



Service is Key: A Year in Review

Dr. Ed Brown, Worship Committee

As we look forward to what the Lord has in store for **Killian Pines United Methodist Church** in 2021, it's also important for us to pause and reflect on our mission and outreach during 2020. 2020 has indeed changed us all, but more importantly, we have found ways to make this year a little less lonely for others and for us to feel less isolated. Who would have imagined that our mission of **Reaching Out, Growing, and Serving in Christ** would have taken on such new significance? Here are highlights of our outreach through our love, our service, our gifts, our prayers, and our witness.

We ushered in 2020 fully committed to our mission of outreach. Within the first two months of the year, we distributed care packages and footwear to the homeless and ministered to them through our **Soles for Souls Project**. We also enhanced our outreach through the **Annual Chili Cookoff**, the **Ash Wednesday Pancake Supper**, and the **workshop** at our church which featured a South African Pastor.

In mid-March, due to COVID-19, KPUMC suspended all in-sanctuary worship. However, with this challenge came new ways to witness, worship, and serve. It was the pandemic that led to the creation of our **"Circles of Care"** an effective and efficient way of intentionally

reaching out and caring for others. Similarly, the **drive-by** concept became a new way for safe outreach and recognition. In June, when we said goodbye to Pastor Michelle and welcomed Pastor Wilma, we "honked and waved." Members' birthdays and anniversary celebrations, as well as the distribution of the **Upper Room** devotional, our communion elements, and our statements of stewardship, were safely and appropriately executed by drive-by. **Zoom worship** and **Zoom meetings** also became an innovative and integral part of our lives and allowed us to feel connected while safely participating from our homes. During 2020, KPUMC continued to be generous with its gifts. We honored our pastors, showed love to our pastoral student at Emory, supported the **Florida United Methodist Children's Home**, contributed to the Bernice Reed Memorial Fund, and sent cards, flowers, and gifts to uplift members. We also continued the tradition of our **Holiday Teddy Bear Collection** for the Miami-Dade Police Department for distribution to needy children and donated personal essentials for our ongoing **Homeless Ministry**.

Throughout the year, weekly **Prayer**

meetings and daily prayers nurtured healing, wholeness, and hope. Our weekly **Sunday School** during the first few months of the year also fostered a pathway to spiritual growth. The **Morning Musings Podcast** and weekly **Bible Study** inspired, strengthened faith, and biblical understanding. **Election Day Prayer Stations** allowed voters to read scriptures, reflect, and pray as they prepared to vote. Consistently, KPUMC has made every effort to communicate and reach out by newsletter. Whether it was **"Rooted in Faith, Hope, and Love"** or **"Streaming Light"** or the **"Pine Cone,"** these publications, kept us all engaged and informed.

As we say goodbye to 2020 and, as you reflect on your personal outreach, we **thank you** for your contribution to our mission. If you were unable to join us by Zoom, or to participate in any of our ministries, we **thank you** for the silent prayer you offered or the phone call or text you made to support and cheer up a friend or loved one. Remember, God wants our lives to overflow with mercy, love, and compassion so we can hear Him say, **"Whatever you do for the least of these, you do for me."** Matthew 25:40. May 2021 be one of increased sensitivity, outreach, service, healing, and hope.



Children's Home Gift Cards

By Janet Cruz, Children's Home Representative

On behalf of the children, young adults, staff and house parents of the FL United Methodist Children's Home, I am extremely grateful for the wonderful generosity that you as church members and friends the community demonstrated by your abundant Christmas Gift Card donations.

Over \$1,105.00 in Gift Cards were collected at KPUMC and mailed to the Children's Home. A few cards arrived after our cut-off date and were mailed separately to the Home. Our church will receive a final tally of the Gift Card donations in January, 2021, and the information will be shared with you.

The house parents caring for the children and young adults know them well and have a good working knowledge of their wants, needs and desires. These houseparents use a portion of the gift cards to purchase items for each individual young resident. The gifts are then wrapped and placed under a Christmas tree to be opened on Christmas morning.

I am sure that because of your kindness, generosity and display of love, that our children and young adults will have a joyous Christmas this year.

Again, I wholeheartedly say, 'Thank You' to everyone! Stay safe and warm!

The Weary World Rejoices

In a pandemic world, there might not seem too much we can pull off to make rejoicing part of our lives, even during this season of Advent. Traditionally this is a time of festivities, time of coming together and celebrating with joy the coming of the Son of Man as God takes on human flesh and moves into our neighborhood. This year, with our lives turned upside down, weariness is perhaps the most common emotion. Yes, we are weary, we are tired. We want this pandemic to just be done with. We want a *tidings of comfort and joy* kind of Christmas. We want to observe our traditions. We yearn for the closeness of our friends and family. I could go on and on describing this sense of weariness, but you catch my drift.

This year has not been easy, to say the least, and there seems no end in sight. I don’t know about you, but I keep trying to decorate the house, and hang up shiny decorations in an attempt to “catch the

Christmas spirit” to no avail. I could preach myself to death talking about positive attitudes, postures of faith, and how the joy of the Lord in my strength, but I’m tired. I am weary. And the whole world is weary this year. So, what is wrong? This got me thinking, perhaps it is the way I’m looking at things. Many times I assume that just because I’m a follower of Jesus Christ I need to feel happy all the time. The world has sold us a Christmas of tinsel and bells, of wrapped gifts under the tree, and stockings full of trinkets on the mantle. But, is that the Christmas of Scripture? Is that really the message of the “night divine... when Christ was born”? If I remember correctly the story, Mary and Joseph were not having a joyful night when their son was born. I mean, would you be rejoicing at the fact that you’re 9 months pregnant, mounted on an animal while traveling hundreds of miles because the government is asking you to sign up

for the census in the town of your parents? Or rejoice for the fact that you are giving birth in a dirty place only apt for animals? I would be freaking out!

The message of Christmas is not your favorite Hallmark movie, or Coca Cola commercial. The message is the promise of Hope, hope that this will not last forever. The message is about Peace even through the hardest of times. The message is about a Love that has nothing to do with emotions, and Joy that has nothing to do with circumstances. The gift of Christmas is that a weary world will rejoice because we do not have to do this on our own. The gift is Emmanuel, God with us every single moment of our lives. The morning will come, the end of this pandemic is near. Hang in there, weary one. Rejoice in the promise of Emmanuel.

Pastor Wilma

Appreciation for Years of Servant Service

By Pastor Wilma Reyes

It is not every day you encounter leaders who willingly volunteer to serve at a local church. And even less, leaders who have offered their time and gifts to the service of the church for over 20 years.

This year we take our hats off to two amazing leaders who have decided to take a break from serving after their marathonic service here at Killian Pines. I’m talking about Bob Sarnack and Mildred Seng, servants in Christ who selflessly dedicated their lives to share with us their time and gifts in varied positions.

Words on a paper cannot fully express what their service has meant for our congregation. Your example serves as testimony of dedication, commitment, and surrender to the mission of God through our church, and our appreciation will never cease.

I know these words echo the hearts of those who have seen your hard and faithful work. We pray for your continued growth, and hope this time serves as an opportunity to discern where your gifts and talents can best serve the Lord in the near future.

NOVEMBER Financials	
Income	\$7,627
Expenses	\$10,103
Income less Expenses	-\$2,476
Checking Account Balance.....	\$65,192
Savings Account Balance.....	\$84,158
TOTAL FUNDS	\$149,350

Ashley Seng Thanks KPUMC

By Brenda Benitez, N.O.W. Chair




Our Church family gladly donated a well deserved Love Offering for Ashley Seng. Below read her remarks thanking all of us that she e-mailed to Pastor Wilma.

"I wanted to send a note of my deep gratitude for the love offering that you and the congregation sent my way. I was once again in awe of the generosity and support the KPUMC family continues to show me. As I approach the halfway point of my final year of seminary, this gift was a great reminder of

the encouragement I have back home. I am so thankful for this gift which represents the love of my community and the love of Christ. May God continue to bless each and every one of you. If there is any way you can share this message with the congregation, I would be so appreciative. I look forward to meeting you, hopefully one day soon!" With gratitude and love, Ashley Seng.

Please continue to pray for Ashley in this important time in her young life. We rejoice and support her efforts as she prepares to serve the Lord. Ashley Seng is a blessing to many. Amen!



December BIRTHDAYS

Anne Cundle	12/1
Menno Vegter	12/1
Zeilei Jones	12/5
Pastor Wilma Reyes	12/7
Sharon Rodríguez	12/16

If we missed your birthday, please notify the office so we can correct our records.

Thanks!