

## Prayer Plan & Status Summaries by Groups – Oct 24 2011

*(italics in brackets are status updates)*

### Evangelism – Jane Galley

- Per Pastor Bill's request, we are organizing 36 witnesses (3 per weekend – once a month) to share how prayer has been important in their life. *[Doe Zwick made first invitation on Sep 25.]*
- Make up laminated cards to put in prominent places (e.g., bathroom mirror). "Thank you God for \_\_\_\_\_"
- Explain prayer "formula" acronym: ACTS – adoration, confession, thanksgiving, supplication.
- Prayer packets to be assembled and delivered to visitors and inactive members, including where to look in the Bible for help on a particular topic.
- Religious silicone bands as a reminder to pray.
- "WHY" Adam Hamilton (small group home studies)

### Missions – Mindy Vyhnalek, Cathy Davis

- We will focus on incorporating prayer in our Mission Committee meetings. We will start and close our meetings with prayer led by committee members.
- We would like to increase awareness and, in turn, prayer for mission projects and missionaries around the world. Using the prayer calendar, we would choose a Mission Focus (person or project) to pray for (monthly). Through the Circuit Rider, church bulletins, and big screen in the church sanctuary, we will invite our church congregation to include this particular Mission Focus in their prayers. We will assign a member of our Mission Committee to choose the Mission Focus and write a short reminder to pray for this Mission Focus to be put in the Circuit Rider and church bulletins and/or communicate this on the website if bulletin/Circuit rider space is not available.

### Worship – Denny Kinkaid, Pastor Bill, Pastor Dusty

- Will discuss more at future meetings but do support the idea of prayer awareness and increased congregational participation in prayer.
- Do believe that silent prayer component needs evaluation (length and placement—possibly move to after the pastoral prayer).
- Possibly the pastors could conduct the pastoral prayer from the pulpit or amongst the congregation to include a congregational response (e.g., "Lord hear our prayer.") *[Expected to begin soon.]*
- *A screen slide is now included for the Lord's Prayer when this is recited in worship to help anyone who does not know it by heart.*
- *Pastors will start the practice of inspirational prayer for the one preaching prior to the sermon (or a lay person will do so).*

### Education – Peg Jeffres, Stephanie McLaughlin, Anne Kallesen

- Faith Five – a way for families to pray together in the home, which only takes 5 minutes. The program involves each family member sharing a high and low of the day, reading and briefly discussing a short scripture, praying together and giving a blessing to each family member. Implementation – video a family modeling the program, promos during church, showing a 55 minute video during Sunday School time (in two sessions in Fellowship Hall) – also available for checkout.)

- Upper Room – share this devotional with entire congregation. Implementation – video promo, witness of current users and what it has meant to them, give a copy of Nov-Dec Upper Room to everyone at church service. [Note this is underway as listed under Ministry Development Team].
- Pockets – Share this devotional for children (do not have a plan for this at this time).
- Offer an adult class on prayer (don't have a concrete plan at this time).

### **Communications Team – Doug Kallesen**

Make website improvements – on-line registration for prayer vigils, improve Devotionals page [done], highlight and support the prayer plans/opportunities of other groups, explore prayer blogging/social media application, promote/improve prayer request process on the website[done]. Council request to make prayer requests more prominent/easier (e.g., button on the home page) [done]. [Prayer Focus page has been added to the website.]

### **Ministry Development Team– Jamie Snyder, Doug Kallesen**

Team agreed to proceed with the promotion of use of devotionals by ordering 150 extra Upper Rooms (available for free), 20 When You Pray books (available for \$5.00), and info on access to electronic devotionals. Net cost will be covered by a donation. Will need to seek people to testify about the value of these devotionals, as a part of the explanation. [Many Upper Rooms were distributed after church on Oct 22/23. Also several copies of When You Pray and Bible on-year reading schedule were picked up by members. The website now has a Prayer Focus page as well as a Devotionals page. Promotion of prayer/devotionals will continue Oct 29/30. A Prayer Helps slip was distributed with the Oct 22/23 bulletins as follows:

**FUMC Prayer Helps – Your Bible** together with a one-year reading schedule (available); or [www.oneyearbibleonline.com](http://www.oneyearbibleonline.com)

**Paper devotionals** available: “Upper Room” (free); “When You Pray: Daily Practices for Prayerful Living”-Lectionary (\$5.00)

**Electronic devotional** links and email signups can be found at [www.columbusfumc.com](http://www.columbusfumc.com), go to Worship, go to Devotionals.

**29 Prayer Guides** from Christian Renewal Ministries at [www.crmin.org/prayerguide/prayer\\_guides.htm](http://www.crmin.org/prayerguide/prayer_guides.htm), including:

- The Lord’s Prayer (Matthew 6:9) including explanation and suggestions for each phrase
- A.C.T.S. – Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication (sharing our needs), including explanation
- Five Finger Prayer – Thumb (nearest), Pointing (instructors), Highest (leaders), Fourth (sick/need), Little (your needs).

**Prayer Requests–to FUMC:** 402-564-8463 or email Martha at [umcfirstcm@frontiernet.net](mailto:umcfirstcm@frontiernet.net), or go to [www.columbusfumc.com](http://www.columbusfumc.com)

Online- you can make a prayer request from the FUMC Home page, or go to the “Prayer Focus” or “Prayer Opportunities” pages in the Worship section. **If requesting from the Upper Room, call 1-800-251-2468 for live prayer.**

**Come to the special prayer service** 3rd Mondays of each month at 6:30 PM in the chapel parlor at the back of the sanctuary.]

### **Existing Prayer Ministries – Martha Davidson, Pastor Bill, Pastor Dusty**

- Prayer request “button” on website home page noted under Communications Team.
- Get word out (effective invitations) to the monthly prayer and healing service.
- Add another prayer team.
- Prayer team for pastors during worship services and for Sunday School classes

### **Youth Ministries – Judy Marshall, Pastor Dusty**

- Youth Ministry Team – meetings will start and close with prayer. All members will be urged to hold the youth and sponsors in their private prayers.
- Katalyst – open and close with a circle prayer. Youth will be gently urged to participate in the closing circle prayer. They will start a Pop for Prayer project. Whoever volunteers for opening prayer will receive a liter of soda. Other youth will receive a can of soda to encourage them to volunteer and participate.
- Fever will recruit youth to volunteer to open with prayer. They always close with a circle and prayer requests.
- Both groups already have resource material to use as devotion/lessons regarding prayer.
- 5-6 group (now named Spark or Sparks?) . For now the sponsors will open with prayer. They plan a closing prayer circle. They plan to have some lessons/discussions about prayer to help the kids develop prayer skills. The sponsors have asked the kids to bring their Bibles every week. Sponsors will also teach the kids the 5-finger prayer, put up a poster about it, and send home info so the parents can learn it and encourage the kids, too. Explanation of 5-finger prayer: thumb is for those closest; index is pointer for teachers and pastors; third finger is strongest for leaders, fourth is weakest for the weak and needy around us; little finger is for self and small people.
- As chair of Youth Ministry Team, I will remind and encourage the members and sponsors of these plans. I also will provide resources to help the sponsors follow their plans. And of course my private prayers will include all those associated with the youth groups.

### **Hispanic Ministries –**

This is a “work in progress” now that Sandy Sypherd is gone – Jamie Snyder is trying to gather some status and ideas.

### **Stephen Ministry – Pastor Dusty, Martha Davidson**

- Several thoughts were brought forward around the main idea of offering individual prayer during/after church services, including the possibility of all services, not just communion times. Initially, the plan is for two or more Stephen Ministers to be available at Saturday night services, and Dusty will introduce/promote prayer in a Saturday night service. Certainly the prayer persons could be non-Stephen ministers as well with a bit of direction.
- Already do prayer at beginning and end of ministry meetings, and will continue this practice.

### **Pastor Dusty**

- Is available for prayer, plus is working on personal prayer life.

### **Pastor Bill**

- Is open for prayer suggestions, plus is working on personal prayer life.

**UMW – Sandy Martensen**

- UMW opens and closes meetings with prayer, usually.
- Circles have prayer calendars.
- Will form a group of people to work on a prayer calendar for local needs as well in 2012.

**UMMen – Chuck Oxley**

UMMen will promote the Upper Room Living Prayer Line as a free, available service, and host two remotes in 2012 that will include an open invitation to anyone in the congregation to participate.

**GROW Men – Doug Kallesen**

GROW Men will include prayer in all meetings, sometimes breaking into small prayer groups, discuss our prayer experiences, and encourage daily devotions. We remain open to other men to join us and invite them to do so.

**SPEED – Pastor Dusty/Andy Alt**

- Will discuss possibilities.

**Finance – Doug Olson**

- Will ask for joys and concerns at the end of meetings.
- Will also include an encouragement to the congregation to work on giving.
- Will pray for each other on the committee.

**Memorial – Opal Greene**

- Committee opens and closes with prayer.

**Staff-Parish Relations – Jane Schneider**

- Committee opens and closes with prayer.
- Will make assignments to pray for the staff.
- Will pray for each other.

**Trustees – Al Pickrel**

- Will discuss opening and closing with prayer.

**Building – Carrol Pearson**

- Committee opens and closes with prayer.
- There is a prayer area designed into the new remodel plan.

**WAYS TO FACILITATE PRAYER IN SMALL GROUPS/COMMITTEES**

1. Place a candle in the middle of the table to remind the group of Jesus' presence with them. You can remind them that Jesus said, "I am the light of the world". Or light a candle and have members silently invite Jesus to be present with the group.

2. Invite members to observe a moment of silence and to release the cares and concerns of the day and ask God to prepare them for this time together and the ministry He calls them to.
3. Ask the group members to share a “high” or “low” from the previous week, then simply thank God for His presence in all our highs and lows.
4. Ask members to mention a joy or concern “popcorn” fashion as the prayer, and after each have the group say, “Lord, hear our prayer”.
5. If something comes up in the meeting that needs prayer (a difficult decision the group is trying to make, or a member mentions a serious concern, etc.)...stop and take a moment for silent prayer or, if you’re willing, say just a short prayer.
6. Close the meeting by joining hands and saying the Lord’s Prayer together.

### **List of Things to Pray About**

1. Our pastors and their families
2. Our church family
3. Missionaries
4. World leaders
5. Economic climate – unemployment
6. Our communities
7. Teenagers, babies and children
8. Spirit of depression – suicide
9. Spirit of fear
10. Loneliness
11. Greed
12. Pornography – lust, perversion, sensuality
13. Spirit of divorce
14. Cancer and other diseases
15. Christian radio, TV, movies, music
16. Those charged with the care of the young, sick and elderly
17. Teachers
18. Our families
19. Our friends
20. Our enemies
21. Judges and persons in authority
22. Military Personnel
23. Law enforcement personnel
24. Prison officials and inmates

### **Other plans/ideas/comments**

- Comment that followups to prayer requests are appreciated when available.
- Need to make available someplace Andrea’s list of 23 prayer topics.
- Power is when people live their prayers not just say their prayers.
- Request for a suggested starting/closing prayer to be provided to the committees.
- A use of the ACTS formula could be combined with silence (e.g.,
  - Let us adore God .....silence....

- Let us confess to God .....silence....
- We are thankful to God .....silence....
- We pray for our needs and the needs of others .....silence....