

**A New Vision for a New Decade
Central United Methodist Church
Fayetteville, Arkansas**

The Burden We Carry for Our Church Family and Community

- Due to the busyness of life, people are becoming disconnected from God, the church, and others.
- Due to the chaos and confusion in life, people are lost and without hope in the world.

Our Mission and Discipleship Model

Making Christ central to life for the people of Northwest Arkansas and around the world by connecting them to Christ so they can grow in Christ, serve with Christ, and reach others for Christ.

Seven Steps to Address our Burden in 2010

With confidence that our mission statement and discipleship process provide us with a platform for addressing the stated burdens, we believe we need to pursue attainment of the following seven objectives in 2010:

- **Work to provide vibrant worship experiences with a strong focus on dynamic messages that are biblical, applicable to life, and utilize witnesses and other means from time to time to enhance the message. Focus should also be given to encouraging worship attendees to utilize their bibles in worship.**
 1. Keep worship services within the agreed time frames.
 2. Develop a longer term preaching plan – plan further ahead.
 3. Have a teaching emphasis on United Methodist beliefs, tough issues, etc.
 4. Utilize witnesses, technology, etc. where possible.
 5. Provide a study and application tool as follow-up to worship.
- **Create a culture of hospitality at Central that quickly welcomes and draws in the guests amongst us.**
 1. Provide fellowship events such as “Pizza with the Pastors”.
 2. Identify those in the congregation with the gift of hospitality to make it their ministry to informally welcome others – “Barnabas Bunch”.
 3. Update and overhaul Central’s website and keep it up to date.
 4. Instigate a new pictorial directory.
 5. Add a new component to letters to visitors – phone call, visit, etc.

- **Emphasize small group ministry with a focus on those who are not already involved in a small group.**
 1. Ask all Sunday School classes to issue a special invitation to new members to attend and become part of the class.
 2. Choose four different curriculums for small groups and promote small group startups targeting those not in a group and using one of the four curriculums.
 3. Use the sermon subject as a basis for Sunday School discussion each Sunday.
 4. Provide training and mentoring for small group leaders with accountability.
 5. Emphasize Bible study, prayer time and fellowship as key group dynamics.

- **Evaluate all current ministries to see if they are helping us to fulfill our mission and the burden we are seeking to lift. Narrow the scope and strive for excellence in the ministries we retain.**
 1. Utilize all staff persons who oversee ministries to evaluate the ministries in their areas and make a recommendation to the Executive Team as to which ones should be retained and which ones should be dropped.

- **Seek to involve every member in ministry.**
 1. Make servant ministry a year round emphasis through use of our web site, Discovery Class, and a Ministry Spotlight in the weekly Bulletin.
 2. Emphasize the expectation to serve from pulpit to small group.
 3. Encourage participation in our spiritual gifts assessment.

- **Teach Personal evangelism to our members so that they may know how to share their faith and feel comfortable in doing so.**
 1. Provide a faith sharing class.
 2. Provide a faith sharing curriculum for groups to use. An example could be *Just Walk Across the Room* by Bill Hybels.
 3. Do a sermon series on how to share one's faith.
 4. Identify persons with the gift of evangelism to train in sharing their faith.

- **Choose and promote a church wide missions emphasis.**
 1. Confer with Director of Missions and Lay Mobilization to choose an emphasis.
 2. Consider *Nothing but Nets* as our church wide emphasis.