



open hearts
open minds
open doors

AUGUST 2015

Vision:

Transforming our world one soul at a time by sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with all people. We will be Spirit-led, focused on our children and youth, as we build disciples and leaders for the future.

Merrell On The Move



**S
E
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D**

+ Merrell United Methodist Church +

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Pre-School: 954-731-2336

The Reverend Bancroft L. Williams, Senior Pastor

Spirit-led • Equipped • Empowered • Disciples

Mission: To create **S**pirit-led, **E**quipped and **E**mpowered **D**isciples for the world.



"Freedom Call"

One of the events that has passed by without much fanfare is the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation. In these United States, the date of June 19th is associated with the freedom of African American slaves. It is referred to as "Juneteenth." In Texas, June 19th, 1865 was the day some 250,000 slaves knew that they were free. This decision made two years prior, but owners did not inform their slaves. On June 18, 1865, two months after the end of the Civil War, General Gordon Grainger entered Galveston, Texas with 2,000 troops. On the following morning, he read the Proclamation of freedom. Juneteenth has the notion that all persons are created equal. This affirmation still has many challenges resulting from unfair treatment and attempts to prevent full participation of all in society. Freedom is a work in progress still.

There is another freedom that is important to full participation in society. This is the freedom to affirm our Christian faith and invite all to share in the riches of knowing Christ Jesus. The apostle Paul insisted that in the love of God, all persons can be free to live in the intentions of God's goodness. No restrictions due to cultural controls, religious bigotry, violent prohibitions, among others, can undermine that freedom given to all in Christ. Let no uncaring action, heated religious or political discussion, or undisciplined/disrespectful intent disrupt your freedom to grow and be the best you for the Christian task of being a living Christ presence in community.

In Galatians, Chapter 5 verse 1, Paul — who had on boxing gloves — wrote: **"Christ has set us free for freedom. Therefore, stand firm and don't submit to the bondage of slavery again."** (CEB) This slavery was spiritual, cultural and political. He asserts that the only thing that matters is our "...faith working through love..." Gal. 5:6). How are you affirming your freedom in Christ where you work or live? Are persons around allowed to express themselves fairly? Is your contribution to life making a positive impact through the church? In celebration of the Emancipation Proclamation from untruths, unfairness and underdevelopment, let us position our **Christian witness to grasp opportunities to allow faith to work in love. I pray: "Lord, allow for the freedom of many still held in bondage today by the commercial, entertainment, and political interests of others. Show us how love overcomes bondages. Amen."**

Rev. Bancroft Williams



Sis. Violet Jordan

MISSION MINISTRY CORNER

*Transforming our world one soul at a time by
sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with
all people.*



UPCOMING MISSION TRIP

SHEFFIELD METHODIST EDUCATION AND RESOURCE CENTER

JULY 11-18, 2016

Mark 16:15: ***He said to them, "Go into all the world, and preach the good news to the creation."***

Our mission trip is designed to reaching out to others in different countries to help them with building, helping with the adults and children, spiritual growth, and good clean adventurous fun. It is our desire that you will return to church and share memories that will last a lifetime and enjoy a renewed excitement about what Jesus Christ is doing in all of our lives.

Thanks to all who have already signed up. All are welcome as long as you love others and have a heart for God. There will be something for everyone. Sign up could not be easier! See the signup sheet in the Narthex. Also, a flyer with more information is in Merrell on the Move.

Please read it carefully.

The old Sheffield Methodist Primary School was abandoned a few years ago as the community outgrew it. Community leaders decided to repurpose it into something bigger for the community.

The challenge for us is to help the Sheffield community turn this very usable space into the Sheffield Methodist Education and Resource Center (SMERC). It is in need of massive repairs and renovation. More importantly, it will be used for developing ministries to the church, the Savannah-la-Mar Methodist Circuit and the community as a whole.

With God's graces, Merrell will be joining the Sheffield community in their efforts.

COME JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE ON OUR MISSION EXPERIENCE

Transforming our world one soul at a time by sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with all people.

Announcements and Upcoming Events

Sunday Worship Times

Contemporary Worship	8:00AM	Sanctuary
Adult Bible Study	9:00AM	East Lounge
New Members Class	9:10AM	Room 17
Youth Bible Study	9:30AM	Ragsdale Hall
Traditional Worship	10:00AM	Sanctuary
Every Fourth Sunday	6:00PM	Sanctuary

WEEKLY EVENTS

Bible Study	Monday	RESUMES IN AUGUST	
Bible Study	Tuesday	RESUMES IN AUGUST	
Prayer Meeting	Tuesday	6:30PM	Sanctuary
Men's Choir	Wednesday	7:00PM	Music Room
Dance Rehearsal	Wednesday	7:00PM	Ragsdale Hall
Dunamis Youth	Friday	7:00PM	Ragsdale Hall
Choir Rehearsal	Saturday	5:00PM	Music Room



Bread Cart Ministry
Tomorrow
August 3 & 17- 2:00 PM—3:00 PM
 RAGSDALE HALL
 Please Note: You will be required to sign in with your telephone #, and show your ID.




FEEDING WITH COMPASSION
SATURDAY— August 15
 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE MEETING
SATURDAY, august 8 - 10:30AM—ROOM 17




RUTH CIRCLE
TUESDAY, august 18 - 10:00 AM
 RAGSDALE HALL



TUESDAY, august 11
 7:00PM - ROOM 17

TRUSTEES COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY, august 18 - 7:30PM— ROOM 17



LYDIA CIRCLE
Thursday, august 13
 7:00pM east Lounge

Preschool board MEETING
wednesday, august 19 - 7:00PM
 RAGSDALE HALL

WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING
SATURDAY, august 15 - 2:00PM ROOM 17

Youth meeting
Friday, august 21 - 7:00PM
 RAGSDALE HALL



SEPTEMBER 13, 2015
FOLLOWING THE 10:00AM
WORSHIP SERVICE

AUGUST EVENTS

FOOD FOR THE POOR

Saving Lives... Transforming Communities... Renewing Hope

Next Sunday, Aug. 9, we will have a special guest speaker at our
8:00AM and 10:00AM

Father Robert (Bob) Deshaies
Food for the Poor

A few fact about the organization:

- It is the largest international relief organization in the US.
- It just won the following award: Named the 2015 Nonprofit Organization of the Year by the Direct Marketing Association Nonprofit Federation.
- Has been in business for more than 33 years helping the poorest in 17 countries in the Caribbean and Latin America.
- We are very proud of the fact that more than 95 percent of our donations go directly to programs helping the poor.



WE NEED
YOU

to make our new
family directory
complete



DON'T BE LEFT OUT!!!
of our
2016 CHURCH DIRECTORY



RECEIVE A FREE 8X11 PORTRAIT!!!!
PLEASE SEE US NOW FOR AN APPOINTMENT
TO HAVE YOUR PHOTO TAKEN!!!

Picture Make-up Date

Tuesday, August 11 from 2:00PM-8:00PM in Ragsdale Hall

Church family and friends: We've finally got a make-up day for our church directory picture taking session. This is the *only* make-up date that will be given to Merrell. If you did not make any of the four days in May, please try to make this one. See Gwenneth Gayle and Pat Tabois in the Narthex after church today.

Upcoming Ministry Events



HELP
OUR
KIDS
FOR
SCHOOL



It is Back to School time and the youth of our congregation needs our support. Please drop off your donations of school supplies in the box located in the Narthex.

*Collection will run until
August 16, 2015*

*Please see
Judith Gohagen and
Keisha Coombs for details.*



**MERRELL MEN'S
FELLOWSHIP**



FISH FRY -
August 21
11:00 am until.....

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR
UMM FELLOWSHIP
PLACE YOUR ORDER
EARLY!!!



United Methodist
Women
Prayer Breakfast

Merrell's United Methodist Women is preparing for their annual Prayer Breakfast on August 29. The event starts at 8:30 a.m. in Ragsdale Hall. The theme is **"God Makes All Things New"** Donation is \$10.00 Tickets are available from any UMW member.



REVIVAL 2015
"Destined to Live"

September 23-27

The Evangelism Committee is organizing this year's Fall Revival, with the theme, "Destined to Live", based on Ephesians 1: 4-6.

This is a time of spiritual refreshment and we will prepare with prayer services on **Monday and Tuesday nights (September 21 and 22 respectively)** at 7:00 pm. Fall Revival service dates are from **Wednesday September 23 to Sunday, September 27**. Our speaker will be the **Rev. Aurilus Desmornes**, senior pastor of Bethesda Methodist Unie Mission-, UMC Tamarac. Revival services begin at 7:00 pm from Wednesday to Friday and at 5:00 p.m. Sunday afternoon.

We invite all members and friends to be in prayer for this time.

The Consulate General of Jamaica invites the community to celebrate the
Annual Ecumenical Service of Thanksgiving in celebration of

Jamaica's 53rd Anniversary of Independence

Sunday, August 2, 2015 at 4:00 p.m.

FAITH CENTER

5555 NW 95th Ave., Sunrise

Special Guest Speaker: Senior Pastor Henry Fernandez, Faith Center Ministries
Officiating Minister: Rev. Horace Ward, Sr. Pastor, Holy Family Episcopal Church

Jamaica's National Anthem

Eternal Father, bless our land
Guard us with Thy mighty hand
Keep us free from evil powers
Be our Light through countless
hours

To our leaders, Great Benefits
Grant true wisdom from above
Justice, truth, be ours forever
Jamaica, land we love
Jamaica, Jamaica
Jamaica, land we love

Teach us true respect for all
Stir response to duty's call
Strengthen us, the weak, to cher-
ish
Give us vision, lest we perish
Knowledge send us, Heavenly
Father

Grant true wisdom from above
Justice, truth be ours forever
Jamaica, land we love

Jamaica, Jamaica
Jamaica, land we love

*Camzi
Designs*



George Henry 08/01
 Judith Gohagen 08/01
 Stuart Smith 08/01
 Una Jones 08/03
 Deloris Ellis 08/04
 Herbert Lee 08/05
 Tasanee Craig 08/05
 Daphne Scarlett 08/06
 Zaria Howard 08/06
 Sherna Perrin 08/08
 Phylis Brown 08/09
 Beverly Wilson 08/09
 Cleo Crooks 08/10

Jaired Fyffe 08/10
 Dale Cameron 08/11
 Savion Myrie 08/12
 Bernadette Henry 08/12
 Beverly Smith 08/13
 Joan Kallou 08/14
 Keisha Coombs 08/14
 Andrea Anderson 08/15
 Ashton Patterson 08/15
 Julia Franks 08/16
 Patricia Caines 08/16
 Bertha Dawson 08/17/
 Wayne Ranger 08/18

Crystal Richards 08/18
 Inez Williams 08/19
 Sydone Gordon 08/20
 Violet Warner 8/22
 Phyllis Dacosta 08/22
 Maureen Beckles 08/23
 Errol Smith 08/25
 Marcella Tate 08/27
 Pernella Kitson 08/27
 Henderson Haynes 08/27
 Gloria Nembhard 08/28
 Rowena Martin 08/28
 Yvonne Francis 8/30
 Hyacinth Tracey 08/31

✚ The Staff ✚

The Rev. Bancroft Leighton Williams, Pastor

Email: pastorbancroft@merrellumc.org

Claudette Meatley, Administrative Assistant to the Pastor

Email: claudette@merrellumc.org

Bro.Louis Trotman, Director of Music

Sis. Shirley Smith, Director Preschool

Email: Preschool@merrellumc.org

Mr. Leroy Satchell, Custodian

MEMBERSHIP AND DISCIPLESHIP

Merrell welcomes interested persons to become members.

We invite you to contact the Pastor by calling the Church Office.

BAPTISMS

Performed at the Sunday Service, contact the Church Office.

MARRIAGES

Performed after consultation with the Pastor

In time of **illness or sorrow**, please call the Pastor
 or the Church Office promptly.

Our Church Leaders

Sis. Cynthia Fletcher, Chair **Church Council**

Sis. Patricia Tabois, **Lay Leader**

Lay Member to Annual Conference

Sis. Lorna Smith

Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee

Sis. Diana Dann

Recording Secretary

Sis. Claudette Meatley

Finance Committee

Sis. Vivian McKnight

Treasurer

Bro. Eric Royes

Financial Secretary

Sis. Norma Williamson

Prayer Ministry

Sis. Ullet Black

Evangelism/Outreach Ministries

Sis. Valerie Henry

Preschool Board Chair

Sis. Thelma McGeachy

United Methodist Women

Sis. Thelma McGeachy

United Methodist Men

Bro. Lovell McKail

Visitation Ministry

Sis. Dizzierene Cox

Stewardship

Bro. Winston Chang

New Members Committee

Sis. Rose Farquharson

Membership Secretary

Sis. Rowena Martin

Campus Ministry Representative

Sis. Judith Gohagen

Disaster Coordinator

Bro. Lovell McKail

Worship Ministries

Sis. Annette Smith

Visit our website

www.merrellumc.org

**CHURCH
 NEWSLETTER**



Bulletin Announcement Forms are available in the church office area on the office door. Please return form(s) via email: office@merrellumc.org or place it in the box on the office door. Deadline for announcements: **WEDNESDAY at NOON.**