

THE WAVE

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2005

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A Journey + of Faith

Catch the Vision

Do you have a sense of where our church is going? Be here February 6 for the 9:00 or 11:15 Vision Awareness Service and be inspired by the past, present, and future of Ponte Vedra UMC. Special speakers will be featured at both services to give us a glimpse of God's awesome plans for the future ministry of our church. The Super Bowl will be a great event in the history of Jacksonville on that day; we believe that God will do even greater things through our church – come and be a part of it!

Lenten/Stewardship Small Group Bible

This year our church will be studying themes relating to stewardship during the Lenten season. Most of our existing grow groups will be participating in the study; each would welcome you to join them. We'll also be creating new small groups for which you can sign up beginning January 30. The topics relate to Pastor Jeff's messages; the titles are

- Arise and Build
- Christians & Their Money
- Honoring God: Rebuilding the Lord's House
- Reconsidering the Tithe
- Giving God's Way
- Be Strong & Act!

Intrigued? It all begins the week of February 6. Come on board and grow deeper in your discipleship while enjoying the fellowship of a small group!

Still Praying, After All These Months

Since last August, a handful of our people have continued to gather in the parking lot of New Beginnings Baptist Church on Saturday mornings. Each week, from 8:30 to 9:00am they've prayed faithfully for our church, for property, for our unconnected neighbors, for our world. They'll gladly make the circle wider. Come once, come once in awhile, come every week... You are welcome!

Upcoming Messages

- January 30 "A Journey to God Knows Where"
- February 6 "Our Church: Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow"
- February 13 "Fear Factor"
- February 20 "You're in Management"
- February 27 "What's with the Tithe?"

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

Well Done, Good and Faithful Servants

Our goal for 2004 was to give 10% of undesignated tithes and offerings to missions, and another 10% to the Building/Property Acquisition Fund. At our level of giving, that would mean \$41,000 to each effort. Ponte Vedra United Methodist Church, you did well! We fell short of our very ambitious goal by \$8,000 but because we underspent our '04 budget, we did not claim \$8,000 of district new church start monies available to us. That \$8,000 has gone toward the start of other new churches in the Jacksonville district. With \$33,000 from undesignated tithes and offerings and another \$9,500 in designated missions giving, an astounding \$42,500 is being given by us to work beyond our local church. Check out the Missions Corner in this and future issues of *The Wave* to see where that money is being put to work.

On the building fund side, our Finance team felt it prudent to begin the year with more than \$0 on hand; so \$7,000 of the \$41,000 we'd hoped would go toward building is being retained in the general fund. Added to the \$34,000 credited to the building fund is \$47,800 in designated giving, \$81,800 in all.

5th Sunday Hymn Sing

A great time was had by all at last summer's hymn sing. Let's do it again! Pastor Jeff has promised not to make those who gather learn his favorite golden oldie, *The Awakening Chorus*. We will sing some of your favorites and enjoy refreshments afterward. Plan now to come on Sunday, January 30 at 7:00pm.



Ash Wednesday Service

February 9th, 7:00 pm

Child with Fire!

Boys and girls in the 3rd, 4th, or 5th grade have a great opportunity to serve our church by carrying in the light at the 11:15 traditional service and lighting the altar candles. These servants of Christ are called *acolytes*. Are you interested in becoming an acolyte? If you answered "yes," join Mr. Martin Combs and Pastor Jeff at PVUMC on Sunday, January 30th at 4:00pm to find out more. Contact Martin Combs at 821-8734 if you have any questions.

Ash Wednesday Service February 9

Ash Wednesday is the name given to the first day of the season of Lent, in which the pastor applies ashes to the foreheads of Christians while saying,

"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return," or

"Repent and believe the gospel."

The ashes remind us of the most bitter fruit of our sin: death. We are also reminded of our need to repent (turn from sin and toward God) and to receive the good news that through Jesus Christ there is forgiveness for sin.

Ash Wednesday, like the season of Lent, is never mentioned in the Bible; Christians are free to either observe it or not. We will be offering the service. Hopefully those who come will find themselves all the more grateful that God rescued them from sin and death through Jesus Christ and all the more serious about their repentance. The service is at 7:00pm, Wednesday, February 9. 6:00 activities will be dismissed at 6:45 and 7:00 activities delayed until 7:45 so that all who desire may come.

Renovare' - Conference on Spiritual Renewal

A renewal experience is awaiting you at the Spiritual Renewal Conference with Richard Foster on February 18 - 19 at Mandarin Presbyterian Church. Richard Foster is the founder of RENOVARE and author of six books including: *Celebration of Discipline* and *PRAYER: Finding the Heart's True Home*. Cost is \$35 in advance, \$45 day of conference. Free lunch and childcare provided. Call Cheryl Bradford, 992-0196 for additional information.



On A Musical Note

The Children's and Youth
Creative Arts Ministry



Little Cherubs Choir

Ages 3&4 Meets
Wednesdays at 6:15-7:15pm, Preschool
room

Children's Choir

Grades K-5 Meets Wednesdays,
6:15-7:15pm, Room 2

YCAM

Grades 6-12 Meets Wednesdays, 6:00-
7:00 for team building with Mr. Z and 7:00-
8:30 with planned activities and pizza (cost
\$2).

Praise Choir

Come and join us on Tuesdays from 6:30-
7:30pm. All are welcome!

The Traditional Choir meets at 7:00-8:15pm
Thursdays. All are welcome!

Are you interested in joining a worship
group? For information regarding this
or any of the above mentioned ministries
Contact Minister of Music, Carol Zur
280-5141 or e-mail carol.zur@pv-umc.org

Jeremiah 24:7 I will give them a heart to
know me, that I am the Lord. They will be
my people and I will be their God, for they
will return to me with all of their heart.

The Youth Creative Arts Ministry is gearing up for their first ever Summer Choir Tour 2005. You may remember the Outstanding job YCAM did last summer leading in worship on Youth Sunday after our Spiritual Strength Training Retreat to Epworth by the Sea & Wild Adventures. This summer we plan to do a Florida concert tour of other United Methodist Churches and The United Methodist Children's Home. The tour will include a fun excursion to one of our favorite theme parks in the Orlando area. We will wind up the tour at our church with an awesome concert. If you are in Grades 6-12 and are interested in joining YCAM, **Now Is The Time! We meet every Wednesday 6:00-7:00 for team building with Mr. Z and 7:00-7:30 for Pizza Time in the kitchen (bring \$2.00). Rehearsals are from 7:30-8:30 in Room 2 off the Fellowship Hall. Please stay tuned for more details on The YCAM Florida Conference Tour 2005. For information contact Carol Zur, 280-5141.**

*Second Confirmation
Class to be Offered*

Pastor Jeff and Adam Myers will be forming a second confirmation small group, this one for 6th and 7th graders. The group will meet Wednesday nights from 6 - 7pm, beginning April 6. Participants will be invited to join the church on Pentecost Sunday, May 15. This will be a great opportunity for us to engage our Christian faith together.

Attendance & Giving

January 2005			
1/2	93	104	\$ 8,163.40
1/9	90	101	15,935.50
1/16	92	82	8,726.50
1/23	84	108	6,961.15

Designated Totals

Building Fund
\$ 113,662
Missions (YTD)
\$ 0
Enhancement
Fund \$ 5,106

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

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

A Note From Pastor Jeff:

There's an unseen risk whenever a church (or a person, for that matter) embarks on a God ordained mission. The risk is that we will allow the endeavor itself to supersede the One who calls us to it.

That risk exists with our upcoming capital stewardship program. While we hope to meet and even surpass our \$1.2 million goal, if it's about raising money, we've missed the point. We could probably raise the money without a single person growing in their relationship with Christ and that would be tragic.

Recently I was re-reading a portion of Richard Foster's classic work, *Celebration of Discipline; the Path to Spiritual Growth*. Foster reminds us of these words of Jesus, words that will keep us on track if we follow them.

Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well
- Matthew 6:33

Raise money to provide a home for the church? No, seek first God's kingdom. Give away all your money so that the poor will have enough? No, seek first God's kingdom. Go out and preach sound stewardship principles? Seek first God's kingdom and the righteousness, both personal and social, of that kingdom. And unconnected people will become connected, hungry people will be fed, and the church will have its home.

-Pastor Jeff



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CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	Jeff Bennett
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Youth Minister	Adam Myers
Admin. Assistant	Deb Dickerson
Childcare Director	Lynne Tyndall
Custodian	Tony Vicent

Staff Email:

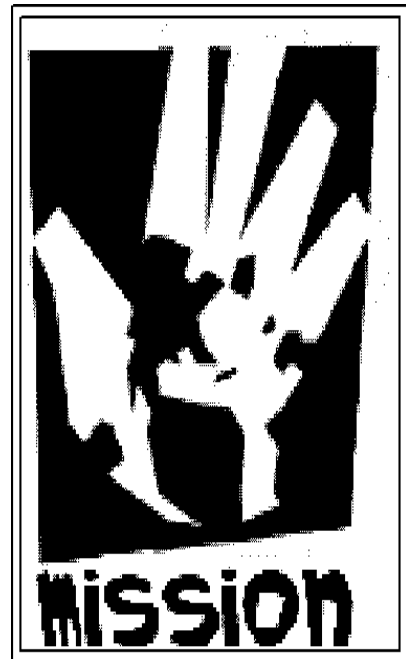
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Missions Corner

On Campus at UNF

Through your faithful giving, you have been providing salary support for **Dan Dodge**, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship staff worker at the University of North Florida. IVCF is an evangelical campus mission serving more than 35,000 students and faculty on more than 560 college and university campuses nationwide. InterVarsity has a rich tradition of campus witness, thoughtful discipleship, and concern for world missions. The chapter meets weekly as a large group and in small group Bible studies. (Sounds a lot like our church!) InterVarsity also encourages students to belong to a local church. Pastor Jeff has spoken at the Monday night chapter meeting and attests to the vibrant worship and lively spirit of these brothers and sisters in Christ.

This school year the UNF chapter is birthing a new InterVarsity chapter at Florida State University. How wonderful it is to reproduce and multiply the good work at UNF on a campus over a hundred miles away!



Saturday, February 19th

On Saturday, February 19, Ponte Vedra United Methodist Church will be praying from 8:30am to 5:30pm for our community of faith, our ministries, our families, our local communities, and our world.

The Holy Alphabet

Although things are not perfect
Because of trial or pain
Continue in Thanksgiving
Do not begin to blame
Even when times are hard
Fierce winds are bound to blow
God is forever able
Hold on to what you know
Imagine life without love
Joy would cease to be
Keep thanking Him for all things
Love imparts to thee
Move out of "Camp Complaining"

No weapon that is known
On earth can yield the power
Praise can do alone
Quit looking at the future
Redeem the time at hand
Start everyday with worship
To "thank" is a command
Until we see him coming
Victorious in the sky
We'll run the race with gratitude
Xalting God most high
Yes, there will be good times and bad, but
Zion waits in glory...where none are ever sad!