

THE FLAME



December 2011

CHRISTMAS PRESENCE A GIFT GIVING ALTERNATIVE

Why do we give gifts at Christmas? Hopefully somewhere in our thought process it is because we want to share God's love and presence with others. The gifts offered through CHRISTMAS PRESENCE offer you a chance to share the same gift twice. By selecting gifts from any of several ministries listed below, you are providing for those in need as well as blessing someone close to you.

- **CLAY COUNTY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY** - a bundle of shingles, a stack of 2 x 4 's, or a contribution toward purchase of land for a home.
- **COMPASSION INTERNATIONAL** - funds to provide a lifetime safe water filter system for families in developing countries.
- **GOOD SAMARITAN FUND** - funds to assist those in crisis in our church area with overdue rent or utilities, temporary lodging, special needs and/or food.
- **HAITI MISSION** - funds for the UMC Radiology Clinic to provide supplies and equipment for TB tests, to treat patients, and help pay the salary of the radiologist.
- **HEIFER PROJECT INTERNATIONAL** - a trio of rabbits, a flock of chickens, or a heifer for a family in a third world country
- **JAMES BOYS** - funds to provide wheelchair ramps, home repairs for the elderly and indigent, and to refurbish bicycles for children and adults in need
- **KAIROS** - funds to provide a weekend for men in prison to visibly show them the love of Christ through the words and deeds of dedicated volunteers.
- **KAIROS OUTSIDE** - funds to provide a weekend of compassion, encouragement and tangible evidence of God's love to women whose loved ones are in prison.
- **LUDHIANA Christian Medical School and HOSPITAL** - -funds to continue the work in the Infant Critical Care Unit in this teaching hospital which serves 3 million very poor in India.
- **MERCY SUPPORT SERVICES** - funds to support the project that provides transitional housing to families and single people and helps lead them to self-sufficiency.
- **SOUL FOOD** - funds for purchase of food to be prepared for families during difficult times
- **THE CLOTHES CLOSET** - children's underwear, a room heater, financial assistance for special needs to those in need in Clay County.
- **THE WAY MEDICAL CLINIC** - free clinic in Green Cove Springs which offers medical services including prenatal and OB care to low income Clay County Residence.

There will be a table in the Narthex and in the Gym on December 5, 12 & 19 with catalogs of these gifts and more choices. After purchasing a gift, you will be given a beautiful gift card with a description of the item you have chosen. Mail or give this to your friend, co-worker, or loved one.

Questions - Call Mrs. Terry Rollen at 269-5491 or Robyn Voigt at 264-2241 x233.

Pastor's Corner

Dear Friends,

2011 has almost come to a close and yet it seems as though we were welcoming it only a short little while ago. Aside from the excitement that December brings with the Christmas festivities bearing down on us, this is also a good time to reflect back on the past year. This is a opportune time to remember the good times that brought a smile to our faces and also a fitting time to remember the times that weren't so good.

But most importantly, I think that December gives us a great opportunity to reflect on our relationship with God. Ask yourself, on a scale of 1 - 10, what kind of disciple were you this year? Ask yourself, how much did you love God? Ask yourself, how much did you love your neighbor? And then, what are you going to commit to do in 2012 that will make those things better?

Of course, there will be a lot of opportunities for you to make new memories during the 2011 Christmas season at OPUMC. Once again, we have a very dedicated group of volunteers who will be bringing us our "o little town" live nativity. It will be offered on December 9 & 10. "o little town" is a great and painless way for you to invite that friend that you have who doesn't have a church family but is looking for one. Take this opportunity to introduce them to our congregation by walking through Bethlehem during the time of Jesus' birth.

On Sunday, December 11, our wonderful music department will be performing their Christmas cantata at both the 9:25 & 11:00 worship services. We will be having a standard worship service that day at 8:00 in the Fellowship Hall.

On Christmas Eve we will have 5 opportunities to worship, all will be candlelight services, 2 will be with Holy Communion; at 3PM we will have a traditional service with Holy Communion. This is a great opportunity for you to worship if you don't want to be out late at night or if you are getting ready to travel. The Children's service will be at 5PM, which is a great time to witness the joy that children freely exhibit at Christmas! We will have worship services at both 7 & 9 PM, and at 11PM, we will have Holy Communion.

Christmas & New Years day is on a Sunday this year and we will be having one worship service, both days at 10:30. We will gather to sing carols and have a time of fellowship and sharing. I hope that you will come!

Please take a moment during this busy season and reflect on the great gifts that God has given to us in the person of Jesus Christ! There is truly no better gift that we could receive.

Merry Christmas to all!

Mark

Please notify Pastor Pearl
of life events @ 264-2241 x229

Orange Park United Methodist Church Extends Christian Sympathy To:

Charlie Yow & family on the death
of his father William Howard Yow.

Holly Kolitz & family on the death
of her mother Sharon Deering.

Gene Philips & family on the death
of his brother-in-law Rod Spicer.

John & Glenna Roberson & family on the
death of her son Paul Howard Kenerson Jr.

Sharon Norman & family on the
death of her sister Kathleen Bailew.

Matt & Sandy Cooksey on the death
of his mother & her sister Teri Cooksey.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

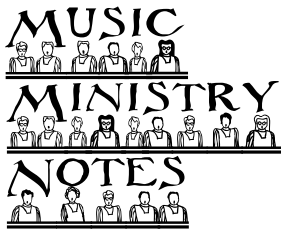
Charles & Josefina Yow Jr., on the birth
of their son, Chandler Alton
born October 24, 2011
grandchild of Charlie & Linda Yow
and

Derek & Elisha Schuman on the birth
of their daughter, Lucy Brechelle
born November 1, 2011
and

Stephane & Vanessa Jeannin on the birth
of their son, Louis Aplhonse Perry
born on September 26, 2011
grandchild of Dottie Harris.

CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR THE HOMELESS

December 23, 5 – 8PM, at St James AME Church, McIntosh Street, Orange Park, Florida. We need: volunteers to help with the event; gifts for children, youth, adults; food baskets; and folks to fellowship with our homeless families. For more info, contact Pastor Pearl @ 264-224 x225.



**Christmas Music
Schedule**



DECEMBER

- 4 Community "Messiah Sing" at Island View Baptist Church, 3PM.
- 5 Bell Choirs in Concert at Fleming Island Library 6:30 PM.
- 9-10 o little town, 6:30 PM, Clayhouse
- 10 Cantata Practice: 9 - 11AM, TLC's; 10AM - Noon, Chancel choir, in the Sanctuary.
- 11 Christmas Cantata at 9:25 & 11:15 AM "A Light Still Shines."
- 13 Wonderworks Christmas Around the World Program.
- 16 "A Clay Christmas" at Thrasher-Horne, with inspirations.
- 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Services 3, 5, 7, 9 & 11 PM
- 25 Christmas Day, 10:30 AM, 1 service.

JANUARY

- 1 New Years Day, 10:30 AM, 1 service.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Chancel Choir & TLC youth Choir had a wonderful joint Retreat with 45 singing in worship at FUMC of Brunswick, Georgia.

The kids are selling cookbooks this month. Support them if you can!

We are looking for a daytime pianist for things like "Lots of Ages & Wonderworks etc." Call Doc Stallings if you are available, you just might be an answer to our prayers.

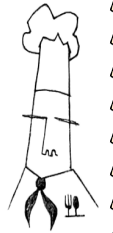
Christmas Cantata

A Light Still Shines

Chancel, TLC & Orchestra!
Sunday, December 11th
at 9:25 & 11:15 AM



TLC Cookbook
On Sale in December
With recipes from kids
& their parents!



Clay County Messiah Sing

Sunday December 4th,
Island View Baptist Church

1:30 - Singers Rehearsal (all are welcome, some books available).

3:00 - Concert Begins

Soloists: Julie Garmendia, Rebecca Frazier,
Ron Burrichter & David Schininger;
Dr Mark Stallings, conducting;
Diane Combs & Ted Munn, accompanists.

Two Optional rehearsals:

Monday, November 21st, 7:30 PM, Hendricks Avenue Baptist;

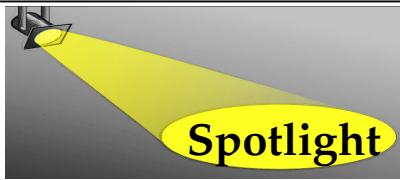
Monday, November 28th, 7PM, Island View Baptist

An offering will be taken to defray concert expenses



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA
DELIVERY TO SHUT-INS/
NURSING HOMES

If you can help deliver
one or more plants,
Saturday, December 3 &
4, or Wednesday, 27,
please contact Pastor
Pearl at 264-2241 x225.



Spotlight on the Worship Committee

This committee is charged with coordination of the different groups that support worship services. Worship committee members include; Altar Guild, Music, Sound, Ushers, Communion Stewards, Acolytes, Greeters, Call to Worship, Flowers and the Pastor. The committee meets monthly to discuss upcoming services, special events and holidays. As a committee we work together to plan for the worship services ensuring each service is meaningful and spiritual. We like to think of ourselves as the “behind the scenes” committee. If you are interested in participating in the Worship Committee, please contact the Church office @ 264-2241 x221. Donna Trumble, Chairperson

DEAR FRIENDS,

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK MY CHURCH FAMILY FOR ALL OF YOUR PRAYERS, CARDS AND VISITS DURING MY HOSPITAL AND REHABILITATION CENTER STAY. A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE NIMBLE NEEDLE LADIES FOR THE BEAUTIFUL LAP BLANKET.

MAY GOD BLESS YOU,
BOB SCHUMAN

The Stillwell family would like to thank the Church for your prayers and generosity this year as our family expanded from two to six!

God is Good!

COMMITMENT CARDS FOR 2012

If you have not turned in your “Financial Giving for 2012” commitment card – have no fear – it’s not too late! You can simply drop your completed card into the offering plate any Sunday morning, mail it to the church office, e-mail the information to dfrendahl@opumc.net or call Debbie Frendahl at (904) 264-2241 x223 with the amounts. Please note: If you give via Electronic Funds Transfer or Automatic Withdrawal from your checking account, you still need to fill out a commitment card each year to keep that going.

THE PRIVILEGE OF SHARING
Orange Park United Methodist Church
Financial Giving for 2012

PLEASE PRINT

Name (s) _____ Phone # _____ Envelope # _____

_____ I/we estimate our giving to the 2012 Ministry Operating Budget to be \$ _____
per (month, year, etc.) _____ for an annual gift of \$ _____

In addition to the Estimate of Giving to the 2012 Ministry Operating Budget,
_____ I/we wish to pledge \$ _____ to the Building Fund per _____ (month, year, etc.)

_____ I/we wish to receive information about naming OPUMC Endowment Fund in our will or estate.

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above. James 1:17

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS

MEAL TICKET PRICES

Season Ticket (call the church office for your 12 week ticket reservation)

Adult ticket price...\$42.00

Child (6-11) ticket price...\$30.00

Weekly at the door

Adult ticket price...\$4.00

Child (6-11) ticket price...\$3.00

5 years & under FREE

Menus

January 11

Spanish Rice (beef, peepers, rice & cheese)
corn
Salad & Dessert

January 18

Fancy Chicken
Mashed Potatoes
Vegetable Medley
Salad & Dessert

January 25

Lasagna
Green Beans
Garlic Bread
Caesar Salad & Dessert

February 1

Meatloaf
Mashed Potatoes
Peas
Salad & Dessert

February 8

Sloppy Joes on Bun
Potato Chips
Baked Beans
Salad & Dessert

February 15

Chicken & Yellow Rice
Carrots
Bread
Spinach Salad & Dessert

February 22

Ash Wednesday - Variety of Soups
Salad & Dessert

February 29

Pulled Pork
Rice
Broccoli & Cheese
Salad & Dessert

March 7

Hot Ham & Cheese Croissant
Chips
Mixed Fruit
Salad & Dessert

March 14

Bar-b-que chicken (dark meat only)
Seasoned Rice
Green Beans & Potatoes
Salad & Dessert

March 21

Country Fried Steak with Pepper Gravy
Mashed Potatoes
Mixed Vegetables
Salad & Dessert

March 28

Beefy Macaroni
Italian Green Beans
Garlic Bread
Caesar Salad & Dessert

Watch for class information in the January Flame



Christian Education

Robyn Voigt CE director: rvoigt@opumc.net, 264-2241 x233

Wonderful Wednesday classes and dinners will begin on January 4th. Season tickets will be available for the dinner. Watch for more details on classes in the January Flame.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD!

Imagine the joy when the children open their shoeboxes; our church collected 78 this year.
Thank you!

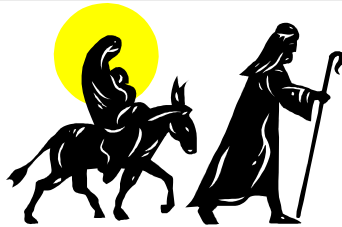


PNO – CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PARTY

December 2nd, 5:30 – 9:30 PM, FLC/Gym

We will celebrate Jesus’ birthday with friends, have dinner, do crafts, and have a great time of fellowship. The cost is \$10 for the first child, \$5 each additional child, with a \$20 family maximum. You can register online at www.opumc.net.

THE CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PROCESSIONAL December 24th, 5 PM



**At the Children’s Christmas Eve Service.
This is a reenactment of the Nativity scene.
There are no lines for children to memorize.
Sign ups and costume pick up will be on
December 4th during Café Agape,
10:30 AM, FLC/Gym.**

**Practice for the processional will be on
December 17th, 9 AM in the Sanctuary. The
processional is for children ages 3-years old
through 3rd-grade. Costumes are provided.**

Attention all 6th graders!

Confirmation begins in January. Classes and Orientation will be on January 8th. Classes will be held during the 9:25 a.m. Sunday school hour in room 325. Orientation will be held at 12:15 p.m. in room 423 in the Family Life Center. Both parents and students should plan to attend orientation. Please call Robyn at 264-2241 x233 if you have any questions.

DECEMBER SCRIPTURE READING

Date

Reading

1. Romans 5-8
2. Romans 9-12
3. Romans 13-16
4. Ephesians 1-4
5. Ephesians 5-6; Psalm 119: 1-80
6. Philippians 1-4
7. Colossians 1-4
8. 1 Timothy 1-4
9. 1 Timothy 5-6; Titus 1-3
10. 2 Timothy 1-4
11. Philemon; Hebrews 1-4
12. Hebrews 5-8
13. Hebrews 9-11
14. Hebrews 12-13; Jude
15. James 1-5
16. 1 Peter 1-5
17. 2 Peter 1-3; John 1
18. John 2-4
19. John 5-6
20. John 7-8
21. John 9-11
22. John 12-14
23. John 15-18
24. John 19-21
25. 1 John 1-5
26. Psalm 117-119: 81-176; 2 John; 3 John
27. Revelation 1-4
28. Revelation 5-9
29. Revelation 10-14
30. Revelation 15-18
31. Revelation 19-22



o little town

December 9 & 10, 6:30 to 8:30 PM

Clayhouse on Astor Street

As you read this newsletter, *o little town* is just days away. This Bethlehem event is the culmination of months of work on the part of your *o little town* committee to bring a realistic depiction of Bethlehem the night of Jesus' birth to the church and entire community. Do your part to help this event touch the lives of as many as possible: invite your friends, family, neighbors and co-workers; let the bank teller know; tell the checkout clerk at the grocery store-; email your contact list--in fact, tell everyone you know and see!

Thanks to the OLT team: those who plan, construct, paint, decorate, sew, provide food, and participate as characters. Thanks also to those who, through prayers and generous donations, support the OLT Bethlehem Experience. Together, with God's help, we create a vision of Bethlehem that brings the reality of Jesus' birth to every person who enters *o little town!* The Hospitality Booth Reminds us that cookies are needed. Please bring cookies by Clayhouse on Thursday, December 9th or Friday, December 10th before 4 PM. call Sherry Bruner at 269-4629 with questions.

THE ANGEL TREE 2011!



The Angel Tree is a little different this year. There are 3-categories of angels: teens, ages 13-18 (must still be in school); a few church related children; and backpacks for Orange Park High School homeless youth. If you choose a backpack, we are asking for a \$25-30 donation to purchase the backpack, sweatshirt/pants, school supplies, & snacks. We encourage you to purchase more than one if you can. The Angel Tree is located in the FLC/Gym. Please select your item(s) from the tree & return by Sunday, December 11. A party for the gift pick-up is set for Saturday, December 17 at 1PM. If you can help set-up, provide cookies or drink please contact Tracy Frandsen @ 514-0298, or call Pearl Boles @ 264-2241 x229 with any questions.

NORTH EAST DISTRICT UMW – SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT EXPERIENCE

March 9-11, 2012

Epworth by the Sea, St. Simon's Island, GA

Speaker- Rosemary Brown- Nashville

Theme- Re⁴ – Return, Reconcile, Recover, Rejoice!

Do you feel: hurt, guilty, uncertain, lacking confidence, lonely, sad, tired (sick and tired)? We have a weekend for you!!! God has a plan for you!!! Registration beginning in January.

Call Mary Lou Whittlesey @ 282-4663 for more information.



YEAR-END CONTRIBUTION GUIDELINES

1. Checks deposited in the church offering plate or mailed to the church office and postmarked prior to January 1, 2012 will be counted for 2011 unless specifically requested by the donor to count as a 2012 contribution. Must be clearly marked "2012".
2. Per IRS guidelines, checks received in the church offering plate in January 2012 or mailed to the church office and postmarked after December 31, 2011 (even if check is "backdated" to December) must be reported as a 2012 contribution.
3. If you would like to give stocks to the Church and want them to count for 2011, please provide to the Church by December 15, 2011 to allow enough time to process the stocks through the brokerage system.



ARE SOME OF THE CHANGES IN CUBA TRULY "REVOLUTIONARY"?

As indicated by a CNN report, Delta Airlines, in cooperation with a Miami-based travel agency, has restored direct flights between select US airports and Havana. However, "duly authorized" individuals qualify, including official business travelers, professionals, students and other potential travelers authorized by the US Treasury Department.

2012 could be the answer to our prayers, the opportunity to visit our sister church and to share our oneness with God. We can only hope, pray, believe and wait.

Susan Howard

REPORT FROM THE MISSIONS COMMITTEE

The challenge to the missions committee is to plan for 2012 outreach at international, national and local levels. Our outreach should include personal involvement (hands on opportunities), in-kind donations, and financial support as appropriate for each area.

We began our outreach to Haiti with the exploratory team visit in September. The current plan is for a few members of the church to return to the Jeremie area and the UMVIM sponsored TB clinic at Gebeau with supplies and funds to keep the clinic operating at the end of January. Donations will be used for: x-ray films; to enclose the clinic for sanitation purposes; a sink; staff salaries & medicine. While the focus is on the clinic now, we may expand to work with the orphanage and include women and children's health issues. Watch for opportunities to participate! We have a pledge of \$10,000 from private donors that seek to raise another \$10,000 to match the private money pledged. We have raised \$1638 toward the goal. **NOTE:** This outreach is being done in conjunction with the work of Methodists in South Carolina. The program is registered as an official not-for-profit entity with a 501C(3) status.

The Cuba Connection continues; the money is in Cuba to be used by Santa Fe de la Playa as the permits are issued. Tiffany Adkins, our representative, will be traveling in January to attend a United Methodist District Meeting and will bring a status report. There will be a mission box in January to help with travel expenses.

All our local missions continue to need participation and support as we seek to put into action Jesus' command to care for all in His name.

Mary Cook



Our Bible verse this month is "For unto us a child is born, unto us a child is given". This month the children will be learning about the adventures of Jesus' birth. We will have a classroom set-up for the children to experience a walk through Bethlehem and be told the glorious story of the birth of Christ. We will create a craft to remember the special event.

The older children will walk down to "o little town" a Bethlehem village and see the recreated streets where Mary & Joseph walked, eventually finding a place to rest for the night and witness the manger where the baby Jesus lies. We are hoping this will help teach the children the real gift and meaning of Christmas.

On December 9th our staff will have a cookie exchange and a Christmas luncheon. On December 13th we will have our Children's Christmas Program. Santa will be in the FLC/Gym, followed by the younger children singing in the sanctuary. We are excited this year to announce that our VPK and Kindergarten children's Christmas Program will be "Children Around the World" led by Dr. Mark Starlings. The children are practicing hard with Doc and we know that this will be a special performance.

Our Christmas break will begin on December 19th and we will return to school on January 5th. We at Wonderworks wish you and your family a Very, Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

If you are interested in substituting teaching for Wonderworks and love working with children, please call the office at 264-7330.

Pat Noonan, Director

Upcoming Events:

o little town	December 9-10
Ski Trip	December 18-21
Shop 'til You Drop	December 23
Ramp Build	January 14

The Highlights:

- Ski Trip Money is now Due. \$265 per person.
- Mandatory ski trip meeting December 11 @ noon.
- No youth December 18, 25 & January 1.
- Reserve February 17-19 for the 30 hour event.

clayhouse student ministries



SKI TRIP 2011

Have you signed up yet? The Trip is December 18-21. We would love to have you with us. Your full payment is Due no later than December 11. There is still room if you want to go but I need to know ASAP! Mandatory Trip meeting Clayhouse, December 11 at noon!

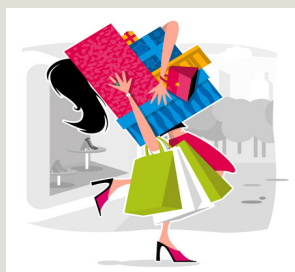


WINTER JAM

Make plans now to Join us for Winter Jam on January 13. We will meet at the church at 3PM and leave to head to the Veterans' Arena downtown with a quick stop to eat at Tijuana Flats. Cost to get into Winter Jam is only \$10! Here's Who is playing: Skillet, Sanctus Real, Peter Fuller, Building 429, Group1Crew, Newsong, and more! Sign Up Online Today!!!!

RAMP BUILD

Last year on the Mission Trip we learned that most of our Construction Skills were not the best. To improve that, and to help serve others, we have come up with a partnership with the James Boys to do Saturday Ramp Builds! Join us on our first January 14 at 7AM. Meet in the FLC/Gym!



SHOP 'TIL YOU DROP IN ORLANDO EDITION

Join us December 23 as we head to Orlando for a FULL day of shopping. The trip will be limited to the first 13 people that sign up and pay. Cost of the trip is \$10 to cover the gas expense. Sign up online today at www.opumc.net.



THE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN'S GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, December 7, 2011, 10 AM, Family Life Center Gym

This will be our Christmas celebration.

There will be food, special music and much more.

PLEASE COME AND BRING A FRIEND AND A COVERED DISH TO SHARE.



UMM MONTHLY BREAKFAST MEETING

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17th,

7:30 AM, FLC/Gym

All Men Are Invited To Attend

**Orange Park
United Methodist Church**
152 Stowe Avenue
Orange Park, Florida 32073

MISSION STATEMENT
*Welcome All into God's Family
Become More Christ-like
Live in His Service*

Authorized Nonprofit
Organization Mailing
US POSTAGE
PAID
Orange Park, FL
32073
PERMIT NO. 21

December 2011

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PASTORS:
Mark Becker & Pearl Boles
Church office hours: 8 am to 4 pm
Telephone (904) 264-2241
Facsimile: (904) 264-6244
Astor Street: (904) 264-2215
Pastor-on-Call Pager: (904) 840-0087
Website: www.opumc.net