

KNOW GROW GO

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
PORT CHARLOTTE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

January 2014

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

www.pcumc.info

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GOD'S VISION FOR HIS CHURCH IN 2014

Almost 400 years ago, a ship filled with travelers landed on the northeast coast of America. In their first year, they established a town site. In their second year, they elected a representative form of government. In the settlement's third year, they made plans to build a road five miles westward into the wilderness.

In the fourth year, the people tried to remove their government representatives because they thought it was a waste of their limited resources to build a road five miles into a wilderness. The cry went up, "Who needs to go there anyway?"

This was a group of people who had the vision to see three thousand miles across an ocean, but in just a few years, had lost their ability to see even five miles beyond town.

They had lost their pioneering vision. With a clear vision of what we can become in Christ, no ocean of difficulty is too great. Without God's vision, we rarely move beyond our current boundaries.

Here we are, looking back over a wonderful 2013! Our Port Charlotte United Methodist Church family has so many thanksgivings to lift up to God that it seems impossible to list them all. We have experienced victories. We have faced challenges. We have taught lessons. We have learned lessons. We have grown as the body of Christ. So as PCUMC embarks on the journey of faith that is 2014, how will we know which direction God's vision will take us next?

Our compass will continue to be KNOW, GROW, and GO!

We will continue to measure every ministry offering, expenditure, and event against these three metrics: How will it help people to KNOW Christ, to GROW in Christ, or to GO to serve Christ?

Here are FIVE "I's" for measure opportunities:

1. Is it Intimidating?

God will set things in front of his people that contain a higher standard that isn't easily reached. A God-given opportunity will tap into the values and commitments we cherish the most. A God-given opportunity will always represent the opportunity for a preferred future - God's preferred future.



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Join us on Sundays

Traditional Worship at 8 & 11
Contemporary 9:30am



Wednesday Nights

Dinner: 5-6:30pm

Children's Ministry: 6-7:30pm

Youth: 6-8:15pm

Adult Studies: 6:30 - 7:30pm

Choir: 6:30pm

Saturday, January 4

Pancake Breakfast 7-11am

**Sock Hop / Fundraiser for
Habitat for Humanity** 7-10pm

Wednesday, January 8

WNO Resumes 5-6:30pm

Thursday, January 9

Lunch & Learn 11:30am - 1pm

Friday, January 17

Family Dinner and a Movie
"Wreck-it Ralph" 6-8pm

Wednesday, January 15/22

Membership Classes

Conference Room, 5pm

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2. Is It Inviting?



A God-given opportunity is clear and compelling to His people. People are drawn to a picture of what the future can be. They are invited to be part of moving from opportunity to reality. There can be nothing that is offered by God that doesn't in some way invite and engage people to join Him in it.

3. Is It Inclusive?



Inclusivity offers us several implications. First, a God-given opportunity is not something offered to the pastor, the staff, or a few key leaders. God invites everyone into the big plans that He has for His people. Everyone is invited to participate in what God is doing. What's required of each of us is to continually ask God, "What's my part?"

4. Is It An Investment?



A God-given opportunity cannot only have an upside. The challenge for God's people is to understand that with both risk and reward comes the opportunity to testify to God's greatness. If what we are contemplating is something that cannot fail, then God doesn't have to join us in it. If God doesn't have to be involved, then it can't be for His glory. It is hard for us to admit that we always have room for growth, for improvement. Nothing that God's people endeavor to undertake is so good that it can't be done better!

5. Is It Inspiring?



God Opportunities offer us a picture of the future in a way that grabs our attention and stirs a commitment within people to work together to accomplish something for God's glory. A clear and compelling focus on God, rather than ourselves, creates hope for the future.

I am so excited about moving forward together in faith. Let us continue to ask God to share opportunities with us that enable us to share Him with the world! Keep going and never quit!

Grace,

Pastor Brian

Loving
Memory

Ron Ness

Letters

Ray and I want to tell you how much we appreciated and were blest by the many cards and expressions of concern following his heart attack. We felt the uplift and support of your thoughts and prayers. God has heard and answered prayer, and Ray is on the road to recovery. Thank you all.

Sincerely,
Eileen West



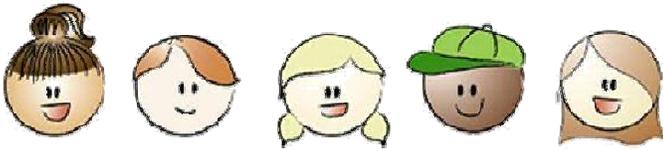
Jim and Tammy Eugenius at our December Pancake Breakfast

Extravagant Generosity

(as of 11/30/13)

YTD Income: \$733841.85
YTD Expenses: \$829947.85

Utility Help: 3



PCUMC Children's Weekday Ministry

A Ministry of Port Charlotte United Methodist Church

December is a tough month for so many people in our area. We are so grateful to all who helped with the Angel Tree this year. What a blessing it will be to the children who receive these wonderful gifts. Once again, Port Charlotte United Methodist Church, you have poured out your hearts to children in need. Thank you!



2013 Salvation Army Angel Tree

Weekday Ministries had a new event this month, Donuts with Dad. What a great way to spend the morning. We had a wonderful turn out. Dads took the morning off and brought their children to school, stopping in to have a donut (or two) with their student, in the fellowship hall. It was a huge success and we look forward to doing it again in the future.



We are excited to be celebrating the 100th day of school in January. The kids get to decorate a crown with 100 things. It's a fun family time and we get to count to 100. It is a difficult task for some of our little ones but a fun teachable moment.

As we enter a new calendar year, we ask that you continue to lift the Weekday Ministries in your prayers. We touch so many people in our community and we look forward to another successful year.



Ziegelbauer family



Daniel and Teo Rodriguez



Madeleine and Nick Bonsel



Donuts With Dad



Emma w/Dad stationed in Korea (via Skype!)



Joshua Vincze and friends



Frequently Heard Questions *Jonathan Carlsen*

Question: On November 17, when you spoke about the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church, you said Charles Wesley's hymn, "Ye Servants of God" wasn't originally written as a praise hymn, but to encourage persecuted Methodists. What's the story?

Answer: The story begins in 1688, when King James II, a Roman Catholic, was deposed. Three times James, his male descendants, and their Jacobite supporters tried to mount counterrevolutions: in 1689, 1715, and 1745. His grandson, Charles, led the last uprising. He was called "Bonnie Prince Charlie" by admirers; "the Young Pretender," by enemies. During his revolt, enemies of the Methodists accused them of collaboration: they "were slandered, plundered, and mobbed ... [and] often dubbed Papists and ... Jacobites ... John Wesley was reputed to be the Young Pretender in disguise." — Carlton R. Young, *Companion to "The United Methodist Hymnal"* (Abingdon, 1991), p. 709, citing Frank Baker, *Representative Verse of Charles Wesley* (Abingdon, 1962), p. 50.

Question: In your International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church talk, you said your sister visited the Evangelical United Brethren church in Jos, Nigeria, in 1969. In 1969, wasn't this a United Methodist Church?

Answer: You got me. Yes, it was. In 1968, most EUB churches, including Jos's church, joined with the Methodists to form The United Methodist Church. I misspoke because (1) I wanted to show how EUBs, like Methodists, have experienced persecution (Mary didn't know how long before her visit that the attack occurred), and (2) I faced a tight time constraint. I promised the Worship Committee to speak for 2 minutes only. By my calculations, the script could be just 225 words long. Actually, between 2007 and 2012, the talks have run from 285 words to 647 words. On Friday, November 15, I told Pastor Brian that my third draft clocked in at 3½ minutes. He said that was okay. The final draft was slightly shorter, but I failed to see that, if I'd said, "the former Evangelical United Brethren church," adding just one more word, I'd have avoided the inaccuracy.

Question: Where did we get the idea that the wise men in Matthew 2 were kings, as in "We Three Kings"?

Answer: From Psalm 72:10 and 15, and Isaiah 60:6. Believers have long viewed these chapters as prophecies of Jesus. Psalm 72:10 says kings with gifts will bow before Him. Verse 15 and Isaiah 60:6 mention gifts of gold. (Isaiah adds incense.) We inferred "**three** wise men" from Matthew's three gifts.

Question: Why are you addressing Christmas questions in January? Christmas was over on December 26.

Answer: Not according to the church's calendar. The legendary "Twelve Days of Christmas" extend from December 25 to January 6, the day when the wise men's arrival is celebrated. That day, Epiphany, starts a post-Christmas season, also called Epiphany, that ends on the day before Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday is March 5 this year.

Question: Why is the line in Charles Wesley's "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" in the *Hymnal* (#240) changed from "pleased as man with men to dwell" to "pleased with us in flesh to dwell"?

Answer: That wasn't the only line changed. It's because the 1984 General Conference instructed the Hymnal Committee to "be sensitive to ... non-discriminatory language." Some people think that saying *man, men, sons*, etc., when talking about men and women together, is discriminatory. Ironically, the line, "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing," isn't Wesley's text, but George Whitefield's. Wesley started the carol with: "Hark! how all the welkin rings! / Glory to the King of Kings, ..." Later Whitefield, his Oxford classmate, published the carol and rewrote the lines without Wesley's permission or approval. What's a **welkin**? It's a long-forgotten archaic word, defined in many dictionaries and in Ace Collins' *Stories Behind the Best-Loved Songs of Christmas* (Zondervan, 2001), pp. 70-75. The word's unfamiliarity is probably why Whitefield changed the lines.

Do you have a question about the Bible or United Methodist belief, organization, or practice? E-mail them to me at theexhorter_fl@yahoo.com or leave them with Katherine Warden at the church office and I'll try to answer as many as I can. — JAC



Children's Ministry *Barbara Hald*

Praying everyone had a blessed Christmas and that this New Year brings you even closer to Jesus.

We are going to be starting up G.E.M.S "Girls Everywhere Meeting The Savior," and would like to invite your child, VPK through high school, to join us. The first G.E.M.S. meeting will be Thursday, Feb 6, 2014 at 6pm. Parents, please plan to attend for program information for the coming year. Please talk Elizabeth or Barbara if you have any questions.



Dinner & a Movie will be on the third Friday, January 17th from 6-8pm. "Wreck-it Ralph" is the movie -- please join us!

"Acts of Faith" (flags and puppets) will be taking a break for the month of January. If your child would like to try out, please contact me (third grade and up).

Youth Ministry Events

Paul Kisner, Youth Director



Registration has begun for the South West District Youth Retreat March 7-9 at Riverside Retreat in Labelle, FL
Cost: \$60



It's like Summer Camp in March!

There will be great speakers, worship, and lots of fun. We will leave the church at 5 pm Friday. We will return to the church at 12 pm Sunday. Completed Registration Forms are due February 5, 2014.

January Birthdays

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|----------------------|---------------------|
| 02 Arthur Davis | |
| 02 Franklin DePaul | |
| 03 Jacqueline Wint | |
| 04 Thomas Parkinson | |
| 04 Michael Ange | |
| 05 Landon Carter | |
| 06 Jan Schinkel | |
| 07 Marion Corcoran | |
| 07 Jane Trammell | 24 Jessica Early |
| 07 Delphena Lyons | 25 Shirley Seyfried |
| 08 Gwendolyn Kasper | 25 Cassita Campbell |
| 09 David Yanni | 26 Paige Polk |
| 09 Jeffrey Yanni | 27 Arthur Lageveen |
| 10 Jackson Motherway | 27 Eileen Bailey |
| 11 Esther Gandt | 27 Michelle Hayes |
| 11 Dean Winston | 28 Ruth Hall |
| 13 Yvonne Carter | 28 Beverly Steiff |
| 14 Marian Walsingham | 28 Jim Hepler |
| 14 Ann Surrette | 28 Phil Western |
| 14 Stephen Pearl | 28 Dawn Kisner |
| 14 Lori Brown | 29 Roy Burkholder |
| 16 Paul Coker | 29 Jean Ringham |
| 17 Barbara Smith | 29 Fred Titus |
| 17 Doug Bode | 29 Avis Hastings |
| 18 Delbert Walton | 31 Martin Bayuk |
| 18 Nancy Vuic | 31 G.Walford Young |
| 19 Jimmie Hetrick | 31 Sandi Hurl |
| 20 Lanie James | 31 Herbert Isley |
| 21 Glenn Edmiston | 31 Edward Robedee |
| 21 Don Nevins | 31 Teaken Robedee |
| 24 Darlene Brown | |



January Anniversaries

- 06 Evangeline and Richard Van Tries
- 18 Delbert Walton and Mary Louise Young
- 19 Burke and Pat Robinette
- 19 Thomas and Karen Wenck
- 19 Henry and Betty Rankin
- 28 Maxine and Al Tillman
- 30 Rodney and Yvonne Carter
- 31 Jim and Barbara Hepler



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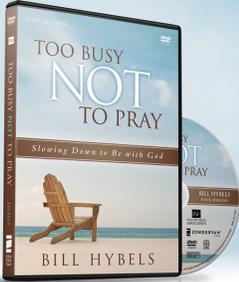
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TOO BUSY **NOT** TO PRAY



BECOME A PERSON OF PRAYER

“Life Together” Group
Begins Wednesday, January 8th at 6:30pm
Meeting in the Conference Room - All are invited!

The urgent need for prayer in today's broken world is clear, but busyness still keeps many of us from finding time to pray. In “Too Busy Not to Pray,” you and your small group will learn: The importance of a consistent time and place for prayer How to organize prayers according to tried-and-true frameworks How to hear the Spirit's promptings To love prayer time Bill Hybels helps you slow down, listen to God, and learn how to respond. As a result, you will grow closer to God and experience the benefits of spending time with him. Please join us!

Lunch & Learn *Free!*

- COMPLIMENTARY LUNCH PROVIDED -

Guest Speaker:
Mary Baer
Director of Programs at the Center for Abuse and Rape Emergencies (CARE)

“Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence”
Thursday, January 9
11:30am - 1:00pm / Fellowship Hall

SPONSORED BY:  **ANPro Home Health**

Space is limited, so sign up at our Welcome Center or call the church office.