



# Spanish Fort UMC

*SPANISH FORT MONTHLY*



May, 2026

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# June at a Glance

*(Non-Weekly Programming)*

*This schedule is subject to change throughout the month.*

*All changes will be communicated through our weekly Tuesday Spotlight.*

|                                                                      |             |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Monday, June 1, 4:00 PM – SALT Meeting                               | Office Area |
| Monday, June 1, 5:30 PM – First Day of VBS - Rainforest Falls        | West Campus |
| Tuesday, June 2, 11:30 AM – Westminster Village Luncheon & Communion | Offsite     |
| Sunday, June 7-June 9 – Annual Conference                            | Offsite     |
| Tuesday, June 9, 5:00 PM – Missions/Service Team Meeting             | Office Area |
| Wednesday, June 10, 10:00 AM – Midday Bible Study Begins             | Main Campus |
| Friday, June 12, 11:15 AM – PrimeTimers Lunch Bunch                  | Offsite     |
| Saturday, June 13, 8:00 AM – Senior Ladies Breakfast Group           | Offsite     |
| Sunday, June 14, 5:00 PM – The Uncluttered Table - Fellowship Group  | Offsite     |
| Monday, June 15, 5:30 PM – Trustee Committee Meeting                 | West Campus |
| Monday, June 15-June 20 – Remedy Youth - Summer Revive               | Offsite     |
| Tuesday, June 16, 5:30 PM – Woodworking - Fellowship Group           | Offsite     |
| Monday, June 22, 5:30 PM – Community Dinner - Care Packages          | West Campus |
| Tuesday, June 23, 9:00 AM – Family Center Work Day                   | Offsite     |
| Sunday, June 28, 5:30 PM – Bay Area Night of Worship                 | Main Campus |

*For more details on these, and other events, please visit [www.spanishfortumc.org/info](http://www.spanishfortumc.org/info)*



## Reaffirmation of **BAPTISM**

Sunday, June 14

Both Services

## The Uncluttered Table

Fellowship Group  
5:00pm | June 14<sup>th</sup>

Contact:

 mrsppoole3@aol.com



## Summer Study

Led by Pastor Mike Owenby

June 10<sup>th</sup> - July 15<sup>th</sup>  
Wednesdays | 10 a.m.  
Main Campus | Upper Reed

Registration Link:

[spanishfortumc.org/discipleshipgroup](http://spanishfortumc.org/discipleshipgroup)



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Pack Care Packages

**Mon. June 22**

**5:30 p.m.**

**Office Area**

Deliver to The Family Center

**Tues. June 23**

**9:30 a.m.**

**Sanctuary**

Community



Dinner

Sign Up:

[spanishfortumc.org/](http://spanishfortumc.org/)  
[communitydinner](http://communitydinner)



## PrimeTimers Lunch Bunch



**June 12 | 11:15 AM | Ivey's Restaurant**

RSVP by June 8

[sansandra7425@aol.com](mailto:sansandra7425@aol.com)

251-751-3928



## WORSHIP *Night Service*

**JUNE 28<sup>TH</sup> | SANCTUARY**  
**5:30-7:00PM**

# Children's Ministry

Sunday, May 3rd, was our last night of Sunday Evening Discipleship for the 2025-2026 school year. The puppet team provided a fun time of worship. We ate pizza and had a Bible lesson. We have been learning about the Ascension, Pentecost and the Early Church during Sunday morning discipleship.

I would like to thank everyone who has helped in the planning and preparation of VBS. There is a lot of painting, decorating, sorting, organizing etc. required for VBS. Children's Ministry truly takes a team and I am grateful for our incredible team of volunteers. I would also like to thank everyone who has made a financial contribution to VBS.

Rainforest Falls Vacation Bible School Family Night will be held on Sunday, May 31st. Vacation Bible School will take place June 1st – June 4th, from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm on our West Campus. You will not want to miss out on the fun. Please visit the church website for more information on all upcoming events.

“Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven.” Matthew 5:16

***Elizabeth DeRocher***  
***Children's Ministers***

# Youth Ministry

Remedy Youth is in full summer camp mode: finishing up registration, packing, and preparing for the fun, community, and transformation of summer camp. Our graduating seniors were recognized and celebrated during the Senior Sunday gathering and in worship, where they shared some of their future journeys with the church. This congregation has loved, supported, and prayed for them throughout their high school careers, and will continue to do so as they move on to college.

Following summer camp, youth week will be coming up in July. There will be a surf camp for Remedy Youth students on May 31st, and summer will provide all sorts of new and unique opportunities for our students to volunteer around the church and to connect with staff and one another. Thank you, friends and family, for your presence at Senior Sunday, as well as how you, as the church body, have invested in these young people up to this point - and beyond.

*Sean Harnas,  
Youth Minister*

# S.A.L.T. Report

## SALT Minutes for 5/4/2026

**Attendees:** Holly Coleman, Connie Wagonner, Cheryl Gibbs, Debbie Taylor, Mal/Terri McCracken, Asher/Sandra Carmichael

### Meeting was opened with prayer

### Reports:

- Picnic – This event was at SF container park and was attended by 12 PrimeTimers. Temps were just right but winds were a bit high. The covered area was perfect for the outing. Several people tried their hand at pickle ball on the new courts. Comments were very favorable.
- Friday Nite Out – 19 PrimeTimers gathered in the fellowship hall at 5:30 pm. SALT provided BBQ sandwiches, mac and cheese, fruit and drinks and ice cream sandwiches for dessert. We watched the movie, “Six Triple Eight” and it was certainly enjoyed considering comments by those who attended. We took a pole regarding interest in having a game event in June. This would allow table games as well as billiards, ping-pong, foosball, cornhole, etc. in the west campus youth area. The response was positive.

### Planning:

- June 12th – We will travel to Ivey’s restaurant in Robertsdale. We plan to leave the sanctuary parking lot at 10:30 am by bus or carpooling depending on Mike Owenby’s availability.
- June 26th- There will be a game night in the youth area on the west campus. We will have table games as well as ping-pong, pool table, etc.
- July – SALT will begin advertising a trip to Montgomery to see The Shakespeare Festival’s play based on the music of Carol King. We’re looking at the 25th and the final count of attendees will have to be determined by July 1st. Ticket cost is \$40 per person. We plan to go by church bus and leave early enough to stop for lunch before the play.
- October - 18th - We will meet at Kraver’s seafood restaurant in Daphne for lunch at 11:15 am. Let someone on SALT know if you need a ride. Afterwards, we will go Mal and Terri McCracken’s home to see their model train layout.

# S.A.L.T. Report

- Potential future events – Visit WW2 museum in New Orleans with 2 night stay. “Gather” restaurant and visit to the adjacent renovated movie theater in Atmore, AL.
- August Homebound Gift Baskets – SALT will put baskets together for our homebound and will distribute them in August. The theme for these baskets will be “back to school.”

**Future Plans** – We will contact Mobile College regarding their plans for Christmas musicals/plays. Terri McCracken has found 5 rolls of narrow decorative fabric which may come in handy for decorating tables in the fellowship hall for special occasions. We need to revisit our list of PrimeTimers and invite those in the church 55 and older to join the group.

**Finances** – We will ask Elisha Dozier to move part of our designated funds to our operating funds to facilitate paying expenses.

**Next meeting – June 1st , 2026.**

# Missions Team

The meeting was opened with a devotion/prayer by Gay. Also in attendance were Kinga Low, Cheryl Gibbs, Laura Maxwell, Melinda Immel, Sandra Carmichael, Debbie Taylor, Earl Gentry, and Pastor Sarah.

The following ministry updates are noted below:

- Ronald McDonald House Taco meal will be served on site on Sunday, May 31. Due to another RMDH event in June, our church volunteers will not be hosting a meal as scheduled.
- Family Promise - Our church, as a committed support congregation for FP, will serve as dinner host for families at Resurrection church in June. Our volunteers will provide a meal on site. We participate in this ministry once a quarter.
- Community Dinner - we will not host dinners in May and June. On May 13, a meal will be taken to Baldwin Family Village and our volunteers will host a Summer Water Party for the children residing there. On June 23, our volunteers will be serving on location at Family Promise, providing snack kits and toys for the children. No scheduled Community Dinner for July.

Costa Rica 2026 Mission Trip - July 25 - August 1

- There are 16 individuals (9 adults and 7 young people) from our church who answered the call to serve and participate in this mission trip to Costa Rica. The work site will be in Limon, Costa Rica. Costs of this trip other than airfare, food and lodging, will be sponsored by our church. (team supplies/materials, tip for driver, travel insurance, VBS supplies, ground transportation from hotel to worksite and back, "Thank You" gift for helpers) As approved by the missions team, funding will be disbursed from Mission Trip Scholarship, Designated funds (raised from past fundraisers), 2026 Silent Auction and Spaghetti Dinner.

We express our sincere appreciation and gratitude for your generosity!

Supply Drive for Baldwin Family Village will commence in August.

The meeting was closed in prayer by Pastor Sara.

***Gay Desotell,***  
***Missions Team***

# ADMINISTRATIVE *Committees*

## First



### Trustees

Generally meets in the second week of the month. The Board of Trustees is the only committee that elects its own chair. Anyone may attend a Trustees' meeting.

## Second



### SPRC

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee generally meets in the second week of the month. Because the SPRC deals with sensitive, employment-related issues, their meetings are usually open only to members.

However, the SPRC chair may invite nonmembers to attend a particular meeting.

## Third



### Finance

Generally meets in the third week of the month. 13 voting members include Chair, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Lay Leader, SPRC Chair, and Trustees Chair. Anyone may attend a Finance meeting.

## Fourth



### Church Council

- Generally meets on the fourth
- Monday of the month.
- Anyone may attend a Church Council meeting.
- Voting members include the pastors, 19 officers, and 6-9 at-large members.

[WWW.SPANISHFORTUMC.ORG](http://WWW.SPANISHFORTUMC.ORG)

# Board of Trustees Report

Trustees continue to focus on deferred maintenance of the church properties, with a keen eye toward saving where we can. Here are a few examples of the latest decisions made:

- Instead of spending as much as \$8,000 on a new HVAC unit for the lower Reed Building, the committee opted to take a much more frugal approach, weighing the need to keep the air circulating to inhibit mold, but acknowledging that the four classrooms are only used one hour a week. Now \$4,000 has been allotted to fix/replace three windows and install four window air-conditioners.
- The HVAC compressor in the Fellowship Hall has died due to old age. For now, the air-handler has been wired to an operating compressor that services the pre-school. We hope it will suffice during the summer months, while pre-school is on hiatus.
- The large Prodissee Center sign that's near Hwy. 31 on our West Campus property is believed to be on our electrical line and therefore part of our power bill. It advertises the Prodissee Center as well as other businesses. Initially, we turned off the breaker to our portion of the sign. Now, power to the sign has been completely turned off.

Other developments under trustees include:

- Completion of the roof repair over Walgreens. Repairs to the drug store's drive-through canopy were made by someone, but it wasn't the church. The canopy was apparently damaged by a big truck. We are trying to find out who made the repair and on whose dime.
- Continued investigation into repairing the Fellowship Hall window seals.
- More HVAC issues: 1) New HVAC installed for offices in September has been serviced three times. While, one of those calls was a loose wire, we are investigating what the exact problem was on the other two fixes. 2) Sanctuary unit near the Sound Booth keeps tripping off. Our service company, Suncoast, believes it is related to what may be a faulty smoke sensor in the HVAC duct. We have instructions on what to do next time this happens to determine if it is the sensor.
- South Alabama Electric was to handle light issues at the Sanctuary and at a pole on May 20.
- Trustee Leighton Griggers got our last golf cart running with a \$200 battery and lot of prayer. He sold it for \$1,200.
- The last few things are being taken care of before teardown of the Resource Building.
- Still working on getting Fellowship Hall oven hood inspected, after it was cited during the Spanish Fort Fire Departments' annual inspection for not having had a recent inspection.

# Finance Committee Report

The Finance Committee met on Monday, May 18, for a conversation about where the church stands financially and what the next season may require from us. The short version is that the deficit continues to move in the right direction, the pressure on our buildings remains real, and the longer-term financial picture is beginning to come into clearer focus.

Year-to-date, the church is running a deficit of about \$71,000. The original projected deficit for 2026 was \$175,729, but thanks to mission fundraising, careful spending, and our new partnership with St. Paul UMC beginning in July, we are getting closer to our goals. Depending on one personnel line clarification still under review, if the year began anew today, the actual annualized deficit may land somewhere between \$108,000 and \$149,000. That is still a deficit, but the trajectory is encouraging. Two years ago, the church was facing a deficit of more than \$480,000. We are not where we need to be yet, but we are continuing to make progress.

There is also more encouraging news in the life of the congregation. Active membership is around 330, with another 120 active non-members. In practical terms, Spanish Fort UMC is functioning as a congregation of about 450 people. Worship attendance is growing as well. The 8:45 service is averaging around 127 year-to-date, and the 11:00 service is averaging around 110, for a total weekly average of 237. That is up from 217 in 2025 and 209 during the last six months of 2024.

At the same time, our buildings continue to create financial pressure. The Walgreens roof repair required an unexpected \$24,850 from the building fund. The fellowship hall AC unit is also being evaluated, and the Reed building needs roughly \$8,000 in AC work so the basement space can remain usable. With a campus our size, there will always be another repair somewhere. The Trustees are prioritizing projects that prevent damage or restore needed function first.

The committee also discussed the longer-term future of our congregation in light of some of the conversations coming out of the building committee.

Nothing has been decided, but there are emerging possibilities to create reliable income, reduce the portion of its budget dependent on congregational giving, and provide the church with usable space. The question before the committee is how to best guide the church in the liminal space between our current financial realities and the bright future we see on the horizon. We see a path to a season without financial pressures, but the time it takes to get there must be carefully managed.

The Finance Committee also discussed smaller revenue opportunities, including opening the 501(c)(3) bank account connected to the community dinner, exploring grants, welcoming appropriate short-term tenants, and making better use of the church's advertising package.

The work of the Finance Committee over the next two to three years is to keep more eyes on the same numbers, raise awareness across the congregation, and help Spanish Fort UMC move through this narrow window without losing momentum.

## Director of Finance & Operations

Summer is fast approaching, and many families are making travel plans. One of the greatest benefits of online giving is the ability to set up scheduled recurring gifts, ensuring your faithful support continues even while you're away from church.

Setting up scheduled giving allows you to be faithful and consistent in your generosity and allows us to plan and budget consistently as a church.

I would like to encourage you to scan the QR code below and follow the prompts to set up a recurring gift.

*Access Online Giving by scanning the QR code below.*



The financial summary report for our church is enclosed. At the close of April, the church reported a monthly deficit of \$9,505.88, bringing the year-to-date deficit to \$71,596.81.

Funds raised through this month's Silent Auction and Pop-Up Thrift Store helped lessen the deficit and provided support for Mission-related expenses. Additionally, beginning in April 2026, Apportionment payments have been placed in escrow while the church's financial situation is being evaluated.

Roof repairs on the West Campus building above Walgreens have been completed. The total project cost was \$24,850, paid from the Building Fund Account. This expense is not indicated in the financial statement but reflected in the bank account balance for the Cadence Building Fund Account.

We are sincerely thankful for your continued support and prayers. Your generosity enables ministry to continue year-round, and we remain committed to responsible stewardship.

***Elisha Dozier,***  
***Director of Finance and Operations***



**Spanish Fort United Methodist Church**  
**Fiscal Year Beginning January 1, 2026**  
**Budgeted Financial Statement - As of April 2026**  
**2026 Revenue and Expenses**

|                                     | Actual<br>Current Month | Actual<br>Year to Date | 2026<br>Budget | Actual<br>to Budget % | Prior<br>Year to Date |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Income                              |                         |                        |                |                       |                       |
| Church Income                       |                         |                        |                |                       |                       |
| 40100 - Pledge Offerings            | \$24,055.64             | \$127,815.52           | \$541,920.00   | 23.59%                | \$137,296.91          |
| 40130 - Non-Pledge Offerings        | \$17,660.00             | \$70,329.03            | \$234,408.00   | 30.00%                | \$66,894.00           |
| 40110 - Prepaid Pledge              | \$5,000.00              | \$5,000.00             | \$0.00         | 0.00%                 | \$5,000.00            |
| 40120 - Plate Offerings             | \$961.01                | \$3,676.78             | \$8,000.00     | 45.96%                | \$396.00              |
| 42100 - Interest Income- Bank/Other | \$833.81                | \$4,026.51             | \$20,000.00    | 20.13%                | \$5,854.21            |
| 44020 - Rental Income               | \$12,816.36             | \$36,715.44            | \$87,800.00    | 41.82%                | \$34,215.44           |
| 44030 - Walgreens % Proceeds        | \$9,556.46              | \$38,225.84            | \$115,384.00   | 33.13%                | \$120,455.98          |
| 44010 - Misc. Income                | \$0.00                  | \$568.08               | \$1,029.00     | 55.21%                | \$326,424.90          |
| 44250 - Online Fee Revenue          | \$265.93                | \$878.06               | \$2,500.00     | 35.12%                | \$837.75              |
| Sub-Total Church Income             | \$66,149.21             | \$282,235.26           | \$1,011,041.00 | 27.92%                | \$692,375.19          |
| Mission Fundraising Income          |                         |                        |                |                       |                       |
| Thrift Store Sales/Vouchers         | \$7,959.21              | \$7,959.21             |                |                       |                       |
| Silent Auction Donations            | \$613.00                | \$1,422.39             |                |                       |                       |
| Community Dinner Donations          | \$125.00                | \$125.00               |                |                       |                       |
| Ash Wednesday Donations             | \$0.00                  | \$983.00               |                |                       |                       |
| Sub- Total Fundraising Income       | \$8,697.21              | \$10,489.60            |                |                       |                       |
| Preschool Income                    |                         |                        |                |                       |                       |
| 49010 - Tuition                     | \$8,831.25              | \$37,698.75            | \$92,000.00    | 40.98%                | \$41,644.50           |
| 49020 - Registration Fees           | \$450.00                | \$10,800.00            | \$9,900.00     | 109.09%               | \$9,225.00            |
| 49410 - Misc Income                 | \$0.00                  | \$236.66               | \$0.00         | 0.00%                 | \$183.00              |
| Sub-Total Preschool Income          | \$9,281.25              | \$48,735.41            | \$101,900.00   | 47.83%                | \$51,052.50           |
| Total Income                        | \$84,127.67             | \$341,460.27           | \$1,112,941.00 | 30.68%                | \$743,427.69          |
| Expenses                            |                         |                        |                |                       |                       |
| Church Expenses                     |                         |                        |                |                       |                       |
| Total Buildings and Grounds         | \$22,219.85             | \$102,547.36           | \$332,330.00   | 30.86%                | \$106,364.69          |
| Total Office Operating Expenses     | \$4,253.30              | \$20,497.10            | \$71,050.00    | 28.85%                | \$22,083.07           |
| Total Personnel Expenses            | \$48,413.65             | \$208,638.81           | \$580,037.00   | 35.97%                | \$218,104.54          |
| Total Children's Ministry           | \$742.06                | \$3,771.75             | \$18,500.00    | 20.39%                | \$4,067.25            |
| Total Discipleship Ministry         | \$24.78                 | \$544.24               | \$3,000.00     | 18.14%                | \$840.27              |
| Total Congregational Life Ministry  | \$442.69                | \$4,515.86             | \$9,750.00     | 46.32%                | \$1,451.66            |
| Total Missions                      | \$1,800.00              | \$7,150.00             | \$40,000.00    | 17.88%                | \$3,751.00            |
| Total Conference Apportionments     | \$0.00                  | \$17,869.50            | \$71,478.00    | 25.00%                | \$23,826.00           |
| Apportionment Escrow                | \$5,956.50              | \$5,956.50             |                |                       |                       |
| Total Youth Ministry                | \$334.21                | \$535.47               | \$18,000.00    | 2.97%                 | -\$3,257.53           |
| Total Worship Programs              | \$757.41                | \$2,423.92             | \$11,800.00    | 20.54%                | \$1,253.43            |
| Total Church Expenses               | \$84,944.45             | \$374,450.51           | \$1,155,945.00 | 32.39%                | \$378,484.38          |

**Preschool Expenses**

|                                 |                   |                    |                    |               |                    |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| Total Building and Grounds      | \$21.86           | \$1,864.27         | \$1,000.00         | 186.43%       | \$0.00             |
| Total Office/Operating Expenses | \$970.24          | \$2,656.10         | \$13,334.00        | 19.92%        | \$2,059.82         |
| Total Personnel Expenses        | \$7,697.00        | \$34,086.20        | \$77,258.00        | 44.12%        | \$36,321.69        |
| <b>Total Preschool Expenses</b> | <b>\$8,689.10</b> | <b>\$38,606.57</b> | <b>\$91,592.00</b> | <b>42.15%</b> | <b>\$38,381.51</b> |

|                       |                    |                     |                       |               |                     |
|-----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| <b>Total Expenses</b> | <b>\$93,633.55</b> | <b>\$413,057.08</b> | <b>\$1,247,537.00</b> | <b>33.11%</b> | <b>\$416,865.89</b> |
|-----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------|---------------------|

|                                   |                    |                     |                      |  |                     |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|----------------------|--|---------------------|
| <b>Income Over/Under Expenses</b> | <b>-\$9,505.88</b> | <b>-\$71,596.81</b> | <b>-\$134,596.00</b> |  | <b>\$326,561.80</b> |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|----------------------|--|---------------------|

**Account Balances as of April 30, 2026**

|                                                |                     |
|------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Petty Cash                                     | \$200.00            |
| Operating Account - Cadence Bank               | \$136,824.68        |
| Pastor's Discretionary Account- Cedar Rapids   | \$10,175.00         |
| Designated Funds Account - Cedar Rapids        | \$172,783.42        |
| Gift Funds Account - Cadence Bank              | \$210,577.90        |
| Building Fund- Money Market- Cadence Bank      | \$108,312.33        |
| Business Money Market - Cadence Bank (Savings) | \$128,641.98        |
| <b>Total Cash (Church)</b>                     | <b>\$767,515.31</b> |
| Preschool - Money Market - Regions             | \$25,954.86         |
| <b>Total Cash (Preschool)</b>                  | <b>\$25,954.86</b>  |

\*Note\* Walgreens % Proceeds total check received = \$114,677.48; Amount will be recorded each month

\*\* West Campus Roof Repairs not indicated on Financial Statement. Building Fund Account Used for Payment = \$24,850.00

\*\*\*Monthly Apportionment Payments are notated as accrued beginning April 2026



# Admin Committee Calendar 2026

As of 1-15-2026

| TRUSTEES         | SPRC               | FINANCE            | CHURCH COUNCIL      | NOMINATIONS |
|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| 1/12/2026        | 1/4/2026           | 1/4/2026           | 1/4/2026            | 1/4/2026    |
| 2/9/2026         | 2/12/2026          | No Feb Meeting     | No Feb Meeting      |             |
| 3/9/2026         | 3/12/2026          | 3/23/2026          | 3/30/2026           |             |
| 4/7/2026 (Tues)* | No April Meeting   | No April Meeting   | No April Meeting    |             |
| 5/11/2026        | 5/14/2026          | 5/18/2026          | 5/27/2026 (Wed)*    |             |
| 6/15/2026        | No June Meeting    | No June Meeting    | No June Meeting     |             |
| 7/13/2026        | 7/16/2026          | 7/20/2026          | 7/27/2026           |             |
| 8/10/2026        | No August Meeting  | No August Meeting  | No August Meeting   |             |
| 9/14/2026        | 9/17/2026          | 9/21/2026          | 9/28/2026           | TBD         |
| 10/19/2026       | No October Meeting | No October Meeting | No October Meeting  | TBD         |
| 11/9/2026        | 11/12/2026         | 11/16/2026         | 11/19/2026 (Thurs)* |             |
| 12/7/2026        | 12/10/2026         | 12/14/2026         | 12/17/2026 (Thurs)* |             |

**Meetings start at 5:30 pm**

**Trustee, SPRC, Finance & Nominations - West Campus  
Church Council - Main Campus (Fellowship Hall)**

# Pastoral Reports

## Rev. Dr. Mike Owenby

Associate Pastor

For all practical purposes, the summer season is upon us. It has been beautiful to see the accomplishments of our school kids – the Preschool graduates, the High School graduates. Families are making summer travel plans. The tone of church shifts with the season too. We think more in terms of fellowship and gatherings, camps and missions. All to say, please take advantage of the opportunities offered by our church this summer. Here are a few.  
-Rev. Mike



**LAY WORSHIP LEADING OPPORTUNITIES:** We have 33 people who serve as Ushers, between the two services. We have opportunity for Liturgists, Acolytes, Video Operators, and more. If you are available to serve, please let me know.

**THE WILL OF GOD** is a six-week Bible Study that will meet on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 in Upper Reed beginning June 10 and running through July 15. We all wonder why things happen and to what extent God's hand is in it. This class will help you put life's situations into perspective with questions like: "What is God's best will for my life?" and "How do I know God's will in this situation?" The study is great; the discussion will be lively.

**MUSIC OPPORTUNITES:**

-Hand Bell Choir - Our "Jubilee Bells" rang on Easter Sunday; they played with the choir on their opening piece, "Sing Joy, All You People" and on the congregational hymns. They were marvelous. We will hear them again in a couple of weeks.

-Our Chancel Choir dedicates themselves to a message in song each week. Come be part of them. You will learn much and enjoy it, I guarantee!

*Rev. Dr. Mike Owenby,  
Associate Pastor*

## Rev. Sarah Roberts

Associate Pastor

I have an awesome update on our Costa Rica Summer Mission Trip – we now have a total of 16 people going! I am so excited about the team that is going, and I am grateful that these dates worked better to give more people at our church the opportunity to serve abroad.

Our next Community Dinner is on **June 22nd and June 23rd!** Just like our event in May, instead of hosting an event here, we will be taking Community Dinner out into the community!

This time, we are partnering with The Family Center in Mobile, and it will be a two-part effort. The first part takes place on **June 22nd at 5:30 pm in our West**

**Campus office area.** We're going to assemble snack boxes for the families of The Family Center, as well as gather quality toys that weren't sold during our Thrift Store to donate for their children. Then, on **June 23rd at 9 am we will meet again at our West Campus** to load up the snack boxes and toys, take them to The Family Center, and participate in a workday to help clean up their facilities until about 12 pm.

If you're interested in helping with this, or any other Community Dinner event, or would like more information, please reach out to Margie or me anytime so we can add you to our email list.

Our "Women of the Word" Bible study group will be taking a short break from meeting, but we will join together again on **June 25th** to begin a new study (TBD). I encourage any women looking for a Discipleship Group to join us! This group has brought so much joy into my life personally, and I hope to share that joy with many others! Women of all ages are invited to join us, and starting again on June 25th, we will continue meeting **every Thursday at 6 pm** in the West Campus large conference room.

(Once we've chosen our next study, it will be advertised!)

As always, I am here for you if you need prayer, if you have questions, or if you'd like to get more involved in the life of the church – which is a very busy, beautiful, fruitful life indeed!

*Sarah Roberts,*  
*Associate Pastor*



## Rev. Dr. Woods Lisenby

Senior Pastor

My report this month is not a typical update. Over the past several months, I have been taking a closer look at the volunteer structure of Spanish Fort UMC: how many roles we ask people to fill, how much time those roles require, where our strengths are, and where our systems may need to become clearer.

The report that follows is part inventory, part briefing, and part proposal. It begins by naming the remarkable amount of volunteer energy already present in our congregation. At any given time, Spanish Fort UMC depends on roughly 150 people filling 121 distinct volunteer roles, representing about 300 hours of volunteer time each week. That is one of the clearest signs of life in our church.

At the same time, faithful ministry requires faithful stewardship. As our church continues to strengthen existing ministries, we need a clearer way to help people find their place without asking the same faithful volunteers to keep carrying more

The second part of this report introduces an “8-Lane Restructure.” The idea is simple: instead of asking people to navigate a maze of committees, teams, ministries, and staff responsibilities, we would organize the church's public-facing life around eight clear lanes of connection and service.

This is not a finished plan. It is a working framework meant to help us see the whole picture more clearly and begin a better conversation about how we organize ministry for the next season of our church's life.

You can find the report below. Here are a few links that go along with the report.

<https://spanishfortumc.org/lanes>  
<https://spanishfortumc.org/volunteerlist>

*Woods Lisenby,*  
*Senior Pastor*



# SFUMC Volunteer Infrastructure

Inventory, Briefing, and the 8-Lane Restructure

## Part I. The Volunteer Infrastructure

Currently, the active membership of SFUMC sits around 330 (100 of which are children), with another 120 active non-members. At any given time, the life of Spanish Fort UMC depends on more than 100 people filling 121 distinct volunteer roles. Those roles add up to about 300 hours of volunteer time every week, or 15,600 hours over a year..

Over the first quarter of 2026, every ministry area of our church was counted. How many roles there are. How many slots per role. How often each role meets or serves. How many hours per year that adds up to. The full revised inventory appears as the appendix at the end of this document.

The volunteer infrastructure at SFUMC breaks down across eight ministry areas. Worship is the largest by a significant margin, accounting for about 40 percent of all annual volunteer hours.

| Ministry Area               | Roles      | Unique Vols.      | Weekly Hrs  | Annual Hrs     |
|-----------------------------|------------|-------------------|-------------|----------------|
| Worship                     | 32         | ~55               | ~120        | ~6,270         |
| Discipleship & Groups       | 19         | ~30               | ~30         | ~1,628         |
| Children's                  | 18         | ~25               | ~40         | ~2,028         |
| Missions & Outreach         | 16         | ~25               | ~30         | ~1,584         |
| Administration & Governance | 14         | ~40               | ~32         | ~1,644         |
| Youth                       | 8          | ~15               | ~25         | ~1,288         |
| Family Life & Events        | 8          | ~50 (seasonal)    | ~7 avg      | ~385           |
| Care & Stephen's Ministry   | 6          | ~12               | ~15         | ~780           |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                | <b>121</b> | <b>175 to 200</b> | <b>~300</b> | <b>~15,607</b> |

## What the numbers mean

A few observations are worth holding.

Let me start by saying our congregation does a great job of serving both inside and outside of this church. I'm not afraid to say that, on a person-by-person average, our congregation does better than most others in our tradition at helping members find a place to serve. I am not worried about ministries failing due to a lack of volunteers, and we are not yet stretched too thin. But this is a conversation to have now rather than when we get there, and our most faithful volunteers begin burning out.

The pool sustaining all of this is smaller than the roster suggests. We may have 229 people in worship on a typical Sunday and more on the rolls, but the active volunteer pool is smaller. I don't think we have a true 80/20 rule happening at SFUMC, where 20% of the people do 80% of the work. Most people who attend worship are involved in at least one area of volunteerism in the congregation. However, there is a small group of people who serve in multiple roles and carry a much larger part of the burden.

Role stacking is structural. With 121 roles, the math tells us that the average active volunteer holds at least one recurring role, and many of our heavily involved folks hold three to five. When you look at the ministries we offer and the pool of people we have to execute them, role stacking is what the system requires to keep functioning. It is not an artifact of any individual's overcommitment or any department's failure to recruit. The math itself demands it. So if we are going to continue doing ministry at a high level and launch new ministries, people who are already giving four to six hours a week cannot add more without something coming off their plate.

Worship and Children's Ministry account for roughly 53 percent of all volunteer hours. They are the roles that cannot flex or go unfilled on a given Sunday without affecting the public worship life of the congregation. Any honest conversation about volunteer sustainability has to begin with worship and children's, and recruitment into those areas deserves a dedicated pipeline rather than general appeals from the announcement slide. Elizabeth does a wonderful job communicating with her volunteers, but she could always use more.

New ministries launched in 2025 and 2026 have not been paired with retirements. The Community Dinner launched last year. The Thrift Store is launching this year. The unified Groups Ministry, the men's ministry framework, and the Building Committee all came online in this same season. Each of these is good and right, and I would not undo any of them. But together they represent several new volunteer roles and additional annual hours without a corresponding sunset of something else.

Governance work is time-intensive and often invisible. The Building Committee alone represents 54 hours over its 18-month term for each of its ten lay members. Council members average two or more hours per month not counting prep time. Members of Trustees, SPRC, and Finance Committee each give meaningful chunks of time across the year. These are substantial commitments that rarely get celebrated publicly because they are structural rather than visible.

## **A word about the people behind the numbers**

None of this reads as a complaint. The volunteer infrastructure at SFUMC is, by any honest measure, a sign of life. A dying congregation does not generate thousands of hours of unpaid ministry work. This is what a healthy, faithful church looks like when people show up. The math is hard because the participation is real.

What I want is for us to know what we are sitting on. The people who give their time week after week deserve leaders who can see the whole picture and steward it accordingly. This document is the start of being able to do that.

## Part II. The 8-Lane Restructure

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### What a lane is

A lane is a public-facing door. The test of a lane: can you stand at the Meet the Pastor in the parlor on a Sunday morning and tell a new family, "Here are the eight main ways you can connect to the life of this church. Each one has a leader you can talk to and a way to start small," without first explaining the difference between a committee and a ministry team and a council?

If not, the structure is still organizational rather than relational.

The current SFUMC structure asks new people to navigate insider distinctions. Worship Committee is one thing, Worship Team is another, and Worship Planning is a staff group that meets on Tuesdays. Missions Team is the umbrella body, but the Costa Rica trip and Community Dinner each have their own volunteer pipelines. A lane structure replaces all of that with names that a non-member can use.

The current ministries do not disappear. They become rooms inside the lanes. The men's ministry framework, for example, lives primarily in Adult Groups but crosses over into Missions when the seasonal service project runs.

### The 8 Lanes

Each lane below includes its scope, current sub-teams, staff partner, lay leadership team, and a status note flagging anything that is currently dormant, in transition, or being built.

| Lane 1: Worship            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Scope</b>               | Everything that makes Sunday morning (and special services) happen.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Current sub-teams</b>   | Hospitality (ushers, greeters, sanctuary setup, altar guild, communion, paraments, flowers); Arts (chancel choir, handbell choir, contemporary band, accompanist support); Production (sound, slides, livestream). Both traditional and contemporary services meet in the sanctuary.                                                                                     |
| <b>Staff partner(s)</b>    | Mike Owenby (traditional), Andy Cloninger (contemporary), Woods (preaching). Worship Planning is the staff coordination group (Tuesdays).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Lay leadership team</b> | Worship Committee. Leisa Younger serves as the Worship Committee Rep to Church Council. Committee chair currently unnamed in working canon. (Note: at SFUMC the term "Worship Team" is used interchangeably with the contemporary band. The choir and the worship team are the musical expressions of weekly worship. Worship Planning is the staff coordination group.) |
| <b>Status notes</b>        | Largest lane by far. 32 roles, approximately 6,270 annual hours. Non-negotiable for weekly operation. Holiday services use the same volunteer corps.                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

## Lane 2: Children's Ministry

|                            |                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Scope</b>               | Everything from nursery through 6th grade, including Sunday morning, Sunday evening, milestones, and seasonal events.                                                                       |
| <b>Current sub-teams</b>   | Sunday morning (nursery, classroom leaders and assistants, Children's Church); Sunday evening (Little Lights, Shine Kids, Connect; the third tier for grades 4 to 6); VBS; baptism support. |
| <b>Staff partner(s)</b>    | Elizabeth DeRocher, Scott Clemons. Beth Allen now serves as volunteer following her staff departure.                                                                                        |
| <b>Lay leadership team</b> | Children's Leadership Team (CLT), being built to 6 to 8 members as of May 2026 and meeting quarterly. Reports through the Children's Team CC Rep.                                           |
| <b>Status notes</b>        | Second-largest lane. 18 roles, approximately 2,028 annual hours. Family Camp currently dormant. Confirmation restarting January 2027.                                                       |

## Lane 3: Youth Ministry

|                            |                                                                                                                                                                  |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Scope</b>               | Everything 6th through 12th grade: Sunday morning, Sunday night (Remedy), retreats, mission trips.                                                               |
| <b>Current sub-teams</b>   | Remedy small and large group volunteers; winter and fall retreats; annual mission trips; transportation drivers; confirmation mentors (restarting January 2027). |
| <b>Staff partner(s)</b>    | Sean Harnas.                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Lay leadership team</b> | Youth Leadership Team (YLT, also referred to as Youth Parent Council; same body). CC Rep: Megan Bias. Being built as of May 2026.                                |
| <b>Status notes</b>        | 8 roles, approximately 1,288 annual hours. Healthy momentum under Sean since September 2025.                                                                     |

## Lane 4: Adult Groups

|                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Scope</b>               | All the ways adults connect to one another at SFUMC: learning groups, fellowship groups, affinity groups, men's and women's structures, and Family Life events.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Current sub-teams</b>   | Sunday morning classes (5 current: Light Seekers, Young Adult, Watermark, Gather In Grace, Ladies Group; sixth launching August 2026); short-term studies (Lenten, Women in the Word, Pastor Studies); fellowship groups (Mahjong, No Book Book Club, Woodworking); men's ministry (not yet activated); women's parallel (to come); Family Life events (Fall Festival, Easter Egg Hop, Beach Day, Movie Nights). |
| <b>Staff partner(s)</b>    | Sarah Roberts (discipleship, fellowship); Margie Walters (Supper Clubs, Meals/Events).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Lay leadership team</b> | TBD lay leadership at lane level. Currently spans Discipleship, Fellowship, and Family Life on the existing structure. This lane would benefit most from consolidation. Sub-team facilitators in place for each fellowship group.                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Status notes</b>        | 19 roles in Discipleship and Groups plus 8 Family Life roles totals 27 roles in this lane, approximately 2,013 annual hours. The lane with the most consolidation upside. Men's and Women's parallel both planned but not yet operational.                                                                                                                                                                       |

### Lane 5: Care

|                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Scope</b>               | Pastoral care infrastructure that walks alongside people in crisis, transition, illness, grief, and the long shape of life.                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Current sub-teams</b>   | Stephen Ministers (dormant, planned for relaunch); S.A.L.T. ministry; bereavement coordination and meals; Primetimers outings; Membership Care Callers (will live under the Stephen Ministers relaunch).                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Staff partner(s)</b>    | Sarah Roberts (bereavement, hospital visitation, prayer chain, support groups); Margie Walters (Membership Care portfolio).                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Lay leadership team</b> | TBD lay leadership at lane level. S.A.L.T. coordinators currently in place. Stephen Ministers structure resumes once relaunched.                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Status notes</b>        | 6 lay roles in the inventory, approximately 780 annual hours. Significantly thinner than other lanes because much pastoral care work currently sits with staff (Woods, Sarah, Margie) rather than volunteers. Stephen Ministers revival is the strategic priority for this lane and would meaningfully grow the lay footprint. |

### Lane 6: Missions

|                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Scope</b>               | Outward-facing work: local outreach, partner ministries, collections, international missions, disaster response.                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Current sub-teams</b>   | Community Dinner (monthly, launched 2026); Thrift Store (bi-annual, launched 2026); partner organizations (BFV, Family Promise, USA Wesley Foundation, Ronald McDonald House, Prodissee Pantry); collections (rotating drives, including Veterans Home and Embrace Alabama); Costa Rica mission trip; disaster relief. |
| <b>Staff partner(s)</b>    | Sarah Roberts.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Lay leadership team</b> | Missions Committee, chaired by Gay Desotell. Gay already operates as a de facto lane leader, assigning committee members to lead each collection drive. Rotation model already functioning.                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Status notes</b>        | 16 roles, approximately 1,584 annual hours. The closest of all the lanes to already being lane-shaped. Community Dinner and Thrift Store are the two newest adds and the most labor-intensive recurring efforts.                                                                                                       |

### Lane 7: Communications

|                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Scope</b>               | Everything public-facing that goes out under SFUMC's name: bulletins, weekly emails, monthly newsletter, website, social, photos.                                                                                          |
| <b>Current sub-teams</b>   | Bulletins (one lay proofer); Spotlight (weekly email); Pastor's Notes (Friday plus longer letters); Churchwide Emails; Social Media; Calendar; SF Monthly newsletter; SF Guidebook (in progress); event photography (gap). |
| <b>Staff partner(s)</b>    | Summerlyn Middleton (Communications Assistant, staff who anchors this lane).                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Lay leadership team</b> | TBD lay leadership at lane level. No current standing committee. Currently the thinnest lane by volunteer count.                                                                                                           |
| <b>Status notes</b>        | Essentially one ongoing lay volunteer role (the bulletin proofer). The biggest recruiting opportunity in the restructure, and the lane with the largest gap between current staffing and what the mind map says exists.    |

| Lane 8: Administration     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Scope</b>               | The governance and operational machinery that keeps SFUMC running under the Book of Discipline: committees, property, finance, personnel, leadership development.                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Current sub-teams</b>   | Church Council; Trustees (plus the currently-unstaffed Safe Sanctuary Coordinator and Facility Use Coordinator roles); SPRC; Finance Committee; Nominations and Leadership Development; Building Committee (18-month term through 2027); UMC Lay Members to Annual Conference (Asher Carmichael, Marilyn Sullivan, Bill Nelson); Preschool Board; ESO 501(c)(3) Board. |
| <b>Staff partner(s)</b>    | Elisha Dozier (Finance, Trustees, Operations, ShelbyNext); Margie Walters (CC support, Nominations, SPRC support).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Lay leadership team</b> | Each committee has its own chair; Council Chair Jason Lober oversees the whole. Administration is itself the UMC-required committee structure.                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Status notes</b>        | 14 roles, approximately 1,644 annual hours. Open question: does Administration belong as a public-facing "lane" at all, or should it be presented to the congregation in different vocabulary than ministry lanes?                                                                                                                                                     |

## Anatomy of a working lane

Each lane needs the same five elements to function. These are the things that have to be true before a lane can be considered "launched."

### 1. A lane leader

One named lay person accountable for the whole lane, who can recruit other team leaders and rotate them through sub-teams over time. This is not the same person as the committee chair. The committee chair handles governance. The lane leader handles people.

### 2. An elevator pitch

A single paragraph in plain English without acronyms or insider language. You should be able to read it from the pulpit, paste it into Spotlight, or hand it to a new member without translation.

### 3. Defined on-ramps

At minimum: a one-time helper slot for someone who wants to try the lane without committing; a regular weekly or monthly role for someone joining a team; a sub-team lead role for someone ready to coordinate; and a path into lane leadership itself for the person who grows into owning the whole thing.

### 4. A staff partner

Which staff member supports the lane day-to-day. Naming the staff partner formally is what makes follow-through actually happen.

### 5. A connection to the relevant UMC committee

Each lane needs to know which committee gives it cover under the Book of Discipline. Worship lane reports up to Council through the Worship Committee Rep to Church Council (Leisa Younger). Missions

lane reports through the Missions Team Chair (Gay Desotell). Administration is itself the committee structure. This keeps the lane structure compatible with the Discipline rather than competing with it.

## Migration plan

The hardest part is not designing the lanes. It is the time it takes to implement and internalize. The pragmatic sequence is three phases.

### Phase 1: Design (June through October 2026)

- Name the 8 lanes and confirm their scope
- Recruit one lay lane leader per lane
- Write the elevator pitch for each lane
- Build the on-ramp definitions for each lane
- Orient lane leaders internally (not yet a public announcement)
- Identify which existing lay leaders are already operating like lane leaders today

### Phase 2: Pilot (November 2026 through February 2027)

- Run the new lane structure with 3 or 4 already-healthy lanes (Worship and Children's likely, with Missions close behind)
- Begin using lane vocabulary in the 2027 Visitor Class (Meet the Pastor) and in the SF Monthly newsletter
- Test the on-ramp pathways: are people actually moving through them?
- Gather feedback from the lane leaders running the pilot

### Phase 3: Full Rollout (March 2027 onward)

- All 8 lanes named and active
- Spotlight and Pastor's Notes recruit by lane, not by individual role
- Annual State of the Volunteer Corps letter introduced
- Evaluation point: is a Volunteer Coordinator function (lay or paid) warranted based on the year of data?

## Part III. The Bigger Conversations the Lane Work Opens Up

---

The lane structure is the spine for four other conversations that the inventory itself surfaced.

### Public transparency about what the church asks of most-involved members

Roughly 30-40 people sustain 300 hours of volunteer work every week, and most of the congregation does not know that. An annual State of the Volunteer Corps letter, parallel to State of the Budget, would close that gap. Recruitment language can name actual time commitments up front rather than asking for vague help.

### **Sunsetting ministries that have run their course**

Right now the implicit norm is that adding ministries shows vitality and ending them is decline. That norm has to flip before specific candidates can be discussed.

### **Volunteer Coordinator function (lay or paid)**

Five responsibilities that nobody currently owns: central recruitment matching, onboarding pipeline (Safe Sanctuary, training, mentor pairings), tracking and reporting, burnout monitoring, sabbath enforcement so people can rotate off without quitting. Middle path under consideration: build a 3 or 4 person lay coordinator team owning clusters of lanes; evaluate after 12 months whether a paid coordinator or expanded staff scope is justified.

### **Honest recruitment language**

"We just need a few more helpers" sounds modest, but for the person hearing it, joining means joining a small pool already at capacity. Naming the actual commitment up front ("this is a weekly role, here is the team you would be joining, here is what coming off the role looks like") is more respectful of both the recruit and the existing corps.

<https://spanishfortumc.org/lanes>

<https://spanishfortumc.org/volunteerlist>

# The Ministry Lanes of SFUMC

Worship, Serve, Connect, Grow says who we are. The eight lanes are how we make it real. Each lane consolidates the existing committees, ministry teams, and volunteer roles under one accountable lay leader, one elevator pitch, and one set of on-ramps.

|                |                 |              |                   |
|----------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------------|
| 8              | 121             | ~15,600      | 100+              |
| MINISTRY LANES | VOLUNTEER ROLES | ANNUAL HOURS | ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS |

i. The four-fold Vision, eight lanes underneath

Worship

1 LANE

Lane 01

Worship

~6,270 hrs/yr · ~55 vols · largest lane

Single dedicated lane carrying the largest volunteer footprint in the church.

Serve

1 LANE

Lane 06

Missions

~1,584 hrs/yr · ~25 vols · already lane-shaped

Already operates with a clear chair and rotation model for drive leads. Natural pilot lane.

Connect

2 LANES

Lane 05

Care

~780 hrs/yr · ~12 vols

Lane 07

Communications

~50 hrs/yr · 1 lay role · staff-anchored

Two thinnest lay-volunteer lanes. Stephen Ministers revival and Comms recruitment would thicken this pillar.

Grow

3 LANES

Lane 02

Children's Ministry

~2,028 hrs/yr · ~25 vols · second-largest

Lane 03

Youth Ministry

~1,288 hrs/yr · ~15 vols

Lane 04

Adult Groups

~2,013 hrs/yr · ~30+ vols

↔ ALSO BRIDGES TO CONNECT

THE BACKBONE

Lane 08 · Administration

Governance and operations under the Book of Discipline. Sits underneath all four Vision pillars as the operational backbone. It is the load-bearing wall of the house, not one of the rooms. 14 roles · ~1,644 hrs/yr · ~40 volunteers.

ii. Where the hours go



Worship alone is about 40% of annual volunteer hours. Worship and Children's together account for roughly 53%. Communications is the thin sliver on the right (about 50 hours).

Source: Volunteer Role Inventory (March 2026, revised May 2026) · Council Briefing Memo · Mind Map ministry structure · Turn page for lane detail

# Lane by lane

Each lane carries a Vision tag showing its primary home under Worship, Serve, Connect, or Grow.

Lane 01

WORSHIP

## Worship

Sunday morning, Christmas Eve, Easter. Both services meet in the same sanctuary. Largest lane.

32

~6,270

~55

ROLES

HRS/YR

VOLS

SUB-TEAMS

Hospitality

Choir

Band

Handbells

Sound & Tech

Livestream

Altar Guild

Acolytes

Worship Committee

STAFF: Mike Owenby, Andy Cloninger, Woods · LAY: Worship Committee.  
Leisa Younger = Rep to Church Council

Lane 02

GROW

## Children's Ministry

Nursery through 5th grade, plus milestones, evening programs, and seasonal events.

18

~2,028

~25

ROLES

HRS/YR

VOLS

SUB-TEAMS

Nursery

Sunday Morning

Children's Church

Little Lights

Shine Kids

Connect (4-6)

VBS

CLT

Confirmation

Family Camp

STAFF: Elizabeth DeRocher, Scott Clemons · LAY: CLT (Children's Leadership Team, 6–8 members)

Lane 03

GROW

## Youth Ministry

6th through 12th grade. Sunday morning, Remedy, retreats, mission trips.

8

~1,288

~15

ROLES

HRS/YR

VOLS

SUB-TEAMS

Sunday Morning

Remedy

Mission Trips

Retreats

Transportation

YLT (a.k.a. YPC)

Confirmation Mentors

STAFF: Sean Harnas · LAY: YLT (a.k.a. Youth Parent Council). CC Rep: Megan Bias

Lane 04

GROW ↔ CONNECT

## Adult Groups

Learning groups, fellowship groups, affinity groups, Family Life events. Bridges Grow and Connect.

27

~2,013

~30+

ROLES

HRS/YR

VOLS

SUB-TEAMS

5 Sunday Classes

Short-Term Studies

Women in the Word

Fellowship Groups

Family Life Events

Men's 5-Tier

Women's Parallel

STAFF: Sarah Roberts, Margie Walters · LAY: TBD at lane level (spans 3 committees)

Lane 05

CONNECT

## Care

Pastoral care for crisis, transition, illness, grief. Thin lane: most care sits with staff. Stephen Ministers revival is the priority.

6

~780

~12

ROLES

HRS/YR

VOLS

SUB-TEAMS

S.A.L.T.

Bereavement Coord

Bereavement Meals

Primetimers

Stephen Ministers

Membership Callers

STAFF: Sarah Roberts, Margie Walters · LAY: TBD at lane level. S.A.L.T. coordinators in place

Lane 06

SERVE

## Missions

Local outreach, partner ministries, collections, international missions, disaster response.

16

~1,584

~25

ROLES

HRS/YR

VOLS

SUB-TEAMS

Community Dinner

Thrift Store

Costa Rica

Collections

Serve Days

Disaster Relief

5 Partner Orgs

STAFF: Sarah Roberts · LAY: Missions Committee, chaired by Gay Desotell

Lane 07

CONNECT

## Communications

Bulletins, emails, newsletter, website, social, photos. Essentially one ongoing lay role today. Biggest gap between mind-map and reality.

~1

~50

staff-led

LAY ROLE

HRS/YR

ANCHOR

SUB-AREAS (MOSTLY STAFF-EXECUTED)

Bulletins

Spotlight

Pastor's Notes

Churchwide Emails

Social Media

Website

SF Monthly

Guidebook

Photography

STAFF: Summerlyn Middleton · LAY: TBD. No standing committee yet

Lane 08

BACKBONE

## Administration

Governance and operations under the Book of Discipline. Load-bearing wall of the house, underneath all four Vision pillars.

14

~1,644

~40

ROLES

HRS/YR

VOLS

SUB-TEAMS

Council

Trustees

SPRC

Finance

Nominations

Building Cmte

AC Delegates

Preschool + ESO Boards

Safe Sanctuary

Facility Use

STAFF: Elisha Dozier, Margie Walters · LAY: Council Chair Jason Lober oversees all committees



# Partner with Spanish Fort United Methodist Church

Spanish Fort United Methodist Church (SFUMC) hosts family-friendly community events that bring people together in faith, service, and fellowship.

Through sponsorship, your business can gain meaningful local visibility while supporting programs that make a difference in Baldwin County.

## What Sponsors Receive:

1. Recognition at high-attendance community and holiday events
2. Mentions in the SF Spotlight email and Spanish Fort Monthly brochure
3. Logo placement on the church website and social media
4. Inclusion on select printed flyers and digital promotions

## Your Support Helps Us:

- ✓ Fund welcoming, accessible community events
- ✓ Serve families with excellence and hospitality
- ✓ Strengthen outreach without increasing congregation giving
- ✓ Build lasting relationships across Spanish Fort

## Two Types of Partnerships



### Annual Partnership – \$3,000

Business name on event signage  
Mention in the Spanish Fort Monthly brochure  
Logo or name on the church website sponsor page  
Social media thank-you posts



### Special Events

One Time Sponsorships For:

- VBS T- Shirts
- Christmas Musical Orchestra
- Flower Arrangements for Special Services
- And More!

## Our Commitment to Integrity:

- Sponsorships will not appear during regular worship services
- Church leadership approves all sponsors
- Partnerships do not influence theology or ministry decisions

**Join Us in Building a Stronger Community!**

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