

# THE WAVE



VOLUME 7, ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2009

## Joy, Joy, Joy



In a time of year often marked by commercialism and bustle, our combined choirs bring us the musical *Joy, Joy, Joy* to break through the busyness of the holiday season and proclaim the joy of worshiping our Savior.

Majestic, engaging and tender, *Joy, Joy, Joy* thoughtfully celebrates the joy of “the most wonderful time of the year,” the joy of the first Christmas, and the continuing joy that is found only through Jesus. The entire congregation is involved in a soaring praise finale, combining *Joy to the World*, *Joy, Joy, Joy* and a new Christmas version of *Ode to Joy*.

Musically rich and layered with meaning, *Joy, Joy, Joy* features stirring vocal arrangements, elegant orchestrations and an eternal message that will uplift and inspire us on **Sunday, December 13 at 9:30 and 11:00** and in our new building. Invite a friend!

## Moving In on December 13

We anticipate our first Sunday at 76 S Roscoe Blvd to be December 13. This is not a “grand opening” like you find written up in newspapers. Restaurants often have a soft opening so workers can get used to the new facility; that’s what the 13<sup>th</sup> will be for us. That said, if you’ve got a friend you think our Christmas musical that day will bless, by all means invite them! On the 13<sup>th</sup> they’ll enjoy the new building and more importantly, hear the good news of Jesus Christ offered in song by our wonderful choirs.

## Christmas Eve

We’ll worship at 5:00 and 7:00pm on Christmas Eve with candlelight at each hour.

## Upcoming Messages

November 29 **Navigating the Season** (Psalm 25:1-10)

December 6 **Getting Back in Touch with Christmas** (Luke 3:1-6)

December 13 **Joy, Joy, Joy Combined Choirs at 9:30, 11:00**

December 20 **Singing Mary’s Song: “Let It Be With Me According to Your Word”** (Luke 1:46b)

December 24 **Let Us Go Now and See This Thing** (Luke 2:1-20)

*Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 5:00, 7:00*

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### OUR MISSION:

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



PONTE VEDRA  
United Methodist  
Church



*Glory to God in the highest  
and on earth peace among  
those he favors! Luke 2:14*

## Missions Corner

### Operation Christmas Child

Many thanks to you who prepared shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. 66 boxes have gone out from our church to children all over the world. Thanks too to **Rita and Andy Andreu** for transporting the boxes.

### B.E.A.M. Food Drive

We had a very successful food drive at Ponte Vedra UMC. The members of our church provided **60 bags of groceries** to B.E.A.M. Thanks, **Vance LeClair** for your leadership in this very important ministry.

### Spreading the Cheer with Poinsettias



Our church purchased **55 poinsettias** to benefit Hart Felt Ministries. Thank you for helping the frail elderly clients of Hart Felt Ministries to “age in place.” Many thanks to **Loree Reed** and **Bette McEvoy** for their leadership with Hart Felt.

### 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 preferred.)

### Make a Change With Your Change



Beginning in the new year, all loose coins placed in the Sunday collection plate will go to our Cuba sister church mission ministry.

“*Change for Cuba*” is an opportunity for us to clean out our pockets and pocket-books weekly and put those pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters to great use in God's kingdom. (Remember that the average monthly wage in Cuba is \$15).

Our La Sierra small group will count the change and use it for food, medicine, supplies, travel and other support for our brothers and sisters at La Sierra Methodist Church in Cuba. A trip to deliver needed items is in the works for February. -- **George & Loree Reed**

## *Scouting Comes to Ponte Vedra UMC*

Ponte Vedra United Methodist Church is in the process of chartering **Scout Troop 288**. Troop 288 was formerly chartered by Lord of Life Lutheran Church and has been meeting at Ponte Vedra Presbyterian Church. PVUMC member **Zack Murta** is a member of the troop and former PVUMC youth member **Austin Patneau, Jr.** (now graduated from high school) attained the rank of Eagle Scout through Troop 288. The troop will meet at PVUMC on Monday evenings beginning January 4.

We anticipate becoming the chartering organization for **Cub Scout Pack 291**. Pack 291 is presently chartered by and meeting at Ponte Vedra Presbyterian Church. The pack will meet at PVUMC on Tuesday evenings beginning January 5. At the end of the school year the pack will consider moving their meetings to Mondays just prior to the troop meeting to help the establish a more straightforward transition for cubs to move into the troop.

PVUMC member **Tom Murta** has agreed to be the Charter Organization Representative to both units. Thank you, Tom!

We are delighted to serve our community through scouting and seek to connect with scouting families that don't have a church home.

## *United Methodist Women*

Our next meeting will be **10:00am, Saturday, January 9** in our beautiful new church facility. All ladies of the church are cordially invited to share this time in fellowship as we begin the new year! Christmas blessings to all; may we rejoice in the promise of the beautiful Christmas story.

## *Ponte Vedra UMC Blood Drive - January 31*



The next Ponte Vedra UMC blood drive is scheduled for **Sunday, January 31**. As of now, you can still go to a local blood center and donate as long as you do it before December 5. If you donate after that date you will be unable to support the PVUMC blood drive. Contact **Don Carson**, 280-2893, [don.carson@pv-umc.org](mailto:don.carson@pv-umc.org), for details.

## *A Word from Wesley*

The founder of Methodism, John Wesley, valued reason, the Christian tradition passed down through the ages, and experience of the faith. And above these he valued the Bible. Wesley wrote,

I want to know one thing, the way to heaven – how to land safe on that happy shore. God himself has condescended to teach the way: for this very end he came from heaven. He hath written it down in a book. O give me that book!

*Works I, 105.*

## Ponte Vedra United Methodist Church Organizational Structure

The e-mail address of each leader and staff member is [firstname.lastname@pv-umc.org](mailto:firstname.lastname@pv-umc.org)

The **Council on Ministries** enables and encourages various ministries to work in concert to fulfill the mission of the church.

**Don Carson** (Chair) '11  
**Cecily Browning** (Lay Leader) '11  
**Jill Bennett** (Children)  
**Georgia de Roziere, Phyllis Monie**  
 (Hospitality)  
**Kelly Minter** (Youth)  
**Dotty Rashba** (Small Groups)  
**Loree Reed, Dixie Thalmeuller**  
 (Worship)  
**Lynn Straughan** (Children)  
**Sheryl Strickland** (Missions)  
**Dixie Thalmueller, Sue Morris**  
 (Shepherding)  
**Jeff Bennett** (Pastor)

The **Committee on Finance** provides financial direction, an annual funding program, program budget, and financial reports.

**Ralph Snyder** (Chair/Trustee Rep) '10  
**Don Carson** (COM Rep) '11  
**Cecily Browning** (Lay Leader) '11  
**Carol Harding** (SPRC Rep) '12  
**Jeff Bennett** (Pastor)  
**June Koch**  
 (Treasurer/non-voting)  
**Gloria Myers**  
 (Financial Secretary/non-voting)  
**Jim Larsen** (Church Accountant/non-voting)

The **Staff Parish Relations Committee** guides, teaches, monitors, attends to conflict and organizes celebration of ministry of pastor, staff.

**Carol Harding** (Chair) '10  
**Cecily Browning** (Lay Leader) '11  
**Tom Murta** '11  
**Rick Williamson** '12  
**Susan Gelb** '12

The **Committee on Lay Leadership** selects and recruits people with appropriate gifts to lead the church.

**Jeff Bennett** (Pastor, Chair)  
**Lisa Hancock** '10  
**Cecily Browning** (Lay Leader) '11  
**Dod Schroter** '11  
**Jim Wynn** '12

The **Board of Trustees** keeps an inventory of property, maintains equipment and facilities and plans future capital needs.

**Max Stanley** '10  
**Ralph Snyder** (Finance Chair) '10  
**Don Carson** (COM Chair) '11  
**John McEvoy** '11  
**Phil de Roziere** '12  
**Loree Reed** '12  
**Jeff Bennett** (Pastor)

# Financial Status

## Building on Faith Recap

Project Cost	\$ 3.8 million
Campaign goal	\$ 1.3 million
Pledged to date (96 pledges)	\$ 1,534,634
Pledges received to date (60%)	\$ 926,798
Non-pledges received to date	\$ 106,686
General budget receipts	\$ 33,332
Interest income	\$ 4,417
Total received to date	\$ 1,71,233

## General Fund Recap October 2009

Tithes & Offerings	\$ 30,949
Expenses	\$ 30,054
Mortgage	\$ 1,709
Net Income/(Deficit)	\$ (807)

## Building Fund Recap as of November 23, 2009

Income	\$ 27,296
Loan Draws	\$ 320,949
Expenditures	\$ 373,916
Balance	\$ 283,050

## November 2009 Giving & Attendance

Date	Contemp. Attendance	Traditional Attendance	General Fund Giving	Capital Fund Giving	Other Giving
11/1	103	85	\$ 18,524	\$ 21,584	\$ 128
11/8	78	77	\$ 11,133	\$ 2,260	\$ 110
11/15 Combined	190		\$ 3,907	\$ 932	\$ 19
11/22	85	83	\$ 5,418	\$ 2,520	\$ 35

## Designated Totals

Building Fund	\$ 283,050
Enhancement Fund	\$ 594
Memorials	\$ 8,780
General Fund	
Needed Weekly 2009	\$ 9,600



## Campaign Followup

At 20 months into our 36-month *Building on Faith* capital campaign, we have received 60% of funds pledged. Well done, church!

The building is receiving finishing touches and will undergo multiple inspections the week of November 30 in order to gain a Certificate of Occupancy by December 4. Some of these inspections are challenging to pass; please be praying that the process is straightforward and that repeat inspections are unnecessary.

Thanks so much to you have given and are giving, both to the building fund and to the general fund for our week to week operations and missions giving. Thanks too to those of you who are giving to *Furnishing our Facility*. This is a collection of items to be purchased for the building that people may choose to underwrite. You, along with a few friends of our church have given or promised over \$69,000 through this effort. See the current status online at [www.pv-umc.org](http://www.pv-umc.org). And to those of you who have come out to 76 to pray on Saturday morning, your prayers are powerful and effective. God bless you!

Please remember in your prayers our general contractor E.C. Kenyon, also Ronald Scalisi Architects and the subcontractors on the site. May God give them wisdom and keep them safe as they build.

Thank you for your prayers and your financial support of this ambitious project.

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



## Round Of Applause



- 👍 For Paul Johnson, Tucker Holland, Ashley Sabol, Dori Schafffield, and Chelsea for their leadership in our gender retreats!
- 👍 For the Richardsons, for letting our boys use their property, fire pit, and dirt mound for a fantastic guys' overnight!
- 👍 For the Joyners, for letting the girls use their beautiful condo for a relaxing girls' night!

## Upcoming Events

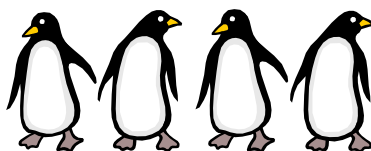
**Wii Wish you a merry Christmas party** Saturday, December 12, 1:00 -5:00pm at Kelly's house! Directions and address will be emailed closer to the date. If you have a wii, bring it, if not; bring yourself !

**Christmas Caroling and Fast food progressive dinner** Wednesday, December 16. Meeting at 5:00p.m., we will go Christmas caroling to some of our church friends' homes, and then we will have our annual fast food progressive dinner! Bring \$10 for your food.

**Mission Blitz and lock-in** December 20-22. Beginning right after church on Sunday, December 20 we will gather together for our second annual Mission Blitz. We will have lunch together, and go out to various mission sites for the afternoon. We will come back for dinner and worship, and those who wish to will spend the night at the church. On Monday morning our overnights will join with our day folks, we will split into groups, and head out to work at mission sites for the day, gathering again in the evening for dinner and worship, and repeating the process on Tuesday. See the mission blitz flyer elsewhere in *The Wave* for more details on how to be involved!

**No Youth Group (H2O)** December 27<sup>th</sup>. Take some time with your family, or volunteer in our community!

**YOUTH CULTURE 101** Sunday January 24, 6:00 - 8:00pm. Do you have a teenager? Do you want to understand them better? Or do you ever wonder just what is up with young people today? Are you interested to know why teens do what they do, and how to better mentor and build relationships with them? Whether you are a parent of a teen or not, you should come to this event! Childcare and snacks will be provided; you will have an evening of insight into the lives, hearts, and minds of today's teens. Evening programming will be by youth minister Kelly Minter and the youth of PVUMC.





### On A Musical Note

#### **C.I.A. Children In Action**

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

#### **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 7:00-8:30pm  
Palm Valley Community Center

## Children's Corner

### Kingdom Kids -

Our Sunday School program for children in kindergarten through fifth grade meets each Sunday during both the 9:30 and 11:00a.m. worship service. We continue to grow in number and are currently looking for volunteers to join our team. What a wonderful way to get to know the young people in our church. We are looking for volunteers to serve one Sunday a month. Please contact **Lynn Straughan** at [lynn.straughan@pv-umc.org](mailto:lynn.straughan@pv-umc.org) or 904-806-4508 for more information.



**C.I.A. (Children In Action)** - This wonderful program meets each Wednesday from 3:30 - 5:00p.m. at the Ponte Vedra Community Center (until we move into our new church facility). Our CIA kids have been busy. We are in the process of gathering food for our Thanksgiving Basket for the Betty Griffin House in St. Augustine.

## 3 & 4 Year Old Sunday School Program

Meets following the 9:30a.m. Children's Time each Sunday. This is a great program and we want it to expand. We are looking for volunteers. Interested? Please call **Lynn Straughan** at [lynn.straughan@pv-umc.org](mailto:lynn.straughan@pv-umc.org) or 904-806-4508 for more information.

## Save the Date!

Monday afternoon, **December 21** everyone is invited to attend a Mission Blitz **Christmas Party with Santa!** We will play games, do crafts and have a meal, all to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

## 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 15 to the office or through the weekly offering.

-- Staff Parish Relations Committee

## *Five Things to Do to Make Our Guests Feel Welcome And Three Not to Do*

### **Do**

- 1) Say, "Good Morning. I haven't met you before. My name is..."
- 2) Say, "I'm so glad you chose to worship with us this morning."
- 3) Ask questions like, "Is this your first time worshipping with us?" "Do you live in the area?"  
"Have you lived there long?"
- 4) Offer to introduce them to someone you see whom you know lives near them.
- 5) Say, "If you have a moment I would like to introduce you to our pastor."

### **Don't**

- 1) Don't speak to others or look bored while our guest is speaking. We are delighted to have them with us! Be attentive.
- 2) Don't pass on any negatives you might have about the day's service. What you may not care for they may like.
- 3) Don't be too chatty or nosey. Simply be interested in them.

-- Cooper Agent

## *Suggestions from the Pastor for Making Our Guests Feel Welcome*

**If you greet someone new**, ask them if they've met our pastor yet. If they haven't, please bring them to me and allow me the privilege of meeting them. If you can't remember their names, that's okay. I'll ask them in your presence and then we'll both know. ☺

**If someone asks you for directions** within the building (restroom, nursery, etc), walk them there yourself or take them to someone who can take them there. I always give high marks to stores whose employees invite me to go with them to the item I want. We can do even better than retail!

Give your pastor space to greet guests on Sunday mornings. Sunday morning is my chief opportunity to do this. Your greeting and handshake are always welcome but if you need a lengthier conversation, I'd welcome an email, phone call, or appointment during the week.

– Pastor Jeff

## *Tee Up with Jesus*

**Jerry Sanders** reports that nine participated in the first Bible study for golfers. The group gathered at 11:30 on November 19 at The Plantation Clubhouse for lunch and a Bible study before hitting the links at 1:00 for 18 holes. Jerry's looking to set the next round in January. Interested? Call (273-9993) or email [jerry.sanders@pv-umc.org](mailto:jerry.sanders@pv-umc.org).



## *Reminder: The Mission Blitz is Coming!*

**What/when is it?** December 20-22, our church will again be hosting **Mission Blitz**. This is an opportunity for **church members of all ages** to take part in a concentrated effort to reach out to our immediate and extended community through mission work! We will have projects working with many different groups (park clean up, Dignity-U-Wear, Hart Felt Ministries, retiree ministry, soup kitchen, and hospital visitation to name a few) and will have something for everyone and for every skill level.

Our schedule is as follows: We will begin with lunch on Sunday, December 20 after church, then divide into groups and go to our work sites. We will gather back in the evening for dinner and worship, and then those who would like the FULL experience are encouraged to stay overnight with us! (If you want to go home, that's fine too). On Monday morning we will gather at the church, divide into our groups, and head to our sites. Lunch will be eaten at your site, and we will come back together in the evening again for dinner and for worship. Tuesday's schedule will look just like Monday's!

**What if I can't commit that time?** You will have the opportunity to sign up for certain sites or certain days. If you can come the whole time, great! If not, sign up for one day, or two half days, or any other combination of times. We would love to see you for any amount of time you have available! And because of the great response we had last year, we will be offering child friendly sites Sunday afternoon, and Monday and Tuesday mornings. Look for sign-ups in December!

**Mission work isn't really my thing** Don't think you can give the time, or maybe you don't know if you have the energy? We are also looking for people to provide our evening meals or donate money for our sack lunches during the mission days. We need three dinners, one hot lunch and donations for sack lunches or fast food lunches on the sites (set to feed 30 people). Contact **Kelly Minter** (407-694-2167, [kelly.minter@pv-umc.org](mailto:kelly.minter@pv-umc.org)) if you'd like to be involved!

## *What Happened to The Hanging of the Greens?*

For several years we've enjoyed a Hanging of the Greens worship service on the Sunday following Thanksgiving. This worship service has been preceded by Christmas crafting and a snack supper for the kids.

This year we'll be in Ocean Palms for just one Sunday following the usual Hanging of the Greens date. If we held Hanging of the Greens the night of our first Sunday at 76 S Roscoe, we'd have just one Sunday before Christmas Eve to enjoy them. With all the rehearsing for the Christmas musical just prior to our first Sunday at 76, we elected to move the crafting and snack supper for the kids to Monday afternoon, December 21. And while we won't have a Hanging of the Greens service in December, fear not: The new sanctuary will be decorated for Christmas!

## *New Worship Service Names*

We're updating the names for our two worship services. They are

**9:30 Alive!** and for 11:00, **Traditions**

New names, worshipping the same great God!

## Inquirer's Class

Please join us as we begin a new study on angels. This will be an 8 week study, however you can join us at anytime. We meet in the media room at Ocean Palms, and will meet in an upstairs Sunday School room when we move to the new building. We meet at 9:45 and would love to have you join us for this seasonal study! **Dotty Rashba** is the contact person and can be reached at 273-0527.



### SERVE CARD 2010



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 offer ourselves to the ministries checked below in 2010.

Name (printed) Phone

Signature Date

*Group descriptions appear in the small groups bulletin insert.*

#### grow groups

- Inquirers
- Cornerstone Class
- Shepherds Class
- Kingdom Kids
- High School Class
- Middle School Class
- C.I.A. Children In Action
- H<sub>2</sub>O/Youth Group
- YCAM
- Traveling Tuesdays
- Men's Bible Study
- Women's Bible Study
- Planters

#### serve groups

- Usher/Greeters, 9:30
- Usher/Greeters, 11:00
- Communion Servers, 9:30
- Communion Servers, 11:00
- GodSong (Traditional Choir)
- Praise Choir
- Church Works
- Counters
- Hospitality
- Shepherds
- Mission House (Soup Kitchen)
- Hart Felt Ministries

#### care groups

- Stephen Ministry

#### reach groups

- La Sierra, Cuba

# Traveling Tuesday Small Group

We will begin a study on Angels beginning Tuesday December 1. If you are not a member of a small group and wish to join one, we'd love to have you in our group! We meet in different homes, and enjoy a social time prior to our study. You may join in on the study at any time. **Dotty Rashba** is the contact person and can be reached at 273-0527. We look forward to meeting you!

# New Offering Envelopes

The **NEW 2010 OFFERING ENVELOPES** will be available for pickup beginning Sunday, November 29. They will be on tables at the rear of the worship area and arranged in alphabetical order for your convenience. Please pick them up so that we can avoid the cost of mailing them to you.

Do not use the new envelopes until January as some of you may have been assigned a new contributor number for next year. Please discontinue using your 2009 (blue) envelopes at that time as well.

If you do not find envelopes assigned to you, and would like them, let us know by writing your name on the tablet at the table or call Jim Larsen at the church office (280-5141). If you have been assigned envelopes and do not wish to use them, we'd like to know that too.



## PLEDGE CARD 2010



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 2010.

"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:*

Along with my two youngest, C.J. Joyner attends Beach UMC's preschool. Some time back I heard C.J.'s mom Suzanne quip, "He goes to church in a school and to school in a church; it's a little confusing." I remember how for a long time my own son Spencer would say, "There's our church!" whenever we drove past Ocean Palms.

We'll soon be saying goodbye to Ocean Palms. I've learned some things during our two years as church-in-a-school. I've learned how hard people are willing to work serving Jesus and his church. All this setting up and tearing down week-in week-out. Wow!

Just a few weeks ago I learned something about your weekly experience of worship. I was at an hour long program at Rawlings Elementary. I learned that metal folding chairs are of the devil! Well, maybe that overstates the case but because I get to stand for much of any service, I never fully realized the sacrifice you make in just sitting through church.

Lastly (for this column, anyway) I learned how to anticipate heaven. Life in our multiple venues (school, community center, senior center, office in a trailer) has had its challenges, but we've all understood it was for only a season. Even before we broke ground we sensed that a wonderful new home was in our future. Now we're about to cross over into the promised land, so to speak. How like heaven! We work for Christ in less than ideal circumstances, alongside people who are just as imperfect as we are. But no complaining. We look forward to that great gettin' up day when the church universal finds itself at the beginning of an eternity together with Christ.

Goodbye, Ocean Palms; hello, 76 S Roscoe. May this be for us a tiny taste of heaven.

– Pastor Jeff



### **PONTE VEDRA** *United Methodist Church*

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

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#### 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](mailto:firstname.lastname@pv-umc.org)