



PORTLAND PROMISE CENTER

Fall 2008



From left to right: James, Brandon, Mary, Lydia

Baptism Celebration

On June 29th the Portland Promise Community of Faith celebrated a special day of baptism and renewal. During the worship service Lydia Husted, Brandon Ranes, Mary Jolly, and James Woodward made public professions of faith in Christ. Their commitment to Christ and his Church is a wonderful example of the positive changes taking place in our neighborhood.

Crown Ministry

On August 16th fourteen members from the Portland community were trained as Life Group Leaders with Crown Financial Ministry. In the future Portland Promise Center will offer studies on biblical financial stewardship and programs that assist neighbors in setting financial goals and preparing family budgets.

The Promise of Change

by Larry Stoess

CHANGE is a buzz word that captivated the nation's imagination during the 2008 presidential campaign. However, the promise and hope for change is not peculiar to this generation. In the 1960's Bob Dylan sang *The Times They Are A-Changing*. Now that Dylan is 67 years old he's singing a new song: *Things Have Changed*.

At the Portland Promise Center we talk often about God's promise to heal our land. We look forward to a time when our

neighborhood will reflect the kingdom of God that Jesus spoke of – a place where families flourish and the peace of God is present. A lot must change before all of our neighbors experience that promise as reality. But those with eyes to see and ears to hear will say "God's promise of new life and resurrection is taking hold in our neighborhood." I invite you to read the articles in this newsletter and hear a few good stories of positive change.

Rainbow Bucks Teach Financial Responsibility

The elementary students have been studying the ABC's of Handling Money God's Way by Howard and Bev Dayton. Weekly lessons on financial concepts such as spending, saving, honesty and stewardship have allowed students to discuss how we use money in our every day lives. A monetary reward system has been instituted and students are paid "Rainbow Bucks" for attendance, homework completion and good behavior. At our weekly chapel service, the kids tithe their bucks. They especially like to spend their Rainbow Bucks at the Rainbow Store. By simulating real life situations in the store, chapel and classroom, students are encouraged to make wise financial choices and learn fiscal responsibility.

Donta Hendricks



Faith-based community development in Louisville's Portland neighborhood



College Connection Promotes Peace

"Be the change you want to see in the world."

—Gandhi

On Sept. 28th nine of our College Connection students participated in a community choir presented by the Peace Education Program. The choir sang a song written by Harry Pickens called, "The People Want Peace". Below are some of the children's responses.

Lee says, "Peace is something that helps the world."

Shelby says, "Peace is sharing, caring, and friendship."

Dakeya says, "Peace is a good thing."

Dyominique says, "Peace is respecting others and treating others the way you want to be treated."

Today violence is rampant in our neighborhoods. Our children need to know peace. Jesus is the Prince of Peace. Colossians 3:15 says "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body we are all called to peace." May each of us allow Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, be the change in our lives that enables us to live in peace.



Off to College

Nine years ago, when we began the College Connection program, we had a dream. We dreamed we could have more children going to college. Today, this dream is a reality. Below is a letter we received from Ashley Lewis, a College Connection student. Ashley began the program when she was a fourth grader at Portland Elementary School. Today, she is a Freshman at the University of Kentucky.

*Hey Ms. Kathie,
I want to thank you and everyone for all your help to get me to this dream of mine and I promise I will not let you guys down. You and the center are like my second family. I don't know what I would do without all your love and support.*

—Ashley

Congrats to PPC College Scholarship Recipients!

These young people are all recipients of scholarships from the Portland Promise Center. We are very proud of them and we wish them the best!

John Payne: Freshman at Lindsey Wilson College
 Chrystal Gallagher: Sophomore at Morehead University
 Ashley Lewis: Freshman at the University of Kentucky
 Danielle Christian: Sophomore at Oakland City University



From left to right: John Payne, Chrystal Gallagher, Ashley Lewis, Danielle Christian

Faith-based community development in Louisville's Portland neighborhood

PPC Youth Interns

Each year the Portland Promise Center offers a paid internship to a high school senior that is based on a young person's demonstrated involvement and positive commitment to the Center throughout his/her high school years. This year we are pleased to have two young men – Daniel Jarvis and Nathan Stoess – serving as High School Interns with the Center. Both young men perform a variety of responsibilities related to the daily functions of the Center. Daniel's responsibilities are concentrated at the Learning Center while Nathan's responsibilities are split between the Learning Center and the emerging Portland Promise Community Development Corporation.



PPC Interns
Daniel Jarvis and
Nathan Stoess



Kilan Bennet

PPC Student Spotlight

Kilan Bennet is a student full of promise. He has attended center programs since the 7th grade. Kilan is very thankful for the Portland Promise Center. He is thankful for having a place to hang out. If it weren't for the safe environment at the center, Kilan says he would be stuck at home. One of the things he likes best is the caring PPC staff that is always available. Kilan has recently been selected to represent his class on the Homecoming Court. We're not the only ones who have noticed Kilan's promise. Congratulations, Kilan!

School: Junior at Central High School in the Computer Tech Magnet

Siblings: Chanchez, Kayla

Goals: Studying computers at UofL or Murray State

Favorite PPC Trip: Barefoot Summer Camp

Self Described: Hard Worker

Church: Greater St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church

Awards: Junior Class Homecoming Court

Activities: Coaches the Freshman Powder Puff team

Staff Changes

Portland Promise Center has made a few changes in our staff. Some old friends resigned and some new friends joined the team. We have been blessed with a great staff and want to say a special thank you to those who served in the past and welcome those who have come to live and work among us.

Tim, Terre, and Ethan
Matthew Veeck



L.J. Futch

L.J. Futch resigned this year after serving as the Bookkeeper since 1998. Thank you L.J. for your faithful service and for all the kind words of encouragement you shared with other staff members over the years.

Terre Veeck faithfully served as the Campaign Coordinator and Youth Support Staff for the past five years. This year God called Terre to a new adventure. On April 16th Terre gave birth to her beautiful son Ethan Matthew. She now has the awesome responsibility and privilege of being a full-time mother.



Rob and Tracy Hoffman and their three children, **Maggie, Georgia** and **Sam** moved to the neighborhood in June. As an Elder in the United Methodist Church, Rob is serving at the Portland Promise Center under appointment to extension ministry and will serve as the Director of the Portland Promise Learning Center. Tracy is serving as the Coordinator of the Afterschool Program. They make a great team and their family will be a blessing to our community.

Rob, Tracy, Sam, Georgia and Maggie Hoffman





PORTLAND
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CENTER

PO Box 11865, Louisville, KY 40251-0865

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Celebrate Recovery

On Sept 25th we celebrated Jeff's 3rd year of sobriety. Jeff is always willing to help by leading meetings, giving lessons, or handing out sobriety tokens. He is a dedicated volunteer who helps out by showing the other men sobriety can be accomplished if you work the program and stay connected to God.

"I think the most important thing I've learned in the past three years, is if you aren't growing spiritually you are dying spiritually. There is no middle ground. The more I surrender to God's will the more blessings that I receive. And the more blessings I receive the more opportunities I have to be a witness of God's love, power, and way of life."

-Jeff Gibson

Volunteer Picnic

Portland Promise Center is blessed by the love and support we receive from sister churches that provide volunteers who prepare and serve meals for our Celebrate Recovery Program. To express our thanks we hosted a picnic for volunteers from the following Sunday School Classes: Adventure and Friendship with Christ Church UMC; New Beginnings and Exploration with St. Paul UMC; Agape with Crestwood Baptist; Body of Christ with Middletown Christian and members of the Christian Motorcycle Association.

Our T-ball volunteers were also honored at the picnic. These volunteers gave two evenings a week to show their love for the neighborhood. Mary Jolly, a coach for the past three years, states "It has given me the opportunity to meet families and show Christ's love."

We appreciate our volunteers and hope this cookout served as a token of our gratitude.

Special Thanks to Metro Louisville for a \$2,500 grant to fund the Boones Park T-Ball League.



Homework Help [Grades 6-12]

Adult volunteers needed to assist groups of teens with homework
3:00-6:00 PM

One-on-One Tutoring [Grades K-5]

Adult volunteers needed to help a child with homework and reading
4:00-5:30 PM, once a week [M, T, or W]

One-on-One Tutoring [Grades 6-12]

Adult volunteers needed to help a child with homework and reading
5:00-6:00 PM, once a week [M, T, or W]

VITA [Volunteer Income Tax Assistance]

Volunteers assist with tax preparation and work as Greeters/Receptionists, no tax experience needed-training is provided.

Jan. 9-April 15th, one morning or evening per week

Youth Breakout Sessions [Grades 6-12]

Volunteers to teach or share Life Skills or Artistic Expression (examples: Visual/Performing Arts, Cooking, Hiking, Job-Training, etc.)
Flexible Schedule