

*The Mission Ministries of
First United Methodist Church
Mansfield*

2008 Annual Report

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8

First United Methodist Church Mansfield Mission Ministries

Dear Friends in Ministry,

E. Stanley Jones has written:

“A social gospel without a spiritual gospel is like a body without a soul; it is a corpse. A spiritual gospel without a social gospel is like a soul without a body; it is a ghost.”

In either of these scenarios, the gospel is dead. At FUMC, we believe that we are called to be the living gospel, combining our actions with our witness so that God is honored and Christ is revealed in all that we do. Through ministries that impact those who struggle on the margins in our own community, to those far away who hunger for the hope that will sustain them, we are seeking always to be Christ alive in the world.

There are three areas of focus for missions at First United Methodist Mansfield:

- Wesley Mission Center – a ministry that provides life changing resources to families in crisis in our community
- Local Outreach – programs serving needs within the greater Mansfield area
- Global Mission – national, international, and connectional ministries

Each of these ministries is dependent on the passion and commitment of volunteers who give of themselves so that others might know the transforming power of a living, loving God.

Blessings,

Teresa Sherwood
Director of Mission Ministries

Teresa Washington
Wesley Mission Center Director

Susan Luttrell
Local Outreach Coordinator

Paulette Uzeé
Administrative Assistant

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Wesley Mission Center

The Wesley Mission Center seeks to exemplify God's love and to reflect the church's gratitude through Christian faith in action. We light the path to self-sufficiency and resolve problems by providing food, clothing, financial and other assistance to those in our community that are in need or distress.

The Thrift Store –Last year, members of our church and our community donated more than 1 million items to our Thrift Store. Volunteers spent more than 8,200 hours sorting, organizing, and processing those items to create a store that generated over \$246,625.00. Over \$39,000 in monetary donations provided. Approximately 53,350 people entered our store last year. Each person was greeted by a volunteer who gave of their time and energy to serve them and to care for the needs of the hurting in our community.

C.A.R.E. Center (Counseling, Assistance, Resources, Empathy) - The funds from our Thrift Store provided rent, utilities, food, counseling, and medical expenses, in excess of \$182,510, as well as life-changing intervention strategies for more than 2,198 people in crisis.

- ***Job Program*** - assisted at least 115 people in need of employment. This program includes Job orientations, computer classes, gas cards, access to job book, interview attire from the Thrift Store, interview skills, skill assessments, résumé writing, internet searching and referrals to other job agencies and programs.
- ***Robin's Wings*** – an evening program designed to help encourage and empower at-risk women in need of support.
- ***Brown Bag Luncheon*** –a quarterly event designed to encourage social service agencies to network. Partnerships are developed as a result of the luncheons. Key-note speakers and trainers are invited to educate church and agency representatives on non-profit concerns and practices.

CARE staff provided 4,400 referrals to local and Tarrant County agencies to meet additional needs of the clients. Volunteers answered phones, greeted our clients and made appointments, and served as a welcoming, compassionate presence when people entered.

Food Pantry- Over 1,300 families received food through our pantry. Donations to the food pantry came from our church, community and schools, and were lovingly assembled by volunteers. Annual food drives are held to support the food pantry. Private donations in excess of \$70,000 were received to be used in 2009.

Lay Leaders: Buford and Betty Elliott, Win Hatt

Ward's Book Project – Many of the books donated to our Community Thrift Store were sorted and taken to Half-Price Books for sale, earning the store thus far this year more than \$2,164.00.

Lay Leaders: Jo and John Ward

MARS program – We are an official Microsoft Authorized Refurbishing Site. Our volunteers restored more than 50 computers, allowing families who would not otherwise be able to afford them to purchase a computer.

Lay Leaders: Tom Brown, Bill McClinton

Legal Clinic – The Wesley Mission Center hosts a free legal clinic each month for our clients and members of our community who cannot afford to access legal services. Attorneys from the law firm of Landrith & Kulesz volunteer their time to help clients in need of these services.

Licensed Professional Counselors – The Mission Center also hosts four Licensed Professional Counselors who offer counseling services at a reduced rate to our clients and to our church members.

Community Agencies – The Wesley Mission Center continued to provide free space to several non-profit agencies that offer intervention programs for families in crisis. These include All Church Home and Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services.

Local Outreach Ministries

In addition to the work of the Wesley Mission Center, we are at work in our community and beyond. With ministries that care for the needs of those who are economically distressed, those who feel forgotten or alienated, and those who struggle on the margins, we seek to serve as Christ would serve.

Angel Tree – FUMC Mansfield members provided new clothes and Christmas gifts for over 400 children in our community. Over 100 volunteers sorted, organized, and distributed these gifts.

Lay Leader: Wendy Sardella

Back-to-School Blessings – Last year, over 300 children received new clothes, socks, shoes, underwear, and a backpack from members of our church just in time for school to start. Preparation for this program required 75 volunteers.

Lay Leader: Lizz Bridges

Common Ground Network – As a member of this ecumenical organization of 18 community member churches, FUMC Mansfield assisted in the coordination of community food drives to support our 5 food pantries, provided school supplies to more than 600 children, and coordinated the registration and sponsorship of over 1,700 children for Christmas gifts.

Feed Kids for Summer – This program is sponsored by the five local food pantries along with Common Ground Network. This program was designed to fill in the gap for children who, throughout the school year receive their lunch through the schools, but in the summer may not have a source for lunch. Just less than 3,000 bags were distributed throughout the summer, with each bag holding enough food for a child to have lunch everyday.

ESL Classes – were offered morning and evening in spring and fall semesters. Twenty-five volunteer teachers helped 100-150 adult students as they learned the English language and American customs. Students representing several different nationalities came to our church in search of a place to learn and be accepted. Between semesters, a Reading Club is offered for continuing education in studying the English language to this group of students.

Lay Leader: Paulette Uzee

Habitat for Humanity – In 2008, FUMC Mansfield contributed funds and volunteers to the building of the third Mansfield Habitat House and to the Trinity Habitat House. More than 200 volunteers worked to help build both of these homes.

Lay Leader: Jeff Grady

Hands of Christ – This past year, approximately 110 volunteers spent six Saturdays repairing homes for elderly, disabled or disadvantaged people in our community. Some of the included: building three wheel chair ramps, painting three homes, repaired siding and windows on three homes, repairs to a kitchen and bathroom and building a porch.

Lay Leaders: Jeff Grady, Jimmie Thompson, Noah Begley

Gifts That Go Beyond – This project is a faith-based alternative gift giving opportunity in the Christmas season. A diverse group of non-profit agencies are represented, as members of the church shop for gifts that honor or memorialize the recipients. Thirteen agencies were represented with a total of \$48,000 given in memory or in honor of loved ones.

Lay Leader: Adele Jeanes

GRACE -Homeless Outreach - Giving Respect and Compassion Everywhere is a unique ministry that reaches out to those who are homeless, living in shelters and/or transitional housing. Its main area of focus is the East Lancaster area of Fort Worth. Volunteers from many of our small groups and Sunday school classes provide food to the people of Unity Park on the 2nd Saturday of each month. The groups that sponsor the second Saturday event, served sandwiches, shared God's grace, and offered fellowship to more than 3,000 people. This ministry also provided hygiene products for the residents, along with supplying blankets, coats, gloves, and hats for the homeless and those living in shelters.

Lay Leader: Paulette Uzee

Meals on Wheels – Throughout the year, volunteers from our church delivered meals to people in South Arlington, Mansfield, and outlying areas five days a week, delivering over 800 meals. Our church continues to serve as the distribution site for this area which means 8,060 meals have been served out of our church through the Tarrant County Meals on Wheels program.

Lay Leader: Loni Kanui

Vision Clinic – We partnered with the Mansfield Lions Club to provide eye examinations and glasses as needed to approximately 35 people through our Wesley Mission Center and community. These persons would not otherwise be able to afford vision care.

Lay Leader: Paul Frederick

Global Ministries

The call for us to be witnesses to the ends of the earth is not something that we take lightly. If the kingdom of God is to come to pass, it will be because His people made it so. We seek to transform the world through ministries that take the message and Grace of a loving God beyond our community.

Our strategic plan for global ministry involves the following priorities: Relief, Empowerment, Building the Church, and Enlightening our People. It is our goal to create balance in ministry that speaks to each of these areas.

Africa Ministry– We began ministry in Africa in 2005, partnering with ZOE Ministry. We have continued and expanded that relationship, as well as developing additional ministries through the connectional United Methodist Church.

Lay Leader: Michele McCaslin

- **Africa University Scholarship** – A full scholarship was provided for Batsirai Mukarakate, a United Methodist pastor’s wife and student at Africa University.
- **Bible Project** –In January, our congregation sent 1200 Bibles with personal messages inscribed to the children and teachers of our covenant school in Zimbabwe, Mafarikwa Primary School.
- **Cholera Initiative** – Our pastor issued an appeal for contributions that resulted in a Christmas Eve offering of over \$8000 to fight the cholera epidemic in Zimbabwe.
- **Hope For Africa Children’s Choir** – The ministry team coordinated a team of volunteer doctors, dentists, and optometrists to provide care for all of the members of the visiting Hope for Africa Children’s Choir of Uganda. This was the first visit to a dentist by most of the members and extensive dental work and medical care were donated through this effort.
- **Medical Kits** –Three UMCOR medical kits were sent to Africa, directed specifically to Dr. Tendai Manyeza.
- **Mission Flick** – The Africa Ministry team sponsored four events featuring films relevant to issues on the African continent. Each film was followed by speakers with experience related to the topic.
- **Mission Trips** – Two members participated in a ZOE led mission trip to Rwanda, and one member led a medical team to Liberia.
- **Pastor Support and the United Methodist Church of Africa** – As the economy in Zimbabwe deteriorates and lives are lost to disease; many people look to the church for provision and spiritual strength. However, the pastors are also afflicted with the burdens of loss and want and often go unpaid and unable to provide for their own families. FUMC is sending financial support to help sustain these pastors as they seek to witness in their own communities.
- **ZOE Ministry** – We are partnered with this United Methodist ministry to provide ongoing support to feed the children of an entire school in Zimbabwe for one year. Additional donations from our members provide medical care, clothing, shoes, educational supplies and school fees for hundreds of children, as well as supporting the life changing work of ZOE’s Giving Hope Program. Total contributions to ZOE in 2008 exceeded \$54,000.

Disaster Recovery – This ministry area responds to emergency situations, as well as on-going recovery efforts.

- **Hurricane Rita** - A team of 11 volunteers traveled to Lake Charles, Louisiana to repair homes damaged by Hurricane Rita. Lay Leader: Jeanette Liukonen
- **Iowa Floods** - A team of 4 volunteers traveled to Morning Sun, Iowa to assist in flood recovery efforts. Leader: Susan Luttrell

- ***Hurricane Ike*** – One certified Early Responder assisted in Galveston response. Tim Wing. FUMC Mansfield also served as a transitional site for evacuees.
- ***Flood Buckets*** – Over 50 UMCOR Flood Buckets were assembled and sent to UMCOR Sager Brown for distribution. Lay Leader: Win Hatt

Mexico Ministry– Our involvement in Mexico ministry began in 1999 and has grown and evolved to include work in the border towns of Matamoras and Reynosa, as well as isolated fishing villages along the Eastern coast and the city of Monterrey. We partner with Juntos Servimos Ministry and Mexico Volunteers in Mission.

- ***Church Construction*** – We contributed to the construction of the roof of a new United Methodist Church in Matamoras, Casade Comunión y Bendición.
- ***Homebuilders' Family Mission Trip*** – Thirty people from this Sunday school class spent a weekend in Matamoras, where they built beds, roofed houses, and led a full day of children's activities. Lay Leaders: David and Debbie Chumchal
- ***Juntos Servimos*** – FUMC provided on-going monetary support to fund food, housing, education, and medical supplies for ministries to the people of the Matamoras area colonias and fishing villages of Northeastern Mexico. Support for this ministry also helps to support missionaries Larry Cox and Dra. Nancy Rodriguez. Contributions in 2008 totaled more than \$9,000.
- ***Labor Day Mission Team*** – A team of 12 volunteers traveled to Matamoras over the Labor Day weekend for three days filled with work, worship, healing and fellowship. Some of the activities included: construction on a refuge center for chronically ill and abandoned adults, delivery of 100 wheelchairs, including a number of personal fittings for disabled adults and children.
- ***Quilts*** – The Stitches of Love Quilting Ministry provided over 30 handmade quilts to be distributed by Dra Nancy to the children and adults being treated through her ministry.
- ***Mission Trip to Reynosa*** – One volunteer joined the Conference mission team to Reynosa, Mexico.

Missionary Support –

- We are in a covenant relationship with Christiana Koisey Hena, a United Methodist Missionary to Eastern Kazakhstan.
- We also provide financial support to 4 United Methodist Pastors in Haiti.
- In addition, First United Methodist Church Mansfield contributed over \$88,000 to the General Board of Global Ministries Church World Service Fund for missionary support.
- Individual Volunteer in Mission – Our church sponsored Julie Luttrell as an Individual Volunteer in Mission to Reynosa, Mexico. Julie is a young adult who grew up in the First United Methodist Church Mansfield family and dedicated a year of her life to serving as a committed missionary. She taught English at three Methodist schools, assisted visiting

Volunteer in Mission teams, and helped to develop Methodist mission programs in the Reynosa area. Members contributed over \$37,000 to her ministry.

Wheels for the World – This ministry is made possible through a partnership with Joni and Friends Disabilities Ministry. Used wheelchairs are collected, then refurbished in prisons and sent throughout the world. Lay Leaders: Bill Eaton and Win Hatt

- In 2008, FUMC delivered 100 wheelchairs to Mexico, bringing the 4 year total number of wheelchairs to Mexico to 600. In addition to wheelchairs, countless walkers, crutches and canes have been delivered.
- We also funded the shipment of 200 wheelchairs to China. This was a priority need, precipitated by the massive earthquake that left thousands of people injured.
- Volunteer, Bill Eaton traveled with the Joni and Friends mission team to China to deliver the wheelchairs and provide customized fittings for the recipients.
- FUMC became the Joni and Friends Regional Intake Site, receiving the used chairs and delivering them to prisons in Oklahoma.

Youth Mission Teams – Through the Central Texas Conference Youth in Mission program, our Student Ministries Department coordinates Junior High and Senior High School Mission Trips each summer. In 2008, approximately 180 youth and adults participated in mission trips to Russellville, Arkansas, and Houston, Texas.

Children's Vacation Bible Camp Mission Project – Our Children's Department sponsored 2 students at Humble Place School in Uganda.

First United Methodist Church Mansfield is a

Five-Star Congregation and a Global Mission Partners Church