

20/20 VISION MEETING NOTES

Caminiti Vision Meeting Notes (2/18/16)

1. What do you enjoy about FUMC?

- The variety of programs and missions offered by the church...the opportunity to go outside of our walls to minister to our community.
- As attendees, we know what to expect from our church – it is comfortable, stable and accepting. The people in our church feel like our family, as we feel we have become a part of their family. The comradery.
- Ann Pearson and Caring Ministries
- Accessibility to the staff, especially to our new pastor

2. What would you like to see us do more of?

- More togetherness with CLC participants. Doing more community outreach as “one body,” in this way getting to know the other congregants as we set forth to serve others as a whole.
- Liturgy at the contemporary service being extended and other Methodist traditions observed, while the music remains contemporary.
- A place or instrument to see and learn about all the ministries of our church.
- Opportunities / a place for empty nesters
- A willingness on the part of church members to discuss different religious viewpoints in a more tolerant, accepting and intellectual manner
- Tradition
- Congregation take ownership
- Sunday afternoon missions/projects
- Church-wide same SS studies
- A revival with dinner on the grounds for all church members.

3. What are a couple of things that you'd like to see FUMC try?

- The CLC reclaim the name, “The Rock.”
- Lay speakers preaching every fifth Sunday.
- Inviting members of other religions to speak to our church about their religious customs and beliefs.

Chastain Vision Meeting Notes (2/16/16)

1. What do you enjoy about being at FUMC?

- Order of worship in the sanctuary.
- Youth group and their leadership
- Youth Choirs
- Likes the CLC as a mission to the community.
- Number of diverse Adult Sunday School Classes
- Ann Pearson
- Acolyte Program

2. What would you like to see more of?

- Enhanced presence (visibility) in the community
- Further involvement with other churches in the community.
- Would like a printed member directory(pictures not necessary)
- Continued enhancement of the library
- Sing more of the old familiar hymns
- Get someone to train and work with Ann Pearson to insure that that program continues forever.

3. What are a couple of things that you'd like to see FUMC try?

- Adult Choir at 8:30
- Columbarium on Church grounds
- We need a larger sanctuary at some point

1. What do you enjoy about FUMC?

- Good leadership
- Sunday school class
- “Majesty” feeling in main sanctuary – cozy and warm
- Opportunities for small groups
- Couple’s clubs
- Memories of wonderful experiences, friendships over the years
- Easter week services
- Variety of ages at FUMC

2. What would you like to see us do more of?

- Togetherness
- Use the volunteers! not all called on to serve when offer, some things falling by the wayside, execution has been poor
- FUMC app – update more often
- More effective communication
- Everyone serving
- Church-wide dinners
- Revival of special services
- Split up into smaller groups somehow
- Local mission projects

3. What are a couple of things that you’d like to see FUMC try?

- Passing of the peace
- 1 large service, perhaps on the bluff
- Fellowship times
- Saturday evening service

Estes Vision Meeting Notes (2/16/16)

1. What do you enjoy about FUMC?

- Friendly church
- New membership class
- Small groups
- Security
- Acolytes
- Wednesday nights
- Children's Programs (children need to be active part of the church)
- SS classes
- Ed and Laura rotating

2. What would you like to see us do more of?

- Expand Shepherd's Place
- More outreach
- Youth: some discipline issues need to be addressed at youth events
- More Men's activities
- More Senior activities
- Ask Dan Lumpkin to return
- More small groups

3. What are a couple of things that you'd like to see FUMC try?

- Shuttle service for elderly on Sundays
- Visiting ministry for shut-ins

1. What do you enjoy about FUMC?

- Ritual of FUMC service enables personal and congregational participation during the service (i.e., Affirmation of Faith, Doxology)
- Leaders (pastors and support staff) are genuine, caring, compassionate people. They give their best to the members.
- SS classes are wonderful. Leaders and members have developed friendships that we cherish.
- Opps to serve and participate in various ways (men's ministry, usher, SHN).
- Choice of style of service available. Traditional and contemporary enable members to worship in a manner they feel fits their need.

2. What would you like to see us do more of?

- Local missions where all ages in the congregation work together
- Childcare for young families attending all meetings and activities
- Contemporary service needs more energy in order to attract and engage today's youth and young adults.
- Ten+ years ago, FUMC did a survey of members to determine individual talents, and encouraged everyone to choose a spot in the church where they could serve. We should repeat this.
- More, smaller SS classes and small groups.
- Whole church activities – the 3 services tend to separate members into groups that don't interact.

3. What are a couple of things that you'd like to see FUMC try?

- Get a dynamic, young adult (post-college / pre-children) SS class going.
- A third traditional service, perhaps at 930AM.

French Vision Meeting Notes (2/11/16)

1. What do you enjoy about being at FUMC?

- Youth, CLC, gym (bball in evenings), choice of service styles, traditional music
- Friendliness, inclusive, activities, Wednesday nite suppers and programs
- Well-organized, lots of kids, newcomer bags, Children's Church, Shepherd's Place
- Combined activities (Stop Hunger Now, Mission Sunday), Christmas float
- Small and intimate, recreation/pickleball, youth activities
- Fellowship of folks with like-minded, similar values; small group for travel & rec
- Youth, CLC (bball, weights), activities, events, community activities, mission trips
- Youth programs/mission trips/ dinners, music, small/intimate environment

2. What would you like to see us do more of?

- More combined services
- Greet visitors every Sunday, be more welcoming
- Rec Center open Fri/Sat nite for youth activities and a hangout
- New member integration, online church directory access
- New resident outreach
- More outreach and programming through the CLC
- Local mission outreach once/quarter
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3. What are a couple of things that you'd like to see FUMC try?

- Offer new resident outreach like "Welcome Wagon", reach more non-believers in the community, need to use more technology to reach more folks
- Visitor outreach like with sticker or magnet - don't recommend unscheduled visits to avoid interruption of family time; Text groups to advertise events/info
- More military and shut-in outreach; publicize hearing-impaired loop services
- Perhaps add notifications to Church App, where you can subscribe to updates being pushed to you for different areas (youth, missions, Sunday School)
- Regular Saturday BBQ and movie at the CLC
- Booth/space setup at Arts & Crafts

1. What do you enjoy about FUMC?

- Friendliness of the people; warm and welcoming church body
- Like being around people my own age; member of Basics class – in addition to class, lots of outside activities
- Like to see all the young families and their children
- Like to see young people involved in service again
- Many opps for service within church
- There is a feeling of family on campus
- Enjoy our sanctuary service but also the opp to worship in a contemporary setting
- Not afraid to try something new – excitement going forward
- Shepard's Place

2. What would you like to see us do more of?

- Children in service
- Local missions, more activity; the need is huge within our community; new members don't know the needs of local missions – want to be involved but don't know what's needed.
- Love and want more service days like SHN and Out of the Pew
- Develop a missions chart that will show missions programs and where they overlap with needs in community
- Don't want to see us becoming involved in “drive by missions” where it's one and done – want to see real relationship opps that will impact young lives
- Want to see my dollars follow the local mission
- Get word out in community about Ransom Café
- Need to coordinate with other churches to work together on missions, support groups, etc to better use resources
- Chemo bag ministry reaching out to total strangers who are hurting/going through difficult time; need more ministries that reach out in love

3. What are a couple of things that you'd like to see FUMC try?

- Working together with black churches to help people in need
- Boys & Girls Club reading program might be an opp to serve
- Reaching out to the community's unchurched. Need to share with them the benefits of corporate worship
- Crafts for Cause – members get together and make things for needy
- Feeding the Hungry –share a food truck with other churches that goes to needy with food
- Singles ministry; a singles kickball team has worked well in Mobile; reach out to Faulkner students
- Develop a central point of mission service within community; all churches to participate; how can we combine and work together?
- Drug addiction: how can we minister to this issue? Young mother needs: identify; what are they looking for in a church?
- Have older members help get younger members plugged in

1. What do you enjoy about FUMC?

- Holy Week
- Laura's sermon
- Thanksgiving service/choir (African Children's choir)
- Welcoming to everyone
- Community outreach (i.e., Shepherd's Place, children's programs, Family Promise, Tent City)
- Reach out to help others
- Service Day

2. What would you like to see us do more of?

- Stop Hunger Now
- Projects that more people work on
- Older members mentor younger members
- More opportunities for entire congregation to meet each other's needs (young-to-old and old-to-young)
- Cross ages on committees
- More service days
- More combined services

3. What are a couple of things that you'd like to see FUMC try?

- Once a month: night service followed by small group discussion
- Mission Mississippi (black congregation reaching out to white congregation)
- Sunday school for college students during spring break and summer
- Supporting college students via cards, goody baskets, devotionals, finals ready baskets
- Make missions projects more visible (highlight once/month)
- Information booths, Ministry Fair
- Unified church: give CLC and Sanctuary same bulletin, same info
- Singles Activities
- Multi-cultural/racial worship experiences
- Mentoring relationship between young and old
- Combining Traditional/Gathering bulletins

1. What do you enjoy about being at FUMC?

- Church reaches out (prayer and visits for hospital stay or illness)
- Commitment to children
- Rob's evangelism team (men meet regularly for planning and support)
- Great outreach programs in the community (Ransom Café, Costa Rica mission, Blue Lake, Shepherd's Place, AA and SOS Mtgs, sharing CLC facilities with non-church members)
- Helping in tornado/hurricane aftermaths
- Diverse Bible studies
- Services offered by church (food pantry, childcare)
- Youth programs

2. What would you like to see more of?

- Contact with and programs for the elderly
- Visits and contact with nursing home residents and homebound members
- In-depth Bible studies (going deeper into the scriptures)
- Opportunities to get together for socialization such as round tables or supper clubs, especially recognizing the single population of the church
- Whole church activities (picnics, hymn sings, pot lucks after services)
- Community mission days (Feeding the Hungry, work days)
- Reaching out to new members
- An expansion of development of New Member Orientation to give specific info about church
- Additional small group meetings

3. What are a couple of things that you'd like to see FUMC try?

- Announce special events for coming week after services to reach those without the internet (especially the elderly)
- Mentoring program with elder members to exchange ideas
- Programs or groups to promote stronger marriage values (counselors, studies)
- NOT requiring New Member Orientation BEFORE joining the church
- Consider assigning a mentor to new members
- Additional parking; shuttles from distant areas; valet service

Hagood Vision Meeting Notes (2/16/16)

1. What do you enjoy about being at FUMC?

- Children's ministries
- Traditional worship
- This was the Methodist Church in Fairhope, and we were Methodists (though it was necessary friendly at that time to first-time visitors)
- Caring Ministries: little known nugget outside those who are directly involved in it
- Missions Sunday & Stop Hunger Now & Ransom Café
- Combined worship services
- Dinner on the Grounds (when it was outside)

2. What would you like to see more of?

- Want to do more local missions
- Liked church-wide social events like cookouts at the Rec Center
- UMW needs to be revitalized
- Linking older and younger families/women for mentoring relationships (maybe via MOPS? Or a spin-off from this year's "womens' day apart")
- More space for future growth
- More service opportunities for children
- More of the laity to "catch fire" and become more involved so that volunteers aren't spread so thin

3. What are a couple of things that you'd like to see FUMC try?

- Accommodations for special needs children
- Adult "nursery" for older adults who may have cognitive problems that make it difficult for Bible Study
- Supper Clubs?
- Reaching out to Singles/young professionals/divorced?
- Day events for all adults that could break down barriers (cook outs, hiking)
- Sunday School classes that are men and women so that people can attend regardless of marital status
- "Secret Church" or Bible Conferences

1. What do you enjoy about being at FUMC?

- It is open and friendly
- The options we provide for traditional and contemporary; the open communion table; that the pastors are dividing their time between the services; the pastors' favorite scripture sermons; the quarterly combined service
- Amazing staff; Pastor Ed has been a blessing/a spark
- Children's and Youth programs, including the children's moment and children's church
- Created by God program
- Wednesday Supper
- Sunday School for adults and children
- That there isn't an older generation that wants to control the future of the church; everyone has a voice; that we are having these vision meetings
- That we have become more laity driven and less staff driven

2. What would you like to see us do more of?

- Some variation in the Gathering music: songs that we know the words to (or can learn the words to by singing for several weeks in a row); lower volume; occasional acoustic (perhaps 1x/month); feature guest musicians from within our own church
- Music in the traditional service: perhaps incorporate a little praise and worship
- To truly become a servant's church – more local outreach like the inaugural "Out of the Pew"; continue to reduce our debt load to be able to put more money into missions
- Increase the number of bible study options
- A true Dinner on the Grounds: outside with acoustical music (perhaps this is a time to showcase other musical talent and use our grilling station), outdoor service → maybe a service on the Bluff (with a lunch where there are things like Sunday School table competition)
- Improve our new member initiation...help identify gifts/roles in the church where they could serve

3. What are a couple of things that you'd like to see FUMC try?

- An intergenerational Sunday School class once in awhile (where the topic encourages people to live their "home" class for a study if they'd like, regardless of age or gender)
- Cross-pollination of generations: if some of the older generation could lead a lesson for the younger couples; or the older members lead some of the children's studies; or a Youth/children mentor program a la Big Brothers/Big Sisters
- Move meetings/studies to later in the week to accommodate working members
- Launch and sustain a strong Singles Dept (perhaps we could start with a summer program for returning college students)
- Baptism by Immersion in the Bay

1. What do you enjoy about FUMC?

- Traditional service – nice size
- Options – a place for everyone in the family
- Youth programs
 - i. Rachael does an amazing job, teaches kids to support one another
 - ii. Confirmation process is outstanding
- Sunday School
- Community programs – recent service projects
- Men's ministry – nice facilities
- CLC – involvement with community

2. What would you like to see us do more of?

- Service Day / Local Missions (organization of it could be improved)
- Sunday School
 - Want to get deeper into scripture
 - Organized lesson and teachers
 - Guidance on areas of study
- Helping people plug in – too easy to disappear or fall into the fray
- CLC worshiper – modernize sermons; engagement / meaningful
- Ed is more direct and says things that need to be said; makes you self-examine, which is good
- People tithing/pledging and living up to their commitments – need to educate people and let them know it is a real problem
- More church-wide social events
- Nice to get together in smaller, mixed groups like the home vision meetings
- Modernize contemporary service a bit more – more dynamic messaging/ministry; more dynamic music; not as moving as it could be
- Small group bible studies for people who work

3. What are a couple of things that you'd like to see FUMC try?

- Text message to church members about what is coming up in the lesson
- Combined Sunday School classes with pastor leading a study – increase mix of people; perhaps try during summer when it's slow or perhaps try when it's busier to attract a larger attendance
- Name tags
- Utilize our website more – for example, details on Day of Service and tickets for Women's Day Apart

1. What do you enjoy about FUMC?

- The people – through caring ministries and bible studies
- Local and extended missions
- Children and Youth Ministries
- Foundations SS class
- Friendliness of members
- Life Groups
- Fellowship

2. What would you like to see us do more of?

- Joint services at least 1x/quarter
- Coordinating sermons at each service
- SHN type events
- Educating members on church's finances and programs (transparency)
- Integration of technology
- Personal visits from the pastor

3. What are a couple of things that you'd like to see FUMC try?

- Strengthening membership by fellowship
- Electronic outreach
- Bible study for men 60+
- Dinner round tables
- Ministry for homebound and elderly people – lawn care, minor home repairs, building wheelchair ramps, etc.
- Yearly revivals

1. What do you enjoy about FUMC?

- Traditional part of church choir
- Heritage of FUMC (100+ years old)
- Contemporary service – opp to worship in so many ways
- Senior Adult SS program (and what it does for other people)
- Fellowship opps through SS and Supper Clubs
- Old sanctuary “just speaks worship”
- So many ways to serve others

2. What would you like to see us do more of?

- Even more opps to serve
- More support for the youth; Support Rachael more and encourage her work
- Determine what we should do as a church and then execute it well
- Staff properly with committee and SPR
- Find the true needs of those in our own church and then fill it!

3. What are a couple of things that you’d like to see FUMC try?

- Build a stronger SS program for Gen X
- Perhaps add more services (i.e., a third service at 930AM)
- Because travel sports are “killing the church,” perhaps add an evening service at 530PM
- Form a children and teen focus group so we can ask our own youth, “What are we missing?”

1. What do you enjoy about FUMC?

- Reminded Taylor of the church in which she was raised – comfort of childhood traditions, familiarity
- Nursery, preschool, Joy choir, MOPs, Acolytes
- So many churches trying to be “non” churches to attract younger generation. There is great comfort in FUMC not trying to do down that road.
- Something for everyone and so many ways to get involved
- Wed night, bible studies, Alecia’s Daniel Plan, Stephen Ministry, Life Groups
- Someone for every season of life
- Ministries that reach out to community: Bay Camp, Center Stage, VBS, Upward

2. What would you like to see us do more of?

- Combined services to remove Older/younger separation (in conjunction with traditional/contemporary) but blended services aren’t always attended by older members
- Have choir and “unplugged” band both sing traditional hymns with guitar
- What kind of role could older members be pulled into to bring generations closer together?

3. What are a couple of things that you’d like to see FUMC try?

- Van service through BRATS on Sundays – ministry would call on Fridays to confirm who is coming so route can be arranged before each Sunday
- Youth Sunday
- Lay Youth Speakers
- Hospitality: welcome “package” on Sundays for visitors – make sure ushers (especially in Gathering) know the procedure

1. What do you enjoy about FUMC?

- Small groups for knowledge and getting to know your church family
- Variety of programs
- Traditional and contemporary service options – contemporary has brought in young people
- Sunday School
- Always someone to help you if you call
- Ann Pearson
- Rachael Waldhour over youth

2. What would you like to see us do more of?

- More people in 8:30AM choir
- More parking
- More opps for small group bible studies
- Shorter bible studies such as 8 or 16 weeks
- More activities to help the less fortunate in our own community
- More people working jobs within the church – everyone in church has a job like at Frazier
- Music too loud in CLC
- Would like to see us incorporate Psalms 19:14 into the service
- Cutting Disciple classes into 2 parts

3. What are a couple of things that you'd like to see FUMC try?

- Different system, besides checklist, for people to volunteer within the church
- Get SS Classes to take over sanctuary flowers on Sunday
- Ramp into Education Building by office (with railings)

1. What do you enjoy about FUMC?

- Warm, friendly, welcoming people
- Children's programs, choirs
- Adult SS classes – Foundations, Friends in Faith
- Missions like SHN
- Caring for each other in times of injury, death, etc.
- Accountability, comraderie
- Having Ed and Laura swap locations
- Sermon notes with Laura but is a problem when Ed doesn't do it
- Created by God – proud we offer this

2. What would you like to see us do more of?

- New member integration (one attendee felt lost and wasn't invited to SS)
- Mission opps for children with their families; More local missions
- Recreation Ministry – return the open gym – do all visitors like Bay Camp, Center Stage, etc feel reached?
- Women's Ministry – circles?
- Older Adults "place"
- Add a follow up to Created by God program a few years later
- More acoustic / unplugged music in CLC
- Youth Choir (although seeing the individual talents at other levels has been wonderful)
- More education of what's going on in the world in regards to Christians (persecution)

3. What are a couple of things that you'd like to see FUMC try?

- Singles Class
- Linking up different ages – as mentors possibly or just mixing (like round tables in the past)
- Have our youth group get together with other area youth groups...singles...choirs, etc. for an ecumenical feeling

1. What do you enjoy about FUMC?

- Friendly
- Local missions
- Sunday services
- Lots going on at church
- Community outreach
- Ushering
- Choirs, music
- Support from church family
- Stephen Ministry
- Suppers
- Fellowship
- Lay Speaking
- Vespers at Homestead Village
- New service at Thomas Hospital
- Costa Rica Missions
- Staff; Ed Glaize – a blessing and a spark for the church

2. What would you like to see us do more of?

- Connecting generations in the church
- More combined services
- More traditional songs in CLC worship and more contemporary songs in traditional worship so everyone learns the songs
- Reaching out to shut-ins
- Missions both local and foreign
- Serve the needy
- More days of service like the Sunday before MLK day
- More follow-up with members who request info about programs/volunteer opps
- Be more conscious of diversity and welcome all kinds of folks. Open-minded.

3. What are a couple of things that you'd like to see FUMC try?

- A self-study of the bible in the Link for those who can't make the classes – maybe to go along with sermon topics

Lagrone/Branyon Vision Meeting Notes (2/18/16)

1. What do you enjoy about FUMC?

- Children's programs
- Welcoming
- Choice of contemporary and traditional worship
- Nursery – offered for most events
- Facilities
- Men's Group
- Sunday School Class – young married couples
- Small groups that meet during the week instead of Sunday School

2. What would you like to see us do more of?

- No notes

3. What are a couple of things that you'd like to see FUMC try?

- Family Night once a month

1. What do you enjoy about FUMC?

- Loving ways of ministries
- Pastors and staff – personal touch by staff
- Blue Lake
- Likeable/loveable people taking care of flock
- Heart for missions
- Traditional service – liturgy and sacred/reverence in service
- Secure, safe environment
- Inclusiveness at communion
- Outreach of church
- Feels like a family – celebrate and mourn together
- Younger people – growing but remains steadfast; everyone has a place in church
- Everyone can find a role and a place in the church
- Youthfulness of church – lots of young energy

2. What would you like to see us do more of?

- Don't want any generation to feel left out
- Advocates for individuals in nursing homes, assisted living
- Dinner on the grounds again
- Tent revivals
- More combined services – traditional/contemporary
- Fun stuff / together stuff
- Do we really want to keep growing? How do we then get to know each other?
- “Dive In!” – Since CLC opened, hasn't been done.
- Don't purge membership roll without first exploring why people aren't attending

3. What are a couple of things that you'd like to see FUMC try?

- While remaining contemporary, consider implementing/including traditional Methodist rituals. Not such a difference in the traditional/contemporary services regarding Methodism.
- Combining services with other denominations (i.e., food pantry) to avoid duplication and increase effectiveness.
- Transitional class / group for college and young adults who no longer fit in with youth but aren't ready for the older, established groups.
- Study groups on other religions – to gain understanding.

1. What do you enjoy about FUMC?

- Traditional / contemporary service options
- 8:30AM service
- CLC used to serve community
- So many mission opportunities for all
- Caring church
- Love the sanctuary

2. What would you like to see us do more of?

- Pay off the CLC; be debt free
- More missions closer to home - not Africe; too much money
- Fellowship groups outside of church, especially homebound
- Churches working together without feeling “threatened” that someone will get their members or ministries
- Love Fairhope – more involved

3. What are a couple of things that you’d like to see FUMC try?

- Serve college age kids like a Wesley Foundation
- Transportation for Hope Center – to get to service
- Ministries where church members use their skills to serve community (mechanic, doctor, attorney, etc)
- Circles of Transformation

1. What do you enjoy about FUMC?

- Choir
- Stephen Ministries
- Small groups
- Friendly people
- Friends in Faith SS class
- An opportunity to serve and work with other people

2. What would you like to see us do more of?

- Activities that involve different ages on the same project (broader group serving)
- Continuing small groups
- Demographics are changing around here and we need to prepare
- More space; new sanctuary
- Stay focused on main goal; have process to reach goal; have mechanism to know our goal

3. What are a couple of things that you'd like to see FUMC try?

- A way to honor and show our appreciation to service people – firemen, police, etc.
- Let all SS classes meet for fellowship together every so often
- A way for personal invitation to serve on activities and committees
- Figuring out ways to get generations together in studies/activities/committees
- Committee meetings held on Sunday night so more people are available
- Find a way to have free childcare for meetings
- Communications within church; more communication about activities for all age groups during all 3 services
- More interaction between age groups
- Examine how we do Wednesday night dinners – more involvement with more groups
- We don't want to get involved in too many activities and not do them well

1. What do you enjoy about FUMC?

- Friendly church
- Humility about congregation (stereotypical questions not asked)
- CLC
- Sense of community
- Offers a lot for all ages and in all seasons of life, easy to find a place in the church
- Safe sanctuary
- Preachers are real; they are out in the community, eating at restaurants and being regular people
- Ed's pastoring gifts

2. What would you like to see us do more of?

- More "Day of Service" opps; mission / local outreach; after church services seemed like a good time
- A "compromise" of music style/service between contemporary and traditional – want to attend Gathering with kids but music a little too loud; would love to hear some traditional hymns
- Combined services during summer
- Church under the Tent / Dinner on the Grounds – during Arts & Crafts
- More advertisement and volunteer solicitation for Family Promise
- More people involved – not same people in same roles all of the time
- More adult programming on Wednesday nights
- Old Methodist hymns

3. What are a couple of things that you'd like to see FUMC try?

- Letter for regular attendees/visitors who attend regularly for 3 mos
- Shorter length of sermon (got point across but not 3-4x); Gathering a little lengthy sometimes – should we do communion every Sunday? Desire to change up order of service – speakers, more special guest musicians
- Coffee and donuts in the Fellowship Hall (fellowship time)
- New coffee / new coffee system – maybe Fairhope Roasting Company
- Need to involve members of all ages, volunteering and working together
- Diversity in services and testimonies, mix it up (Youth Sunday, Lay Sunday, 70% preacher/30% laity, The White Boys)
- Something like an Angel tree or giving of service needs in summer – "Christmas in July"
- Giving fund for staff bonuses (maybe not just at Christmastime) or donate job services to the staff
- Church service where different people share about the different ministries and volunteers and what it has meant to them

1. What do you enjoy about FUMC?

- SS Class
- Missionary Circle
- Learning and helping others
- Shepherd's Place
- The Link
- The diversity of our church, the comraderie, the fellowship
- Ministering of our church during crises: prayers, food, time
- Inspired by beauty of church, music of our church
- Seeing children and youth participating
- Ministering to the community

2. What would you like to see us do more of?

- Blue Lake Camp and Retreat with youth participation –to inspire and deepen faith
- Gospel music and standard old hymns
- More drama and music participation involving youth
- Activities with other churches like the Thanksgiving service with the African choir
- Liveliness in CLC – singing by congregation in CLC with band
- Dinner on the grounds
- Continue and expand Ransom Café

3. What are a couple of things that you'd like to see FUMC try?

- Gospel night
- Reopen reading / volunteering with Boys and Girls Club
- Call Faulkner to ask students to not use our parking space during the day

1. What do you enjoy about FUMC?

- Variety of studies available at a variety of times
- Educational and spiritual nature
- Warmth and friendliness, open to strangers, encouraging to others
- Caring Ministries
- Traditional worship services
- Powerful music in traditional services, hymns are meaningful
- Young people are now wanting tradition
- Proud of mission

2. What would you like to see us do more of?

- Round table revival
- GREAT photos of new members
- Emails church-wide about needs – communication about baptisms, new members – some format to spread word once a week – more info in church bulletin
- More academic lectures
- Clarify confusion about why there is a call to come forward at the end of the service

3. What are a couple of things that you'd like to see FUMC try?

- New church plant – mission church
- Wednesday night plan for inclusion of people who really come
- Some plan for helping members meet one another
- Night service with lots of music

1. What do you enjoy about being at FUMC?

- Children and youth programs are great
- Beautiful sanctuary
- Caring church through the leadership of Ann Pearson
- New energy with our new pastor
- Loved “out of the pew” and would like to see that grow in to a regular church activity such as quarterly. Sunday is a great day for service because it is a day already set aside typically.
- They loved the stop hunger now

2. What would you like to see more of?

- Our group mentioned that they would like to see more activities for active seniors.
- More service days
- More combined service church days where everyone worships at the same service.

3. What are a couple of things that you’d like to see FUMC try?

- Also mentioned parking is difficult for the older folks. A suggestion was a shuttle or just begin initiating the conversation about families coming together in one car if possible and younger folks parking in the further parking places like on Bancroft.
- Communion weeks at 930/945 in chancel area
- Sunday lunch on the lawn

1. What do you enjoy about being at FUMC?

- Sunday School, The CLC offering to the community
- Opportunity to Serve
- Warm, Inviting Church. Variety of Activities to be involved in. Well rounded church.
- Loved the People, Missional church, Moved to the area and was looking for a good family church, and a good library. Thrilled with the offering of the programs. The Staff in the office is very nice and helpful. Before they joined the church, they opened up the sanctuary to allow them to see the church.
- Traditional Services, Smaller church feel, Sunday School, Likes the reverence in the services. No clapping.
- Sunday School, Caring Ministries - Dr. Ann

2. What would you like to see more of?

- Ability to see a complete List of Programs taking place in the church
- Better communication across the services of opportunities to serve. We rely on Sunday School classes to pass the word too often.
- More involved in the community – Especially in a focus on Hispanic community in Baldwin County – JFON(Justice for Our Neighbors)
- Work with other Churches in serving the Community
- Better visibility in the Community – Visually. Better use of the Green Space from the street. More Lighting – Displays
- Discussion of Security with the CLC and open church needs
- Better communication via Website and Phone App
- Broader and More Detailed New Member Orientation
- Better Member Exploration on opportunities to serve.
- Monthly LINK used – Would like to see weekly Newsletter emailed.
- Feed my Starving Children type of Combined Missions
- A Posted List of all Staff – To Understand who handles what.
- More Cross-Contamination of Sunday School Classes
- More Movie and Community Events like Woodlawn

3. What are a couple of things that you'd like to see FUMC try?

- Community Event – Welcome to Fairhope Orientation – Offering References for relocation to the Community and the church. Life needs: Lawn, Mechanic, Schools, etc.
- Professional Community Event – Open House to support church based businesses and gain referrals.
- Health Fair – Community Event to offer free health and dental screenings
- Once a quarter – Different Leaders visit other Sunday School classes to present on what they are involved in.
- Sunday School Open House? Display Studies and Classes to invite other members to attend different classes.
- Traditional vs. Contemporary Combination Events – Support a Youth Event
- Food Pantry – Discuss more needs of the Community
- Community - Stations of the Cross – Lent Season

- Shelter Awareness and Preparation for Hurricanes, etc.
- Reaching Hispanic community – ESL, Illiteracy programs

1. What do you enjoy about FUMC?

- Mini studies – Life Group, Disciple classes, Wednesday Night
- Contemporary and traditional services
- Hometown atmosphere – large church but still has small town feel
- Fellowship
- Small groups
- VBS
- Youth
- Sunday School
- Sid Vogel teaching a variety of people

2. What would you like to see us do more of?

- More local missions – out of the pew
- Small groups
- Groups/activities that bring entire congregation together
- Student section for church (college)

3. What are a couple of things that you'd like to see FUMC try?

- Jail ministry
- Supper clubs
- Concerts with fellowship – work with local colleges
- Carpenters for Christ
- Alternatives for youth – showing positive role models
- Serve abused women, children – i.e., Mary's Shelter
- Sponsor/help with scholarship or provide necessities for needs
- Mentors

1. What do you enjoy about FUMC?

- Rachel – Youth Ministries
- Disaster teams (involve 30s & 40s)

2. What would you like to see us do more of?

- Improved member welcoming group with follow through – “I’m a member” tags; what happens after black book is signed? Follow-up? What questions are being asked? Apple pie ministry?
- “Career Fair” to showcase ministries; someone at each service to showcase a ministry – provide contact info and explain ministry
- Instead of “this is the way to be a good couple” type studies, more of a serious bible study
- The kids group and youth group need to have same schedule. If there is a holiday, all programs need to decide whether or not to meet. There isn’t enough consistency.
- Adult SS classes 30-45 per class is too big – maybe break up again to offer more space
- More advertisement of SS offerings
- Space in bulletin for updated prayer requests – nothing should be turned away; prayer warriors email list

3. What are a couple of things that you’d like to see FUMC try?

- FUMC is seen as a cold church. How to change?
 - Bring back the “greeting moment” in all the services; pick a number game
 - Name tag Sundays each month – printed and laminated tags
 - Q Wednesday night picnic
- Singles Ministry
- Spiritual gift assessment

1. What do you enjoy about being at FUMC?

- Kids functions and involvement
- FUMC is a big church with diverse age groups and activities for each group, but still has a small feel
- Kids education opportunities – Sunday school and pre-k programs
- Leadership is really good...very good at reaching out and leading programs that reach out.
- Wednesday evening dinners – very blessed to have them provide the small community feel for us to get together as a church family and share a meal.
- Family promise
- 2 services – having traditional and Gathering services is nice to have two types of services for all age groups
- Missions, especially as it relates to kids involvement teaching service.
- Confirmation classes have been wonderful...especially in bringing the kids into more church and community service...and they love it...find ways to keep the service involvement going after confirmation
- MOPS – growing the church by bringing in many more young families.

2. What would you like to see more of?

- More local and regional missions
- “Rock & Roll Service” – incorporate more traditional songs and hymns into the music, especially if it could be acoustic...songs that many recognize and have been traditional church services...less rock and roll drums to be more inclusive to those who like the service but isn't a fan of rock
- Post confirmation, offer confirmed kids opportunities to continue church involvement...volunteering at children's church, community service etc. to keep their desire to be involved burning
- Ways to use the outdoor BBQ more often?
- Ways to more broadly notify congregation of where needs are for involvement and volunteering...how to know where to get plugged in and involved?

3. What are a couple of things that you'd like to see FUMC try?

- Wednesday night dinners...can we have a salad bar included for those on diets?
- Special needs Sunday school classes...are there any retired special needs teachers in the church who may want to help?
- College age Sunday school during May - July...can it be offered for those with college students who return for the summer so they can be included with their parents programs at same time on Sunday mornings?
- Young adult professionals Sunday school for those who are out of college but still single?...young adult ministries?

1. What do you enjoy about FUMC?

- SS class, Fellowship Opps, Acolytes
- Family-oriented congregation, children's programming, sermons are focused and applicable, worship service options
- Small groups (Disciple and other bible studies, Life Groups)
- Desires a "back to basics" approach
- The Lord's Prayer recitations in each service

2. What would you like to see us do more of?

- Small, local missions
- Bring back skill courses to lend mission work that includes all ages and remembers fondly the SHN event
- Helping church members to connect with congregation for outreach, recognizing the idea of a "church family"
- Desires fun and uplifting worship music (less organ) in sanctuary
- Church should take advantage of the talents of church members and seek the expertise of those individuals, sharing their talents through lessons with others
- Increase in small group opps for youth (for young women, as an example) – Amys' daughter is part of a small group female bible study at Eastern Shore Presbyterian and prefers the smaller atmosphere.
- Would like to see a revolution in volunteer mgmt. in the church to better utilize the talents and gifts of members.

3. What are a couple of things that you'd like to see FUMC try?

- A young men's (teen) project group
- Stronger, more efficient communication between staff and volunteers
- Church-wide fellowship activities
- Would like to see church visible locally – Habitat for Humanity, community garden
- Would like to see youth program grow in spirit via fellowship opportunities

1. What do you enjoy about FUMC?

- Bible study programs/sessions
- Disciple Training – still robust; need to encourage
- Children and Youth programs
- So many knowledgeable teachers
- All different ages mixed
- Wednesday night suppers – courses and fellowship with others
- Easter week
- Caring ministries
- Shepherd's Place
- Preschool attracting young families to church
- Upward basketball
- VBS

2. What would you like to see us do more of?

- More need to get involved; new people need to get part of the team
- High school Sunday attendance weak
- SS needs more attendees and more room
- No more mean teachers

3. What are a couple of things that you'd like to see FUMC try?

- Singles or College Group is needed
- Mission is not tied to evangelism
- Messages don't get out – need better communication – between services as well
- Reaching outside our campus – more outreach
- Need volunteers more than paid employees – encourage volunteers
- Engage everybody for Christ – witness to kids – purpose of church is evangelism
- More togetherness; “The Gathering” sounds separate; don't need communion every wk
- New circles for women – assign every lady to a circle
- Need men groups
- Debt free
- Ed: 2 Sundays; Laura: 2 Sundays
- Youth Choir
- Broadcast our church service on TV
- Bring in great speakers once a month
- Scientific explanation for God
- Stand up for the bible and God
- Want REAL bible study – need challenging SS curriculum

1. What do you enjoy about FUMC?

- Community outreach / missions
- Classes at our church – Disciple, Bible Study, etc.
- Small Groups – FM3, Women’s Circle
- Children’s ministry
- Preschool
- SS
- Upward Sports
- Combined services

2. What would you like to see us do more of?

- Visit our elderly more often – maybe have someone assigned to visit a person each month

3. What are a couple of things that you’d like to see FUMC try?

- Keep in contact with college age kids – send Upper Room, letters, keep the connection
- More Christian concerts
- Use new amphitheater for concerts, movies, etc.
- Bridge church and lifestyle in better ways
- Active small groups – key to plugging into church
- Supper clubs – once a month? (different from small groups or bible study)
- Lunch at church – once a month with invitations to other churches – lunch for everyone

1. What do you enjoy about FUMC?

- Friendly warmth
- Many programs/choices – easy to find your niche
- CLC: services and pickle ball
- Early/late services and different styles
- Social aspect (SS – supper clubs and Christmas parties)
- Bible studies
- Youth Groups

2. What would you like to see us do more of?

- Uplifting organ music
- Supper clubs (not just in SS)
- Take church into community

3. What are a couple of things that you'd like to see FUMC try?

- Start a program with pastor and other church leaders to promote Christianity
- Collecting the offering after the sermon
- Find a way to bring 20s/30s – with no kids (typically unchurched group in the church. Target this group for progressive growth – tag people this age already in church to find out how to get more involved)
- Young adult single group
- Game night
- Common agenda/goal in community: Woodlawn movie, secular music
- Music concerts / plays using college students in art program / bring Mobile Opera to Fairhope
- Use CLC for area Seminary or for Educational Programs like parenting, anger mgmt, etc.
- 5th Quarter after football programs
- Promote CLC/Gathering a little more
- FUMC take lead in developing a “Regional Christian Church Council” that incorporate all Christian churches whose objective would be to spread Christianity from inside the church to the outside marketplace

1. What do you enjoy about being at FUMC?

- Sunday School both adult and kids
- How easy it is to be involved (many activities and requests for help)
- The beautiful Sanctuary
- The formal and traditional service
- The ministers both past and present have always had a “hands on” approach that is appreciated.
- The many studies offered throughout the week, especially Disciple

2. What would you like to see more of?

- Senior activities/trips (like Daphne UMC does)
- More Recreation ministry for young and old
- Where is UMW?
- More Communication about what is happening off campus. I know FUMC is so active in the community, but where and what are we doing?
- More use of the technology at our disposal, could we do “ministry spotlight” videos to showcase some of what FUMC is doing and give people a chance to see the leaders, but do it in video form so someone doesn’t accidentally talk about their ministry to 30 minutes instead of 3 minutes
- What is going on with the Men’s Group?
- Lights out front (everything seems to stop at the traffic light at our corner) are we visible to the community?
- More contemporary service at the gathering (louder, darker, more concert like)

3. What are a couple of things that you’d like to see FUMC try?

- Should we have a “first responders group” in case of disaster such as tornados or hurricanes?
- Phone Tree
- Where are the youth? Are there any talented youth that would be willing to lead a more contemporary service?
- Habitat for Humanity
- Our VBS is too successful! What can we do about that so no one is turned away. We have seen an abbreviated nighttime VBS be successful.
- We need to bring the church together once every quarter for BIG EVENTS, such as Fall Festivals, Mission Weeks or other events on the grounds.
- Christmas Pageant
- Water Activities (so many new to the area, let us try some things we have not been exposed to previously. Help us to find an appreciation of the bay).
- What is going on with the Migrant Workers? Are they being served?
- We have a large population of babies at FUMC. Currently many are being forced into choosing between SS and church because there is no (cry room) or nursing room where mothers of very young children could go to take care of their babies and still hear the sermon.
- We go to a very affluent church, but the area as a whole has some severe poverty. Daphne Elementary School is a Title 1 school (poor) and has no resources to meet the basic needs of these students (afterschool tutoring) So many need a mentor, someone to come and talk with them, help them realize how special they are and read to them and help them read, read, read.

Make Up Vision Meeting #1 Notes

1. What do you enjoy about FUMC?

- Friendships and learning
- Bible studies / Disciple classes
- Friends in Faith SS class – support, friendships
- Variation between traditional and contemporary services
- Feels like family
- Dedicated staff
- Music programs / musicians
- Beauty of the church
- That we have so many children
- Seeing Ed when children make comments during children's moment

2. What would you like to see us do more of?

- Coffee / Fellowship hour after worship
- People speak, be more friendly
- "Greeting time" during worship
- Revival of prayer ministry, healing services
- More awareness of prayer needs
- Local outreach, missions to those in need
- More cooperation between church pastors and leaders, city agencies, police, ecumenical ministries
- Loving church family more
- More communication from trustees about what they are doing around the church (list projects and cost)
- More detail/transparency on where tithes are spent
- Have basic communication on names/ages of various choirs in link for new members

3. What are a couple of things that you'd like to see FUMC try?

- Set up a beautification fund for landscaping, etc
- Singles ministry
- Education, training on how to talk to people who are not believers
- Satellite church? As we grow and parking becomes more of an issue

Make-Up Vision Meeting #2 Notes (3/2/16)

1. What do you enjoy about FUMC?

- Small group bible studies during the week
- Variety of offerings (including worship) and opportunities to volunteer
- Opportunities for spiritual growth (i.e., Disciple I, II, III and Ameus Walk)
- Is a very caring church (i.e., Shep Place, prayerful, ministers/congregants visit when sick)
- Value the traditional look of the church
- Youth group and choir provided a great spiritual base for now grown children
- FM3
- Traditional service
- CLC and all it offers for not only member but also non-members → is representative of the fact that we are a community church
- Home bible studies
- Exercise track
- Visiting singing groups, authors, special events
- We are a serving church

2. What would you like to see us do more of?

- Active seniors group with a director – day trips, etc. – could include service
- Activities on a different day than Tuesday
- Supper clubs of years ago
- Racial diversity
- Continue to be an inclusive community church
- Cont to serve the community
- Shep Place
- Miss traditional hymns – incorporate songs that we've sung before

3. What are a couple of things that you'd like to see FUMC try?

- Casual Sunday evening service; covered dish supper → maybe a 5th Sunday
- Cross-generational interaction
- Divide church flowers and deliver to shut ins (3 teams: deconstruct, arrange, deliver)
- Family Restroom
- Enhance handicapped accessibility
- "Ways to Serve this Month" block in The Link
- Enhanced communications

1. What do you enjoy about FUMC?

- Friendliest church in town
- Worship service options make it difficult to know everyone but you can get to know those who consistently attend worship
- Sun School is great and important to get to know members and for accountability
- Children's ministry
- Variety of bible studies offered at different times
- We are a church that is willing to change and try new things
- We integrate all members into missions

2. What would you like to see us do more of?

- Joint services, events where everyone can get together (i.e., SHN)
- More Out of the Pew events; more local mission opps – for entire family to participate
- Having children sing in worship
- Having lay people involved in worship
- More of the old hymns in worship – maybe 1 in each service – familiarity helps those who don't read music
- More interaction with children
- Acoustic music in Gathering...music has gotten louder; feels more like a rock concert than a worship service; tapping other musical talent in our church to participate in service

3. What are a couple of things that you'd like to see FUMC try?

- Partner with local African-American church to provide VBS
- Take VBS to neighborhoods like trailer parks
- Help coordinate, become sponsor for sending food home with hungry children from school
- Partner with local group with less resources to build a community garden
- Help strengthen relationships between people to help them feel a part and then want to be involved
- Reach the singles in our community – young and single/divorced who are older
- Big Brother/Big Sister mentality – mentoring/shepherding new members
- Mentoring from 20-30 somethings to high schoolers/college students
- Launch singles program by starting a summer SS session for college students

1. What do you enjoy about FUMC?

- Family being accepted
- The people, familiar faces, food
- Willingness to try new things
- Focus on serving others (mentioned by 3 people)
- Security team
- CLC: enjoying the community and being more a part than secluded
- Pre-school being active in the church
- Worship – being able to offer broad spectrum to all ages
- Caring Ministries – seeking and finding those in need
- Need-communicated and met, response to not only church needs but to people who need help
- Respect and love in the community of Fairhope, known all around as loving and being helpful in the community
- Downtown church – presence in the community and events that happen in town
- Desire to grow and learn in the church
- Open to new opinions and values that progress the betterment of the church

2. What would you like to see us do more of?

- Involvement of single, young adults
- Diversity
- Children participating in the involvement of the church service
- Young families
- Combined services
- Leader and joint progress of events and programs
- More joint SS events/programs
- Communicating to other churches
- Communities – homeless, other needs that haven't been met
- Work together as a staff team
- Older member volunteering and discipling to people
- Closing o gaps of intergenerational and adopting people as “family”
- Service for Hispanic and other demographics
- Financial generosity of congregation

3. What are a couple of things that you'd like to see FUMC try?

- Music camp with kids, annually
- Endowment giving financial plan
- Fine arts series – fine arts Sundays celebrating arts in our church
- Vision of church to be congregation-led and not staff-led
- Young adult singles
- Youth led services

- Cut things out of agenda – not less but a joint help across the board to further events together
- Not afraid to say no
- Olympic pool in CLC
- Recreational opportunities outside of CLC
- Church-wide events – retreats outside of church involving the whole church as a family
- Raise money to renovate bathroom upstairs
- Additional space – for music and to help free up educational space
- Communication – best was as a staff to make things available for everyone
- Celebrating the church – events and sharing of positive venues and events that happen in the church
- TV in each SS room to convey messages
- Bulletin – simplistic to convey what is going on
- Month Newsletter (The Link) – be as simple as possible
- Intramural sports to get younger families involved

Youth Vision Meeting Notes

1. What do you enjoy about FUMC?

- Opportunities for mission
- One of first things you see in Fairhope
- Youth group; our peers
- Congregation feels like family
- Rachael is a good role model
- Feels connected
- Accountability of others being here
- Buildings, CLC
- Recreation ministry
- Like having different events outside of church (i.e., Waffle House, Rachael' house, El Mexicano)
- Food on Sunday nights
- Feeling you get when you arrive
- Fun things and lesson
- Love having adults here on Wednesday – they are really here for us
- Open up to the community, allowing non-members to use facility
- Youth mission week
- Out of the Pew
- Discovery Weekend
- Get to volunteer for VBS

2. What would you like to see us do more of?

- Would like to see the kids now being the leaders and then invite more folks in community
- Ways for people to get more connected to church and FUMC
- Play more songs we know at Youth Group
- Getting to know more multi-generational
- Reach out to students who are no longer attending FUMC
- Get people to come on a more regular basis, as opposed to only “fun” stuff
- Evangelism at fun stuff
- Youth band – play more often
- 7th-12th together
- C-Groups curriculum
- Stepping Up Ministry – more
- Prayer Stations – would like to see more
- C Groups: would like to mix them up (not with friends)
- Would like to see more groups for members their parents' age
- Would like games after youth (someone leading groups)
- Blue Lake and family Retreat

3. What are a couple of things that you'd like to see FUMC try?

- Have something for college kids to come back to

- Father/daughter Mother/son service or event (paintball / get together)
- Apprenticeship – matching students with mentors like sound booth, train new youth leader, singing/instruments
- Church bus
- A bar for 21 and older