



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

502 N. 6TH ST. ~ ORANGE, TEXAS 77630

OFFICE (409) 886-7466 ~ FAX (409) 886-0489 ~ WWW.FUMCORANGE.ORG

To access the Southeast Texas District newsletter, visit southeastdistrict.org.

SEPTEMBER 2017

ROOTED IN CHRIST ... BRANCHING OUT IN FAITH ... DISCIPLES GROWING DISCIPLES

Rev. John E. Warren

Senior Pastor

Doug Rogers

Director of
Music & Fine Arts

Randall Bridges

Director of
Christian Education & Youth

Jeff Harris

Donna Rogers
Organists

Norma Bergeron

Administrative Assistant

Samantha Ziller

Nursery Coordinator

Mary Grimes

Lisa Hodge
Nursery Caregivers

Mission Statement:

*To make disciples
of Jesus Christ
for the transformation
of the world.*

To have information included in the October newsletter, please send it to news@fumcorange.org by **Friday, September 22** so the newsletter can be distributed before October 1.

Message from Pastor John:

Over the past three weeks, the Service Design Team was started to assist me in creating interesting theme services to relate and open up the Bible to us in worship. This new effort will enrich our worship with the Word of God—You may notice that the music during worship matches the theme of the day. This is also a new concept for your Pastor, and it is exciting to see us growing together in this effort.

Beginning in September and following six weeks, the Service Design Team and I have created a sermon series to go arm in arm with our new church vision statement. We will be looking at these themes and asking ourselves these questions. What does it mean to be rooted in Christ? For you personally and as a church. What does it mean for us to be branching out in faith? What does it mean to be a disciple? And how do we grow them? Am I a disciple?

To find out, come to worship and we will explore together.

502 Initiative

In the last weeks, I have been praying throughout the church. I sat in chairs in the Sunday School rooms around tables and prayed. I plan to continue to pray, and each place I pray, I post a post-it note with the numbers 502. Have you seen them? I have stayed after everyone goes home at 4:30 p.m. and prayed for you in those spots. I have set my alarm to alert me to the time 5:02 to stop doing what I am doing and pray for the church and for you.

Over the next six weeks, I am calling upon you to join me in focused prayer for the ministry and mission of the church. This different kind of prayer I am calling for you to pray is called a "Breakthrough Prayer." This is a brave challenge because we will be opening ourselves up to hear the very voice of God. It may come in an audible voice or a gentle nudge in a certain direction at any rate we will be seeking a break-through in our thinking and understanding of what God hopes and wishes to do in and for us as a church in ministry to the world around us. Our guiding scripture for the six weeks will be Ephesians 3: 20 "Glory to God who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine, by his power at work within us."

You may have noticed the little post-it notes springing up everywhere with the number 5:02 on them. During the next six weeks, we are calling on all church members to pray a breakthrough prayer for God to work in and through us at 5:02 in the morning or evening. If you are willing to do so, take a picture of where you are when you pray and post it on our Facebook page or on your Facebook and Instagram, etc. When two or more are gathered in Jesus' name, especially in prayer for God's will to be done, we will see an outpouring of His power upon us. This is our breakthrough prayer I am asking you to pray:

"God, we lift First United Methodist Church to you with our prayers. Please do what we cannot do ourselves, including Your changing us without limits. In Jesus name we pray. Amen."

Let's see the exciting prayer work in and through us as we join together in this time of prayer. If you would like to come to the church to pray, I will be happy to give you post-it notes with the number 502 written on them to place in the spot where you prayed. Let's not be shy be BOLD and come and pray. God wants to work boldly in us as He gives us the DIGNITY OF RESPONSIBILITY!



Welcome
On Sunday August, 6, FUMC welcomed **Kayla and Walter Homick** through baptism. In addition, their mother **Sandra** and **Chris and Jennifer Smith** and their daughter **Shelby** joined our FUMC family!



Lord, help us to be a family of faith. to worship You, learn, grow in Your likeness, and serve You by serving others. Amen.

Our Faithfulness

Worship Attendance Since Last Newsletter

July 30	August 6	August 13	August 20
One Service	8:00 18	8:00 17	8:00 17
	9:00 100	9:00 70	9:00 73
10:00 103	11:00 39	11:00 42	11:00 47
TOTAL 103	TOTAL 157	TOTAL 129	TOTAL 137

Giving

July 2017		Remember you can give online!
Income	\$42,271.77	
Expenses	\$40,276.75	
	+ \$ 1,995.02	

September Worship

September 3, 2017
SERVICE
CANCELLED

September 10, 2017 & September 17, 2017
ROOTED IN CHRIST

September 23, 2017
BRANCHING
OUT IN FAITH



Cancelled by Harvey

Ushers: ...
8:00 ...
11:00 ...
Harper, ...
Beauchamp, John
Cochran

Altar Guild: Nicole Watzlavik Team

9 am Greeters: Greg & Dina Defrates

Ushers: Team #2
8:00 – Pie & David Bridges
11:00 – Brown Claybar, Phil Grooms, Jim Pledger, K...

ONE service at 10 a.m.

Parking Lot Greeters:
9:00 – Jeff & Susan Eby
11:00 – Beverly & Charlie Blalack

Lay Readers:
8:00 – Vernon Murray
9:00 – Angela Abshire
11:00 – Sandra Hoke

Welcome Center Bakers:
Sandra Warren & Barbara Dardeau

For those who did not get a chance to say goodbye:

Jeff & Nadine Harris
140 Castellanos, Apt. 221
El Paso, TX 79912

September 17, 2017 & September 23, 2017

Sunday School at 9 a.m.
ONE service at 10:15 a.m.
in the Family Life Center

Greeters: Julie & Richard Allensworth

Parking Lot Greeters: Richard & Leighia Barron

Lay Readers: Brittany Harmon

Welcome Center Bakers: Dina Defrates & Theresa Allen

Greeters: Cindy Reynolds & Donna Benefield

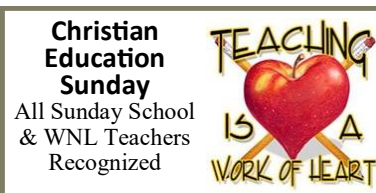
Parking Lot Greeters: Barbara & Dale Dardeau

Lay Readers: Julie Allensworth

Welcome Center Bakers: Sandra Hoke & Debbie Bayliss

Sunday, September 3

Last opportunity to share your best wishes with our organist **Jeff Harris** and his wife **Nadine** before they embark on their next adventure!



Every 1st Sunday—OCS Collection Sundays

Give money (in envelope marked OCS) or place donated items in OCS containers in Family Life Center. During Communion, all offerings left at the rail go to **Orange Christian Services.**



2nd Sundays—Bring Cans to Recycle

3rd Sundays—Bring Donations for Rainbow Room

4th Sundays—Bring Items for Blessing Box

Please pray for our "Family" of the week

September 3	Susanne Magee
September 10	James & Carol Parsley
September 17	Craig & Cindy Reynolds
September 24	Clay & Jennifer Sims



Join us in the Family Life Center!

Youth Sunday School at 10 a.m.

We share how God is working in our lives and look more in depth at the Bible!

Sunday Night CREW from 5-7 p.m.

Christians **R**eady, **E**quipped, and **W**illing
Join us for a meal, fellowship, worship, music, skits, games, and Jesus.

Social Media

Join our text message group to get reminders about upcoming FUMC Youth announcements by texting @fumcora to 81010

Facebook: fumcorangeyouth
Instagram & Twitter: @fumcorangeyouth

Youth Activities:

September 10—2017-2018 Preview, 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm, Family Life Center

Parents of 6-12 graders are welcome to join Randall as he walks you through the 2017-2018 youth year. Agenda items include:

- The Vision of FUMC's Youth Ministry
- What a regular scheduled night at CREW would look like
- Communication of the Youth Ministry
- The year's events
- Deposits
- and more!



The Youth Council has come up with some great things for our program over the next year and I can't wait to share them with you!

Mark your calendars now for Family Youth Nights on **September 10** and **February 25** where the whole family (parents, siblings, grandparents, aunts, uncles, friends, etc.) are invited to come and hang out with us and see what we do and worship with us.

3rd Graders who received their own personal Bibles on Sunday, August 27:

Aliviah Jasso, Caleb Kratzer, Lance Scott, Aubri Anna Watzlavik, and Arron Wuske



On Thursday, August 24, FUMC Youth battled through the rain but had a great time hearing **Kari Jobe** sing live and her husband Cody Carnes open for her.





Rooted In Christ • Branching Out In Faith
Disciples Growing Disciples

502 NORTH SIXTH ST.
ORANGE, TX 77630

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday

8:30am - 4:30pm

Friday

8:30am - Noon

WORSHIP

8:00a - Traditional service
in the Chapel

9:00a - Praise service in the
Family Life Center

10:00a - Sunday School
(9:40a Pairs & Spares)

11:00a - Traditional service
in the Sanctuary

FIRST UMC-ORANGE'S VISION

ROOTED IN CHRIST ... BRANCHING OUT IN FAITH ... DISCIPLES GROWING DISCIPLES

At First UMC-Orange, we grow Disciples who grow Disciples! It is just that simple! It's what we do!

From revival and renewed spirit through worship, we move people from the sanctuary to the community delivering God's message of hope and grace through Jesus Christ. Whenever and wherever we come together, we do so in His name, modeling His Grace and sharing His Word.

For saints and seekers; for individuals and families; for those more or less fortunate; for young and old alike...The *good news* is for all people. We are the voices and the hands branching out in Faith to encourage and support people. We provide worship, programs, and activities for families and individuals that will help you take God's word and apply it to *your* circumstances so He can change *your* life in ways you knew not possible.

Through Christ, we will facilitate the transformation of individuals into His People and our community into His community! At First UMC-Orange, we grow disciples who grow disciples! It is just that simple! It's what we do!



First UMC Church Council

Finance – Chris Abshire & Greg Defrates, Trustees–Gary Bonneaux & David Bridges, SPR–Jonathan Vogt, Communications–Ginger Williams, Lay Leader–Carol Allen, Members at Large–Janice Gresham & Betty Merchant, Secretary–Sherri Frugé, Secretary Assistant–Barbara Dardeau, Pastor–John Warren

Deadline for agenda items to secretary, Sherri Frugé—2nd Thursday, September 14
Next meeting—3rd Thursday—September 21, at 6 p.m.

FUMC **Guiding Principles** and **Church Council** **Meeting Minutes**

are [posted on the FUMC website](#)
(under Resources)

August 28, 2016

One year ago—After hearing the prescriptions proposed by the VCI team, our congregation voted 100% to focus on improving in those areas!

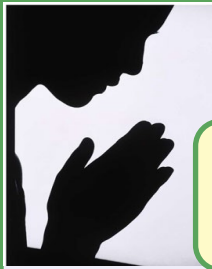
See the one-year progress report on the VCI Update—August 2017 page in this newsletter!

JULY TOWN HALL RECAP

The PowerPoint slides shared at the July 30 Town Hall meeting can be found on the [Church Council website page](#) under Resources on the FUMC website.

Next VCI Team Meetings with Coach Marilyn Wadkins

will be October 6-8



VCI VIBRANT PRAYER WITH PURPOSE

Be still, and know that I am God. Psalm 46:10

September Prayer:

Lord, as we pray, help us to be still, listen for Your guidance, and know that You are ultimately in control.
In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

GROWING STRONGER DISCIPLES

Spiritual Growth Groups

First United Methodist Church believes that God wants each of us to have a personal and evolving relationship with Him. This relationship starts when we decided to follow Christ and continues our entire lives. A person needs to be strengthened in his or her walk with God in order to stand up to the pressures of the world. This is where Growth Groups come in. Growth groups (Sunday school, Bible Studies, Interest groups) help people grow in community and support one another during difficult times in life.

Why Pursue the Formation of Growth Groups:

- Become a healthier and more vibrant church—developing deeper bonds and closer relationships among the members
- Enhance personal growth / discipleship – growing in Christ
- Promote fellowship with others and maintain a spiritual activity
- Develop deeper bonds and a closer relationship
- Growing in faith requires placing ourselves in community to learn—we need mentors, models, and experiences with others
- Increase attendance in worship, Christian Education, and ministry outreach



September Events:

[See full calendar on church website](#)

- ~~September 10—Ladies Bible Study *The Daniel Prayer*, 5-7 p.m. Good News Classroom/
Education Building (through Oct 15)~~
- ~~September 13—WNL meal at 5 p.m., **Drug Awareness program** at 6 p.m.~~
- September 13—Deadline to [RSVP online](#) for September 30 Big Church Night Out
- September 17—**(MOVED TO SEPT 24)** Christian Education Sunday
(Sunday School & WNL teachers recognized at all services)
- ~~September 20—WNL meal at 5 p.m., **Harvest House program** at 6 p.m.~~
- September 21-24—Emmaus Men's Retreat, Malloy Center
- September 22—Deadline for October newsletter information
- September 30—Big Church Night Out, Ford Park Arena, Beaumont, 6 p.m. (doors open)

SAVE THE DATE

COMING
UP

Postponed or
Cancelled by
Harvey

Upcoming Events:

- October 1—*Moses: In the Footsteps of the Reluctant Prophet* Bible Study begins in
New Beginnings Sunday School Class
- October 14—Change the World
- October 15—ONE 11 a.m. service at Halliburton Pavilion at Claiborne Park followed
by a Covered Dish Lunch
- October 19-22—Emmaus Women's Retreat, Malloy Center
- October 22—**Home Fire Safety Presentation**, 5 p.m.
- October 31—Maker Fun Fest



Like or follow:
FUMCOrangeTX

Ladies Bible Study

The Daniel Prayer

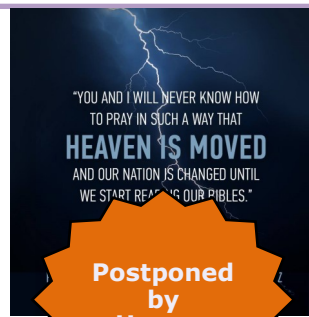
by Anne Graham Lotz

Sundays, Sept. 10 through Oct. 15

5-7 p.m. in Good News Classroom

Leighia Barron, Facilitator

Call Leighia Barron (409-745-1119) or church
office by Sunday, Sept. 3, to reserve a \$10 book.



Postponed
by
Harvey

ABOUT THE DANIEL PRAYER

In Daniel chapter 9, Daniel poured out his heart in prayer. What happened? Heaven was moved, a nation was changed, and generations felt the impact.

This is the kind of prayer that's possible for your life, and one that Anne Graham Lotz will help you understand in *The Daniel Prayer*.

The Daniel Prayer is not an everyday type of prayer. It's a prayer birthed under pressure. Heartache. Desperation. Grief. Or it can be triggered by a sudden revelation of hope. An answer to prayer. A promise freshly received. A miracle that lies just over the horizon. But whether you pray out of triumph or tragedy, The Daniel Prayer works.

This book, based on Daniel's prayer in Daniel 9, will help you pray effectively for your nation, for your family, and for yourself. Anne answers questions such as:

- How do I know the God to whom I pray will listen?
- How do I know God cares about my prayer?
- How do I know God will answer my prayer?
- Why should I pray?
- Does it matter where I am when I pray?
- Are words in prayer all that matter, or does my attitude affect prayer?
- What difference does my prayer make?

The Big Church
Night Out Tour
Sept. 30
Ford Park Arena



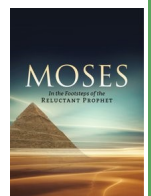
This tour featuring Newsboys is going to be epic with Sidewalk Prophets, 7evnth Time Down, Blanca, Derek Minor, Brock Gill, Adam Agee, Jamison Strain, hosted by Jeremy Willet.

Please [RSVP online](#) by **Tuesday, Sept. 13**, so FUMC can get a group discount rate on tickets together!
(Groups of 10+ = \$18/ticket)

New Beginnings Sunday School Class begins New Bible Study (October 1)

The New Beginnings Sunday school class invites you to a video series bible study beginning Sunday, Oct. 1, during the Sunday school hour (10-11 a.m.)! This class meets upstairs in the Family Life Center classroom on the left.

Come follow Adam Hamilton in *Moses: In the Footsteps of the Reluctant Prophet* as he travels from Egypt to the Red Sea, exploring the sites of Moses' life, gaining a better understanding of Moses' significance in your life today.



♥ BY GIVING SERVICE TO OTHERS, I GIVE SERVICE TO GOD. ♥


Jesus Taught us how to Serve Others


To volunteer to serve in one of these ministries, please call the church office (886-7466)

Do you shop at Kroger?
Rewards = \$146.25
 1st Qtr = \$65.07; 2nd = \$81.18
 Please take 2 minutes to sign up with your Plus Card. Once enrolled, you'll earn rewards for First UMC-Orange every time you shop and use your Kroger Plus Card!
 Go to www.kroger.com; click on Community-Community Rewards. Our church number is 80600.

Scribes Take Up Their Pens
 Help with Office Correspondence An hour once a month on Monday or Tuesday.
Sept 5 Louise Fuselier
Sept 11-12 Carol Izer
Sept 18-19 Betty James
Sept 25-26 Carolyn Spiers
Oct 2-3 Donna Bell
Oct 9-10 Isabell Burke
Oct 16-17 Deborah Bayliss
Oct 23-24 Elaine Cooper
 If unable to attend at the scheduled time, please trade with someone on the list. Thank you for serving!

Ministry Service Opportunities
Caring Ministry Team—Send out cards to our sick and homebound once a month.
Malloy Center Team—Serve as a Shepherd.
Kitchen Team—Keep the kitchen in order.
Church Maintenance Team— Help with small repair projects at the church (changing light bulbs, etc.)
 Call church office at 886-7466 to serve!

 **CHANGE the WORLD!**
 Change collected during each Sunday service supports local mission projects created by First UMC Orange to serve our community.



 Each month, the Disciple-Makers (formerly Christian Education) suggests several Random Acts of Kindness that we all can do in our community. These hands-on mission opportunities can serve as a testimony to our love—our love for God and our love for neighbor.
Random Acts of Kindness for September
 As we GROW in our Discipleship, we look for opportunities to serve others.

- Send a card to a college student (and maybe even a gift card)—Randall has a list of our college students.
- Bring a meal to a family—we have several families at FUMC that would love a cooked meal each week. If you'd like to help, please call the office.
- Volunteer to bring someone to Wednesday Night Live—many people find it hard to drive after dark.
- Recycle old blankets at a local animal shelter (Orange, Pinehurst, or West Orange)—the animals also enjoy new chew toys and treats.

No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.



Thanks to all who helped support the **Back-to-School Orange** event on August 5. FUMC helped with line control and distributed English/Spanish Bibles and deodorant from our booth. This inspirational verse was on each deodorant!

 **LSC-O VISITS**
 Once a week, a FUMC team goes to Lamar-Orange to talk with students and distribute useful items (pencils, pens, high-lighters, post-its, scantrons, etc.).
 Contact Randall to be a part of this team (you could come once or twice a month) OR you can bring any of the items above to be handed out!
 Randall Bridges, Dir. of Youth & Education randall@fumcorange.org 409-886-7466—office 832-226-4074—cell



Memorials:

Mary Louise McKee
 Rosalie Jones
 Sarah & Gwen Boehme
 Charlie & Beverly Blalack
 John & Gail Griffith
 Sandra Hoke
 Mr. & Mrs. R.R. Stalnaker Jr.
 Dee Culpepper
 Chrisleigh Dal Sasso
Mavis Powell
 Dee Culpepper
 Charlie & Beverly Blalack
 John & Gail Griffith

FUMC'S Annual Family Canoe Trip August 6

While the weather may have had other plans, the memories made and fellowship will last a lifetime!





The Glory of Love

Annual Dinner Theater Fundraiser

Sunday, August 20












Photo Credits:
Dalayna Sandlin

Communication

News—News@fumcorange.org

When you have something you want others to know about, please use the **NEWS RELEASE** form located on the church website—at the bottom of the home page or under **Resources—FUMC documents**. If you have pictures or other attachments you may send ONE email to those who work on the bulletins, newsletters, website, social media, print media, calendar, etc.

Prayer Blasts—Quick way to get prayer requests out = PrayerBlasts@fumcorange.org

Prayer Requests—For confidential prayers, use form on Intercessory Prayer webpage or send email to PrayerRequests@fumcorange.org Include an address to have a note of encouragement sent!

Calendar—To add or update something on the website calendar, please send an email to office@fumcorange.org

Wednesday Night Live—Fall 2017

September 13 - November 15

Meal/Fellowship at 5 p.m.; Topics/Classes at 6 p.m.

Postponed
by Harvey

Beginning at 5 p.m. enjoy a light meal and fellowship in the Family Life Center. Meals are \$5 for adults, \$2 for children, or \$15 for a family. At 6 p.m., the presentations and/or classes will begin. A nursery is provided for infants and preschoolers.

This year we will begin and end with presentations and have classes for six weeks.

September 13 – Drug Awareness Program presented by the Orange Police Department in the Family Life Center. They will provide information on drug awareness and give FUMC suggestions of how we can make a difference in our community with drug prevention, awareness, etc.

Meal: Salad Bar prepared/served by Altar Guild



September 20 – Human Trafficking presented by Harvest House of Beaumont. Harvest House outreach is a Christ-centered outreach and is dedicated to providing sex trafficking awareness and advocacy, mentoring, prevention and community mobilization. Their ultimate goal is a long-term rehabilitation center for adolescent victims of sex trafficking.

Did you know:

- On the average, human trafficking victims are 11–14 years old.
- The I-10 corridor is the number one route for sex trafficking
- The average life expectancy of a victim is seven years (after entering the human trafficking life)

****A love offering will be collected to present to Harvest House to help continue their work in Human Trafficking. ****

Meal: Soft Tacos prepared/served by Richard & Leighia Barron



September 27 – Six-Week Classes begin (through October 25) (Books are \$10 for each class.)

Meal: Bacon-wrapped Pork Tenderloin prepared/served by the Missions Team

While children and youth attend age-appropriate classes, adults can choose from one of these studies:

**Max Lucado's
Life Lessons:
The Study of Mark –A
Life Changing Story**
(facilitator:
Suzanne Magee)

The Life Lessons series brings the New Testament to life through lessons filled with intriguing questions, inspirational storytelling, profound reflections, and space for journaling. This group will finish the lessons which they started during the spring session.

**November 8 -
CPS / CASA**

**November 15 -
TBA**

**The Five Love Languages:
How to Express Heartfelt
Commitment to Your Mate**
by Gary Chapman
(facilitators: Ron & Bonnie Hopperton)

Learn the five ways to express and experience love that Chapman calls "love languages": gift giving, quality time, words of affirmation, acts of service (devotion), and physical touch. Examples are given from his counseling practice, as well as questions to help determine one's own love languages.

Chapman suggests that to discover another person's love language, one must observe the way they express love to others, and analyze what they complain about most often and what they request from their significant other most often. He theorizes that people tend to naturally give love in the way that they prefer to receive love, and better communication between couples can be accomplished when one can demonstrate caring to the other person in the love language the recipient understands.

**Let It Go: How to Stop Running the
Show and Start Walking in Faith**
by Karen Ehman
(facilitator: Gwen Whitehead)

Many women are wired to control. You're the ones who make sure the house is clean, the meals are prepared, the beds are made, the children are dressed, and everyone gets to work, school, and other activities on time. But trying to control everything can be exhausting, and it can also cause friction with your friends and family. This humorous, yet thought-provoking book guides you as you discover for yourself the freedom and reward of living a life "out of control," in which you allow God to be seated in the rightful place in your life. Armed with relevant Biblical and current examples (both to emulate and to avoid), doable ideas, new thought patterns, and practical tools to implement, *Let It Go* will gently lead you out of the land of over-control and into a place of quiet trust.

FUMC Orange VCI Update August 2017



Vision Statement—**COMPLETED**, presented to the congregation, posted to website and implementation in progress in other areas:

Rooted in Christ...Branching out in Faith...Disciples Growing Disciples

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Through Christ, we will facilitate the transformation of individuals into His people and our community into His community!

At First UMC-Orange we **grow** disciples who **grow** disciples!

It is just that simple! It's what we do!

**REVIEW OF MINISTRY, PROGRAM AND ACTIVITY TO ALIGN TO THE MISSION AND VISION OF CHURCH –
TO BE COMPLETED** – Team selected - training to be provided for this process.

PRESCRIPTION #1

Improve Utilization of Space and Hospitality Efforts

1) Space Utilization – **IN PROGRESS**

- Review utilization of Family Life Center to focus primarily on youth and activities.
- Sanctuary under review for updates to accommodate the Praise service and improve the worship experience for all services.
- Downstairs youth room being arranged to accommodate Lamar State College students for a study/coffee area.
- Malloy Center under review to increase utilization – maintenance, appearance, accommodations, pricing and marketing.
- Other areas will be considered as programs are reviewed.

2) Hospitality – **IN PROGRESS**

- Signage – **NEARING COMPLETION**
- Evaluation of childcare possibilities – **IN PROGRESS**

PRESCRIPTION #2

Assess Leadership and Restructure to Single-Board Model

- One Board in place – **COMPLETED**
- Equip and empower current leaders as well as identify and equip future leaders of the church with special attention given to matching an individual's gifts with their leadership role – **IN PROGRESS**

PRESCRIPTION #3

Refine Strategies for Communication

- Communication workshop – **COMPLETED**
- Guest Follow-Up Procedures - **COMPLETED**
- Wonderful new church website! - **COMPLETED**

PRESCRIPTION #4

Strive Toward Excellence in Worship and Faith Formation For All

1) Worship Excellence Team

- Church-wide worship workshops by Dr. Craig Gilbert – **COMPLETED**
- Develop and present a plan to meet worship staffing/resources – **IN PROGRESS**
- Evaluate worship experience, examine use of multi-media, music, equipment, worship spaces and times – **IN PROGRESS**

2) Evaluate Current Disciple Making Opportunities –

TO BE COMPLETED

- Create opportunities to share God stories with the congregation on a consistent and regular basis (in person, written or pre-recorded)
- Read and discuss MOVE by Greg Hawkins
- Review discipleship workshop available from the Ascending Leaders organization and determine its merit to be presented as an additional resource
- Develop pathways to spiritual growth in children, youth and adults

PRESCRIPTION #5

Improve Relational Bridge-Building

- Community Connection Team formed to research and act upon the needs of the people in the local community and gaps in services – **IN PROGRESS**
- Conduct two community events (at no charge to the public and not specifically for our members) to reach new people, build relationships and invite them to worship – **TO BE COMPLETED**
- Conduct two events to go out into the community to serve others and visibly share God's love. – **TO BE COMPLETED**
- ***The intention is for the entire church to be involved in all of the above events. The best strategies must be utilized to promote the planned events to the entire church to keep them informed and engaged.***