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Voices of Christmas, December 5



There are so many voices at Christmas. They can be personal and friendly, ancient and inspiring, shouted from the mountaintop and whispered deep in a human heart. The voices of Christmas can also be sad and reflective, recalling a Christmas long ago, or a Christmas not yet discovered. But the true voice of Christmas comes from the pages of Scripture and the song of the angels: *For unto us a Child is born! For unto us a Son*

is given! Join us at **9:30 or 11:00** on **Sunday morning, December 5** for *Voices of Christmas*, presented by our combined choirs.

OUR MISSION:

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

Christmas Eve



We'll worship at **4:00, 5:30** and **7:00pm** on Christmas Eve with candlelight at each hour. The nursery will be available.

Upcoming Messages

December 5 **Voices of Christmas Combined Choirs at 9:30, 11:00**

December 12 **Season of Salvation or Celebration of Stuff?** (Luke 1:46b-55)

December 19 **Divine Sleepover** (Matthew 1:18-25)

December 24 **Do Not Be Afraid** (Luke 2:8-20)

December 26 **Lessons & Carols**



PONTE VEDRA
United Methodist Church



*Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace, good will
toward men. Luke 2:14*

Missions Corner

Operation Christmas Child



Many thanks to you who prepared shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. **58 boxes** have gone out from our church to children all over the world. Thanks too to **Rita and Andy Andreu** for receiving 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 preferred.)

Mission Blitz

Join in our church wide **Mission Blitz 2010** weekend! We will open with worship on Friday, December 17 at 7:00pm. Saturday we will gather in the parking lot and disperse into work teams for the day, heading off to perform a variety of different missions. At the end of the day we will gather for dinner and worship together. Sunday and Monday will have similar schedules except Monday afternoon will host a kid friendly mission followed by a children's Christmas party! We will share worship and dinner will be shared every evening. Sign up in the foyer for a day, a few hours, or the entire event!

Visit from Pastor Damián

The pastor of our Cuba sister church (la Sierra) is coming to visit us in January. **Pastor Damián** will be in Ponte Vedra for around three weeks, though we won't know the exact dates until his paperwork is approved. If you are interested in hosting Damián in your home for a couple of days, please let **George Reed** know (george.reed@pv-umc.org). Damián's visit promises to be an enriching experience for all involved.

A Word from John Wesley, founder of Methodism

Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.

Mom to Mom

Our first semester of Mom to Mom is already coming to a close, and it's been terrific! We have some fun topics planned for December, and we hope you'll join us. On Wednesday, December 1, local photographer **Amy Cornett** will be speaking on how to take great photos of your family. Before you take that annual Christmas card photo, come listen to tips from Amy on how to best capture the moment! December 8 will feature crafts and holiday food ideas. On December 15, our final meeting of 2010, personal trainer and mom of three, **Joan Dandeneau** will share some ideas on staying healthy through the holidays and setting goals for the new year!

Mom to Mom is for PVUMC moms as well as for the community, so invite your friends and come check it out! We meet Wednesdays at 9:30am and nursery is provided.

Ponte Vedra United Methodist Women

A church wide **Christmas cookie-bake** fundraiser for missions will be held **Saturday, December 4 from 9:00am to 12:00pm** (or until we sell out). We need 5 dozen (of the same kind), placed on large plates or trays covered with cellophane. Cakes, loaves of bread, pies and candies are also welcome! Please bring your baked goods to the church between 5:00pm and 7:00pm Friday, December 3. Purchase price per pound for cookies is \$6.95. All other items will be priced separately.

We expect this event to be a great outreach to the community. We are anticipating a visit from Santa, too! Come, choose from a variety of home made baked goods for the holidays or stock up and freeze some for later enjoyment!



Remember our ongoing project, **Operation Shoebox**. This is for service men and women stationed overseas. The collection box is located under the table next to the nursery. The UMW notebook on the table has extra lists of requested items and other pertinent information.



Our next UMW meeting is **January 15, 2011**.

Inquirers Class

The Inquirers class is studying *Growing Through Life's Challenges*. Please join us as we discover ways to combat the challenges that life has to give us based on Biblical examples. We meet every Sunday morning at 9:45am on the second floor in Room 209.

PVUMC Organizational Structure 2011

The **Church Council** provides for planning and implementing a program of nurture, outreach, witness, and resources in the local church.

Cooper Agent '12 (Chair)

Cecily Browning Lay Leader / Lay Member to annual conference) '11

Tom Murta (SPRC chair) '11

Phil de Roziere (Finance chair) '11

Max Stanley (Trustees rep) '13

Don Carson '11 (Council on Ministries Chair)

June Koch (Treasurer) '13

Dolores Harrison (UMW rep) '11

Graham Hancock (youth min rep) '11

Tucker Holland (young adult rep) '12

Jeff Bennett (Pastor)

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

Tom Murta (Chair) '11

Cecily Browning (Lay Leader) '11

Susan Gelb '12

Rick Williamson '12

Davis Johnson '12

Rita Andreu '13

Charles Lovings '13

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

Georgia de Roziere, Phyllis Monie (Hospitality)

Kelly Minter (Youth)

Dotty Rashba (Small Groups)

Ruth Murta (Worship)

Anne Torgerson, Jill Bennett (Children)

Sheryl Strickland (Missions)

Dixie Thalmueller, Sue Morris (Shepherding)

Jeff Bennett (Pastor)

Dolores Harrison (UMW)

PVUMC Organizational Structure 2011... continued

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

Phil de Roziere (Chair/Trustee Rep) '11

Tom Murta (SPRC Rep) '11

Don Carson (COM Rep) '11

Cecily Browning (Lay Leader) '11

Bob Spooner '12

Nancy Noble '13

Jeff Bennett (Pastor)

June Koch (Treasurer/non-voting)

Gloria Myers (Fin Sec'y/non-voting)

Jim Larsen (Church Acct /non-voting)

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

Randy Bringger '11

Don Carson (COM Chair) '11

John McEvoy '11

Phil de Roziere (Finance Chair) '12

Bob Harding '12

Loree Reed '12

Ron Schafffield '13

Rusty Russillo '13

Max Stanley '13

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

Jeff Bennett (Pastor, Chair)

Cecily Browning (Lay Leader) '11

Dod Schroter '11

Dotty Rashba '12

Jim Wynn '12

Sherrill Brown '13

Ron Owen '13

Join Ponte Vedra United Methodist Church

Been thinking about joining Ponte Vedra United Methodist Church? Come to Pastor Jeff's **new member orientation** on Sunday the 12th from 3:00 to 5:00pm. No obligation to join if you come; some simply choose to use the opportunity to learn more about PVUMC. Please let the office know (susan.bowler@pv-umc.org, 280-5141) if you plan to be with us so we'll have materials for all.

Financial Status

Building on Faith Recap as of November 29, 2010

Project Cost	\$ 3.8 million
Campaign goal	\$ 1.3 million
Pledged to date (97 pledges)	\$ 1,526,434
Pledges received to date (82.25%)	\$ 1,255,510
Non-pledges received to date	\$ 152,817
General budget receipts	\$ 33,332
Interest income	\$ 15,125
Total received to date	\$ 1,456,748

General Fund Recap October 2010

Tithes & Offerings	\$ 38,227
Expenses	\$ 44,289
Parsonage Mortgage	\$ 1,800
Net Income/(Deficit)	(\$7,862)

Building Fund Recap as of November 29, 2010

Income	\$ 23,037
Paid on Principal	\$ 25,000
Expenditures	\$ 0
Balance	\$ 209,119

November 2010 Giving & Attendance

Date	Contemp. Attendance	Traditional Attendance	General Fund Giving	Capital Fund Giving	Other Giving
11/7	124	154	\$10,538	\$ 9,848	\$ 1,041
11/14	129	132	\$13,183	\$ 1,390	\$ 340
11/21	132	130	\$26,104	\$ 3,595	\$ 192
11/28	116	166	\$ 5,476	\$ 8,204	\$ 387

Designated Totals

Building Fund	\$ 209,119
Memorials	\$ 11,886
Enhancement Fund	\$ 1,764
General Fund	\$ 11,395
Needed Weekly 2010	\$ 11,395

Owed on Parsonage: \$167,049 Owed on Church Facility: \$2,575,000



Campaign Followup

At 32 months into our 36-month *Building on Faith* capital campaign, we have received nearly **82%** of funds pledged. Well done, church!

To those who have pledged to the *Building on Faith* capital campaign, please continue to give against those pledges. (And thank you very much for what you’ve given to date.) To those who have so freely given to the building fund outside the campaign, we thank you too!

At present we’re required to pay interest; principal payments are optional. Beginning in January the balance of the loan will be amortized over 19 years and we will be paying both principal and interest. **Every gift given between now and January 9 reduces the principal we owe** as well as the interest we pay today *and* the interest we’ll pay over the next 19 years.

While *Building on Faith* does not conclude until March 31, you who are able might consider prepaying the balance of your pledge to immediately reduce the principal of the loan and the interest due each month.

Those of you who have become a part of our congregation since the launch of the campaign two years ago, might you also give a special gift to reduce the debt? Designate your gift “Building Fund.”

Above all, receive the thanks of a grateful church for each dollar given, many of which have been given sacrificially. And we thank and praise God who has brought us this far on our journey. While the building is now built, may God bless us to continue building his church.

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

Ponte Vedra United Methodist Church Financial Plan 2011

	2010 <u>Plan</u>	2011 <u>Plan</u>
Missions	28,000	42,000
Payroll & Benefits*	237,582	249,127 *
Administrative	14,250	16,635
Ministries & Programs	85,636	101,405
Church Building**	186,232	244,212 **
Parsonage	<u>40,800</u>	<u>37,564</u>
Total	592,500	690,943

Details available upon request

*Includes increased nursery worker and children’s minister hours in support of greater numbers of children and increased ministry to children and families with young children.

**Includes loan principal payments. (2010 included interest only.)

The Advent Challenge



Sometimes our penchant for Christmas gift giving leaves me wondering, “Whose birthday is it, anyway?” I’m not going to pile on with a “presents bad, Jesus good” routine... Perhaps we can have it both ways.

Consider this Advent challenge: In the name of Jesus, **give half of what you’d spend on Christmas gifts to those suffering extreme poverty.** PVUMC’s Council on Ministries has designated the people of **Haiti** as recipients of our special Advent offering. In fully meeting the challenge, some might give half of their gift-giving budget; others might match dollar-for-dollar what they’re spending on family and friends. Then again, even the smallest of gifts may help save a life.

The first \$1,000 dollars received will go to our own North East District to purchase **building supplies** for the spring district mission trip to Haiti. Monies received beyond that will go to **Haiti Emergency**, Advance # 418325. (*The Advance* is an accountable, designated-giving arm of The United Methodist Church that ensures 100 percent of each gift reaches its intended mission or ministry.) PVUMC made a strong response following January’s earthquake; the need for relief continues to be great, especially with the threatening cholera epidemic on the heels of Hurricane Tomas rainfall.

Designate your special Advent Challenge offering “Haiti.”

God bless you,
Pastor Jeff

Prepare Your Elevator Speech



If someone were to say to you, “Tell me about your church” what would you say?

The number one reason people visit a church is that someone invited them. **Each of us should be ready to share what it is that we love about our church.** In the marketplace people develop an “elevator speech” that is an overview of a product, service, person, group or organization, or project. The name “elevator speech” reflects the idea that it should be possible to deliver an elevator speech in the time span of an elevator ride, 30 to 90 seconds.

Would you let us video your elevator speech to share some Sunday morning? You’d help the rest of us in coming up with our own speeches. Contact our videographer **Tucker Holland** (tucker.holland@pv-umc.org) and we’ll get the ball rolling. (Lights. Camera. Action!) Our thanks to **Caroline Straughan**, **Ada Elliott** and **Bev Schaffield** who have already been filmed.

Our Hearts Go Out to...

... **Ann Cook** at the loss of her husband David on November 16. You are in our prayers, Ann.

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 14 to the office or through the weekly offering.

Coffee, Anyone?



Vance and Collette LeClair have faithfully prepared beverages for us each Sunday this past year. (Thank you, LeClairs!) Their last day volunteering for this service will be Sunday, December 26. Would you be willing to sign on for this **act of hospitality**? On your Sunday you'd arrive around 8:15 to set up the coffee station and get things perking. Training available. Also needed, clean up people after coffee time. Contact Vance or Collette, 249-4143, vance.leclair@pv-umc.org or volunteer@pv-umc.org.

Coming soon... Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University

What is **Financial Peace University**? This life-changing program promises to teach our congregation to achieve their financial goals by eliminating debt, saving for the future, and giving like never before. Participants will be challenged and motivated to make a plan for their money and change their family tree forever.

Financial Peace University (FPU) consists of a 13-week video curriculum—taught by financial expert Dave Ramsey—that incorporates small-group discussions to encourage accountability and discipleship. FPU is highly entertaining for everyone, with a unique combination of humor, informative financial advice and biblical messages. More than one million families have already had their lives changed by attending FPU.

Watch for details on this small group offering available at PVUMC in the new year.

New Offering Envelopes

The **NEW 2011 OFFERING ENVELOPES** are available for pickup. They are 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 2010 (gold) 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 on 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.



On A Musical Note

C.I.A. Children In Action

Kindergarten through 5th Grade

Wednesdays 6:00-7:30pm

YCAM

Grades 6-12

Wednesdays 6:00-8:00pm

Praise Choir

Tuesdays 6:30-7:30pm

Traditional Choir - GodSong

Thursdays 7:00-8:30pm



- ◆ **Expressed their gratitude to God** throughout the month of November in their Thanksgiving journals.
- ◆ **Designed Advent wreaths** for use in the Kingdom Kids classrooms.
- ◆ **Crafted Thanksgiving decorations** for all to enjoy on the upstairs children's bulletin board.

We will continue our season of giving and gifting in December ending with our celebration of **Dinner in Bethlehem** on **December 15**.

All children Kindergarten through fifth grade are invited to join in the fun each Wednesday from 6:00 to 7:30. Bring your sack supper and get ready for a great adventure!

CIA will not meet during Christmas vacation. We will resume operations on **January 12** with our new unit **Mission Impossible: Heroes of the Bible**. For more information or to volunteer please contact Anne Torgerson at anne.torgerson@pv-umc.org.

Children's Corner



C.I.A. Briefs

November has been a season of thanks and giving in C.I.A.! As a group we have:

- ◆ **Delivered Thanksgiving baskets** to four families in need in our area! The baskets were filled with food donations, seasonal decorations made by the children, candy and gift cards from Publix. Thanks to the children and their families for their donations and hard work!
- ◆ **Produced fifty-nine candy gift bags** with personal donations from the children's Halloween candy. The bags were graciously delivered by the youth during their Peanut Butter & Jelly mission for the homeless in St. Augustine.
- ◆ Rehearsed diligently for their songs in the upcoming Christmas musical *The Voices of Christmas* to be performed **Sunday, December 5** in both church services.



Kingdom Kids

Kingdom Kids continues to meet each Sunday during the 9:30 and 11:00 service immediately following the Children's Time. All children Kindergarten through fifth grade are invited to join them in fun bible discovery.

There will not be Kingdom Kids on Sunday, December 26. Children Kindergarten through fifth grade are invited to join their families in hearing the Christmas story and singing traditional Christmas songs as we celebrate "Lessons in Carols" as a church family during both services.

And the Winner Is...

Thank you to everyone who participated in our first **Trunk or Treat**. It was indeed a treat to see the creativity of our church family as they opened up their trunks and filled them with fiendish and fun décor! The prizes for trunk decorations were awarded to **Carson Basye for Best Trunk; Rita and Andy Andreu for Funniest Trunk; and Randy and Julie Bringer for Scariest Trunk**. Thanks to all who volunteered to make the evening a success. PVUMC really knows how to throw a party!



Round Of Applause

- 👍 For our church family and their generosity with our jacket and blanket drive this month!
- 👍 For Caroline Schussler and her participation in our sandwich ministry.
- 👍 For our church family who made it possible for 2 of our volunteers to attend National Youth Workers Convention 2010.

Upcoming Events

Wii wish you a merry Christmas...PARTY! Our annual Christmas party will be held Saturday, December 11 at Kelly's house from 1:00pm-5:00pm. Bring your Wii, wiimotes, Wii games and a white elephant gift to exchange (no more than \$5, please.)

Christmas caroling and fast food progressive dinner! Wednesday, December 15 meet at the church at 5:00pm. We will go caroling at the homes of some of our church family and then we will have a fast food progressive dinner! Don't know what that is? Come find out! Bring \$10.

A Note From Pastor Jeff:

My wife Jill threw me a wonderful surprise birthday party. And was I ever surprised! It was a Friday evening; the kids were expected home any minute from a play date. They love to ring the doorbell when they get home from anywhere. So the bell rang and I answered it. (*Ask not for whom the bell tolls, it tolls for me!*) I answered and there were my kids and 20 other people out there, including my mother (!) who had flown in from Ohio for the occasion.

I had plans for that evening. Jill was to have coffee for a friend. After I got the kids to bed, I was going to work on Sunday's message. It had been a long week with extra meetings and I was behind. But I put all of that aside and truly enjoyed my surprise guests. I have made great strides in practicing the words of old Mr. Fezziwig in my favorite rendition of Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*: **"When happiness shows up, always give it a comfortable seat."**

We would do well to heed Fezziwig's advice during a season that is often hectic and sometimes, for some of us, sorrowful. I pray that we will all make space for joy this Christmas. You never know Who will be at the door.

-- Pastor Jeff



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CHURCH STAFF

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

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