



Circuit Writer

MARCH 2010

Our Journey Together

Earlier this year, a devotion noted the prayer of King Jehoshaphat on behalf of Jerusalem and the nation of Judea when they were surrounded by enemies. Unlike many other kings of Judea and Israel, he did not look to neighboring powers for help. This reliance on other nations and their gods had been a pattern that disappointed and dismayed the God who had made them his people. This time Jehoshaphat states the situation clearly and looks to the only wise and loving God: "We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you." (2 Chronicles 20:12)

In every church, there are challenges and dilemmas which are not easily resolved by analysis and reason and about which sincere Christians can disagree. Since what we are engaged in is not purely a human enterprise, it seems that in addition to applying these God-given abilities, we should be quick to admit the limits of our understanding and look to God for wisdom and guidance. For five such challenges I am asking that we seek the Lord's will during Lent. Please pray about the following and share any perceived insights and revelations that together we may discern God's leading:

Our Neighborhood – Who are the people in our neighborhood (from College to Sale and from Kirkman to Lake) and what are their needs? Consider helping us with a prayer survey as we invite these people to our activities from March 27 through Easter.

Accessibility

Transportation – We have people: Circle Up participants, elderly members, and others, who need rides to and from church events on a regular basis. How can we best address this need?

Elevator/Lift – Money has been given towards providing an elevator/lift to our second floor. How can we best make the second floor accessible to all persons?

Sanctuary Sound – Is now the time to address the need for greater clarity and flexibility in our sanctuary sound system? How can we best do this?

Day School – Our day school has made great strides in addressing financial/ enrollment challenges. Pray for 100% registration in March and a wonderful celebration of 50 years of service.

North Lot – Our north lot continues to sit empty and unused. Is there a way to use it that would greatly honor God and enhance the ministry to which God is calling us or would selling it enable us to do this more effectively?

In Christ,

Charlie

A Generous Congregation

You are a member of a generous congregation. You contributed faithfully throughout last year enabling the church to meet its budgetary obligations (with the help of \$39,328 in trust funding) and still have a carry-over of \$3,827.20 for this year's budget. But, where your generosity really shines is in your giving beyond the local church, to the missions and ministries which serve others.

Last year \$113,375.00 was given by the people of the University United Methodist Church to others (this doesn't count giving that did not go through our church, but was given directly to the mission, ministry, and service agencies). This included the apportionment part of our budget (\$8,264 for the Lake Charles District and \$58,002 through the Louisiana Annual Conference). As directed by our missions budget, supported primarily by our Faith-Promise giving, \$30,656 was expended for missions and ministries from Russia and Cambodia to here in Lake Charles. Additionally, contributions totaling \$16,453 were given through the church to some 20 ministries.

Based on the faith-promise funds received last year, this year's mission budget is as follows:

Russian Initiative (Good News Salary Support)	\$6,000.00
Wesley Center (2 nd of 2 year commitment)	\$2,500.00
Samaritan Counseling Center	\$2,000.00
Methodist Children Homes	\$1,850.00
Cambodian Initiative	\$1,670.00
Salary Support – Marsha Alexander	\$1,500.00
Circle Up	\$1,500.00
Open Door Ministry	\$1,200.00
Habitat for Humanity	\$1,000.00
Samaritan Counseling Assistance	\$1,000.00
Manna Ministry	\$1,000.00
MSU Wesley Foundation	\$750.00
The Well (new church) – Jack O'Dell	\$550.00
Uskichitto Retreat Center	\$500.00
Camp Scholarships	\$500.00
Heifer Project	\$500.00
Dillard University	\$500.00
Stephen Ministry	\$500.00
UMCOR Local Office	\$325.00
SLAC Food Pantry	\$250.00
MSU Wesley Missions	\$75.00
Contingency Fund	<u>\$17.60</u>
	\$25,687.60

Family Mission Opportunity!

Bring your family on a family mission trip to Pearland, Texas June 16-19! We will work at Christian Alliance packing food stuffs and possibly distributing food. Children can work together or with their families. The cost is \$164 per person for 4 days. If interested, please contact Marj before the May 9 deadline.

To raise money for the trip, the Flamingos are making an appearance March 14. Flocks of flamingos will be available to be sent to church family yards. In order to have the flamingos removed from your yard, a contribution must be made to the church. Flamingo insurance may be purchased to prevent a flock from landing in your yard. Contact Marj for more information.

Youth News

What does the Bible say about OUR lives? In our Youth Sunday School Class, we do many different things and have many different studies. Our Sunday School hour is a great time where we catch up with each other, find out how our weeks went, share prayer concerns, and grow deeper in our faith as a group. All youth, grades 6-12, are welcome and encouraged to join us at 9:40 a.m. up on the second floor in the Youth Room.

If you are in the 6th to 12th grade, join us on Sunday nights for Youth Fellowship at 4:30 p.m. in Safe Harbor. We mix it up with games, snacks, a short devotion, and time to just hang out with friends.

Save the date: March 28, 2010 - Youth Group will go bowling at Petro Bowl from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. See Mary for more details.



Children's Choir

If you are in preschool—5th grade and love to sing, we want you to join Children's Choir! We meet on Sunday afternoons at 4:30 p.m. in the Choir Room. Need more information, contact Mary Stager in the Church Office.

PLEASE CHECK - Please check your kitchen at home and see if you have any pots, pans, or utensils that belong to the Church kitchen. We are in the process of deciding what needs to be replaced so please bring back anything that belongs here.



Day School Registration



Summer Registration 2010 and Fall 2010/2011 will be held Monday, March 15 for our in-house and church members. Public registration opens March 22. Word of mouth is our best advertisement so please pass the word! We want every room full this year.

Thanks to everyone who helped in the Mardi Gras parking fundraiser. We had a great day and raised \$2720.

"Between Two Worlds"

Saturday, March 20 at 6:00 p.m.
**International Dinner and Auction at
 University UMC.**

The evening will include cuisine from South Africa and the United States.

There will be student services as well as beautiful items from Peru, India, New York City, Russia and more for auction!

Tickets are \$15 per person and can be purchased in the church office or at the Wesley.

UMW General Meeting

Thursday, March 4 at 10:30 a.m. in Safe Harbor

Connie Berry Shaw will tell about her mother growing up at the Children's Home in Ruston. So many at University remember her as she was a member of the church and UMW. Lunch, prepared by Pauline Rentrop, will follow the program.

UMW News

The gumbo/cookie sale totaled \$1188. Many thanks to the men of the church who helped make this possible—J.D. Morgan, Louis Hoffman, Tommy Gilmore, and Weldon Hoffpaur.

The UMW Board voted to give Anna Connell \$100 for a mission trip to the Bahamas.

The Board voted to give \$150 for Haiti relief.

Mike and Luan McLaurin gave a wonderful program on their trip to Liberia at the February general meeting.

University has been generous in food and money for Manna Ministry. Over \$5000 was given in money from all sources at UUMC this past year and lots of food.

A trip is planned for UMCOR Sager-Brown on March 12. If you are interested in going, please contact Nell Hayes. We will leave the church early and return that evening.

Primetimers

Wednesday, Mar. 3 at 11:00 a.m.

Meet in Safe Harbor

University United Methodist Church

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CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	Rev. Charlie Langford
Program Director	Marj Robinson
Youth, Children, & Family Ministry Dir.	Mary Stager
Chancel Choir Director	Dr. Darryl Jones
Safe Harbor Music Leader	Jahn Saucier
Organist	Steven Branch
Office Manager	Randy Morgan
Staff Assistant	Kathy Harmon
Day School Director	Julie Hebert
Church Sexton	J.C. Picard
Weekend Sexton	Robert Price

Address Correction Requested

**Easter Celebration and Egg Hunt - Saturday, March 27**

10:00 a.m. until 12 noon

2000 Eggs to Hunt!!!

All children ages 1 year to 11 years



If you listen close, you'll hear that "hoppin" long-eared bunny heading for University UMC. It's that time of year again for our annual Easter Egg Hunt.

Egg Hunt Registration: Under the McNeese Tent in front of Safe Harbor.

Hunts Start: 11:00 a.m.

Activities: Bounce Houses, Face Painting, Crafts, Games, and lots of eggs to hunt!!

We need volunteers to help make it a success again. We need people to supervise games and crafts, the egg hunts, and registration. In the past you have readily volunteered with happy hearts and open arms, please contact Mary at the church or via e-mail: marys@universitymethodist.com.



We need donations of individually wrapped candy to stuff into the Children's Easter eggs. Chocolate is acceptable this year. You can start dropping the candy in the Church Office any time.