

December 25, 2011

making new disciples

# flame



JACKSONVILLE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

[www.jaxfumc.org](http://www.jaxfumc.org)



## Christmas Eve Baptisms

*Harper Elizabeth Beasley  
and  
Crawford Lucas Mallett*

Christmas Eve*	5:00p
<i>Candlelight Communion</i>	
Christmas Eve	10:00p
<i>Candlelight Communion</i>	
Christmas Day	10:00a MAC
New Year's Day*	10:00a Sanctuary

\* *Nursery provided.*

We receive you into the household of God.  
Confess the faith of Christ crucified,  
proclaim his resurrection,  
and share with us in  
his eternal priesthood.



flame † flame † flame † flame † flame † flame † flame † flame † flame † flame †

## CHURCH STAFF

**John Simmons**

*Pastor*

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**Ted Anderson**

*Assoc. Pastor*

ted@jaxfumc.org

**Jeremy Clayton**

*Youth Ministries*

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**Stacie Johnson**

*Children's Ministries*

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*Seniors' Ministries*

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*Praise Team Director*

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*Administrator*

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**Dee Dee Lloyd**

*Administrative Assistant*

d2jimlloyd@cableone.net

**Jill Pike**

*Secretary*

jill@jaxfumc.org

**Jennifer Thomas**

*Coordinator, Kids 1st*

jennifer@jaxfumc.org

**Fred Bush**

*Bldg. Director/Custodian*

**Karen Pike**

*Asst. Custodian*

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# We Support First United Methodist Church

## By Our Gifts...

FINANCIAL INFORMATION *December 18, 2011*

Received this week.....\$8,470.00

Received to date.....\$553,062.35

Expenses to date.....\$555,607.40

## By Our Remembrances...

Memorials

**Helen Mitchell**

Floyd & Martha Tredaway

**Joyce Cox**

Floyd & Martha Tredaway

**Jan Rhodes**

Seekers S. S. Class

**Lynne Smith**

Stephanie & Jason Woodard

Honoraria

**Jerry Smith**

Stephanie & Jason Woodard

**Marita Watson**

James Watson

## By Our Prayers...

*(ALL CAPS denotes church members)*

Norman Anderson

GEORGE DAVIS

RUSSELL INGRAM

DAVID PEARSON

Rev. George Quiggle

Rebecca Robertson

ESTHER SHERMAN

REBECCA TRAVIS

MIKAELA WATKINS

ANN WOODROW

RANDY WOODROW

## By Our Presence...

ATTENDANCE **DECEMBER 18**

Traditional Worship 8:30 ..... 33

New Community 8:30 ..... 90

Traditional Worship 10:50 ..... 200

Nursery ..... 8

Youth Wed. Night..... 23

Chapel ..... 43

**Total Worship ..... 397**

Sunday School..... 135

## JCOC Report

JCOC is happy to report that at the end of Toy-land week, 751 families were served! During the planning of this event, the JCOC staff was worried that donations would be less because of the economy, but have found that their contributors have been even MORE generous than in past years.

They would like to extend their deepest thanks, and most heartfelt wishes, for a special Christmas for all their supporters.

JCOC will be closed on Monday, December 26 to give their hard-working 'elves' a well deserved rest!



## Pray for Those Who Serve our Country:

*If you have names and addresses for other military church members, please call the office: 435-6021.*

† Deployed overseas ‡ Home (in the States)

- SFC David Beard ‡
- MAJ JEFFREY BUCKNER ‡
- SFC Aaron Causey ‡
- MAJ Michael Dempsey ‡
- PO3 Matthew Hamrick ‡
- CPT BRANDON MAYE ‡
- PFC David Pike ‡
- SFC Matthew Reid †
- SGT Garrett Rose ‡
- PVT Steven B. Sanders †
- PVT Arlis Saunders ‡
- 
- LCPL JONATHAN SHADOAN ‡
- 2LT Mike Skinner †
- MAJ MIKE THORNTON ‡
- SGT Benjamin C. Tomlinson ‡
- The 2025th Transport. Co. ‡
- CHARLES TRAVIS, civilian †
- PVT Jason Truell †
- The 115th Signal Bn †
- The 666th EOD Detachment †
- The 1312th Engr. Detachmt. †

**Classes & Prayer Groups will not meet this week.**

- Dec. 24**     5p     Candlelight Communion
- 10p     Candlelight Communion
- Dec. 25**     10a     One svc. in the MAC
- Dec. 29**     8:30a   Flame Volunteers
- Dec. 30**     9:00a   Bridge group
- Facilities closed for Christmas Eve

“Please put your donation along with any suggestions into the correction basket.”

## Those Who Serve God in His Church

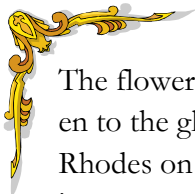
	<u>Christmas Eve early</u>	<u>Christmas Eve late</u>	<u>Christmas Day</u>
<b>Ushers:</b>		Jim Howard, G. Nabors Jerry Buckner	Jim Howard, G. Nabors Jerry Buckner
<b>Lay</b>			Larry Stewart
<b>Leaders:</b>			John Simmons
<b>Acolytes:</b>	Anna Jackson Holleigh Colvin	Kelsey Matthews	Ragan Stokesberry
<b>Nursery:</b>	Suzanne Jackson	no nursery	no nursery

**JOY Devotion for Wednesday, December 28:**

Ted Anderson

**Pastor on Call December 24 & 25:**

John Simmons 365-5550, 239-5054



The flowers on the altar this Sunday are given to the glory of God and in honor of Gene Rhodes on the occasion of his birthday, and in memory of Jan Rhodes.

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### Readings for Sunday, December 24 & 25:

Scripture Reading

Luke 2:1-20

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## Services This Week

**5:00 pm Christmas Eve**  
**Candlelight Communion**  
**Holy Baptism**  
 John Simmons  
**Scripture:** Luke 2:1-20  
**Sermon:** *All I Want for Christmas*

**10:00 pm Christmas Eve**  
**Candlelight Communion**  
 John Simmons  
**Scripture:** Luke 2:1-20  
**Sermon:** *All I Want for Christmas*

**10:00 am in the MAC**  
 Ted Anderson  
**Scripture:** Luke 2:1-20  
**Sermon:** *Why Shepherds?*



# Children's Corner

## Stacie Johnson

Director of Children's Ministries

stacie@jaxfumc.org

www.jaxfumckids.org

### Blessing of the Toys

On Sunday, December 25, (Christmas Day) at the 10:00 am service, we will be having a Blessing of the Toys during the Children's Moment. The children are invited to bring **one** non-violent, non-noise-making toy to the service.

### Ugandan Thunder

Mark your calendar for Monday, January 16, at 6:00 p.m. The African children's choir, "Ugandan Thunder," will be performing in the MAC. Please make plans to attend and invite your friends! Admission is free, however, if you would like to donate, cash or canned goods are welcome. A love offering will also be collected.

### Outreach Opportunities

There are two opportunities available to assist the Ugandan Choir:

1. We are in need of host homes for the choir to stay (Monday night). If you are interested or have questions about having a small group (two to four choir members) stay at your home, please contact me as soon as possible.
2. While they are here they will need to be fed three meals (lunch and dinner on Monday and breakfast on Tuesday). If you, your Sunday school

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class, prayer group, etc. would be interested in providing one of these meals, please let me know. We will be feeding approximately 30 people.

### Christmas Gifts

If your child has not received their Christmas present from the church, please see Mrs. Stacie.

Mrs. Stacie

Kids 1<sup>st</sup>  
(256) 782-0388

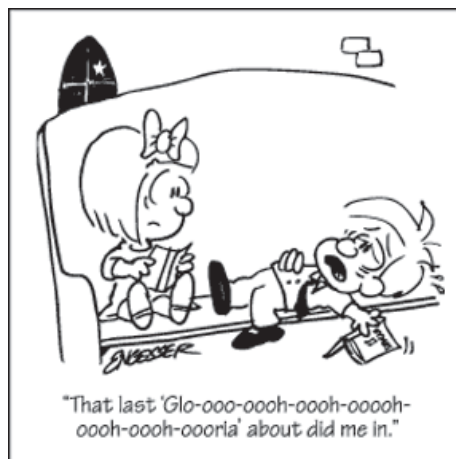


### Jennifer Thomas

Kids 1st Coordinator

jennifer@jaxfumc.org

Brother John shared his favorite Christmas song with all of our little ones during chapel last week. It is also one of my favorites: "Mary Did You Know?" Every time I hear that song I think of all of the things that must have drifted in and out of Mary's mind over the course of Jesus's life. Did she really realize all of the things that this precious little baby would do?



I can imagine the joy she felt holding her baby in her arms, but I can't even begin to imagine the agony she must have felt seeing her grown son hanging on that cross. I'm sure she reflected on all of those years in between, and she knew that she would be with Him again one day.

So this year, as we celebrate Christ's birth, let us also be joyful and grateful that we will also be with Him again one day!!!

Mrs. Jennifer

### ABIDING IN THE FIELD

AND THERE WERE IN THE SAME COUNTRY SHEPHERDS



KEEPING WATCH OVER THEIR FLOCK BY NIGHT.

LUKE 2:8



**Jeremy Clayton**

Director of Youth Ministries

www.jaxfumcyouth.org

jeremy@jaxfumc.org

Merry Christmas!! As the last frantic purchases are made, and Santa's final cookie is pulled from the oven, I'd like to talk about gifts. What's the best gift you've ever gotten? The best one you've ever given? Can you give things other than material gifts?

Gifts don't have to be cars or candy or diamonds; though those things are nice, sometimes the greatest gifts of all can't be seen. Gifts of time and energy can be just as rewarding to the giver as they are to the receiver.

This past Sunday, a few brave Youth members and parents went Christmas caroling to several nursing homes in Jacksonville. We visited Myric Manor, Jacksonville Health and Rehab, and Ladiga Manor, and about one hundred senior citizens; as many as one hundred more heard our melodious voices as we paraded up and down the halls of Jacksonville Health and Rehab. Now, I wouldn't look for a Jacksonville First United Methodist Church Youth Group Christmas CD anytime soon, but I will say that everyone involved had a great time. Granted, ninety-eight percent of

us were tone deaf, and out of fourteen people there were probably twelve dif-

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ferent keys, but it was worth it to see the smiles on those people's faces. We even learned a few dance moves from one lady!

After serenading the nursing home residents, we made three special stops at the residences of Dr. Rhodes, Bro. Ted, and Bro. John. I think we won ourselves a handful of bonus points in English Senior Year, and Brother John and Brother Ted seemed pleasantly surprised to see us (though Brother John did casually disappear after our first song and didn't return until the last one!).

Never assume teenagers are lazy! We were quite the busy bees for a couple hours!

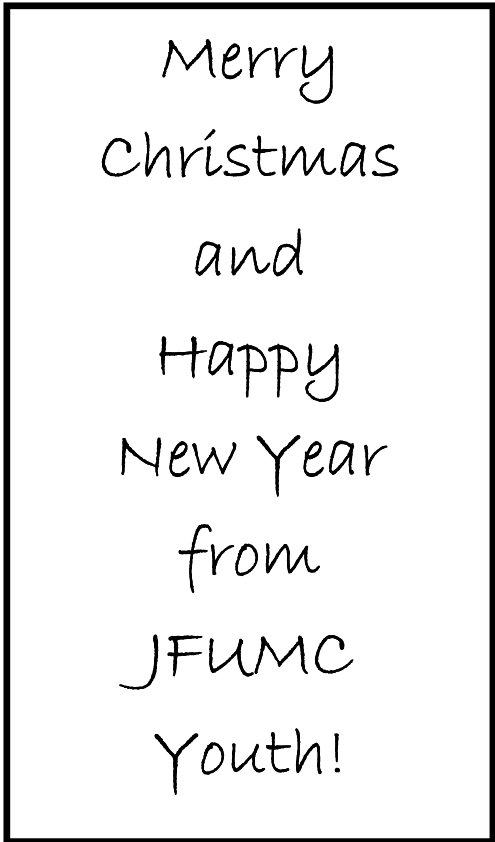
Christmas is all about giving. God gave us Jesus, we give each other presents, and, maybe more importantly, we give time and energy to causes bigger than ourselves. Acts 20:35 gives the classic advice: "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Live, Laugh, Love, and God bless you this Christmas!

Katie Cline

# Announcements

Youth Activities will resume on Wednesday, January 4 at 5:45 pm.



# Holiday Closings

***Kids 1st: December 23—January 2.***

***Opens January 3.***

***Crosswalk resumes on Wednesday,***

***January 25.***

**First United Methodist Church**

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www.jaxfumc.org

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36265

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

# Holiday Closings

Church facilities will be closed Friday, December 23 and Monday, December 26 for Christmas, and also Monday, January 2 for New Year's.

Kids 1st will be closed December 23 through January 2 to observe Christmas and New Year holidays. They will reopen on Tuesday, January 3.

Crosswalk will not meet from December 14 through January 18. It will resume on Wednesday, January 25.



Gifts for 2011  
Office deadline: noon, Friday, December 30  
Mail deadline: (postmarked no later than)  
Saturday, December 31

**Attention J.O.Y. Members!**  
J.O.Y. will not meet on Wednesday, December 28.



*If your New Year's resolutions included wanting to join a small, meaningful group, the Warm Hearts Prayer Group always welcomes new members. They meet in the parlor on Thursday mornings at 11 AM. Just show up and you will be "warmly welcomed".*



ONE Contemporary service on Christmas Day at 10 am in the MAC!

**WORSHIPTIMES**  
Traditional - 8:30 & 10:50 am  
Contemporary - 8:30 am  
Sunday School - 9:45 am