



October 2010

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF PORT CHARLOTTE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



1960-2010

SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:00 AM - Traditional Worship
9:30 AM - Contemporary Celebration
11:00 AM - Traditional Worship

CHURCH STAFF

Brian James
Senior Pastor

Katherine Arthington
Communications Coordinator

Nancy Bossardet
Finance Secretary

Ericka Brown
Director of Children's Weekday Ministries

Ellen Even
Church Secretary

Barbara Hald
Director of Children's Ministry

Carol Hansen
Church Administrator

Paul Kisner
Youth Director

Mick Vincze
Church Sexton

Eileen West
Music Director & Organist

The Meth-O-Gram is published monthly.
Articles and submissions are due by the 15th of the prior month. Submissions are preferred via email. All articles are subject to editing for space and/or content.

"No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. If he does, the new piece will pull away from the old, making the tear worse. (22) And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the wine will burst the skins, and both the wine and the wineskins will be ruined. No, he pours new wine into new wineskins." Mark 2:21-22 (NIV)

NEW WINE WITH NO WHINING!

Without much effort, we can see the world is rapidly changing. People born at the beginning of the 20th century have gone from the days of horse and buggy to the space age, from an agrarian culture to a high-tech society.

The church always finds itself at a crossroads, trying to decide when a lack of change is because we are being faithful to the "never-changing gospel", and when change is necessary as we attempt to hear Jesus' call to be "new wineskins."

As a Christian, I don't think the question of what needs to change is as challenging as we try to make it sometimes. The church of Jesus Christ must never change biblical principles, but we must always be willing to change methods, structures, and strategies. Change is essential if churches are to minister to the world in ways that are relevant and effective. Often change is difficult because we confuse methods with principles. We must hold to our principles, yet find new methods for a changing world.

Jesus scolded the religious people of His day for trying to put new wine in old wineskins. God is doing a new thing in churches which are willing to put aside preconceived ideas, traditions, and limiting structures.

Gordon MacDonald, sharing a discovery that he and the leadership of his church made, said, "The congregation's structure should always reflect the culture of its people and conform to whatever will help it accomplish the objectives God has presented for the congregation."

In dealing with changing times, those who know God must understand their times and adapt to meet the challenge.

So, here are some of the things that your pastor sees changing that lead to some of the trends facing the church today:

New Wineskin Churches Pay Attention To:

1. Mobility. People have fewer family ties and more shallow relational and societal roots. Church is no longer where you join and stay for life, but a "way station" along the journey.

2. Movement. Immigration and the high birth rate among "persons of color" will continue. Black, Hispanic, Asian, and other persons of color are part of who "we" are.

3. Aging. There are more Americans over 65 than there are teenagers. While the youth population is declining, the over-65 age group is expected to increase over 75 percent during the next 40 years. This group will hold increased power and clout, both economically and politically.

continued...

In Sympathy

Wanda Dumas 08/27/10 - Evelyn Hallenbeck 09/06/10 - Betty Mae Hurd 08/24/10 - Mary Frances Rushing 08/29/10

... continued from page 1

4. Role Changes. 61 percent of women work outside the home. This may account for the difficulty in finding ministry servants. More single and working mothers mean they are committed elsewhere and unable to be as involved in the church as in past generations.

5. Pluralism. Our society has become increasingly tolerant of all kinds of ideals, beliefs, and rights. This has moved us away from moral absolutes to moral relativity. Many Americans do not have clearly defined convictions. Right and wrong have become subjective and relative. Each one does what is right in their own eyes.

6. Societal Separation. Our society used to be segmented into lower, middle, and upper classes. Today the segmentation has been expanded and is determined more by age, gender, race, education, income, marital status, ethnic background, and so on. No longer do people go to a church because it is geographically close to them. They may drive to a different community if the church "fits them better." Our society is consumer-oriented and market-driven. People pick and choose what meets their desires.

7. Shifting Commitments. Americans place high value on self, personal fulfillment, and independence. People don't want to do anything to limit their options. Also whenever a society experiences rapid change, mobility, and an emphasis upon self, long-term commitments are nearly impossible to obtain. The church finds it difficult to enroll servants for any length of time.

8. Shifting Work Ethic. The stated goal of college freshman 15 years ago was developing a meaningful philosophy of life. Today it has switched to making money. Young people today are more interested in material success than in serving others. Tardiness and sick-leave abuse are increasing. People used to be satisfied with doing a good job regardless of the compensation. Today people want payment and personal advantage.

9. Conservatism. Younger Americans are more conservative than their parents. But they may be politically conservative and morally liberal, or they may be religiously conservative but politically liberal. The plurality of our society has created a generation without a holistic, integrated, or cohesive worldview.

10. Inversion. For some time, the trend has been back to the home as the center of life's activities and relationships. Home entertainment centers and home exercise equipment are popular purchases. The family is closing ranks, distancing itself from strangers, more inclined toward privacy. Shopping is done by phone, direct mail, and TV shopping networks. This directly impacts the church. The Sunday night and midweek activities are often viewed as competitive with family activities. People's privacy must be respected in evangelism and visitation efforts, or the church may lose more than it gains.

Many of the trends I have shared with you are directly opposed to biblical principles and a truly Christian lifestyle.

Churches must go out and start where people are and love them into a life committed to God.

How will we respond to the needs of a changing world? Will we be old wineskins, whining, "I hate change"? Or will we be new wineskins praising God for the chance to transform the world for Christ!?

If PCUMC wants to be a new wineskin church, there are some things we can do:

1. Prayerfully seek God and His Word for a new vision.
2. Study your church and community to see the relevant role our church can play.
3. Look around your life and form relationships with unreached people.
4. Encourage your church's leaders to creatively plan an effective strategy for reaching them.
5. Make the necessary church and personal changes to attempt to reach them.

The world is looking for practical answers to real questions, lasting solutions to serious problems, and relevant responses to major life issues. PCUMC can provide these if we will change. God will pour new wine into new wineskins to meet the needs of every generation. Keep going and never quit!

Grace,
Pastor Brian

Kairos Prison Ministry

John Robertson

Dates: October 28 -November 1, 2010

Place: DeSoto Correctional Institute

A verse of Scripture that tells us what our attitude toward prison ministry should be is found in Hebrews 13:3. The writer challenges us to "Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering."

I am grateful that our Church family has had a good attitude toward Kairos Prison Ministry. Many of you have written to the inmates on the cards we have provided. Children have made placemats for meal times which are greatly appreciated by our "brothers-in-blue". When they notice the first name and age of the children, they express their amazement that children of such a young age are mindful of them. One received a placement that had the same name and age of his daughter. That touched him deeply.

You have purchased meal tickets . That helps defray the \$7,000 expense for the six meals that the prison ministry team supplies, along with tea, coffee and snacks.

Again we are asking you to prayerfully consider this fall's weekend of ministry. On October 10th, meal tickets will be on sale (at \$5.00 each) in the lobby, along with cards with which you can share your loving thoughts for the inmates.

Thanks for sharing this vital ministry.

Prayerfully submitted,
John Robertson

**Invite a friend,
a neighbor!**

Pancake Breakfast



United Methodist Men

October Dates

UMM Breakfast Meeting

October 4 ~ 7 AM, Perkins Restaurant

UMM Board Meeting

October 11 ~ 3 PM ~ Conference Room



Our Annual UMM Yard Sale will be
November 12 and 13. Gene Novak
is taking bookings now for item pick-ups.

Jewelry Items: Please give to Billie Deaton 625-7680

Baked Goods: Contact Esther Keirnan 629-3139

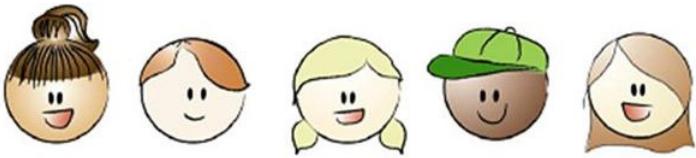
The UMM trip to the Holy Land Experience is being rescheduled
for January 2011. Stay tuned for details to come...!



Join us!

October 2 7-11am

Children's Weekday Ministry



PCUMC Children's Weekday Ministry

Ericka Brown, Director

Interesting facts about Children's Weekday Ministries:

We have **109** students this school year!

That breaks down to...

32 three-year-old students,
49 four-year-old students, and
28 after-school students. We average
35 children at Clap, Tap and Jingle. Today we cut
90 oranges! We use about
186 cups a day. We use
2 buses everyday, with
5 bus drivers that rotate. We have
12 staff members. We have countless people
 praying daily. We are serving
1 AWESOME God!

Which of course is priceless!

Praising God,
 Ericka
 Love ♥ Play ♥ Learn



**Clap, Tap,
 & Jingle!**

Children's Ministry News

Barbara Hald, Director of Children's Ministries



October 31 6-8pm

If you plan on decorating a car, please sign up at the Children's Center or call Barbara Hald 625-4356.

We need CANDY!!!!

Please fill the candy "monster" in the church lobby.

Christmas Program "The Good News Cruise"

Rehearsals begin Wednesday, October 6th after WNT.
 We need children and volunteers.... come join us!

A Bible Study for parents will be offered also on Wednesday nights from 6:30 - 7:30pm - "Have a New Kid by Friday" by Dr. Kevin Lehman. The Parenting Bible Study will meet in the New Room. All are welcome!



Calendars For Sale!

The Children's Ministry is selling these beautiful scripture 2011 wall calendars for \$7.

See Barbara Hald to purchase one for yourself, and one to share with a friend!



Youth Ministry

Paul Kisner, Youth Director

**Party at the PORT
Saturday, October 30, 2010
6:00 - 9:30pm -- FREE!**



**Joshua Price
in concert!**

Outdoor Laser Tag

**Mobile Video Game
Theatre**

Fun for all ages!

**GAMES2U®
ENTERTAINMENT**
Where no games have gone before



Health Ministry

Jane Trammel

"Friendships Unlimited"

A Non-Profit Adult Day Respite Program

Do you care for someone that has dementia and/or cannot be left alone? Do you know someone in this situation? There is a non-profit program that may serve your needs. This program has been established by dedicated and experienced people who have given their time and talents to meet the needs of the community in this area.

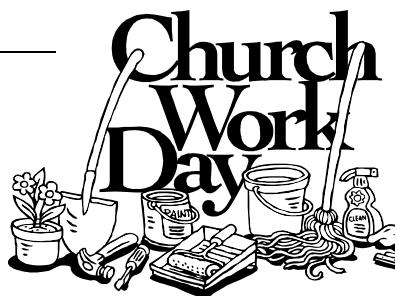
The program is an adult day respite program, Friendships Unlimited. The service is available Tuesdays from 10am - 2pm at the Community Life Center on Edgewater. The program also gives the congregation an opportunity to help those in our community who have such a need. There are many ways to volunteer. Helping with activities on Tuesday, sharing your abilities and talents in music, art, games and physical fitness are some examples.

Come to the health ministry office (old copy room) to pick up a brochure.



**Saturday, Oct. 2 8-11am
Wednesday, Oct. 13 4-7pm
Tuesday, Oct. 26 1-4pm**

Sign up in the Welcome Center



**October 10
1-5PM
followed by a cookout!**

**Call the church
to sign up 625-4356**

On October 10th from 1-5:00pm, we will gather at the church to prepare God's gift to us for the 50th Anniversary Celebration. If we provide the materials and supplies, can YOU do the work?

There is much to be done, so if you are a willing and able body to help with any of these tasks, please contact the church office and let us know that we can count on you! We need to know who is coming and what they will be able to help with, in order to plan work groups. If you have tools around, bring those too!

CHILD CARE will be available and we will also be having a COOKOUT at 5PM for all who participate.

October Birthdays

01	Beth Whitkopf	10	Samantha Kipfinger
02	Ronald Ness	11	Doris Culver
02	Ruthann Allen	11	Ruth Croft
02	Meghan Olby	11	Kayla Chardon
03	Don Butler	12	Rick McCullough
04	Jeanne Alsene	12	Samantha Parkinson
04	Celene Kipfinger	13	Jeanne Marquez
05	Philenia Parker	14	Janine Cahoo
05	Pat Butler	16	Maxine Kaen
05	Elise Grant	18	Geneva Griswold
05	Mike Sniecinski	18	Hannah White
05	Emily Friend	20	Wilbur Miller
06	Leila Beecher	20	Jackie Carter
07	Royce Wallace	25	Claire Crenshaw
07	Elinor Eggert	26	Durfee Marshall
07	Ruth Winfield	26	Christopher Bonsky
08	Mary Etta Stedge	27	Christine Burr
09	Bill Cassell	28	Craig Brown
10	Dee Bishop	29	Pierre Fisher
10	Jenna Kipfinger	31	Anna Stevens

October Anniversaries

Scott and Jessica Mathias	10/01/1994
Buddy and Cecil Neill	10/12/1952
Charles and Jean Arnold	10/16/1948
Charles and Jean Nordstrom	10/16/1948
Bill and Linda Wyld	10/18/2008
Michael and Barbara Hald	10/21/1995
Art and Dorothy DeSilva	10/22/1959

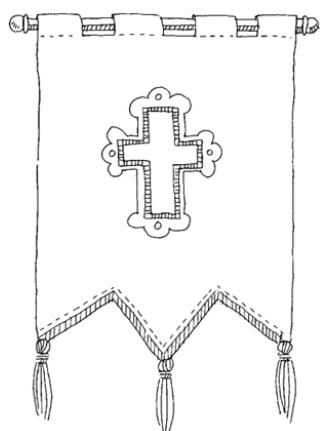


COMMUNITY CHURCH CONFERENCE ON OCTOBER 24TH

The annual Church Conference provides an opportunity for us to come together to celebrate our ministry and vote on matters of importance. This year's Church Conference will be exciting and different from those in recent years. We will be joining several local United Methodist congregations and the District Superintendent in a **Community Church Conference on Sunday, October 24th at 6:00 pm**. The Conference will be held at Edgewater United Methodist Church, 19190 Cochran Blvd., Port Charlotte. Our time together will include worship, sharing of experiences, matters to vote on, communion, blessing of candidates for ministry, and fellowship time. No verbal reports will be given.

Matters for which a vote is required will be presented on paper for members' review at the Church Conference. Discussion and preliminary approval of these items will occur at our Church Council meeting on October 4th at 7:00 pm, here at Port Charlotte UMC. This meeting is open to anyone from the congregation. If you would like to participate in the review and discussion of the matters for which voting will take place at the Community Church Conference, please plan to attend the meeting on October 4th. These items will include the 2011 Leadership Roster, pastoral compensation, and approval of Certified Lay Servants (speakers).

Come and celebrate our ministry, together with other local churches, at the Community Church Conference on October 24th at 6:00 at Edgewater UMC. We look forward to seeing you there!



BUDGET REPORT

As of August 31, 2010

Year to Date Income **\$562,155.60**
Year to Date Expenses **\$544,199.41**

August, we helped **39** families
SHARE orders donated - **12**

HELP WANTED

If you think you have what it takes to be a "Sanctuary Elf" please call "D" Fletcher at 623-0642.



Wednesday Night Together Resumes - October 6!!

Wednesdays: From 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM

Cost will be: \$6.00 for adults over 12 years of age
 \$3.00 for children
 Over 90 years of age – Free
 Maximum charge for a family is \$15.00

Oct.6 – Roast Chicken,
 Mashed Potatoes, Gravy,
 Green Beans

Oct. 13 – (October Fest)
 Roast Pork, Potatoes,
 Gravy, Spaetzle,
 Red Cabbage

Oct. 20 – Meat Loaf, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Honey Glazed Carrots

Oct. 27 – Ham, Scalloped Potatoes, Green Beans



Zambia Missions Update

We're building a new "bunk house" at the New Life Center. We are hoping to have it finished by November. This new facility will have at least 30 bunk-beds allowing 60 people to sleep (like the other bunk house), with toilets and showers. With this new facility, NLC will have comfortable housing for 150 people. We often have over three hundred..if you can imagine that. Your guess where they all sleep is as good as ours. It's our hope to build more to house 300 in the future.

The New Life Center is a very busy place...



We're also building another "Sister Church" at a place called KAWAMA. It's our goal and deepest hope to build two of these wonderful churches each year. This sister church is being built with the help of Heritage UMC out of Clearwater Florida. A two-person work team (Marsha & Jean) came from Heritage to help with the church building. Also (among other things to say the least), they helped with a "Kids Bible Camp". There were at least 200 kids from five different United Methodist Churches at the New Life Center for the three-day camp. Marsha & Jean brought wonderful supplies from their Heritage church to help with Bible Stories and Crafts....wow! It was really exciting for the kids who attended. Everyone had a great life-changing time. If you want to know more about their time, you can contact Dr. Marsha Mullett at: marsham@heritageumc.com.

The New Life Press is staying very busy!!! I was able to finally print all the needed church forms and documents and distribute them at Annual Conference in June. This has been one of my desires (Delbert) since our time in Zaire/DR Congo. At the moment we're printing mostly curriculum and training materials for the "Let's Speak & Read & Write English" program AND Community Health Education/Evangelism "CHE" program. These are two more wonderful ministries out of NLC. Having the New Life Press running properly has been my personal goal for years. Having been so involved with all the other outreach ministries (Developing & Managing NLC, PETs Zambia, Sister Church construction, Crusades and Church development, Farming, Etc.) it has been very difficult to focus on New Life Press running at its full optional. It's a joy to see all the NLC staff take over those other responsibilities and do such an outstanding job! I can now focus on evangelism and printed materials. These are my two first loves!! They both have the same acronyms for my personal philology... PTL & PTL (Preach it- Teach it- Live it & Print it- Teach it- Leave it) in their hands to help themselves and others do the same.

Please keep the PET Zambia ministry in prayer.

Serving Christ together one day at a time...

Faithfully,

Delbert & Sandy



United Methodist New Life Center
 P.O.Box 20219 • Kitwe, Zambia
 Groves@NewLifeZambia.com
 <http://www.NewLifeZambia.com>
 New Life Center Advance Special: #15057A



Port Charlotte United Methodist Church

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Port Charlotte, FL 33952-2546

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Fax: 941-625-0144

E-mail: info@pcumc.info

Website: www.pcumc.info

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



You're Invited!

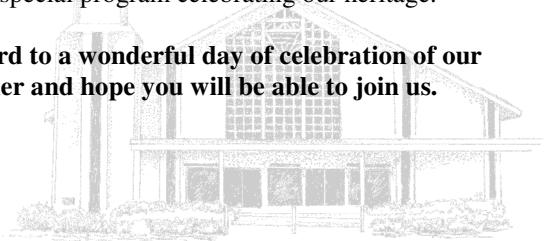
Homecoming Celebration

October 17, 2010

2010 is a landmark year for PCUMC. We will celebrate 50 years of worship, ministry, outreach and fellowship on October 17, 2010. Many wonderful things have happened since PCUMC opened its doors fifty years ago. Whether you were with us during our early years, or joined us more recently, we hope you will be with us for our Homecoming Celebration on October 17, 2010.

There will be a time of fellowship from 9:00am until 10:15am to meet and greet each other and our former pastors. Our worship service will be at 10:30am. There will be special music and recognition of any former pastors who can attend. Pastor Brian will deliver the message that day. Following the service there will be an old fashioned Methodist potluck. The meat will be provided and we are asking that each family bring a side dish or dessert. After we eat, our Homecoming will continue with a special program celebrating our heritage.

We look forward to a wonderful day of celebration of our 50 years together and hope you will be able to join us.



The PCUMC Pumpkin Patch

October 17 - 30

Thank you to everyone who has signed up to work in our Pumpkin Patch - we still have space available for you to serve, so stop by the bulletin board in the lobby and find a time that works for you!

We still need:

- ◆ **Pumpkin Un-loaders** - for Oct. 16th beginning at 8:30am
- ◆ **Weekday Morning Story-readers** for visiting preschool and early elementary groups
- ◆ **Afternoon Patch Workers** for 2 hour shifts - 12-8pm

THANK YOU!!

