

PARMA AREA - JUNE 2012



COMMUNITY AMBASSADORS

Connection

Praise the Lord!

We are eager to get this newsletter to you and other local church leaders with the expectant hope that it comes at a time of great anticipation for what God desires to do in our community. We pray this monthly Connection will serve to inspire and inform you of service opportunities within the Parma and surrounding areas, as well as how your ministry can contribute to the cause of bringing faith, hope, and love to individuals and families around us in need.

The Time is NOW!

by **Jeremy Kiner, Co-Director**

In the last couple years, state government has taken drastic measures to overcome an alarming deficit and balance the budget. Perhaps the biggest hit region in Ohio was Cuyahoga County, losing 230 million dollars to their budget. Significant cuts to Medicaid has also reduced or eliminated funding to many health care and social service programs, which in turn has impacted thousands of local recipients who benefit from these services. Parma City Schools also endured 18 million dollars in cuts in desperate efforts to survive a state-takeover.

These growing economic challenges can make it feel like we're on a doom-and-gloom trajectory, but I would argue otherwise. Yes, there are bigger holes and less state funding than ever before, but now is not the time for hopeless conversation. Now, more than ever, it is time for the Body of Christ to bind together, rise up, and respond to these challenges like never before. Truly, the Church of TODAY has an incredible opportunity to serve big; to become a modern-day well where thirsty people come to find water and solutions for their life, the greatest of which is Jesus Christ.

Luke 10: 2

These were his instructions to them: The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields.



The fields are, indeed, ready and the harvest is great. The question is, are there enough workers to meet the increasing challenges? With budgetary strains impacting our schools and county programs, how will the churches of our community respond to the shortfalls? Can we fill in the gap where government has no answer? Can we be more missional and more intentional in our ministries? Can we WOW our community with the love and care and pure Gospel of Christ?

NOW is the time to act! Now is the time for the Body of Christ to not just be hearers of the Word, but doers also. I want to immensely

thank the numerous pastors and churches in the Parma and surrounding areas who I have met over the past couple years who are already responding to the call to serve the community in very BIG ways. You are doing remarkable things. You inspire me and are fueling the fire for even greater things in the Kingdom! Keep praying, keep partnering, and keep pressing on!

PAY IT FORWARD CAFE

A huge thanks to Pastor Yu, his wife, and members of their church and youth group for volunteering and preparing a meal at Pay It Forward Cafe this past month! Pastor Yu leads the Han-Madang United Methodist Church located at 7800 W. Pleasant Valley Rd. Following the meal, youth members thoroughly blessed the Cafe patrons with songs of praise and worship. We look forward to having them come back again!



Would your church like to get involved with Pay It Forward Cafe? We could use your help! To inquire about service opportunities, please contact **Dona Kiner at 216-200-7030**. Pay It Forward Cafe runs every Saturday at Parmatown Mall from 12:00 PM to 2:00PM.



Where to begin?

We've encountered pastors that say, "I want to get involved with the community, but I don't know where to begin." Below are 3 practical suggestions for getting started.

- **Walk your neighborhood, the mall, or the park. Ask God to show you the needs in your community. How might God use you or your ministry to meet those needs?**
- **If one thing - just one thing - could be done in your neighborhood to let people know that you care for them, what would it be? Do that one thing.**
- **Partner with another ministry or organization in the community to build experience and increase impact. Where two or three are gathered in Christ's name, He is in the midst! Contact a ministry or organization to volunteer today!**

UPCOMING EVENTS *Get Connected*

June 28 - **Parma Area Family Collaborative Meeting** – @ EFSN Family Service Center, 4261 Fulton Parkway, Old Brooklyn 44144 from 8:15-9:30

We would like to spotlight your ministry or outreach!

Please tell us about how you are serving your community!



June

2012



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

This summer, Community Ambassadors is committing to praying each day for the churches, city government, businesses, and schools of our community. Would you consider praying with us?

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 All Saints Episcopal Church	18 Bethany Assembly of God & School	19 Bethany Lutheran Church & School	20 Bethel Temple Assembly of God & School	21 Bethlehem Lutheran Church	22 Brook Park Community Church	23 Calvary Lutheran Church
24 Church of Christ at Broadview Road	25 Concord Free Lutheran Church	26 Divinity Lutheran Church	27 First United Pentecostal Church	28 Good Shepherd United Methodist Church	29 Han-Madang United Methodist Congregation	30 Hillview Baptist Church

July
2012



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Holy Family Parish & School	2 Holy Spirit Byzantine Catholic Church	3 Holy Trinity Lutheran Church	4 Holy Trinity Orthodox Church	5 Immanuel Assembly of God	6 Lakeview Church of God	7 New Apostolic Church
8 New Life Fel- lowship Four- square Church	9 Parma Baptist Church & School	10 Parma Chris- tian Church	11 Parma Heights Baptist Church & School	12 Parma Park Church of God	13 Parma-South Presbyterian Church	14 Pearlbrook Baptist Church
15 Pleasant Hills United Method- ist Church	16 Pokrova Ukrainian Catholic Church	17 Ridge Rd. United Church of Christ	18 Ridgewood United Meth- odist Church	19 Saint Sava Serbian Ortho- dox Cathedral	20 Southwest Community Baptist Church	21 St. Andrews Ukrainian Catholic Church
22 St. Anthony of Padua Church & School	23 St. Bridget's Church	24 St. Charles Borromeo Par- ish & School	25 St. Columb- kille Church & School	26 St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church	27 St. John Bosco Church	28 St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Ca- thedral
29 St. Mary's Pol- ish Church	30 St. Matthew Lutheran Church	31 St. Matthias Church				

August

2012



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 St. Paul Lutheran Church	2 St. Paul United Church of Christ	3 St. Peter United Church of Christ	4 St. Sergius Russian Orthodox Cathedral
5 St. Therese of the Child Jesus Church	6 St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral	7 The Branch Community Church	8 Trinity Baptist Church	9 Vineyard Christian Fellowship	10 Parma City Hall	11 Parma Heights City Hall
12 Seven Hills City Hall	13 Normandy High School	14 Parma Senior High School	15 Valley Forge High School	16 Greenbriar Middle School	17 Hillside Middle School	18 Shiloh Middle School
19 Dentzler Elementary	20 Green Valley Elementary	21 John Muir Elementary	22 Parkview First Step	23 Parma Park Elementary	24 Pleasant Valley Elementary	25 Renwood Elementary
26 Ridge-Brook Elementary	27 Thoreau Park Elementary	28 Parma City School District Admin Offices	29 Parma Community & Businesses	30 Parma Heights Community & Businesses	31 Seven Hills Community & Businesses	