

## Wood County Area Ministries Minutes

**Date:** February, 3 2010

**Location:** First United Methodist Church

**Attendance:** Erin Hachtel, First United Methodist Church  
Don Neifer, St. Mark's Lutheran Church  
Bill Thompson, United Christian Fellowship  
Katy Wolfe United Christian Fellowship  
Melinda Church of Ladder Day Saints  
Mary Jane Fulcher, St. Thomas University Parish  
Bob Barr, Salvation Army  
Christine Rodriguez, UCF/Common Good  
Annette Obregon, Vineyard BG  
Jo Tutolo St. Al's Catholic Church  
Helen Dukes, BG Ministerial Association

### **Reports on Ministries:**

**Financial Report from the Emergency Relief Fund:** December and January Financial reports were distributed. Jo reported that follow up calls are going well. Jo and others are working on a new intake form.

**St. Mark's Lutheran Church:** Don reported the following:

**Furniture Pantry:** Has been very busy and steady with pick up and delivery of furniture.

**Christian Food Pantry:** No report. A question arose about how many people the Christian Food Pantry served in 2010. Do they count the people the same way as other food pantries. Erin will invite a representative to an upcoming WAM meeting to clarify this question.

**Habitat for Humanity:** Is looking for more applications for houses from people who are able to qualify for a loan. A flier will be distributed to all WAM members about how to apply to qualify for a Habitat Home loan.

**St. Tomas More University Parish, Food Pantry:** Mary Jane reported that 83 families received food in January. These families were composed of 257 people. These people were 22 Seniors, 95 Children and 140 Adults.

**Salvation Army:** Bob reported that the Christmas Red Kettle Campaign amount in Wood County is not yet finalized. Bob hopes that they were able to make their goal. The money that is collected in Wood County during the campaign stays in Wood County. Salvation Army is able to help people complete their taxes. People need to call for an appointment. Federal Tax paper forms will not be available until

February 14<sup>th</sup>. WSOS and the Wood County Senior Center also provide assistance with filling out tax forms.

**Mid-American Food** is a food co-op and not a subsidized program so there are no eligibility requirements. It is open to anyone who wishes to participate. There are no membership fees and no required minimum orders. They are able to provide food at low cost because they buy in large quantities and distribute through a volunteer network. Prices are generally half of normal store retail prices. You can view the menu on-line and order through the Salvation Army office. For further information or to view a menu, contact the Salvation Army at 352-5918 or stop in at the office at 1045 N. Main St, Suite 8, behind Marco's Pizza. .

**First United Methodist Church:** Erin reported that they give away food to 200 families in January. The monthly food distribution is on the first Friday of every month. The people must meet eligibility requirements. Martha's Kitchen is open every Friday and is sponsored by the Bowling Green Ministerial Association and supported by 15 churches.

**Bowling Green Chapter of the King's Daughters Silver Cross Circle:** Erin and Don reported that in December they met with members of this Religious/Civic/Spiritual Growth group to learn more about their organization and to tell them about WAM. They receive United Way support and have funds to respond to emergency needs of people.

**Feed the 5000 Project:**

- Erin distributed fliers by E mail for the Lenten Feed the 5000 campaign. Every church may revise the flyer to meet the needs of their faith community.
- Erin will contact Bill Ryan at the Sentinel in order to get an article in the paper about the community wide Lenten food drive. Erin will also ask for a follow up article and picture of the food collected at the end of Lent.

**UCF Common Good House Support Group:**

Kady presented an idea for a support group/ talking group for women and children helped by WAM. The goal would be to build relationships. A meal would be provided and games and reading opportunities for the children. Volunteers are needed to assist with the meals. People who have been helped by WAM would be invited by phone. It was suggested that people who are invited to attend would be asked to RSVP. In the future, we may ask churches to provide transportation.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Jane Fulcher