

THE WAVE

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MAY 2004

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"Give Me an Answer!"

We begin the month with responses to three more tough questions people ask Christians.

5/2 "Does God Really Send People to Hell?"

5/9 "Aren't There Many Ways to God?"

5/16 "Why Become a Christian?"

Do you have a questioning friend? Why not invite them to church? At the very least I hope you'll listen with their ear as well as your own. Cassette tapes are available of earlier messages addressing the questions,

"Is Easter for Real? Did the Resurrection Really Happen?"

"How Could God Allow Suffering and Evil?"

"How Does Anyone Know God Exists?"

I'm glad God doesn't expect us or our friends to check our mind at the door when we enter the church!

-Pastor Jeff



**Sunday, May 16,
2004
6:00pm**



The story takes place at the Splash Kingdom water park as Peter, the supervising Lifeguard, his assistant Gabriel and their team of Lifeguards help Tanner C. Fish, Sandy Shore, Dew Drop and Shelly Bubbles 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.

Together with the help of Peter and the others the group is able to complete the 3 basic steps to certification. "A," admit you have sinned; "B," believe God loves you and sent His son and CEO, Jesus, to save you from your sin; and "C," claim Jesus as your own personal lifeguard and Savior. Upon completion of the ABC's of Salvation Class the kids are ready to dive into Splash Kingdom.

"Splash Kingdom" is a reminder to us all that no one is guaranteed a reservation in the book of life; that reservation must be made personally with the Chief Executive Officer, Jesus Christ. Don't miss the fun! **6:00 pm Sunday, May 16th** at Ponte Vedra UMC by our own children's and youth creative arts ministries under the direction of Carol Zur and her team of caring adults.

A Giving Church

I am proud of you, church! You give in many ways but this "well done" comes in the area of financial giving. The desire of my heart for our weekly regular giving is 80/10/10: 80% to cover operations, 10% to support missions beyond the local church and 10% to set aside for future needs in the Building/Property Acquisition Fund. We did it in the second half of 2003; would we be able to do it in the first quarter of 2004? The answer is yes! Well, done, church!

It's been a marvel to see God at work connecting people to himself through our church. Attendance has continued to increase. New people begin to give, existing givers grow in faithfulness in what they give. Many churches experience a "summer slump" in giving; it's my prayer that we'll be able to continue 80/10/10 through the summer.

As our district and conference new church support decreases (32% in 2004, 8% in 2005, 0% in 2006) we will continue to see God providing for this new thing he's doing in our community, a thing we call Ponte Vedra United Methodist Church. Our God is indeed an awesome God!

-Pastor Jeff

Ponte Vedra United Methodist Church Financial Plan 2004

Use of Funds

Personnel (payroll & benefits)	216,205
Contract Personnel (e.g. instrumentalists, special musicians)	41,500
Administrative	
Advertising & Marketing	18,849
Staff Continuing Ed. & Reimbursable Expenses	10,600
Office Expenses	12,578
Programs	33,938
Worship Facility	
Rent	162,180
Utilities, Maintenance, etc.	21,262
Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment	4,700
Parsonage	37,555
Total Use of Funds	559,367

Source of Funds

Florida Annual Conference	16,813
Jacksonville District Board of Church Development	158,473
Local Congregation	<u>384,081</u>
Total Source of Funds	559,367

Nursery Workers Needed

We are in need of Nursery workers! If you love children and would like to share this love here at PVUMC we are in need of workers for all time slots - Sunday mornings, Thursday mornings and as needed for evening activities. If you are interested or know of someone who might be, please contact Lynne Tyndall at 249-0124. These are paid positions (must be 18 or older).

Kid's Korner

Vacation Bible School

Get in the game with SonGames. Kids ages K - 5th grade - mark your calendars for July 12 - 16 to Join in! Team Up! Get Strong! Keep On! and Celebrate! as we learn to live as members of God's team. VBS will be held each morning from 9:00am - 12:00pm. Invite a friend to come along with you!





On A Musical Note

Attention Children & Youth:
Dress Rehearsal for

"SPLASH KINGDOM"

Saturday, May 15th
1:00-4:00 2nd-5th graders
3:00-4:00 Cherubs, K-1st graders

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 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
280-5141 ext 15

Pastor's Picks

Got Land? Know someone who does? Our Trustees want to hear from you! The best advice I've heard on **finding property** is to let your need be known. (Okay, the very best advice is to pray, but then to let your need be known.) We are scoping out the limited possibilities (8-10 acres minimum) in Ponte Vedra and are entertaining some "think outside the box" ideas too. If you've got a thought please call or e-mail at firstname.lastname@pv-umc.org one of your Trustees: John McEvoy (chair), Mike Elliott, June Koch, Paul Lisenby, Jay Morris, Jerry Sanders, Jeff Bennett.

Our **Building/Property Acquisition Fund** continues to grow. On behalf of the church, thank you to those who have given to the fund. If God blesses you with unanticipated income, consider a special gift. It will be cheerfully accepted and wisely used.
- Pastor Jeff

JUST 4 YOUTH!

Middle and High School students are invited to continue attending youth group on Wednesday nights from 6-7:30pm through the summer. We will be taking it easy during these times and enjoying each other's fellowship while also providing events and activities on alternate days and times to do some deeper exploring of faith.

A detailed schedule of other weekly events will be mailed to all families of Middle and High School age students. If you think you may not be on this mailing list, please contact Denese in the church office to add your address.

Attendance & Giving

	April			<u>Designated Totals</u>
	<u>Contemporary</u>	<u>Traditional</u>	<u>Giving</u>	<u>Building Fund</u>
4/4	101	153	\$ 6,351	\$82,796
4/11	118	200	14,505	Missions (YTD)
4/18	80	108	3,414	\$ 13,246
4/25	88	109	5,074	Enhancement Fund
Apr Avg	97	143	\$ 7,336	\$ 4,262
Sunday School (avg. weekly)	50			
	Needed weekly (after "new church" support)		Needed weekly (before "new church" support)	
	\$ 8,277		\$11,680	

A Note From Pastor Jeff:

We are becoming a praying church! This pleases me (not to mention the Spirit of God!) to no end. 117 people purchased copies of the *Workbook of Living Prayer*, many of whom met in small groups to journey together in the adventure of prayer. Several of you have told me how you benefited from the study and the emphasis on prayer in the messages leading up to Easter. I'm growing in my own prayer life and am grateful also.

I hope your small group prays together each time you meet and that you pray for each other while you're apart. We have a **brand new small group** whose purpose is prayer. I sat in with them recently and commend them to you. Show up some Sunday morning; they'll welcome you and won't pressure you to pray. I've learned to pray through praying and being with praying people; you will too. **Prayer Partners** meets in the alcove (to the left of the sanctuary) at 10am Sundays under the leadership of **Diane Lee**.

My trip to Cuba to visit our sister church **La Sierra Methodist** is on for May 20 - 27. I will be paying special attention to the prayer life of Christians there. I suspect prayer has much to do with why the church in Cuba is so strong, despite the difficulties of following Christ in that communist country. Please pray for me and for my family while I'm away.

Praying for you,
Pastor Jeff

P. S. **The National Day of Prayer** is Thursday, May 6. Join me at Fletcher High School! (Information inside.)



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