

THE WAVE

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2004

“Connecting the Unconnected”

Three words that capture the essence of our identity and mission. *Connecting the unconnected.* How many people do you know who have no active connection to Christ or the church? God aims to be in a growing relationship with each one of them, just as he does each one of us. And God wants to use us in connecting with them. Why not? We’re a church that welcomes newcomers on Sunday morning and beyond. Through our small groups we make space for people to be known as the individuals they are, the way God knows them. We get the joy of loving them; they get the opportunity to be connected to the God who loves them even more than we do.

During February we’ll be looking through the lens of our mission statement at the how and why of connecting the unconnected. Our mission statement is “to **know Jesus**, to **grow disciples**, to **show love** and to **go and make disciples.**” The accompanying messages are

February 1:

Connecting the Unconnected
Knowing the Heart of Jesus

February 8:

Connecting the Unconnected
(Growing Disciples Can’t Help It)

February 15:

Connecting the Unconnected
How Do I Love Thee?
Let Me Count the Ways!

February 22:

Connecting the Unconnected
What’s Good for the Goose is Good for the Gander

An All-Church Invitation from the Praise Choir

We invite you to please come join the Praise Choir! We want to grow, we need to grow! You can join anytime throughout the year to glorify the Lord! If you have a desire to sing, give the Praise Choir a try! Being able to read music is not required, but it is helpful. Rehearsals are Tuesdays at 6:00pm in the sanctuary with a Bible study afterwards. It is a great way to serve the Lord, make friends & sing! Call Carol Zur for more information at 280-5141 or just come to a rehearsal!

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OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

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



PONTE VEDRA
United Methodist
Church



It’s time to dive into a new production with our Children’s Choir. We are excited to announce that we have chosen Splash Kingdom as the musical to present this coming spring. Splash Kingdom is a musical about heaven and how you get there. The story takes place at the Splash Kingdom water park as the kids learn that before they can enter the park they must be “certified.” In order to become “certified” they must pass the course called Lifesaving 101. This ensures that their names are written in the Lifeguard’s book of life. This is a fun and exciting musical sure to make a big splash!

All are welcome to Splash Kingdom!

Cherub Choir/Rhythm Dancers (ages 3&4) Wednesdays 6:15-7:15pm in the Preschool Room
Children’s Choir (Grades K-5th) Wednesdays 6:15-7:15pm in Room #2
Youth Creative Arts Ministry (Grades 6-12) Wednesdays 7:30-8:30pm

For information contact Children’s Choir Director Carol Zur.

New Youth Minister Coming

72 resumes... 13 telephone interviews... 4 personal interviews... 2 return visits... 1 youth minister... and his name is **Adam Myers**. We are delighted to welcome Adam to our church staff, all the way from Ridge UMC, Munster, Indiana. Adam and wife Katie are really coming home since they will be living once again in Jacksonville Beach where Katie grew up. When they left Jax Beach they were two; infant son Gabriel makes three. Welcome Adam, Katie and Gabriel! (Wondering how you'll recognize Adam when he arrives the first week of February? Watch for the 6'7" guy; that'll probably be him!)

Single Again

If you are divorced or widowed, this group is for you! This month's meeting is Tuesday, February 3 at 7pm. The guest speaker is Diana Bryant of the St. John's County Sheriff's Department speaking on the topics of self defense and home security. Single Again meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm. Come join us and enjoy great fellowship. If you would like more information about this group contact **Nancy Nelson** at 246-7388 (after 6pm) or by e-mail at singleagain@pv-umc.org.

A Thank You from Iraq

In December several of you gave some treats and very useful gifts to benefit our troops in Iraq. **Amy Plummer** packed and shipped them overseas. She recently received this letter:

Hello. Yes, you are correct when I received the box I was wondering who you were. See, I'm from St. Petersburg, FL and didn't know if someone from my past somehow learned I was over here. Just so you know, I received the box on 26 Dec 03 and it was perfect timing. The gloves were perfect. Myself and another soldier were in desperate need of some! As soon as I opened the box there were 7 sets of hands digging in all at one time. They are all like scavengers. It is nice to know that a whole church is thinking and praying for a bunch of soldiers that you don't even know. We appreciate everything that you have done for us and thank you all for your prayers.

-SSG Dana Lesco

This is a list of soldiers who you sent your box to. Sometime names are nice to know:

SSG Dana Lescoe (28) - married 1 son

SGT Scott Oliver (26) - single 1 daughter

SGT Luke Walker (25) - single 1 daughter

SPC Russele Brennon (27) - married 3 daughters

PFC Michael Lapp (20) - single

PV2 Ramiro Ochoa (22) - single

Since we have their names, let's add to our earlier gift our prayers for their safety and especially for their knowledge of God's incredible love for them.

Summer Camp

Is your child interested in attending a Christian camp this summer? The Florida United Methodist Conference camp programs take place in Leesburg which is in central Florida.

Rising fourth and fifth graders are invited to experience the beauty of God's creation and the awesome memories that a week at camp can provide by choosing one of nine weeks to attend the regular Children's Camp Program. It's a great opportunity for your child to grow closer to Christ.

Get more information from their website at www.umsummercamp.org and call Jill Bennett at 285-2134 if you are interested in sending your child to camp. It would be great if we could have a group go together from PVUMC. Cost is \$330 for the week; Scholarship forms are available through April 1.

Vacation Bible School

Mark your Calendar! Vacation Bible School will be held July 12-16. Plan now to attend and bring a friend. We'll have a great time.

Children's Council

Children's Council will meet Wednesday, February 11 at 6:15pm. Call Jill Bennett at 285-2134 if you are interested in serving.

Youth Happenings Got Game?

"If you think you got it, bring it on"
Every Wednesday evening from
6:00 to 7:30pm.

Game of the evening, snack supper,
fellowship, Bible study and much more.
Invite your friends, your neighbors,
your school buds

Youth Happenings are for youth in 6th-12th grade

Any questions feel free to call
Mr. Zur at 904-827-0416



On A Musical Note

Attention Children & Youth:
Rehearsals have begun for
"SPLASH KINGDOM"

Cherub Choir/Rhythm Dancers
Ages 3&4 Wednesdays
6:15pm -7:15pm Preschool Room

Children's Choir
Grades K-5th Wednesdays
from 6:15-7:15pm Room #2

Youth
Wednesdays 7:30-8:30pm
Drama 7:30pm Youth Room
Praise Band 7:30pm Fellowship Hall
Dance Team 7:30 Room #2

Praise Choir
This group is open to all who have a
heart for Contemporary worship.
Please join us Tuesdays at 6:00pm in
the Sanctuary

The Seasonal Chorus
For those who enjoy a
Traditional style of worship.
Come join your voices with ours
Rehearsals begin February 19
for the Easter Season.
Thursdays 7:00pm in the Sanctuary

For more information regarding any
of these ministry opportunities contact
Carol Zur at carol.zur@pv-umc.org or

Pastor's Picks

I'm planning a message series for right after Easter entitled
"Give Me An Answer." I'd like you to tell me some of the
hard questions your unconnected friends ask. (You may be
asking some of the same questions yourself.) Here are a few
that spring to mind:

"Aren't all religions the same?"

"Why are there so many denominations?"

"Why does God let good people suffer?"

Please write or e-mail me as many questions as intrigue you. I'll
tally up the responses and start working on the series. We'll
advertise in hopes that God will use it to connect with some
unconnected people!

- Pastor Jeff

A Word from Finance and the Trustees

On Vision Sunday Pastor Jeff stated that **the day will soon
come when we outgrow our fine leased facility.** He said
he could see a capital campaign coming for the purchase of land
and the provision of a building. If you'd like to give sooner
rather than (on in addition to!) later there's a way to do that.
Designate your gift "Building" and we'll deposit it in **the
Building/Property Acquisition Fund.** On behalf of the
church of today and the church of tomorrow, our thanks to you
who have given so generously in 2003 and those of you who will
give before we even ask. God bless you. And **please
remember to pray for a suitable piece of land.**

Small Group Leaders Meeting February 8

If you are leading a small group Bible study or think you might
be interested in leading one, plan to attend the meeting at 4pm
on February 8. Pastor Jeff will familiarize us with "The
Workbook of Living Prayer" that we're encouraging grow groups
to use during Lent. Then **Larry Bradford** will do some coach-
ing with existing group leaders while Pastor Jeff offers "newbies"
the required orientation to small group leadership. All are
welcome to participate. Let us know if you'll need childcare.

Attendance & Giving

	January			Designated Totals
	Contemporary	Traditional	Giving	Building Fund
1/4	70	98	\$ 11,225	\$55,275
1/11	80	130	31,228	Missions (YTD)
1/18	88	96	7,981	\$ 1,146
1/25	105	103	5,603	
Jan Avg	86	107	\$14,009	Enhancement Fund
Sunday School (avg. weekly)	63			\$ 4,603
	Needed weekly (after "new church" support)		Needed weekly (before "new church" support)	
	\$ 7,354		\$10,757	

A Note From Pastor Jeff:

As we are *connecting the unconnected* we will be paying close attention to our own connectedness to God who draws us into relationship with himself and each other. **How is it between you and God these days?** Are you talking? Are you listening? The goal of prayer is a life of friendship and fellowship with God, living God's will in the world. During the season of Lent I'm asking the entire church to engage in an adventure in prayer.

Here's the plan. This is a **six-week adventure**, beginning the week of February 22. It is an individual journey, but I'm hoping you will share it with some fellow pilgrims who will meet together once a week during the six weeks of the study. You'll be asked to give 20 to 30 minutes or so each day to work at making prayer a living experience. During that time you'll read a bit about prayer and then spend some time reflecting and recording. You'll also receive suggestions for making your prayer experience a part of your whole life. The resource we'll use is Maxie Dunnam's **Workbook of Living Prayer**.

One of the things that made last fall's *Get in the Game* spiritual growth campaign so powerful is that we were doing it together: day by day at home, week by week in our small groups, Sunday by Sunday in the weekly message. Let's do it again, this time focusing on prayer. We'll be experiencing the dynamic of **communion with God**, which is what prayer is all about. Commit to the investment of six weeks and prepare to be amazed at the result.

- Pastor Jeff



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CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	Jeff Bennett
Minister of Music	Carol Zur
Youth Minister	Adam Myers
Admin. Assistant	Denese Fields
Childcare Director	Lynne Tyndall
Custodian	Tony Vicent

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