

# THE WAVE



VOLUME 3, ISSUE 8

**AUGUST 2005**

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## Church-Wide Study Coming Soon



## A 40 DAY EXPERIENCE

Here's reality for you: God is at work in ways the culture can't describe but that faith can comprehend. This fall we'll engage in a church-wide study entitled *A 40 Day Experience: Reality, 7 Truths from Experiencing God*. During the 40 days you'll be invited to participate through 7 small group sessions, a weekly message and daily devotional readings. The goal of all this? That we as individuals and as a church will grow by knowing and doing God's will and that others will be drawn to God's activity in our lives. It all begins on Sunday, September 25 when we focus on the truth, "God is always at work."

## I Can't Do It All, Pastor...

Me either! I'd love to sing in both adult choirs, take DISCIPLE IV and CHRISTIAN BELIEVER, be in a brand new Reality small group and continue in my present small group Bible study. There are just enough nights in the week to do it, too. Problem is, my family wouldn't know who I was! Perhaps it's like a smorgasbord; eat too much of too many good things and you walk away feeling bloated instead of satisfied. How about signing on for what's most appealing? If you can make the time investment, I'd choose CHRISTIAN BELIEVER or DISCIPLE I or IV (read more about these inside) instead of an hour a week for 7 weeks Reality small group (see above). If you can digest them both, then go for it! But I have to regularly remind myself, sometimes less is more.

## Upcoming Messages:

Pastor Jeff continues the Mighty Men & Wonderful Women series, highlighting the character of prominent and not-so-prominent men and women of the Old Testament. But first, it's Youth Sunday!

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| August 7  | <i>Youth Sunday</i>  |
| August 14 | <b>"Mighty Men of the Bible: Ehud"</b> Judges 3:12-30            |
| August 21 | <b>"Wonderful Women of the Bible: Deborah and Jael"</b> Judges 4 |
| August 28 | <b>"Mighty Men of the Bible: Gideon"</b> Judges 6-8              |

### OUR MISSION:

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



**PONTE VEDRA**  
*United Methodist Church*

## Missions Corner



Ponte Vedra United Methodist Church is a contributing participant in the work of Mission on the Move (MOM). MOM has followed Christ's command to "care for the least of these" by feeding, clothing and giving dental and medical care and refuge to deserted, abused or neglected children in Honduras and the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico.

Over the past 15 years, MOM has donated six buses, two trucks, and one motor home type vehicle to other mission organizations in Latin America, as well as two buses to missions working among the Native American population of the United States. The vehicles are turned into mobile medical clinics before delivery. In this same period MOM has sent several hundred short-term mission team members to Central America including physicians and surgeons, nurses, physician assistants, pharmacists, well drillers, cooks, builders and teachers. This ministry

has managed to enjoy the support of local governments - a blessing rarely shared by other mission organizations.

MOM has also shipped many thousands of tons of beans, rice, clothing and medicine to feed the hungry of Honduras and Mexico. They have a scholarship program for students in country and have helped several study in the U.S., preparing to return home to serve.

This is an incredibly effective outreach led primarily by United Methodist volunteers with practically no administrative overhead. Thank you for supporting Mission on the Move through a portion of your regular giving.

## Hurricane Relief

Three weeks ago Cuba was battered by 150 mph winds brought on by Hurricane Dennis. The storm caused an estimated 38 deaths in Cuba and Haiti and destroyed homes and crops, according to a release from the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR).

Another casualty of the storm was Cuba's Methodist churches. The southeastern part of the island received the brunt of the storm, and Cuba Methodist Bishop Ricardo Pereira's office reported eight Methodist churches in that area were destroyed.

In response UMCOR has established a new Advance called Repairs of Cuban Churches and Structures. Individuals who would like to help rebuild churches and parsonages that were damaged or destroyed may designate their gifts "**Cuban Church Repairs.**"

Individuals who would like to help with general recovery efforts in Cuba and Haiti may designate their gifts "**Hurricanes 2005 Global.**" These funds will not be used to rebuild church structures.

Let's be in prayer for all who have suffered loss in the early storms of this hurricane season.

## Thank you from keyboardist Sam Welsh

It was a pleasure to be invited to join the worship team here at PVUMC in May of last year. I had no idea what to expect (and often, still don't!) and was pleasantly surprised to find such a close knit, loving community. Shortly after I joined, the team went to the Willow Creek Arts Conference in Chicago. Intrigued, I asked my predecessor Tyson Hankins what exactly it was all about. He explained with regret that he had never been able to attend due to his strenuous academic schedule. I had resigned myself to suffer a similar fate. God, it seems, had other plans.

About a month before the conference was scheduled, I met with my academic advisor who explained to me that a summer session was not required. Gratefully, this freed my schedule considerably. There was only one other hurdle: money, of course. But on short notice, PVUMC saves the day (again!) and made it possible for me to attend the conference. I cannot thank the members of this church enough for welcoming me with such open arms, and making it possible to experience such a rich week of fellowship and learning. I can only hope that I can put the experience to good use every week while serving on this team. Thanks again!

## From the Campaign Followup Team

### CAPITAL CAMPAIGN STATUS

*A Journey of Faith* goal: \$1.2 million  
 Pledged to Date: \$1,308,921  
 Received on pledges to date: \$ 310,041  
 Building Fund Total Balance: \$ 410,795

Reprints of the recent newspaper articles advertising our search for land are available on the literature cart and online ([www.pv-umc.org](http://www.pv-umc.org)). Let's continue to put the word out and keep our eyes and ears open. Find out as much as you can and pass along your leads to the Trustees. They are John McEvoy, Jay Morris, June Koch, Mike Elliott, Jerry Sanders, Paul Lisenby and Jeff Bennett.

Your Followup Director Team: David & Patricia Branham, Jim & Sherry Banks

## A Word from Wesley

John Wesley had much to say regarding poverty and the poor. Ponder these words:

So wickedly, devilishly false is that common objection, "They are poor only because they are idle."

*Works XX, 445.*

One great reason why the rich have so little sympathy for the poor is because they so seldom visit them.

*Works III, 387.*

I visited as many as I could of the sick. How much better is it, when it can be done, to carry relief to the poor, than to send it! and that for our own sake and theirs. For theirs, as it is so much more comfortable to them, and as we may then assist them in spirituals as well as temporals; and for our own, as it is far more apt to soften our heart, and to make us naturally care for each other.

*Works XXI, 290.*

If you cannot relieve, do not grieve, the poor. Give them soft words, if nothing else.

*Works XX, 176.*

## Interested in Joining PVUMC?

Pastor Jeff will be offering a new member orientation on Sunday, August 21 from 4 - 6pm. It will be a great opportunity to learn more about our church and meet some other people along the way. There's no obligation to join, but the orientation is required for membership. Let the office know you're coming (280-5141); childcare available upon request.

## JULY 2005 GIVING AND ATTENDANCE

Date	Contemp.	Trad.	General*	Capital	<u>Designated Totals</u>
7/3	72	68	\$ 7,477	\$ 2,794	Building Fund \$ 410,795
7/10	78	73	\$ 7,140	\$ 650	Missions (YTD) \$ 8,018
7/17	80	77	\$ 9,867	\$ 768	Enhancement Fund \$ 4,748
7/24	86	75	\$ 8,002	\$ 4,257	

*\*Now includes Monday - Sunday giving*

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

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

## *Youth Ministry News & Events*

It is remarkable how a few short days can have such a tremendous impact on our lives. I and four of our high school students traveled to Atlanta, July 10-15 to participate in the DOOR program. DOOR stands for Discovering Opportunities for Outreach and Reflection, and they have a threefold purpose for these week-long trips. The first goal is to match us up with agencies in need of volunteers and the second goal is to help us discover ways we can be working toward alleviating homelessness and poverty in our own local communities. The third, and arguably most important, goal for DOOR is helping participants find the face of God in the city. There were ample opportunities for each of us to experience God's work throughout the week.

Our group served a different agency each day. Our first day was spent at the Central Presbyterian Outreach Center sitting in with caseworkers and serving light snacks and beverages to those who were waiting in line to see a caseworker. Our second day was spent serving very nice made-from-scratch gourmet style lunches to a select group of people experiencing homelessness who had signed pledges to actively improve their situations in life. On day three we found ourselves working in two locations. The first location was a product recovery center where we sorted usable grocery items and repackaged them for resale (at a mere 16¢ per pound!) to the local assistance agencies. The second location was a meal-packaging facility where we put together frozen meals to be delivered by Meals on Wheels. On our fourth and final day, we delivered the meals we'd packaged the previous day.

When we were not volunteering, we had time to discuss our response to these issues in our own communities. Each of our students said they felt more could be done locally and that their previous experiences with homelessness were virtually nonexistent, occurring at a distance or through a closed car window. We came away from the DOOR program with a deeper and better understanding of these issues and a desire to become involved with local solutions.

Each of us wants to do what we can do, and that includes informing others of the things we have seen and done this summer. Ben Hancock, Tucker Holland, Sam Lucas, Austin Patneau and I are more than happy to share our experiences with any who are interested, just ask us any time you see us. We also invite those who are interested in easing the burden of those less fortunate than ourselves to join us in exploring ideas to serve our local areas. We may not solve these problems on our own, but we are eager and excited to be working toward the solution.

—Adam Myers, Youth Minister

## *Meals on Wheels for PVUMC Youth?*

The high school and middle school youth group meets on Sunday nights from 6 to 8pm. Part of our time together includes a light dinner. We are experiencing a shortage of volunteers to provide these simple meals. If you are interested in providing a casserole, pasta, pizza, tacos, sloppy joe, hot dogs, or another meal, please contact Adam Myers (280-5141) to join a rotating schedule. We would like to have enough contributors to ensure that no one is asked to provide a meal more than once every eight or nine weeks. Thank you for this contribution to our youth ministry!

## *Openings for Acolytes*

Are you in 3rd, 4th, or 5th grade? Interested in serving your church? Interested in becoming an Acolyte? This fun opportunity to serve at the 11:15 service is open to all kids in grades 3-5. Contact Martin Combs at 821-8734 if you have any questions. A training session will be held Sunday, August 28 at 4pm.



**Registration is now underway  
for Children & Youth Creative  
Arts Ministries**

**Little Cherubs Choir**

Ages 3&4

Resumes meeting September 7<sup>th</sup>

Wednesdays 6:15-7:15pm

Preschool Room

**Children's Choir**

Grades K-5

Resumes meeting September 7<sup>th</sup>

Wednesdays 6:15-7:15pm

**YCAM**

Grades 6-12

Meets Wednesdays 6:00-8:30pm

**Praise Choir**

Meets Tuesdays 6:30-7:30pm

**Traditional Choir**

Resumes meeting September 8<sup>th</sup>

Thursdays 7:00-8:15pm

***Interested in joining a worship group?***

For information regarding any of the ministries above contact Minister of Music Carol Zur 280-5141, [carol.zur@pv-umc.org](mailto:carol.zur@pv-umc.org).

**In Hebrews 10: 23-25 God's word says ,**

**“Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another-and all the more as you see the day approaching.”**

## *Got teens?*

Beach United Methodist Church has invited us to hear Duffy Robbins lead an Understanding Your Teenager seminar at Beach on Saturday, August 27 from 9am to noon. Among the questions to be addressed:

- What kind of behavior should I expect from my teenager?
- What should I do when my teenager refuses to participate in family activities?
- Is teenage rebellion inevitable? How can it be prevented?
- How do I keep conflict with my teenager from disrupting our family life?
- What is the best method for disciplining teenagers?
- How can I help my teenager choose the right friends?
- How can I help my teenager become a more self-reliant person?
- How can I help my teenager make good decisions about sex?
  - What should I do if my teenager is getting into trouble?
  - How can I help my teenager grow spiritually?

Duffy Robbins is a nationally known speaker and 24 year veteran of youth ministry. He'll be well worth hearing!

## *A VBS Thank You*

Thank you to all the youth and adult volunteers who helped make our trek through the Serengeti a tremendous success. We had a roarin' good time as 35 kids participated in crafts, songs

## *Promotion Sunday August 7*

We offer Sunday School for all ages at 10am. Children who are moving to a higher grade level range will move to their new classes on Sunday, August 7. Please note this change: We're moving our 3<sup>rd</sup> graders in with the 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grade class. Classes, teachers and locations follow.

Ages 2 - 5: Room 1

Kindergarten - 2<sup>nd</sup> grade: Joyce Agent & Susan Merrill;  
Room 2

3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grade: Rachel Bradford, Yolie Macon; Room 5

Middle School: Rod Zur; outside

High School: Adam Myers; Youth Room

## Go Deep

This fall we're offering three opportunities for in-depth study of the Bible and the faith we share. Each requires 30 minutes daily for reading and reflection and 2½ hours for a weekly group meeting. It's a substantial investment but if you make it you'll find yourself reaping incredible dividends. If you'd like to sign on for DISCIPLE I, DISCIPLE IV or CHRISTIAN BELIEVER then contact the church office (280-5141) to reserve your spot. (Each group is limited to 12 people.)

### **DISCIPLE I - Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study**

Prerequisite: None.

*Meets Wednesday evenings at 7pm beginning September 7.*

*Leader: Diane Lee*

This is a general survey of the entire Bible. You will read approximately 70% of the Bible during the 34 weeks. Lesson 33 is a special time of positive affirmation and discernment where each participant will have opportunity to talk about their personal goals for discipleship. The purpose of the study is to develop biblically nourished persons committed to live as disciples.

Each meeting begins with prayer and a short introduction to the topic for the lesson. A video is viewed featuring an expert in the specific subject matter. A discussion period seeks to bring alive the daily readings. Following a break a second discussion time focuses on the discipleship aspect of the lesson. Prayer requests are shared and the session is closed with a prayer.

### **DISCIPLE IV - Under The Tree Of Life**

Prerequisite: DISCIPLE I

*Meets Wednesday evenings at 7pm beginning September 7.*

*Leader: Jerry Sanders*

The word "under" in the title is meant to convey a welcoming invitation to shelter, security, and rest in God's love. Come rest in the words of John, The Writings, and Revelation while studying the mystery and wonder these books have to offer in this 32-week course.

Participants in *Under the Tree of Life* will recognize the familiar rhythm and requirements of daily Scripture reading and note taking in preparation for discussion in the weekly group meeting. The study manual guides daily study of the biblical text and calls for written responses that become grist for discussion in the weekly group meeting.

Two new elements in the study manual format represent special emphases in this study — the psalm of the week and the radical disciple. The psalm of the week will lead people into a deeper life of prayer using psalms as a guide. The study offers suggestions on experiencing the psalm of the week. The radical disciple focuses on thoughts or actions relevant to the weekly theme.

Whether praying or taking steps toward radical discipleship, participants know they are not alone—the community is there.

### **CHRISTIAN BELIEVER - Knowing God with Heart and Mind**

Prerequisite: None.

*Meets Sunday evenings at 7pm beginning September 11.*

*Leader: Gary Proctor*

Christian Believer is a 30-week study of the classical doctrines of the Christian faith. These doctrines include God's Providence, Atonement, Judgment, Eternal Life and many more. Structured like the Disciple Bible program, Christian Believer participants daily read both Scripture and writings of early and modern church leaders and theologians. Once a week, individuals meet together to watch a video and discuss what they have learned. Take Christian Believer to understand more fully what the Church has believed and taught over the centuries and to learn the concepts and images that unite us all as Christian believers.

## A Note From Pastor Jeff.

Jill recently read an article in a parenting magazine that said that once you start having kids you no longer go on vacations, you go on *trips*. Jill and I both say amen to that, having recently returned from a *trip* visiting family that was a lot of work. (It has a lot to do with a certain 3½ year old and a pair of 8 month olds.)

Our trip was not without several blessings, I'm glad to say. My favorite blessing was when one of my sisters and her husband confided that age 0 - 1 year is their least favorite age to parent. (Laura and Dave's kids are 9, 6 and 4.) I so appreciated that sharing! They are great parents so... Maybe it's okay just to hang in there and do the work, even though I don't particularly enjoy this season. Maybe it's okay that while I love my children, I don't always *like* them.

That kind of sharing comes in the context of community. I'm blessed to be part of a community (the family into which I was born) that can share this sort of thing. Community sure beats doing life alone.

I've been doing a lot of thinking about how we as the church can be community with each other, and a community that embraces outsiders. Many of our small groups experience community. Our Sunday morning worship feels like community to me. What are some other means by which we can experience and offer community?

Glad to be a part of this community,

Pastor Jeff



### PONTE VEDRA *United Methodist Church*

35 Executive Way, Suite 130  
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082

Phone: 904-280-5141  
Fax: 904-280-0599  
[www.pv-umc.org](http://www.pv-umc.org)

#### CHURCH STAFF

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

Staff Email:

[firstname.lastname@pv-umc.org](mailto:firstname.lastname@pv-umc.org)