

## **Mandarin United Methodist Church History - 2011-2014 Update**

During 2011, 2012 and 2013 Mandarin United Methodist Church continued on its path of expanding ministries as detailed in previous years. Growth occurred and the church flourished as a result of good leadership.

The year 2013 was filled with changes in the pastoral positions within the church. Associate ministers Missy Hart and C. J. Hill left Mandarin United Methodist Church as of June 30, 2013. They were replaced by Rev. Jeffrey St. Clair. His duties began on July 1, 2013. Prior to serving Mandarin, Pastor St. Clair received his Master of Divinity from the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and was ordained in the Western Pennsylvania Conference. Family ministries of the Church comprise the core of Pastor St. Clair's interest including children, youth and recreational ministries. Worship in the 11:00 am Collision Service is led by Pastor St. Clair in the Family Life Center.

The membership was 2,587 and the average worship attendance for the year ending December 31, 2013 was 1,121.

On April 1, 2014, Mike Groos was appointed Local Pastor by the Florida Annual Conference. He was hired on a part-time basis to direct the recreational ministries. Pastor Groos was sponsored by Mandarin United Methodist when he entered the ministry so this made the appointment special to the congregation.

### **2014 Update from MUMW**

On October 18th, 2014, 119 guests gathered in the Family Life Center to celebrate 50 years of Mandarin United Methodist Women. Guests attended from Gainesville and North Carolina, as well as Jacksonville with 3 North East United Methodist Women Officers in attendance. Organized in 1964 as the Women's Society of Christian Service and a Wesley Service Guild until 1972 when the United Methodist Church adopted the new name of United Methodist Women.

Guests socialized over punch in the Gathering Area while viewing memorabilia of the past 50 years. A catered dinner was served in Wesley Hall that was decorated in colors of black, white and metallic gold. Ten men of the Church dressed in formal black and white attire served food to the tables. Opening ceremonies included the presentation and blessing of a Commemorative 50 Year Quilt. The quilt squares depicted each of the current nine Circles. Guests were presented with a "Celebrating 50 Years" commemorative booklet that contained congratulatory letters from The Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church, General Secretary and CEO of United Methodist Women, North East District of United Methodist Women President and the Mayor of the City of Jacksonville. Booklet included photographs of the last 50 years along with a brief written history of our Church and Mandarin United

Methodist women. The highlight of the evening was a narrated 50 year history that was portrayed by live fashion models dressed in appropriate clothing of each of the past five decades.

The celebration continued in the Sunday morning Worship Services with the viewing of a video, where members of Mandarin United Methodist Women spoke to how the Purpose of United Methodist Women had guided their spiritual growth and their outreach to others, locally and around the globe.