

In Search of... Stuff

For those of you who have visited Streets and seen our rec room, you know that it has been decorated with four white walls for far too long! We're going to liven up the room a bit by decorating it with as many wild and crazy things as we can find. If you have old street signs, antique metal signs, a boar's head or stuffed marlin, old zoo banners, signs from now extinct Memphis professional sport franchises, a broken tuba or anything else that is so useless it would fit perfectly on our walls, please let us know. We might even be willing to hang your old canoe from our ceiling! Please email Rob Thompson at rob@streetsministries.org if you have any items you think would look "at home" on our walls.

In Search of a Truck

We are currently looking to add a full size pickup to our fleet at Streets. If you have a truck you'd be interested in donating, please contact Rob Thompson at rob@streetsministries.org or 901.525.7380.

Creative Giving: In Search of Automobiles

One of the largest items in the Streets budget is our automotive budget. Between increasing gas prices, maintaining aging vans and keeping in compliance with changing state and federal laws, we spend a lot of time, effort, and dollars on this vital part of Streets' ministry.

To help fund this budget, please consider donating your car, truck, or van (we'd probably even take your boat or RV!) to Streets. All we need from you are the keys and the title. We will take care of the rest, including re-titling the car, filing the necessary documents with the state and IRS, and selling it. The best part is, you can write off the fair market value of your vehicle, which is often well below the trade value a dealer will give you.*

All of the proceeds from the sale of your car will be used to support Streets – who would have thought your old car could have been put to such good use? If you're interested in donating your vehicle to Streets, please contact Rob Thompson at rob@streetsministries.org or 901.525.7380.

* This statement is not intended to replace the advice of a licensed accountant. Please consult your accountant before making any tax decisions.

2004 Booker T. Washington Football Schedule

BTW vs. Trezevant*	8-13-04	Fairgrounds
BTW vs. Hamilton	8-27-04	BTW
BTW vs. Oakhaven	9-03-04	BTW
BTW at Southside	9-10-04	Freeman
BTW at Manassas	9-17-04	Raleigh-Egypt
BTW at Frayser	9-24-04	Greenhill
BTW vs. Westside**	10-01-04	BTW
BTW at Westwood	10-07-04	Freeman
BTW at Treadwell	10-15-04	Fairgrounds
BTW at Carver	10-22-04	Freeman
BTW vs. Mitchell	10-29-04	BTW

*Jamboree / ** Homecoming

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Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world – the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has done – comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.

1 John 2:15-17

If We Are the Body, Why Aren't...

His Feet Going?

They hop in a Winnebago and strike off from the small city of Humboldt, Kansas. Only the adult leadership and their parents know where the RV is headed. All the teenagers know is that their faith without feet is too defeating. They've engaged with a Savior who has called them to leave comfort and travel to an area of poverty in the South that is inconvenient and at some level frightening. Their journey stops at Streets. For the next few days, they give themselves away as they help with the upkeep of our facility by painting, cleaning and repairing, all in the name of Jesus.

His Arms Reaching?

From the beautiful beaches of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, over sixty high school youth and adults load a bus headed for Streets. For a week they engage in a culture that is foreign. They give themselves away to a community they didn't know existed until six months ago. Youth clubs, work projects, and their own personal education (National Civil Rights Museum) fill their days and nights. They put a roof on a house, paint and renovate the Booker T. Washington High School locker room and weight room, and transform our adjacent piece of property into an urban park equipped with volleyball court, five exercise stations, and playground equipment. They were just a group of believers compelled by Christ to extend their arms to serve.

His Words Teaching?

They load the vans at Hope Church in Cordova and head downtown to spend a week sleeping on the floor at Streets and sharing the love of Christ to inner city kids through Vacation Bible School every morning. The afternoons and nights are spent looking at their lives and the role they can play as believers in healing a city that still struggles with racial polarization. It is amazing to see the commitment of this group to our kids. They work tirelessly and patiently with Streets. I was amazed at their desire to understand the racial strife in this city, and begin to process ways that the body of Christ can be a part of the healing. By the way, they were all "just" middle school students!

"We are the body of Christ."

This phrase rolls off our tongues with ease. It astounds me at times how I can say things that don't convict me. Are we too often guilty of espousing the truth without being moved to action by the words?

Above are just three examples of how God used real life people, just like you and me, to change the face of a struggling, impoverished neighborhood. The interesting thing is these were all youth initiatives. As we mature and life becomes complicated, do we lose site of the fact that "we are the body?"

Your Brother in Christ,
Ken Bennett

**But if we are the body,
Why aren't His arms reaching?
Why aren't His hands healing?
Why aren't His words teaching?**

**Jesus paid much too high a price,
For us to pick and choose who should come,
And we are the body of Christ.**

**From If We Are the Body
by Casting Crowns**

Ken Bennett
Executive Director

Joey Collums
Education Specialist

John Cowherd
Middle School Coordinator

Brian 'Debo' Crawford
Recreation and Facilities Staff

Grace Halliday
Education Specialist

Delvin Lane
High School Coordinator

Rob Thompson
Director of Development

Quinhon Turner
Recreation and Facilities Specialists

Joyce Wilfong
Administrative Assistant

Renee Wimmer
Education Intern


STREETS MINISTRIES
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A Summer of Service: Before and After

Summer is a busy time at Streets, and the week from Friday, July 11th through Thursday, July 17th was one of the busiest weeks we had had all summer. The high school youth group from First Presbyterian in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida brought 53 hard working high school students and nine leaders to Memphis for six days, and they came to WORK.

On Saturday, July 10th, and from Monday the 12th through Wednesday the 14th, they put a roof on a house in the neighborhood, installed fitness stations and a playground in the park across from Streets, and cleaned and painted the weight room and lady's locker room at Booker T. Washington High School. On Sunday the 13th, they led worship at New Beginnings Community Church and hosted a carnival for about 150 neighborhood residents, which included cotton candy, hot dogs, carnival swings, a moon bounce and a dunk tank. All in all, the kids, both from Florida and from Streets, had a blast and some great things were accomplished.

Because they brought so many students, First Pres actually had to rent dorm rooms at Christian Brothers University and then make the ten-minute drive to Streets each morning. First Presbyterian's youth director, Mark Pendergrass, planned the mission trip. Pendergrass is a native Memphian and a longtime friend of Ken. Mark had done similar trips to Streets with a previous youth group in Birmingham, and decided to bring his Ft. Lauderdale crew this summer.

We are particularly excited about the park across from Streets' building at 769 Vance Avenue. While Foote and Cleaborn Homes both have several "park" areas that include playgrounds, this corner of the neighborhood, which consists mostly of shotgun-style rental housing and large homes converted into cheap tenement buildings, did not previously have any type of park or recreational area. The newly created park is open to, and intended for, residents of the entire community, and we hope to continue to use the area for community events like the carnival First Pres hosted on July 11th.

We would be remiss not to mention outside groups who helped to make this project possible by providing lunches for all the First Pres workers. Many thanks to Bellevue

Baptist, First Evan, Independent Pres, New Beginnings, New Song Baptist, and Second Presbyterian.

First Pres' efforts did not go unnoticed by the public eye: Both the Commercial Appeal (July 21st, Midtown / Downtown Appeal, page 1, "Takin' it to the Streets") and the Memphis Flyer (Issues 804, page 8 "Urban Mission") featured pieces on First Pres and Streets' work to help improve the community. To read the Commercial Appeal article, visit our web site at www.streetsministries.org.



The carnival included a moon bounce, swings, tea cups and a dunk tank.



Three young ladies from the neighborhood stop to enjoy hot dogs and drinks.

What We've Been Up To: Continued

- We had eight middle school girls at the CrossCourt Basketball Camp the week of **July 18**, and had 15 boys at the boys session the week of **July 25th**.
- John took students to a **Memphis Xplorers Arena Football game** at the Desoto Civic Center on **July 23rd**. The kids had a great time at their first arena football game. A special thanks to the **RiverKings/Xplorers** organization for making this event possible.
- Ashley and Joey spent the **last week of Summer Institute** in Sewanee, Tennessee at St. Andrew's – Sewanee Preparatory School during the week of **July 25th**. The students finished up the summer's curriculum by reading, and writing response papers to, C. S. Lewis' *The Great Divorce*. They also tried some new activities, like hiking in the mountains, water skiing and white water rafting, and visiting the Tennessee Aquarium. Though the cost is not insignificant (about \$1,500 per student for the summer), Summer Institute provides a very unique, educationally significant and sometimes life-changing experience for these promising young students. If you are interested in helping to sponsor a student this summer, please contact Rob Thompson at rob@streetsministries.org or 901.525.7380.
- John and Delvin held a **Back to School Bash at For the Kingdom Camp** for about 50 high school and middle school students on Monday, **August 2nd**.
- **School begins Monday, August 9th**. Please pray for a good year. Vance Middle School has a new administration and many new teachers this year as part of Memphis City Schools' FreshStart program. Fortunately, Ken already had a relationship with the new principal, so access to the campus should not be a problem. There are many new teachers and administrators to get to know, however, and as always, there are plenty of new students to reach out to.



Over 30 middle school students from Vance went with John, Joey, Ashley and BTW Alum Tasia Todd to For The Kingdom for a week in June.

Before...



Originally an old classroom, the Booker T. Washington High weight room was transformed with just a few coats of paint.

and After



The vacant lot across from Streets' building was converted into a neighborhood park with the addition of five fitness stations, a volleyball court and playground.



The lady's locker room at Booker T. Washington High School was divided into separate P.E. and Varsity Athletic locker rooms with the addition of a 25-foot wall. The Varsity locker room was spruced up with some wall stenciling and a couple couches.





What We've Been Up To

- John held a **spiritual boot camp** with 14 middle school kids from **May 24 – 28**. Each day for about two hours, the group read and discussed Josh McDowell's *More Than A Carpenter*.
- John and Delvin had **movie nights** all summer long on Monday (high school) and Tuesday (middle school) nights, with over 40 kids attending. Thanks to **Tri-State Theatre Supply** for supplying the popcorn!
- Ken and John took eight guys from the BTW basketball team to Kermit Davis' team basketball camp at Middle Tennessee State from **June 9 – 12**, and John took six middle school kids to John Calipari's skills camp **June 14 – 18**.
- Delvin, Debo, super volunteer Carmen and Streets alum Candace Wright took over 20 high school students to **summer camp** at **SharpTop** in North Georgia. The kids had a great week that included canoeing, the ropes course, swimming and some great fellowship. From **June 20 – 25**, Ashley, Joey, John and BTW/Summer Institute alum Tasia Todd took 32 middle school students to **For the Kingdom** Summer Camp in Raleigh.
- During the week of **July 12**, Staci Franklin of the **Memphis Grizzlies** Community Investment Group and Professor Stephen Haynes of **Rhodes College** visited our Summer Institute classes as guest lecturers. Staci spoke about her career and why the Grizzlies are so focused on having an active role in the community, while Professor Haynes lectured on the Holocaust.
- Four Streets students participated in the **Hope Distance Running Camp** from **July 11 – 17** at Shelby Forest. Thanks to **Breakaway Athletics** for helping make that possible.
- John took students to two **Christian hip-hop concerts** on **Friday, July 17** and **Saturday, July 18th** at Breath of Life Church and Lauderdale Missionary Baptist.



John, Joey, Ashley and Streets Campers stop for a group photo while at For the Kingdom in June.



Bill Grammer (center), from Hope Pres, and John Cowherd (far right) "supervise" a shaving cream fight during Hope's week-long VBS at Streets.

- On Saturday **July 18th**, Joey and Ashley took a group from their Summer Institute class to a **movie screening and discussion forum** with John Singleton, the director of *Boyz in the Hood*, who is in town filming a movie written and directed by Memphian Craig Brewer. The students enjoyed the session, talking for some time with Singleton and several of the actors. Coincidentally, the film crew spent four days in Streets' neighborhood the following week, shooting on location on St. Paul Avenue.
- Hope Presbyterian hosted their annual **Streets VBS** the week of **July 18th**. Many thanks to their awesome group of volunteers, which included members of their Middle School youth group who arrived a few days early and actually spent the week at Streets as part of Hope's Urban Plunge program. Streets had seven students that worked alongside Hope's crew all week and were a part of the student leadership for the VBS.