

Corpus Christi outreach ministry moves into new home

An outreach ministry to the homeless started by a UM congregation in Corpus Christi moved into stand-alone facilities recently so it could expand services.

Timon's Ministries opened its doors May 30 on the South Padre Island Drive in the Flour Bluff section of Corpus Christi. For the past eight years the ministry had been housed in St. Peter's by the Sea UMC.

Bishop Ray Owen dedicated the new facility, which is Corpus Christi District Advance Special No. 1214.

The new location provides showers, hot meals, bags of food, and access to washer and dryers to needy individuals and families in Flour Bluff, Naval Air Station and Padre Island neighborhoods.

Timon's offers computer training, crisis assistance and a day resource center to help unemployed people get back into the workforce.

The 239-member St. Peter's by the Sea congregation founded Timon's as "kind of the ministry of last resort" for needy people on the south edge

of Corpus Christi, said the Rev. Nathaniel "Hank" Hankins, pastor.

"People have come here when they have been evicted, had their electricity shut off, needed clothing and were hungry," he told the *Corpus Christi Caller-Times*.

Last year while still housed at St. Peter's by the Sea, Timon's Ministry:

- Served 14,561 meals.
- Gave food to 1,015 families.
- Offered crisis assistance to 105 families.
- Provided clothing to 716 families.

The ministry, now an independent nonprofit corporation, works with Corpus Christi Metro Ministries and is related to seven other congregations:

Caribbean Baptist Church, Island in the Son UMC, Island Presbyterian Church, Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Padre Island Baptist Church, St. Andrew's By the Sea Roman Catholic Church and St. Mark's Episcopal Church.

Hankins chairs the ministry's 12-member board of directors. His wife, Mary, is executive director.



Leaders of Timon's Ministries in Corpus Christi welcome Southwest Texas Conference representatives to the May 30 grand opening of their new home. Gathered are (from left) Mary Hankins, executive director; Bishop Ray Owen; the Rev. Nathaniel Hankins, pastor of St. Peter's by the Sea UMC and Timon's board chair; and the Rev. Austin Frederick Jr., assistant to the episcopal office. The St. Peter's by the Sea congregation established Timon's Ministries eight years ago to aid needy people on the south side of Corpus Christi.