

THE WAVE



VOLUME 5, ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2006

December Highlights

Prepare for the coming of the Christ this month by partaking of and participating in our many special opportunities to bless and be blessed.

December 10 9:30am Christmas Cantata

11:00am Christmas Cantata

Our Traditional, Praise, Youth and Children's Choirs come together December 10 to bless God and those seeking the Christ of Christmas with *I Have Seen the Light: The Search for Christmas*. Experience the warmth and grandeur of songs familiar and new as we realize that in Christ, God has been seeking us.

December 13 5:45pm Children's Choir Party

The Children's Choir invites you to join them for their Wednesday night Christmas party. Share in snacks, singing and the joy of our children.

December 24 10:00am Lessons and Carols

This traditional service, focusing on the prophets, brings Scripture and song together in a beautiful telling of the Christmas story.

December 24 5:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

7:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

We'll gather together with many friends and guests from the community to worship on the eve of our Savior's birth.

Property Under Contract

Church Conference to Be Held December 3

See *Campaign Followup* on page 3

Upcoming Messages

December 3 "Good News, Bad News... Good News" (Luke 21:25-36)

December 17 "The Castaway's Hope" (Philippians 4:4-7, Zephaniah 3:14-20)

December 24 5pm, 7pm "Unto Us, A Child" (Luke 1:39-55)

December 31 *Adam Myers speaking*

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OUR MISSION:

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



PONTE VEDRA
United Methodist Church

Missions Corner

The Giving Tree



Thanks to you who have already taken a Publix gift card from *The Giving Tree* to benefit those served by B.E.A.M. (Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry). When you've had Publix "charge up" the gift card in an amount of \$15, \$20 or \$25 please place it in the offering plate the following Sunday. We'll get the cards to BEAM where staffers will distribute them to those in need of diapers, formula and food items not available in the BEAM pantry.

If you didn't get a card from the tree and you'd like to participate, any Publix will sell you a card that you can give to BEAM through the church. (Please don't put more than \$25 on the card; a gift of multiple cards is preferred.)

A special thank you to **Rick, Sherrill, Andrew and Callie Brown** and **Jill and Abby Bennett** who volunteered their time to make this project a success.

An Operation Christmas Child Thank You

Many thanks to you who prepared shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. 93 boxes have gone out from our church to children all over the world. Thanks too to **Dean and Judee DeWall** for checking through and transporting the boxes.



A Word from Wesley

At Christmastime many recognize in themselves the need for emotional healing. John Wesley once penned these words of assurance.

But our comfort is, He that made the heart can heal the heart. —*Jackson XIII, 125.*

"A Journey of Faith" Followup

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN STATUS

A Journey of Faith goal: \$1.2 million
 Pledged to Date: \$ 1,311,921
 Received on pledges to date: \$ 654,934
 Building Fund Total Balance: \$ *822,733
 *includes \$50,000 deposit on land

After over two years of praying, searching and working for a site upon which to build, we now have a piece of property under contract. This beautiful 5 acre parcel is located at 76 Roscoe Blvd South between Canal Blvd and Landrum Lane. The property includes a small manmade pond but, according to a recent assessment, no appreciable wetlands. The contract price is \$1,275,000. One of the contingencies of the contract is congregational approval. Plan now to attend the church conference scheduled for Sunday, December 3 at noon.

STAFF GIFT

Our pastor, staff and musicians have served us well this year. If you'd like to bless them with a monetary gift at Christmastime designate your gift "Staff gift" and turn it in by December 19 to the office or through the weekly offering.



The church office is open Tuesdays—Fridays from 10am—2pm.



November 2006 Giving & Attendance

Date	Contemp.	Trad.	General	Capital	<u>Designated Totals</u>
11/5	Combined	205	\$ 5,484	\$ 610	Building Fund \$ 822,733
11/12	94	92	\$ 9,371	\$ 560	Missions (YTD) \$ 8,467
11/19	115	93	\$ 8,184	\$ 1,505	Enhancement Fund \$ 3,691
11/26	95	83	\$ 3,946	\$ 10,285	
11/26 eve.	Combined	138			

Needed Weekly 2006
 \$10,346

New Members Received

With glad hearts we received **Will & Lynn Spence** and **Tony & Priscilla Gerardo** into membership last month. Welcome! Pastor Jeff will lead the next orientation for those interested in membership on Sunday, January 21 from 4 to 6pm.

New members **Priscilla and Tony Gerardo** married 25 years ago at Beaches United Methodist Church by Pastor Ben Ryder. Priscilla is a native of Jacksonville and Tony is from New York. They have three sons, Tony III who lives in Colorado, and Michael and William who live locally. They are all married and together have blessed Priscilla and Tony with 6 grandchildren from 3 to 19 years old.

Tony is a retired financial planner from Prudential and his hobbies are tennis, beach walks, travel and reading. Priscilla is retired from Independent Life where she was an administrative assistant in the data processing department. She enjoys reading, traveling, and loves the church. Welcome to Ponte Vedra United Methodist Church, Gerardos!



Spotlight on Volunteers

Do you know who built the sound and light system at Ponte Vedra United Methodist Church? Do you know who sings both bass and tenor with the traditional choir? Do you know who to call when you need a volunteer for just about anything? If you don't have the answer to these questions, then **YOU DON'T KNOW JACK!**

Jack Knopp has been there for Ponte Vedra United Methodist Church since we first opened our doors as South Campus of Beach United Methodist Church. He works quietly behind the scenes in whatever capacity he is needed and never says "no" to an opportunity to serve. Just like the jack in your car that lifts and supports the vehicle, Jack lifts and supports all of us in our walk with the Lord.

Jack is a Financial Advisor with World Financial Group and married his high school sweetheart, Kim 30 years ago. They have three beautiful daughters (ages 26, 19, and 18) and live in Neptune Beach. The next time you see Jack, give him a big hug and thank him for all he does for all of us.



On A Musical Note
The Children's and Youth
Creative Arts Ministry

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

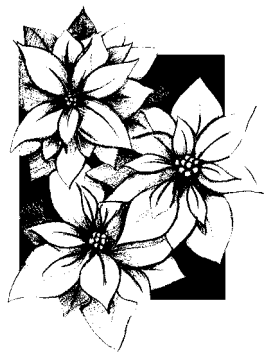
Traditional Choir

Thursdays 7:00-8:00pm



Children's Choir Party

The Children's Choir concludes this season with a Christmas party on Wednesday, December 13 at 5:45. You are welcome to join in the snacks, singing and joy of our children. The Children's Choir will resume meeting on Wednesday, January 10. Children ages 3 through 5th grade are welcome!



Poinsettias

If you would like to have a poinsettia placed in the sanctuary this Christmas season, please complete the form found in the weekly bulletin.

The cost this year is \$7.00 per plant. You may pick up your poinsettia on Christmas Eve Sunday or earlier if you prefer.

According to a Mexican legend, long ago a poor boy was afraid to enter the church on Christmas Eve because he had no gift to bring the baby Jesus. In prayer, the boy told God that he really wanted to bring a gift but could not afford one. When the boy opened his eyes, the plant we call a poinsettia bloomed at his feet. He joyfully brought the plant inside, an act that might relate to the practice in many churches of decking the altar with poinsettias.

Dr. Joel Roberts Poinsett, the American ambassador to Mexico, brought the flower to this country in 1829 and raised it in his greenhouses in Charleston, South Carolina. It was named in his honor in 1836. Mexicans call it the "Flor de la Noche Buena," the Flower of Holy Night because its red bracts (they're not petals) make a shape like the Star of Bethlehem.

A Note From Pastor Jeff.

Jill's more the shopper of the family, but I have a *really* hard time passing up a good deal. At the Ohio Wal-mart near my mom's house, Jill discovered outdoor Christmas lights on sale big time December 30. We'd run short on those same little white lights so we snatched up boxes and boxes of them. My dad had driven instead of flown so we filled up his trunk with lights for transport to Florida. Then up in our attic they went.

The day after Thanksgiving we began decorating for Christmas. We covered the Christmas tree with lights. Outside we loaded two large trees and eight good-sized shrubs. Lights now garnish the fence in the backyard. They're everywhere and I love them. Still we have thousands of lights left. Any more outside and I risk distracting pilots flying overhead. Any more inside and we'll have to slather the kids in sunblock before they can get near the tree.

Sometimes you find yourself with too much Christmas. Too much shopping, too many parties, too much food. Don't be afraid to say no to the excess. It'd be a shame to miss the Christ of Christmas because there's no room in the inn and the manger is filled with returns to be made on the 26th.

Here's my advice: Stick with what draws you close to Christ and what warms the hearts of others; you'll find your own heart warmed too. And if you need any Christmas lights, call me.

– Pastor Jeff



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