



**HAT A BLESSING** members of this church are to this community and beyond! We are a church alive to the possibilities of making a difference in the lives of others in our community. We are a congregation that seeks to connect with our neighbors, share the gospel through our actions, and spread the faith by exemplifying the compassion, justice and mercy of Christ in the world. YOU have touched the lives of hundreds of people through your donations and hands-on volunteer efforts.

The following is an accounting of mission/outreach/service activities in 2011, in which FUMC members have participated through their gifts and their labor. Each of these programs or activities offer an opportunity for members of our congregation to engage in service to others. As we go into this coming year please consider how you can become part of a service ministry to others. Contact Pastor Debby or Terry Tate for more information.

**Community Care Fund**

2011 has been a difficult year for an increasing number of people. Each month people who are desperately in need come to the church requesting help. This fund helps with those needs (utility bills, gasoline, etc.) There are guidelines so that the fund is used properly. The distribution is overseen by staff and volunteers. This year over \$20,000 was distributed, assisting over 300 individuals/households. No money is given to individuals, but instead all funds are sent directly to designated payees. Money for the fund comes from a church budget line item; 75% of grocery card sales; Ground Hog Supper revenue and individual donations.

**Showers of Blessing**

Every Wednesday morning homeless men and women are picked up at the Salvation Army center and transported to the church via the church bus. At the church they are able to get a shower, a change of clothing, something to eat, a haircut, and fellowship. Clothing, sleeping bags and backpacks are made available when needed. On average, anywhere from 12 to 24 homeless men and women are helped with this ministry each week. On bitter cold nights, or sweltering summer nights, shelter may be arranged at a local motel.

*"I'm not just a name or a number. I'm a real person. Keeping clean is one of the hardest problems we have. Hard to wash in a gas station or restaurant - people don't want us there. I know there are angels out there, we see them every time we are here." - a homeless person who benefited from Showers.*

**Labor Ready**

SAM's Club members prepare brown bag lunches, once a week, for day workers working through Labor Ready, a temporary employment agency in St. Charles. This past year, over 1000 day workers were provided with lunch. In addition, to the lunches SAM Club donated \$2000 to the Cold Weather Fund.

**Reading Program**

Throughout the school year, volunteers spend an hour a week helping children at selected elementary schools with their reading. Several volunteers are currently serving at Lincoln and Null schools.

**Youth Mission Activities**

- 7 Senior High youth in mission to Windsor, MO
- 18 Middle School youth in mission to Springfield, MO
- 11 Youth in mission in St. Louis City at 1 By Youth event
- 10 Youth to Festival of Sharing
- 15 boxes for Operation Christmas Child
- 16 Baby bundles for Festival of Sharing

**United Methodist Women Projects**

The women of UMW are oriented toward support of local and worldwide Christian missions focusing on women, children, and youth. In total, over \$11,000 was donated by UMW in support of a wide variety of local, Conference, and world missions. In addition to donations and pledges, UMW sponsored the sale of Butter Breads, prepared Lenten Lunches and donated offerings to Bread for the World, hosted lunch for a church group traveling in our area, distributed healthy Snack Lunches daily to nearly 200 children at Vacation Bible School, MDO family, hosted a dessert concert featuring musical group Circle of Friends, prepared and served the AAUW dinner, held their annual Cookie Walk, and purchased and delivered shoes, coats, underwear, and socks to elementary students in St. Charles.

**United Methodist Men**

Through their fund raising efforts, the UMM supports a variety of service-related activities. They donated over \$1,900 to Vacation Bible School, FUMC Choir, Boy Scouts Troop 754, Blue Mountain Church Camp and Franklin High School Reunion Program.

**Christmas Giving Tree**

The Christmas giving tree went up the week before Thanksgiving and was covered with paper ornaments that listed gifts for children. A total of 296 gift items and 231 canned goods were collected, plus \$90 in gift cards. Items were delivered to Epworth Family & Children's Center and Kingdom House.

**Kaivos**

This is a prison ministry in which selected prison inmates in Missouri attend a weekend retreat held at the prison. A Kaivos retreat is held twice a year at the Potosi Correctional Center in Potosi, MO. This year, over \$3,500 was donated by the general congregation, Sunday School classes and individuals, enabling the sponsorship of 16 inmates to attend the retreat.

**Elementary School Clothing Drive**

When asked if our church could help the local Elementary Schools who were in need of shoes and coats for their children, FUMC and the UMW answered with a resounding, "Yes we can!" As a congregation we gathered 64 winter coats, 47 pairs of shoes, 43 jackets and sweatshirts, 7 pairs of socks and 24 hats and gloves! These were distributed to Lincoln and Null Elementary schools. In addition, the UMW gave \$800 from their mission fund plus a \$121 love offering. UMW delivered 28 pairs of shoes, 18 winter coats, 7 packages of underwear, and 4 packages of socks directly to Blackhurst School. As they were bringing in their purchases, a teacher said that she had given the counselor the name of a little girl that morning. Her shoes were torn and ragged and they were all that she had. There are many situations like this that will need on-going outreach.

**Missouri Annual Conference Offering**  
Last year the offering was dedicated to several essential ministries, such as the Mozambique Sustainability project and Hydrail for Haiti. A total of \$1270 was donated by members of the congregation.

### **Habitat for Humanity**

This past Fall, construction was completed on the Methodist House at the Enclaves of Eisenhower subdivision in St. Peters. We were part of a coalition of Methodist churches in St. Charles County supporting this project. A budget line item and a special offering from the congregation provided over \$1,500 to help with expenses. Volunteers also provided lunches for workers on four Saturdays.

### **Back-to-School Event**

This event involved collaboration between the Outreach and Education Teams. Church families, and families from the surrounding community were invited to spend a Saturday afternoon in August playing games, eating hot dogs and enjoying Christian fellowship. Safety Town for small children was a featured event. A package of free school supplies was handed out to participating children. 212 supply kits were handed out to children at the Event, and an additional 120 kits were given to Community Care families and elementary school counselors.

### **Neighborhood Action**

This is a community outreach program that seeks to minister to people, primarily elderly or disabled, on limited income, who live in the neighborhood(s) around the church and who need assistance with maintaining their homes, or with small tasks for helping with daily life. Action volunteers may also help when emergency situations arise, such as a fire, flooding, tornado damage, etc. This is an opportunity for hands-on service to our community. Volunteers have helped with roof repair, yard clean-up, flood water clean-up, painting, and other activities in the local area.

*"Thank you for all your help and kindness. I want you to know that what you are doing is a true service and blessing to people like myself who are unable to do things for ourselves and have no one else to help." - Excerpt from a letter from someone who was helped.*

### **Kids Sharing Closet**

This ministry works with our local elementary school counselors and nurses to provide basic food, clothing and school supplies for St. Charles School District families who are in need. In January, approximately 35 FUMC volunteers spent two Saturdays moving the Closet from the Blackhurst school to the old Willie Harris school building. At other times we have helped with sorting, and organizing both the food pantry and the clothing rooms. This is an ongoing ministry throughout the school year.

*Dear Methodist Church,*

*Thank you for the clothes, shoes and food. Can you keep on doing that to my school? You guys rock! That was so kind.*

*Sincerely, (a student from Lincoln Elementary*

### **Caroling**

On December 18th, 20 carolers helped to brighten the neighborhood and bring Christmas joy with their voices when they went out into the community for Christmas caroling.

### **Holiday Meals for Homeless**

Salvation Army closes its soup kitchen the week after Christmas, leaving many who depend on those meals without a place to eat during that time. From Tuesday through Thursday of the week following Christmas, FUMC volunteers, including our Boy Scouts, served meals for approximately 130 homeless, and others in need of a hot meal.

### **Mission Trips**

Mid-West Distribution Center - Chatham, IL

In March, 24 adult volunteers traveled to Chatham, IL to spend a week working at this Center that builds disaster relief kits and other items for distribution nationally and world-wide. FUMC volunteers were engaged in sewing book bags, putting together flood buckets and school kits. Some folks worked on building wooden desks for schools located in Africa. It was a wonderful time of service and fellowship.

### **VIM (Volunteers in Mission) Trip:**

On November 13th, 11 adult volunteers, Youth Director Nancy Cooper and Pastor Debby traveled to Joplin, MO to spend 3 days helping to make a difference. We worked on painting, replacing windows, shrub and tree removal and yard clean-up for a homeowner who lost everything in the May tornado, including his wife and child. This trip was truly an inspiration for those involved.

### **The Bridge Ministry**

The Bridge is a homeless ministry connected to Centenary UMC in downtown St. Louis. FUMC volunteers made two trips to The Bridge in 2011. The first took place on June 18, as a result of our participation in our denomination-wide "Change the World Event," and 24 volunteers engaged in painting and cleaning. On November 26th, 13 volunteers helped to decorate the Bridge for Christmas. In addition, 157 items of food were donated.

### **Compassion International/World Vision**

Compassion International and World Vision are two global Christian children advocacy ministries that releases children from spiritual, social, economic and physical poverty and enables them to become responsible, fulfilled, Christian adults. These ministries was featured during Children's Sunday, giving members of our congregation an opportunity to consider sponsoring a child. Several Sunday School classes, youth and other individuals are now sponsoring 12 children from Compassion International and World Vision.

### **CHAMP (Citizens Helping American Military Personnel)**

This is a mail mission for American Soldiers overseas. Packages of small items such as candy, gum, magazines, toiletries, condiments, etc. are collected in March and November. Mission Possible packs and prepares the donated items for shipping. In total, approximately 11,600 items, composing 645 kits, were donated in 2011.

### **Food Pantry**

Food pantry collections are taken on the third Sunday of each month. All food donations are given to FISH food pantry for distribution to residents of St. Charles County. Last year, members of FUMC have donated over 7,500 food items to FISH. A special drive for Kingdom House and the Bridge Ministry netted over 400 food items for each.

The Easter Egg Hunt and Lunch is held on Palm Sunday each year. In 2011 lunch was served to approximately 500 people. Between 25 and 30 families came who had never been to our church before. Numerous volunteers were involved with setting up tables, decorating, serving, supervising the egg hunt, and with clean-up. A great time was had by all.

#### Easter Egg Hunt

This was an Ecumenical effort across St. Charles County in which volunteers engaged in a day of community service. FUMC sponsored two projects: painting a wheelchair ramp, and sorting and organizing clothes at the Sharing Closet. A total of 18 volunteers participated in these activities.

#### Serve Day 2011

Additionally, our building is open for use by our community and organizations. Some of the groups that use our building on a regular basis are Boy Scouts, St. Charles Community College's ESL (English as a Second Language) program, AA (Alcoholics Anonymous), Missouri Choral Society, and BILY (Because I Love You) parent support group.

There are undoubtedly some activities and efforts that have been missed. Sunday School classes and other small groups often have their own projects that include outreach and community service. If the question were asked, "Would FUMC be missed if it was not here?" the answer is on these pages.

FUMC is seeking to make a difference for our neighbors next door at the Mount Carmel Home. On September 10, as a part of the Missouri Conference's SERVE 2011 event, our church hosted residents of Mount Carmel for a worship service in our sanctuary. Volunteers helped 50 residents (some in wheel chairs and some able to walk) into the sanctuary for a time of singing, prayer, Communion, and a message of hope and peace. Additionally, in November, 50 volunteers helped 34 residents to cross the street for an old-fashioned hymn sing, and in December, 18 volunteers helped residents participate in a worship service in Mount Carmel's Chapel. This will be an ongoing monthly ministry.

#### Salvation Army Soup Kitchen

Throughout the year, volunteers from FUMC work the Wednesday evening shift at the Salvation Army soup kitchen on N. 4th street. Volunteers prepare the meal, serve the food, wash pots and pans, and clean up. Approximately \$3,000 meals were prepared and served in 2011.

#### Mission Possible

This is a family mission group for all ages. Mission projects have included packing care items for CHAMP, and collecting shoeboxes filled with toiletries, school items and toys for Operation Christmas Child. Ninety eight shoeboxes were collected this past November and sent to Samaritan's Purse, the sponsor of the program. The group meets every third Sunday from October through May, from 5 to 7 pm.

#### Sewing Club

This small group of women serves God with their sewing skills. They sew a variety of items for missions in the U.S. and throughout the world with emphasis on people in less served areas. In 2011, they sent 366 items of children's and infant's clothing, blankets, household goods and toys to the Tree of Life Mission serving the Lakota tribes, Kingdom House, House of Hope in Haiti, Haven House Women's shelter in Southeast Missouri, and to families world-wide through United Methodist Committee on Relief and the Mid-West Mission Distribution Center.

#### Festival of Sharing

This is a conference wide, multi-faith effort to collect items for distribution to people in need in the State of Missouri and worldwide. This year items were packed into Personal Hygiene Kits, Reading & Writing Kits, Paper Products and Student Dental Kits. In total, 120 kits were donated, as well as \$564 in cash.

#### Other

In addition to these projects, and activities, the Congregation, through its offerings, supported the following ministries: Kingdom House; Shalom House; Epworth Family & Children's Services; Salvation Army; FISH; Volunteers in Medicine and Mozambique. A total of \$5,000 was given to these agencies in 2011. Approximately \$7,500 was donated by members of the congregation for disaster relief for Joplin.