

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. Warm coats, sleeping bags and backpacks are made available when needed. On average, anywhere from 12 to 20 homeless men and women are helped with this ministry each week. On bitter cold nights, or sweltering summer nights, shelter may be arranged for at a local motel

Haiti Disaster Response

Following the earthquake disaster in January, 2010, members of the congregation responded by donating 235 health kits for distribution to Haiti.

Labor Ready

SAM's Club members prepare brown bag lunches, once a week, for day workers working through Labor Ready, St. Charles. This past year, over 1000 Day workers were provided with lunch. In addition, 780 sandwiches were prepared for homeless men and women at Showers of Blessing.

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 7600 items, composing 469 kits, were donated in 2010.

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. In this past year, members of FUMC have donated over 8000 food items to FISH. A special drive for Kingdom House netted over 500 food items.

Reading Program

Throughout the school year, volunteers spend an hour a week helping children at selected elementary schools with their reading. Currently, 8 volunteers are helping at Lincoln and Null schools.

Annual Conference Offering

This past year the offering was dedicated to preparing health kits for Haiti. All told, 114 health kits were collected and taken to Annual Conference.

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 providing volunteers for this project. At least a dozen FUMC volunteers worked on this project and a special offering from the congregation collected over \$1300 to help with expenses. Volunteers also provided lunches for workers on three Saturdays.

Back-to-School Event

This event involved collaboration between the Missions, Education and Evangelism Committees. 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 were handed out to participating children. A total of 81 adults and 134 children attended, with about 70% being non-members from the surrounding area.

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. This is an opportunity for hands-on service to our community. This year volunteers performed over 150 hours of service in the local area.

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. FUMC members volunteered in setting up the Closet at the old Blackhurst school building, and in its operation throughout the year. Donations of food items were brought to the Kids Closet, located in the Atrium. This is an on-going ministry throughout the school year.

Sewing Club

This group of UMW women makes a variety of items for missions in the U.S. and throughout the world. In 2010, 564 items of children's and infant's clothing, blankets, some household goods and a few toys were sent to the Tree of Life Mission serving the Lakota tribes, Kingdom House, Our Lady's Inn, and to families world-wide through UMCOR.

Mission Possible

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

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, Prison Kits, Baby Bundle Kits, Personal Hygiene Kits and Readin' & Writin' Kits. In total, 165 kits were donated, as well as \$1516.

Youth Mission Activities

Our Youth have been active in mission activities throughout the year.

- Middle School went on a mission trip to Sikeston, MO
- High School went on a mission trip to Red Lake, MN
- Youth went to Festival of Sharing in Sedalia, MO
- Diaper drive
- Sock and Shoe drive
- Collected can goods at Family Christmas Party

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 375 gift items were collected, plus \$180 in gift cards, all delivered to Epworth Family & Children's Center.

United Methodist Women Projects

The women of UMW are oriented toward support of Christian missions world-wide. 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 Tea and Fashion show, the AAUW dinner, the sale of cookbooks, and the annual Cookie Walk.

United Methodist Men

The Men's Club supported Vacation Bible School by providing tuition money for neighborhood children. Donations were also made to Shalom House and to UMCOR for Haiti.

Kairos

This is a prison ministry in which selected prison inmates in Missouri attend a weekend retreat held at the prison. This year, three inmates were sponsored by the general congregation, a Sunday School class and individual donations. A Kairos retreat will be held twice a year at the Potosi Correctional Center in Potosi, MO.

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 general cleanup. Approximately 2200 meals were prepared and served in 2010.

Fall Missouri Mission Trip

Fourteen adult volunteers traveled to Windsor, Mo. to spend 2 1/2 days helping Windsor UMC with needed repairs and painting. The team built needed storage shelving, painted interior offices and hallways, removed old appliances and cabinets and other assorted jobs that needed work. Coming together in service with a small town congregation was an enriching experience for all involved.

Easter Egg Hunt

The Easter Egg Hunt and Lunch is held on Palm Sunday each year. This past year lunch was served to over 300 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 cleanup. A great time was had by all.

Other Ministries Supported

In addition to these projects, the Congregation, through its offerings, supports the following ministries: Kingdom House; Shalom House; Epworth Family Family & Children's Services; Salvation Army; FISH; Volunteers in Medicine and Mozambique. A total of \$13,000 was given to these agencies in 2010..

RISK TAKING MISSION & SERVICE



A REPORT ON THE MISSION/COMMUNITY OUTREACH SERVICES PROVIDED AND SUPPORTED BY THE CONGREGATION OF FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, ST. CHARLES, MO, 2010

“Risk taking Mission and Service includes the projects, the efforts, and work people do to make a positive difference in the lives of others for the purposes of Christ...”- Bishop Richard Schnase, Missouri Conference of the United Methodist Church

WHAT A BLESSING members of this church are to this community and beyond! 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 2009, in which FUMC members have participated through their gifts and their labor. Each of these programs or activities offer an opportunity for service.

Community Care Fund

2010 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 \$23,000 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.