

Beacon

... guiding our walk

Sebastian United Methodist Church
1029 Main Street
Sebastian, FL 32958
772-589-5230

November 2019



Pastor's Report to the Church Conference: "The State of the Church," "On Mission Together," "Fresh Expressions" Nov. 4, 2019 ~ Pastor John Gill

It is with joy that I present to the Church Conference of Sebastian UMC my first Pastor's Report. Terri and I are thrilled to have been appointed to serve this wonderful congregation. The congregation has been extremely welcoming and seems to have adapted well to my quirks and idiosyncrasies! We already feel quite at home and look forward to a long and fruitful tenure here.

Even though I have only been pastor here for four months, I believe I have been able to get a feel for this congregation, its history and its challenges. As such, I have developed several goals as I lead:

THE STATE OF THE CHURCH

Helping our Lay Leadership Face Challenges and Developing Strategies

This church is richly blessed with highly committed lay leadership who devote much of their lives (in retirement, and while working) for the benefit of this church. Much of their efforts are in making our Thrift Shop successful, which it is. The Thrift Shop was formed many decades ago, and was to raise money for "missions." Unfortunately, over time, the income from members did not grow fast enough to keep up with expenses, so more and more of the proceeds of the Thrift Shop were given to the General Fund, until none of the proceeds were going to missions (thankfully, in the past year, the Thrift Shop has begun "tithing" 10% of the proceeds to local mission projects). As a result, the level of giving of members (who may assume that the Thrift Shop funds the church – or that they could give labor in place of tithes) has steadily declined. On top of this, the worship attendance and membership has also steadily declined. This MUST be reversed.

My goal (which I have shared with the leadership) is that we wean ourselves off our dependence on the Thrift Shop, so that the Thrift Shop can return to its original mission of funding community missions. To do this will require a significant effort to educate and challenge the congregation about the importance of tithing, and growing the membership of the church to increase the giving base.

As part of this effort, I have already brought our leaders together for two days of leadership training and visioning/planning for this church's future. Out of those sessions, we have formed two "teams" (made up of most all the leaders of the church) to continue the discussions and planning as we move forward together. One team will consider "Resources" (stewardship challenges to increase giving, weaning the congregation off its depend-

ence on Thrift Shop income for operation of the church, increasing mission giving from Thrift Shop income, and whether to expand facilities of our Thrift Shop for increased furniture sales). The other team will consider “People and Processes” (the demographic challenges of our congregation – older – increasing diversity of ages, outreach to the community, seeking and welcoming visitors, discipleship classes especially for those inquiring about the Christian faith and membership, increasing volunteerism and involvement of members, etc.).

These two teams will bring back recommendations that will help our congregation move forward together with unity, and improve the “state of the church.”

ON MISSION TOGETHER

Disciple-Making: Increasing our Outreach and Growing our Membership

Another goal I have set is that we must increase our outreach and presence in the community. While the community is aware of our church, it doesn’t feel like this church is “part” of this community. This may be because the membership is made up primarily of retired persons who did not raise their family or spend their working years in this area – and therefore do not have any natural connections to the community of Sebastian. Few working folks or families are members here. Families seem to take advantage of our wonderful summer Music Camps, but only one family this year actually began worshipping here. We need to find better ways to leverage the contacts we are able to make.

We need to find more ways to become involved in the life of this community. We can do this through more involvement with the Chamber of Commerce and other community and civic groups, by partnering with other congregations more, and by reaching out to our schools (I have just made connection with Sebastian Elementary School and will now serve on their School Advisory Council – SAC, but hope to get our members connected there, as well)

We need to be more intentional in our social media outreach, and relaunch a dormant ministry of connecting with new community residents with welcome gifts and information/invitations to worship.

We are already developing more intentional ways of welcoming, tracking, and following up with those who visit or are prospective members. We have revamped our welcome packet/material for first-time guest. We also have developed a three-week Inquirer’s Class that we will offer every month, beginning in November, with new members joining of the fourth Sundays of each month.

We also need to be evaluating the possibility of expanding our worship offerings to the community. I do not want to change our Sunday morning schedule, as it seems to work well for this congregation. However, we could offer other worship options at other days/times, in other formats. I do not believe we are in a position to attempt a “contemporary service,” however we could consider a Taize’ style service, a coffee-house” worship, or a “dinner church” worship, perhaps on Thursday evenings – a completely different type of worship option for those who do not respond to Sunday traditional worship.

Disciple-Building: Enriching the Spiritual Life of our Membership

One of my spiritual gifts is teaching. I believe that a disciple can’t grow without knowing scripture and understanding the basics of Christian theology. Unfortunately, too many long-time “members” of churches never grow into disciples. They don’t have the necessary foundation to live faithfully and fruitfully in our hostile and secular world. Without sound theology and a solid grasp of God’s Word, they are easily influenced by bad theology, popular feel-good philosophies, or rigid fundamentalism devoid of grace. I consider it one of my highest responsibilities to teach sound doctrine.

I do this by preaching solid Wesleyan theology and thoughtful biblical interpretation. I also do this by offering an ongoing Pastor's Bible Study (morning and evening). Throughout my ministry, I have been thanked for teaching my congregations. Many have shared that during my ministry at their church they grew in their spiritual life. That has been very gratifying to hear!

Another area for spiritual growth is developing the variety of "the means of grace," including offering Holy Communion options weekly (which we are now doing). We also will begin focusing on the life of prayer - personal devotions, intercession, healing prayer, and introducing the practice of contemplation. We will soon reconstitute an Intercessory Prayer Group to meet weekly.

FRESH EXPRESSIONS

We have had a flourishing outreach ministry for a number of years that is almost a Fresh Expression of Church. "Welcome Table" is in its fifth year. Our congregation has been providing monthly dinners for our two senior living centers, "By the River" & "Graces Landing." The seniors are so grateful and look forward to the monthly dinners. About two years ago, Roseland UMC joined us in this effort by also providing meals once a month. That allows our seniors to get two restaurant-style meals served to them each month. We prepare more food than is needed at the senior centers so that we can take food to the Sebastian Motel. The manager works with us to get the food to those who need it the most. (In December we also provide cookies, and our choir sings carols at both locations.)

We are currently exploring offering (possibly following the meal - optional for participants, or at a different time) a faith-focused gathering at each location that would include a time of sharing scripture, conversation, and perhaps holy communion (making this ministry a Fresh Expression in the fullest sense). We are working with the senior living center managers to see if this might be possible.

Thank you for the privilege of sharing this report.

John Gill, Lead Pastor

Upcoming Events – November & December

- November 7, 11 a.m.—2 p.m. Samaritan Center Soup Bowl Luncheon at SUMC
- November 11 Veterans Day – (church office closed)
- November 20 6 pm Fellowship Potluck -Church Safety by Sebastian Police Dept.
- November 18-20 Operation Christmas Child Shoebox drop at the office
- November 18 1 p.m.—8 p.m. Lifetouch Directory Photo retakes
- Saturday, November 23 4 p.m. Flute Ensemble Mission Concert – SUMC
- November 24 Sandwich Sunday after Worship
- November 26, 6:30 pm Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service at St. Sebastian's Catholic Church
- November 28, 5:30 p.m. SUMC Thanksgiving Dinner – Appetizers 4 p.m.
- November 30, 4 p.m. Hanging of the Greens followed by soup supper.
- December 5, 5:30 p.m. Light Up Night Community Event in the Fellowship Hall
- December 15, 4 p.m. Christmas Concert followed by the Christmas Potato Bar in the Fellowship Hall
- December 24 Christmas Eve Services 4:00 p.m. with music and the traditional candle light service at 7 p.m. (music and the candle lighting)
- December 25 Merry Christmas Office Closed



*What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
everything to God in prayer!*

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Thessalonians 5:16-18

There are some people who always seem to get the short end of the stick. Joseph M. Scriven, the author of “What a Friend We Have in Jesus” is one of these people. Scriven had a life that was devoted to God and was also filled with grief. He was born and educated in Ireland. He studied at Trinity College in Dublin to prepare for a military career. Due to poor health, he had to abandon a military career. Shortly after this, on the eve of his wedding, his fiancé drowned. He moved to Ontario where he taught school and met his next fiancé. She fell ill and died before they could be married. His trials continued. He did not have steady income following this event and was forced to live in the homes of others. Scriven lived his life according to the Sermon on the Mount by sharing all he had with the poor and physically disabled. Throughout his life, Scriven suffered from depression. It is unknown if his drowning in Rice Lake was suicide or an accident.

The trials that life brought Scriven also led him to pen the words for “What a Friend We Have in Jesus.” He wrote it to comfort his sick mother who was in Dublin. Scriven stated that God helped him write this text. When he writes lines like “Have we trials and temptations?” or “Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?” he writes them from a place of knowing. The encouragement to take these things to God in prayer is a reminder that God is listening even when we think God is distant. God walks with us through the trials and temptations of our life. God does not leave us. “Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?” Only through Jesus. As Paul reminds us in his letter to the Thessalonians, we should pray without ceasing. We should make our lives a form of prayer to God. Through this we not only bring our trials and temptations but also offer praise and thanksgiving. When we can make our life an act of prayer, we are more open to hearing God’s voice and the things God is calling us to do.

Poinsettias

It is that time of year to order poinsettias for Christmas! The worship committee would like to let you know of a different opportunity you have to remember and honor your friends and family. Poinsettias will be available for \$10 and we will only purchase the amount that is ordered.

There will also be an opportunity to support our missionary, Jonathan McCurley, as part of our Christmas celebration. For a minimum gift of \$10, you can support Jonathan in memory or honor of a family member or friend. A list of missionary gifts and poinsettias will be published in the bulletin as normally happens.



Poinsettias

It is that time of year again—time to order poinsettias for Christmas! This year, we will be offering you two options of ways to remember or honor your loved ones. One option is to purchase a poinsettia in memory or honor of someone, cost of \$10. The second option will be, instead of purchasing a poinsettia, to make a donation in support of our missionary in Japan, Rev. Jonathan McCurley. For a minimum gift of \$10, you can support Jonathan in memory or honor of a family member or friend. When we publish the list of Memorials and Honoraria, both types of donations will be included. (Note: Beginning this year, we will only purchase the number of poinsettias that are ordered. Deadline for poinsettia orders is Dec. 1, 2019.)

Please Print:

Given by _____ Phone # _____

POINSETTIA

Number of Poinsettias _____ x \$10.00 = _____ Deadline, December 1, 2019

Name: _____ () In Honor () In Memory

Name: _____ () In Honor () In Memory

Name: _____ () In Honor () In Memory

OR

MISSIONARY SUPPORT GIFT

Number of Gifts _____ x \$10.00 = _____ Deadline, December 8, 2019

Name: _____ () In Honor () In Memory

Name: _____ () In Honor () In Memory

Name: _____ () In Honor () In Memory

Fill out and put in collection plate with gift amount.
Pew envelopes are available for your convenience. .

Happy Anniversary November

Heather & Glenn Steinimo

November 5

Lois & Joe Planeta

November 27

Happy Birthday November

Sally Lambert

November 2

Lee Kalsch

November 5

Larry Gangnier

November 10

Dennis Marr

November 14

John Hollifield

November 21

Virgil Cyper

November 23

BIBLE STUDY & SMALL GROUPS

Monday— Bible Study 10 am “Bad Girls of the Bible” SGR
Small Group 10 am LCR

Pastor's Bible Study Tuesday, 10:00 a.m. in the large class room & 6:30 in Church office

Wednesday Adult Bible Study 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Thursday Small Group 9:30 am November 7 & November 21 SGR

Small Groups and Bible Studies,
check with your facilitator if
unsure of date or time,
Or holiday Changes

MISSIONS

DONNA OBORNE, CHAIR

As mission chair I have been expected to write an article for the Beacon each month. (I confess there have been months I have missed)

This time of year we begin to see more demands made of us. We are asked to bake, cook, shop, donate, gift wrap, help with crafts, rehearse more, work at Trunk or Treat, work the Soup Bowl, work at Light Up Night, etc. How much can we do? I know I get tired and ask myself that question. Sorry I have no answer, except as much as we can.

I have been trying to tell myself that quiet time with God is very important to our well-being. I am putting that in writing because seeing it in black & what may make it easier for me to heed those words.

I am trying to come to terms with aging & not being able to do as much as I did when I was younger. I really struggle with that and the guilt that comes with not doing enough, or not volunteering for every activity.

So, yes, we still will be asked to do all those things that make our year end missions successful. We each need to decide what we can do & do it. It is such a good feeling working with our SUMC family

I found a poem that I think bears repeating at this very busy time of year. We each have different skills & talents. If we all work together and do our part, whether little or large, things get done. Good things happen.

You Have A Part To Play

Each one of God's children has a special part to play,
Whether it be great or small, We are needed every day
If your part seems very small, don't feel you're insignificant
Don't feel that you can't offer much, and you wouldn't make a difference
Though you're tempted to give up, And let another take your place,
Remember, God gave you your gifts, And you cannot be replaced
And these gifts that God has given, He longs for you to share
You're just as important as anyone, So don't be in despair
The only one who matters Is watching for your part,
With much anticipation, And excitement in His heart
So do not disappoint Him by not taking your cue,
Though you think it unimportant, This part is made for you
Don't let God walk away, with a disappointed heart
Because you felt so unworthy, Of your very special part
The parts that we've been given aren't based on size at all,
But rather on the abilities And the gifting of the Lord
For each part is important to make the whole thing work,
So do your part with enthusiasm, and know that you have worth.

[© By M.S.Lowndes](#)

Donna Osborne, Mission Chair

Fresh flowers placed on our altar on Sunday beautify the sacred spaces in our church to honor God and are a gift to those who attend our services. Arrangements can be picked up after worship or can be donated to be given to members & friends who are hospitalized. The altar flowers can be dedicated to commemorate a special event, such as birthday or anniversary, or to remember a loved one or simply to honor God. Thank you so much for your dedication to the church and your church family. Flowers are done by Amazing Creations and the cost is \$30. The 2019 Altar Flower sign up sheet is in the Narthex on the bulletin board.



Welcome to Fall

Celebrating United Methodist Women 150 year Anniversary!!

Thanks to all who helped and attended the mission study on October 26.

November meeting is Friday November 15 at 10:00 a.m, in the fellowship hall. It is time for election of new officers and we will be discussing and choosing our missions for 2020. It is also World Thank Offering day.

This meeting is a brown bag lunch day but drinks provided. See you on Friday November 13 at 10 am bring a friend.

December is our annual Christmas luncheon at a local restaurant. Date and location to be announced. We will keep you updated, so you can sign up. Everyone welcome.

Other United Methodist Women meetings

- Christ By the Sea UMW meets on Wednesday November 6 at 11:45 am -- covered dish luncheon.
- Roseland UMW meet on Thursday November 14, at 10am at the home of Thelma Smith.

<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/>

Remember all ladies are always welcome.

Happy Thanksgiving.

Think of Something you are Thankful for every day!!



Ecumenical
Thanksgiving
Service

St. Sebastian Catholic Church

November 26, 2019

Prelude 6:30 P.M.

Service 7:00 P.M.

13075 US-1, Sebastian, FL

Non- Communion Sundays

Every non-“Communion Sunday,” communion will be offered for all those wishing to receive. Elements for Holy Communion will be on the altar, and the pastor will include a prayer of consecration as a part of the prayer time near the end of the service. Then, immediately following the conclusion of the service, you may move forward to the altar, and the liturgist or a Lay Servant will be happy to serve you communion. (Gluten free bread)

SUMC Annual Thanksgiving Dinner



Thanksgiving is in a couple of weeks and Sebastian United Methodist Church will be having their annual traditional Thanksgiving dinner for members and guests in the Fellowship Hall on Thanksgiving Day. Dinner will be at 5:30 p.m. Come to appetizer hour and socialize with friends. If you and your guests would like to join us, notify Donna Borchsenius or Sharon Johnson (call the church office, fill out slip and turn in or see Sharon on Sunday for reservation sign-up sheet)

Large party no problem!
Reserve a round table for you, your family and guests
Thanksgiving Dinner need a head count to prepare and the deadline for reserving your place and choosing a food assignment is Sunday November 10.

Thanksgiving Dinner		Number in party _____
Name: _____		
Telephone _____		
Food Assignment (make enough for 15 servings)		
Mashed Potatoes _____		vegetable _____
Stuffing _____		fruit salad _____
Corn souffle _____		pies _____
Kitchen Crew _____		

To Everything There Is A Season

**Saturday,
November 23, 2019
4:00PM**

Join the SUMC Flute Choir for an afternoon of music about nature! A free will offering will be taken to benefit victims of Hurricane Dorian in the Bahamas through UMCOR.

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1029 Main Street
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Lifetouch Directory Retake Photo Day

November 18

If you didn't get your picture taken for the church directory, this is our make-up day.

Pictures will be taken from 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. but you must schedule your time.

Call the church office 772-589-5230 to see what times are available,
or see Sharon Johnson on Sunday.

Not everyone needs to do a retake., but we need everyone who wants to be listed in the directory to fill out the form below and place in the collection plate.

New members please schedule your picture time on November 18.

Directories are being reprinted with the new pictures and corrected information. If your picture is in the directory, you will receive an updated directory. Your contact information can be in the directory without having a picture but if you decide not to have a picture taken the cost of the directory is \$5.

Church Directory Information



Information for the Directory: This information will be in the Directory—If you want your correct contact information to be in the directory please fill out and put in collection plate or drop off at church office.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Best contact phone: _____

NOVEMBER 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Men's Out to Lunch Bunch meets at 12:00 pm Tuesdays at the Roadside Restaurant in Sebastian Computer Circle—Tuesday at 1 pm Church Office			Weekly Room Use Groups Alanon meets Tue & Thurs 7:30 pm LCR AA Closed Session Tue 6:30 FH			1 2
3 10 am Worship 11 am Coffee Hour FH UofL classes 11:30 am 1 pm Brass 3 pm LOL Youth	4 10 am Bible Study SGR 10 am Small Group LCR 4 pm Ecumenical Council LCR 6:30 pm Church Conference SPR to follow	5. 10 Am Pastor Bible Study LCR 10 am Aphasia FH 12 pm Rug Hookers 4 :30 pm Children Choir 6:30 pm Pastor BS CO 7 pm Flute	6 10 am Bible Study 3 pm Joyful ringers 6:30 pm Girl Scouts CCR 7 pm Handbills I	7 11 am Samaritan Soup Bowl Luncheon 7 pm Choir	8	9
10 10 am Worship 11 am Coffee Hour FH UofL classes 11:30 am 1 pm Brass 3 pm LOL Youth Thanksgiving Dinner Deadline sign up	11 10 am Bible Study SGR 10 am Small Group LCR 7 pm Trustees	12 9:30 am Stroke of Hope FH 10 Am Pastor Bible Study LCR 12 pm Rug Hookers 4 :30 pm Children Choir 6:30 pm Pastor BS CO 7 pm Flute	13 10 am Bible Study 3 pm Joyful Ringers 7 pm Handbells	14 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	15 United Methodist Women 10 am	16 Special Group Program All Day FH
17 10 am Worship 11 am Coffee Hour FH UofL classes 11:30 am 1 pm Brass 3 pm LOL Youth	18 10 am Bible Study SGR 10 am Small Group LCR 1 pm Pictures FH 6 pm Finance LCR 7 pm Admin Council LCR Shoeboxes Due in Church office	19 10 am Aphasia 10 Am Pastor Bible Study LCR 12 pm Rug Hookers 4 :30 pm Children Choir 6:30 pm Pastor BS CO 7 pm Flute	20 10 am Bible Study 3 pm Joyful Ringers 6 pm Fellowship Potluck FH 6:30 pm Girl Scouts CCR 7 pm Handbells	21 9:30 am Small Group SGR 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	22	23
24 10 am Worship 1 11 am Sandwich Sunday FH 1 pm Brass 3 pm LOL Youth	25 10 am Bible Study SGR 10 am Small Group LCR	26 10 am Pastor Bible Study 12 pm Rug Hookers 6:30 pm St Sebastian Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service 6:30 pm Pastor's bible Study will not meet this evening	27 10 am Bible Study FH	28 Happy Thanksgiving 	29 Office Closed	30 Hanging of the Greens followed by Soup Supper 



FINANCE

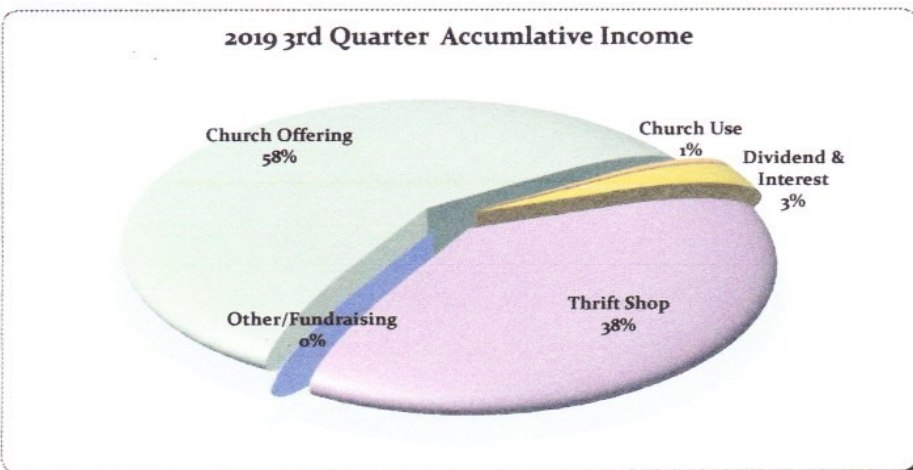
I hope you have enjoyed the Ministry Moment Speakers we have had during Church service. Our goal was to show you where you can volunteer your service for the Church as well as to make you aware of our missions in our community. Your time, talent and gifts are always appreciated in our endeavor to serve the community.

Our Third Quarter Cumulative Pie Charts are also included in this Finance Report. As you can see our Expenses are \$12,634 more than our Income in a period that covers January through September. We have had Capital Improvements for A/C and roof repairs that have totaled \$19,219. The Church has had to use reserve monies to pay for those repairs.

Kathy Messersmith

Finance Chair 2019

Income Type	Amount
Church Offering	\$ 129,191
Church Use	\$ 1,375
Dividend & Interest	\$ 6,590
Thrift Shop	\$ 85,697
Other/Fundraising	\$ 228
TOTALS	\$ 223,081



Asset Type	Amount
Missions & Outreach	\$ 44,190
Administration & Office	\$ 91,132
Worship & Music	\$ 35,584
Facilities	\$ 41,804
Discipleship Ministries	\$ 23,005
Totals	\$ 235,715

SALARY ALLOCATION

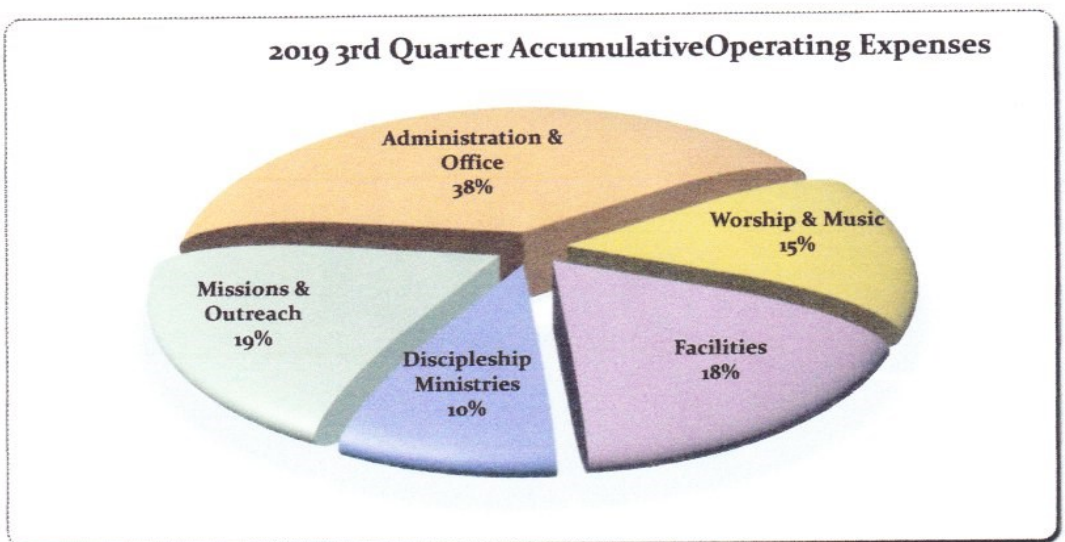
Missions: 25% Pastor
25% Music Minister

Admin & Office: 15% Pastor
5% Music Minister
100% Office Manager
100% Treasurer

Worship & Music: 30% Pastor
50% Music Minister

Facilities: 5% Pastor
100% Custodian

Disciple Ministries: 25% Pastor
20% Music Minister



DOES NOT INCLUDE CAPITAL EXPENSES



Sebastian United Methodist Church
1029 Main Street
Sebastian, Florida 32958

Pastor John Gill
Pastor's cell 321-794-0010
johngillumc@bellsouth.net
Church Office: 772-589-5230
Thrift Shop Direct Line: 772-388-0405
sebastianumc@bellsouth.net

God's Blessings of Life's Trials

Let us pray....

Father God, sometimes we don't understand why things happen the way they do and we are confused...

Then we remember what You tell us through Your Word in the Bible... 'that we are not to lean on our own understanding' and to 'put all our trust in You'...

Once we "talk" to You through prayer and reading Your Word in the Bible, it becomes more clear...

After the storm comes the sunshine of a new day... a blank canvas to be painted with new hope, new joys, new beginnings...

We realize more clearly what is important in life.... not material things but human life and love!

It seems we love more strongly, cherish our lives more fully and grow closer to You!

So today and every day God remind us to put all our trust in You and ask for Your Guidance and Wisdom... Remind us to read Your Word through the Bible and Teach us as only You can... then send us out to spread Your Word so others know You and Love You too !!

Nancy L Fox
(October 13, 2019)