

THE WAVE



VOLUME 12, ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER 2013

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Celebrate Veterans on Sunday, November 10



Veterans Day weekend we'll take the opportunity to honor those who have served our nation through military service. A presentation of colors will immediately precede each worship service. (Don't be late!)

Hanging of the Greens, December 1



Joy, joy, joy, joy, joy. On Sunday, December 1 we'll gather at 7:00pm to decorate our sanctuary and sing the songs of the season during our festive "Hanging of the Greens" service. Got kids? Come early (5:00) to enjoy Christmas crafts with them. Elves are needed for the crafting; see page 8 for how you can help.

2013 Special Christmas Offering



We will be receiving a special Christmas offering in November and December. Gifts designated "Christmas Offering" or "Reaching Children in Poverty" will help fund the FSM Western Panama food distribution/community outreach program and closer to home, the Madison Youth Ranch which is the "north campus" for the Florida United Methodist Children's Home. Look for more information in the coming weeks on how your gift can truly reflect the meaning of "gift" at Christmas.

Upcoming Messages

- November 3 *Serve Sunday* (regular worship times)
- November 3 **It Takes One to Make One** (Matthew 28:16-20)
- November 10 **Post-Traumatic Growth** (2 Corinthians 12:2-10)
- November 17 **What Job Says to Us About Wealth** (Job 1:1-5, 13-22)
- November 24 **Who's Your Daddy? Money as the #1 Competitor for Your Heart** (Matthew 6:24)
- December 1 **Watching as We Wait** (Luke 1:5-80)

OUR MISSION:

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



PONTE VEDRA
United Methodist Church



Sunday, November 3

Missions Corner

Fill Grocery Bags for B.E.A.M.



Thank you to all who participated in the BEAM (Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry) food drive. We received **98 bags of groceries**. This is a new collection record for PVUMC! Thanks too to all of the kids who brought canned food to Trunk or Treat. We added this food to that which was received on Sunday, October 27.

BEAM posted this picture on their Facebook page.

Elementary School Clothing Needed

Did you know that Ponte Vedra UMC helps maintain a **clothing closet** at Osceola Elementary School? We've been asked to do the same at Webster Elementary! If you need a good excuse to clean out those closets and drawers, or have any gently used children's clothing sizes 5-12, please contact **Sharon Kehoe** at sharon.kehoe@pv-umc.org.

Crop Hunger Walk, November 3

In many ways, America is the land of plenty. But for 1 in 6 people in the United States, hunger is a reality. Right now millions of Americans are struggling with hunger. Often hard-working adults, children and seniors cannot make ends meet and are forced to go without food for several meals, or even days. We all care about hungry people but what can one person do? Join in the local CROP Hunger Walk to raise your voice and funds against hunger to help hungry people around the world and here in our own area. 25% of proceeds go directly to support B.E.A.M. Be a walker, a sponsor or a volunteer! November 3, at 2:00 starting at First Christian Church of the Beaches. (Registration begins at 1:30) Contact **Sharon Kehoe** (sharon.kehoe@pv-umc.org), 834-3765.

A Word from John Wesley, founder of Methodism

It is a sad observation that they that have most money have usually least grace.

– Jackson XIII, 70.

Operation Christmas Child



Operation Christmas Child brings joy and hope to children in desperate situations around the world through gift-filled shoeboxes and the Good News of God's love. This program of Samaritan's Purse provides an opportunity for people of all ages to be involved in a simple, hands-on mission project while focusing on the true meaning of Christmas-Jesus Christ, God's greatest gift. Along with shoebox gifts, millions of children are given Gospel booklets in their own language. Our church will once again be sponsoring this mission by filling shoeboxes for the children. We will

be collecting boxes Nov. 17 and 24. For more information visit:

<http://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/pack-a-shoe-box/> or contact Rita Andreu rita.andreu@pv-umc.org.

Missions Giving

Over **\$40,400** has been given to missions so far this year from our tithes and general offerings. Wow! And another **\$16,956** in designated giving has been received. Awesome!

JAARS update

What a great week! JAARS estimates that between 700 and 900 came to the JAARS Day event. We arrived Friday afternoon and began preparing things for the children's event. **Frances Thomas** and **Cynthia Jordaan** did a great job helping prepare and staff the children's activity table. The airplanes and helicopters flew all day until 6:00pm. During the week Frances and Cynthia helped prepare crafts for the children's Christmas event, Frances also worked in the Medical clinic, Cynthia did research projects and **Dan Thomas** worked in the aircraft hangar and painting houses. But more importantly, getting to know the missionaries and volunteer staff and seeing God working in this ministry was fantastic beyond words. We were able to have dinner one evening with missionaries and learned about the cultures of the remote people groups. Short and long term volunteers supply more than 50% of the workers that enable the translators to do their work. There are now 1,997 languages awaiting translation, most in villages and communities that are difficult to reach due to geographical and political environments. The goal is to have the New Testament translated into all languages by 2025.

Quite often we hear people returning from mission trip saying they got more than they gave. We can only echo that statement. On the surface there is not the emotional tug of a disaster recovery mission trip that generates a desire to help, but the work that Wycliffe JAARS does takes the Good News to those that will never hear it unless someone puts it in a language these people groups can understand. The work environment at JAARS was fantastic and represents what those of us in the business world hope to attain.

Click on the following link if you would like to see photos of the mission trip:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/myj5xtorotfnvvg/CO_tW0UuWm

Financial Status

General Fund Recap September 2013

Tithes & Offerings	\$ 60,134
Less Expenses	\$ 58,521
August Income/(Deficit)	\$ 1,613
YTD Income/(Deficit)	\$ (1,486)

Designated Totals

Mission Funds	\$9,344
Enhancement Fund	\$1,673
Memorials	\$3,848
Building Fund	\$219,047
General Fund	
Needed Weekly 2013	\$ 14,160

October 2013 Giving & Attendance

Date	9:30 Attendance	11:00 Attendance	General Fund Giving	Missions Giving	Designated Giving
10/6	126	135	\$12,113	\$1,031	\$4,210
Connections	57				
10/13	112	154	\$15,747	\$268	\$400
Connections	60				
10/20	173	129	\$9,895	\$183	\$25
Connections	49				
10/27	115	132	\$9,650	\$548	\$128
Connections	40				

Owed on Church Facility: \$2,172,687

Owed on Parsonage: \$103,409

PVUMC Charge Conference, November 24 at Isle of Faith UMC

Each fall United Methodist Churches have a meeting called a **church conference** at which the congregation elects its officers and sets the pastor's compensation. This year we'll be meeting at **6:00pm on Sunday, November 24** at **Isle of Faith UMC**. (Isle of Faith iofumc.org is located at 1821 San Pablo Road S in Jacksonville.) Beach UMC will be meeting with us as well. Would you like to **carpool**? Meet at PVUMC at 5:15pm.

Welcome, New Members!



We were pleased to welcome **Bill & Olga Bender, Faith Martin** and **Salim & Jackie Muslimani** into membership on October 13. Welcome, new members!

Money Matters

Study: Christians Who Tithe Have Healthier Finances Than Those Who Don't

By Jeff Schapiro, Christian Post

The finances of Christians who tithe are generally healthier than the finances of those who do not, according to a new report that takes a close look at the financial, spiritual and giving practices of people who give 10 percent or more of their income away to churches and charities each year.

Researchers compared tithers to non-tithers using nine financial health indicators, and found that tithers were better off in every category. Among tithers, for example, 80 percent have no unpaid credit card bills, 74 percent don't owe anything on their cars, 48 percent own their home and 28 percent are debt free.

"The weird thing is, a tither looks at that and says to himself, 'Well I'm better off because I give.' A non-tither looks at that and says, 'Oh, they give because they're better off,'" said Brian Kluth, founder of the study and Maximum Generosity, who called the findings "unprecedented."

There are an estimated 10 million Christians in the U.S. who tithe more than \$50 billion annually, according to a press release for the annual State of the Plate report. The report encompasses survey responses from 4,413 tithers from all 50 states and a variety of different churches and income levels.

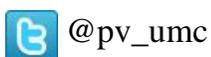
The fifth annual study reveals that 97 percent of tithers make giving to their local church a priority, and 63 percent started tithing between their childhood and their twenties. It also found that 70 percent give based on their gross income rather than their net income, and 77 percent give more than the traditional 10 percent.

"Never before has this group been studied, and I think for every pastor and church leader and parachurch leader it would be valuable if they understand this," Kluth told The Christian Post. "We're in the midst of a 40-year decline in the percentage that Christians give, and we need to see a generosity movement in America, that Christians re-embrace generosity as a spiritual value, but not for the sake of the church budget, but because of the Bible. Churches have made giving all about the budget, and it's not about the budget, it's all about the Bible."

5th Sunday Morning Counters Needed

Two counters are needed to count at noon on the 5th Sundays beginning in 2014. If you can serve, please email **Sandy Ostroski** (sandy.ostroski@pv-umc.org).

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@pv_umc



facebook.com/PonteVedraUMC

Handbells Given in Memory of Ellie Franskousky

In memory of his dear wife Ellie, **Regis Franskousky** has gifted Ponte Vedra United Methodist Church a beautiful **two octave set of handbells** crafted by Schulmerich, the world's largest and oldest existing manufacturer of handbells in the United States. Thank you, Rege, for this extraordinary gift that blesses us and our memory of Ellie. Our thanks also to others who have given to support the purchase music and supplies needed to begin ringing. Lastly, thanks in advance to those beginning to come together as a bell choir, and especially their volunteer director, Eleanor Snite.

Thank you...

The Ralph & Ann Wickersham and the Joseph S. Gardner III families would like to express their sincere appreciation for all the love, prayers, prayer warriors, and cards during this difficult time. Joe said he loved our church home.



United Methodist Women News

Thank you to everyone who participated in our pecan sale! The proceeds from the sale will fund the needlepoint kneelers that several of our members are construction.

We are extending our Operation Shoebox collection. They are currently stuffing 30,000 stockings to send to our deployed warriors for Christmas. A list of suggested items is located by the red, white and blue basket on the information table outside the infant nursery.

Our Christmas Bake Sale will soon be here! We appreciate donations of your home made baked goods. This event is an excellent opportunity to introduce our church to friends and neighbors. Also... it will eliminate your need to bake for the holiday!

The next UMW meeting is **Saturday, November 16 at 10:00am** in room 207. We will be nomination officers, allocating the money we earned this year to the many missions that we support and planning for 2014. All women are welcome to share in our faith and fellowship. Finally, we now have a Facebook page, Ponte Vedra United Methodist Women, which highlights our activities.

Volunteer Opportunities

We still have a few openings for Sunday morning snacks. The sign up sheet is on the wall next to the nursery. The snack is served between services from 10:30 to 11 a.m. in the foyer. Beverages are provided by the church.

Children's Corner



Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.

Proverbs 22:6 NIV



Special Thank You

To everyone who helped make *Trunk or Treat* a success! A special thank you to all the creative trunks folks provided! And to our set-up & clean-up volunteers and the folks that kept the hot-dogs, popcorn and events running smooth! Bless you all.

C.I.A. News

C.I.A. will continue to meet every Wednesday in November **EXCEPT Wednesday, November 27** when we will be practicing for two big holiday events! C.I.A. will play hand bells during the Hanging of the Greens on December 1 at 7:00pm and practicing for our Christmas Play, which will be performed December 11th. Bring your sack supper and join the fun on Wednesdays from 6:00 – 7:30pm.

Thanksgiving Family Devotionals

This month we celebrate Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is a day of giving thanks, or praise, to God. Below are some ways that you and your family can take a few moments to prepare our hearts to praise Him. Enjoy!

-  Take turns reading specific verses praising God for His character and greatness. For younger children, write the verses out ahead of time and put them in a bowl to choose from. Older children could look up the verses in the Bible.
-  Take a walk outside and listen to all the sounds and praise God's creativity in all the life he created.
-  Go around the table each night and say one thing that you are thankful for.

More Children's Corner on page 8



On A Musical Note

Praise Choir

Tuesdays 6:30-7:30pm

Traditional Choir

Thursdays 7:00-8:30pm



Advent Craft Festival – Sunday, December 1, 5:00 - 7:00pm (see below for more info)
Hanging of the Greens – Sunday, December 1 at 7:00pm.



Advent Wreath Lighting – One family lights the Advent Wreath at each service during the four Sundays in Advent (Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22) and on Christmas Eve (4:00, 5:30, 7:00). If your family would like to light the candles during one of the services, please contact Jenn Smith at jenn.smith@pv-umc.org.



Advent Festival Volunteers Needed



Don't miss the **Advent Craft Festival on December 1 from 5:00 – 7:00pm**. We will be busy making crafts and gifts for the Christmas season. Supper will be provided – an elf needs energy, right? Help us plan for supplies and sign up early. You may fill out the form below and return it to the church or contact Jenn Smith at jenn.smith@pv-umc.org. Invite your friends to this festive event, and then stay for *Hanging of the Greens* at 7!

ADVENT CRAFT FESTIVAL December 1, 5:00 - 7:00pm

Name _____

E-mail _____

I will be bringing _____ children to make crafts. Children's Ages _____

_____ I am willing to help set-up.

_____ I am willing to help prep crafts at home or at church prior to the event.

_____ I am willing to help children with crafts on the day of the event.

_____ I am willing to help clean up after the event.



Round Of Applause



- 👍 For our High School students who lead our middle school retreat in October!
- 👍 For Yolie and Fran who are teaching our teen Sunday school classes

Upcoming Events

SIGN UP TO PROVIDE DINNERS Thank you everyone for signing up to provide dinners for our youth ministry this fall! We are currently signing people up for January and February. Contact Kelly if you would like to volunteer! This is a great way to support our youth ministry!

Connections Worship is Back! Every Sunday from September to December, we will be holding worship in the sanctuary on Sunday nights. This worship service is geared towards teens and their families and is open to anyone who wants to experience a different type of worship! See you at 6:30!

Topics by date:

September 22: God is accepting

September 29: God is freedom

October 6: God is strong

October 13: God is certain

October 20: God is creative

October 27: God is for you

November 3: God is redemption

November 10: God is encouraging

November 17: God is not like me

November 24: God is mystery

December 8: God is in control

December 15: God is here

Bake-In November 15-16. Do you like to bake? Then you will love the annual bake-in! It is a lock-in where teams of students sign up for a 2 hour time slot in the kitchen. You must bring your own ingredients and at the end of the evening we will have a taste test to determine a winner! Don't like to bake? That's ok, come anyway and be part of our testing group!

A Note From Pastor Jeff:

It was Saturday night. We had just had a “spooktacular” *Trunk or Treat* event. 20 minutes or so into cleanup the accident happened. Our 12-year old Abby had been sitting on one of the 3' or 4' posts (bollards, I think architects call them) that keep cars from bumping the covered drive supports. She slipped and broke her arm.

Jill drove Abby to the hospital. Abby told her as they turned onto Roscoe, “**I wish I could go back in time.**” (As in, “and not hopped up there in the first place.”) Ah, regret. How many times have you said to yourself, I wish I hadn’t done (or said) that! Of course you can’t go back. Fortunately, most of the time the consequences of these actions are little more than nuisances. Then there are the choices that affect eternity. Having just preached from Matthew 25 it’s clear to me that how we relate to the hungry, the stranger, the naked, the sick, those in prison, the “least of these”... these are choices that affect our eternity, as well as the here and now of the neighbors we’re called to love.

May God grant us ears to hear and wisdom to choose well. As we follow Christ into the world, may the world be changed... through us.

Pastor Jeff

P.S. Abby required surgery and is looking at a succession of casts over the next six weeks. Her arm is expected to heal well.



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