

Jack Fisher: Men's Ministry, Dream Team, Lay Leader, VIM Team



You have been deeply involved with BUMC's Men's Ministry over the last few years. What inspired you to make this a priority in your life?

One of the things I was looking for when Annie and I first came to BUMC was a place where we could get involved and make connections with other members. Rev. Ron invited me to attend an evening men's group meeting that fall, and also the breakfast gatherings. I found the guys to be welcoming, real, open about themselves, and it was what I was looking for. When Rev. Ron left and both our pastors were women, there was a need for lay leadership of the men's group to supplement the pastoral guidance from Rev. Jenny, so I volunteered to assist Mark Stephens in that role. I believe there is value in Christian men forming relationships that go beyond the traditional "guy" pursuits of sports and business, though there is plenty of that in our gatherings as well. I have been able to get that from the men's group and want to do what I

can to foster that for other men as well.

2. You also were part of our Charleston VIM team. What stands out from that experience for you and how did your faith lead you to get involved?

While this was my first VIM trip at BUMC, I participated in similar activities with my previous church. The first one was a youth work camp similar to what our youth do here each summer, and then I joined a few trips to the gulf coast to do repair work following Hurricane Katrina. What always stands out for me on these trips is two things – the stories of the homeowners we are assisting, and the sharing that takes place among the people on the crew. It starts with the conversations in the car or van on the ride down, and continues in the interactions on the jobsite while working and on lunch break, and the evening meals and discussions. This trip was the same – I was inspired by the faith of our homeowner who went out of his comfort zone to welcome a group of strangers, and I got to know much better the others who were on the trip. Oh, and I learned a few construction tips as well.

3. Tell us more about your role of Lay Leader here at BUMC and what that means to you.

This is a new role for me, one I am still learning about and figuring out. I see it similar to my involvement with men's ministry, except it is a formally-designated role within the Methodist Church and it extends to all members. My hope is that through this role I will get to know more members of the congregation and become more familiar with the organizational aspects of the church as well.

4. You are part of our Dream Team, too. What are the biggest challenges facing the Dream Team as you continue your discernment and when do you expect to be ready to share some of your findings with the congregation?

The Dream Team has been meeting throughout the year, and we are in the process of gathering feedback from the congregation (see September's Messenger) to help with our next steps. Our goal is to have most of our work finished by the end of the year. As we come down the home stretch, there should be updates in the Messenger each month. The two biggest remaining challenges are defining what the discipleship process (helping people grow in their faith regardless of where they are now) looks like at BUMC, and where and how we should focus our mission outside of our current membership.

5. Do you have any personal dreams for our faith community that you'd like to share?

I would like to see BUMC continue to be what it was that attracted Annie and I when we first came here – an active community that has a heart for service, that lives out the Welcome Statement in the weekly bulletin, that offers a varied and spirited worship service each week, and that has plenty of opportunity for engagement and involvement in the life of the congregation. The congregation recently celebrated its 100th anniversary, and I would like it to be meaningfully witnessing to the gospel of Christ a hundred years from now.

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