

Son Times

Monthly Newsletter of Parrish United Methodist Church

February 2016

A Word From Pastor Chris

Dear Members and Friends of Parrish United Methodist Church,

Motivational speaker Jim Rohn is credited with saying “If you are not willing to risk the unusual, you will have to settle for the ordinary.” While ordinary may be comfortable, it is fun to step out and try something different, even when you’re not quite sure what to expect. That’s the nature of risk.

So, last Sunday, we did something unusual (at least for us); we took worship outside. Granted, it was not a monumental risk, but still involved a step of faith as we faced some unknown variables. There was no way to know when we began planning what the weather might be like on the morning of January 31st. Making sure we were able to move necessary sound equipment outside is not something we have done; and of course transitioning from worship to lunch for over 300 people is no small task.

I am so thankful to say I could not have been more thrilled with how well everything went. We had a glorious day of worship and fellowship. Thank you to everyone who made it possible. Our Leadership Team worked for months to create this special day, and their vision and commitment was the catalyst for our first (annual?) Celebration Sunday. In addition, countless others jumped in during the process to assist with the planning, come out on Saturday to help set up, and then stick around afterward to help with the cleaning and tear down. For all who were involved, please know I am extremely grateful for your faithful service.

There are three people I want to personally acknowledge for their hard work. From our Leadership Team both Eric McRoberts and Jill Rogers handled a large portion of the organization for this event. Eric worked with our food vendor (Hickory Hollow) as well as helping map out a big picture strategy, while Jill organized the overall event to make sure all the bases were being covered, including additional vendors, volunteers, and necessary arrangements. There is no doubt this Celebration Sunday would not have been the wonderful event it was without the dedication and hard work of both Eric and Jill. **Continued on page 4...**

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Mon.-Thurs.:

9 AM - 4 PM

Friday:

9 AM - 12 PM

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Psalms 31

In You, O LORD,
I put my trust;
Let me never be ashamed;
Deliver me in Your
righteousness.

Coming events:

- ✝ 02/03 Joy Fellowship 4:00 PM
- ✝ 02/04 Leadership Team Meeting 6:00 PM
- ✝ 02/06 Food Distribution Day 11:00 AM
- ✝ 02/06 Community Luncheon 11:00 AM
- ✝ 02/09 Stephen Ministers 7:00 PM
- ✝ 02/10 Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 PM
- ✝ 02/11 Thrift Cottage Board Meeting 9:00 AM
- ✝ 02/11 Administrative Team Meeting 7:00 PM
- ✝ 02/20 Food Distribution Day 11:00 AM
- ✝ 02/21 Pancake Breakfast 9:00 AM—1:00 PM
- ✝ 02/21 New Member Class 12:30 PM
- ✝ 02/23 Stephen Ministers 7:00 PM
- ✝ 02/28 Thrift Cottage Appreciation Dinner

SUNDAY SERVICES

8:15 Traditional Worship

9:45 *CrossLight*

11:11 Blended Worship

9:45 AM Sunday School For All Ages

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Celebration Sunday
January 31st, 2016

*Celebrating the past, pre-
sent and future of God's
plan for Parrish United
Methodist Church*





Financial News

Bill Hancock

The year of 2015 was a significant one in the financial life of our church. Our congregation contributed \$536,846 to our Operating Fund. Our other income in the Operating Fund was \$9,477 which generated total Operating Fund income of \$546,323. Our Operating Expenses for 2015 totaled \$495,222, resulting in a surplus of \$51,101 for the year. By vote of the Administrative Ministry Team the surplus was used to bring our Capital Replacement Reserve up to \$40,000 with the remainder transferred to the Building Fund.

During 2015, we made the accumulation of funds for the projected new sanctuary a priority for our Building Fund. The Building Fund was bolstered by \$84,000 from the Thrift Cottage/Annex operations, \$21,642 in contributions from our congregation, \$6,600 from our Scrip Program and \$3,595 from other sources. Thank you for contributing to the future growth of our church with your money and your volunteer time.

The Church maintains what is termed a Participation Account with the Florida United Methodist Foundation (FUMF). This is essentially a savings account that pays more interest than is available from local banks. At the end of 2015, we have approximately \$240,000 in this account that is reserved for future expansion of the church, capital replacement reserves and operating reserves. We also have a Permanently Restricted Endowment fund invested with the Florida United Methodist Foundation in the amount of \$34,470. The church may not use the principal in this fund; however, the interest and earnings are available to the church, if needed.

Future Expansion

As Pastor Chris announced on January 31st at the outdoor *Celebration Sunday* event, our church has received approval from the Gulf Central District to begin the process of planning for the addition of a new Sanctuary. This project is in its infancy and presently there is no timeline, detailed or general plans to present to the congregation. However, we do know that the construction of a new facility looms on the horizon for our church. Many details need to be worked out; additional funds need to be raised and a long-term building plan that mirrors the vision of our church in this community needs to be refined.

Over the past several years, the Administrative Ministry Team has done a commendable job of reserving funds for future growth. The majority of the funds held at FUMF are set aside exclusively for future expansion and with the help of your contributions, your volunteer efforts at the Thrift Cottages and your participation in our other income producing projects (Scrip cards, restaurant give-backs, etc.) we are rapidly making our expansion a reality.

Now is the time for each of us to pray, examine our hearts and listen for what part God is asking us to play in this exciting phase of our church's history. Where is God leading you? Where is God leading our church?

A Word from Pastor Chris cont.

Also, I want to thank Jon Godfrey for taking on the challenge of moving worship from indoors to outdoors. It is easy for most of us to overlook how challenging an outdoor set-up can be, and Jon made something that was not easy look easy. I appreciate Jon stepping up, as he always does, and working so hard to make worship as wonderful outside as it is each week when we are inside.

Finally, I want to thank each of you who were able to come out and be a part of this great day. To be together for this time of worship and fellowship is something I will always treasure. Celebration Sunday was a great way to set the tone for the year to come as we move forward in faith, love and service.

Blessings,

Chris

Year End Letter

Ooops! When sending out the year end contributions statements we inadvertently included the letter from last year. Here is the letter that should have been included. Thank you for your understanding.

What another blessed year we have had together at Parrish UMC.

I say “another” wonderful year because God continues to bless us in our ministry together year after year. 2015 was no different. We continue to see our community grow in so many ways; worship attendance, professions of faith, outreach opportunities, community events and fellowship and small group opportunities. We have been blessed.

Yet, what I am truly thankful for is the ways in which God is working in our church so that we may take our blessings and in turn be a blessing to others. Our food outreach ministry continues to grow as each month families dealing with food crisis are provided with non-perishable foods and served a hot meal. Each week during the school year as many as 70 kids are provided with food to help keep them from going hungry during the weekends. This year we filled over 70 backpacks full of school supplies so kids in need could have a strong start to the school year, and this past Christmas we filled over 500 boxes full of toys and essentials to be given to kids around the world through Operation Christmas Child. God is truly using us to make a difference in our community and beyond.

These ministries, and so much more, are possible because of people like you who give generously of your time, talents and financial resources. Thank you, thank you, thank you. Your giving directly changes lives for eternity!

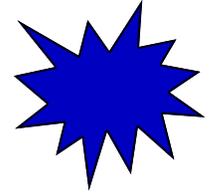
While I do not know who gives what amount around here, I do know that we, as a church, honor your investment and handle the responsibility with great integrity. For your records, our Administrative Team has included a listing of your gifts in this letter. If you have questions, please send Lynn Mercer an email at Lynn@Parrishumc.com.

2016 looks to be another huge year of moving forward in our mission and ministry as we seek to help others experience the love and power of Jesus Christ. We do have our challenges, specifically in maintaining our facilities and finding space for our growing ministries, but these are all challenges for which I thank God because they are challenges born out of faithfulness.

Thank you for being such a vital part of the Parrish United Methodist Church. Get ready for another exciting year!

Yours in Christ,
Christopher Schmidt
Pastor





JOY Fellowship

Yuengling Brewery Tour - Tampa
Wednesday, February 24th

Oldest brewery operating in the U.S. and one of the largest American owned beer makers left.
No charge for the tour

However, you may tip the tour guide.

Tour scheduled for 11:30 AM

On tour you will need to have closed-toe shoes

Not handicapped accessible –but if you can climb a few stairs it's doable.

We can order from Jason's Deli which is across the street and they will deliver it to the brewery. We can have lunch after the tour in the conference room. Jason's Deli is online so please make your choice prior to the date of the tour. It takes almost an hour to get there, so we can meet at the church parking lot at 10:00 AM for those who want to carpool.

If you are over 21 you are invited, but need to sign up on the bulletin board in the *Gathering Place*. The brewery will need a count by the 22nd of February. Looking forward to a great time!

Please put a star ** by your name if you will be meeting at the church. Questions or concerns please call Elaine Weir (941-981-3532).

Prayer Blanket Ministry

Alma Woolbert

The blanket ministry is growing. We have new contributors and our "old" ladies keep their hands busy knitting, crocheting and quilting. They are a blessing to the ministry and to the people who receive the blankets. Baby blankets continue to be donated to Happy Families of Manatee County through Hannah Roberts.

Have you checked out the world map in the *Gathering Place*? Pins indicate how far our ministry is reaching. Add a pin if you sent a blanket so we can see where else they have gone. Also take a look at the scrapbook that has thank-you notes, pictures of recipients, and photos. We'd love to add new notes, photos and stories to the scrapbook.



The Walk to Emmaus is a spiritual journey with Christ, strengthening your Christianity. You will enjoy three days of singing, laughing, worshipping, reflecting, praying and participating in small groups. We have openings for the men's walk March 31st – April 3rd and the women's walk April 14th – 17th at the Christian Retreat Center on Upper Manatee River Road. Please contact Donna or Dave Greenwood at 941-321-1577 for information and application forms.



Route 66 Youth

bringing Jesus Christ into the lives of teenagers through Bible study, prayer, and fellowship.

Youth Leaders – Joe & Julie McNaughton

As we are completing our series on “Jesus and Loving Others,” the youth have explored the examples that Jesus demonstrated when he commanded us to love God and love others. We have discussed how loving others can be difficult, especially loving those who don’t like us and loving those we don’t normally see, such as the poor and the needy. When Paul outlined the attributes of love in his letter to the church in Corinth, he gave us a list of many different ways that love is demonstrated. Some of these may be more difficult to live out than others, but they are a guide to help us to be more loving toward others. Our love for others separates us from the world. It is what Jesus has called us to do. *“And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.”* (1 Corinthians 13:13)

Registration for camp is now open and available through the camp’s website at www.warrenwilliscamp.org. A week at camp is full of energy and fellowship with time set aside each day for small group devotionals, games, skill activities, large group worship and more. The cost for a week at camp is \$420. There are scholarship opportunities available and we will have fundraisers to help defray the costs. Save these dates to help support our fundraisers:

Sunday, February 21st Pancake Breakfast (Youth)

Sunday, April 3rd Bake Sale (Elementary Kids)

Pancake Breakfast!
(+ eggs, sausage, coffee & juice)



February 21st
9:00 am – 1:00 pm
Youth Hall



Week #5

July 11-16

2016 Dates to Note:

Feb. 10	Ash Wednesday
Feb. 21	Pancake Breakfast
Mar. 11	Lucky Pot Luck Night
July 11-16	Summer Camp

6th–12th graders are always welcome to join us in the *Youth Hall* from 6:30-8:00 pm on Wednesdays. We mix in fellowship and games with our Bible lesson and would love to see you there! Please feel free to contact us with any questions you may have at mчнаughton@parrishumc.com.

Children's Ministry

Ethel Pawley

Train up a child in the way he should go;
even when he is old he will not depart from it.
Proverbs 22:6

Did you know that in 270 AD Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families. Therefore, he outlawed marriage for young men? It would take more than a decree from the Emperor to stop couples from getting married. A Christian priest named Valentinus continued to perform marriages in secret. When Claudius found out, he had Valentinus imprisoned and subsequently killed. Based on this story, Valentinus became a saint and a day was set aside to honor the martyred priest, Valentine's Day.

Today we continue to celebrate Valentine's Day as a day to recognize love. Setting aside a day to honor Valentinus is a reminder of the different types of love that we experience in life. We celebrate the love we share with our spouse, family members, friends and the perfect love of Jesus. This year, as children start planning the exchange of cards, school parties and the very special Valentine card they will give their parents, we can take this as an opportunity to help children understand the importance of true love, the unconditional love that Jesus gives freely to all.



DEEP BLUE NEWS

During the month of February, we will be learning that Jesus Calls Helpers. As we learn about Jesus calling the first "fishers of men", the disciples, we will learn that Jesus wants to help change our hearts and lives and we can follow Jesus and be His helper. Our memory verse is: "Come follow me" he said. Matthew 4:19

Save
the
date:



VBS
June 20th – 24th
6:30 -8:45 PM

**Cave Quest: Following Jesus the
Light of the World!**

This will be a great week of energy, excitement and experiencing God's Word. It promises to be a fun week for both children and volunteers. Volunteer opportunities are available for people with many different types of personalities and talents. Positions include from "behind the scenes" to "hands on" with the children. No experience is necessary and training is provided. For more information, contact:

ethel@parrishumc.com

Parenting Resource:

Thriving Family Magazine is "helping families thrive in Christ." It is a great resource published by *Focus on the Family* ministries. Also available is a very informative website to help parents navigate the challenges that face today's families.

www.thrivingfamilies.com It is very user-friendly and offers great information in areas that specifically target families with children ages 0-18 still living at home. Take a moment and check it out.

A Word of Thanks

Lena and I would like to thank all our family and friends for all the prayers, calls and good wishes. I also need to thank my wife Lena for her endless care the last few months. I would not be here if not for her care. She earned her angel wings dealing with this. Thanks again to everyone.

Mike & Lena Cooper

Parrish United Church Thrift Cottage Appreciation Dinner

Sunday, February 28th

4:00 PM

in the *Sanctuary*

Every Volunteer is Encouraged to Attend

(Your spouse or guest is welcome also.)

Menu: Baked Greek Chicken, Roasted Potatoes, Green Bean Almondine, Tzatziki with Pita, Spinach Pies, Small Greek Salad, Sweet and Unsweetened Iced Tea, Rice Pudding and Baklava Bites

RSVP by February 19

by signing the sheet at the Thrift Cottage or Annex

THRIFT COTTAGE HOURS

Monday—Saturday
10:00 AM—4:00 PM

ANNEX HOURS

Monday—Saturday
10:00 AM—4:00 PM



**VOLUNTEERS DO NOT NECESSARILY HAVE THE TIME;
THEY JUST HAVE THE HEART** ~Elizabeth Andrew

New Member Class

If you would like to join the church or would just like to learn more about PUMC, this is your opportunity. Our New Member Luncheon will be Sunday, February 21st from 12:30—2:30 PM in *Room 125/126*. Anyone wishing to become a member of PUMC should plan to attend. The following week, Sunday, February 28th, people completing the class will be received into membership. Everyone is welcome – long time visitors, spouses of church members and new guests. Please let us know you plan on attending by calling the church office (941-776-1539).



PUMC Birthday Calendar

February 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Henry Sheldon Reid King	2 	3 Jocelyn Niles Andrew Osborne Spence Valenzano Megan Keegan	4 Deb Francisco	5 Aiden Cook Mary Jane Erbeck Shelby Overstreet Simone Stoltz	6 Ron Edwards Cathy Stephens Tom Walker Morgan McGinnis
7 Zoe Randolph	8 Spencer Evans Helen Maclaren Helen Vincent Madison Wade	9 Charles Collins Emily Cook Ryan Schmidt Mekenzie Klemkosky	10 Katy Cardinal	11 Marianne Goemmel	12 Erin Fenske Gordon Powers Jim Van Swol	13 Ronald Drumheller
14 Judy Genrich Keenan McRoberts	15 Evelyn Ford Kyle James	16 Ray Gaither Kathy Bridges Louie Hamlin	17 Joyce Heanne John McDonald Donice Michael Larry Tissier Nicole Gingrich	18 Darian Abbas	19 	20 Karen Leskinen Sam Lindsay Crystal Carney Skye Carney Sandra Kittinger
21 Sharon Keene Lorraine Peel Carolyn Schwalm	22 Peggy Terry Barbara Rylott	23 Sandy Brasfield Eileen Wilcox	24	25 Gloria Osner Chloe Henry Scott Bush	26 Leslie Osorio Garry Vanden Berg	27
28 Calvin Bishop	29					

GOD BLESS YOUR
SPECIAL DAY

PUMC Activity Calendar

February 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 7:00 AM Worship Design 10:00 AM Small Group Study	3 4:00 PM Joy Fellowship 6:30 PM Youth Ministry 6:30 PM Kidz Nite 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study	4 6:00 PM Leadership Team 7:00 PM Youth Band Practice 7:00 PM Choir Practice 8:30 PM CrossLight Practice	5	6 11:00 AM Food Distribution 11:00 AM Community Lunch
7	8	9 7:00 AM Worship Design 10:00 AM Small Group Study 7:00 PM Stephen Ministers	10 Ash Wednesday 6:30 PM Kidz Nite	11 9:00 AM Thrift Cottage Board Meeting 7:00 PM Administrative Team 7:00 PM Choir Practice 7:00 PM Youth Band Practice 8:30 PM CrossLight Practice	12	13
14	15	16 7:00 AM Worship Design 10:00 AM Small Group Study	17 6:30 PM Youth Ministry 6:30 PM Kidz Nite 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study 6:30 PM Bible Study	18 7:00 PM Choir Practice 8:30 PM CrossLight Practice 7:00 PM Youth Band Practice	19	20 11:00 AM Food Distribution
21 9:00 AM Pancake Breakfast 12:30 PM New Member Class	22	23 7:00 AM Worship Design 10:00 AM Small Group Study 7:00 PM Stephen Ministers	24 10:00 AM Joy Fellowship Yuengling Brewery Tour 6:30 PM Youth Ministry 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study	25 7:00 PM Choir Practice 8:30 PM CrossLight Practice 7:00 PM Youth Band Practice	26	27
28 4:00 PM Thrift Cottage Appreciation Dinner	29				EACH SUNDAY: Traditional Worship 8:15 AM Contemporary Worship 9:45 Blended Worship 11:11 AM Sunday School for All ages at 9:45 AM	