

## Stories of Global Mission Sunday, 2016 Florida-Bahamas Synod



**St. Matthew's, Jacksonville** - Tonya LaBarbera, member of the Global Mission Committee, and co-chair of the Cuba Mission Team, is educating the members of St. Matthew with a display each week featuring a different companion church. This past week was Haiti. Photos showed the guest houses and compound in Gressier, the red roofed community center in Pasquette, before and after photos from the "Raise the Roof" project of Peace Lutheran Church, Fort Myers with Faith Lutheran Church in Fond des Negres. The Vehicle Maintenance Fund is the project targeted this year with a goal of raising \$5000.

**Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Holmes Beach** celebrated Global Mission Sunday by presenting temple talks both Saturday and Sunday. On Sunday, the fellowship hour was filled with food and drink: fresh papaya, carambola and mango; a rice dish, Cuban guava pastries, flan, Haitian coffee, and punch with soursop, papaya, mango, guava, pineapple and banana nectars. Gloria Dei will be collecting donations for Global Mission for the entire month of October! Paula Liesch and Ruthann Russel put the delicious and colorful spread together.



Sara Gyson, wife of Pastor Joshua Gyson of All Saints Lutheran, Lutz, and their daughter Mackenzie, who were at Gloria Dei visiting family, see a display map showing where our companion churches are located

**Grace, Tallahassee** teamed with Pastor Jennifer Kopacz and her mother, PJ May, Chair of the Florida-Bahamas Synod Global Mission Committee – and the Grace Quilt Group – and ended up with a stunning quilted banner with photos highlighting some of the projects of the Synod's Companion Churches and seminary. The photo for Haiti shows a group gathered outside of Faith Lutheran Church in Fond des Negres (where Peace Lutheran Church of Fort Myers replaced the roof this past January). For Suriname, they chose a photo of the recently renovated Martin Luther Kierke in Paramaribou. The yellow school bus marked "Pastors for Peace Friendshipment" used for transporting the FB Synod mission group in Havana in 2015 was chosen for Cuba. Some of Guyana's Lutheran Music Academy students are pictured in the bottom right. Lastly, a photo of one of the buildings at the United Theological College of the West Indies represents our partnership with Jamaica.





**Nativity, Weeki Wachee** invited PJ May to present a program to Adult Forum at 9:45 on Sunday, October 9. She also gave a Temple Talk during worship in traditional outfit of Guyana.

**Miami-Dade Conference** created poster board displays featuring Guyana Suriname and Cuba and presented them at the Miami-Dade Conference Clergy Family picnic at A.D. Barnes Park in Hialeah on Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup>. PJ May, Chair of the global Mission Committee spoke on the Companion Church relationships and fund-raising projects.

