

Good Shepherd UMC

Our Vision 2007-2011

Second Anniversary – May 2009

John 15:5b

“Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.”

Our Vision

We envision Good Shepherd UMC being a church:

Where Christian hospitality is extended to all and diversity is celebrated,

Where the love and grace of God are encountered,

passion abounds and lives are transformed,

Where we live out the Kingdom of God as a present reality through worship, education, care and

mission

Where we live out of our baptism thus bearing fruit worthy of our calling as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Where the light of Christ is carried forward into the community and world

Our Purpose

Good Shepherd Church exists as an instrument of God's grace to build a community of hope and peace where lives are transformed into the image of Christ.

“Where lives are transformed through grace.”

Reach


Purpose

Reach out actively to welcome others


High population growth in the surrounding zip codes is expected over the next five years. Good Shepherd must be visible to those beyond our congregation. We must be proactively welcoming rather than waiting for people to find us.

Goals & Target Dates


Research starting a ministry in the CrossRidge community – 2007

-  -- 100%
- After study, it was decided that many new residents of CrossRidge are coming to Good Shepherd rather than remaining at home. We believe our resources are best used to develop other programs. We will not pursue an intentional ministry inside CrossRidge.


Maximize the potential of youth ministry as a doorway for family entry into the congregation – 2007

-  -- 50%
- Full-time youth minister with emphasis on bringing new families into the church community
- In January 2009 one third of youth were non-members of Good Shepherd
- Winter 2009 – started the FUEL Mid-Week News for parents, including parents of youth who have not participated in FUEL in the past year. Less than 10 of those parents have opted out of the FUEL Mid-Week.
- Sunday night adult small groups – invited parents of youth to participate – 10 parents joined
- Next Steps:
 - Have youth minister work closely with Reaching and Becoming Ministries

Increase awareness of Good Shepherd via external signage – 2008


-  -- 100%
- New sign erected September 2008. Visitors say it is one of the three most notable reasons they attend

Develop a plan for becoming a 'congregation of ambassadors' of Christ & GSUMC – 2008


-  -- 75%
- Ambassadors is defined as 'radical hospitality'
- Reaching Ministries has seven step plan to address many steps of which are in place
 - We maintain a map of our campus on the web
 - We have signs on our campus that direct guests
 - We staff Wistar Hall with Greeters and Welcome Desk Attendants

- We have folks in our hospitality area
- We recognize and welcome guests
- We invite our guests to communicate to us
- We communicate with our guests
- Foster a highly invitational congregation atmosphere -- Wistar Hall has been adapted to be visitor friendly with monitor, welcome desk, coffee. Also, church tours are offered weekly, Starting Point and 'Coffee, Chai and Chat'
- Exterior directional signage will be erected as funds become available


Evaluate internal directional/informational signage – 2008

-  -- 100%
- Directional signage is located throughout the building
- Meeting locations are posted on bulletin board inside main entrance each week

Assign a higher priority to use of the web site as means of communicating within and beyond the congregation – 2008

-  -- 100%
- Ongoing
- Web site has been revamped and is one of the three most noted reasons visitors come to worship
- Next Steps
 - Revamp youth web site
 - Upgrade website to include on-line payment, streamline messages and encourage members and ministries to use web-site as a one-stop source of information (Summer 09)

Meet the spiritual needs and expectations of our diverse neighbors, guests, and members – 2009

-  -- 75%
- Pumpkin Palooza and Pumpkin Sale are making Good Shepherd visible to the community
- Relationship with Longen Elementary School allows us to respond to needs anticipated and emergency
- Career Connect is bringing in persons from community
- Next Steps
 - Better connection with Reaching and Becoming Ministries– from the door to the small group

Belong

Purpose

Assimilate new members into the congregation so they know they belong.

People, in general, are looking for a place they belong, where people know their name, and where they are missed when absent. Once at Good Shepherd, we must do all we can to move our guests to a point of having developed ties of belonging. Some have described this as ‘...not only opening the front door but closing the back door.’

Goals & Target Dates

Create an increased sense of congregational unity (versus a sense of separation brought about by three worship services and others groupings) – 2007

- -- 75%
- Fifth Sunday worship brings all three worshipping congregations together
- Dinners held at church during lent
- Worship hospitality on all Sundays encourages relationships
- Better coordination and understanding between traditional services and Sanctus
- Belonging Ministries has many programs that accomplish this goal such as prayer shawls, Stephen Ministry, “We prayed for you” cards, prayer circle, etc.

Evaluate current communication channels for clarity, openness, and healthy interactions – 2009

- -- 80%
- All publications have been reformatted and under constant evaluation
- Mid-Week announcements
- Funding sub-committee monitors how many times we ask people for money and/or service
- Next Steps –
 - o Consider including videos of mission, youth, children and other groups in worship
 - o Consider member profile through on-line pictorial directory could include ways to help other members such as job or hobby (with disclaimer)

Develop small groups organically (i.e. through invitation versus assignment) – 2010

- -- 50%
- Create additional small group opportunities -- 2008-09 small group participation increased by more than 250%. Offering 4-5 weeknight studies and one day study. In fall 2009, a senior adult study group will begin. Continue to reach out to the 18-25 group through Common Ground. New groups are constantly considered

Become


Purpose

Create opportunities for all who enter to grow deeper in their faith and more like Christ


The purpose of the Church is to be a means for all of God's children growing more like Christ by becoming disciples. This is more important than even church membership. We must ensure our worship structure and campus are designed to best facilitate this growth.

Goals & Target Dates


Review all Sunday morning worship services – 2007

-  -- 100%
- Traditional worship and Sanctus have very clear objectives
- Explore 'age appropriate' worship -- Kidz Worship has been created
- Next Steps
 - o Sound/Media/Chancel upgrade in process
 - o Sanctus leadership has been expanded to include a 25-hour leader


Expand the leadership pool – 2008

-  -- 80%
- Lay leadership is involving new leaders
- Staff have created advisory councils to involve newer members
- Training is provided for leaders


Enhance methods of discerning and using our personal call and gifts, including for local church and community leadership – 2008

-  -- 25%
- Working with persons identified as called to ministry careers. Offer internships.
- Reaching and Becoming Ministries are working on a process to work with persons from first interest in Good Shepherd until involved in a small group and/or leadership
- Spring 2008-Fall 09 offered Ministry Discovery. 60 people have participated with several taking the next step in exploring using their gifts and talents.
- Next step
 - o Include an on-line spiritual gifts profile on website, integrate with Starting Point, etc.

Evaluate current ministry structure (CRREWS) in light of new vision – 2009

-  -- 100%
- CRREWS have been renamed and realigned with vision

Increase congregational engagement in spiritual development ~ 2010

-  -- 50%
- Using resource "Deepening Your Effectiveness" to work with new members from first interest in Good Shepherd until involved in a small group and/or leadership
- Evaluate effectiveness of current worship for children and youth ~ Offered KidzWorship at 11 a.m. ~ after 9 months the service has not attracted the numbers of children initially thought it would attract. Average 10 or less per week. Many of the families who initially said they would like this opportunity continue to attend only one service while their children are in S.S. Need to re-evaluate.


Develop a recommendation for the design of the entire campus ~ 2011

-  -- 0%

Host a Spiritual Leadership School ~ 2011

-  -- 0%

Develop a congregational understanding of stewardship and joyful giving as means of becoming, and fruits of being, a disciple ~ 2011

-  -- 50%
- Fall 2008 campaign saw remarkable progress toward this goal
- Utilizing current small groups for stewardship studies proves effective
- Next Steps ~
 - Integrate a small group study into the annual campaign using established groups rather than new groups. For example, the study used in 2008 with the Finance Committee (established) was more successful than new groups formed for this study
 - Integrate stewardship into classes for new members and discipleship growth

Live

Purpose

Instill in all who are part of Good Shepherd an understanding that "life is mission".

We live out of a personal mission. As disciples of Jesus Christ we accept the larger mission of living the kingdom of God where ever we go. Mission is an intentional awareness of, and a willingness to serve, the needs of others. It also means getting beyond ourselves and our self-centeredness.


Mission is not just another thing the Church does; it is a means of growing more deeply as disciples of Jesus Christ. Mission stands at the very core of who Good Shepherd perceives itself to be and visions itself to be ever becoming.

Goals & Target Dates

Building mission awareness – 2007

-  -- 100%
- Mission moments and Kidz with Purpose. Hope chest.


Identify new mission opportunities – 2008

-  -- 90%
- Form relationship with “Sibling” congregation: Local and World
 - Task force to identify sibling congregation – Had 2009 Good Friday service with St. Peter’s Episcopal in Church Hill. They would like to further the relationship
 - Work with Asbury Church Hill UMC during their summer camp arts experience – Completed and offered to those who wish to participate
 - Finding a local church in the world of United Methodism to form a sister relationship with has not been pursued
- Targeted opportunities are publicized for entire congregation
- Explore participation in “Community of Shalom.” -- Work with UMUMR/ Shalom Zones to claim our connection with City of Richmond – Worked with UMUMR housing project. Plans to tour Shalom Farm at Westview August 2009.


Fund missions – 2009

-  -- 50%
- Experience shows that raising funds for specific missions is more effective than a general mission fund

Explore creation of staff position to coordinate mission activity – 2010

-  -- 100%
- Staff responsibility shift has made this possible earlier than expected

Create a congregational understanding of life as mission, ourselves as missionaries seeking out mission opportunities, and the transformative power of mission – 2011

-  -- 100%
- Connecting mission with hope
- Hope Chest with opportunities for mission
- Sharing of Hope regular part of worship
- Good Shepherd is becoming known as the “Hope Church”

Legend:  = Completed  = In Process  = Not yet started

Gather Us In

Here in this place new light is streaming, now is the darkness vanished away,
see in this space our fears and our dreamings, brought here to you in the light of this
day.

Gather us in the lost and forsaken, gather us in the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken, we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young our lives are a myst'ry, we are the old who yearn for your face,
we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry, called to be light to the whole human race.

Gather us in the rich and the haughty, gather us in the proud and the strong;
give us a heart so meek and so lowly, give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we will take the wine and the water, here we will take the bread of new birth,
here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth.

Give us to drink the wine of compassion, give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven, light years away,
but here in this place the new light is shining, now is the Kingdom, now is the day.

Gather us in and hold us forever, gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.