

**A New Vision for a New Year  
Central United Methodist Church  
Fayetteville, Arkansas  
January 2011**

**The Burden We Carry for Our Church Family and Community**

- There are many people in our community and world who are lost and without the hope that only Christ can bring to human life.
- There are many people in our congregation who need to be equipped to involve themselves more fully in witnessing to their faith in Christ and engaging our community and world with the life changing power and hope of the Gospel.

**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.

**Our Visional Focus for 2011**

Our visional focus for 2011 is to be missionally involved in our world by offering Christ, the Bread of Life, to meet the spiritual and physical needs of people – both locally and globally.

**Seven Steps to Address our Burden in 2011**

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 2011:

- **Increase our congregation's understanding and practice of generous giving as a spiritual discipline that can enable resources to be released to accomplish our mission.**
  1. Conduct a successful and fruitful capital stewardship campaign in the spring.
  2. Look at revitalizing and enhancing our fall covenant stewardship campaign.
  3. Look at other options for allowing people to support the ministries of Central – such options as wills and legacies, designated giving opportunities, etc.
  4. Consider using a Ministry Spotlight Puzzle with a piece of the puzzle added each week to the bulletin board holding the puzzle. The end result would be a picture of Jesus holding the world in his hands.

- **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. Connect the dots between major Christian beliefs and what we believe as United Methodist Christians.
  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. Continue to identify those in the congregation with the gift of hospitality who are willing to be part of the “Barnabas Bunch” and make it their ministry to informally welcome others to Central.
  3. Work on a new component to letters to visitors – phone call, visit, etc.
  4. Help our congregation feel comfortable in asking folks if they have a church home and then inviting them to become part of Central.
  
- **Emphasize belonging to a small group with a focus on those who are not already involved in a group.**
  1. Ask all Sunday School classes to issue a special invitation to new members to attend and become part of the class.
  2. Promote small group startups with an emphasis on assimilating people into meaningful relationships with the church.
  3. Provide training and mentoring for small group leaders with accountability.
  4. Emphasize study, prayer time and fellowship as key group dynamics.

- **Equip and empower members to live out their faith and apply the principles of the Christian life to their personal lives.**
  1. Continue to make our servant ministry effort a year round emphasis through the use of our web site, Discovery Class, and weekly Ministry Spotlight in the Sunday Bulletin.
  2. Emphasize the expectation to serve from pulpit to small group.
  3. Encourage folks to utilize our spiritual gifts assessment.
  4. Develop and strengthen marriages and family life through various emphases such as a Sunday to renew marriage vows, marriage enrichment weekend, marriage mentors, etc.
  5. Focus on reaching and involving young adults into the life of the church.
  
- **Teach personal evangelism to our members so that they will know how to share their faith and feel comfortable doing so.**
  1. Provide a faith sharing class for those who would like to learn how.
  2. Identify persons with the gift of evangelism to train in sharing their faith.
  3. Model evangelism in the church at every opportunity by being intentional about “offering Christ” and giving people opportunities to accept him as Savior and Lord.
  4. Do another sermon series on faith sharing that would cover the steps of prayer, witness, offering Christ, and follow up.
  
- **Promote our local and global church wide missions emphases.**
  1. Make Beyond Our Walls our 2011 local church wide missions focus.
  2. Support the Uganda Project as our 2011 global church wide missions focus.