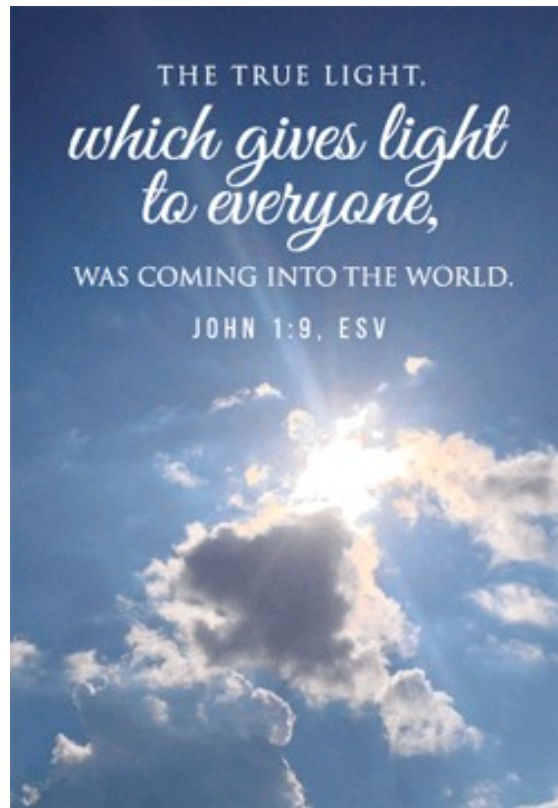




# *The Faith Flyer*

Monthly Newsletter for Faith United Methodist Church  
*Becoming Disciples to Make Jesus Christ Known in the World*  
January 2016



## **Hispanic Ministry**

### **Domingo (Sunday):**

Escuela Dominical - Sunday School: 11:00 AM

Culto de Adoración - Worship Service: 12:00 PM

### **Sabado (Saturday):**

Estudio Biblico - Bible Study: 7:00 PM

### **Culto Unido de Adoración - Joint Worship Service**

Primero domingo del mes - 10:30 AM

First Sunday of each month - 10:30 AM



Faith UMC offers **FREE** English Classes  
ESOL-English for Speakers of Other Languages

Ofrecemos clases de inglés **GRATIS**

Wednesdays / Miércoles: 7:00-8:00 PM

Information: (904) 737-3555

Para mas informaciones llame: (904) 737-3555



**Thomas' Blog**



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## A WORD FROM THE PASTOR



Hope you had a good Christmas celebration, and that Santa was good to you and that you were a good Santa, too. Advent and Christmas have been full and meaningful around the church, and, in all the busy days, we found beauty and joy and love and the presence of an incarnational Christ, God with us. Did you share his love with someone in a very intentional, inviting way this season?

the Rev. Barry Andrews

The change of year makes us reflective, and hopefully we have more reasons to rejoice than to be remorseful. Many good things have been in evidence at the church this year.

Our efforts to reach out and be engaged in mission, both locally and internationally, have gone well, and increased. Our reputation amongst the immigrant community in Jacksonville as a welcoming church continues to be on the rise, and we rejoiced with the Kachin in their first American youth conference, hosted by us over the Labor Day weekend.

Efforts to show the love of Christ with hospitality have also gone well. We have hosted several Northeast District events, and our meals and warm Sunday welcomes have served the cause of Christ well. This first year of Pumpkin Patch seems to be a program custom-fitted to a church like Faith. When NOMADS work here, they leave with a sense of accomplishment, but also a sense of connection. We've also made an extraordinary effort in making the Mission House available for Narcotics Anonymous meetings through rezoning. Genuine hospitality seeks as it's greatest goal the good of others, and we, in many ways, have grown in this way.

Spirituality is best known in love and service, and there have been many more opportunities for worship, study, fellowship, and work than have been mentioned here. In all of these we've sought to be strengthened for service, and many have found that spiritual growth in 2015.

We could continue to report, or reminisce, but this report would not be very reflective if we did not find items to be resolute about. We're assuming a significant challenge in 2016 by taking Thomas on more-full time; it's a financial challenge, but, more than that, it's a challenge to us all to support him in new ministries. The same is true for Pastor Rigo, as he works to rebuild the Spanish ministry. The attendance at Sunday morning worship reflects all of the national downward trends of Christianity in our country, but I'd much rather buck these trends. Rental income has increased in 2015, but needs to continue to climb in 2016 to put us on a surer financial footing, and make us not dependent upon savings.

These resolutions are not for the faint of heart, to be sure, but, remember, we believe that God gives strength, and the increase. Let's all join together, in faith, and at Faith, in God's will and work, as we seek to increase the Kingdom.

*Rev. Barry Andrews*

Nations shall come  
to your light,  
and kings to the  
brightness of your dawn.

Isaiah 60:3, NRSV





I am so proud to be part of Faith UMW. This group of ladies loves the Lord, loves each other, and loves those in need. Here is a recap of the love shown by the UMW to our hurting world in 2015:

\$1500 – pledges – undesignated giving  
\$156 – Prayer and Self Denial Offering  
\$150 – World Thank Offering  
\$600 – UCOM – from Bead-for-Life  
\$756 – No More Malaria – Mother’s Day Brunch – many thanks to the UMM who catered!  
\$22 – Red Bird Missions  
\$1300 in fundraisers – UCOM, DLC, City Rescue Mission  
Total of \$4484!!!!

**In addition:**

200 Ditty Bags were packed  
We served dinner twice to Jacksonville Campus Ministries at UNF  
We sponsored the collection of 149 children’s undies and 154 adult’s undies  
Welcoming our Nomads friends with homemade breads

**Upcoming Events:**

**North East District United Methodist Women**

**Local Officer Training**

**Saturday, January 16, 2016**

9:30 AM Registration

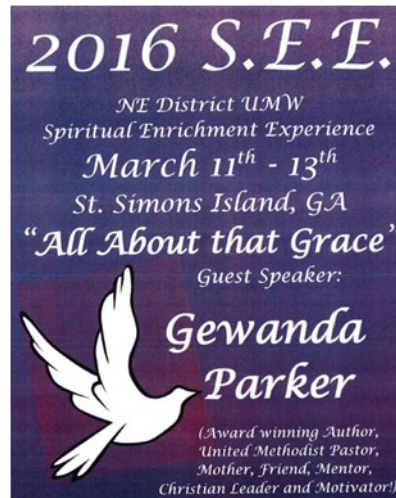
10:00 till 12:00 noon

Mandarin United Methodist Church

11270 San Jose Blvd

Jacksonville, FL 32223

Reservations are needed by: January 13, to Jackie Brooks at 904-616-1182 or email at: Jackie.brooks45@att.net





**Pray For our Church Family**

Martin Pérez Methodist Church, Havana, Cuba  
 FUMC Hispanic Ministry      Bernice Dunn  
 Margaret Vann                      Nancy Hague  
 Julie Sechrist                      DeDe Long  
 Jesus Cobas                        Frank & Susan Davis

**Rehab/Long Term Care**

Marie Baugher                      Mount Carmel Gardens  
 Genoviva Bautista                      Home  
 Anna Clark                      Brookdale - Orange Park  
 Mary Coby                              Brookside  
 Joe Collins                              Taylor Care Center  
 Marge Collins                              Taylor Manor  
 Frances Croom                              Taylor Home  
 Marilyn DiViesti                      Gentilly Gardens-GA  
 Alice Fletcher                              Taylor Manor  
 Polly Kilday                              Home  
 Evelyn Miller                              Sunrise  
 Mami Ruth                              Home  
 Jewell Wells                              Home  
 Jimmie Wells                              Home  
 Louise Macarages                      Taylor Home  
 Maxine Westbrook                      Home

**Pray For our Church Friends**

Jose Arguelles (Thomas Garrett's uncle)  
 Randy Cordova (Belva Carley's brother)  
 Shawn Fitzgerald (Fitzgerald & Peavy)  
 Derek Hayward (Dawn & Albert's grandson)  
 Helen Sherman (ECA Headmaster)  
 Sharon Peavy's brother  
 Tara & Anthony Richardson (Sarah Reed's friends)  
 Larson Zekas and family (Susan Davis' nephew)  
 Luci Aspinall (Barbara Dicks' friend)  
 the parents of Nancy Bravo and Jesus Cobas  
 Mariel Rancel (Marcia Soto's friend)  
 The family of Bettye Smith (Barbara Dicks)



**Upper Room: Not What I'd Planned**

Monday, January 4, 2016

*Cast all your anxiety on God because he cares for you. 1 Peter 5:7 (NIV)*

A job I had once enjoyed had become very unpleasant. The atmosphere was full of tension, and I didn't know what to do about it. One morning I prayed, leaving the whole situation in God's hands. The next day, I lost my job. Obviously, this was not the solution I had anticipated, and I became concerned about finances. Even so, I felt a strange sense of peace, a sense that somehow this was the answer to my prayer. Whenever anxious thoughts returned, I would pray again, and the peace of God would calm my fears.

Through this experience, I learned to trust God. Eventually I was offered a much better job and found peace in knowing God had been present through it all. Now when the worries of life come, I remember the time God answered my prayer in a much different way than I had hoped for, and my peace returns.

God cares for each of us and will bring us what is best for us. We need only to pray and to trust God and then act on God's nudging.

**The Author:** Tandy Balson (Alberta, Canada)

**Thought for the day:** In all situations, God is working

**Prayer:** Dear Lord, help us to release everything in our lives into your loving care. Amen.

**Prayer Focus:** SOMEONE WHO IS UNEMPLOYED



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY 1	SATURDAY 2
<b>3</b> 9/9:15A Sun School 10A Caf� (WH) 10:30A Joint Worship Service-En/Sp (S) 7-10P Zomi C (S) 7-11P Kachin C (WH)	<b>4</b> 6:30P Men of Faith at Bono's BBQ - 4907 Beach Blvd 32207	<b>5</b> 2:30P Taylor Home/ Holy Communion  No Evangelism / Sunday School meeting this month	<b>6</b> 6P Supper (WH) 6:30P En B Study (WH) 6:30-8P UMYF (PMB) 7-8P ESOL Classes (B=AH/I=WH) 7:15P Choir Practice (S)	<b>7</b> 11A Bridge Bunch (AH) 7P HM rehearsal (S)	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 10A Mary Martha Circle meeting  7:00P Sp Bible Study (AH)
<b>10</b> 9/9:15A Sun School 10A Caf� (WH) 10:30A WS (S) 11A SP Sun School 12P SP WS (S) 7-10P Zomi C (S) 7-11P Kachin C (WH)	<b>11</b> 9:30A Take down Christmas decorations	<b>12</b> 11A Susanna Circle (AH) 6:30P Emmaus board meeting (P7)	<b>13</b> 6P Supper (WH) 6:30P En B. Study (WH) 6:30-8P UMYF (PMB) 7-8P ESOL Classes (B=AH/I=WH) 7:15P Choir Practice (S)	<b>14</b> 11A B. Bunch-AH 6:30P Heart-to- Heart Circle 7P HM rehearsal (S)	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>  7:00P Sp Bible Study (AH)
<b>17</b> 9/9:15A Sun School 10A Caf� F. (WH) *10:30A WS (S) 11A SP Sun School 12P SP WS (S) 7-10P Zomi C (S) 7-11P Kachin C (WH)	<b>18</b>  <b>Office Closed</b>  <b>MLK Day</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 6P Supper (WH) 6:30P Holy Communion 6:30-8P UMYF 7-8P ESOL Classes (B=AH/I=WH) 7:15P Choir Practice (S)  <u>Newsletter Deadline</u>	<b>21</b> 11A Bridge Bunch (AH) 7P HM rehearsal (S)	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>  7:00P Sp Bible Study (AH)
<b>24</b> 9/9:15A Sun School 10A Caf� (WH) 10:30A WS (S) 11A SP Sun School 12P SP WS (S) 7-10P Zomi C (S) 7-11P Kachin C (WH)	<b>25</b> 7:00PM Church Council Trustees meeting (WH)	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 6P Supper (WH) 6:30P En B. Study (WH) 6:30-8P UMYF (PMB) 7-8P ESOL Classes (B=AH/I=WH) 7:15P Choir Practice (S)	<b>28</b> 11A Bridge Bunch (AH) 7P HM rehearsal (S)	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>  7:00P Sp Bible Study (AH)
<b>31</b> 9/9:15A Sun School 10A Caf� (WH) 10:30A WS (S) 11A SP Sun School 12P SP WS (S) 7-10P Zomi C (S) 7-11P Kachin C (WH)						



**Mary Martha Circle - 10:00 AM**

Saturday, January 10, 2016

**Susanna Circle - 11:00 AM**

Tuesday, January 12, 2016 in Asbury Hall.

**Heart-to-Heart Circle - 6:30 PM**

Thursday, January 14, 2016 at

**Women in Action Circle - Hispanic Ministry**

No information

**Men of Faith - 6:30 PM**

Monday, January 4, 2016 at Bono's BBQ  
4907 Beach Blvd - 32207

**Evangelism & Sunday School Meeting -**

No meeting this month

**Emmaus Board Meeting - 6:30 PM**

Tuesday, January 12, 2016 in Room P7

**Church Council Meeting - 7:00 PM**

Monday, January 25, 2016 in Wesley Hall

**Finance Committee Meeting**

No meeting this month



**NEWS of the CHILDREN'S HOME**

By the end of 2015, Faith UMC had met our goal of \$12 per member for the year. A big thank you to the faithful Faith members who donate to the Children's Home every year.

Fifth Sunday offerings are what keeps the Home on solid ground.

The children had a wonderful Christmas which was very meaningful to them. The Madison Youth Ranch prepared Christmas Child boxes (Samaritan's Purse) to be sent to less fortunate children overseas. The leaders work to teach the children that even in the midst of their circumstances, they still have the ability to reach out to others in need.

At the Madison Youth Ranch, they are maintaining 10-13 residents at a time. They now have two horses and have begun the equine therapy program. They are presently seeking funding for a Chapel/Administrative building and a recreational pool complex.

The next fifth Sunday offering is scheduled for January 31, 2016. Please keep the Home and the children in your prayers and prepare to donate generously on fifth Sundays.

Cynthia Shank

Local Church Representative



Birthday Blessings

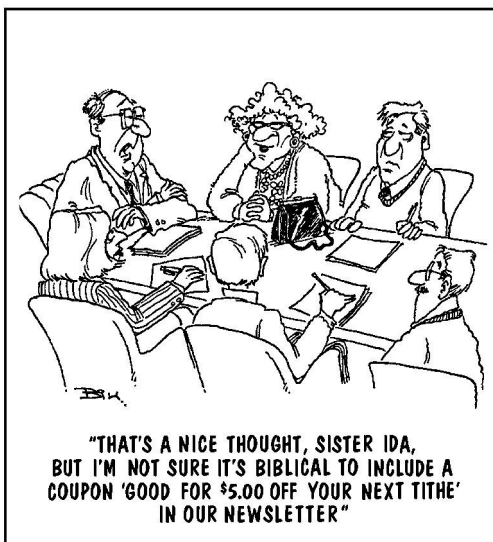
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|----|-------------------|----|-----------------------|
| 01 | Thom Scoggins     | 14 | Jim Wells Jr.         |
| 02 | Sierra Goodale    | 19 | Domingo Casillas Jr.  |
| 03 | Genoviva Bautista | 20 | Beverly Taylor        |
| 03 | Val Robbie        | 22 | Olivia Rodriguez Baez |
| 13 | Hali Cole         | 23 | Warren Bidwell        |
| 14 | Tom Blair         |    |                       |



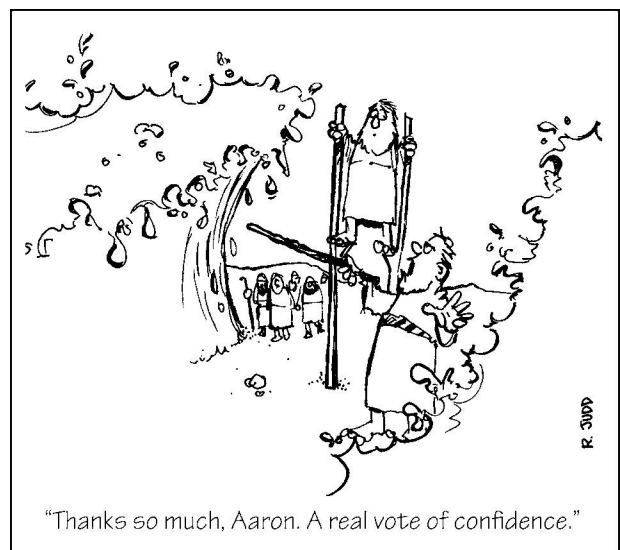
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| 05 | Fermin Rivas and Zonia Cruz |
| 23 | Ed and Mary Lynch           |
| 25 | Art and Julee Elkins        |



**February Newsletter Deadline:**  
**Wednesday, January 20, 2016**  
*Early submissions appreciated!*



"THAT'S A NICE THOUGHT, SISTER IDA, BUT I'M NOT SURE IT'S BIBLICAL TO INCLUDE A COUPON 'GOOD FOR \$5.00 OFF YOUR NEXT TITHE' IN OUR NEWSLETTER"



"Thanks so much, Aaron. A real vote of confidence."



**Thank you!**

Thanks to your love and support, our combined programs served almost 25,000 people in 2015. We are excited about 2016 and all that the new year has to offer. Your continued generous support throughout the year will allow us to meet the needs of our community and help end hunger and poverty in our community. For volunteer opportunities, please contact the office: (904) 396-2401.

**Mark your calendar!!**

Please mark your calendar for the annual Music Festival and Silent Auction. This great fundraising event is scheduled for Sunday, April 24, 2016. More information coming soon!

**Remember:**

- The third Sunday of each month, we are asking everyone to donate \$1.00 to help in funding UCOM.
- Faith collects food *every* Sunday. Please bring your non-perishable items each and every week.
- Donate online at [www.ucomjax.org](http://www.ucomjax.org) or send a check to 3349 St Augustine Rd Jacksonville FL 32207.



**An open letter to the congregation at Faith United Methodist Church**

In the beginning, our team consisted of eleven NOMADS. Some were long-time NOMADS. Some were NOMADS with only limited project experience. Some were brand new NOMADS just being introduced to the team/agency dynamic. Without consideration of our background or experience, you welcomed us with open hearts and loving arms. Due to unfortunate circumstances, we quickly dwindled to nine and you continued to bless us with your warmth. After two short weeks, we regrettably said goodbye to another couple but your love and generosity continued to flow.

Every NOMADS' project is different. Different in the work that needs to be done. Different in the social activities enjoyed by the team. Different in the interaction between the team and the requesting agency. Although most agencies schedule potluck suppers or provide lunches or some even provide snacks at break time, many agencies and their NOMAD teams become like ships that pass in the night.

Not so here at Faith. NOMADS continue to return and not just as team members – but also as drop-ins. Why is that? There is food, fun and fellowship on most projects. **Moreover**, most agencies are warmly welcoming. What makes the Faith experience so different? It is different because when we come to you, we come as **strangers**. When we leave you, we leave as **family**.

Thank you – from our family to yours, for your gentleness, your generosity and your gratitude!

May God bless each of you as richly as you have blessed us.

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**STEWARDSHIP**  
Prayers + Presence + Gifts + Service + Witness

*Proverbs 20:27: The spirit of man is the candle of the LORD, searching all the innermost parts of his being.*

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

Thank you to everyone who turned in a 2016 pledge form. It means so much to our church and our missions to know they have your support! If you haven't turned in your 2016 commitment yet, you can do so at any time. Pledge forms are in the narthex of the church or you can contact me at: (904) 703-2930 or [LLFPickett@aol.com](mailto:LLFPickett@aol.com).

Is your light still shining? How will you let it shine in 2016? Is there anything blocking your light?

There are many things required to light a candle. A candle is an ignitable wick embedded in wax or another flammable solid substance. For a candle to burn, a heat source (commonly a match or naked flame) is used to light the candle's wick, which melts and vaporizes a small amount of fuel (the wax). Once vaporized, the fuel combines with oxygen to ignite and form a constant flame. The heat of the flame melts the top of the mass of solid fuel; the liquefied fuel then moves upward through the wick; and the liquefied fuel finally vaporizes to burn within the candle's flame. Then portions of the wick that are not emitting vaporized fuel are consumed in the flame or must be trimmed to maintain a constant burning temperature and rate of fuel consumption so the candle burns slow and steady and to prevent smoking.

Just as a candle cannot light if it doesn't have an ignitable wick, our hearts must be ignitable with the love of Jesus. And just as our wick must be embedded in wax or another flammable solid substance, such as the Word of God. Then our lights must be ignited by the Holy Spirit. Once lit the Jesus melts and vaporizes our sins. The fuel or our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness combines with the efforts of other Christians, and ignites our works like oxygen to fuel to form the constant flame of the church. And the heat of our flame melts away injustice and iniquities in ourselves and in the world. This liquefied fuel brings others to Christ to burn within our flame. Then we must protect the flames within us and in the church from deadly sins, outside winds, and anything blocking our light in order to maintain our witness.

So let us light our candles and lift them high; and let our New Year's resolutions be pleasing to God!

God bless!

Linda Pickett

Stewardship Chairperson



*Dear Faith Family Members:*

*Thank you for your gift to us during this holiday season. Your generosity was truly a blessing to all of us of the church staff.*