



“N.C.D.,” initials for Natural Church Development.

Now, before you quit reading and turn to the next page, please know that these initials are actually quite exciting! They are bringing real transformation to declining churches and denominations. They are bringing lost souls to Christ. They are helping churches to discover their purpose.

Covenant has been blessed to have been thriving and growing in the “eight essential characteristics” of the N.C.D. for many years.

Those 8 characteristics of healthy, growing churches include: **Empowering leadership; Gift-based ministry; Passionate spirituality; Effective structure; Inspiring worship services; Holistic small groups; Need-oriented evangelism; and Loving relationships.**

We are stronger in some of these characteristics than others. Together, however, we can work on our weaknesses through our strengths.

I have a passion for N.C.D. I didn't even know it until I took the “Healthy Church Academy” in January of last year. Our UMC Annual Conference teaches this, and it really connected with my soul. It's so much of what we've already been doing at Covenant! So, when I was asked to be a District NCD coach, after prayer, it wasn't hard to say yes. It's something I believe in and am passionate about. I so yearn for the UMC to be known as a vital, Christ-centered, Bible-based, Spirit-filled denomination, once more, where peoples lives are saved and transformed, and, together, faithfully represent the body of Christ to the world around it.

Today was the first day of Phase I training. Though my newsletter article should have been in well before today, I'm glad I waited because the topic for the article came in an “aha” moment during today's time of learning. In discussing some characteristics of Passionate Spirituality, and how “the ministries of the church result in people falling more deeply in love with Jesus,” the growth of the apostle Paul's humility was taught. As there was less of him, there was more of Jesus. Look at the following Scriptures, and the chronological sequence, and the way that Paul described himself:

Early years - Galatians 1:1 “Paul, an apostle”

Seven years later - I Cor. 15:9 “For I am the least of the apostles...”

Eight years later - Ephesians 3:8 “Although I am less than the least of all God's people...” Towards the end - I Timothy 1:15 “...sinners, of whom I am the worst.”

Holy Lord, as we work together to further Your kingdom through Your body called Covenant UMC, may we grow in thinking more of others than ourselves.

Like Paul, may Your strength become more and more apparent in our weakness.

As Your “Resurrection people,” may the power of the risen Christ flow through us, for Your glory, as there is more of You, and less of us.

“Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all.” (Titus 3:15.) **“Pastor Bec.”**

Message from THE VAN MINISTRY

Our church is blessed to have been given three vans. We thank the donors for such generous gifts.

Our vans are to be used for church-related business. When available, if van transportation is needed, the driver must be certified and sign out the vehicle in the office.

It is the responsibility of the driver to see that the van is returned to the church clean and with adequate fuel. If, for some reason, it is not re-fueled, or if you experience any other problems, it is important to notify the church office so they can be corrected.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Richard Motley, Van Ministry Trustee

THE VAN KEY MUST ALWAYS BE RETURNED AT THE SAME TIME AS THE VAN FOR NEXT USER!



The newest van is a 2007 white 12-passenger vehicle that falls within safety standards currently in place. This 12-passenger white van replaces the 15-passenger van we had for many years.

We thank the donor of the van as well as all who helped with negotiations when pricing vans.

ANOTHER MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

Clewiston Florida

March 15- 9 missionaries set out for Clewiston, Florida (southwest of Lake Okeechobee – the large blue mass on any Florida map) to work with a Long Term Recovery Organization called CREW (Community Rebuilding Ecumenical Workforce).

Two of the folks had never been on a mission trip before. Upon arrival, they left their sleeping bags at the host church (1st UMC of Clewiston) and began work on a trailer home that had damage from Hurricane Wilma. The family of 4, whom they served, not only had damage from Hurricane Wilma but they had lost their husband / father / grandfather the year after. For two years, the family had only 2 working plugs throughout the home. They ran extension cords to run electricity for various items.

The team had their work cut out for them as they primed and painted, hung molding, hung a ceiling,



worked with Lexiboard in the bathrooms, patched an outside leak, replaced a bathroom sink and cabinet, hung lights, and performed a little bit of plumbing. Between singing and sweating, the work was completed. At night, the team gathered for dinner, devotions, and to discuss the day and missions. There is still more to do but there shall be more teams to follow.

The Clewiston Team thanks the staff of CREW for their wonderful assistance and direction AND Covenant for their prayers and for going on mission to Clewiston.

May God receive the glory for this mission.



SUMMER MISSION TRIP TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

July 7-21, 2008

Cost: \$865 for church family

July 7-14, 2008

Cost: \$750 for church family

Sleeping accommodations will be in a mission house.

We will be working in Papillo-Salcedo (northwest Dominican Republic in one of the poorest sections of the country) helping to make a pavilion, a playground (they have been trying to get one done for 6 years), rehab an outhouse (yes, an outhouse), minor house repairs, and working with children ranging from 4yrs-6yrs old.

For those who are interested and would like to go, there will be a side trip into Haiti to visit a mission school there.

We have to buy tickets VERY soon, so if you feel called to serve on this mission, please have a \$150 deposit and a copy of your passport photo page into the office by April 4th.

If you have any questions, please call Sue at 679-2172.



SCHEDULE OF **APRIL 2008** COVENANT UNITED METHODIST

Sunday Children's Church

8:30 am, 11:00 am

9:45am Sunday

Faith Building Classes

- 201 New Member Class
- 205 Serving Jesus at Covenant
- 117 Celebration of Discipline
- 204 Bereans
- 202 Sitting At His Feet
- 105 Decision Making & The Will of God
- 106 Growing Kids God's Way
- 104 Understanding the Bible
- PO Financial Freedom
- 119 Middle School
- YW Sr. High School

11:00 a.m.

- 119 Youth Confirmation Class

5:30 p.m.

- YW Youth Group


6:00 p.m.

- ON Experiencing the Heart of Jesus

PO = Pastor's Office

YW = Youth Wing

ON = Old Narthex

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		6:15 am Men's Team Jesus 1 2:30 pm CAFA 6:15 pm Breaking Free 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 6:30 pm Youth Band	8:00 am COA Respite 2 9:00 am Homemakers 9:30 am Do Drop In 5:30 pm Adult Fellowship Banner Ministry Practice 7:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Midweek Worship	10:30 am Pastors Bible Study 3 6:00 pm Praise Team 6:30 pm Grief Care 6:30 pm On Mission With God 6:30 pm Divorce Care 6:30 pm Divorce Care 4 Kids 7:00 pm Experiencing God 7:00 pm BSA Troop 477 7:30 pm Choir Practice	6:00 am Prayer Vigil begins 4	6:00 am Prayer Vigil Ends 5 8:00 am Mission Sidewalk & Bake Sale 10:30 am Covenant Emmaus
H.U.M. Sunday 6 8:30 am Worship Service 9:45 am Faith Building Classes 10:00 am Worship Service 11:00 am Worship Service 5:30 pm Youth Group 6:00 pm Experiencing the Heart of Jesus	9:30 am Quilters 7 9:00 am Mothers' Day Out 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 6:30 pm Al-Anon 6:30 pm Trustees 6:30 pm Singles Bible Study 7:00 pm Staff Parish	6:15 am Men's Team Jesus 8 2:30 pm CAFA 6:30 pm Stepping Up 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 6:30 pm Youth Band	8:00 am COA Respite 9 9:00 am Homemakers 9:30 am Do Drop In 5:30 pm Adult Fellowship Banner Ministry Practice 7:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Midweek Worship	10:30 am Pastors Bible Study 10 6:00 pm Praise Team 6:30 pm On Mission With God 6:30 pm Grief Care 6:30 pm Divorce Care 6:30 pm Divorce Care 4 Kids 7:00 pm Experiencing God 7:00 pm BSA Troop 477 7:30 pm Choir Practice	6:00 am Prayer Vigil begins 11	6:00 am Prayer Vigil Ends 12 6:00 pm Youth at YMCA 7:00 pm Julie LaDouceur free Concert
8:30 am Worship Service 13 9:45 am Faith Building Classes 10:00 am Worship Service 11:00 am Worship Service 6:00 pm Experiencing the Heart of Jesus	9:00 am Homeless Coalition 14 9:30 am Quilters 9:00 am Mothers' Day Out 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 6:30 pm Al-Anon 7:00 pm Leadership Council	6:15 am Men's Team Jesus 15 2:30 pm CAFA 6:30 pm Stepping Up 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 7:00 pm Youth Band	8:00 am COA Respite 16 9:00 am Homemakers 9:30 am Do Drop In 5:30 pm Adult Fellowship Banner Ministry Practice 7:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Midweek Worship	10:30 am Pastors Bible Study 17 6:00 pm Praise Team 6:30 pm Grief Care 6:30 pm On Mission With God 6:30 pm Divorce Care 6:30 pm Divorce Care 4 Kids 7:00 pm BSA Troop 477 7:00 pm Experiencing God 7:30 pm Choir Practice	6:00 am Prayer Vigil begins 18	6:00 am Prayer Vigil Ends 19
8:30 am Worship Service 20 9:45 am Faith Building Classes 10:00 am Worship Service 11:00 am Worship Service 11:00 am Fixing Your Finances 5:30 pm Youth Group 6:00 pm Experiencing the Heart of Jesus	9:30 am Quilters 21 9:00 am Mothers' Day Out 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 6:30 pm Al-Anon	6:15 am Men's Team Jesus 22 2:30 pm CAFA 6:30 pm Stepping Up 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 7:00 pm Youth Band	8:00 am COA Respite 23 9:00 am Homemakers 9:30 am Do Drop In 5:30 pm Adult Fellowship Banner Ministry Practice 7:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Midweek Worship	10:30 am Pastors Bible Study 24 6:00 pm Praise Team 6:30 pm Grief Care 6:30 pm On Mission With God 6:30 pm Divorce Care 6:30 pm Divorce Care 4 Kids 7:00 pm Experiencing God 7:00 pm BSA Troop 477 7:30 pm Choir Practice	6:00 am Prayer Vigil begins 25	6:00 am Prayer Vigil Ends 26
8:30 am Worship Service 27 9:45 am Faith Building Classes 10:00 am Worship Service 11:00 am Worship Service 11:00 am Fixing Your Finances 5:30 pm Youth Group 6:00 pm Experiencing the Heart of Jesus	9:30 am Quilters 28 9:00 am Mothers' Day Out 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 6:30 pm Al-Anon	6:15 am Men's Team Jesus 29 2:30 pm CAFA 6:30 pm Stepping Up 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 7:00 pm Youth Band	8:00 am COA Respite 30 9:00 am Homemakers 9:30 am Do Drop In 5:30 pm Adult Fellowship Banner Ministry Practice 7:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Midweek Worship	