

“The mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

This is the stated mission of the United Methodist Church. The Salty Service Area of Port Charlotte United Methodist Church seeks to follow the call of Christ to His disciples to “go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”

We seek to impact the lives of people using an Acts 1:8 model: “you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” The ongoing work of Salty Service happens locally, nationally, and internationally.

The Salty Service ministry has set a long-term goal of “tithing” (10%) of our church overall giving to Salty Service related ministry.

LOCAL

Food Collection/Distribution: Our church makes weekly deposits of food into local food banks around the Charlotte County area. We also distribute backpacks to our Preschool families and ask them to share with other families as they perceive a need.

Angel Tree: During the Christmas season we partner with Salvation Army to ensure that local families who are struggling are able to receive food and gifts. Our Chancel Choir has assumed leadership of this ministry and we know that God will bring a harvest.

Kairos: Twice a year we provide resources and people to conduct a weekend Emmaus-based experience for prisoners who desire to meet Jesus Christ in a personal way. This year we have made significant statement of adding the Kairos Ministry to our church’s operating budget.

NATIONAL

Campus Crusade for Christ: PCUMC provides ongoing resources for godly servants to spread the gospel on college campuses and in places where students are living their daily lives. For the last several years we have supported the Arcadi’s a young couple from our own church. This year we will be receiving new servants to support in this vital ministry.

Florida United Methodist Children’s Home: With our once-a-quarter offering and weekly donations through the WNT gatherings, PCUMC supports the ministry of reaching to families and children in crisis. The Children’s Home operates exclusively through the gifts of local church congregations like PCUMC. Our history of support is one of faithfulness and longevity.

INTERNATIONAL

Zambia: Delbert and Sandy Groves have been our ministry partners in this African nation for several years. They will be joining us sometime in 2011 to tell us stories of the work God is doing through them and through our support.

Israel: The Rev. Alex Elias Awad is a missionary with the Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church serving in Israel/Palestine with his wife, Brenda. He pastors a small international church in East Jerusalem and teaches courses at Bethlehem Bible College, where he serves as faculty member, dean of students and board member.

Dominican Republic: Connie DiLeo directs the operations of schools and clinics at the two project sites in Bombita and La Hoya. As COPA chaplain, Connie oversees the Christian education programs in the schools and leads in the spiritual development of COPA staff and workers. She also supervises the youth groups in the two communities and oversees a new congregation in La Hoya.

Operation Shoebox: During the Thanksgiving season we use the donations of our local church to provide gifts for children all over the world. Bill Wyld has overseen this project for the last two years and we expect the ministry to grow again. These collected gifts are shipped the week of Christmas and we see the gospel sent “to the ends of the earth”.

APPORTIONMENTS

Apportionments are the way in which local churches combine their financial resources to enable our vision for mission and ministry at every level of the United Methodist Church. What makes us The United Methodist Church is our connectional nature. No congregation, no district, no annual conference is alone. There are seven parts to the General Church Apportionment.



Staking our Claim - Following God’s Leading

2010 MINISTRY REPORT

Children

Youth

*Children’s
Weekday Ministry*

Administration

Trustees

Salty Service

WHERE WE’VE BEEN - WHAT’S HAPPENING NOW - WHERE GOD IS LEADING US

In the history of the United States we see that there were always people willing to risk something to gain what they believed was something more. Their investment of life, health, wealth, and time often produced startling results. These early people who laid hold of something and sunk themselves into it believed their destiny was caught up in that piece of land and whether or not it thrived or died.

The picture above is a self-portrait of Samuel Reader. He came west to the Kansas territory in hopes of “staking a claim”. He painted this picture from memory of the day he selected a place that was to be his home. In his diary he wrote these words, “I will give my life to what happens here, and what happens here will give me life.” Those early stakeholders endured back-breaking work, harsh elements, hunger, violence, and even death believing that God had brought them there.

As the early church began to grow from the roots sunk into Jesus Christ there were those who dared to be stakeholders in seeking to spread the truth. The Apostle Paul said of his stakeholder’s commitment: “I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.” (1 Cor. 9:23)

What Samuel Reader said about his homestead, and what Paul says about the gospel is true for people who decided to say that “a church” is “their church.” As a stakeholder at PCUMC, you are one of many who supports, encourages or has a vision for seeing our church grow in it’s ability to enrich the lives of people by helping them to:

- KNOW Christ!
- GROW in Christ!
- GO to serve Christ!

Within the pages of this document you will find Information, Inspiration, and Invitation concerning where we’ve been, where we are at, and (with the commitment of PCUMC stakeholders), where God is leading us. Keep going and never quit!

Grace,

Pastor Brian



Managing the Property, Equipment, and Investments God has ENTRUSTED to the ministry of PCUMC to further our mission to Know Grow & Go with God.

Where We’ve Been:

Port Charlotte United Methodist Church has great facilities and a beautiful campus. Our building and property gets a lot of use and, given its size, it is always a challenge to keep the facility well-maintained and running smoothly on a limited budget. This year each trustee oversees a particular area of responsibility -- the building, grounds, equipment, the parsonage, or signage. We had no major improvement projects, but were able to address many things on our “to-do” list and take care of other maintenance needs as they arose. Several things that we were hoping to do were found to be cost-prohibitive at this time.

Some of the accomplishments of the year include:

- A new irrigation line was installed to water plants along the south parking lot.
- Palm trees were trimmed.
- Two new copiers were procured.
- Offices & classroom space was reallocated to make better use of the space we have and provide room for new ministries.
- Benches by the Quesada entrance were rebuilt.
- Parsonage repairs were completed and fencing installed.
- Walls were repaired and gates replaced around air conditioner units.
- A new network server and a voice mail system were installed.
- The women’s restroom was redecorated.
- Drainage from the roof was improved.
- Cross lighting was replaced.
- PCUMC was reinstated as a Charlotte County Hurricane Refuge Site.
- A signage plan was developed and implemented, with new entrance and directional signs now in place.
- Numerous other small projects were completed as well.

What’s Happening Now?

The Trustees recently organized a church workday to “spruce up” the property before the Homecoming Celebration. We had quite an extensive list of projects to complete that day, and because so many of you came to help, we accomplished everything on the list! How awesome! AND, some of you are looking forward to doing this on a regular basis...there is a team of folks anxious to continue with beautification of the grounds. It’s amazing what we can do when we all come together and work as a team to improve the property with which God has entrusted us; we enjoy fellowship and build friendships with each other as well. So, though we were all working, we had a great time doing it and could really see the results of our labors. We plan to schedule church workdays several times a year, so don’t put your tools away!

Where is God Leading Us?

We wish to meet the challenge we have to be good stewards of this church. Over the next few months, the Trustees plan to complete a comprehensive building inspection to identify large or small issues which need to be addressed. In addition, a current inventory of all our property will be compiled. One of our biggest challenges for the future is to cover the cost of major maintenance repairs, such as air conditioning units or the roof. Since the church’s contingency fund is not sufficient to cover significant costs, we plan to set aside additional funds each month to be reserved for future needs. The Trustees also hope that members of the congregation will provide some memorial funds which could be used for this purpose. Gifts of this sort could be enormously helpful for the future needs of the church.

Thank you for your support and the confidence you have placed in the Board of Trustees as we move into another year. With God’s help and yours, we will do our best to not only maintain His church, but move it forward.



Where We've Been:

Several challenges over the past year had to do with equipment and printing/ mailing costs. When our primary copier/printer had to be replaced, we took a careful look at ways to reduce the cost of producing our publications. At the same time, we wanted to enhance our communication to the community to increase awareness of our church and its ministries.

Part of that effort was the development of a new website. Our goal was and is to attract more visits to the site by members of our congregation, to share lots of current information through the website, and provide a means for people in the community to learn about our church.

We've taken a bulletin with lots of "pieces and parts" and redesigned it, making it easier to handle and eliminating lots of paper and copy costs. The newsletter has a new look as well.

This year we've migrated to an online payroll system and have been able to offer our employees the direct deposit of their payroll checks. We've recently installed a new network server and a voice mail system to improve our efficiency and communication.

Every one of these accomplishments started with a challenge – a need for improvement, a desire for greater efficiency, or a broader vision for our ministry.

What's Happening Now?

Our new copier is working great – paper jams are now a thing of the past! The copy quality is excellent and because of the features of this machine, we have significantly lowered our copy count which helps to reduce costs.

We are currently promoting our ministries and events in a number of ways – the website, fliers, radio advertising, signs, local newspapers, etc.

Where is God Leading our Ministry?

Some of the items in the Administration budget are fairly fixed costs, but as we institute changes and improve efficiency, we are generally able to reduce our budget somewhat each year.

We feel that the challenges which have been met over the past year will enable us to be more effective in the supportive role that we provide for the church and its ministries. A typical day brings lots of opportunities for interaction with people of the congregation as well as those from outside the church. We are looking ahead to new challenges and ways to improve the day-to-day operations, for the staff and the congregation. There are lots of needs to be met! Because of this, there are also lots of ways for volunteers to get involved in the area of administration - answering the phone, working with people seeking financial aid, preparing mailings and bulletins, greeting folks who walk through our doors during the week - the opportunities are endless. We invite any of you who want to help with administrative functions to join us during the week and discover new ways to participate in the life of the church!



Where We've Been:

The Children's Ministry of Port Charlotte United Methodist Church has been growing steadily over the years. Our outreaches "Trunk or Treat" and "Easter Egg-sperience" draw more than four hundred children and their families. Our Vacation Bible school is the largest in the area with one hundred and fifty children and more than thirty-five volunteers.

Over the past few years Children's Ministry has started Wednesday night programs for children and adults, Sunday "Acts of Faith" for youth and children, remodeling the children's area to the "Port" and the Christmas musical, none of which are in the budget. Church@6 will be starting in the new year and the constant challenge is to find volunteers to serve with a passion in the children's area and the funds to keep the Children's Ministry growing.

This Easter we did "All Around Easter" a week filled with activities to teach and celebrate our Lord and Saviors' resurrection. While only a few children attended, I believe when more than two come together to worship, He considers it a joy and I know the people who were there were blessed by coming together in His name.

What's Happening Now?

Now is the time to grow our church. In this tough economic time I see so many challenges in children's lives. Parents losing jobs, homes, families falling apart and so much more brokenness then children and families should have to face. Port Charlotte United Methodist Church needs to make a covenant with our God that in everything we do, we do it to bring people to Christ. More then ever we are living in a world that is losing its Christianity and us as Christians need to stand up and be bold and fight for our God and our children.

Working with children I realize they need a fun-updated curriculum, but most of all they want to feel someone cares. Knowing someone shows up every week to teach and play games is showing them Jesus through us. The hugs I receive each week tell me this is true.

We were closing our Wednesday night together lesson, standing in a circle holding hands and I asked the children to say what they were thankful for. One child said I am thankful for my family, this church and the friends I have at church, because this year my dad went through cancer my grand mom was very sick and died and I don't know what my family would have done without this church.

The children and their parents often comment how well all the children get along, unlike school there is no pressure to be anything but how God has made them.

Where is God Leading our Ministry?

The average person receives Christ between the ages of 8 and 14. How can they do that if there is know one to lead them? God is being taken out of our society and I think Port Charlotte United Methodist's Children's Ministry can make a difference. With your help we can lead these families to Christ just by providing the activities and love we always have, just with more love than ever.

Where We've Been:

This past year has been a good year for our youth ministry. I have officially been on staff for a year now. The biggest challenge for the year, was getting to know our youth and getting accustomed to our church. This past year, we confirmed 4 youth and sent 11 youth to Warren Willis Camp. The youth had 3 different youth directors in 2009 and that change resulted in a reduction to a core group of students. Now that we have stability in our ministry, we have seen 5-6 youth become regular attendees on Wednesday night in the last two months.

What's Happening Now?

We recently changed our Sunday morning activities. We now offer a program for preteens called Crew 567 at 11 am on Sundays. This group is currently lead by me and two female volunteers (Dawn Kisner and Candice Chardon). Our older youth have a new Sunday Morning Bible Study leader, Dustin James. It is very exciting to see new leaders helping our youth grow in their faith.

In less than a month, on October 30, our youth ministry is going to have an outreach event called Party at the Port. This will feature a free concert, laser tag, and a mobile video game theater. We feel this event will make Trunk or Treat weekend a highlight for our church as we reach out into our community.

Where is God Leading our Ministry?

Like so many ministries in our church, we are preparing for the start of Church@6 in January in 2011. We plan to move Crew 567 and the Youth Bible Study to Sunday nights to help make this night special for families. Sunday nights is great time to get youth involved in our ministry because of the ever increasing demands on their weekday schedules. 2011 will also see us continue meeting on Wednesday nights and our annual trips to summer camp and Night of Joy. I also see us working toward a Mission Trip in 2011. I didn't feel the group was ready this year, but I think we are now in place to take on the challenge of a week long mission trip. This is the reason I am asking for money set aside in the budget for youth trips, so we can make this goal a reality.



Where We've Been:

Since the Preschool's inaugural 2006-2007 school year it has experienced phenomenal growth. After eight months of careful planning, research, guidance and approval from the Florida Department of Children & Families, the Florida United Methodist Association of Preschools (UMAP), the Charlotte County Board of Commissioners and our church Administrative Board, the Preschool started with 2 classrooms, 30 students and 4 teachers and aides. At the beginning of the 2007-2008 school year the after-school Children's Extended Ministry (CEM) joined the Preschool to form the Children's Weekday Ministries (CWM). CWM is managed by an Director, who in turn is lead by the CWM Board of Directors with representation from Trustees, Staff/Parish, Administration, Children's Ministry, and CWM parents. The CWM Director also oversees Clap, Tap and Jingle (CTJ), a community outreach ministry for families with infants thorough school age which meets twice a week for nearly an hour of stimulating music and dancing to encourage coordination, balance, socialization and bonding.

CWM's expenses are wholly funded by tuition paid for by the students' families and from the Florida Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) program. In addition, we have been blessed with private donations and volunteer help which together assist CWM to exceed all expectations. Because of its unique funding status, not only are all CWM staff salaries paid for by CWM, but CWM also pays a percentage back to the church for utilities, vehicle registration, insurance and maintenance, and tithe. In other words, CWM is totally financially self-sufficient and gives back to the church.

What's Happening Now?

God blesses our ministry with the ability to provide top quality, affordable, Christian education for children 3 years old through the 5th-grade and steady employment for 12 people. The 2010-2011 school year began with 6 preschool and 2 after-school classrooms, 81 preschool and 28 after-school students, and 12 preschool and 2 after-school teachers and aides. Our waiting list is long as our program is recognized as one of the best in Charlotte County, primarily due to the wonderfully talented and dedicated CWM staff. Our enrollment is only limited by space.

The Preschool program operates from 9:00am through 12:00pm, Monday through Friday. The After-School program operates from 3:00pm through 6:00pm, Monday through Friday. Both programs operate when Charlotte County public schools are in session. In addition, we pick up children from four local public elementary schools (Kingsway, Neil Armstrong, Liberty and Meadow Park) and bring them to church for the After-School program.

The success of CWM is an attitude; an attitude of faithfulness, love, commitment, responsibility, dedication and leadership, all exhibited by the Director, teachers, and aides together as one cohesive unit. Parents respect the extra efforts all CWM staff make to love and encourage their children, to teach their children about Jesus, and to keep their children safe.

This past summer, we were very fortunate to have the Trustees recommend and support converting the Library to another classroom, which helped to increase our Preschool enrollment this year an additional 18 students and 2 teachers. We continue to hold a Gold Seal Accreditation with the United Methodist Association of Preschools (UMAP) and Department of Children and Families licensing. CWM is also able to provide scholarships to several families in need.

Where is God Leading our Ministry?

Many families with young children seek high-quality, affordable pre- and after-school care for their children, run by people whom they can trust implicitly with their little children. We have the blessings of reaching out to so many young children and families about true Christian love and the faith Port Charlotte United Methodist Church can bring to the community. We pray that God will continue to bless this ministry in all the ways that only He can.