

# THE WAVE



VOLUME 14, ISSUE 12

**DECEMBER 2015**

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## *Hanging of the Greens, November 29*



Joy, joy, joy, joy, joy. On Sunday, **November 29** 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.

## *Bake Sale, December 12*

A Christmas cookie-bake fund raiser for missions will be held **Saturday, December 13** from **9:00am to 1:00pm**. Organized by our own United Methodist Women.

## *Christmas Musical to be Offered December 13*



We have all heard the glory of the Christmas story. A **Noel Celebration** brings new perspective to this beloved story. We will hear the journey to Bethlehem through the eyes of Zechariah, Mary, Joseph, a shepherd, a wise man, and Simeon. Their stories and the sounds of familiar carols will bring the birth of the Christ Child back to the center of the season. The members of the choirs are excited to join you in worship on **Sunday, December 13**

at **9:30** and **11:00**. Our bell choir will offer "**Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**" at both services!

## *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*

November 29 **C S I: Christmas Scene Investigation** (Luke 2:8-20)

December 6 **Awe-filled Advent** (Malachi 2:17 - 3:5)

December 13 **A Noel Celebration** (a Christmas musical)

December 21 **"O Little Town of"** (Micah 5:2-5a)

## OUR MISSION:

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



**PONTE VEDRA**  
*United Methodist Church*

## Missions Corner

### Family Promise News

Ponte Vedra UMC will host Family Promise guests the week of January 31 - February 7 at church. Our next **Family Promise meeting** will be **Sunday, January 10 at 5:00pm**. At this meeting we will make final arrangements for our host week. If you are interested in helping with meals, spending the evening at the church or hosting our families at meal time, please contact **Jill Bennett** at [jill.bennett@pv-umc.org](mailto:jill.bennett@pv-umc.org). Our team of volunteers looks forward to serving these families.

Our initial drive to collect linens for Family Promise was well received. Once again PVUMC members have proven to be very generous! In fact, we had some items beyond our need here at the church. Those things will be taken downtown to the Family Promise office where families moving into their own homes can retrieve needed items from the supply closet. **There are a few items we still need such as 3 washable bed pillows, 6 pillow protectors and 3 twin size new or gently used blankets.** There is a storage tub marked Family Promise in the hallway outside the nursery and preschool rooms where you may drop off your donations. Thank you so much for your generosity! In January, we will collect snack and food items for our guests. Watch for the display in the foyer indicating the food items needed.

### Art Appreciation at St. Paul's School of Excellence



(From the October 26th St. Augustine Record, written by Peter Willot)

“Students from the St. Paul School of Excellence gather around an **obelisk** decorated with their anti-bullying-themed artwork in front of their school in St. Augustine on Monday. The students, with help from Ponte Vedra United Methodist Church members, made the obelisk that that will sit in front of their school on Dr. Martin Luther King Avenue to celebrate St. Augustine’s 450th birthday. Standing with the children is Ponte Vedra United Methodist Church children’s minister **Jennifer Smith.**”

Each month during the school year, Jenn Smith and Pastor Donna Bowen lead an art appreciation class at St. Paul School of Excellence in the Lincolnville area of St. Augustine. **If you have three hours to spare** during the month, have a love for children and want to experience the joy of children expressing their creativity, please contact Jenn at [jenn.smith@pv-umc.org](mailto:jenn.smith@pv-umc.org).

### New Ponte Vedra T-shirts Coming for the Lenten Season

**“Ponte Vedra Runners... Running the Good Race” - 2 Timothy 4:6**

Lent is a time we reflect on our faith journey. Paul, in his letter to Timothy, celebrates that he is running the good race for Christ. We are running for Christ in local charity runs and in our mission “runs” for BEAM, Mission House, Home Again St. John’s, Family Promise and a multitude of runs in which we are Christ’s hands and feet. **We will preorder T-shirts in January** and have them to wear after Ash Wednesday. Let’s see what blessed conversations are started as we wear our “Ponte Vedra Runners” shirts. Look for more details in January issue of *The Wave* newsletter.

## Mission Blitz 2015

The Ponte Vedra UMC youth **Mission Blitz** is coming soon! **December 4 - 6** we will be participating in various types of mission outreach projects. We will have two children's Christmas parties (one in Lincolnville and one in Ponte Vedra Beach), a zoo clean up, pantry sorting, and more. **Contact Kelly Minter**, [kelly1.minter@pv-umc.org](mailto:kelly1.minter@pv-umc.org) or sign up after church at the Mission Blitz table in the foyer on November 15, 22, or 29. This is a great event for the entire family!

Mission Blitz



Mission Blitz

### Holly Jolly Kids Christmas Pajama Party

Saturday, December 5

6:30 - 10:00pm

Come one come all to this kids only event at Ponte Vedra UMC. Wear your jammies and join the fun! Children will begin the evening with crafts and a small service project.

Then we will show a Christmas movie and have a fresh popped popcorn treat!

Invite your friends and neighbors too! Ages 3 and up, please.

For more information, contact **Kelly Minter** at PVUMC at 280-5141.

## Operation Christmas Child



Many thanks to you who prepared shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. We prepared **174 boxes** this year, by far the most in the history of our church. Thank you for your support of this mission! Thanks too to **Rita and Andy Andreu** for receiving and transporting the boxes.

## A Word from John Wesley, founder of Methodism

[Gold and silver is] an excellent gift of God, answering the noblest ends. In the hands of his children it is food for the hungry, drink for the thirsty, raiment for the naked. It gives to the traveller and the stranger where to lay his head. By it we may supply the place of an husband to the widow, and of a father to the fatherless.

– Works II, 283-84.

# Financial Status

## General Fund Recap October 2015

Tithes & Offerings	\$ 54,282
Less Expenses	\$ 82,698
September Income/(Deficit)	\$ (28,416)
YTD Income/(Deficit)	\$ (70,755)

### Designated Totals

Mission Funds	\$4,106
Enhancement Fund	\$2,282
Memorials	\$1,255
Building Fund	\$200,573
Capital Reserves	\$32,779
General Fund	
Needed Weekly 2015	\$ 16,085

## November 2015 Giving, Attendance

Date	9:30 Attendance	11:00 Attendance	General Fund Giving	Missions Giving	Designated Giving
11/1	102	123	\$12,987	\$212	\$69
Connections	38				
11/8	135	134	\$19,872	\$314	\$950
Connections	31				
11/15	105	146	\$14,248	\$677	\$280
Connections	33				
11/22	106	153	\$18,333	\$1,052	\$870
Connections	32				

Owed on Church Facility: \$1,732,054

Owed on Parsonage: \$0

## Money Matters

### Up to Date on Your Giving?

As of this writing our **year-to-date deficit** is **\$70,000**. How's your giving been in 2015? Your year-end gift is most welcome; it will help us meet our present obligations. Only once before, in 2011, have we had a deficit of this size. We finished that year with a net gain of \$4,000. Can we do it again, church?

### Estimate of Giving for 2016

Our thanks to those of you who have already completed your **pledge card for 2016**. 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. **Make your commitment online** at [pv-umc.org/pledge](http://pv-umc.org/pledge).

# Online Giving Now Available

You may now give online using **bank draft, debit, or credit card**. You may give on a one-time basis, or set up a recurring gift schedule. To avoid having the church pay debit/credit card merchant fees (2.75% - 3.50% of your gift) consider using the **free bill payer feature** available on most bank accounts. See [pv-umc.org/give](http://pv-umc.org/give) for details (with links) on these and other ways to give.

Ready to go to the online giving page? Scan this QR code with your smartphone:



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



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\*.

"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

## Welcome New Members!



We were pleased to welcome into membership November 8 **Bev Allphin, Mary Margaret Barbour, Cameron & Amy Beane**, daughters **Caleigh** and **Mackenzie**, along with younger siblings **Ella** and **Parker**. Then on November 11 Pastor Jeff baptized **Ian Keller** in the ocean (!) at Mickler's Landing. Welcome, new members!

## United Methodist Women News

**Our end of the year mission giving** was distributed among 19 outreaches locally, nationally and internationally and also other outreaches within the NE District of the UMW. We thank our church family for their continued support. Christmas toys were collected and are on their way to Costa Rica to make a difference for some child under the Faithful Servant Mission outreach.

The **cookie bake sale** is **Saturday, December 12** from **9:00am - 1:00pm**. Baked goods will be received Friday, December 11 from 9:00am - 4:00pm and on Saturday, the day of the sale, beginning at 7:30am. This is a fun time as well as a time to let us help you with your "Christmas desserts and baking." Pecans will also be available for sale. Thank you for your support.

**January 9** will be our first meeting of the new year. We will have a **prayer breakfast** beginning at **9:00am** upstairs in room 207. **Jennie Dorsey** will preside over this touching event. It will also include a 2016 planning session. All are invited. Come with open hearts, ideas to share and wishes for a happy new year!

United Methodist Women officers have been chosen. They are, **Jo Miller**, President, **Jennie Dorsey**, Vice President, **Debi Russillo**, Secretary and **Bobbie League**, Treasurer.

## Men's Breakfast, Save the Date!

**Men, Young Men and Boys of PVUMC...** Mark your calendars for **Saturday morning, December 12**. There's a meal coming! Details to follow.

## Financial Peace University

Coming Sundays, 2:00 - 4:00pm, beginning **January 17**. Contact, **Ralph Snyder**, ralph.snyder@pv-umc.org or **Chris Chaney**, chris.chaney@pv-umc.org

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







### On A Musical Note

#### **Praise Choir**

Tuesdays 6:30-7:30pm

#### **Traditional Choir**

Thursdays 7:00-8:30pm

### Children's Corner

#### Kingdom Kids

We will be taking a "Star Trip" in December and celebrating the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Please take a moment this Christmas season to thank one of our amazing Kingdom Kids instructors.

### C.I.A. (Children In Action) Briefs

C.I.A. Rings will play the bells during the Hanging of the Greens service on Sunday, November 29 and C.I.A. will spend this Advent season baking for the UMW bake sale, practicing our Christmas play to be held on Wednesday, December 9 and caroling at Vicar's Landing on December 16. There will be no C.I.A. on Wednesday, December 23 or December 30. C.I.A. will resume on Wednesday, January 6.

### C.I.A. Christmas Play

Come celebrate the Christmas story through drama and celebration on Wednesday, December 9 at 7:00pm.

### Acolytes

Acolytes (along with Mission Blitz youth) will be taking our Advent Festival on the road to St. Paul's School of Excellence in St. Augustine on December 4<sup>th</sup>. We will provide crafting, story reading and a visit from Santa with the children there. We will then celebrate the Christmas lights and ride the Christmas trolley through St. Augustine. Thank you acolytes and leaders for serving our Church and community!

### Random Acts of Christmas Kindness

This Christmas season, Children's Ministry will be inviting everyone at Ponte Vedra UMC to participate in showing Random Acts of Christmas Kindness. Information on this opportunity will be provided during worship services on November 29<sup>th</sup> and in the foyer after.

### Zoo Lights Family Outing

On Sunday, December 20 from 6:00pm - 9:30pm we will be heading out to the zoo to celebrate the brilliant Christmas lights and festivities. The cost is \$8 for zoo members and \$10 for non-members. This is a beautiful way to celebrate Christmas with your church friends. Let **Jenn Smith** (jenn.smith@pv-umc.org) know if you want to attend so we can all meet at the zoo.





## Round Of Applause

- ◆ All of the students, parents, volunteers, and church members who took time out to participate in our youth ministry assessment. We are so excited to start on our plans for the future, and value your feedback as we progress!
- ◆ **Tena Schlingmann** and **Mindy Waters**, for their tireless work connecting with and recruiting parents for the assessment listening groups
- ◆ All of our parents and students who helped make the Advent craft fair and the Hanging of the Greens Service such a great experience

## Upcoming Events:

**Sign up to Provide Sunday Night Dinners!** A huge thank you to everyone who has signed up to provide dinners this summer. We are currently signing up dinners from December through June. This is a great way to support our youth ministry! Contact Kelly if you want to sign up for this, or click this link! <http://tinyurl.com/kvdfqbq>

**Tuesday Bible Study** We will be continuing our Advent and Christmas Bible Study through mid-December. We will NOT meet during exam week (December 15) and will pick up again January 12. Our current study is “Finding Bethlehem in the Midst of Bedlam” and our January study topic will be chosen by the group in December.

**Mission Blitz 2015** is here! Want to help? We still need people to make and serve meals, and can always use help with our mission projects! Celebrate December by helping others! December 4,5, and 6.

**STAR WARS NIGHT!** Sunday, December 13 we will be holding a Star Wars Movie-a-thon! Starting at 1:00pm we will show episodes IV, V, and VI. Our first two movies will be in the sanctuary, and our last one will be held outside (weather permitting). Bring your whole family, comfy clothes, and be ready to have a great time! Come when you can, and leave when you must, we will be running the movies until 8pm!

## Help Wanted

Our youth ministry is in need of a few more Sunday School teachers! Youth Sunday School meets 11:00am. We are looking for some committed volunteers with a heart for teens and the bible. Volunteers work on a rotating basis, and all materials are provided. Talk to Kelly if you have any questions.

We are also looking for additional **small group leaders** for Sunday nights. If you would be willing to serve our youth in this capacity, please contact Kelly.

## A Note

### From Pastor

For the past month or two I've been thinking about the will of God in the context of a card game, the kind of card game where you play with a partner. My fellow Thursday men's Bible study member Tom Munsell tells me that bridge is one of those games. (He should know... he's a bridge Life Master and that's a big deal – no pun intended.)

In the game that is life, God and I are partners. I know the cards I hold but I don't know the cards God holds. If God and I are to win the hand, I have to pay close attention to the cards God plays. Given what God has just played, what card do I lay down next? If we really get to know God, can we begin to sense the direction of his play? I don't worry much about the cards I've drawn, only about making the best play possible. I suppose it's Satan we're playing against, along with his partner evil, poverty, suffering, or any number of things that aren't right in the world.

The good news is that even if God and I lose this hand, it's not *game over*, I'll be dealt another hand. The way to get good at bridge or any other card game is to keep playing. As Christians we are assured that God holds the trump card that can win the game. (Wouldn't you agree that Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, *God with us*, trumps evil?) As we prepare for the coming (and coming again) of Christ, let's be encouraged that The Game is as good as won. Next hand!

Looking to master life with God,  
Pastor Jeff



## PONTE VEDRA

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### United Methodist Church

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

Phone: 904-280-5141  
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#### CHURCH STAFF

Lead Pastor	Jeff Bennett
Teaching Pastor	David Moening
Arts & Spirituality Pastor	Donna Bowen
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	Jim McDonald

Staff email:  
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