

# KNOW GROW GO

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF  
PORT CHARLOTTE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## March 2015

Sunday Worship: 8am - 9:30am - 11am

[www.pcumc.info](http://www.pcumc.info)

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### "A Strong Cord In a Sea of Change"

Change is inevitable. I've heard that statement for as much of my life as I can remember. What I have come to know is that what is equally inevitable is the difficulty that is faced by any person or people who are seeking to effect change.

Leading change in the life of a church is no different; it is challenging! The question that I wrestle with often is why. **Why is it so difficult to lead change in a church?**

It's not the purpose. We are called to help people come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. The challenge comes in recognizing what we are, or are not willing to do to fulfill that purpose.

If the writer of Ecclesiastes was right "*a cord of three strands is not easily broken*" (Eccl 4:12). I'm sure that he had other things in mind, but I think there is helpful truth to be found there.

There are three strands that weave together in our faith lives that challenge us in making changes in our churches.

1. Who We Worship
2. How We Worship
3. Where We Worship

#### **WHO-**

Who we worship reflects our personal relationship with Christ. Since the Reformation we have talked about the truth of the doctrine of salvation through faith alone. Still, many people tie their relationship with Christ to something outside of trusting in Christ's finished work.

So often we attach other things to our relationship with Christ. Our relationship is filtered through the class we attend, the service we attend, or the ministry that we serve in. We must always remember, whatever decisions a church and its leadership are charged to make, it must always be with the ministry of sharing and offering Christ.

#### **HOW-**

The second strand of our spiritual life cord is how a person worships. For years, churches have engaged in wrestling matches over the ways that we worship. Some of the labels we have for services and styles make my head spin, and could send us looking for a dictionary: traditional worship, modern worship, postmodern worship, emergent worship, contemporary worship, liturgical worship, taize, and the list could go on and on.

The struggle is often oversimplified to hymns versus praise, substance over style, or loud versus soft. When it isn't familiar or pleasing to us we can begin to categorize into good or bad, right or wrong.

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#### **Join us on Sundays**

**Traditional Worship** at 8 & 11  
**Contemporary** 9:30am

#### **Wednesday Nights**

**WNO Dinner: 5-6:30pm**  
**Children's Ministry: 6-7:30pm**  
**Youth: 6-8:15pm**  
**Adult Studies: 6:30-7:30pm**

#### **Saturday, March 7**

Pancake Breakfast 7-11am

#### **Thursday, March 12**

New Member Class 6-8pm

#### **Wednesday, March 18**

Bloodmobile 4-7:30pm

#### **Thursday, March 19**

Lunch & Learn 11:30am - 1pm

#### **Friday, March 20**

Family Dinner & a Movie 6-8pm  
Veggie Tales "An Easter Carol"

#### **Tuesday, March 24**

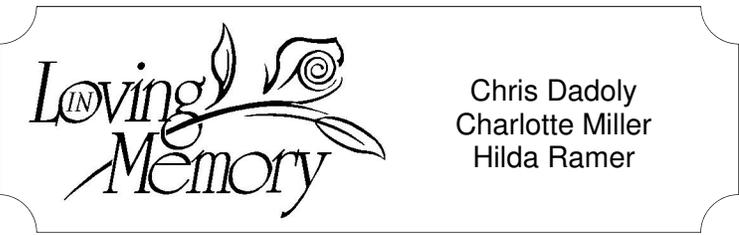
Alzheimer's Mobile Unit  
10am-3pm

#### **Saturday, March 28**

Children's Easter Outreach  
"The Un-Egg Hunt" 10am - 1pm

#### **Mon/Tues, March 30/31**

**Holy Week Lunch/Study**  
11:30 - 12:30, Fellowship Hall



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There is a necessity that we always go back to the authentic presentation of a relationship with Jesus Christ. Is that reflected in what is lifted up, or offered in whatever style or format is used for its presentation.

**WHERE-**

The third strand is where a person worships. We have probably all heard old jokes about churches splitting over carpet color, or that split over the color of carpet. The real punch line of the joke is that this is sometimes true. If we aren't on our guard, we can allow our sentimental connection to where we worship Christ, to interfere with our ability to worship Christ.

If we aren't careful, we can get very protective of the places and spaces in which we worship, while we do great damage to those we worship with. It really is astounding how often we can connect our faith in Christ to bricks, mortar, sheetrock and paint (not to mention carpet and equipment)!

As we seek to navigate Port Charlotte United Methodist Church through the seas of change, it is vital to keep these three strands, which make a strong cord in mind. In some ways, this bundle of three strands defines our faith. So, it is natural when one of those strings is tugged at, for it to feel personal.

With anything that truly matters, there are no easy answers that will hold us together in every situation. What will hold us together is the thing that brought us together in the first place: An authentic relationship with Jesus Christ!

Change can be our wonderful, God-given opportunity to share with the world the truth of the gospel, that we are saved by grace through faith alone, and that not of ourselves—or our denomination, or worship style, or facility.

*"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast."* (Eph 2:8-9).

And that's the truth! Keep going and never quit!

Grace, Pastor Brian

**Extravagant Generosity**

December 2014 - Year End

Income \$783,523.92 Expenses \$902,344.46

Deficit (\$118,820.54)

Covered by funds from bequests

**March Birthdays**

- |                      |                       |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 01 Elbert Chinn      | 21 Eleanor Gibbens    |
| 01 Kent McCarthy     | 21 Pat Simpson        |
| 01 Vicki Do          | 22 Trudy Jeffers      |
| 02 Mary Louise Young | 22 Flora Bunger       |
| 02 Gerald Shaw       | 22 Dorette Cowan      |
| 03 Lynne Miller      | 22 Jacob Griner       |
| 04 Gaye Shields      | 23 Jordan Bowers      |
| 04 Barbara Wilder    | 24 Mabel Bole         |
| 05 Judy Laws         | 24 Sylvia Mallay      |
| 05 Tom Brown         | 24 Doris Hixson       |
| 06 Kayela Royer      | 25 Ruth Beecher       |
| 07 Sarah Bailey      | 25 Jonathan Carlsen   |
| 08 Thora Hope        | 26 Don Bunger         |
| 08 Nancy Kaufman     | 26 Durvent Lyons      |
| 10 Rachel Weishuhn   | 27 Ann Marshall       |
| 10 Gerald Brown      | 28 Naomi Gantner      |
| 11 Mildred Rochester | 28 Nancy Wyld         |
| 11 Betty Hansen      | 28 Dorothy Golding    |
| 11 Susan Sennholz    | 28 Edna Brown         |
| 11 Pam Shaner        | 28 Bonnie Bennett     |
| 14 Joan Couch        | 28 Glen Tschetter     |
| 15 Clay Conway       | 28 Juliet Cox         |
| 16 Fred Hall         | 29 Hollie Donisi      |
| 17 Trish Chrzanowski | 29 Hannah James       |
| 18 Larry Littlefield | 30 Terri Smith        |
| 18 Lisa Ayers        | 30 Lyman Welton       |
| 19 Joan Nash         | 31 Nancy Jacobson     |
| 19 Albert Hassell    | 31 Rita Anglin        |
| 19 Joanne Salk       | 31 Joe Ryan           |
| 20 Donna Lageveen    | 31 Charlene Starzonek |
| 21 Sue Statton       |                       |

**March Anniversaries**

- 02 Jack and Sylvia Mallay
- 03 Nancy and Robert Kaufman
- 04 Rita and Barry Anglin
- 09 James and Mary Etta Stedje
- 16 Pierre and Carol Fisher
- 16 J. Patrick and Laura Slike
- 18 Martin and Dorothy Bayuk
- 20 Russell and Barbara McManamy
- 21 David Jr. and Corry Cox
- 21 Gary and Pat Johnston
- 26 Paul and Marjorie Ward
- 31 Suzanne and Matthew Dowling

Reprinted from the Florida Conference Website - Week of February 23, 2015

## Welcome to Telling Our Stories

Visit this page every week for a new journey of faith story told by members of our churches. There will be stories about who we are and what God is doing in our lives. About how we are ordinary people trying our best, with God's help, to point our feet toward being Jesus' disciples every day. And, how we don't get it right every time, we aren't perfect, and we also have mountaintop experiences.

### This Week's Storyteller is... Hannah James, Port Charlotte



There are some places that are so intertwined with our lives that they have a profound effect on who we are. Like the color of a thread changes the look of a tapestry, the places we spend our time often affect our personalities, our beliefs, and sometimes even our outlook on life. For me, one such place is The United Methodist church, a home where I grew up and will no doubt continue to be a part of for the rest of my life.

Unlike the childhood of many people, my youth was centered on the activities of my church. My father, who became a minister long before I was born, was always spending time working, thinking, and executing ways to cultivate people's faith. This affected my childhood profoundly. I loved to spend time at the church, and whether I was worshipping by my father's side, or helping serve doughnuts and coffee to the church's adult members after services, I always felt as if I belonged to a family, a community, a society of people who shared my faith. This feeling, along with the support of my church family throughout all of my endeavors, helped me achieve many of my goals. For example, most of my life I have been an extremely competitive swimmer. I practice before and after school, on holidays and weekends, and I plan on swimming at the Olympic Trials in 2016. To cultivate this talent, my family and I moved to the Sarasota area so that I could train with one of the best swim programs in the country. In order to make this move a reality, my church family had to allow my father, their senior pastor, to live almost an hour away from the church facility. However, the congregation at our church agreed to this arrangement without hesitation. This is because they knew what an amazing opportunity it would be for me to swim with the team in Sarasota. This is just one example of the church's support and generosity to both me and my family.

The United Methodist community has also been a place of comfort and solace for me. I was always spending time at the church on the weekends, running up and down the hallways of the children's area, organizing the books in the church library, and eating any spare cookies left over from last Sunday's service. To me, the sanctuary was a second home, the choir room was a recording studio, and the gymnasium was my own private dance hall. This ability to relax and enjoy myself at church allowed me to maintain close relationships with my family, my friends, and my Lord. I will always remember growing up in Pine Island at my father's first United Methodist church. Our house was literally right next to the church's front entrance, and my older brother and I loved to go to church alone on Sunday's. We would get dressed up and ride over in my little Barbie Jeep convertible, the 5-year old equivalent to a Mercedes Benz. Of course, being the pastor's children did have its advantages. There was a special spot in the front row of the parking lot that was reserved just for me and my Jeep.

Whether it is a YMCA, a community health club, or a religious establishment, any program that is an important part of your youth also has a profound effect on who you become as you mature. Being a pastor's daughter and growing up in the church has made me who I am today, without the morals and sense of hope that comes with my faith, as well as the confidence and credence that developed as a result of all the support of my loved ones.



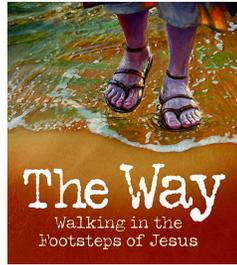


New Lenten series begins  
March 8

**“The Way: Walking in the  
Footsteps of Jesus”**

**By Adam Hamilton**

Join us Sunday mornings at  
10:45am in the New Room



Mark your calendars for our next Blood Drive:  
Wednesday, March 18, 4-7:30pm

## Missionary Update *Daniel Sweet, Nepal*

Dear Partners,

It has been a long time since I have wrote to you all, and for that I apologize. We have been extremely busy with work here lately. We have had numerous short-term teams come through along with seminars and conferences. We have taken many outreach trips into nearby and not-so-nearby villages where we have been able to translate for these teams. I am pleased to say that our language is coming along quite well! The attendance at The River (local HOP) has been continuing to grow with Nepali attendees. Also with the finish line on my two-year commitment coming up, I want to share with you my plans for the future.



First, I want to share some of the outreach/discipleship we have been engaged in during the past few months. We have had the privilege to lead some short-term teams to more remote locations throughout Nepal. We have been really encouraged by this because we have been able to lead these teams without having to bring translators. I am proud to share that we are able to share the simple Gospel message in the local language. This is huge!

In the area of discipleship I would like to tell you about a special young man who, for the sake of this email, I will call John. John received Jesus several months back and has truly set his heart toward understanding who his heavenly father is and loving him with all his heart. Watching this young man grow over the past several months has been absolutely amazing. Worship has been a tool God has used to truly capture John's heart. Since his salvation, he has been fervently learning the guitar along with writing his own worship songs. He attends our worship nights regularly which usually takes him an hour and several bus rides to get to. He also recently shared a testimony about how a friend of his asked him to come over to pray for their father who was sick. Upon arrival John, all by himself, shared about Jesus being our heavenly father and giving good gifts to His children. After briefly sharing, he prayed for his friends father who was instantly healed, and began asking more about this Jesus. John shared for a few hours with his friend and his friend's father on how Jesus set him free and loves him. Once this conversation came to a close, the friend and father asked John to pray for them to receive Jesus. I wanted to share this story with you to just glimpse some of what God is doing here. John is just one of many stories of how simple obedience, even from a few-month-old Christian, can completely change the course of someone's life.

Lastly, I would like to share my future plans. As I have previously stated, my original two-year commitment is coming to a close. Over the course of the last two years, my heart for this region has only continued to grow.

However, the past year has been extremely trying for me and my family with the loss of my grandmother, father, and recently my cousin. I have been very distracted over the past few months and have concluded that taking a season off the field to return home and be with my family is the best thing for me personally right now. I will continue to be connected with the work taking place here. My friends will continue to run The River and discipleship along with the arrival of a new "two-year" team. I want to thank all of you for both your financial and prayerful support over these past two years. Also if you would like to stay connected with workers on the field here or even partner with them as you have with me, just let me know and I will connect you with them. I am planning on returning stateside in early May. Your continued support through that time would be greatly appreciated.

Blessings, Daniel Sweet

## Health Ministry *Jane Flanders*



We have two exciting Lunch and Learns scheduled for March and May. On Thursday, March 19 from 11:30am - 1:00pm, Linda Howard from the Alzheimer's Association will give us a presentation including how Alzheimer's disease was discovered; brain changes related to Alzheimer's disease; typical age-related changes versus problematic changes indicating the need for a physician follow-up; defining dementia; reversible versus irreversible types of dementia and research in Alzheimer's disease. A complimentary lunch will be provided by the Health Ministry and be sure to sign up at the welcome center.

We can't get enough of Linda Howard and her expertise so she will return to the church on Tuesday, March 24 with her mobile Alzheimer's unit to perform memory testing. The mobile unit will be located in the church parking lot from 10:00am-3:00pm. Testing takes only 15 minutes. Please sign up for an appointment at the welcome center.

Best Hearing Solutions will present our Lunch and Learn on Thursday, May 21 from 11:30am-1:00pm. Peter Cleppe, hearing specialist, will speak on diseases of the ear and other hearing issues. Complimentary lunch provided by the Health Ministry. Please sign up at the welcome center.

If you noticed that there is no Lunch and Learn scheduled for April, you are correct. We will offer Lunch and Learn presentations 7 months throughout the year in the months of January, February, March, May, July, September and November. Be sure to let us know if you have a topic you would like to see presented.

The schedule for the bloodmobiles is Wednesday March 18, Wednesday, September 23 and Wednesday, November 18 all during WNO from 4:00pm-7:30pm. Please donate!

Port Charlotte United Methodist Church is very excited to be the first in Charlotte County to offer a 9-week program titled "Stress-Busting for Family Caregivers." Sessions will be held from 10:30am-12:00pm beginning Tuesday, April 7 and ending Tuesday, June 2. We will have loving and caring people to be with your loved ones every Tuesday right here at the church for you to enjoy your workshop without worry. Stay tuned for more information on this very important subject!

Please stop by the "Fish Bowl" to have your blood pressure taken or read updated newsletters from the Mayo Clinic. There are many informative pamphlets on varied subjects to assist you with nursing homes, assisted living facilities, social security, fraud, the Red Dot program and many community programs. There is a wealth of information in the "Fish Bowl."

Publix Supermarkets would like to "give back" to the community by offering the following medicines FREE to you!

Lisinopril, Amlodipine, Metformin, Keflex, Cipro, Amoxicillin, Penicillin and Bactrim. Just take your prescription bottle or prescription to Publix and they'll do the rest!

## More about Stephen Ministry *Dean Winston*



For the purpose of this case history, I will call him Jack. Jack and his wife of some 40 years retired and moved to Port Charlotte. They bought a condo and immediately joined a bowling league in which many of their neighbors bowled. A few years later, Jack's wife died suddenly. He was devastated. He really had a hard time coping, but he kept bowling. It was a high point of the week to be with friends and neighbors, because at least during those three hours or so he was not alone.

He met a widow in the league. She was about the same age as he and had very similar tastes. Long story short, they were married just 4 months after his wife of some 40 years died. This upset Jack's son tremendously. He could not accept Jack's new wife and he was furious with Jack for marrying so soon after his mother's death. He thought his father was disrespecting his mother's memory. They became estranged, as his son would no longer speak to him.

Years passed, but Jack's son would not reconsider. Jack's new wife dies suddenly, and Jack is once again alone. He reaches out to his son only to be rebuffed. His eyesight begins to fail. He learns from his eye doctor that he is going blind and that there is nothing they can do. He has to give up his driver's license. He called the church to have the bus pick him up on Sunday and he hears a message about Stephen Ministry and asks for a Stephen Minister.

continued on next page...

“More About Stephen Ministry” continued...

The Stephen Minister assigned to him, I'll call Ray. Ray was given the details concerning Jack and arranged the first meeting. Immediately after their first meeting, Ray called me all excited and told me that before the meeting he had prayed for GOD's guidance in their meeting. He said, “Dean, I could feel Jesus in the room with us!” They had an immediate connection.

Over the next several months, Jack and Ray met for about an hour once a week at Jack's condo. Ray has the gift of encouragement and he used that gift to encourage Jack to reach out to his son. His son did not know his father was almost completely blind by this time. With Ray's encouragement, Jack finally reached out to his son. He called and was rebuffed. He called again and was rebuffed. Ray kept encouraging him to keep trying.

On an occasion when Ray was there, Jack called his son. His son answered and Jack went on to explain his blindness, his loneliness, and his love for his son. Jack's son suggested he come out to Texas and live with him. He had room and he wanted to help take care of him. Ray said tears of joy ran down Jack's face. Jack went to Texas to live out his days with his son. They had reconciled. Both were happy.

Ray was assigned another Care-Receiver--someone who could use his gifts to help accept GOD's healing grace. He calls Jack periodically just to see how he is doing. Jack is busy listening to books on tape and learning to read in braille. Jack says he can't thank Ray enough for being with him.

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## Frequently Heard Questions *Jonathan Carlsen*

**Question:** What do United Methodists believe about capital punishment?

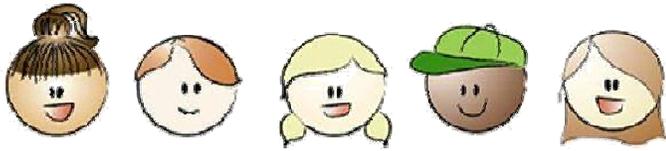
**Answer:** Our Social Principles say abolish it (*The Book of Discipline, 2012*, ¶164G), but our members have varied opinions. My mother opposed it, because innocent persons might be killed, and that has happened. Others oppose it based on the Sixth Commandment, “Thou shalt not kill” (Ex. 20:13 and Dt. 5:17 KJV). I agree with others that both Testaments teach that capital punishment is sometimes proper. The “good thief” said that he and his companion suffered justly for their crimes (Lk. 23:41). Jesus didn't correct him, so he spoke the truth. Bishop Emerson Colaw mirrors the minds of many. He opposes capital punishment in theory, but the brutal murder of a woman he once pastored pulls him the other way (*Social Issues: A Bishop's Perspective*, Nashville: Discipleship Resources, 1989, pp. 91-92).

**Question:** How do we square the Sixth Commandment (Ex. 20:13 and Dt. 5:17) with the frequent instructions in Joshua and elsewhere telling the Israelites to annihilate the non-Hebrew peoples in Israel or Canaan?

**Answer:** *Kill* in these verses isn't the best translation. The *New Revised Standard Version*, the *English Standard Version*, the *New International Version*, the *New King James Version*, the *Good News Bible*, the *New Living Translation*, the *New American Standard Bible*, the *New English Bible*, and the Jewish versions of 1917 and 1985 all say “murder,” not “kill.” If all killing was banned, we couldn't purify water, sterilize medical instruments, eat meat, seafood, or vegetables, or use antibiotics or hand sanitizers. The *English Standard Version's* footnote keyed to the word *murder* in these verses says, “The Hebrew word also covers causing human death through carelessness or negligence.” In the *Jewish Study Bible* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2004), Jeffrey Tigay says that Ex. 20:13 “refers to illicit killing. The King James Version's ‘thou shall not kill’ is too broad; it implies that even capital punishment and war are prohibited, whereas sometimes the Torah [the Law of Moses, Genesis to Deuteronomy] mandates these.” About the commands to annihilate non-Hebrews, Gleason Archer's *Encyclopedia of Bible Difficulties* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1982, p. 121) says, “In each case, these offenders had gone so far in degeneracy and moral depravity that their continued presence would result in spreading the dreadful cancer of sin among God's covenant people.” If you read the Old Testament chronologically, you'll find that Israel often didn't annihilate their neighbors, but adopted their vices and grew in evil. Of course, *our* instruction is Mt. 5:43-48.

**Question:** How can we read the Old Testament chronologically?

**Answer:** We can't with 100% precision. *Chronologically* can mean *in the order the events occurred* or *in the order that the books were written*. Psalms poses a problem. Some psalms date from Moses' time; others came much later. Reading from Genesis to 2 Kings, plus Ezra and Nehemiah gives you a fair historical sequence of events to about 400 B.C. 1 and 2 Chronicles roughly parallels in 1 Samuel to 2 Kings. “Chronological Bibles” and reading lists put the Biblical texts in an approximate historical order and put the Psalms and Prophets' orations into their historical contexts when those contexts are known.



**PCUMC Children's Weekday Ministry**

A Ministry of Port Charlotte United Methodist Church

**Weekday Ministry** *Paula Mann*

**March's Bible verse is:**

Psalm 150:6

Let everything that breathes praise the Lord.

**Prayer:**

God, we thank you for our food  
 For rest and home and all things good  
 For wind and rain and sun above  
 But most of all for those we love. Amen

**Special Dates:**

- March 2:** Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss
- March 6:** Celebrating Seuss ... Dress up CRAZY
- March 8:** Move your clocks AHEAD one hour
- March 9-13:** Spring Break ... No School
- March 23-28:** Book Fair  
 (Literacy & Lunch ... watch for details)
- March 28:** The Un-Egg Hunt  
 (Come and join the fun!!!!)
- March 30:** Walk-in Day

**Now enrolling for 2015-2016 Preschool,  
 VPK and After School!**



**Ask us about our 2015 Summer Program:  
 CAMP ADVENTURE!**



**Family Ministry Bowling at Bowland  
 Sunday, March 22**

\$6 per person, \$3 per child (under 18)  
 for unlimited bowling and shoes

We will leave after the 11 am service  
 (approx. 12:20 pm).

Bring a lunch to eat before we leave or you can  
 purchase food at the bowling alley  
 (hamburgers, hotdogs, etc.)

RSVP on the Family Ministry Wall outside the office

**Children's Ministry** *Barbara Hald*



**Monday, March 9**

Easter Egg stuffing in the Lobby

**Friday, March 20**

Family Dinner & a Movie  
 Veggie Tales "An Easter Carol"

**Saturday, March 28th**

"The Un-Egg Hunt" 10am - 1pm  
 Our Easter outreach to the community.

**Sunday, March 29 - Palm Sunday**

Children will have a procession of Palms  
 at all three Services.

**Join us on Wednesday Nights in March**

Wednesday Night Series – "The Passion Trilogy"  
 ( Animated for the whole family! )  
 Incorporated with crafts and games for a fun  
 learning experience.



www.21cartoondrawings.com

**Youth Ministry** *Paul Kisner*

**Spring Break Week  
 Youth Service Day**

Saturday, March 14  
 10:00 am – 1:00 pm at the Church  
 Lunch will be provided



**Mike Greenwell's in Cape Coral**

Wednesday, March 11  
 Meet at the church at 5 pm  
 Cost: Each youth is responsible for bringing spending  
 money for go karts, arcade, midway rides, putt putt,  
 and batting cages

