



open hearts
open minds
open doors

MARCH 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



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+ Merrell United Methodist Church +

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The Reverend Bancroft L. Williams, Senior Pastor

Spirit-led • Equipped • Empowered • Disciples

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

Christian Commitment and Lent



Dear brothers and sisters, grace and peace to you through our Lord Jesus Christ!

The recently concluded series “Committed To Christ – Six Steps to a Generous Life,” continues to challenge our practical application to make disciples. Not all of us were able to make a written commitment to take a further faith step towards a generous life as a disciple of Christ. The opportunities are still available as you are able to make a greater faith step with Christ.

As a reminder the six steps to a generous life are:

- * **Prayer**
- * **Bible Reading**
- * **Worship**
- * **Witness**
- * **Financial Giving**
- * **Service**

During this season of “Holy Lent,” challenge yourself to set some time on purpose to improve on the above list. From today until Easter, continue to prayerfully listen and respond to the awakening of God in your conscience and spirit. I have noted that in several holy conferencing, there is a growing sense that members are seeking to faithfully serve God. Can I invite you to join others in that prayer and conversation too?

I offer to you some conversation points that have arisen, for example, in Bible Study and Adult Sunday School:

- ◆ Give more time, talent and money to missions in the world. We will use any special offerings during Lent for missions projects.
- ◆ Seek service and witness opportunities by assisting more persons not able to adequately help themselves.
- ◆ Give increased assistance in scholarship, grants, and practical life and work preparation training for our young people.
- ◆ Organize community outreach outside on the church campus. For example, a back-to-school fair with opportunity for student health screening.

What is your idea? Let us know by emailing the office.

From Christ’s servant in ministry with the saints,

Pastor Bancroft Williams

MISSION MINISTRY CORNER

CHILDREN'S HOME

MISSION: Florida United Methodist Children's Home give children and families the experience of God's love and care as revealed in the ministry of Jesus Christ. The Florida United Methodist Children's Home was established in Enterprise, Florida in 1908 as the Florida Methodist Orphanage to provide a home for children who have nowhere to go.



Vision: To be a place where children are safe and loved; where youth are given the opportunity to be healthy, self-sufficient adults; where families become strong; and where every person is treated as a unique creation of God.

HOW WE HELP CHILDREN IN NEED

Today it serves as a diverse ministry with two campuses that include residential, therapeutic group and foster homes. The main campus is in Enterprise/Deltona, Florida. The second is the new Madison Youth Ranch in Pine Meadows, North Florida near Tallahassee.

For each month that has five Sundays, the United Methodist Churches in the Florida Annual Conference are asked to receive an offering to support the ministry of the Children's Home. This typically happens **four times** a year. The goal will be \$12.00 per member for 2014 and 2015 as set by the Conference. We hope each member can contribute an average of \$1.00 a month to support the ministry of the Children's Home.

The goal of giving is established in two ways. First, each year, the per member goal of giving is voted on by the delegates to the Annual Conference. The conference also approves the collection of Fifth Sunday Offerings during the next conference year. Since 2007, the per member goal of giving has remained at \$12.00 per member. We hope each member can give an average of \$1.00 a month to support the ministry. The \$12.00 figure is multiplied by the number of members we report to Conference. Therefore, a 250-member church, like Merrell, will have a goal of \$3,000 for the calendar year. We hope to meet our goal once more.

Sister Violet Jordan



Bro. Levant Kitson

Our Spiritual Voices

The Second Sunday in Lent

Mark 8:31-38

"He said this quite openly, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him." (V.32)

Three times in Mark's gospel we read how Jesus warn his disciples about his upcoming trials and crucifixion. Each time, the disciples didn't understand what he was saying. We too might find ourselves confused, doubtful, or even angry when we read the gospel and reflect deeply on Jesus' words. When Jesus promises that greatness will be reverse of what we expect, or when He calls us to give up all we own in order to follow Him, or when He sounds more like a harsh law giver rather than a bearer of God's love, we may react with dismay. Does Jesus really mean what He says? As Jesus' followers, we do not always understand everything that Jesus says, but we stick with Him through the hard, puzzling or risky moments until things become clear. It is helpful to recall that many of Jesus' deeds and words, like predictions in Mark, make sense to his disciples only after Jesus' resurrection. We too should allow ourselves time to comprehend all the mysteries of God and the wonders of the life of faith that Jesus came to show us.

Prayer

Lord God, bless me with understanding and patience, in Jesus' name. Amen.

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	5:00PM	Music Room



Bread Cart Ministry

Tomorrow

MARCH 2- 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, MARCH 17 - 10:00 AM
RAGSDALE HALL

TRUSTEES COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 17 - 7:30PM - ROOM 17



All men are invited!!!

SATURDAY, MARCH 7
4:00 PM — ROOM 17

Refreshments will be served.

Merrell Preschool Advisory Meeting
meeting
thursday, march 19 - 7:00PM
ROOM 17



TUESDAY, MARCH 10

7:00PM

ROOM 17



FEEDING WITH COMPASSION

SATURDAY
MARCH 21
4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING
SATURDAY, MARCH 21- 2:00PM - ROOM 17



LYDIA CIRCLE

Thursday, MARCH 12
7:00pM east Lounge

VISION COMMITTEE MEETING
Saturday, MARCH 21-3:00PM - ROOM 17

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE MEETING
SATURDAY, MARCH 14
10:30AM—ROOM 17

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 24 - 7:00PM
RAGSDALE HALL

The month of March

March is Women's History Month, and International Women's Day, March 8



1869: 8 women

Today: 800,000 members

United Methodist Women inherits the vision and toil of women's missionary societies of eight denominations since 1869. Its 140-year legacy started when the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society first organized in Boston in response to a lack of women's health in India.

Women in the Methodist and Evangelical United Brethren traditions organized about the same time in history (1869-1893) when women and children were legally classified as "chattel, legally dead, non-persons." There was little service to women because of prejudice and limitations of cultural attitudes in the church and in society. For more than a century, women in the Methodist and Evangelical United Brethren traditions have led a struggle for human

rights and social justice. The generation of women who founded the early missionary societies developed powerful networks and organizational structures to help women attain full participation in the life of the church and society.

In the early years of the women's mission organizations, the focus was on sending missionaries and helping to change the lives of women and girls in foreign lands. They incorporated the values of home and family into public life, as they addressed issues of poverty, child labor, immigration, migrant labor, family life, racial discrimination, full clergy rights for women, and many other social ills of the day..

Many problems faced by the women at the turn of the century have reemerged in our own time with a new and demanding urgency: new waves of immigration, homelessness, racial divisions, threats to the environment, substance abuse and addiction, lack of affordable health care, concerns for the well-being of children and the elderly, public education, questions about women's roles in society, and world peace.

Because of the faithfulness and courage of the millions of women who prayed, planned, organized, marched, petitioned, labored, and supported the work of the early missionary societies, the lives of countless individuals, especially women and children, have been irrevocably changed. Women, children and youth in our generation, and the ones that will follow us, are living the legacy of the women's missionary movement of the 19th century.

As stated in its purpose, "The Women's Division shall be actively engaged in fulfilling the mission of Christ and the Church and shall interpret the purpose of United Methodist Women. With continuing awareness of the concerns and responsibilities of the Church in today's world, the Women's Division Shall be an advocate for the oppressed and dispossessed with special attention to the needs of women and children; shall work to build a supportive community among women; and shall engage in activities that foster growth in the Christian faith, mission education, and Christian social involvement through the organization." **2000 Book of Discipline, ¶1317.**

Without the woman's mission organization in the church, the work of mission would not have had such strong support spiritually or financially. The women who guided the Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Societies were firmly united in devotion to a task they believed to be of supreme importance to the church, the community and to the world.

We have much to be proud of and a great deal to celebrate as we continue the journey begun almost 150 years ago by our faithful and courageous foremothers.

PURPOSE OF UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



The organized unit
of United Methodist
Women shall be a
community of
women whose
PURPOSE is to
know God and to
experience freedom
as whole persons
through Jesus Christ;
to develop a creative,
supportive fellowship;
and to expand concepts
of mission through
participation in the global
ministries of the church.



INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTERS

Merrell's computer classes are about to start again in **Room 17**. Sister Eileen Tucker will start the classes **Thursday, March 5th at 6:30 p.m.**

If you're interested, please contact Sister Tucker through the church office at (954) 731-2323 to register.

Come along and we will show you how to :

- ◆ Create a document
- ◆ Set up and email address
- ◆ Learn how to send emails
- ◆ Search the internet
- ◆ Book a flight



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN SUNDAY

Merrell's United Methodist Women will be celebrating **UMW Sunday on March 22**. The guest speaker will be Dr. Judith Pierre Okerson, director of the national organization of the United Methodist Women.

Stewardship Committee News

Although March has just arrived, it's not too early to get the word out about **Merrell's Pre-Mother's Day Banquet**. The date of this very special event is **Friday, May 8, 2015** at the Woodlands Country Club in Tamarac. Donation is \$60 per person. Tickets coming soon. For more information, please see Mr. Winston Chang, chair of Merrell's Stewardship Committee.



**STEWARDSHIP
COMMITTEE**

Also, the Stewardship Committee is proud to present the **Rally of the Months**, a fundraising event that starts now and will culminate with a community-wide Grand Finale on **Sunday, June 28, 2015**. This is one of the church's premiere fundraising events. Be on the lookout for team leaders and rally cards and get ready to celebrate your birthday month!

VBS NEWS

*Immediately after the **10:00 AM service on March 8**, Pastor Hope Williams would like to meet with anyone who would like to assist with Vacation Bible School. We'll need VBS workers for the entire week.*





The Florida Conference of
The United Methodist Church



Annual Conference Trip in June:

Merrell Family, we are coordinating a church trip to the Annual Conference in Daytona Beach June 10-13, 2015 in Daytona Beach. The Conference will be at Bethune Cookman University, a historically black college established in 1904, which became affiliated with the Methodist Church in 1924. This year's theme is:

Next Generations, Together in the baptismal waters. It is a wonderful way to find out what other churches are doing, what challenges they face. And you will find out quickly that we are not alone in the vineyard. **Please see Lay Leader Patricia Tabois if you are interested in going. More details will become available in the next few weeks.**

Bethune-Cookman University
698 West International Speedway Blvd.
Daytona Beach, Florida 32114

Heartfelt Thanks

To my Merrell family, thank you for your cards, prayers, words of comfort and most of all, to those who attended the funeral services for my nephew. It was such a joy to see you there. My family is so grateful for the support. May God continue to bless us as we continue to show His love.

Sister Dizzierene Cox.



Helen Earle 03/01
Mamita Marcelle 03/01
Khadija Anderson 03/01
James Johnson 03/02
Neville Buchanan 03/02
Winston L Chang 03/02
Josephine George 03/02
Renee' Moore 03/05
Orel Hill-Hudson 03/06
Ashari Singh 03/07
Jaeden Royes 03/07

Joyce Lewis 03/08
Herbert Crosby 03/09
Wendy Austin 03/09
Norma Lynch-Smith 03/10
Jasiah Williams 03/10
Norma Rankine 03/11
Melvin Henry 03/14
Grace Herron 03/15
Jaelen Buck 03/15
Vernetta Gordon 03/18

Annette Browne 03/20
Brandon Tabois 03/23
Sean Mills 03/24
Luletta Brooks 03/24
Ullet Black 03/24
Andrea Byer 03/24
Diana Hanley 03/28
Hartley Royes 03/29
Dennis Barton 03/29
Kendra Black 03/30

+ The Staff +

The Rev. Bancroft Leighton Williams, Pastor

Email: pastorbancroft@merrellumc.org

Claudette Meatley, Administrative Assistant to the Pastor

Email: claudette@merrellumc.org

Mr. Louis Trotman, Director of Music

Ms. 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.



Friendly Reminder

Please don't forget to place your order for Easter Lilies. Order forms will be available in the Narthex.

Deadline for ordering Lilies:
March 29, 2015

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.**