are a crafter this is your time to Shine. Friday December 1st is our Annual Craft show and sale at Hood Hall.

Thank you to those who have already reserved a table (or 2) but we do need the rest of you to reserve a table soon.

We would welcome some baked goods as well.

Blessings,
Becky Smith
231-349-2993



Operation Christmas child

It is that time of year for this very important outreach program.

Date: NOVEMBER 13

Time: 10:00am

Place: Hood Hall

Doing What? PACKING BOXES AND TAKING THEM TO THE DROP OFF LOCATION.

Interested in Shopping? You can type Operation Christmas Child in the AMAZON search box and all kinds of bulk items come up. We need these items to fill our boxes to the very top. We also need larger "wow" gifts like... dolls, tackle boxes, balls, stuffed animals, clothing, flip flops, etc. The Shoebox size is 12"x7"x4-3/4".

We also need monetary donations for postage which is \$9-\$10 per box. The money will also help get more shoebox gifts as needed. Make checks payable to **Operation Christmas Child**. Cash goes in an envelope marked Operation Christmas Child (OCC) on the front. I can also receive your donations in a marked envelope. Most of all keep Operation Christmas Child in your prayers.

Many Blessings to all,
Operation Christmas Child leader for Light and Life FMC

KATHY MILLER 716-598-1924,
Kathymiller5159@gmail.com

**Light and Life
Free Methodist Church**

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

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

A Note from our Pastor

I want to share with you a portion of writing that was handed to me by Dennis Kinlaw, former President of Asbury College, near 20 years ago.

I have read this piece over and over, year after year, reminding myself of my part in this relationship with God, and that is to surrender myself wholly to his Lordship and his plan for my life, that is now hidden in Christ.

I don't know who the original author was, but whoever it was, I have desired to have the understanding and the surrender that they seemed to have had their arms around when they wrote this piece.

This has been a gift to me, I pray it is a gift to you as well....

The Vestibule of Heaven

"If God has called you to be really like Jesus in your spirit, He will draw you into a life of crucifixion and humility, and put on you such demands of obedience that He will not allow you to follow other Christians; and in many ways He will seem to let other good people do things that He will not let you do.

Other Christians and ministers who seem very religious and useful may push themselves, pull wires and work schemes to carry out their schemes, but you cannot do it; and if you attempt it, you will meet with such failure and rebuke from the Lord as to make you sorely penitent. Others may brag on themselves, on their work, on their success, on their writings, but the Holy Spirit will not allow you to do any such thing; and if you begin it, He will lead you

Continued next column.

Continued from previous column.

into some deep mortification that will make you despise yourself and all your good works.

Others may be allowed to succeed in making money, but it is likely that God will keep you poor, because He wants you to have something far better than gold, and that is helpless dependence upon Him, that He may have the privilege (the right) of supplying your needs day by day out of an unseen treasury. The Lord will let others be honored and put forward, and keep you hidden away in obscurity, because He wants some choice fragrant fruit for His coming glory which can only be produced in the shade. He will let others do a work for Him and get the credit for it, but He will let you work and toil on without knowing how much you are doing; and then to make your work still more precious, He will let others get the credit for the work you have done, and this will make your reward ten times greater when Jesus comes.

The Holy Spirit will put a watch over you, with a jealous love, and will rebuke you for little words and feelings or for wasting your time, over which other Christians never seem distressed. So make up your mind that God is an infinite Sovereign, and has the right to do as He pleases with His own, and He may not explain to you a thousand things which may puzzle your reason in His dealings with you. He will take you at your word and if you absolutely sell yourself to be His slave, He will wrap you up in a jealous love and let other people say and do many things which He will not let you say or do.

Settle it forever, that you are to deal directly with the Holy Spirit, and that He is to have the privilege of tying your tongue, or chaining your hand, or closing your eyes, in ways that He does not deal with others.

Now when you are so possessed with the Living God, that you are in your secret heart, pleased and delighted over the peculiar, personal, private, jealous guardianship of the Holy Spirit over your life, you will have found the vestibule of heaven."

Blessings,
PASTOR JEFF

A New Endeavor

1 Peter 4:10

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

I want to pitch an idea that has been on my mind for a while. I would like to establish a "**Community Care Team**" as a ministry of the church to expand on what is already in place. The scope of the Team would be to provide care for people who are going through difficult times. Sickness, hospitalization, recovery, loss of a loved one or people who are just in need of a visit from a friend.

Many of you have the gifts, graces and a heart to do this type of ministry and that is who I am looking for. I would like to populate the team with people who have the gift of hospitality, or the gift of encouragement as well as those who enjoy serving others. This would include things such as preparing a meal, offering transportation, doing some household or outdoor chores. Maybe we could even have a card ministry as part of this to send an encouraging note as the Spirit leads.

If you can see yourself filling any role in this ministry and would like to be a part of this team, please respond to my email. This invitation is open to any resident of the park.

PASTOR JEFF

From the church secretary, Pam Hill:

It is time to **FALL** into my new hours.

The church office will be open:
Monday – Thursday 9am – 2pm.

A Church Board Decision

Light & Life Church board has approved restoring the line item for the Food Pantry!

What does that mean? Outreach Ministries will again be **L&L Food Pantry** and any monetary donations will once again be accepted through the church! Just "footnote" your check "Food Pantry".

We are beyond excited to bring the ministry back into our church at the park.

If you've been waiting for a great time to donate to those "Outside the Gates", this would be it!

Food Pantry operations will remain the same with Chris Aurich taking the lead.

A big thanks to all the volunteers who have stayed committed through all the changes.

Thanks again to Pastor Jeff, Robin and all those on the board who see the value this ministry has of serving others and showing them the love of Jesus!

You are truly a blessing, and together we will be a blessing to others!

Randy Williams

Introducing our new Associate Pastor Roger Haskins

Roger and Ellen first came to the park about 3 years ago. They were serving as retired volunteers to our mission work in SE Asia. Now they have become full timers in the park. Roger has served as a pastor for almost 50 years. Ellen has enjoyed the ministry of encouragement and prayer.

They have three grown, married children and 8 grandchildren ranging in ages from 21 to almost 1 year old.

Roger and Ellen enjoy the gift of the outdoors and you will find them walking the park all times of the day.

Roger has accepted the ministry of assisting Pastor Jeff here at Light and Life Church.



**MAY
YOU
HAVE A
BLESSED
DAY!**

**ELLEN
AND
ROGER
HASKINS**

Outreach Ministry

Three Hundred Dollars.

Our food ministry outreach spends less than that per week, and we try to help at least 15 families with protein, milk and a few groceries along with Publix generous bread donations.

300 dollars is how much lot rent went up for our neighbors at Briarwood. The lot rent is now between \$750 and \$950 a month.

300 dollars is an entire month's budget for groceries for a family.

300 reasons or more for you to help. Kids get excited for a new flavor of Ramen noodles, a staple for many, not even the fancy 52 cent cup kind. Encourage those who have the courage to ask for help. One volunteer remarked how sad it is to run out of boxes before helping everyone. One child runs for joy with a loaf of bread. So many reasons you can probably name more.

Food doesn't always go to the same families, but it should not matter.

Sometimes instead of giving, we might think that we are enabling laziness. Let me assure you, many of these folks are struggling to survive. If they were getting free housing that 300 dollars wouldn't matter. We try to help those who are trying so hard. One family lost all government food help because they work too much overtime.

You can make a big difference with your financial or food donation. Make a donation through the church or buy some pantry staples on sale and drop off at Hood Hall.

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

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 or Pam Hill: 863-808-3779

Email: church.lfmc.org

Updates to Briarwood

Servant hearts will be gathering at Hood Hall Mondays @ 3:00 to pack boxes of food.

And yes, I was talking about you! Light & Life is Full of servant hearts!

If you haven't heard the stories of families helped by this ministry, please come by on Mondays!

Light & Life Church is again accepting your donations for the Food Pantry, Thanksgiving turkeys and all the fixings, Christmas hams and the Bookbag Bash for the kids!

If you can't make it to Hood Hall, please consider sending a check to the church.

And always continue to pray that we can all help as a community of Christians, following the commands of our Lord.

As we see the world events unfolding around us, I think we all feel like time is short.

So, it's time for us to make sure our neighbors know about Jesus, and where they can go to learn how to walk in His light. You are the Light here on earth and your joy is what the lost are looking for. Please come share your joy with us and them!

Blessings my friends -
Randy Williams

Distribution

We will be in Hood Hall Thursdays at 10:30 with bakery items from both Publix and Panera. The pick-up schedule is changing, so the available items will be a little different starting in October.

If you are new to the Park or just coming back for the season, **this is free to all and all are welcome to come find a treat.**

While this is free, we will have a basket for any donations for our Outreach Ministries, and these are greatly needed and appreciated.

Please bring your own bags or containers for the items you choose.

Karen Wright Coordinator