

THE WAVE



VOLUME 9, ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2011

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Bake Sale, December 3

A Christmas cookie-bake fundraiser for missions will be held Saturday, December 4 from 9:00am to 3:00pm.

Christmas Musical To Be Offered December 4

Our Traditional Choir will be joined by the children of C.I.A. to bless God and those seeking the Christ of Christmas with **I Have Seen the Light: The Search for Christmas**. You'll experience the warmth and grandeur of songs familiar and new as we realize that in Christ, God has been seeking us. **Sunday, December 4, 9:30 and 11:00.**

Discover Church at PVUMC, December 4

New to Ponte Vedra UMC and wondering what we are all about? **Discover Church at PVUMC** is for you! This brief informal gathering with church staff and leadership lets you learn more about available spiritual growth, mission and ministry opportunities. Following each service.

Orchestra to Perform at PVUMC

The St. Augustine Community Orchestra will present "A Classic Christmas" on Sunday the 11th, 3:00pm at PVUMC. Admission is \$10 at the door; children 12 & under admitted free.

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.

Christmas Day

Enjoy *Lessons and Carols* on **Christmas Day**, Sunday, December 25 at **10:00am**. This traditional service, focusing on the prophets, brings Scripture

Upcoming Messages

- December 4 **I Have Seen the Light: The Search for Christmas** – A Christmas Musical
- December 11 **Restore Us, O God: Joy** (Psalm 126)
- December 18 **Restore Us, O God: Love** (Psalm 89:1-4,19-26)
- December 24 4:00pm, 5:30pm, 7:00pm **The Cost of Christmas** (John 1:1-14)
- December 25 10:00am **A Service of Lessons & Carols**

OUR MISSION:

Making fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.



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. 79 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* in the sanctuary 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 or other grocery store 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

Mission Blitz is a three day-long mission experience December 16-19 and it's right in our backyard. In this church-wide event we will be doing mission work all day Saturday, Sunday and Monday then joining together for food and worship every evening. Friday night we will meet at the church for worship. Saturday morning breakfast is at 8:00am and we leave at 9:00 for our worksites which are either a children's Christmas party or home rehab projects in St. Augustine. Lunch will be at our sites then back to work! Dinner and worship will be provided at the church for everyone starting at 6:00pm. Our schedule Sunday is the same, except we will be participating in home rehab and a food handout in Jacksonville. Monday we will host a children's party at our church! Get involved! You can sign up for a day (or three), or sign up to provide a meal for our hard workers! Sign-up in the foyer, in your bulletin or contact **Kelly Minter**, kelly.minter@pv-umc.org.

A Word from John Wesley, founder of Methodism

John Wesley gave instructions on singing to the people called Methodist:

Sing lustily and with a good courage. Beware of singing as if you were half dead, or half asleep, but lift up your voice with strength. *United Methodist Hymnal, vii.*

John's brother Charles was a prolific hymnwriter. It's Charles Wesley who gave us *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*.

Ponte Vedra UMC Blood Drive, a Huge Success!



On October 30, we had 29 attempts to donate and we collected **25 units of blood**. These donations have the potential to help save 75 lives.

We are having our next blood drive on **January 29**. If you did not give blood at the last drive you can still donate up until Sunday, Dec 4. After that day we enter the 56 day waiting period between donating. If you can't donate before Dec 4, please wait for our drive on Jan 29. Watch your Sunday bulletins and the Ponte Vedra UMC Update for announcements.

Cecily Browning	Yolie Macon	Mike Rice
Ellen Carson	Mike McVann	Patricia Rice
David Crumrine	Jo Miller	Eleanor Snite
Phil deRoziere	Nancy Mingus	Sadie Snyder
Mike Elliott	Tom Murta	Bob Spooner
Sheila Epperson	Ruth Murta	Marty Spooner
Susan Gelb	Arne Nielson	Max Stanley
Joel Gelb	Tod Phillips	Greg Wells
Bob Harding	Donna Price	Janis Wetmore
Beverly Lovings	Loree Reed	

PVUMC Volunteer Opportunities

Making plans for the New Year? There are new monthly sign-up sheets for volunteering to provide **altar flowers** and **Sunday morning snacks** in 2012. The sheets are on the hall wall just past the nursery.

New Member Orientation Offered Sunday, January 22

Thinking about joining PVUMC? Just like to learn more about us? Pastor Jeff would love to have you participate in the next New Member Orientation **Sunday, January 22** from 3 - 5pm. Contact the office (280-5141, susan.bowler@pv-umc.org) and let us know you're coming. Childcare for 5 & under available with advance notice.

Our Hearts Go Out To...

...Marcheta Hill at the loss of her son David Hill on November 24. You and your family are in our prayers, Marcheta. Also, David was the brother-in-law of member Nancy Rice Hill.

Financial Status

General Fund Recap October 2011

Tithes & Offerings	\$ 48,539
Less Expenses	\$ 38,554
October Income/(Deficit)	\$ 9,985
YTD Income/(Deficit)	\$ (67,493)

Designated Totals

Mission Funds	\$2,378
Enhancement Fund	\$1,645
Memorials	\$4,410
Building Fund	\$202,642
General Fund Needed Weekly 2011	\$ 13,287

Owed on Parsonage: \$144,994

Owed on Church Facility: \$2,301,701

November 2011 Giving & Attendance

Date	Contemp. Attendance	Traditional Attendance	General Fund Giving	Missions Giving	Designated Giving
11/6	187	Serve Sun-	\$6,362	\$70	\$425
11/13	136	120	\$18,250	\$32	\$664
11/20	118	131	\$10,269	\$23	\$430
11/30	100	123	\$42,042	\$0	\$1,500
11/30	110	H.O.G.			

Money Matters

British novelist, academic, and lay theologian C.S. Lewis wrote,

The only safe rule is to give more than we can spare. If our expenditure on comforts, luxuries, amusements, etc. is up to the standard common among those with the same income as our own, we are probably giving away too little. If our charities do not at all pinch or hamper us, I should say they are too small. There ought to be things we should like to do and cannot do because our charitable expenditure excludes them.

– C. S. Lewis [Mere Christianity, p. 82]

Year End Giving Welcomed!

How's your giving been in 2011? Your year-end gift is most welcome; it will help us meet our present obligations.

Made your pledge yet for 2012? Your commitment will further God's work in the church and in the world.

Tax Saving Ideas from Your Stewardship Ministry Team

1. **Capital Gains Tax Savings:** You can lower the final cost of your support for PVUMC by donating stocks or mutual funds to fund your pledge. Donating stock or mutual fund shares; i.e., not cash, will save you from paying capital gains tax on any appreciation in value of these securities, a potential of up to 15% savings. Check your stock and mutual fund statements (which are not tax deferred accounts such as IRA's or 401K) and see if your situation makes it advantageous to donate securities. If so, call your broker or mutual fund provider and they can assist you in making this donation. Our accountant Jim Larsen (jim.larsen@pv-umc.org) can provide you our brokerage account information. If you have questions contact Bob Spooner or Ralph Snyder. Note: For tax years 2011 and 2012, capital gains tax rates are zero for single taxpayers with taxable income of \$34,500 or less and for married, filing jointly and qualifying widow(er) with taxable income of \$69,000 or less.

2. If you're 70 ½ or older, you must take a Minimum Required Distribution from your regular or rollover IRA (not a Roth IRA). Only in 2011, you can make a direct contribution from your IRA to the church which counts toward your Minimum Required Distribution but will not be included in your taxable income. Your broker or mutual fund provider can assist you in making this donation. You can contact Bob Spooner (bob.spooner@pv-umc.org) or Ralph Snyder (ralph.snyder@pv-umc.org) with questions.

2012 Offering Envelopes

Anyone who currently does not have **offering envelopes** but would like them for 2012, please sign up on the clipboard on the table at the rear of the sanctuary or you can e-mail Jim Larsen at jim.larsen@pv-umc.org. If you have been receiving envelopes but do not wish to use them, we would like to know that too.

PLEDGE CARD 2012



I seek to honor Christ in every aspect of my life.
 In gratitude for God's blessings on my life and
 to sustain and advance God's work, I/we will
 provide an offering
 of _____ per _____ in 2012.

*Prayerfully consider computing these numbers.
 Reporting them is optional.*

This pledge represents _____% of my income*.

Giving to God's work beyond PVUMC will
 represent another _____% of my income*.

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

Name (printed) _____ Phone _____

Thank you for returning this card by mail or in the offering plate. Your giving estimate can be changed at any time. Our operating year ends December 31, 2012. If you have a question, please contact the church office at 280-5141.

2012 PVUMC Organizational Structure

The e-mail address of each leader and staff member is *firstname.lastname@pv-umc.org*

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

Cooper Agent '12 (Chair) **Ralph Snyder** (Lay Leader) '14 **Charles Lovings** (SPRC chair) '13
Phil de Roziere (Finance chair) '13 **Max Stanley** (Trustees rep) '13
Dolores Harrison '13 (Council on Ministries Chair) **Ann Cook** (UMW rep) '12
Zack Murta (youth min rep) '12 **Tucker Holland** (young adult rep / Lay Member to annual conference) '12
June Koch (Treasurer) **Jeff Bennett** (Pastor)

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

Susan Gelb '12 **Rick Williamson** '12 **Davis Johnson** '12 **Rita Andreu** '13
Charles Lovings (Chair) '13 **Vic Burnet** '14 **Ralph Snyder** (Lay Leader) '14

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

Phil de Roziere (Chair/Trustee Rep) '13 **Charles Lovings** (SPRC Rep) '13
Dolores Harrison (COM Rep) '13 **Ralph Snyder** (Lay Leader) '14 **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.

Max Stanley (Chair) '13 **Bob Harding** (Vice chair) '12 **Loree Reed** (Secretary) '12
Dolores Harrison (COM Chair/nonvoting) '13 **Phil de Roziere** (Finance Chair) '12
Ron Schaffield '13 **Rusty Russillo** '13 **Randy Bringger** '14 **Carolyn Skordas** '14

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

Jeff Bennett (Pastor, Chair) **Dotty Rashba** '12 **Jim Wynn** '12 **Sherrill Brown** '13
Bette McEvoy '13 **Ralph Snyder** (Lay Leader) '14 **Ruth Murta** '14

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

Dolores Harrison (COM Chair) '13 **Ralph Snyder** (Lay Leader) '14
Georgia de Roziere, Phyllis Monie (Hospitality) **Kelly Minter** (Youth) **Dotty Rashba** (Small Groups)
Anne Torgerson (Children) **Ellen Carson** (Missions > 50 mi) **Sharon Kehoe** (Missions < 50 mi)
Dixie Thalmueller, Sue Morris (Shepherding) **Dolores Harrison** (UMW) **Mary Moyes** (Prayer)
Jeff Bennett (Pastor)

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 20 to the office or through the weekly offering.

The Alpha Course: Explore the Meaning of Life

What is Alpha?

Alpha is an opportunity to explore the meaning of life in a relaxed, friendly setting. The Alpha course meets weekly for 10 weeks, and includes an amazing one-day getaway. Each session people enjoy sharing food, laughter and learning in a fun and friendly atmosphere where no question about life or God is seen as too simple or too hostile...questions like – Is there a God? Why am I here? Where did I come from? Where am I going?

Alpha is for anyone...anyone who thinks there may be more to life than meets the eye.

People attend from all backgrounds, religions, and viewpoints. They come to investigate questions about the existence of God, the purpose of life, the afterlife, the claims of Jesus and more. Some people want to get beyond religion and find a relationship with God that really changes life. Others come for the close, long-lasting friendships that are built during the Alpha course.

Many guests have never been to church, others may have attended church occasionally but feel they have never really understood the basics of the Christian faith. Everyone is welcome.

The talks each week cover the following topics, acting as a springboard for the small group discussions:

Introduction: Is there more to life than this?

Week 1: Who is Jesus?

Week 2: Why did Jesus die?

Week 3: How can we have faith?

Week 4: Why and how do I pray?

Week 5: Why and how should I read the Bible?

Week 6: How does God guide us?

Week 7: How can I resist evil?

Week 8: Why & how should we tell others?

Week 9: Does God heal today?

Week 10: What about the Church?

Weekend: Who is the Holy Spirit?

Our leader for The Alpha Course: **Bill Coggins** (bill.coggins@pv-umc.org). For more information on Alpha, see www.alphausa.org. Wednesday evenings beginning January 25. Childcare available with advanced notice.

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.

Sundays 2 - 4pm beginning January 29; leaders **Ralph & Sadie Snyder**. 2011 FPU participants included **Pastor Jeff & Jill Bennett, DeAnn Combs, Mike & Anita Kelly, Carol Kilpatrick, Alan & Laura Lovett, Scott & Traci Rosenstein, Ralph & Sadie Snyder**. Ask them what they thought!

Wednesday Evening Study Group to Begin in January

Do you bring your children to CIA? Tired of going home and coming back? This group is for you! We will be doing a 12 week study with the book: Having A Mary Heart in a Martha World by Joanna Weaver. **Our meetings are the same dates, evenings and hours as CIA**. Our first meeting will be at 6:00pm on January 11. Childcare is provided for those who need it. All are welcome. This promises to be an inspiring study!

United Methodist Women News

Thank you to everyone who supported our fundraisers this year. Your generosity enabled us to give \$3,400 to 15 various missions. Our next meeting is **Saturday, January 14 at 10:00am** in Room 207. Our guest speaker will be educating us on child trafficking.

The focus of the UMW is missions therefore we have annual fundraising events. The benefits to these events aside from raising funds are many. Through working together to organize and carry out these events lasting friendships are formed and strengthened. Also, the programs at our meetings provide an opportunity to learn more about the world around us. Please consider becoming a part of UMW. You will be glad you did.

Final notice for our **Christmas Cookie and Bake Sale!** Visit us Saturday, December 3 between 9:00am and 3:00pm. If you have baked good to donate, please deliver them to the church on Friday between 10:00 - 2:00pm or 5:00 - 7:00pm or Saturday morning.

From the Trustees

Check out the **updated water feature** in the memorial garden! Thank you Trustees **Randy Bringer** and **John McEvoy** for rehabbing this item and again to Eagle Scout **Eric Morris** who landscaped the garden as his Eagle Scout project last year. Our continued thanks to **Karen Trotter** for weeding and trimming the plantings. The memorial garden is located on the broadside of the building at the entrance to the office.



On A Musical Note

C.I.A. Children In Action

Kindergarten - 5th grade

Wednesdays 6:00

Rooms 201-203

YCAM

Grades 6-12

Wednesdays 6:00-8:00pm

Praise Choir

Tuesdays 6:30-7:30pm

Traditional Choir

Thursdays 7:00-8:30pm

Children's Corner

C.I.A. Briefs

REJOICE! The families of CIA (Children in Action) collected fifty pounds of food and \$140.00 in Publix Gift Certificates for the Thanksgiving Dinners of families in the Lincolnville area. Their generous gifts were received with tears of joy! Thank you!

REJOICE! Thank you members of CIA for singing so beautifully at the Hanging of the Greens! Thanks to all of the wonderful adult and youth volunteers who helped facilitate a joyful time of Christmas crafting prior to the service!

AND AGAIN I SAY REJOICE! CIA will be singing Sunday, December 4 at both services in the Christmas Cantata! Thank you to all of the CIA volunteers (Lisa Middleton, Georgia de Roziere, and Jeff Timm) for helping us rehearse and a big thanks to Scott Tinsley for leading us in music each week!

Kingdom Kids Briefs

There will be NO KINGDOM KIDS on Sunday, December 25 or Sunday, January 1. Children may enjoy worshipping with their families on those Sundays. Nursery will be available for children five and younger.

Coat Drive

The Children's Ministry is sponsoring a coat drive for children in the Lincolnville area. If your children have outgrown their winter coats, hooded sweatshirts and sweaters, please consider donating them. You may leave them upstairs under the "Coat Drive" bulletin board outside of the Kingdom Kids rooms! Thank you!



Upcoming Events

Wii wish you a merry Christmas...party! Saturday, December 11. Our annual Christmas celebration! 1:00-5:00pm at Kelly's house. We are working on carpools for the party, so remind your teen that registration is important! Bring a gift to exchange. Your gift must cost LESS THAN \$5 (free is funniest) and wrapped so we can do a white elephant exchange.

Caroling and Fast Food Progressive Dinner Wednesday, December 14. We will meet at the church at 5:00pm and go caroling at homes of a few of our church members. Then we will partake in our annual fast food progressive dinner! One stop for beverages, another for fries, one more for our main course and finally a last one for dessert! If you follow our pattern you will be able to pay for your meal with \$12. Bring it in cash, we will be paying at the register individually! Expect to be finished by 9:00pm.

*A Note From
Pastor Jeff.*

Who would steal Christmas? The Saturday following Thanksgiving a small group of volunteers gathered in the sanctuary to do the setup work required for our *Hanging of the Greens* service. Earlier in the week others had gone to retrieve our decorations from storage. Lo and behold, it appears that some of our decorations had been stolen!

Maybe I shouldn't be surprised. This was donated space that we shared with others; it could not be locked. Maybe it was just a matter of time. But still... stealing *Christmas decorations*? Who would steal Christmas?

Then again, perhaps Yuletide larceny is not so uncommon. When we make Christmas about buying, giving and getting, are we not robbing The Giver? When we busy ourselves to the point of distraction, failing to consider The Gift around which the holiday (holy day) is supposed to revolve, isn't this a kind of theft? When we unwrap The Gift and set it aside in favor of other things, aren't we the poorer for it? God forgive us!

During this season of preparation may we ready ourselves to truly receive The Gift: Jesus who is Christ, the Lord.

Determined not to steal this Christmas,
Pastor Jeff



PONTE VEDRA
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Church*

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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	Elisabeth Callahan
Custodian	Jim Wooton

Staff email:
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