

***Annual Ministry Report to  
Charge Conference  
Williamson's Chapel UMC***  
November 21, 2010  
5:00 p.m.

Good Afternoon and it is my privilege and an honor to be asked to lead the Annual Ministry Report for our church but as you hear it will be a "re-telling" of a tremendous journey in 2010 and one that was lead by many faithful disciples of Jesus Christ!

As I begin I would like to state that 2010 was a challenging year for our Country and American's individually with some very rough economic and housing markets. As we review the year at Williamson's Chapel you will see that through the year while having some ups and downs..... you will hear about some incredible mountain tops we experienced and we remain focus on delivering the good news of our savior and focused on positive results..... and not on the valleys!

One key deliverable this year was the Vision work completed by the Visioning committee and presented over the most recent Sermon Series led by Rev. Rob Fuquay here at the Brawley Campus and Rev. Andrea Smith at the newly launched West Campus. Attached to this report is one page that outlines the key points of the recent vision work identified as Vision 1-3-5 and I would like to focus my report today on the 3 Fold Vision and discuss Williamson's Chapel as it relates to Worship Passionately, Grow Intentionally, and what it means to Serve Joyfully and review 2010 in those three areas.

First just a restatement of the Mission is needed. As you recall and as you can see the Mission is focused on "Changing Lives" first and then those "Changed Lives" going out into the world and making a difference to "Change the World" and it all being done Through Jesus Christ! We all know we (humans) can't do this alone and that through Jesus Christ is the only way! Will you say with me the New Mission Statement out loud.

***"To Change Lives and Change the World Through Jesus Christ"***

**Worship Passionately:**

I would like to first talk about Worship attendance and talk about the membership and recap of 2010. To date we have received 115 new members in 2010. Of those 56 new members came from a Profession of Faith and also 59 from transfer of membership to Williamsons Chapel from other churches. This coupled with having a very large Confirmation Class and the providing of Bibles to Third Graders all will continue to make a difference in peoples lives and further advance our work of building disciples.

In 2010 we also removed 46 members this year and of those 27 were by transfer, 11 by withdrawal and 8 by Death. At this time I would like to read those names of our 8 who have passed and may have left our ranks here in the "earthly" world but I am confident they are attending a Conference in the Church Triumphant with our Savior Jesus Christ:

Claude Cashion  
Doug Childress

Frank Drake  
Jim Harsey

Martha Hill  
Mary Howard

Pat McGuire  
Jimmy Sides

Please bow your heads with me for a moment of Silent Prayer for those names mentioned and I will lead us in a brief prayer.

A couple of other thoughts on worship and the one that is lagging prior year is in the area of attendance. That is why you will see in this stewardship campaign we asked people to consider setting goals for attendance in 2011. Our current average for 2010 has us showing 1,119 in Worship attendance across all services and all campuses and in comparison to 2009 that average was 1,176. This represents about a 5% decline in attendance and is an unacceptable number and the major focus of the visioning work to make sure we are positioning Williamson's Chapel to our existing members as well as to the community as a way to enter into or build upon your faith walk with Jesus Christ! We will make a difference in 2011 and Change Lives and it will be shown thru Worshiping Passionately. In 2010 we made the decision to discontinue the Saturday night service as well as we started up and launched after tremendous preparation the West Campus.

This ministry, located in the Lake Norman High School is being led by Rev. Andrea Smith and a launch team of Williamson's Chapel members and focused on attracting new faith community members to our journey with Jesus. Several trial run Sundays led up to the "official" launch in September of this year. We talked about this launch as a "Pecan Grafting" where you attach a new growth to an existing strong Tree so that the new growth can have its "roots" in a strong base and get it's nourishment from an existing area prior to it being "planted" on its own. This is truly a great example of God working through us to Change Lives in our community and we look forward to 2011 hearing about the fabulous results and more faith based professions like Aram Lumley who we heard from last week.

One last note about Worshipping Passionately, and I want to discuss the Power of Prayer. Please don't ever underestimate that and just one example of the commitment of Williamson's Chapel to that effort. We asked if anyone would like to pray for Williamson's Chapel and the Pastors on the first Sunday that we launched the new Mission work and at 7:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary we had close to 50 people gathered around the kneeling rail, touching Andrea and Rob and praying and asking God to give them strength as well as to our Church Members to come with open hearts and open minds. Hearing those prayers that morning and feeling the love and caring prayers of our Church Family reminds me of the strength and the power of Prayer. Please don't ever forget to Pray!

### **Grow Intentionally in Groups:**

The second part of our Vision is for us to Grow INTENTIONALLY in Groups. Please don't take the word intentionally lightly as it means that WE are going to take charge of our growth plan and make sure that WE work on it Intentionally.....not by chance....not by gee I like those people so I want to be in that group but.....INTENTIONALLY saying where am I in my faith walk and what are the next steps for me to GROW!

Several of the key steps we offer at Williamson's Chapel and our healthy and Growing and I will not go through all of them. Things like:

Pre-School – an active vibrant community of Pre-Schoolers who are getting their nourishment and start with their walk with Jesus here at Williamson's Chapel. Thanks be to God for Caryn Shelton and her team as they lead this ministry.

Sunday School – We have a very active and wonderful Sunday School program and this year we kicked off a group worship area where kids not only have individual grade level Sunday School but also come together for a group worship at the 9:30 hour and hear from lay leaders about Stories from the bible that relates to the Virtue being learned. It is exciting and if you haven't been part of it you are missing out as just being around young kids who have excitement, passion, smiles, questions, and a pure love for Jesus Christ is special. Thanks be to God for Rebecca Guest and her team as they lead this ministry.

Youth – We continue to have a vibrant Youth network and they have truly adopted and created a God Cave out of the Archer Property. Our youth are very active socially and environmentally in our community. This year they had not only A Mission trip but went for three weeks straight to the Wilmington area to make a difference in peoples lives in our community of North Carolina. Thanks be to God for Kevin Ward and his team as they lead this ministry.

Scouting – We continue to lead the way in the area in Scouting and have successfully had 8 Eagle scouts this year alone. This builds strong character of our youth and is a fundamental building block in developing fine you adults. Thanks be to God for Dave Nagy and his team as they lead this ministry.

Adult Ministry – WOW I don't know where to start. Remember that point about INTENTIONALLY.....if you haven't found a class to help you grow then you have NOT been INTENTIONAL about looking. Over the past three years since 2006 let me recap a couple of numbers. In 2006 the total number of people in programs at Williamson's Chapel was 380 with less than 100 adults in a bible study. In 2010 there are more than 600 adults in a spiritual growth Group and over 350 adults in a regular bible study! WOW. God can open doors to groups, point us in the right direction for bible studies but the key is the word INTENTIONALLY starts with an "I"! Each of us makes a choice to grow Intentionally and if you do then we offer a class for you. Thanks be to god for Susan Fuquay and Patsy Wilson and their teams as they lead this Ministry.

### **Serve Joyfully with our Gifts:**

Serving in 2010 was an incredible venture for Williamson's Chapel. Missions work for the Church is a long list of incredible ventures and I am sure that I will not do justice to mentioning all of them. Things like:

- Mission Trips to the Jamaican Deaf Village, and laying the ground work in 2010 with our Sister Church in India as we sent two representatives to pave the way for what will be a full blown mission trip in 2011.
- United Methodist Men with their giving to multiple organizations including Habitat for Humanity and other organizations like Mooresville Christian Mission and the Soup Kitchen.
- United Methodist Women and the commitment to organizations like Winnie Hooper and such fabulous outgrowths like the Prayer Shawl Ministry.
- Angel Tree, Williamson's Wednesday, Great Month of Service and the Back to School Bash!

Not sure anyone thought that the opportunity to minister to over 2,000 kids in our community and to make a difference in lives by providing the things that all kids want when they head off to school could make that much of a difference! And the difference was not only in the kids but in our own members and our community who poured out their time and service to make a difference and who were as touched by the spirit of Jesus Christ as were the Children. I know that I am going to miss someone in this group of mission work but I do want to say Thanks be to god for Andrea Smith, Tim Snyder, Nick Harshbarger, Bob Chambers and Sandy Tabor-Gray and their teams that they lead.

Finally in the area of Service with our gifts we have been a faithful community in 2010 with our giving of our financial gifts. As we talked at the beginning, in a rough economic time, our faith based community has delivered on its financial commitment to our Savior. Our current run rate has us running 8% ahead of 2009 on our General Fund and showing positive results over year ago in both Building Fund and Missions.

So in summary, I would like to take this opportunity to state that Williamson's Chapel has had a successful 2010 and I believe is positioned to make a difference in lives not only in our community but in the world. I want to thank our Staff for their leadership through the year and to Rob, Andrea, Scott, Mark, Kevin, Rebecca, & Susan we say "Thanks" for the leadership and commitment to Jesus Christ that each of you show!

As the outgoing chair of the Administrative Board I also would like to say Thanks to all of those who served in roles over the past year and while I may not have mentioned all the names it would have been impossible to do as we have so many faithful and committed members at Williamson's Chapel. To all of you, continue to Change Lives and Change the World through Jesus Christ!