



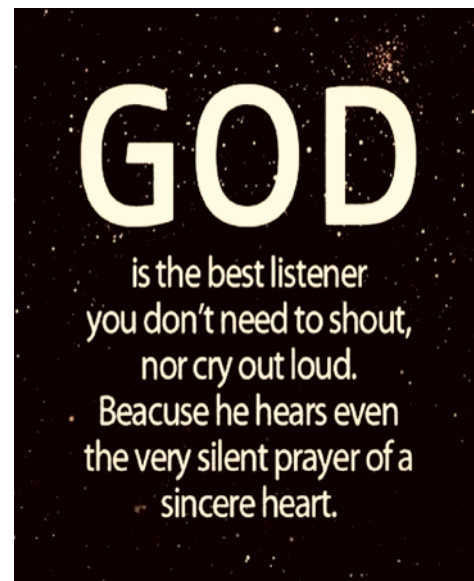
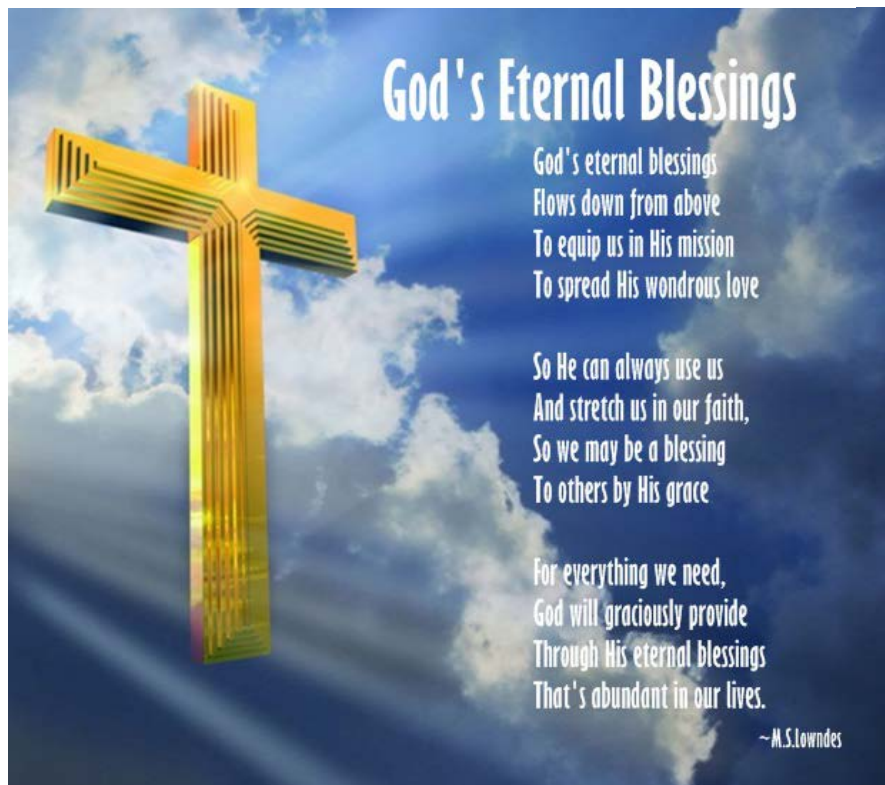
University Community News

Volume 13

Restoring hope . . . one life at a time.

Issue 1

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



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Wishing you and your family a blessed and prosperous New Year!

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO SUPPORTED US WITH YOUR PRAYERS, FINANCES AND TIME IN 2016! WITHOUT YOU IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO RESTORE HOPE . . . ONE LIFE AT A TIME.

Live Here, Give Here

Give Day Tampa Bay, the 24-hour online giving challenge, returns for a fourth year on May 2, 2017. Give Day is your opportunity to learn more about the hundreds of nonprofits in our community and to support University Community Ministries (UCM) and other causes you care about. More than \$2 million was raised for nearly 600 Tampa Bay area nonprofits during the 2016 Give Day Tampa Bay. We hope you will make plans to support UCM on May 2, 2017.



Give Day Tampa Bay presented by:



The Christmas Toy Drive

by Ashley Dolan

University Community Ministries, Inc. (UCM) and the Church at Tampa teamed up to sponsor 45 children with gifts this past Christmas season. There was a significant from last year's number of children. This helped take a load off of many parents in the community, knowing their child will receive a gift for Christmas. Children in the community get to see and know that they are loved through this toy drive. The act of giving shows love in the heart of the church and it's great that the children get to see that example. After all, they are our future.



Thinking of the kids reminded me of these verses in Mark 10:13-16: *"And they were bringing children to Him so that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw this, He was indignant and said to them, 'Permit the children to come to Me; do not hinder them; for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it at all.' And He took them in His arms and began blessing them, laying His hands on them."*

These verses reminded me that the innocence of children is the mindset God wants us to put on. God wants us to die to Him daily, to repent, and be cleansed of our sins so that He can be with us. This toy drive was not only a blessing to the children but also to the sponsors. Several of the sponsors verbalized that participating in this toy drive was a blessing to themselves and an answer prayer. God forms these events to allow His vessels to be utilized. To God be the glory!



Rebranding Friendship Bridge

Friendship Bridge was a name chosen several years ago to reach people in our community that were in their 60 plus years. However, in choosing that particular branding it did not always identify who we really are and the people we want to connect to through this ministry. In the Scripture, many times you will find that God chose to change the name of an individual or a place where something "new" was happening. We felt it was time to change our name from Friendship Bridge to identify more with the people who we are trying to reach. It is a new day for Senior Adults.

The rebranding of Friendship Bridge to **"Forerunners/West of Sixty"** says a lot about the people we are trying to reach - they have been there...done that...and they are not through yet! The ...west of sixty people are still on the move, working, active in their community and enjoying this new season of life.

Forerunners also have a lot to share with this younger generation to assist them in being more successful in their lives. They have walked through some of the toughest times and some of the victorious times and are willing to share with others to make their lives better. "Forerunners/West of Sixty" is an exciting group of people who love to laugh...sing...make new friends and serve their communities.

2017 Brings New Energy to Forerunners Group

by Pat Fulton

There's a new energy in Forerunners/West of Sixty that defies the expression "over the hill". Led by Pastor Molly Cox, a fresh approach to the monthly luncheons is bringing more group participation, an attitude of enthusiasm that fills the room, and an intensified sense of enjoyment. For example, the January luncheon was devoted to a group birthday party where people exchanged birthday cards and played a lively game of "Life Experiences Bingo". The squares on the bingo cards had phrases such as "I've visited another continent", "I've jumped out of an airplane", and "My picture has been printed in a newspaper."

Another high point in the luncheons is a songfest where the group joins in singing some "golden oldies" from popular music as well as spiritual hymns.

A monthly Connections study group, held at 11 am at citylife church on the second Thursday, focuses on the book "Power of Your Words". Pastor Molly Cox leads the group in Room 1.

The February 4 luncheon, with a theme of "Heart Flow", featured a health fair led by Joyce Bowie. Blood pressure tests and other health tests were offered free to the group members. At 12:15 pm a buffet lunch was served. For those waiting to be "checked out" at the health fair, there were game tables with prizes offered.



Shortly thereafter, Joyce Bowie shared new information on Medicare and other related topics.

You are invited to these upcoming Forerunners/West of Sixty events:

03/04 at 12PM Luncheon themed "A Spring in Our Steps"

03/09 at 11AM Connections Group study of "Power of Your Words" in Room 1

04/13 at 11AM Connections Group study of "Power of Your Words in Room 1

Friendship Bridge meets monthly at citylife church, 8411 N. Dale Mabry, Tampa, Florida 33614.

For additional information on Friendship Bridge/citylife Seniors, call Pastor Molly Cox at (813) 933-3991 or email at mcox@citylifechurch.cc.

April 8, 2017
11:00 am – 1:00 pm
Hosted by

BOWL FOR HOPE



The *2017 Bowl for Hope* fundraising event is going to be better than last year. The 6th annual Bowl-A-Thon will be hosted at Pin Chasers Bowling Center again this year on April 8, 2017 from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm on 4847 N Armenia Ave., Tampa, FL 33603.

Each bowler is expected to solicit sponsors for their two games of bowling with goal of raising \$15,000 from the event. Each bowler will receive complimentary food and drinks and an opportunity to win a wide variety of raffle prizes throughout the two (2) hour event.

University Community Ministries (UCM) is providing volunteers and/or their guest with the opportunity to field a team of five (5) bowlers. Those bowlers and friends of UCM would solicit people to sponsor their team. The sponsor is committing to a one time contribution. Lane sponsorships for \$250.00 per lane will also be available to community partners businesses. No gift will be too small and it will make a difference in someone's life.

The sponsorships funds that would be raised through bowling would be raised as follows:

Assuming that the sponsors commit to a one time donation of \$25.00 and each bowler gets 10 sponsors willing to support them with a one-time \$25.00 donation, the sponsors would pay UCM a donation of \$250.00 towards that bowler and if that team had five (5) bowlers that did the same thing, the team would have raised \$1,250.00 for UCM. The Pin Chasers Bowling Center has made eight (8) lanes available for the fundraising event. If all eight (8) bowling teams did the same thing "The Bowl for Hope" teams would have achieved \$10,000 and if we can get 20 community business partners to sponsor a bowling lane for \$250.00 each that would be \$5,000. We would have achieved our fund raising goal of \$15,000.00 that will be used for remodeling the House of Hope to serve our homeless neighbors.

Please support this fun and worthwhile event and remember all proceeds benefit the program and services of University Community Ministries, Inc. We are expecting the Bowl for Hope to be a great team effort. If you are interested in helping us reach our Bowl For Hope Fundraising goal, you can donate on our donation page at <https://university-community-ministries-inc.networkforgood.com/projects/10765-main-donate-page>

You can also contact our Bowl for Hope Chairpersons, Ashley or Justin Dolan at 813-655-4444 or contact the UCM office at 813-935-8400.

Expressions of help and donations for the homeless may be dropped off at UCM's office located at 8512 N. Mitchell Avenue, Tampa, FL. You can also call the UCM office at 813-935-8400 or contact the OJ Program Director, Jerome Van Gorp at 813-334-3709.



NEEDS

UCM needs your time and talents – volunteer today! Call the UCM office at (813) 935-8400 or email us at info@universitycommunityministries.org and let us hear from you!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you prefer to receive the UCM Newsletter via email, then email us at newsletter@universitycommunityministries.org to be placed on the emailing list and removed from our mailing list.

CHECK US OUT!

Visit UCM's *NEW & IMPROVED* website at www.universitycommunityministries.org for the latest news and events. Your comments are welcomed and encouraged.

You can also like us on Face book at www.facebook.com/UniversityCommunityMinistries.

If there is anything that you would like to see posted on the website or in the quarterly newsletter, email us at info@universitycommunityministries.org or fax to (813) 968-4140. We would love to hear from you!

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