

# Shepherd's Community United Methodist

JANUARY 2011

## FROM THE PASTOR

I want to share a little bit about the reorganization we are currently undergoing in the church staff. As you know, we are moving the Worship Arts Director position from full-time to part-time. Some folks have had questions about how this decision was made, so first let me give you a note about our structure. The United Methodist Church is governed by the *Book of Discipline*, which outlines our structure and rules of governance. Our administrative committees are Trustees, who have responsibility for the property and facility, Finance, and Staff Parish Relations Committee, which has responsibility for all of the personnel decisions. These three committees meet together once a month to form the "Ad Council".

I think it's important for you to have some understanding of the process that we went through to get to this decision. The Ad Council has worked very hard over the last six months to put the church in the best position to move forward after we dissolved the cooperative parish. Here is briefly what we did.

- We looked at how we are currently structured. A spread sheet was created with every position, the total investment the church makes to fund that position and the responsibilities of that position.
- For the sake of comparison, we did some research into what other churches that are about our size have as staff, what they invest in those positions, and what the responsibilities are for those positions.
- We then looked at the amount of work that has to be done to accomplish everything that has to happen. There were two parts to this discussion, first what has to be done to maintain what we are doing, and then second, what has to be done to allow us to move forward.
- At the same time that we were doing this work, the financial situation of the church continued to be tight, something that began toward the end of 2009.
- We ended 2010 with a \$40K shortfall from paying all of our obligations. \$33K of that money was owed on our apportionments for 2010. (Apportionments are moneys that every UM church pays to both the Florida Conference and the Denomination.) We have always paid 100% of our apportionments until 2010, when we only paid roughly 35% of them. This obligation does not roll over from year to year, so our apportionments will not be \$33k higher this year. The other 7k is owed in the form of health insurance and pension premiums.
- As we projected the giving for 2011, we were aware that it was necessary to base our budget on these new realities.
- The decision was made to move the Director of Worship Arts position from full-time to part-time to balance the 2011 budget.
- Staff responsibilities were reorganized. The council also identified places where the church could better use volunteers.

Of course, the problem is that we are not just talking about a position, we are talking about a person, a colleague, a friend who has served this church well since our inception. We are talking about Ron for Pete's sake. And so this decision was very hard. It wasn't made lightly, or without tears. But because it was hard doesn't mean it wasn't the right decision for us at this time given all of the information we had. The decision was unanimous by the committee. I believe in the process we went through, and that each member of the Council had the very best intentions. But, it still stinks!

Lastly let me take a minute to talk about something that is very, very important. How we respond. Make no mistake about it, this is a test of character and maturity for our church and a large part of who we will become will be built on what we do now. I have every confidence that the people of Shepherd's Community will choose to follow Christ. Please be in prayer for all of us as we make these transitions.

Yours in the Journey, Pastor Tim

## SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

It's a NEW YEAR and we're starting it with TWO NEW Sunday school classes: *Ecclesiastes* and *Radical!* The classes will be held on **Sundays from 8:45-9:30am**. If you would like childcare, please contact Emily Carson at [ecarson@scumc.net](mailto:ecarson@scumc.net).

### *Ecclesiastes*

This in-depth bible study on the book of Ecclesiastes will be led by Pastor Tim and will meet in Room 7.



### *Radical*

This book study by David Platt invites you to encounter what Jesus actually said about being his disciple, and then obey what you have heard. This class will be facilitated by Todd & Trish Kercher and will be held in the Library. Please bring \$10 for your copy of the book, *Radical*. [www.radicalthebook.com](http://www.radicalthebook.com)

## PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

A group of ladies have come together to begin a Prayer Shawl Ministry. With their talents of knitting, quilting, crocheting, or simple sewing, they plan to meet together weekly on **Tuesdays from 10:00am to 12:00pm at SCUMC in room 7** to create projects as part of the SCUMC Prayer Ministry. You can bring your own project or we can help you start one. Our prayer is that the items we make will bring strength and comfort to the wearer and that their burdens may be lightened with the realization that they are loved and that many have prayed for them. The following ladies can answer any questions.

Linda Westbrook 646-1127  
Sandy Moss 937-6511  
Dianne Collis 646-9418  
Judy Jones 648-2819  
Susan Kiefer 529-8835



*Psalm 90:17*

*Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us and confirm for us the work of our hands: yes, confirm the work of our hands*

## WINTER JAM



CLUB 56 and YOUTH will be going to WINTER JAM on **Saturday, January 15<sup>th</sup>**. They'll depart from SCUMC at noon and will return around 11pm. [thanna@scumc.net](mailto:thanna@scumc.net)

## CONNECTIONS: Movie & Pizza Night!

Take a break at the end of a long week to enjoy the movie, *Letters to God!* It's the story of what happens when one boy's walk of faith crosses paths with one man's search for meaning; the resulting transformational journey touches the lives of everyone around them. Get comfy and enjoy a relaxing night out on **Friday, January 21<sup>st</sup> from 6:30-8:30pm!**



## F.E.A.S.T

*(Fellowship, Eating, Studying, Together)*

**Wednesdays - DINNER at 5:30**

**FREE DINNER for 1<sup>st</sup> time Visitors!**

**\$5 or \$15 Family - Classes at 6:30**

### Adults

**BOOK OF JOHN BIBLE STUDY** – Pastor Tim & Charlie Pfluger

**HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY** – Justin Pose

**LAUGH YOUR WAY TO A BETTER MARRIAGE**– Mike & April Wheeler [www.laughyourway.com](http://www.laughyourway.com)

### Kids

**YOUTH** – 7<sup>th</sup> grade – Seniors

**CLUB 56** – 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Graders

**K-4<sup>th</sup> Grade** – Fruits of the Spirit

**PRESCHOOL CLASS & NURSERY**

## MOOV'N & GROOV'N

You may have noticed lately that we have a surge of little munchkins! In an effort to accommodate the children in our current space, we will need to move some of the children into new rooms. Please check the list below to know where your child will go beginning **Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup>**.



**Infants- Nursery**

**Toddlers & Two's-Preschool Room**

**3 and 4 year olds-Room 1**

**Pre-K & Kindergarten** (*Heaven's Helpers*)-Clubhouse

**1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade** (*Shining Stars*) – Room 5 *outside*

**3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade** (*Cool Christians*) – Room 7 (They will be walked back to church by their teacher.)

**\*\*There will be a PARENT COUNCIL meeting on Sunday, January 30<sup>th</sup> immediately after church.**

# FINANCES

In the upcoming weeks, you will notice the new ATM kiosk in our sanctuary. In an effort to keep up with technology and your lifestyle, we are adding the option for you to contribute at this kiosk or online on our website. You will still have the opportunity to contribute in the weekly offering plates. This payment option will be in addition to our current collection methods and in a hope to add convenience for you.

## December Finance Update:

Currently, our general operating fund = \$2,000. We have not paid December mortgage = \$5,307

We have not paid November and December pension/insurance plans = \$6,418

Therefore, heading into January, we are approximately \$10,000 to the negative in addition to our \$33K in unpaid apportionments.

The following chart explains our monthly expenses:

Monthly Revolving Expenses	SCUMC
Approximate	
Payroll	\$15,000
Mortgage	\$5,310
Benefits & Pension	\$3,500
Internet & Phone	\$640
Copier Lease	\$600
Utilities	\$1,000
Refuse	\$200
ACS On Demand	\$200
Supplies	\$200
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$26,650</b>

In an effort to clarify the church positions and who holds each position, please note the following chart:

