

## CLEWISTON, FLORIDA MISSION TRIP March 15-21, 2008

We will be teaming up with an agency called CREW to help the Hurricane Wilma victims.

Here is a link to CREW so that you may read a bit about them:

<http://huricanerecovery.blogspot.com/2007/05/florida-conference-of-united.html>

## END OF YEAR 2007 REPORT

TOTAL Income:     \$717,539  
TOTAL Expense:    \$838,343  
DEFICIT             (\$120,804)

Interest Income     \$ 1,647  
NET DEFICIT         (\$119,157)

Other income:  
Church Charge Conference  
\$29,148     (from building fund money to pay insurance)  
\$20,165     (from building fund to help pay mortgage)  
TOTAL DEFICIT:             (\$69,844)

## MEMBERS OF OUR LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

We are very proud of those who serve on the Leadership Council at Covenant UMC. Their responsibilities are the overall administration and programming for the church.

Listed here are our Council members and their area(s) of responsibility:

- Ida Carveth*, Adult Ministries
- Jon Domeij*, Assimilation
- Carol Faircloth*, Prayer and "Sacred Spaces"
- Kathy Freeman*, Co-Chair Trustees
- Rebecca Hyvonen*, Assistant Pastor
- Sue Macchiarella*, Administration/ Missions & Outreach
- Frank Mercer*, Council Chairman/ Worship / Lay Leader
- Vic Miller*, Co-Chair Trustees
- Paul Pollock*, Senior Pastor
- Leigh Slayback*, Worship & Music
- Donna Spencer*, Education and Youth
- Joan Varley*, Council Secretary & Attendance Records
- Gary Walker*, Staff Parish Committee Chairman
- Kay Wingard*, Missions/Outreach/ Ushers & Greeters

## COVENANT TRUSTEES 2008

Pat Conway	George Holm
Kathy Freeman	Vic Miller
Bill Fricke	Richard Motley
James Harbour	Jack Weiler



## Ponderings With Pastor Paul

The New Testament Letter of James begins with these words, "Count it ALL joy believers when you go through various difficulties (trials, challenges, obstacles) for you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance (endurance, steadfastness). Let this character quality (perseverance) have it's perfect way in you (let it have it's full effect) so that you might grow up to be a MATURE believer (perfect and complete), not lacking in any good thing (any of Jesus' character qualities).

Let's be honest; this passage clearly says that "tough times" produce better believers who have more endurance and more maturity; believers who have more Christ-like qualities. There's not a person among us who actually "looks forward" to challenges, obstacles, difficulties, and trials. But, this "tough times" can be used by God in a redeeming way IF we are willing to "let God have HIS perfect way in us" during those challenges. Additionally, "tough times" can become "attention getters." They certainly "heighten our awareness" of our TOTAL dependence on God as they bring us to our knees in prayer.

The Apostle Paul knew this too when The Holy Spirit urged him to write to the believers in Rome, "that God works ALL things together for GOOD to those who love Him and are called according to His purpose." There ARE some incredible blessings that come our way in the midst of challenges, trials, and difficulties:

- \*\*\* Tough times create resilience.
- \*\*\* Trials develop maturity.
- \*\*\* Difficulties push the envelope of "what we think we can do."
- \*\*\* Challenges "open the door" for new and better opportunities.

(because adversities force us to trust God even MORE; they teach us to FULLY rely on Him to give us creative new ideas and to find new solutions.)

- \*\*\* Failures lead us to unexpected success because they "prune us" so that we can develop more fruit.
- \*\*\* Difficult times can actually motivate people to "get healthier" and make "necessary changes."

Try to remember the stories about Joseph in The Book of Genesis. It seemed as though each time something "bad" happened to him, GOD USED IT FOR GOOD. (Genesis 50:20 summarizes several great stories in Joseph's life of hardships and highlights God's redemptive purposes "along the way" between chapters 37 and 50) Through Joseph, and LOTS of other enduring characters in both the Old and New Testaments, we learn that GOD IS FAITHFUL TO THOSE WHO ARE FAITHFUL TO HIM !! Finding the benefits during the difficulties and challenges is the "trick" and it takes time to for us to develop "God's eyesight."

During 2008 God has many GOOD things to teach us as we "tighten" our financial belts." May we ALL have a "teachable spirit."

PRAY; SACRIFICE; AND DO NOT FAINT, FOR IN DUE SEASON WE SHALL REAP.

### 4th ANNUAL SIDEWALK SALE

Saturday, April 5

8 am—11 am

Bring and sell your elegant junque

FOR THE BENEFIT OF MISSIONS

## TRUSTEES CORNER

The Trustee's had their February meeting on February 4, 2008. As usual, the agenda was full and there were many issues that were discussed.

One of the concerns was about our future cell phone tower. The progress report indicated that construction will start within a forty-five day to sixty day window.

The report on the parking lot improvement, by Tyler Braniff, for his Eagle Scout Project is near completion. Minor clean up and additional mulch are the only items remaining.

Congratulations Tyler on a nice job!

Another project concerns the CUMC van disposition. It is now proposed that one of our 15 passenger vans will be replaced by a used 12 passenger vehicle.

Best wishes to all servants at CUMC and please feel free to contact any trustee for any issues and/or concerns that you may have.

Blessed in Christ,  
James L. Harbour, Trustee

### FINANCIAL REPORT for JAN 2008

Income - \$51,733

Expense - \$53,325

Deficit - (\$1,592)

### LIBRARY NOTES:

In order to do our annual library inventory, please look on shelves and table tops for church library books that were checked out **BEFORE DECEMBER 2007**

There are 75 books missing from the library collection.

Thank you for returning any books you may have. Please put them in the Library Return Book Basket. Thank you. *Library Staff*

## Covenant United Methodist Church

Offers members and visitors three Sunday morning worship services and a Wednesday evening service, plus Faith Building Classes for adults and children

FAITH BUILDING CLASSES/ ADULTS & CHILDREN....9:45

WORSHIP SERVICE.....8:30, 10:00 and 11:00

SERVING A GROWING CHRISTIAN CONGREGATION

Rev. Paul Pollock.....Senior Pastor

Rebecca Hyvonen.....Assistant Pastor

Leigh Slayback.....Director of Music Ministry

Nate Mudge.....Media Director

Donna Spencer.....Education & Youth Ministry

Rick Rosengrant .....Maintenance

Jim Saucier.....Maintenance

Sue Macchiarella.....Administrative Director

Elaine Kinion.....Administrative Assistant

Christine Jarvis.....Nursery Coordinator

### - MINISTERS -

### ALL PEOPLE OF OUR CONGREGATION

### - NEWSLETTER -

Kitty Maiden, Editor

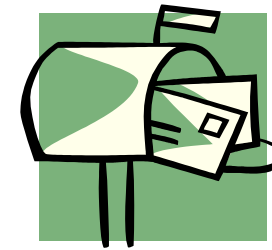
672-1177

*kitink@bellsouth.net*

The church office is open Mon.-Thurs.  
9:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m.; Fri 9:00 a.m.– 12 noon  
Phone (386) 767-8544

[www.jesusatcovenant.org](http://www.jesusatcovenant.org).

EMAIL: [umc@jesusatcovenant.org](mailto:umc@jesusatcovenant.org)



## FROM THE MAILBAG

*My dearest Covenant family,*

*For all the prayers, cards, phone calls and caring thoughts I've received before, during and after my gall bladder surgery,- I thank you!*

*Seeing how this Body of Christ moves is truly wonderful—healing. I sit here and smile as I feel the love and affection for and through you. Thank you again, so much, for being the best church family. What a mighty God we have. Amen!*

*Love to you,  
Sue Norman*

*Dear Friends at Covenant,*

*I want to thank you so much for all your visits (Paul and Rebecca) and others who came to see me in the hospital. Also, cards from George Pollock, Kay Cooperman & Rev. Spencer, the McCrackens and all who prayed for me during my recent stay in the hospital. All are so very much appreciated—  
Linda Stiver for her calls—*

*God bless you all— I love you all—  
Mary Bogey-Paula*

## INFINITE GRACE 2008

### WOMEN OF FAITH CONFERENCE

**May 16-17**

Jacksonville Veterans Memorial Arena

Ladies, you really don't want to miss this one! These conferences are an experience! Enjoy worship, laughter, tears, teaching and fellowship with your sisters in Christ.

If you think getting away for the weekend is too much, consider just coming for Saturday. Several women have expressed a desire to attend just on Saturday. We will have a group going for the entire conference and some just able to make the Saturday. Don't be left out come and join us.

Questions: Call evenings or weekends -  
Pauline McNally - 322-4952 or 383-7658 or  
Vicki Goldberg 304-5351 or 316-9708

## march events

### COVENANT EMMAUS MEETING

10:30 am — Saturday, March 1

### CHURCH-WIDE FAMILY GATHERING

1:00 pm — Sunday, March 2

### FUMC "DAY ON CAMPUS"

Gates open 8:00 am — Saturday, March 15

Reservations required

### CHURCH MULCHING DAY

8:00 am — Saturday, March 15

### MISSION TRIP TO CLEWISTON, FL.

Saturday, March 15-March 23

Team will work in rural, disadvantaged area affected by Hurricane Wilma