

Our 2010 Ministry Through our Gifts

Micah 6:8- “and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God”.

In the Wesleyan bible, we read this explanation of this passage: Israel (and ourselves) is required to practice “justice” (to set things right between themselves and others) and “love kindness” (maintain a loyal commitment to God and others that transcends legal requirements). But these responses are only possible if people “walk humbly with God” resulting in a transformed life conformed to the image of God... Wesley taught that God writes this knowledge on the hearts of everyone through prevenient grace.

A Story of Ministry

The members and friends of Ocala First United Methodist Church served as living examples of Micah 6:8 in a variety of ways. Here are a few examples of our responses to God’s call to our congregation.

- We invested **\$55,000** to build two new playgrounds for our Preschool ministry, where more than 100 children, families, and staff are exposed to God’s love in a variety of ways. For some of these children, this will be their first (and perhaps only) exposure to Jesus.
- We donated more than **\$14,000** to Interfaith Emergency Services which assists in meeting emergency needs of persons in Marion County.
- We gave **\$13,042** to the Heifer International Project. Animals are sent to families and communities throughout the world who need them to survive.
- We sent **\$12,000** to the Florida Children’s Home to support the ministry of one of our denomination’s finest facilities that house, teach, and love children of all ages who need special attention.
- We contributed more than **\$10,000** in mission work beyond our own country.
- We invested over **\$40,000** in our Pastor’s Discretionary Fund to help our neighbors in need. Many of those needs were met through the newly formed Tuesday morning ministry helping the homeless, retired, and unemployed. More than a dozen people have become part of our worshipping community through this ministry.
- On the anniversary of the Haiti earthquake, we also remember the **\$20,000** we raised to assist in their recovery.

This is but a sampling of the more than \$1 million contributed by our members to fulfill our ministry. In addition to this sampling, our members contribute generously to a number of needs in our community. Through our giving, we support vibrant ministries for children, youth, and adults through worship, music, small groups, television, and education. Thank you to all who have participated in our ministry. When we work together as a community of faith, there is nothing that we cannot accomplish as an extension of Christ.

Through the Will You Grow campaign, we have increased our level of financial commitment in 2011. We look forward to the opportunity to respond to the many challenges in serving our Lord.