

MOVERS & SHAKERS

Raising up new leaders for Jacksonville

Leadership Jacksonville recently selected its 2016 class, among them Daniel Foley, Lawson Carr, Tina Wirth, David Smith and Sabeen Perwaiz of Riverside; Kristin Keen of Avondale, and Emily O'Leary of Ortega.

The members will engage in two weekend retreats, nine day-long programs and independent course work. The opening retreat provides structured exercises that explore the dynamics of the urban society, leadership styles and decision-making through group process. Participants learn about the community, analyze critical program areas and issues and engage in networking and leadership development opportunities. The program culminates in a closing retreat that focuses on developing a personal vision and trustee commitment.

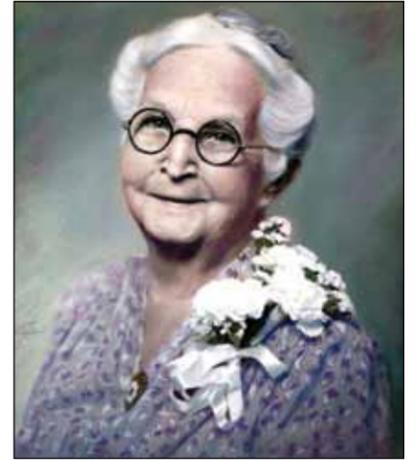
"Remaining engaged with the changes and advancements within our community is crucial for leaders. The Leadership Jacksonville program encourages interaction with community trustees regarding critical topics to learn more about Jacksonville and how we can make improvements together," said Jill Langford Dame, executive director for Leadership Jacksonville, an Ortega Forest resident. "We value our graduates and look forward to another great program year."

The organization will be relocating its office to the Jessie Ball duPont Center in December. To learn more about Leadership Jacksonville and its programs, visit www.leadershipjax.org or call (904) 396-6263.

Riverside church celebrates 125th anniversary



The congregation at Riverside Park United Methodist Church on Palm Sunday 2015



Melanie Spiers, "founder" of Riverside Park United Methodist Church. Spiers would teach Sunday School classes on her front porch when flooding prevented churchgoers from getting downtown to worship at First United Methodist in the late 1880s.

This year, Riverside Park United Methodist Church (RPUMC) celebrates 125 years of service to the community of Jacksonville, pre-dating the Great Fire of 1901.

Chartered in 1890 as Riverside Methodist Episcopal Church South on Dellwood Avenue, a new sanctuary was built in 1911 across from Riverside Park, at which time the congregation changed its name to reflect proximity to the park. The current sanctuary was built in 1950 on the same site; members used Friday Musicales' building for Sunday worship during the construction.

Located at 819 Park Street, RPUMC offers a number of events and classes to the public. The School for Abundant Living (SFAL) program offers

a wide range of classes throughout the year. The classes vary according to interest expressed and availability of instructor. RPUMC is known in the community for its annual Rockin' Back to School event in August with free physicals provided by St. Vincent's and backpacks for the school children. Another ministry, Margaret's Memories, provides bereavement memory boxes to eight area hospitals for parents who lose a child to miscarriage, stillbirth or death shortly after birth. In three years, the United Methodist Women's group at the church have provided 625 memory boxes.

For more information about the church, visit www.riversideparkumc.com

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