

THE WAVE



VOLUME 6, ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2008

December Highlights

We're offering several opportunities to help you prepare for the coming of Christ. May you be blessed and be a blessing during this Advent season.

December 7 9:30am *Child of Peace*
11:00am *Child of Peace*

This celebration of the birth of the Prince of Peace addresses anew all aspects of the Christmas story. The narration is a mixture of scripture and introspective reflections on the Christmas season that will guide us to examine our own hearts and lives, urging us to respond to Christ's offer of peace. The combined choirs of YCAM, Praise Choir, and Traditional Choir welcome you to experience this message through music at both services December 7.

December 17 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 17th at **3:30pm**. An invitation has been sent to the North Pole; watch the bulletin for confirmation that the jolly old elf himself will be present. This is a great opportunity to introduce a friend young or young-at-heart to our church. Palm Valley Community Center, 148 Canal Blvd, Ponte Vedra Beach.

That same day our youth will gather at **5:00pm** to go **caroling** and they invite you to join them! Carpool from the office, 56 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

November 30 "The Last Lecture of Jesus Christ" (Mark 13:24-37)

December 7 "Child of Peace" *Combined Choirs* 9:30, 11:00am

December 14 "Human Billboard" (Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11)

December 21 "The Real Jesus. Accept No Substitutes." (Luke 1:26-38)

December 28 "Clock Wise" (Psalm 39)

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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

Thanks be to
God for His inde-
scribable gift!
2 Corin-



Missions Corner

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!

Operation Christmas Child

Many thanks to you who prepared shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. 42 boxes have gone out from our church to children all over the world. Thanks too to Rita and Andy Andreu for transporting the boxes.

Ministry Fair Thank You

Our thanks to all who prepared and/or manned a display highlighting one of our many opportunities to serve God in the church and beyond. There were 20 displays! Special thanks to Sherrill Brown for organizing us.

Hanging of the Greens



Joy, joy, joy, joy, joy. On **Sunday, November 30** we'll gather at **7:00pm** at Ocean Palms Elementary to decorate our worship space and sing the songs of the season during our festive "Hanging of the Greens" service. Bring some cookies, snacks or other finger food to share following the service if you like.

Got kids? Come early (5:30) to enjoy Christmas crafts with them.

A Word from Wesley

But let your eye be single; aim still at one thing – holy, loving faith, giving God the whole heart.

– Jackson XII, 297.

Church Wide Mission Blitz

This December the youth ministry will be hosting a **mission blitz** for our church and community. **Sunday, December 21** (12:00pm - 7:00pm) and **Monday, December 22** (9:30am - 6:00pm) you are invited to join your church family and friends as we split up into mission teams and go into our community. Some of the mission projects we will be involved in are yard clean up, sorting clothes, food serving, and homeless outreach. If you are not able to participate in the mission projects we are also looking for people who can bring and serve lunch or dinner on Sunday, or a bagged lunch for Monday afternoon. If you are able to help in one of these areas call **Kelly Minter** (407-694-2167) or email kelly.minter@pv-umc.org.

United Methodist Women

The January 2009 meeting will be held on **Saturday, January 17** at 10:00am at the home of Vera Combs, 146 North Roscoe Blvd. You may call 285-2854 for more information.

10 Unique Christmas Gifts

- | | |
|---|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor a welcome basket for a child | \$25 |
| Feed one Child: | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Per day | \$12.75 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Per week | \$89.25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Per month | \$382.50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Per year | \$4641 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor a birthday party for a child | \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fund after-school tutoring for a child | \$75 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor a field trip for the children in one cottage | \$500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Extra-curricular school activities | \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor an Easter outfit for a child | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Train a new Foster Care Parent | \$1,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Repair/maintain Ropes Course | \$3,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Share in providing a new cottage | \$1,000 |

Make your check out to PVUMC and designate it "Children's Home"; we'll get your order in.



Campaign Followup

We are now eight months into our 36-month capital campaign and have so many things to thank God for.

We enjoyed a beautiful groundbreaking service on November 9. We could not have ordered better weather and the turnout was wonderful. It was the perfect end to a wonderful Celebration Sunday worship service and meal.

The appraisal of land and building should be complete by the time you read this. We expect a closing date for our construction loan also to have been set. The contractor will begin scheduling work at the site as soon as the date is set.

The move of the offices from the ministry house at 76 S. Roscoe took place November 3. Each of the ministries hosted there has been relocated. The house is now nearly empty. Happily, much has been removed from the property and is being reused in other places.

Thank you praying for and giving in support of this ambitious project.

– Your Followup Director Team: Jim Wynn, Dave & Patricia Branham

It's As Easy As 1-2-3!

We all know the saying “Seek and ye shall find.” Try this, see if you can find 45 minutes each month to serve the Lord through His church right here at Ponte Vedra UMC.

We are in need of volunteers to count the offerings after the second service. Duties include just counting (no accounting skills necessary) and preparing the bank deposit. Adding machine skill is a plus but by no means necessary.

This service takes about 45 minutes for one Sunday each month. Once during the year each team is asked to take a 5th Sunday when they occur. Please contact John Tilley (280-9549) or Jim Larsen (280-5141).

2009 Offering Envelopes

The 2009 offering envelopes will be available for pickup each Sunday in December on a table at the back of the worship area. Please pick them up so no funds will have to be used to mail them.

Some, but not all of you, have been assigned new giving numbers for 2009. If your envelope box has a green dot on it that indicates you have a new number. As of Sunday, January 4 please do not use any old 2008 envelopes as doing so could cause your contribution to be posted to the wrong account.

As a cost saving measure not everyone has been assigned a box of envelopes for next year. Many of you mail us your offerings while others elect not to use the envelopes at all. If you were not assigned an envelope box but would like to use them please call the church accountant, Jim Larsen 280-5141.

Financial Status

Building on Faith Recap

Campaign goal	\$ 1.3 million
Pledged to date	\$1,529,434
Pledges received to date (28%)	\$ 432,617
Non-pledges received to date	\$ 52,944
General budget receipts	\$ 33,332
Interest income	\$ 3,961
Total received to date	\$ 522,854

General Fund Recap October 2008

Tithes & Offerings	\$ 31,680
Expenses + Mortgage	\$ 31,030
Net income/(deficit)	(\$650)

Building Fund Recap As of November 23, 2008

Income	\$ 19,739
Expenditures	\$ 0
Balance	\$ 365,040

November 2008 Giving & Attendance

Date	Contemp. Attendance	Traditional Attendance	General Fund Giving	Capital Fund Giving	Other Giving
11/2	105	82	\$ 13,546	\$ 2,621	\$ 730
11/9		212	\$ 5,656	\$ 11,538	\$ 41
Combined Service					
11/16	85	92	\$ 13,679	\$ 1,140	\$ 1,269
11/23	103	91	\$ 8,224	\$ 4,440	\$ 1,197

Designated Totals

Building Fund	\$ 365,040
Enhancement Fund	\$ 966
Memorials	\$ 5,678

Needed Weekly 2008 General Fund	\$ 10,100
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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 16 to the office or through the weekly offering.

– Staff Parish Relations Committee

The church office is open Tuesday — Friday from 10am—2pm.



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

C.I.A. Children In Action

Kindergarten through 5th Grade
Wednesdays 3:30-5:00pm
Palm Valley Community Center
148 Canal Blvd.

YCAM

Grades 6-12
Wednesdays 6:00-8:00pm
Palm Valley Community Center

Praise Choir

Tuesdays 6:30-7:30pm
Palm Valley Community Center

Traditional Choir

Thursdays 7:00-8:00pm
Palm Valley Community Center

C.I.A. (Children In Action)



Wednesday, December 10 C.I.A. will go Christmas caroling. We will meet at the Palm Valley Community Center, 148 Canal Blvd. at 3:30pm. For more information call **Lynn Straughan** at 904-806-4508.



Wednesday, December 17 we will celebrate our annual C.I.A. Christmas party at the Palm Valley Community Center from 3:30pm - 5:00pm. This is a wonderful time for children of all ages - don't miss out! Call **Lynn Straughan** for the details.

C.I.A. Kids Outreach/Mission Work

The Kids of C.I.A. have been busy! During November we were able to fill two Thanksgiving baskets for two families at the Betty Griffin House in St. Augustine. We also made Christmas cards for our troops overseas. Our next project will be to fill backpacks for foster children who will be visiting their parents at Kids Bridge. We will also go to the center and plant flowers.

On-Going Events For Children

Sunday - 3 & 4 year old Sunday school at 9:45am, immediately following Children's Time.

Sunday - Kingdom Kids - for youngsters in Kindergarten through 5th grade, meets during both the 9:30am and 11:00am worship services.

Wednesday - C.I.A. (Children In Action) 3:30 - 5:00pm at the Ponte Vedra Community Center, 148 Canal Blvd.

Children's Programs

We are growing and want you to be a part of it. Please call **Lynn Straughan** (904-806-4508) to learn how you can serve our children.



Round of Applause

1. For Kari and Tyler Davidson, who won the bowling tournament during the middle school destination unknown event.
2. For Ron Schaffield who packed the books in Kelly's office before the move.
3. Tucker Holland and Dori Schaffield, as they join our counselor team.

Upcoming Events:

New location!!!! Our Sunday evening youth group is now meeting at the senior center at 175 Landrum Lane. Same time (5:30-8pm) but a new place!

Wii wish you a merry Christmas, Saturday December 13. We will hold our annual Christmas and Wii party at Kelly's house from 1pm-5pm. Mark your calendars!

Church mission blitz, December 21-22. The youth are sponsoring a church wide, two day mini mission trip. Sunday, and Monday will have multiple mission opportunities. Morning and evening options are available for those with complicated schedules, lunch together, and worship together to end the day. Sign up for the event will begin on Sunday, November 30 after both worship services. Sign up for Sunday or for Monday morning, Monday afternoon, or the whole weekend! Some of the projects we will be working on include clothes sorting, yard clean up, light home repair, homeless ministry, food sorting, and food serving. Contact Kelly Minter for more details or if you have questions! kelly.minter@pv-umc.org

Busch Gardens Trip, Saturday, January 17. We will meet early in the morning and spend the day in Tampa. The trip will cost \$60/person, as long as we get the 15

PLEDGE CARD 2009



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 2009.

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

Name (printed)

Phone

In addition to the offering above, 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, 2009. If you have a question, please call the church office at 280-5141.

A Note From Pastor Jeff:

Hard to believe it's December again. Where has the year gone? Bit by bit I've spent it, invested it or wasted it. And now it's December again. If you're less than pleased about the year then December is the month for you. December means Advent and Advent is a great opportunity for what we as kids called a *do over*. Advent is another shot at getting ready for something. Getting ready for the coming of Christ; getting ready for the coming again of Christ. While you may have regrets about the past, for every one of us the future lies ahead; it is a time for which we can still prepare.

I'm eager to get ready. I don't want any of us to miss a thing God has for us. Who knows what holy moments await us? The voice of John the baptizer echoes still: Prepare the way of the Lord!



PONTE VEDRA *United Methodist Church*

76 S. Roscoe Blvd.
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082

Phone: 904-280-5141
Fax: 904-280-0599
www.pv-umc.org

CHURCH STAFF

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

StaffEmail:

firstname.lastname@pv-umc.org