

Cuba Current

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Help needed!	2
March caravan	2
Facebook grows	2

New sister churches!

We have good news! There are two new sister church relationships in our District:

- Calvary UMC has been matched up with Iglesia Metodista Regla, and
- Faith UMC has been matched with Iglesia Metodista Martin Pérez

These pairings will benefit all involved and are truly a blessing. Many thanks to Pastor Rick Cornwell and Connie Lorey at Calvary as well as Pastors Barry Andrews and German Melan at Faith. Their new sister churches in Cuba are thrilled.

We still have six unconnected churches in Havana:

1. Barbosa
2. Guanabo
3. Jaimanita
4. Lawton
5. Manatiales de Vida
6. San Antonio de los Baños

Please continue to pray that we will soon match them up with Jacksonville area churches.



Calvary UMC and Iglesia Metodista Regla team up in covenant.



Faith UMC and Iglesia Metodista Martin Pérez

Caravan leaving for Havana on January 26

George and Loree Reed will lead an 11-person Caravan to District Conference in Havana on January 26. This is the largest group to travel to Cuba from the North East District in some time. Churches represented include:

- ◆ First UMC (Jax)

- ◆ Highlands UMC
- ◆ Orange Park UMC
- ◆ Ponte Vedra UMC
- ◆ Mandarin UMC

George Reed, one of the District's Group Area Coordinators stated, "We are delighted to have such a large group visiting Cuba. It

is a sign that the travel difficulties of the past are diminishing. We hope to send several more caravans to Cuba from Jacksonville later this year."

The group has scheduled a training session at First UMC for 2pm on December 17.

BIBLE VERSE:

*Do you not know?
Have you not heard?
The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He will not grow tired or weary,
and his understanding no one can fathom.
He gives strength to the weary
and increases the power of the weak.
Even youths grow tired and weary,
and young men stumble and fall;
but those who hope in the Lord
will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint.*
Isaiah 40:28-31

Help needed for Havana District projects

We hope to help out Havana District Superintendent Lázaro Alvarez with his most challenging major projects. The Methodist Church in Cuba does not currently have the means to finance these efforts. We are looking for volunteers (whether connected via sister churches or not) to “step up” and assist with the financing needed to move these projects forward next year:

- ⇒ Complete construction of Martin Pérez pastoral house
- ⇒ Missionary support
- ⇒ Vedado church window repair
- ⇒ Seminary support

⇒ Residential housing for the Cuba Methodist Church

For more information, contact George Reed (contact information on Page 3).



Another caravan leaving for Havana March 22

Representatives from St. Paul UMC and Faith UMC will travel to Havana for a week on March 22. They will be part of a larger group traveling from southwest Florida.

We are currently planning caravans for June and the Fall. If you are interested in visiting your sister church, or if your church is interested in becoming a sister church, please contact one of our Group Area Coordinators (the contact information is on Page 3).

Keep Robert Pinera in your prayers this week. He is leading a group in Cuba. His 5th trip this year!

Our Facebook group continues to grow

We now have 195 members in our “Methodists United in Prayer—North East District” Facebook group. It is a great way to share your news, videos, and pictures from Cuba.

In spite of the obvious obstacles, a number of our new members are Methodist pastors in Cuba. We are blessed and thrilled to have their participation.

To join, go to:

www.facebook.com/groups/MUIPNE

To translate To/From Spanish:

www.translate.google.com



Pastor Onay, Odaisy, and daughter Gabriela. From MUIP’s Facebook page



¡Feliz Navidad!

Methodists United in Prayer

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<http://www.Facebook.com/Groups/MUIPNE>

<http://www.methodistsunitedinprayer.org/>

<http://www.imecu.org/>

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Cuba Current is published for Methodists in the North East Florida District involved with or interested in "**Methodists United in Prayer.**" Email [George Reed](mailto:George.Reed) to subscribe.

"Methodists United in Prayer" facilitates prayer, love, exchange, and mutual support between the Cuba Methodist Church and the Florida Conference. We hope to increase the relationship between sister churches in the two conferences and focus on these priorities:

- **To pray** for one another and develop a common study of Scriptures.
- **To engage** in the interchange of peoples at Cuba and Florida Conferences.
- **To respond** to the priorities of the Methodist Church in Cuba.
- **To build** relationships between the Florida Conference and the Methodist Church in Cuba for mutual support and encouragement.
- **To enable** the training of pastors and lay people for the equipping of Cuban disciples.
- **To mutually share** the history, current events, culture, and spirituality of both Conferences.
- **Para orar** unos por otros y desarrollar un estudio en común de las Escrituras.
- **Para participar** en el intercambio de los pueblos en las Conferencias de Cuba y la Florida.
- **Para responder** a las prioridades de la Iglesia Metodista en Cuba.
- **Para establecer relaciones** entre la Conferencia de la Florida y la Iglesia Metodista en Cuba por el apoyo mutuo y aliento.
- **Para permitir** la formación de pastores y laicos para el equipamiento de los discípulos cubanos.
- **Para compartir mutuamente** la historia, sucesos de actualidad, cultura y espiritualidad de las dos conferencias.

Sister Churches



Havana District	NE Florida District
Barbossa	Unconnected
Capdevilla	Glynlea Grace Harmony Chapel Spring Glen
El Guatao	Highlands Garden City New Life Community Wesley Fellowship
Guanabacoa	Mandarin
Guanabo	Unconnected
Habana Central	Avondale
Jaimanita	Unconnected
La Europa	Keystone
La Sierra	Ponte Vedra
Lawton	Unconnected
Manatiales de Vida	Unconnected
Marianao	First UMC Jacksonville
Martín Pérez	Faith
Mayorkín	Middleburg
Punta Brava	Isle of Faith
Regla	Calvary
San Antonio de los Baños	Unconnected
San Antonio de Río Blanco	Trinity (Palatka)
Santa Cruz del Norte	Swaim Memorial
Santa Fe	Orange Park
Santiago de las Vegas	Southside
Tumbadero	Macclenny
Vedado	Lakewood
El Mariel*	St. Paul

*Moved to new District