

The Wave



VOLUME 5, ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2007

December Highlights

We offer several opportunities to help you prepare for the coming of Christ. May you be blessed and be a blessing during this holy season.

December 9 9:30am *Peace on Earth – A Christmas Musical*

11:00am *Peace on Earth – A Christmas Musical*

“Peace on earth.” “Peace on earth” is the promise of Christmas. We are living in troubled times and our wounded world needs the healing salvation of the Prince of Peace as never before. The combined choirs of YCAM, Praise Choir, and Traditional Choir welcome you to experience this message through music at both services December 9. Every note and word of “Peace on Earth” seeks to offer this message of hope that only the Christ of Christmas can bring:

“Peace I leave with you, Peace I give you. In this world, you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

December 19 3:30pm Christmas Party for children of all ages

5:00pm Youth Caroling; congregation invited

C.I.A. (Children In Action) hosts a Christmas Party for all on Wednesday the 19th at **3:30pm**. Rumor has it that the jolly old elf himself will be present. A great opportunity to introduce a friend young or young-at-heart to our church. Our youth will gather at **5:00pm** to go caroling and they invite you to join them! It all happens at 76 S. Roscoe Blvd.

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 the celebration of our Savior's birth. At Ocean Palms Elementary.

Upcoming Messages

December 2 **Ready or Not** (Matthew 24:36-44)

December 9 ***Peace on Earth – A Christmas Musical*** 9:30, 11:00am

December 16 **Hope for Doubters Like Me** (Matthew 11:2-11)

December 23 **Do Not Be Afraid** (Matthew 1:18-25)

December 24 **For You** (Luke 2:1-20) 5:00, 7:00pm

December 30 **Rock Climbing** (Ps 71:1-3, Ex 17:8-13, 2 Sam 21:10-14)

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OUR MISSION:

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

Finally, beloved,
whatever is true,
whatever is honorable,
whatever is just,
whatever is pure,
whatever is pleasing,
whatever is commendable,
if there is any excellence
and if there is anything
worthy of praise, think about
these things.

Philippians 4:8

Missions Corner

Operation Christmas Child

Many thanks to you who prepared shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. 40 boxes have gone out from our church to children all over the world. Thanks too to **Andy and Rita Andreu** for checking through and transporting the boxes.

The Giving Tree



Last year's giving tree was popular with both our generous church family and with those served by B.E.A.M. (Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry). To participate, take a Publix gift card from *The Giving Tree* and have Publix "charge it up" in an amount of \$15, \$20 or \$25. Place it in the offering plate the following Sunday and we will 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 forget to 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 a single card; a gift of multiple cards is preferable.)

On behalf of our neighbors in need, thank you!

Moving Toward Building at 76 S Roscoe

Notice the white ribbons on our property? All trees greater than 8" diameter along with buildings and other property features have now been mapped to a digital survey in anticipation of site design. Our Building Design Team (John McEvoy - chair, Cooper Agent, Suzanne Joyner, James Pyle, Dotty Rashba) will soon be reviewing conceptualls by Ron Scalisi Architects. Cargill Associates has been retained to prepare us for and walk with us through the spring capital campaign. They will recommend a campaign goal to Finance by the second week of December. We are moving forward!

A Word from Wesley

Whose is it anyway? Once, a distraught man rode his horse up to John Wesley, shouting, "Mr. Wesley, something terrible happened! Your house burned to the ground!" Wesley weighed the news, then calmly replied, "No. The *Lord's* house burned to the ground. That means one less responsibility for me."

"A Journey of Faith" Followup

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN STATUS

<i>A Journey of Faith</i> goal:	\$ 1.2 million
Pledged to Date:	\$ 1,234,570
Received on pledges to date:	\$ 1,169,979
Building Fund Total Balance:	\$ 356,135
Indebtedness:	\$ 300,000

We are presently in the 33rd month of the 36-month capital campaign which ends March 31, 2008. Thank you for your faithful, generous giving to the *Journey of Faith* capital campaign and for your giving in general in support of the ministry of the church.

– Your Followup Director Team: David & Patricia Branham

Money Matters

An occasional column on things financial

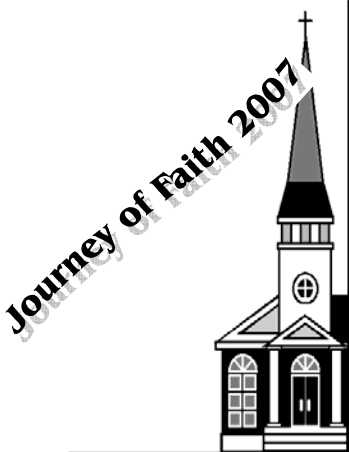
The story is told of John Wesley touring a vast estate with a proud plantation owner. They rode their horses for hours and saw only a fraction of the man's property. At the end of the day they sat down to dinner. The plantation owner eagerly asked, "Well, Mr. Wesley, what do you think?" Wesley replied, "I think you're going to have a hard time leaving all this."

What a good reminder not to become attached to the stuff we have here! You've likely heard it said, "I've never seen a hearse pulling a U-Haul." Jesus put it this way:

¹⁹"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal.

Matthew 6:19-20

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



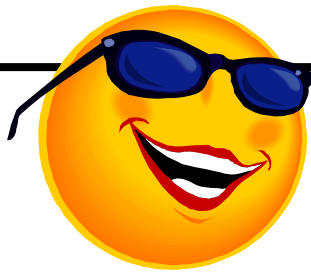
November 2007 Giving & Attendance

Date	Contemp.	Trad.	General	Capital	Designated Totals
11/04	105	90	\$ 15,519	\$ 1,010	Building Fund \$ 356,135
11/11	Combined Service	148	\$ 3,877	\$ 1,075	Missions (YTD) \$ 27,429
11/18	91	61	\$ 4,155	\$ 3,325	Enhancement Fund \$ (4,035)
11/25	71	63	\$ 7,831	\$ 435	
11/25 7pm	Hanging of the Greens	75	\$ 129	\$	

Needed Weekly 2007 - \$11,346



On A Musical Note



Youth News!

C.I.A. Children In Action

Kindergarten through 5th Grade
Wednesdays 3:30-5:00pm

YCAM

Grades 6-12
Wednesdays 6:30-8:00pm

Praise Choir

Tuesdays 6:30-7:30pm

Traditional Choir

Thursdays 7:00-8:00pm

S.H.O,R.E. Hiatus! S.H.O.R.E. is taking a hiatus for the month of December. The group (whose name stands for Students Helping Others Reach Eternity) is made up of youth from H2O who want to take their faith another step further, and another step deeper. Formally known as our “student leaders”, S.H.O.R.E. will, in the new year, be made up of students who are willing to take their faith to their friends and peers, and will be challenged with evangelism and leadership skill building. It is an open group, so everyone is welcome to join us when we reconvene on Sunday, January 6 at 5PM. Hope to see you then!!

“Wii wish you a Merry Christmas” party... Saturday, December 8. Meet at Kelly’s house from 1-5 PM and enjoy snacks, games, Wii, and fun! Directions will be sent out by email!

YCAM goes Caroling! Meet us at 5PM at the church, and we will travel to the homes of church members and friends to share food, music, and the spirit of Christmas together! Open to the entire church!!!!

BUSCH GARDENS TRIP! Monday, January 21. The schools are out, so let’s get together!! This will be an all day event, so make sure you bring money for food. Cost is \$50/person. This IS a change from the published calendar! Money is due by January 6.

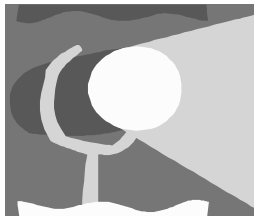
We will NOT have youth group on Sunday, December 30. Spend some time with your families!!!!



Kids Christmas Party



Kids of all ages are invited to join us Wednesday, December 19, at 3:30pm for a fun afternoon as we celebrate the birth of Christ. We’ll have some snacks, games and crafts and Santa himself will make a special appearance. You don’t want to miss out! Plan now to come to the Ministry House at 76 S. Roscoe Blvd. and bring a friend! Call Jill Bennett (285-2134) with any questions.



Spotlight on Volunteers

He can be seen walking alone down Ponte Vedra Lakes Boulevard. You will notice that he's wearing a floppy hat and carries a white cane. If you approach him, you will find that he also carries a smile and a love for interaction. **Orrin Hall** will be the first to tell you to avoid riding with him if he's driving. "Take the bus instead," he would tell you, as macular degeneration has put his vision in an almost total fog. Nevertheless, despite this, our ecumenical friend volunteers through several affiliations.

Orrin has a Masters in Divinity and in English studies and is an ordained United Methodist Minister. He served 20 years as a minister in Hartford, CT, in Talladega, AL, and in the New York City area. For 20 years, he was an English professor in North Dakota, Alabama, and in the Jacksonville area, of which nine years were at Jacksonville University. Through Naval contracts with college professors, he deployed for several years, 10 weeks at a time, traveling around the world. Orrin has been married to his lovely wife, Martha, for 57 years. They have 7 children and 12 grandchildren.

Currently, Orrin volunteers for Baptist Home Healthcare, making phone calls and some house calls to outpatients. He does the same for the homebound and sick through Hart Felt Ministries. Orrin led one of our small Bible study groups, Traveling Tuesdays, for several years.



Children's Ministry Position Filled!

Our Staff Parish Relations Committee is pleased to announce that **Lynn Straughan** is coming on board as our part-time Children's Ministry Coordinator position. Lynn has excellent volunteer experience in the church, PTO and in other settings and is blessed with a positively effervescent personality. Lynn will be planning programming, choosing curriculum, and recruiting and coordinating volunteers to work with children in Kindergarten through 5th Grade. Lynn is married to Matt and they have a daughter Caroline, all of whom we welcome to our church family. Lynn begins January 7.

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 18 to the office or through the weekly offering.

– Staff Parish Relations Committee

Ponte Vedra United Methodist Women

At our December 15 meeting (11am; 76 S. Roscoe Blvd.) we will display the poster used at the Ministry Fair. Included on the poster there is an excerpt from one of the letters we received from a serviceman who was given one of our Operation Shoebox. This is a must read. Thanks to all who have, and continue to, participate in this worthy project. We also plan to display one of the lovely baptismal quilts (which will be boxed in acid free boxes and wrapping paper safe for storage) ready for their new owners.

We will plan for a slate of officers at the December 15 meeting. Please give us your input. Volunteers for serving as officers are welcome!

Treasurer Vera Combs asks for your pledge balances. District requests 2007 up-to-date balances to be forwarded in a timely manner and we need to comply. Thank you for your help! Contact Vera or see her at the December 15 UMW meeting to update your pledge. Thank you!

Bring along a plate of one of your favorite foods, enough to share on December 15, 11am at 76 S. Roscoe Blvd. and bring a friend as well.



CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS TO YOU AND YOURS FROM UMW.

Yoga Classes

For a healthier you, come join our yoga exercise class every Saturday, 4pm at 76 S. Roscoe Blvd. You will need loose fitting clothes, a yoga mat (we have extras) and \$5. Space is limited; please call Jane Ellis (273-0094) to reserve a spot. If you've reserved a spot and are not able to attend please let Jane know so others may participate.



2008 Offering Envelopes

The offering envelopes for 2008 will be available for pickup each Sunday in December on a table at the back of the worship area. Please pick yours up so that we can save on postage.

CAUTION: Some, but not all of you have been assigned new giving number for 2008. Therefore, do not use any old '07 envelopes beginning January 6. Using '07 envelopes could cause your contribution to be posted to the wrong account. If you do not find your envelopes, contact Jim Larsen at the church office (280-5141) or by e-mail (jim.larsen@pv-umc.org).

Ponte Vedra United Methodist Church Financial Plan 2008

	<u>2007 Plan</u>	<u>2007 Projected</u>	<u>2008 Plan</u>
Missions	59,000	16,695	25,000
Payroll & Benefits*	247,450	237,281	261,400
Administration	16,000	14,874	14,800
Programs (including advertising)	44,200	34,870	45,800
Computer Replacements			8,200
Worship, Office, Storage Facilities			
Rent	156,000	148,151	46,300
Utilities, Maint, Ins, Relocation, etc.	24,000	31,284	35,500
Building Fund			50,000
Parsonage	<u>37,000</u>	<u>34,603</u>	<u>37,200</u>
Total	583,650	517,758	524,200

Details available upon request

In addition to the offering at right, I/we will make a special effort to grow through:

- weekly worship
- regular Bible study
- daily prayer
- serving others
- reaching others for Christ

Thank you for returning this card by mail or in the offering plate. It is one way of serving Christ through our church. Your giving estimate can be changed at any time. Our operating year ends December 31, 2008. If you have a question, please call the Church Office at 280-5141.



I seek to honor Christ in every aspect of my life. In gratitude for the blessings of life and to sustain and advance God's work, I/we will provide an offering of \$_____per_____ in 2008.

"Where your treasure is, your heart will be also" Matt. 6:21

Name (printed)

Phone

PLEDGE CARD 2008

*A Note From
Pastor Jeff.*

I love hearing stories about you around town. One of our youth, Austin Patneau, is working toward Eagle Scout. To help fund his Eagle Scout project Austin held some carwashes which we helped publicize. I had my car washed on the final day and learned that several of you had stopped by Prosperity Bank to have Austin and his fellow scouts wash your cars. I love that! It says that you care and, because you are part of the church, it says that Christ cares. Well done!

I also love hearing you talk about your church. Some of our members volunteer at The Players Community Senior Center; their fine new facility is just down Landrum Lane from our school. I've been a couple of times to eat with and meet the participants, volunteers and staff. It is such a joy to hear our people talking up our church and inviting unconnected people to be their guest in worship.

Truly Christ is still being born into our world through you, the body of Christ. Through you, the people living in darkness are seeing a great light, the light of Christ. Keep up the good work and the good words. You are tremendous witnesses to the good news of Jesus Christ!

– Pastor Jeff



PONTE VEDRA
*United Methodist
Church*

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CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	Jeff Bennett
Youth Minister	Kelly Minter
Admin. Assistant	Susan Bowler
Accountant	Jim Larsen
Music Contemporary	Scott Tinsley
Music Traditional	Diane Wright
Nursery Coordinator	Kim Knopp

Staff Email:

firstname.lastname@pv-umc.org