



2014 In Review *Our 100th Anniversary*

For 100 years this congregation has been in ministry to the people of Vero Beach. We celebrated this milestone on Sunday, October 26 – and there is much to remember about the last century. In what follows, we will recall some of the other highlights from 2014. It has been a year of transitions building on the strengths of the past and looking towards meeting the ministry opportunities in the present.

In the first quarter of 2014, the congregation participated in a strategic planning process called MAPS (Ministry Assessment Potential Study) that resulted in identifying five strategic initiatives. This review is organized around these initiatives.

Design and implement communication strategies, that effectively connect with both congregational outsiders and insiders across the generations.

- The Communications and Technology Team developed our new logo.
- SPRC hired Pam Schwartz to spearhead developing our new website (www.fumcvb.org) and our new weekly e-newsletter.
- The Board of Trustees installed a video screen and projector in the sanctuary that has added a visual component to our worship services.
- An Information Kiosk was launched in the lobby of the Christian Life Center.

Develop effective strategies for attracting and engaging families with children and youth.

- SPRC hired Kristen Britt as our full-time Youth Director in January and the youth group has more than tripled in size.
- The Youth Leadership Team launched a Wonderful Wednesday for youth, which has been well received.
- The Children's Leadership Team and Early Education Center have jointly launched an After-school Program for students in 3 area elementary schools.
- Melissa Willard, with the help of funding from the Permanent Endowment Committee, gave leadership to installing our elementary playground west of Wesley Fellowship Hall.
- Our children's Wonderful Wednesday program and Kids Camps, under the direction of Jennifer Reavis, continue to grow and reach new families.
- The number of discipling opportunities and the number of persons taking advantage of them continue to expand, under the direction of Becky Oliver. Specifically, two new groups for young adults were created. One is a new Sunday school class for women coordinated by Linda Ruding and the other is a Bible Study for men and women in this age group led by Gary Miller.
- Our church was one of 300 chosen across national to participate in a beta project for a newly launched Fast Track Disciple.
- A Scholarship Committee, under the leadership of Carol Wilson, was established to administer the Mary Smathers-Ward Scholarship and to provide scholarships to persons pursuing higher education.
- The Academy for Performing Arts, which teaches music lessons to many persons in our community, moved to our campus.

Clarify the pastoral needs of our congregation and develop intentional ministries that increase the quality of caring in our church family.

- A membership audit was conducted during 2014 by church staff.
- Nancy Robinson and Carol Zinck launched the Memory Social Club that meets every Friday for persons struggling with memory issues.
- The Board of Trustees installed two AEDs (Automated External Defibrillators), thanks to a generous donation.
- Linda Ruding and the Congregational Care Team held the first annual Precious Gems Luncheon on Sept. 12 for our 36 members who are 90 years or older.
- Linda Fennell and Dottie Holmstrom launched the Caring Visitation Team so that every one of our current 32 members who are shut-ins or in nursing homes has someone committed to touching base with them weekly.
- A process for contacting persons who have missed two weeks in worship has been put into place.
- The SPRC hired Anne DeVaney as our Food Service Director. She has helped us expand our weekly gatherings between the 8:30 Worship Service and Sunday school, as well as provides meals for Wednesday nights, the Men's Breakfast, the Ladies Lunch and special events.

Deepen our missional involvement in the community.

- We have continued our Food Box program with added emphasis on partnering with organizations in our community who identify families in need.
- Our Local Missions Team has recommended adopting Vero Beach Elementary School and we have started providing them Weekend Food Sacks for over 50 children weekly who are food insecure.
- We have continued to expand our partnership with Habitat for Humanity, Harvest Food and Outreach Center, and The Homeless Outreach Center.
- We continue to host the largest Soup Bowl site for the Samaritan Center for Homeless Families.
- Last summer, we hosted an international mission trip to Costa Rica with 36 participants.

The Board of Trustees addressed a variety of concerns this year.

- The SPRC has hired George Feagan as our full-time Facilities Manager. George and his wife, Kim, live in the "youth house" on campus.
- New efficient windows were installed in the parsonage, resulting in cutting the electric bills in half.
- A major overhaul of our church sprinkler system has been completed.
- We have designated the East parking lot on Sundays for first time visitors and those with handicapping conditions.
- A variety of issues identified in our accessibility audit have been addressed.
- Thanks to several gifts, we have been able to purchase a wonderful set of Orff instruments to be used by our children's choirs, directed by Suzy Reizer.

The Finance Committee reported great news, too.

- For the 14th year in a row, we paid all of our apportionments and ended in the year with a surplus of \$8,334.
- We raise money for and packed 550 Food Boxes and 1,000 food sacks.
- We gave \$22,660 to the United Methodist Children's Home!