

Conference Report 2008
Prayer Ministry at FUMC
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The prayer Ministry at FUMC began with phone calls to a few people with prayer concerns for others. In 2002, we started a prayer group which meets on Tuesdays. People gather at 10 am to write Prayer-Grams to those names in Sunday's bulletin and others we have been led to write. During our prayer time at 11, these notes are all signed by those present. Initially, it was the desire of Roberta Ashley for Prayer-Grams to be written by others, but for the most part this has not happened. Roberta still tries to encourage people to write Prayer-Grams especially at the Wednesday night suppers and hopefully more people will be led on their own to write these special notes. Those who have received Prayer-Grams have been deeply touched by these notes. Many have told us they save the notes and read them over and over.

Prayer time on Tuesdays is opened with a short devotional followed by a prayer. In the beginning, we lift up the concerns of those present (average - 14 every week) and others that have asked for prayers during the previous week. We proceed with lifting up over 300 names in prayer that were placed on the prayer list in previous weeks. We also pray for our church staff, students who are away at college, the disciple classes, Shield of Prayer Program and others. We close with individual prayers.

In December 2007, God laid on Ginny White's heart the desire to start a Prayer Shawl Ministry at FUMC. We were not able to meet officially until January 2008. But, by our first gathering we had given out 3 shawls and by November 1, 2008, we had blessed and given 84 shawls. SAFE and Mercy Seat came and spoke to the group and we will also be giving them shawls. We were able to purchase a CD player and two CD's, so during our gathering time on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month, we are able to play music during our quiet time of prayer and knitting.

In 2008, with monies requested from the FUMC Foundation, we had hoped to have an outside source come and help strengthen FUMC in their prayer life. An event on contemplative prayer was scheduled in the fall, but this was canceled because the speaker canceled.

In 2008, a Prayer Ministry pamphlet was prepared especially to give to new members. The Chapel continues to be open for Prayer Monday thru Friday from 8 to 4.

My prayer for 2009 is that God would continue to enlarge the Prayer Ministry at FUMC. We plan to start a Centering Prayer Group and hopefully have a workshop, seminar etc on prayer. Ginny White wanting to start the Prayer Shawl Ministry was an answer to my prayer. If God lays it on your heart to be a part of this wonderful ministry, please let me know.