

# THE WAVE



VOLUME 12, ISSUE 12

**DECEMBER 2013**

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## *Hangings 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 "**Hangings of the Greens**" service. Got kids? Come early (**5:00**) to enjoy **Christmas crafts** with them. **Snack supper** provided.

## *Bake Sale, December 7*

A **Christmas cookie-bake** fund raiser for missions will be held **Saturday, December 7** from 9:00am to 3:00pm. Organized by our own **United Methodist Women**. More information on page 6.

## *Christmas Musical to be Offered December 8*

**Lead Me Back to Bethlehem** to witness the joyful exuberance of the shepherds, the serene peace of Mary, and the redeeming love of the newly born Christ child. Lead me back to that wondrous night to see the star of holy light, following wherever it leads us. Our **Traditional Choir** leads us through the Bethlehem story using carols, familiar folk songs with new seasonal texts, and original music and narrative. **Sunday, December 8** at **9:30** and **11:00**.

**Our new bell choir** will offer "**O Come All Ye Faithful**" at both services! (See page 7 for more on this.)

## *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 1 **Watching as We Wait** (Luke 1:5-80)

December 8 **Lead Me Back to Bethlehem** (a Christmas musical)

December 15 **Okay to Doubt** (Matthew 1:18-25)

December 22 **No Room** (Luke 2:1-7)

December 24 **God Come Down** (Isaiah 9:2-7)

December 29 **An Unexpected Journey** (Matthew 2:13-23)

## OUR MISSION:

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



**PONTE VEDRA**  
*United Methodist Church*

## Missions Corner

### Mission Blitz

It is time for **Mission Blitz**, our annual Christmastime Mission Extravaganza. Beginning on **Friday, December 13** with a hot food hand out in St Augustine, and ending with worship on Sunday evening, the whole weekend is full of mission and service. You can participate in as many mission activities as you'd like! Just contact **Kelly Minter** (kelly.minter@pv-umc.org, 280-5141) or sign up after services on December 1 and 8! Not able to make the time commitment? You can also serve by providing a meal or funds for a meal for the Mission Blitz participants. **Not just for youth, Mission Blitz is for everyone!**

### The Giving Tree

Last year's **Giving Tree** was popular with both our generous church family and with those served by BEAM. (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 which utilizes them to support its pantry with fresh fruits and vegetables not grown onsite and when client needs can't be met (formula, baby food, etc).

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.)

### Operation Christmas Child



Many thanks to you who prepared shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. We prepared **127 boxes** this year, by far the most in the history of our church. What a blessing those boxes will be to 127 children! Our boxes will go to the Atlanta Processing Center and then on to any of the following countries: Belize, Haiti, Dominican Republic, Colombia, Trinidad and Tobago, Suriname, Macedonia, Georgia, Niger, Ghana, Gabon, Botswana, Seychelles and Madagascar. Thank you for your support of this mission! Thanks too to **Rita and Andy Andreu** for receiving and transporting the boxes.

## *Crop Hunger Walk*

Thanks to the many of you who walked for hunger on November 3. Ponte Vedra UMC raised over **\$1,110**. You have made a difference for many of the 1 in 6 people in the United States for whom hunger is a reality. God bless you!

## *2013 Special Christmas Offering, Reaching Children in Poverty*



Throughout the month of December you'll be hearing about the **FSM Panama Feeding Program** and the **Madison Youth Ranch**. These are the recipients of our Special Christmas Offering. The entire proceeds of the Christmas Eve offering will be donated to these groups who are dedicated to improving the lives of children in poverty. As we celebrate Christ's birth, consider giving an amount comparable to what you would plan to spend on a gift under your tree. You will feel good knowing the impact that it will have in the life of a child living in poverty. Please write "Christmas Offering" on your envelope and give any Sunday.

## *Elementary School Clothing Needed*

With the onset of cooler weather, there are many elementary school aged children that are in desperate need of warm clothing. If you have any gently used children's clothing sizes 5-12, please contact **Sharon Kehoe** at [sharon.kehoe@pv-umc.org](mailto:sharon.kehoe@pv-umc.org).

## *Saint Paul School of Excellence Reading Sleep-In*



St. Paul School of Excellence does not have enough classroom library books to meet the requirement of the Common Core Standards. To earn money to purchase the necessary books they are planning a **Reading Sleep-In** on **December 6**. They are hoping to solicit sponsors and donations for this activity and are specifically in need of monetary donations to purchase books and sponsors for children who may not be able to attend due to the \$15 per child fee.

St. Paul School of Excellence is a free Charter School in the Lincolnville area of St. Augustine. Ponte Vedra UMC has partnered with this school in many efforts with the goal of improving the educational outcomes of the impoverished children in that area. If you are interested in assisting in this opportunity or other programs please contact **Laura Lovett** at [laura.lovett@pv-umc.org](mailto:laura.lovett@pv-umc.org), **Sharon Kehoe** at [sharon.kehoe@pv-umc.org](mailto:sharon.kehoe@pv-umc.org), or **Jenn Smith** at [Jenn.Smith@pv-umc.org](mailto:Jenn.Smith@pv-umc.org).

## *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

# Financial Status

## General Fund Recap October 2013

Tithes & Offerings	\$ 49,087
Less Expenses	\$ 53,192
October Income/(Deficit)	\$ (4,105)
YTD Income/(Deficit)	\$ (7,583)

### Designated Totals

Mission Funds	\$7,564
Enhancement Fund	\$1,673
Memorials	\$3,848
Building Fund	\$219,950
General Fund	
Needed Weekly 2013	\$ 14,160

## November 2013 Giving & Attendance

Date	9:30 Attendance	11:00 Attendance	General Fund Giving	Missions Giving	Designated Giving
11/3	135	128	\$10,776	\$105	\$266
Connections	58				
10/13	135	165	\$17,121	\$1,196	\$650
Connections	46				
10/20	120	143	\$15,288	\$1,295	\$0
Connections	40				
10/27	158	151	\$11,935	\$656	\$695
Connections	45				

Owed on Church Facility: \$2,113,044

Owed on Parsonage: \$92,098

## Money Matters

### Up to Date on Your Giving?

As of this writing our year to date deficit is **\$7,583**. How's your giving been in 2013? Your year-end gift is most welcome; it will help us meet our present obligations.

### Estimate of Giving for 2014

Our thanks to those of you who have already completed your **pledge card for 2014**. It is so helpful for planning purposes to know what people think they'll give. There are blank cards on the welcome table in the foyer if you wish to complete one. Or cut the card from this newsletter. Or simply email our accountant **Jim Larsen** ([jim.larsen@pv-umc.org](mailto:jim.larsen@pv-umc.org)) with the amount you intend to give in the new year.

# Financial Peace University

We all need a plan for our money. Dave Ramsey’s life transforming class will show you how to get rid of debt, manage your money, spend and save wisely, and much more! The class is highly entertaining, with a unique combination of humor, informative financial advice and solid biblical messages.

To register for the class, make a \$100 check (whether single or couple) payable to PVUMC and note FPU on the giving envelope. Checks may be placed in the offering plate or turned in to the church office. Partial scholarships are available if it’s a financial hardship for you to pay the entire \$100 balance.

Here’s an outline of the nine week class:

- Lesson 1: Super Saving - Common Sense for your Dollars and Cents
- Lesson 2: Relating with Money - Nerds and Free Spirits Unite
- Lesson 3: Cash Flow Planning - The Nuts and Bolts of Budgeting
- Lesson 4: Dumping Debt - Breaking the Chains of Debt
- Lesson 5: Buyer Beware - The Power of Marketing on Your Buying Decisions
- Lesson 6: The Role of Insurance - Protecting your Health, Family, and Finances
- Lesson 7: Retirement and College Planning - Mastering the Alphabet Soup of Investing
- Lesson 8: Real Estate and Mortgages - Keeping the American Dream from Becoming a Nightmare
- Lesson 9: The Great Misunderstanding - Unleashing the Power of Generous Giving

## PLEDGE CARD 2014



In response to God’s love and as a concrete expression of my faith in and commitment to Christ and his church, I/we plan to give \$\_\_\_\_\_ per \_\_\_\_\_ (week/month/year).

*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\*.

\*Retired persons might consider their income to be what they will draw from all sources, including savings.

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

Name (printed)

Phone

Signature

Date

Thank you for returning this card by mail or in Sunday worship. Your commitment may be revised or canceled at any time. If you have a question, please contact the church office at 280-5141.

Ponte Vedra United Methodist Church  
76 S. Roscoe Blvd.  
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082

*United Methodist Women News*

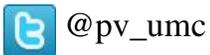
The UMW is having the third annual **Christmas Bake Sale Saturday, December 7 from 9:00am - 3:00pm**. This is an opportunity to introduce friends and neighbors to our church and to eliminate the need to bake this year! If you would like to donated baked goods please bring them to the church Friday, December 6 between 10:00am - 2:00pm or Saturday morning. All proceeds will be used to support our missions.

The next **UMW meeting is January 11 at 10:00am** in room 207. All women of Ponte Vedra UMC are welcome to join us to share our faith and fellowship.



United Methodist Women  
**Christmas Bake Sale**  
**Saturday, December 7**  
**9:00am - 3:00pm**  
 Cookies sold by the pound.  
 Breads, pies and cakes, too!  
  
 All proceeds will support missions.

*Like us on Facebook; Follow us on Twitter!*



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## *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 of 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.

## *Welcome, New Members!*

We were pleased to welcome **Joey McLain, Doug & Renee Reimer, Rob & Tena Schlingmann, Doug & Lauren Senecal, Jeff & Catherine Timm** and **Christy Timm** into membership on November 10. Welcome, new members!

## *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 Tuesday, December 17** to the office or through the weekly offering.

## *Restroom Designations Changing*



On the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor are two restrooms, one for each gender. **The Trustees are changing the signs to make both bathrooms available to both genders.** The door to the restroom presently designated women is in view from the rooms used by children; a leader can observe from a classroom doorway that a child has gone into the restroom and watch to see that the child returns to the classroom. With the change, leaders will be able to send boys as well as girls to this restroom while keeping them in sight.

## *Volunteer Opportunities*

Mark your calendar...

Ponte Vedra UMC will have its next **Blood Drive** January 12. Beat the crowds and sign up on-line to get the best time for your schedule. Go to [www.igiveblood.com](http://www.igiveblood.com) click on find a blood drive and choose "sponsor name search," enter Ponte Vedra United Methodist Church and it will take you to our drive. You can also contact **Eleanor Snite** at [eleanor.snite@pv-umc.org](mailto:eleanor.snite@pv-umc.org), 280-8026 to make an appointment.

See how you can make a difference in your local church, community, and world through the **ministry fair** being held following each service on **Sunday, January 26**. You'll be amazed by the ways God is using us together!



### On A Musical Note

#### **Praise Choir**

Tuesdays 6:30-7:30pm

#### **Traditional Choir**

Thursdays 7:00-8:30pm

### Kingdom Kids

## 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**

*I hope and pray that everyone has a wonderful Christmas season full of quality family time, memory making traditions, and cheer. And may the spirit of Christ dwell and shine in all of our actions during the Christmas season. Merry Christmas everyone!*  
-- Jenn Smith

Starting December, Kingdom Kids begins a new rotation curriculum! Every month we will study one story through multiple lesson types (art, video, science, cooking, drama). And as always Kingdom Kids will collect offerings that go toward purchasing a flock of chicks or rabbits for **Heifer International**. Our December goal is for each classroom to EACH raise enough for a flock (total of four flocks in December)!



### C.I.A. Briefs

December is full of Christmas Cheer in CIA! Here is a list of all our upcoming Christmas events:

**December 1<sup>st</sup>** - C.I.A. will play the hand bells at Hanging of the Greens service.

**December 11<sup>th</sup>** – Christmas Play in the Sanctuary at 7pm (all are welcome)

**December 18<sup>th</sup>** – Caroling at Vicar's Landing (C.I.A. will be offsite)

There will be no C.I.A. on December 25<sup>th</sup> or January 1<sup>st</sup>. See you back on the 8<sup>th</sup>!

### Mark Your Calendars!

**Sunday, December 1** – ADVENT FESTIVAL from 5-7 pm! Calling all Elves! Come join us upstairs for an evening of crafting, dinner and make your own dessert. It is the perfect way to welcome in the Advent season! And stay after to attend our festive Hanging of the Greens Service at 7pm.

**Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup>** – C.I.A. presents “Teach the Children” Christmas play at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary! All are invited to attend and see the kids in action.

**Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>** – Holly Jolly Kids Christmas Extravaganza from 8:30am-12:30pm. A Kids Only event! Children will begin the morning with a waffle breakfast and a visit from Santa! Followed by crafts, games, and a popcorn Christmas show finale. Event by PVUMC Youth.

## *A Note From Pastor Jeff... Continued from back page*

Spencer felt like it was taking *forever* for the parts to arrive, and even longer for Dad to get the thing built. It took over *two weeks!* What Spencer didn't know was that I was designing the circuit and creating a parts list way back in July. We get impatient with God (why is he taking so long!) when God has been planning far in advance of our awareness of our needs and desires. I'm thrilled that Spencer was willing to go half with me on the \$44 circuit board; he was willing to partner with me in the project. No doubt God too is filled with joy when we've got "skin in the game" and partner with God in God's work.

"Lord, help me labor wholeheartedly and with patience in your kingdom, trusting you for good."

Pastor Jeff

*For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.* — Jeremiah 29:11

### *Thank you...*

Thanks for all the prayers and get well wishes while spending 11 long days in St. Vincent's Riverside having testing and then a partial foot amputation. You helped keep our spirits up and we are sure God heard the cry to keep Ira safe during the operation and then pain free during recovery. May our God continue to keep us all well and happy One Day At A Time.

-- Ira and Carolyn Chelette

### *Welcome, Paul Tetlow*



On November 25, we had the privilege of welcoming **Paul Tetlow** to our church staff as our new custodian and facilities person. Paul's responsibilities will include cleaning our facility as well as doing setups for our growing ministry and other special events. We are fortunate that Paul came our way. Please join me in welcoming Paul as our newest staff member!

## *A Note From Pastor Jeff:*

On the way home from summer vacation we stopped at a Jungle Jim's International Market in Cincinnati. In one section of the store they have a full-sized working traffic light. Spencer turns to Jill and says, "Maybe when I'm in heaven I can have that!"

When we got home Jill checked Craigs List and found a real traffic light in three pieces for sale in Jax Beach. Ca-ching! Spencer's November birthday gift was soon cleaned up and resting in our attic, though I wasn't sure I'd be able to wait four months. As his birthday approached I began assembling the light, complete with homemade stand.

Here's the thing about engineers: We always want to make things better. After Spencer got the traffic light (he was thrilled, by the way) I asked if he'd like a handheld controller that would let him switch between manual control and automatic sequencing of the light. (You can buy small circuit boards online for the sequencing function.) Spencer was into this, big time. We ordered the parts and, after more soldering than I've ever done, the controller was finished. What 9-year old boy wouldn't love this? What 53-year old boy wouldn't love this!

*... continued on inside back cover*



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

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#### CHURCH STAFF

Lead Pastor	Jeff Bennett
Teaching Pastor	Jimmy Jones
Youth Minister	Kelly Minter
Children's Minister	Jenn Smith
Nursery Coordinator	Kim Knopp
Admin. Assistant	Susan Bowler
Accountant	Jim Larsen
Music Contemporary	Scott Tinsley
Music Traditional	Elisabeth Crumrine
Custodian	Paul Tetlow

Staff email:  
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