

THE WAVE



VOLUME 3, ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2005

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December Highlights

Prepare for the coming of the Christ this month by partaking of and participating in our many special opportunities to bless and be blessed.

December 4 6:00pm Christmas Caroling

We'll car pool, spreading Christmas cheer to some special people through Christmas caroling. Return to the church by 7:30 for refreshments with the youth who will be returning from their caroling hayride.

December 11 6:00pm Our Family Christmas Memories

Our children are sure to delight as they present us with this gift of Christmas memories from their families and our church family.

December 18 7:00pm Lessons and Carols

This traditional service brings Scripture and song together in a beautiful telling of the Christmas story.

December 24 5:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

7:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

We'll gather together with many friends and guests from the community to worship on the eve of our Savior's birth.

December 25 11:15am Combined Christmas Day Service

Celebrate the coming of the Christ!

(There will be no 10am Sunday School on this day.)

Upcoming Messages:

- December 4 **"John the Baptist: The Guy Who Doesn't Make the Manger Scene"** (Mark 1:1-8)
- December 11 **"The Light of Hope"** (John 1:6-9, 19-28)
- December 18 **"From All-powerful, Almighty to All-powerless, All-vulnerable"** (Luke 1:26-38)
- December 24 5pm, 7pm **"God Become Flesh?"** (Luke 2:1-20)
- December 25 11:15am **"God Has Moved In"** (John 1:1-14)

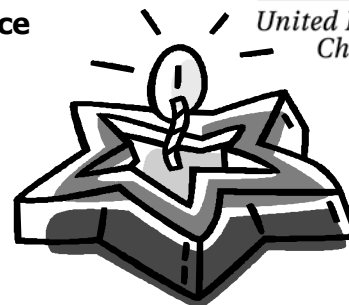
OUR MISSION:

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



PONTE VEDRA

United Methodist
Church



Missions Corner

First Coast Women's Services is a non-profit Christian crisis pregnancy center in Mandarin that opened the doors of a new office in Jacksonville Beach in October. Women who suspect they are pregnant and feeling anxious can come to the center for a variety of services, including pregnancy testing, ultrasound testing, counseling, maternity and baby clothing and help with rent and utilities. The agency educates women on all of their options and offers support for parenting their baby or deciding on adoption. Clients who choose abortion are not judged and are welcome back anytime, should they need crisis pregnancy services again.

Our church is one of several area churches supporting FCWS and is joined by individuals and other organizations, including the PGA Tour. The office is located at 2187 3rd Street S, Jacksonville Beach. 904 246-7378.



The Blessings of Angels

Thank you to all who signed out an angel to share blessings with the 75 needy children we are sponsoring this year through the Salvation Army. Your gifts are helping to show God's love. A special thank you to **Sherrill Brown** and **Melissa Horne** who volunteered their time to make this project a success.

An Operation Christmas Child Thank You

Many thanks to you who prepared shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. Sixty boxes are going out from our church to children all over the world. Thanks too to **Dean and Dave Decker** for checking through and transporting the boxes.

A Word from Wesley

Charles Wesley wrote many of the hymns familiar to us, including some we sing during the Christmas season: "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus," "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing." Brother John Wesley had this to say about Methodist singing:

The Methodists sing not lolling at ease, or in the indecent posture of sitting, drawing out one word after another, but all standing before God and praising him lustily and with good courage.

– *Jackson VIII, 318.*

Something to keep in mind as we're singing the songs of the season.

From the Campaign Followup Team

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN STATUS

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A Journey of Faith goal: \$1.2 million
 Pledged to Date: \$1,308,921
 Received on pledges to date: \$ 385,226
 Building Fund Total Balance: \$ 455,210

Our Trustees have reviewed a purchase agreement for our #1 property choice; the district is now reviewing it. We will present it to the Seller as soon as final changes are made. We are not giving the Seller everything they want and it's not possible to say whether the sticking points will be negotiable. When the agreement is signed by the Seller details of the sale (including property location, of course) will be brought to the congregation for your consideration. Congregational approval is a condition of the purchase agreement.

– Your Followup Director Team: David & Patricia Branham, Jim & Sherry Banks



December 2005 Giving & Attendance



Date	Contemp.	Trad.	General	Capital
11/6		169	\$ 4,689	\$ 1,105
11/13	67	71	\$ 8,850	\$ 5,025
11/20	84	95	\$ 7,170	\$ 1,835
11/27	92	65	\$ 11,080	\$ 1,210

Designated Totals
 Building Fund \$ 455,210
 Missions (YTD) \$ 10,166
 Enhancement Fund \$ 4,748

Need weekly
 (after "new church" support)
 \$9,894

Needed weekly
 (before "new church" support)
 \$11,680

News from the Youth...

Thanksgiving Baskets a Great Success!

Your youth ministry collected food donations and gift cards to provide several families in need with enough food for a plentiful holiday meal. Our thanks to each of you who donated food and gift cards. Students spent time packing the boxes during their youth group meeting the Sunday before Thanksgiving. We were excited to see that after the packages were assembled, ten families would be receiving our gifts. Tuesday morning, youth minister **Adam Myers** delivered the baskets to Rawlings Elementary school and returned to Ponte Vedra UMC with their thanks and gratitude to all who were involved. The baskets included cans of fruits and vegetables, pie crusts and fillings, cranberry sauce, stuffing mix, gift cards for turkey, and more. High school student **Tucker Holland** said, "The best part of this was helping others in need and remembering not to take what we have for granted because others may not be as well off as we are." Another high school student, **Ross McSwain**, said, "The best part of this project for me was the realization that many of us take our Thanksgiving meals for granted, and that others don't have what we have. It makes us more thankful for what we have, too." With the success of this year's Thanksgiving basket project and the knowledge that even Ponte Vedra has families in need, the youth ministry looks forward to keeping this project alive for years to come.



New Members Received

With glad hearts we received **Dave & Dean Decker** into membership last month. Welcome, Deckers! Pastor Jeff will lead the next orientation for those interested in membership on Sunday, January 22 from 4 to 6pm.



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.



On A Musical Note

The Children's and Youth
Creative Arts Ministry

Music, Music, Music

We're hearing rumors that all manner of instrumentalists are present among us: strings, brass, wood winds and beyond. Would you be willing to bless your church with the gift that God has given and you have honed? Worship is the work of the people... Let any of our music leaders know of your willingness to share.

Cherubs Choir

Ages 3&4

Wednesdays 5:45-6:45pm

Preschool Room

The **Cherubs** and **Children's Choirs** are being led by **Anne Torgerson** and **Jill Bennett**. They're hard at work on an original presentation for you Sunday evening, December 11. Our youngest voices gather together on Wednesdays from 5:45 - 6:45pm.

Children's Choir

Grades K-5

Wednesdays 5:45-6:45pm

The **Youth Creative Arts Ministry** is being led by a team that includes youth minister **Adam Myers**, **Pastor Jeff**, **Deborah Dickerson** and **Norma Webster**. YCAM meets Wednesdays from 5:45 - 8:00pm for recreation, a devotional, snack supper, music and drama rehearsals, and worship. It's an awesome group with room for more. 6th - 12th graders, come on out!

YCAM

Grades 6-12

Wednesdays 5:45-8:00pm

Scott Tinsley's the man directing the band and the **Praise Choir** too. You've sung the music from the chairs; a place on the risers awaits you at the 9:00 contemporary worship service. Rehearsals are held Tuesday night from 6:30 - 7:30. Great music and great fellowship... It can all be yours each Tuesday evening and Sunday morning.

Praise Choir

Tuesdays 6:30-7:30pm

Traditional Choir

Thursdays 7:00-8:00pm

The **Traditional Choir** is back in action with Diane Wright at the helm. They are bringing us special music at the 11:15 traditional service every other week. Soprano, alto, tenor, bass or not-sure-what-you-are, come and make a joyful noise at their 7:00pm Thursday rehearsals.

In Hebrews 10: 23-25 God's word says , "Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another-and all the more as you see the day approaching."



A Note From Pastor Jeff.

"Those who say that the God has begotten a son preach a monstrous falsehood, which the very heavens might crack, the heavens break asunder, and the mountains crumble to dust. It does not become the holy God to beget a son." –The Koran, 19.88-92

We're approaching Christmas, that time of year when Christians trundle out this belief that theologians call "the incarnation." It's quite something, really, this idea that God would not only be "God with us" but come to us as an actual person, Jesus of Nazareth.

Wil Willimon, formerly Dean of the Chapel of Duke University and now a United Methodist Bishop, tells of the student who came to him, distressed that he was losing his faith. Willimon inquired as to what faith he was losing. "I have problems with the virgin birth of Jesus. Don't I have to believe in the miraculous birth of Jesus in order to believe in Jesus?" Willimon replied, "We ask you to believe in the virginal conception of Jesus and, if we can get you to swallow that without choking, then there's no telling what else we can get you to believe. Come back next week and we'll try to convince you that the poor are royalty and the rich are in big trouble, that God not nations rules the world, and on and on. We start you out with something fairly small, like the virgin birth, then work you up to even more outrageous assertions."

God is among us as Jesus, the Word incarnate, the Word made flesh. It is a scandal, God entering God's creation as a particular human being born 2000 years ago. A good reminder that God is not some generic idea to be made into anything we like; God has a face and a name. And God has specific hopes and dreams for us, specific expectations of us. Something to consider this Advent season.

– Pastor Jeff



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