

*Our Mission: To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the World.
Our Vision: To be a thriving body of Christ by being His hands, feet, and voice in the World.*

**Strategic Action Leadership Team (SALT)
Second Quarter 2018 Review
April – May – June**

Senior Pastor: Our vision statement states we are to be a “thriving body of Christ...” Thriving indicates growth. New Covenant is committed to growing the Kingdom of God for Christ. Some indicators that we continue to thrive is our average worship attendance has increased almost 10% from this time last year. Once again, *Outreach Magazine* has named New Covenant as one of the top “100 Fastest-Growing Churches in America.” More people are coming to know the love of Jesus Christ through our worship services, small groups, and Bible study ministries. We also continue to build unity between both campuses. Creating a cohesive bond between the two allows us to strengthen our church and expand our opportunities to reach more people. As our Lake Deaton Campus raises out of the ground, and draws closer to completion, our new site presents an abundance of new life. The “Good News” is if we are offering “new life,” then New Covenant must be raising “up” Christ for all to see.

POC: Pastor Harold (352) 750-4529

Chair’s Report: The second quarter of this year been primarily spent identifying the resources and staffing required to assure a successful launch of the Lake Deaton Campus later this year. Budget constraints, organizational structure options and external research have all been considered. NCUMC’s Strategic Objectives were prioritized as part of the process.

POC: Chuck Mallue (352) 391-9755

Ministry Team Report: Summerhill

- Care: Plans are being completed for the launch of two new ministries, Healing Care and Congregational Care Ministry initiative.
- Children and Families: A shift in focus to a “family focused” direction was implemented. Beach had a farewell program honoring its volunteers of the past 8 years. A Walk Through Holy Week Interactive experience was held for families. Twenty-five parents and grandparents attended a class on technology and a spiritual household. 47 kids, from Kindergarten through 8th grade, participated in the Upward Basketball Camp this year.
- Connect Small Groups: 40 facilitators, co-facilitators and spouses attended a Facilitators Luncheon to get acquainted, share ideas, and discuss how Connect Small Groups link to NCUMC’s vision, mission and values. A Facilitators Training was attended by 6 new facilitators.
- Discipleship: All classes and programs came to a successful end this quarter with plans being made for the fall.
- Men’s Ministry: The Spring retreat, *Recover the Bible*, and make up sessions were well received. Handy Fellas completed 12 volunteer job requests and built 12 headboards for Beds and Blankets.
- Outreach: 24 high-security residents participated in a 3-day weekend with Residents in Christ (REC). The Wildwood Soup Kitchen served 22,073 meals (14,000 homebound) and prepared 1,500 snack packs for children in the Wildwood Elementary and Center Hill Mission. Beds and Blankets delivered 20 bed sets for a total of 71 beds YTD. Helping Hands finished and dedicated home #28 for a mother and her four children. The Wildwood Food Pantry distributed 81,525 pounds of food and fresh produce to 1,382 families, feeding a total of 2,906 family members. Voices for Children assisted 29 foster children with clothing.
- Singles Ministry: The decision was made to roll the Solo Flight Singles ministry into the Spirited Singles Sunday School Class beginning this fall. Additional programs/events are being planned.
- Women’s Ministry: The April and May monthly gatherings were sold out with 280 women attending each month. \$993 was raised to purchase children’s books in addition to 400 books being donated in April. In May, \$1,086 was raised for Operation Shoe Box supporting our military troops.
- Worship: The second Saturday Night Pot Luck was attended by 140 people. The Celebrate America worship services were exceptional with over 1,800 attending the two services. Ushers received training on disaster response and emergency procedures in May. New Attendance Pads were implemented and have been well received.
- Youth: Eighteen 9th-12th graders served alongside other youth through the M25 Mission Program in June, serving the inner-city homeless population of Atlanta, GA. We held the Spring Semi-annual Car Wash fundraiser which raised approximately \$1,500 for youth mission trips. In May, four young girls were confirmed in The United Methodist Church and two of them were also baptized!

POC: Summerhill: Ron Huisman (352) 430-2716

Ministry Team Report: Lake Deaton

- 29 active Faith Groups
- Faith Group Leaders trained
- 78 attendees at Women’s Conference at Summerhill campus
- Risk assessment to ensure seamless move into Lake Deaton Church (ongoing)
- Pastor Jim Divine and Darrel Elijah took an exciting and beneficial trip to Argentina as part of the Florida Coalition. The Coalition was established by the Bishop to find open doors for a relationship with the Argentina Methodist Church.

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- ZOE International – made 3-year commitment to support orphans in India with trip planned in 2019 by Lake Deaton members
- Startup of Wildcat Booster Club completed in 2Q18
- Recognized by Wildwood Elementary school for completed projects performed by Lake Deaton NCUMC.
- Construction of new church is underway and is on schedule for November 2018 move in

POC: Kerry Hughes (225) 281-1858

Staff Parish Relations Team: At each monthly meeting, we have a Director introduce himself/herself and staff to our SPRT, helping us to get to know them and understand their responsibilities better. We also have monthly staff updates and Pastors' reports. With a church and staff of our size, it seems that there is always something going on. Our second quarter staff appreciation event was a Pizza Luncheon...to be followed by a summer Ice Cream Social in August. The clergy performance assessments were completed and sent to the District Office by the end of May. One change we intend for next year's performance assessments is to have every SPRT member rate our clergy for a total of 10-11 ratings. In the recent past, we had three teams of three members each handle the assessments, three for each clergy position. Pastor Jim Divine approached the SPRT concerning financial assistance to pursue a Doctorate degree. A small committee was assigned to study and discuss the issue - and make a recommendation to the team for a final decision. SPRT decided to provide partial financial assistance within stated parameters. Dates were set for promoting our clergy Love Offering and holding our Christmas Staff and Service Awards Luncheon. The 2019 Holiday Schedule was approved. At the close of the second quarter we are working on our 2019 Clergy and Staff Projections in preparation for our 2019 Financial Budget.

POC: Don Buckey (919) 662-6360

Servant Leadership Development Team: All but one leadership position has been identified for 2019. Once we have that position filled and vetted, we will submit the roster to SALT for approval. Our next assignment is to begin the planning process for the 2019 LEAD Conference.

POC: Arba Thomas (352) 750-9221

Finance Team: At the end of June 2018, our Operating Income was below budget by \$28,164 and our expenses were below budget by \$276,381, resulting in a Net Income of \$163,445. Our current loan balance at Summerhill is \$3,706,697 and at Lake Deaton it is \$1,984,151. The construction at Lake Deaton continues as scheduled. Your faithful financial support of NCUMC is appreciated as we continue to be the Hands, Feet and Voice of Jesus Christ in this community. Please pray about your financial commitment to your church in order that we may continue to be a financially-healthy church.

POC: Gene Wicklander (352) 750-9915

Trustees Chair: The focus is to oversee and maintain all church property. We continue to maintain the facilities well within the approved budget. The Trustees have worked closely with our Risk Management Committee to address and improve safety and security for NCUMC and Bargains & Blessings. We also monitored the repair of the sound system in the CLC with the replacement of the center speakers.

POC: Bob Koehling (352) 304-0144

Summerhill Lay Leader: Both Summerhill and Lake Deaton continue to grow and show quarterly increases in attendance compared to last year. The staff and Leadership committees are diligently working together towards the vision of one church with two campuses. Our church leaders recognize their responsibility of their leadership and take accountability for the success of New Covenant and their commitment to make disciple of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

POC: Bob Becker (352) 430-0522

Lake Deaton Pastor and Lay Leader: The Lake Deaton campus continues to thrive because of our focused radical hospitality and outreach. There has been an amazing amount of progress in the construction of the Lake Deaton Campus. The building is now at a point where interior finishing is beginning. Soon, the floors will be finished, lighting fixtures installed, and all utilities will be operational. Plans are well underway for our move from Eisenhower Recreation Center to our new facility. There are many events being planned leading up to our official grand opening. These include a welcoming BBQ for all our new neighbors in the communities nearest to the Campus as well as training for all our volunteer staff. Tentative plans are for the official grand opening to be on the first Sunday of Advent. This building will serve as a bridge between New Covenant UMC and our surrounding communities. We have enjoyed meaningful worship experiences each Sunday, including two very special messages shared with us by Bishop Ken Carter. We now find special meaning when we say "...one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world!" The Lake Deaton leaders have been busy planning for the many Wednesday evening Faith Formation offerings which will begin in the late summer, with more than ten different offerings. We continue to seek volunteers to offer the hospitality of their homes so that we have sufficient spaces in which to host these offerings. Our Small Groups continue to multiply in numbers. Small Groups are the key to our campus remaining "small" as we continue to grow. We are thankful for all those who have offered their homes and time to host and facilitate these groups. We ask for your continued prayers and support as we widen our outreach through various ministries.

POC: Pastor Jim Divine (352) 750-4529 and Mike Herzberg (352) 693-5639