

*Our vision: We are a large, dynamic, multicultural, intergenerational congregation growing in our relationship with one another and with Jesus Christ to be His hands, feet, and voice in the world.*

*Our Purpose: To come to know the love of Christ and to make His love known to others for the transformation of the world.*

## **Strategic Action Leadership Team (SALT) Second Quarter 2017 Quarterly Review April – May - June**

**Chair's Report:** This is your Second Quarter 2017 Strategic Action Leadership Team (SALT) report. The various ministries and the staff continue to work on the SALT-approved 2017 goals. Some of the details of what the various ministries are working on are found below. Additionally, the Team is preparing for the strategic directions off-site meeting. Our goal for the off-site is to come to agreement on NCUMC's strategic direction for the next 10 years. We will be using the data gathered from the congregation from the various surveys taken over the last year. The Third Quarter Review will be the Charge Conference to be scheduled in the Fall. SALT meeting minutes for April and May (no SALT meeting in June) are available upon request from the Church Office. POC: Larry Taylor (352) 750-9092

**Ministry Team Report:** New Covenant has ministry teams at each of our two campuses with over 90 ministries involved with: Care, Children & Families, Connecting Ministries, Discipleship, Evangelism, Hospitality, Men's Ministry, Outreach, Small Groups, Solo Flight, Women's Ministry and Youth Ministry.

### Second Quarter Highlights:

- Gleaning: 110 volunteers delivered 27,998 pounds of fresh fruit and vegetables to 15 food pantries & soup kitchens in Marion, Lake & Sumter counties.
- Handy Fellows North volunteers repaired: toilets, sinks, faucets, and kitchen lights, installed handicap ramp, threshold, door lock; and replaced ceiling fan and shower head for local home owners.
- Wildwood Food Pantry remodeled the client intake room; added continuous staples of milk, laundry detergent, and eggs for distribution to over 180 clients; and initiated a Mobile Pantry Program, initially delivering food monthly to 17 shut-in families in Royal.
- The Helping Hands ministry continued to make numerous home repairs and worked on our 27<sup>th</sup> home through our 100+ volunteers. Another 200 volunteers continued to operate our Helping Hands thrift store, Bargains & Blessings, in Wildwood, FL, with pick-up, in-take and delivery.
- Residents Encounter Christ (REC): Our 71st team of REC Believers completed a 3-day weekend, sharing the Word with residents in Sumter & Orange county jails. Powerful testimonies were shared, and many residents recommitted or made first-time commitments of faith.
- Discipleship: Disciple 1 and Disciple 4 classes were taught at the Summerhill campus; a Disciple 1 class was started at the Lake Deaton campus; Women's Bible Study led 87 women through Broken and Blessed; a summer session on "Epic of Eden" for men & women became a popular study; Men's Community Bible Study had 45 participants studying the book of Acts; Women's Community Bible Study shared the book of Matthew with 175 participants; Emmaus sponsored walks for men and women; our library volunteers continued working on a history of ministries at New Covenant with leadership guides for each ministry; and a new Spirited Singles Sunday School class was started this year.
- God is blessing Connect Small Groups at the Summerhill Campus! Our vision is that every attendee will engage in a "healthy" Connect Small Group focused on spiritual growth, meaningful relationships with God and each other, support and care for each other and as a group serving others by being the hands, feet, voice of Jesus. Connection, Caring, Community, Christ-Centered are the cornerstones of a healthy small groups. So much has happened in 2017. Be on the lookout for more information in a future bulletin.

To accommodate our continued growth, we have increased and restructured our Hospitality teams with Connecting Ministry. New Covenant staff member Kathy Hudak Yoakum is now Coordinator of Connecting Ministry for both the Summerhill and Lake Deaton campuses. POC Summerhill: Dick Maxfield (352) 259-0244 and POC Lake Deaton: Kerry Hughes (225) 281-1858

**Staff Parish Relations Team:** With high ratings, the Annual Assessments of New Covenant's appointed clergy were submitted to the District Superintendent. Reviews of compensation and benefits for both clergy and staff were started in preparation for the 2018 budget. Future staffing needs at both Lake Deaton and Summerhill are being identified. Staffing changes were announced or implemented this quarter in Finance, Fresh Expressions, Worship, and Celebrate Recovery. Pastor Michael Beck was ordained a Full Elder and Christine Webb was licensed a Local Pastor at the Florida Annual Conference in Orlando in June. POC: Don Whipp (352) 751-0199

**Servant Leadership Development Team:** SLDT has been busy identifying and inviting members of our church to serve in leadership positions starting in 2018. Our goal is to have all positions filled by our annual Charge Conference in October. We are also beginning the planning process for our annual Leadership Conference. As our church is rapidly growing and welcoming new leadership, we will strive to provide learning opportunities to enhance the personal and group spiritual growth of all our teams and committees. POC: Doris Drewes (352) 425-4725

**Finance Team:** At the end of June 2017, our Operating Income was below budget by \$109,164 year to date which we responded to by reducing our expenses. We have paid additional principal of \$285,864 this year, which brings our loan balance to \$4,561,317. Also, against the Lake Deaton New Construction pledge of \$1,588,970, we have received \$593,142. We need your faithful financial commitment to our Operating Income in order to provide the quality ministries of NCUMC. Additionally, our CPA firm PSK, LLC completed a financial review and reported that our financials are in very good order. POC: Gene Wicklander (352) 750-9915

**Trustees Chair:** In addition to monitoring the day-to-day activities of Church property, the Trustees provided oversight of the Risk Management/Security Committee, and approved their recommendations to add additional security cameras and revise our counting procedures. The Trustees also approved new signage for church vehicles, as well as approving the purchase of picnic tables for the use of the Youth and Staff. In support of the Helping Hands Ministry, the Trustees accepted the donation of a building lot from the City of Wildwood for a future Helping Hands home. We continue to monitor our spending and work to improve the appearance of our grounds and buildings. POC: Carl Pearson (703) 994-1043

**Summerhill Lay Leader:** Over the last quarter, all committees continue to perform very efficiently, with a wonderful group of very talented and caring people. Over the last quarter, most of the questions from the congregation is with respect to the status of the Lake Deaton building plans, which are coming along. The most significant happening over the last quarter is the approval of a \$5 million loan through the Methodist Foundation. We met with Steve Doll representing Cook builders on July 13th. We still do not have "a number" for the builder contract as we continue to try to bring the project home on budget. Unfortunately, building costs have risen over 35% in the last two years, so we most likely will need to revise our budget. We will be meeting in the next few weeks to determine how to proceed, and we do hope to begin construction in September. Meetings over the past quarter with Pastor Harold and Pastor Jim have continued, and all seems to be good in their worlds. In summary, all leaders and our pastors are working very hard to meet the objectives as defined by SALT. POC: Randy Rimington (352) 446-1487

**Lake Deaton Pastor and Lay Leader:** The Lake Deaton campus continues to thrive! We celebrated an amazing time on Easter Sunday by holding three full worship services. We were recently honored with a presentation by award-winning recording artist Gordon Mote who lifted us with music and song! Our Men's and Women's Ministries continue to be active, and both are growing and working to connect men and women into the life of the church. We continue to build relationships with Wildwood Elementary School, via service projects at the campus, as well as appreciating the teachers and staff with monthly small gifts of encouragement. The Small Groups at Lake Deaton are the BOMB! (Thank you to Pastor Kristyne, who asks for a woot woot!!!) We currently have 30 small groups with 293 members!!!! Those would be ACTIVE small groups with 293 members. We ask for your continued prayers and support as we widen our outreach through various ministries. Finally, we are anxiously looking forward to the beginning of construction of the Lake Deaton building! POC: Pastor Jim Divine and Mike Herzberg (352) 693-5639

**At-Large Member:** The Strategic Direction Task Force, also known as the Vision Team, has completed several elements of its project plan. After spending time reviewing the current context of NCUMC and discussing what a clear Vision Statement should be like, the team set about to gather data. Following research and discussion, the team selected ten specific questions to ask the Congregation. An electronic survey was developed and administered; over 600 responses were obtained. The team carefully analyzed each question and developed common themes from the data. They then researched other church and organization Vision statements, and created some of their own. Over 50 statements were considered. The team narrowed the list to five and will be proposing them to SALT at a working session on August 15<sup>th</sup>. Next steps in the plan will be revisited after the results of that work session are known. POC: Chuck Mallue (352) 391-9755

**Senior Pastor:** Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I am pleased to share that New Covenant continues to grow and flourish. We are blessed to live in a vibrant and thriving community. However, despite all the beauty and splendor, there are thousands of people who don't recognize Jesus as Lord. There are many people, not only in The Villages, but also in the surrounding community, who are hurting, broken, and in need. These are our neighbors. Christ's call for all is to "Love Him and our Neighbor." Our church continues to answer that command by living out, and into, "being the hands, feet and voice of Jesus Christ."

Many marvelous things continue to happen as Christ is using our church as a conduit of love. Our attendance has increased at an 8.5 % rate from this time last year. Worshipping Jesus Christ continues to be our primary focus. Hence, the reason we are expanding our "Fresh Expression" ministry in taking the "Gospel" out to the community. Many unchurched people in Assisted Living and Nursing Facilities are being reached. Our financial giving has been strong as we meet our budgetary needs and continue to pay down our debt. Our Stewardship Task Force continues to seek out new ways of presenting our financial needs to best serve our vision. As our congregation continues to give generously, we are on track to eliminate our Summerhill debt in the next 6 years. So far this year, our Care ministry has made over 525 visits, which include prayer calls and sharing Holy Communion with those who are unable to attend worship. Our Connectional ministry is committed to keeping people "in the loop" so that no one "falls through the cracks." Coming this fall, our Discipleship ministry is planning a new small group study which will parallel our sermon series. Our Outreach ministry continues to build homes, feed the poor, visit the prisons, mentor at-risk kids, alleviate the pain of the addicted, and counsel the broken in spirit. The list goes on.

We have accomplished a great deal, but there is still much to do. Thank you for the continued support of New Covenant United Methodist Church, a place to call home! POC: Senior Pastor Harold Hendren (352) 750-4529