

Gulf Cove United Methodist Church
Helping Everyone Meet, Know, and Serve Jesus

Vision Retreat
February 15, 2014
9:00am – 2:30pm

Attendees:

| | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Rev. Dr. Bill Fisackerly | Roy Engler | Lu Ann Joys | Jeanne Shrout |
| Doreen Alvarez | John Furtado | Sarge Joys | Linda Starck |
| Barb Bodnar | Joyce Furtado | Carol McGuire | Rick Starck |
| Ken Bodnar | Charles Hilton | John McGuire | Carol Teague |
| Vic Costello | Mary Hilton | Joan Priest | Dawn Tesauro |
| Alfred Current | Irv Hopkins | Ken Priest | Holly Woods |
| Susie CvC | Jo Ann Hopkins | Keith Russell | Dana Hanson |

This year's Vision Retreat was held at Placida Harbour Club, 11000 Placida Road. We extend a special "thank you" to Sarge and LuAnn Joys for arranging for us to use the facilities. The meeting opened with prayer by the Rev. Dr. Bill Fisackerly.

Ken Priest made the first presentation.

- It is not Rev. Bill's job to make church membership grow. Each of us needs to remember: *IF IT IS TO BE, IT IS UP TO ME!*
- We excel at outreach through everyone's generous donations of their time and money. Among other things:
 - We collected the equivalent of 2,139 cans of food for Englewood Helping Hand for Thanksgiving.
 - We collected about \$4,000 in gift cards for the Florida United Methodist Children's Home.
 - We raised over \$5,000 for Relay for Life to fight cancer.
- During the last six weeks of the year, the congregation met a matching challenge, the result of which raised over \$128,000 toward reducing the church mortgage.
- Our Leadership Teams (committees) have made great strides. Team members are empowered through each team's leader encouraging strong participation. Challenges are met. Action is being taken by prayerful consideration and consensus agreement.
- The new, church vision statement chosen during the DNA process is "Helping Everyone Meet, Know, and Serve Jesus." We are doing well in helping people know and serve Jesus. We need to focus on helping everyone meet Him. That is the focus of this year's vision retreat.

Ken's presentation was followed by 45 minutes of silent meditation, prayer, and scripture reading (Joel 2 and I Samuel 3).

We viewed a DVD of Patrick Lencioni's presentation from his book titled The Five Dysfunctions of a Team: A Leadership Fable. Some points that he made during the presentation include:

- Perform a hot-seat exercise. Ask team members their name, where they were born, and something about their youth or childhood that means a lot to them. What you learn may explain why that individual feels the way he does.
- Mine for conflict, especially if you can tell or know that someone disagrees with something but is remaining silent.
- Write down what we have agreed upon. You must have commitment and cascading communication (telling the next level within 24 hours and then telling others).
- Enter the danger zone. “I don’t like that; let’s talk about it.”
- Holding back negative or disagreeable information is actually saying, “I don’t want to feel bad.”
- Goals must be quantifiable and real.
- Use the red-yellow-green criteria (which GCUMC already does for Ad Council meetings).



Absence of Trust

- Vulnerability-based
- Team members must be human, real, and honest
- Trust cannot be faked

Fear of Conflict

- Passionate debate over issues
- Conflict is critical
- Cultural conflict
- Are people “choosing their battles”? If so, the team doesn’t work.
- Conflict makes for a good meeting if it is interactive, relevant, passionate
- First 10 minutes are the most important

Lack of Commitment

- Active commitment is the desired result (not passive commitment)
- Humans have an innate need to have their way *considered* (not necessarily chosen)

Avoidance of Accountability

- Accountability should be peer-to-peer, not leader-to-peer
- It is hardest for a leader to address other leaders
- Leaders would rather wait until the numbers show failure, and go about correcting it quantitatively

Inattention to Results

- The team at the top HAS to be #1. (This is NOT the team of which you are the leader or a member.)
- The bottom line is whatever your measure of success is.

BRAINSTORMING

The last part of the day was spent coming up with ideas on how we can help people meet Jesus. Initially, everything was to be offered without consideration of money, craziness, or legality. The gathering broke into groups of 4 or 5 individuals, and came up with the following ideas, many of which were suggested by several groups:

- BBQs
- Hand out labeled water bottles at the beach or during parades
- Mints at the Mall
- Raffle
- Craft fair
- Crafty Ladies go to *other* craft fairs
- Easter egg hunt fliers given out at schools
- VBS fliers given out at schools
- Vision-testing at church for adults & children
- Blood-pressure checks for adults
- Amphitheater
- Non-Sunday worship service
- Christian singing groups
- Battle of the Bands
- Organized, personal contact within the worship service
- Mini putt-putt course
- Water slide park
- Worship service & BBQ on the beach during boat racing activities
- Day care facility
- Adopt a school
- Free beer
- Free pot
- Community evangelistic dinner
- Friday night worship service
- Babysitting date nights for non-members
- Live-stream on-line
- Sunset service on the beach
- Revival with guest speakers
- Bike & car show
- Electronic sign out front
- School mentoring after school
- Open dances for youth
- Off-site non-Sunday worship service
- One combined community ecumenical service
- Both non-Christian & Christian bands
- Bat light/signal (light rotating while shining up)
- Beam direct into someone's brain

After the above list was pulled together, each table selected two or three really good ideas from their earlier list, and the one or two “out there” ideas. These ideas were then grouped into larger categories. After further discussion, each person was to vote for four ideas. Those results were:

| # | Votes |
|----|-------------------------------------|
| 12 | Hand out labeled bottled water |
| 18 | Schools – adopt and mentor |
| 20 | Music concerts |
| 19 | Non-Sunday off-site worship service |
| 13 | Live streaming on-line |
| 14 | Community dinners |
| 4 | Bike & Car shows |
| 1 | Eye vision screening |
| 2 | Babysitting date night |

After a roundtable discussion, a consensus was reached whereby two categories would be thought through in detail by two ad hoc committees. While we may still pursue some of the other ideas which were discussed, the two categories chosen as GCUMC’s goals for this year, in our efforts to help everyone meet Jesus, are:

AD HOC TEAMS

| NON-SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE | LIVE-STREAMING ON-LINE |
|---|---|
| Vic Costello Susie Cramer von Clausbruch John Furtado Joan Priest Rick Starck | Doreen Alvarez Rev. Dr. Bill Fisackerly Jo Ann Hopkins Carol McGuire Keith Russell [It was suggested that Ken Kuenzie of WENG radio be contacted regarding this idea.] |

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30pm with communion and prayer. Thank you to all who attended, and to all who helped organize the retreat!

Respectfully submitted,
Dana Hanson