

Celebrating Sixty Years in Ministry



open hearts
open minds
open doors

Merrell On The Move

Vision:

Merrell UMC is a Christian community sharing the love of Jesus Christ through the practice of our gifts and graces to become Christian disciples of excellence. Christian disciples are believing and those yet to believe (Christians and pre-Christians) being transformed in a life giving faith community, living the gospel out of biblical learning, with inspirational worship, growing in generosity, committed to transform communities with our service and accepting God's presence for all people through prayer.

FEBRUARY 2016



Special Edition

+ Merrell United Methodist Church +

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The Reverend Bancroft L. Williams, Senior Pastor

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Spirit-led • Equipped • Empowered • Disciples

Mission: To create Spirit-led, Equipped and Empowered Disciples for the world.

FROM THE PASTOR



“BLACK HISTORY MONTH”

Christian greetings. This month during the celebration of Black History Month we want to take time to remember some who exemplify Christian service and values. It is a focus in keeping with the 60th Anniversary of this Merrell United Methodist Church. At 60 some persons are already at the peak of their profession or interests and some are simply waiting to retire. But as the people of God there is no stage in the Christian journey named retirement. Instead we look for a refreshing of the Holy Spirit for us to continue on in making disciples for Christ and serving within the love of Christ in community.

As we focusing on the 60th anniversary theme, “Discerning God’s Leading”, let us examine what God has deposited in us and how we are being lead by the Holy Sprit and Christ in Christian witness to the world. As we worship and work together for this year allow for new awakening of the Spirit in each of us to do “good works in Christ Jesus.” So the intersection of Black History Month with our anniversary theme, offer us an opportunity to reflect on those who were active in worship and work in this ministry over the years and the gift of their values and love that we can learn from and use for today and beyond.

Each Sunday we will highlight some of those who have served among as we share their short stories of faith. Then at the last Sunday of the month we will invite all of us to participate in the cultural expression of places in the USA and other nations. Perhaps you can consider taking a cooked/baked meal or drink to share after worship. On our part I am inviting all members and friends to participate in all the activities that are being planned for the year. A schedule of the events will be distributed soon. Enough of advertising.

Let me close with this thought for Black history Month. Live in the love of God and strive for Justice and truth that will lead toward a peaceful society

From Christ’s servant in ministry with the saints,

Rev. Bancroft Williams

CELEBRATING OUR HISTORY



Timeline: Methodism in Black and White

1758

John Wesley baptizes two “Negro slaves,” at least one woman, thus setting the pattern for receiving people of color into the societies and the church. These two return to Antigua to start the Methodist society in the “new world.”

1760s

Anne Schweitzer, a black woman, becomes a founding member of the first Methodist society in Maryland. Two years later, another black woman, known to us only as Bettye, is one of five persons to attend the Methodist services inaugurated by Philip Embury in New York City. When the John Street Church is built in 1768, the names of several black subscribers appear on its roster.

1784

The Christmas Conference in Baltimore founds the Methodist Episcopal Church. Among those riding out to issue the call for the conference is “Black Harry” Hosier. Born a slave about 1750, Hosier receives a license to preach in 1785 and becomes one of the best preachers and most effective early circuit riders.

1790

Drawn by the Methodist Episcopal Church’s anti-slavery stand, blacks (slave and free) make up 20 percent of the 57,631 American Methodists.

1791

John Wesley dies. His last letter is one written to anti-slavery crusader William Wilberforce, urging him to “Go on, in the name of God and in the power of his might, till even American slavery (the vilest that ever saw the sun) shall vanish away before it.”

1794

Increasing segregation within churches causes Richard Allen to form the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Philadelphia. In 1796, blacks walk out of John Street Church in New York and eventually build the Zion Chapel. Similar movements occur in other communities.

1805

The African Union Church is formed.

1816

The African Methodist Episcopal church is formed in Philadelphia. Richard Allen becomes its first bishop.

1819

John Stewart is named as the first missionary to the Wyandot Indians. A black man converted in 1814, he was engaged in this ministry for several years before obtaining a license to preach in 1819.

1821

The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church is formed in New York. James Varick is elected as first general superintendent.

1844

Rising tensions over slavery come to a head in the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church when Bishop James O. Andrew of Georgia is told to desist from the exercise of his office until he frees slaves passed down from his wife's estate.

1845

In a break along regional lines, the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, is formed in Louisville, Ky.

1858

The Liberia Conference elects Francis Burns as bishop. The first missionary bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church, he had served as a missionary to Liberia for 24 years.

1866

A group of black Methodists within the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, petition the General Conference for their orderly dismissal from that church.

1870

Those former members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, found the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church in Jackson, Tenn.

1902

Susan Collins goes as a missionary to Angola where she is welcomed as "one of us" and serves 29 years.

1920

The Methodist Episcopal Church elects Robert E. Jones and Matthew W. Clair Sr. as bishops.

1939

The Methodist Episcopal Church; the Methodist Episcopal Church, South; and the Methodist Protestant Church unite to form The Methodist Church. Blacks are segregated into a separate Central Jurisdiction.

1956

The General Conference, meeting in Minneapolis, Minn., adopts Amendment IX, allowing transfers of churches and conferences out of the Central Jurisdiction into geographical jurisdictions.

1968

The Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church unite to form The United Methodist Church. As part of the plan of union, the Central Jurisdiction is abolished and formal segregation ended.

Roy C. Nichols becomes the first African American to be elected bishop by a regional jurisdictional conference in the new United Methodist Church. Black Methodists for Church Renewal is organized. The General Commission on Religion and Race is formed, with Woodie White as the first African-American to head a United Methodist general agency.

1976

Mai Gray becomes the first African-American president of the Women's Division, General Board of Global Ministries.

1977

Trudie Kibbe Preciphs becomes the first African-American member of the secretariat of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women.

1984

Leontine T.C. Kelly becomes the first African-American woman to be elected bishop.

1990

Charlotte Ann Nichols (Peninsula-Delaware Conference) and Joethel Jeannette Cooper Dicks (West Ohio) become the first African-American women district superintendents.

2000

General Conference delegates participate in a service of repentance for racism within the denomination.

2004

General Conference delegates celebrate the African-American witness and presence within The United Methodist Church and recognize "those who stayed" in spite of racism.

2008

16.6 percent of the U.S. delegation to the 2008 General Conference are African-American.

2009

African-American United Methodists speak at the inauguration of the first African-American U.S. president.

—This timeline first appeared in New World Outlook, May-June 1992. Adapted by permission and updated by United Methodist Communications. Photo courtesy of New World Outlook.



Celebrating our 60th Anniversary

As Merrell begins a year of celebrating its 60th anniversary, we give God our Father thanks for bringing us this far on our journey.

This is our history:

The beginnings of Merrell United Methodist Church started in 1956 under another name - St. Paul's Mission church.

The original church, sponsored by Christ Church, was founded on three acres of land in Lauderdale Lakes.

The land was predominantly paid for by O. W. "Whitey" Merrell, who had moved to South Florida from Ohio, where he was a founder of the Ohio Highway Patrol in the early 1930s.

The church's name was later changed from St. Paul to Merrell - named after O. W. Merrell's father, the Rev. Delbert Merrell, who was a Methodist minister. Not only did the church relocate to its present site during this time, but an initial building program took place, consisting of a chapel, fellowship hall, kitchen, Sunday School rooms, office and study.

The church's consecration service was held on Sunday, Oct. 11, 1964.

In our 60th year, Merrell continues to thrive and fulfill its mission to **"Create Spirit-led, Equipped and Empowered Disciples for the world."**



Want to become a member of Merrell?

We'd love to have you....

Please join Sister Rose Farquharson on Sundays at 9:15 a.m. in Room 17 for Confirmation and New Member classes.

Please see Sis. Farquharson after today's 10 a.m. service or contact the church office at

954-731-2323

LENTEN SERIES

FORTY DAYS TO FITNESS

MIND. BODY. SPIRIT.

Church family, the Lenten season, the 40-day period of Fasting and Prayer, is quickly coming up. Starting on Ash Wednesday, February 10, Pastor Bancroft will be giving a series on Spirituality/Health and Physical Fitness each Wednesday.

Join us each Wednesday at 7:00pm!

We will join together in devotion and explore spirituality, health and physical fitness by patterning:

Roman 12:1, "Presenting our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God which is our spiritual worship."

All are always welcome!

We will identify five areas of health concern, explore symptoms, treatment and prevention.



February 10 - **"Ash Wednesday"**

February 17 - **"Exploring the Daniel Fast"**

February 24 - **"The Effects of Hypertension"**

March 2 - **"The Effects of Diabetes"**

March 9 - **"The Effects of Obesity"**

March 16 - **"The Effects of Arthritis"**



Please Support Our Youth Fundraiser



The Youth Group's

"SWEET TREAT"

Bake Sale will be

Next Sunday

February 14, 2016

after the 10am service in
Ragsdale Hall.

Come out and support!!!!

*The Merrell United Methodist
Men's Fellowship
Cordially Invite You To Attend Their
Annual*



*Pre-Valentines Banquet
Friday, February 12, 2016*

7:00 PM—1:00 AM

*Fabulous Inverrary Vacation Resort
3501 Inverrary Blvd., Lauderhill, FL*

Donation: \$60.00

Dress: Formal

Music by: JANICE "THE EMPRESS"

Tickets are still available!!!

Please see any United Methodist Men for tickets

Sunday, February 28th, 2016

All Nations Heritage Day

*As Merrell commemorates Black History Month
AND our 60th Anniversary, we invite everyone to
please join us in Ragsdale Hall following the
10 a.m. service for a celebration!*



** Wear your national colors*

**Set up a booth with your artifacts*

**Share your cultural heritage*

**Share your ethnic foods (bring a dish to serve 20)*

**Show your flag*

**Invite family and friends*

**All are invited to participate.*

*For information on tables & exhibits, please see
Hyacinth Henry, Cil Lawrence or Pat Tabois*

SAVE THE DATE



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	7:00PM	Ragsdale Hall
Bible Study	Tuesday	12 Noon	Chapel
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	4:00PM	Music Room

New!!

Merrell UMC
bread ministry



Free Bread Every Monday 11:00am - 4:00pm - Ragsdale Hall



Bread Cart Ministry Tomorrow

FEB 15- 2:00 PM—3:00 PM
RAGSDALE HALL

Please Note: You will be required to sign in with your telephone #, and show your ID.



RUTH CIRCLE

TUESDAY, FEB 16 @ 10:00am
Ragsdale hall

TRUSTEES COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY FEB 16 @ 7:30PM-ROOM 17

YOUTH MEETING
FRIDAY, Feb 19 @ 7:00pm - RAGSDALE HALL

worship COMMITTEE MEETING
saturday, FEB 20 @ 2:00PM-ROOM 17



LYDIA CIRCLE
THURSDAY, FEB 11 - 7:00pm
Ragsdale Hall

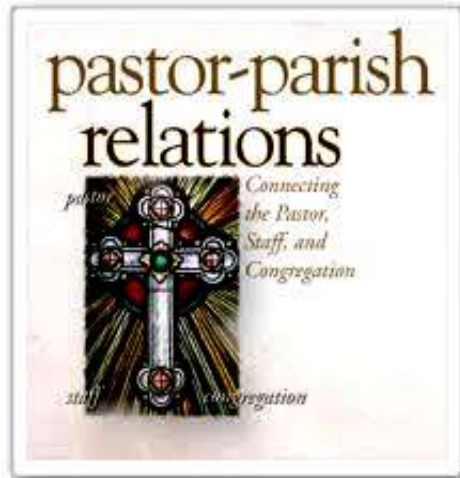
EVANGELISM COMMITTEE MEETING
SATURDAY, FEB 13 10:30AM—ROOM 17

Church council MEETING
Tuesday, FEB 23 - 7:00PM-Ragsdale Hall



VBS WORKERS MEETING

VBS volunteers will meet on [Sunday February 21, 2016](#) after the 10:00am service. Please come with ideas for improving this ministry. Save the date meeting every 3rd Sunday after 10:00am service



Ministry Spotlight

The Staff/Pastor-Parish Relations Committee is the administrative unit of the church where staff/pastor and congregational interests are integrated to focus on the mission and vision of the church. This committee works with the senior pastor and other staff to effectively manage the ministry of the congregation for making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

The purpose of the SPPRC is to encourage, strengthen, nurture and support the senior pastor, staff and their families and to promote unity in the church, resolve an issue, heal a misunderstanding or create a new ministry position.

Meetings are closed and confidential. The SPPRC members of 2016 are: **Diane Dann (chair), Anthony Black, Chester Brooks, Alma Coombs, Rose Farquharson, Compton McKayle, Lloyd Murray and Sonia Passley-Rhule.** In addition, the Lay Leader, Lay Member to the Annual Conference and the Senior Pastor serve on this committee.

The apostle Paul wrote to church officials and officers in the congregation he started at Philippi, offering this instruction: *"I pray that your love will keep on growing and that you will fully know and understand how to make the right choices."* (Philippians 1:9). May you offer this prayer for each leader as we seek to serve in this part of the Lord's vineyard.



Home Bound and Shut-ins:

Astley Bowie; Chaldean Davis; Randall Kelly; Helen Searing; Gladys Thomas; Leahora

Assisted Living/Nursing Home/Rehabilitation Center:

Raymond Champagnie (Rehab at Regency); Julia Franks; Joy Hyatt (Courtyard at Inverrary Assisted Living); Rona Palmer (Bay Pointe Terrace, Hollywood); Gabriel Henry (Ann Storck Center, Inc. School, Fort Lauderdale); Clara Barton Life Care Center at Inverrary); Edward Snape (Health South Sunrise Rehabilitation); Gloria Telfer (Tamarac Rehab).

Special Prayer Request:

Robert & Nova Trout; Violet Jordan; Ronald Davenport; Sandra Chang; Sylvia Walker; Ian Myrie; Ralph Williams; **Claris McDonald; Vireena Daley; Levant Kitson; Ceceline Marriott; Daphne Isaac's family; Angela Santil;** Coral Baston; Flo Ricketts; Nellie Simmonds; Almenia Ingram; Titus Meatley; Daphne Forest family; Clarissa Morgridge family.



Sis. Mable Alleyne and family would like to thank Pastor Bancroft Williams and the Merrell Church family for the prayers, visit, support and phone calls received **during my husband's recent illness and hospitalization.**

Thank God he is doing much better. Please continue to keep us in your prayers. Thank you and may God continue to bless you. Your Sister in Christ, Sis. Mabel.



Thank You

To Merrell Church family,
Thank you for sharing my special day and for helping make it such fun. I love the gift and I appreciate the thoughtfulness!

Rev. Hope McNeil Williams

Detach and Depend

No matter where you are right now
Or what you are doing,
We can detach from it for a moment
And depend on God's presence to fill us.

No matter how hard the struggle
Or how hopeless life can seem,
We can detach from it for a moment
And depend on God.

Light shows us a new way.
No matter how low we may feel
Or how wrong we think we have been,
We can detach from it for a moment
And depend on God.

Love heals us.
No matter how lost, how scared,
Or now angry we are.
We can detach from it for a moment
And depend on God's peace to lift us.

Life may seem so confusing, so complicated,
So frustrating
Or life can be joyous, so nurturing,
So exciting.
Gratitude can be our reality, and
Faith our guiding star.
If we remember to detach and depend on God.

Submitted by
Valerie Henry

Rev, Hope McNeil-Williams 02/01
 Valrie Henry 02/03
 Tiana McDonald 02/03
 Thelma McGeachy 02/04
 Everton Kelly 02/04
 Dudley Mills 02/05
 Manu Barnes 02/06
 Xavier Robinson [V] 02/06
 Helen Searing 02/07
 Janet Davis 02/07
 Dizzierene Cox 02/08
 Annette Smith 02/08
 Carmeta McKail 02/09
 Horby Turner 02/09
 Hyacinth Henry 02/11/



Mykala Ranger 02/11
 Randall Kelly 02/11
 Joyce Boothe-Holman 02/11
 Mavis Pusey 02/11
 Joan Chambers 02/11
 Sydney Wood 02/11

Claudette Cox-Brown 02/12
 Dorien Earl 02/14
 Jermeko Harris [V] 02/14
 Gloria Hudson 02/15
 Andrew Holder 02/15
 Sakeena Gohagen 02/17
 Javaunie Harrigan 02/18
 Verna Jackson 02/19
 George Riviears 02/21/
 Kenneth Farquharson 02/23
 Stanley Martin 02/24/
 Fitzroy Lawrence 02/24
 Zharayah Warner DeSuza 02/24
 Errol Cameron 02/26/
 Monica Powell 02/27
 Ralph Williams 02/28

✚ The Staff ✚

The Rev. Bancroft Leighton Williams, Pastor

Email: pastorbancroft@merrellumc.org
 Claudette Meatley, Certified Church Administrator
 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.

Visit our website

www.merrellumc.org

Our Church Leaders

Church Council

Sis. Eileen Tucker

Lay Leader,

Sis. Patricia Tabois,

Lay Member to Annual Conference

Sis. Lorna Smith

Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee

Sis. Diana Dann

Admn. Assistant to Pastor

Sis. Claudette Meatley

Finance Committee

Bro. Wayne ranger

Treasurer

Bro. Eric Royes

Financial Secretary

Sis. Norma Williamson

Prayer Ministry

Sis. Uliet Black

Trustee

Bro., Franklyn Coombs

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. Deloris Ellis

Youth

Judy Gohagen

Keisha Coombs-Newman

Thrift Shop

Interim Coordinators

Sis. Phylis Brown

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.**