

# Neighbor



*Shadetree Group exists to offer the whole Gospel to the whole person by affirming the dignity of under-resourced persons and empowering them to improve their own lives and community.*

**A Quarterly Newsletter**

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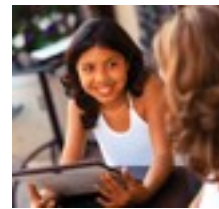
## Looking Forward

*This summer has been very busy with many changes. I apologize for the absence of any newsletter for three months. We will change to a quarterly format. We have been working tirelessly to establish a board of directors for the become our seek those to provide come. We of professionals from Killearn United Methodist Church who have much experience in non-profit management. We held our first invitational meeting for people interested in serving the ministry with their skills in management, education, fundraising, accounting and other expertise. We are delighted to see who God brings alongside us.*



## Special Announcement

*We regret to that we must the start of the school program more months. you for your we prepare. The group has decided until the new organizational structure of Shadetree is established before beginning the program. The leadership is confident the after school program is will begin very soon.*



*announce postpone after for a few Thank support as leadership to wait*



## Life Together

*"Hospitality becomes for the Christian community a way of being the sacrament of God's love in the world," a role which certainly fits the image in Romans 12 of hospitality as an expression of our lives offered up as "living sacrifices." While we might imagine sacrifice in terms of one moment of heroic martyrdom, faithful hospitality usually involves laying our lives down in little pieces, in small acts of sacrificial love and service. Christine D. Pohl, in Making Room: Recovering Hospitality as a Christian Tradition, 1999, Eerdmans Pub. Co.*

Our family is hanging out one Saturday each month with a group of amazing folks. Several families arrive to serve children in Gretna. We are so blessed to have time to worship, play games, make crafts, shoot hoops, pray and dine together each Saturday. We are beginning to get to know our new friends as



we make room for one another. When I talk to some of the kids during the month, they cannot wait to come back to BBS (Backyard Bible Study). Yet, when I talk to all the parents and youth who volunteer, I get the same response; they, too, cannot wait to see their

young friends. I am sure our friends from Tallahassee were initially hoping to bless the lives of these precious children in Gretna. But I now see our Gretna friends blessing the lives of the "big" people as well.

## Strange Economy

I find it so strangely wonderful that the more we give ourselves away to God and to others, the more we receive from Him and others. My initial thoughts when God was wooing me into serving Him as a vocation were reluctant. I worried I would most certainly lose myself and my agenda and be quite miserable if I gave my self to God. As I make small steps toward Christ, I have found quite the opposite. As I continue to say, "yes" and do the next right thing, Christ lovingly takes my heart places I never imagined were possible. With great mercy, He gives my heart room enough not only to love Him in deeper ways, but He continues to make room in my heart to love my family, neighbors and even a few enemies. It doesn't make sense. I hope we will all continue to join God, saying "yes" as we lay our selves down one little piece at a time. -With Gratitude, Catherine