

THE WAVE

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

MARCH 2003

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"Wow! What a God!"

Last Summer's Vacation Bible School slogan continued to ring true through the first two months of our life together as Ponte Vedra United Methodist Church. We had 283 in church on January 26, our Launch Sunday. We continue to attract visitors (many of whom return) through personal invitation and advertising. To date we've had 111 people commit to membership. A third adult Sunday morning study is forming and all of our existing groups are growing.

I look forward to two things happening in our church: continued spiritual growth among followers of Jesus and new people committing to Jesus as their Savior (forgiver) and Lord (leader). If you'll join me in praying and working to these ends, God will surely bring it to pass and it will be nothing less than breathtaking. I can't wait!

May Ponte Vedra UMC be a place where people experience what the children shouted last summer: "Wow! What a God!"

Looking forward to being wowed,

Pastor Jeff

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

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

The Kingdom Assignment

12 volunteers came away from November 17 services with \$100 bills in their pockets and an assignment, a Kingdom Assignment to invest the money in the Kingdom of God. What ever happened to all that money? Here are two more stories.

Some 4 million grandchildren live with their grandparents. **Jim and Sherry Banks** matched the \$100 entrusted to them and gave it to "Ounce of Prevention" which serves grandparents raising grandchildren. Sherry's sister in Tennessee is in that situation; Jim and Sherry are happy to see the money help grandparents in similar circumstances. The Banks attend our 11:15 service.

Bradley Combs worked with his

grandmother **Joan Johnson** on his Kingdom Assignment. Together they thought long and hard about how to use the money before deciding to split it four ways. They had an extra \$100 to work with since Joan and husband Don kicked in \$50 and Joan's sister did the same. \$100 went to BEAM (Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry), \$50 to the Ponte Vedra Boy Scouts, \$25 to the Florida United Methodist Children's Home (Enterprise, FL) and \$25 right back to PVUMC. Bradley worships weekly at 11:15 with his parents **Martin and DeAnn Combs**, sister **Danielle** and grandparents **Don and Joan Johnson**.

May the Lord bless your investment to further the Kingdom of God!



Stephen Ministry

WHO IS A STEPHEN MINISTER?

- † A member of the laity, man or woman, who through training, will acquire skills and develop gifts for bringing the healing love of Christ to people in crisis.
- † A caring and sharing person — reaching out to the spiritual, social, and emotional needs of men and women who are hurting.
- † A caring Christian—desiring to offer support to others by really listening.
- † A sharing Christian—having developed Christian helping skills through intensive course work.
- † A dedicated Christian—commissioned by our church to confidential, in-depth caring.

What Kinds of Needs does the STEPHEN MINISTRY Address?

- † People who are hospitalized
- † People who are experiencing the birth or adoption of a child
- † People who are grieving a death or loss
- † People who are lonely
- † People who are depressed
- † People who are separated or in the process of divorce
- † People who are homebound
- † People who are terminally ill and their families
- † People who are experiencing economic difficulty
- † People who are struggling with their faith in God



How can you support STEPHEN MINISTRY?

- † **Pray** for our Stephen Leaders and Ministers as they provide care.
- † **Pray** for all who receive confidential care through Stephen Ministry.
- † **Tell** Stephen Leaders about people who might benefit from this care.
- † **Receive** Stephen Ministry when you are in need of supportive Christian care.
- † **Support** Stephen Ministry with your financial gifts.

To request a Stephen Minister, you may call the church office (280-5141) or Stephen Leader Jill Bennett (285-2134).

Meet 'n Eat at the Pastor's

Over the next several months we'll be inviting small groups of new members to our home. We really want to get to know you and hope you'll get to know some new people too. Watch for a postcard and please RSVP *Yes!* when it comes.

-Jeff and Jill Bennett



On A Musical Note

The Seasonal Chorus will begin Rehearsals for Easter, March 13th At 7:00pm in the Sanctuary. You may still sign up before and after the Sunday a.m. services.

We are excited to announce the start up of our Praise Choir. This Group will sing with the Praise Band and Team in the Contemporary Service. Sign up Before or after the Sunday a.m. services.

Children's Choir to start in the Fall. Stay tuned for more information.

We would like to invite you to come join us for a night of Contemporary Music & Prayer, Friday April 11th at 7:00 p.m. Be uplifted by the Ponte Vedra United Methodist Praise Band & Singers. Our theme is:

"You gave Christmas gifts...
Come receive Easter Presence."

If you have questions please contact The Minister of Music, Carol Zur At 280-5141 or e-mail carol.zur@pv-umc.org.

John 4:23 Yet a time is coming And has now come when the true worshiper will worship the Father in spirit and in truth, for they are The kind of worshipers the Father seeks.

Pastor's Picks

At least once a week I think, "We really need someone to..." This week I'm highlighting a critical need and an "if someone feels called, let's do it" need.

The critical need: a Sunday School teacher for 4th and 5th graders. **Julie Proctor** has been faithfully serving this awesome group of kids but she's due this month to deliver her baby.

The "Is God Calling?" request: I've heard a couple of people suggest that we ought to have a church library of books helpful to Christians. A source for new and gently used books has become available. Is there someone among us whose heart quickens at the thought of establishing a church library?

If you sense God calling you, call me at 280-5141.

-Pastor Jeff

In Prison

"I was in prison and you visited me." - Jesus (Mt 25:31). Jesus in an orange jumpsuit? These youth may not look like Jesus but they're certainly loved by Jesus. Call Cheryl Bradford at 992-0196

about visiting the St. John's Co. Detention Facility on a Saturday morning. You too will hear Jesus say, "As you did it to one of the least of these, you did it to me."

Attendance & Giving



January				February			
Attendance:				Attendance:			
	<u>Contemp</u>	<u>Traditional</u>	<u>Giving</u>		<u>Contemp</u>	<u>Traditional</u>	<u>Giving</u>
1/5	91	95	\$12,694	2/2	84	83	\$10,142
1/12	83	87	3,922	2/9	79	81	4,395
1/19	104	92	3,582	2/16	99	98	5,701
1/26	<u>140</u>	<u>143</u>	<u>7,069</u>	2/23	<u>94</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>3,501</u>
Total	418	417	\$27,266	Total	356	335	\$23,738
Sunday School (avg. weekly)			64	Sunday School (avg. weekly)			60
Avg. weekly giving YTD			\$ 6,817	Avg. weekly giving YTD			\$6,376

Needed weekly (after "new church" support) \$ 5,114

Needed weekly (before "new church" support) \$ 12,548

Announcing Cheryl Bradford as PVUMC Lay Leader

Each local United Methodist Church has a **lay leader** with the following responsibilities:

- ◆ fostering awareness of the role of Christians both within the congregation and through their ministries in the home, workplace, community and world
- ◆ meeting regularly with the pastor to discuss the state of the church and the needs for ministry
- ◆ membership in the charge conference, church council, finance committee and lay leadership committee
- ◆ continuing involvement in study and training opportunities to develop a growing understanding of the Church's reason for existence and the types of ministry that will most effectively fulfill the Church's mission.

I asked **Cheryl Bradford** to serve Christ and our church as our lay leader and was delighted when she graciously responded yes. Her wisdom and dedication will bless the ministry of PVUMC. Cheryl also serves as the chair of our Church Council, a member of the Transition Team that leads us from launch to chartering, and is a Stephen Minister. We will pray for you as you serve us in this role, Cheryl.

- Pastor Jeff



OUR NEW LAY LEADERSHIP



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Church*

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