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Being about Community

Several of your leaders met during late summer and early fall for some strategic planning. We agreed that the one thing we can be best in the world at is something we are also deeply passionate about: **community**. We've begun looking at everything we do at PVUMC with an eye toward community, connecting with people in every way they'll permit us. This includes strengthening bonds of community within our church and beyond.

On January 15 we'll begin a four message series on community; I hope you will participate in worship each of those weeks. Before we begin the series, I'll be sharing with you on January 8 three things I want for you (not from you but for you). If you've guessed that community is one of those things, you're on target. As for the other two... I'll see you in church on the 8th!

– Pastor Jeff

OUR MISSION:

- *to know Jesus*
- *to grow disciples*
- *to show love*
- *to go and make disciples of Jesus Christ*



PONTE VEDRA
*United Methodist
Church*

Upcoming Messages

- January 1 **"Since You Have Never Been This Way Before"** (Joshua 3:1-4a)
- January 8 **"What I Want for You; Your Pastor Shares"** (Matthew 2:1-12)
- January 15 **"Women, Dogs, and Other Outcasts"** (Matthew 15:21-28)
- January 22 **"Crowded Loneliness: The Hunger for Community"** (Genesis 2:18)
- January 29 **"What Community Looks Like"** (Acts 2:42-47)
- February 5 **"Creating Environments Where Community Can Happen"** (John 7:20-26)

Missions Corner

Habitat 2006 Apostle Build Project

Our Church has the opportunity to participate in the 2006 Apostle Build project coordinated by the Beaches Habitat for Humanity. The project will unite 12 churches from our community to work together toward a common goal of constructing a home for a local family in need. Each Apostle Church will be responsible for 1/12th (\$3000) of the cost for the home and 1/12th (120 hours) the volunteer labor necessary to construct the home. Construction on the home will begin Saturday, January 28 and continue on Saturdays and Tuesdays until completed on May 13.

The 2006 Apostle Build will begin with a groundbreaking service at noon on Saturday, January 7 at Sunrise Community Church, 298 Aquatic Drive in Atlantic Beach.

Our church will be responsible for Tuesday January 31, 2006 and Saturday, May 6, 2006. Everyone is welcome to participate on any Saturday or Tuesday. Through this project we will serve our Lord and show the love of Christ to a local family.

If you have questions or need additional information please call John McEvoy at 280-4678.

A Word from Wesley

John Wesley wrote a Covenant Service that is often used by British Methodists at the beginning of the new year. Servanthood is emphasized in the invitation, a portion of which is reproduced below. Let us rise to the challenge of renewing our covenant with Christ at the beginning of this new year.

Commit yourselves to Christ as his servants. Give yourselves to him, that you may belong to him. Christ has many services to be done. Some are more easy and honorable, others are more difficult and disgraceful. Some are suitable to our inclinations and interests, others are contrary to both. In some we may please Christ and please ourselves. But then there are other works where we cannot please Christ except by denying ourselves. It is necessary, therefore, that we consider what it means to be a servant of Christ. Let us, therefore, go to Christ, and pray:

Let me be your servant, under your command. I will no longer be my own. I will give up myself to your will in all things.

Be satisfied that Christ shall give you your place and work.

Lord, make me what you will. I put myself fully into your hands: put me to doing, put me to suffering, let me be employed for you, or laid aside for you, let me be full, let me be empty, let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and with a willing heart give it all to your pleasure and disposal.

Christ will be the Savior of none but his servants. He is the source of all salvation to those who obey. Christ will have no servants except by consent; Christ will not accept anything except full consent to all that he requires. Christ will be all in all, or he will be nothing.

From the Campaign Followup Team

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN STATUS

<i>A Journey of Faith</i> goal:	\$1.2 million
Pledged to Date:	\$1,308,921
Received on pledges to date:	\$ 412,963
Building Fund Total Balance:	\$ 511,761

A purchase agreement has been presented to the seller of our #1 property choice. As promised, one of the contingencies of the agreement is congregational approval.

The Trustees are encouraged that we've now been as far as the purchase agreement stage. Even if we don't get a signed agreement on this property, we now have the experience of working with the Northeast Florida district of the church and our real estate attorney lawyer (who is working for us gratis, by the way). Having come this far, we feel we will be able to move quickly to a purchase agreement on any 8 - 10 acre property that comes available.

A former #1 property choice has contacted us. This seller had pulled his property from consideration in October. Once again the seller is entertaining the idea of selling to us; we expect to be in conversation with them.

We named our three year capital campaign, "A Journey of Faith." It continues to be just that. Please continue to pray for God's leadership and provision as our Trustees work toward a purchase.

– Your Followup Director Team: David & Patricia Branham, Jim & Sherry Banks

December 2005 Giving & Attendance

Date	Contemp.	Trad.	General	Capital
12/4	92	98	\$ 15,658	\$ 2,160
12/11	78	112	\$ 6,522	\$ 2,210
12/18	80	129	\$ 11,327	\$ 22,222
12/25		175	\$	\$

Designated Totals
Building Fund
\$ 511,761
Missions (YTD)
\$ 15,017
Enhancement Fund
\$ 4,748

Needed Weekly 2006
\$11,680



News from the Youth...

From '05 to '06...

What a busy year this has been! 2005 is now behind us, and it's filled with so many memories: the YCAM choir tour, Rock the Universe, the Spring Retreat, serving those in need in Atlanta, Katrina relief buckets, student leadership, confirmation classes, Thanksgiving food baskets, the lay-down game, Honey if You Love Me, the Christmas program, VBS week, MySpace, a couple of lock-ins, bowling, and mountains of pizza. 2006 is already shaping up to be just as, if not more, memorable with January alone featuring a lock-in and a ski trip. Throughout the year, we will have gatherings and events, youth group and YCAM, and special trips like the Spring Retreat and Summer Mission Trip.

Through all of this, we come together in the wonder, joy, and grace of God. How incredible that we have not just a God of mercy, forgiveness, and justice, but also a God of joy, of fellowship, and of compassion! Where else can we go and know that Someone greater than ourselves is active and encouraging our action in love and redemption? Sometimes we fail to live up to our humanity and we let one another down, but forgiveness and returning to community is such a vital component of who we are in God. Knowing these things, the Youth Ministry and Youth Creative Arts Ministries invite you to be with us in 2006; to explore scripture, the arts, fellowship, rest, forgiveness, acceptance, and community as a group of students and adults making their way in this world, all the while trying to follow this man named Jesus.

Offering Boxes Ready for Pick up

For your convenience and that of our offering counters, boxed offering envelopes will be available for pick up before and after Sunday services January 1st & 8th.

From a

Grateful Staff...

Thank you, Ponte Vedra UMC, for blessing us with a generous Christmas gift. You are always quick to share words of encouragement; now comes this gift on top of it. You are indeed a generous people; we count it a privilege to serve Christ through serving you.

- Your pastor, staff & musicians



2006

Flower Calendar

The 2006 flower calendar may be found on the back wall of the sanctuary, to the left of the double doors. If you wish to provide the flowers some Sunday in celebration of a loved one or anniversary, or simply to give glory to God, sign up and leave your check for \$35 in the envelope provided. (One arrangement per Sunday, please.)

Interested in Joining PVUMC?

Pastor Jeff will be offering a new member orientation on Sunday, January 22 from 4 - 6pm. It will be a great opportunity to learn more about our church and meet some other people along the way. There's no obligation to join, but the orientation is required for membership. Let the office know you're coming (280-5141); childcare available upon request.



On A Musical Note

The Children's and Youth
Creative Arts Ministry

Children's & Cherubs Choir News

Choir rehearsal for the Cherubs and Children's Choirs will resume on Wednesday, January 10 at 5:45 p.m. We'll begin working on new music so now is a great time to join us if you haven't sung with us before. We look forward to seeing each of you and hope you've had a Merry Christmas. Call Jill Bennett at 285-2134 if you have any questions.

Welcome, Scott Tinsley to the Staff

We welcome **Scott Tinsley** as our part-time *Minister of Music - Contemporary*. Scott leads the Praise Choir and the Praise Band for which he continues to play guitar. Scott is instrumental in helping to shape worship at our 9:00 contemporary service.

Scott has been playing professionally since 1979 and has taught private lessons in guitar, violin, piano and bass guitar for 25 years. Scott is married to Laneya and together they have six wonderful children, Bill (22), Britni (18), Kelsey (18), Kagen (15), Cameron (13) and Ryan (11). Scott answered God's call to serve in music ministry in 2000. He has served through playing rhythm, lead and acoustic guitars in the Praise Band of Ponte Vedra UMC for over four years.

Scott can be reached through the church office (280-5141) or by e-mail, scott.tinsley@pv-umc.org.

Cherubs Choir

Ages 3&4

Wednesdays 5:45-6:45pm

Preschool Room

Children's Choir

Grades K-5

Wednesdays 5:45-6:45pm

YCAM

Grades 6-12

Wednesdays 5:45-8:00pm

Praise Choir

Tuesdays 6:30-7:30pm

Traditional Choir

Thursdays 7:00-8:30pm

In Hebrews 10: 23-25 God's word says , "Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another-and all the more as you see the day approaching."

Welcome, Diane Wright to the Staff

We welcome **Diane Wright** as our part-time *Minister of Music - Traditional*. Diane directs our Traditional Choir, leads congregational hymn singing, and helps to shape worship at our 11:15 traditional service.

Diane has 15 years of experience directing choirs and is in her third season singing with the Jacksonville Symphony Chorus. She received the degree of Bachelor of Music from Cornell College of Mt. Vernon, Iowa. Diane earned her MBA at UNF and works as member service center manager at the Mayport branch of Navy Federal Credit Union. Diane and her husband Tom of 35 years have two adult children, Jennifer and Christopher, and granddaughter Lauren (5). Diane and Tom joined Ponte Vedra United Methodist Church in 2004.

Diane can be reached through the church office (280-5141) or by e-mail, diane.wright@pv-umc.org.

A Note From Pastor Jeff.

Joe Boehner and **Ben Hancock** have inspired me. A couple of times this Christmas season these two youth have shared their trumpet music with our church. I pulled my French Horn down from the top shelf of the closet, sent it off for repair (thank you, **Scott Tinsley**, for lining me up with a good shop) and now I'm practicing. Back in high school I was pretty good but that was a long time ago. I can play for all of 8 minutes now. My goal? To play in church. If indeed, *worship is the work of the people* then I ought to contribute my modest gift to the work. Maybe I can inspire you to do the same.

As the front page article says, our church is focusing on community. We'll be looking at everything we do as a church and asking, How can we increase the sense of community through this effort? Surely the church at worship is a prime opportunity to be in community with each other. I've seen how warmly our various choirs have been received at each worship service... There's already much to celebrate in the way of community at the 9 o'clock and 11:15 hours. It's going to be a great 2006 for PVUMC!

Glad to be in community with you,
Pastor Jeff



PONTE VEDRA
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CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	Jeff Bennett
Youth Minister	Adam Myers
Admin. Assistant	Deb Dickerson
Music Contemporary	Scott Tinsley
Music Traditional	Diane Wright
Childcare Director	Lynne Tyndall
Custodian	Tony Vicent