

# THE WAVE



VOLUME 3, ISSUE 9

SEPTEMBER 2005

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## Reality: 7 Truths from Experiencing God



God is always at work around us. Whether we realize it or not, this is reality. God has an agenda and you are part of it. What's it like to be found by God? To be invited to join God in his work? What will be required of me? We'll journey with Moses and others from the Bible as we seek to be shaped by the reality of God. There are three ways to become a part of this 40 day adventure.

- ◆ Participate in each Sunday's *Reality* message for seven Sundays
- ◆ Engage *Reality* in a small group for seven sessions
- ◆ Read and reflect on each of the *Reality* daily devotionals for 40 days

It all starts on Sunday, September 25. Reality booklets containing the small group material and daily devotionals are now available (\$4).

## KID'S WORSHIP

We are excited to be kicking off *Kids' Worship* on Sunday, September 25 at both worship services. Kids through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade are encouraged to attend *Kids' Worship* to experience God's story in fresh, fun and meaningful ways. Following Children's Time they'll be invited to leave the sanctuary to praise God through music, *Learn the Point* through stories and activities, offer their gifts to God and pray to our heavenly Father in their own time of worship.

We've recruited a few people to lead Kids' Worship but we need more to make it a success. Might you be receiving a nudge from God to serve him through this new ministry to children? Call Jill Bennett at 285-2134 if you would like to try it out.

### Upcoming Messages:

September 4 "Mighty Men and Foolish Fellows of the Bible: Samson" Judges 13

September 11 "America's Response to September 11, 2001" 1 Corinthians 13:13

September 18 "Open Our Eyes" 2 Kings 6:8-23

September 25 "Reality: God Is Always at Work Around You"

### 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



## Bright Kids

*Bright Kids* brings the good news of Jesus Christ to teenagers in detention centers who need to make changes in their lives. Through our ministry at the St. Johns County Detention Center, Ponte Vedra UMC is a part of *Bright Kids'* all-volunteer effort from area churches, helping troubled kids know there is a loving God who brings forgiveness for all their sins and a chance to start over with his help. Our financial support of this work makes it possible to leave Bibles with the youth served by *Bright Kids*.

## Thank You's from Camp AMP

Camp AMP is the Northeast District's outreach to poor and marginalized children and youth in northeast Florida. The overnight camp, held at the Lake Asbury Retreat Center, served 40 elementary school campers one week and 40 middle schoolers the next. 20 youth staff helped serve as did you, Ponte Vedra UMC, through the missions giving you make possible. Camp Director Pam Hall mailed us the thank you letters below.

We went swimming. I made some friends. We herd storys. We lisend to music. I sleep on a bottom bunk. I lernd to belive In JESUS, trust him and love him. I also lernd Miss Janet is nor out mother. How not to argu. We had inside S-MORES. I lernd to make my bed. I lernd boys are anoyinger than ever.

-Alana

Dear Ponte Vera

Thank You for helping Camp Amp. I realy enjoyed my week at Camp. I learned that it would be even much funner if you be nice to people and you can still have fun at a Church camp. I did not know I would have this much fun. Thank you so much. Sincerelly, April

## A Word from Wesley

Consider these words from the founder of Methodism, John Wesley:

Our main doctrines, which include all the rest, are three, that of repentance, of faith, and of holiness. The first of these we account, as it were, the porch of religion; the next, the door, the third, religion itself.

*Works IX, 227.*

I am not afraid that the people called Methodists should ever cease to exist either in Europe or America. But I am afraid, lest they should only exist only as a dead sect, having the form of religion without the power. And this undoubtedly will be the case, unless they hold fast both the doctrine, spirit, and discipline with which they first set out. *Works IX, 527.*

# 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: \$ 320,922  
 Building Fund Total Balance: \$ 421,750

At present the Trustees have three live prospects for land upon which to build. Trustees contacted two of them; one of them contacted us, having visited the church and read of our search in the newspaper. None of the properties are listed for sale but each of the owners has expressed a willingness to sell to us. Each property is 8 - 10 acres in size, and each is within the target area. (The target area is JTB to the north, Mickler Road to the south, and the intracoastal waterway to the west.) The properties have been ranked according to desirability; the Trustees have begun negotiating with the owners.

When a price and terms have been negotiated, a congregational meeting will be called to seek your approval. The Trustees request your patience and understanding as to why they are not releasing locations of the properties at this time. (Having others bidding against us won't help matters.)

Please be praying for a favorable outcome from the upcoming negotiations. Thank you.

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



Journey of Faith  
2005

## AUGUST 2005 GIVING AND ATTENDANCE

Date	Contemp.	Trad.	General*	Capital	<u>Designated Totals</u>
8/7	103	95	\$ 6,815	\$ 4,157	Building Fund \$ 421,750
8/14	82	93	\$ 7,544	\$ 685	Missions (YTD) \$ 8,757
8/21	92	73	\$ 7,769	\$ 2,968	Enhancement Fund \$ 4,748
8/28	86	78	\$ 3,622	\$ 660	

*\*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

### Rock the Universe

On Saturday September 10, students in our youth ministry will be attending *Rock the Universe* at Universal Studios. This event is held annually and features many of today's most popular Christian bands. The park opens at 5pm, remains open until 1am, operates all of their rides, and presents the bands on multiple outdoor stages throughout the park. Youth attending the event will be staying at the Orlando Holiday Villas Saturday night and returning home Sunday afternoon. This great fellowship opportunity also allows youth to invite their friends to something big and exciting.

### Revisiting Youth Sunday

Youth Sunday was a great experience for us at Ponte Vedra UMC. It seems as if everyone involved, both youth and the rest of the congregation, experienced something that will stay with them for a long time. One of the most talked about parts of Youth Sunday was the worship tables. Many people have said how much they appreciated the tables and others have asked where the ideas for the tables came from.

Worship tables, or prayer stations, have their roots in a variety of places. Some stations are influenced from Christian practices that have been forgotten or neglected over the years, such as lighting candles during prayer or silent meditation on passages of scripture. Other stations are influenced by our need for more than just verbal learning, such as a station that encourages the creation of an artwork or a station that uses items as object lessons. Still other stations take recognizable practices and add a new element to them in order to reclaim their freshness and vitality or to open up the possibility of their practice to people who may have previously avoided it. The hand-tracing laying on of hands station is an example of this. These stations serve an important role in worship, one that encourages our creativity, action, and sense of wonder.

Our Sunday night youth ministry program uses prayer and worship stations extensively as a means of experiencing God and generating discussion on our relationships with God and each other. Perhaps you would enjoy working with us on our Sunday night gatherings. If so, please contact me, whether you are ready to join in or you just have a few questions. These experiences have opened up all sorts of opportunities to enrich our students' faith; we would love to have you joining alongside us.

-Adam Myers

*Adam Myers is our youth minister and may be reached by email at [adam.myers@pv-umc.org](mailto:adam.myers@pv-umc.org) or by phone at (904) 280-*

### Monthly Student Outings

Each month a group of our students are invited to enjoy a Sunday out after church. This is a great time to have fun, invite friends, and get to know each other better. The monthly trips alternate between high school and middle school students every other month, with September being the month for our high school students to enjoy an outing. This month's trip will be to Skate World in Jacksonville for a great way to cool off during the hot weather. On Sunday, September 25, we'll meet at the church at 12:30 before heading over to Skate World together. Bring \$13 and feel free to invite your friends!



On A Musical Note

The Children's and Youth  
Creative Arts Ministry

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

#### **Little Cherubs Choir**

Ages 3&4  
Resumes meeting September 7<sup>th</sup>  
Wednesdays 5:45-6:45pm  
Preschool Room

#### **Children's Choir**

Grades K-5  
Resumes meeting September 7<sup>th</sup>  
Wednesdays 5:45-6:45pm

#### **YCAM**

Grades 6-12  
Meets Wednesdays 5:45-8:00pm

#### **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 unswervingly 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."

## *YCAM Summer Tour*

The second leg of the *YCAM Summer Tour* was a great success! We kicked off the tour with a cookout sleep-over at the homes of the Shanks and the Zurs and departed at 7am for Cedar Key. We spent an incredible day together. One highlight was taking the *Island Hopper*, we visited two other islands in the Gulf and took a dip, seeing manatee and dolphin swimming nearby. It was great fun! Later that night we were invited to Cedar Key UMC's youth outreach, *The 5<sup>th</sup> Quarter*; this is an outreach to unchurched teens on the island. The next morning we shared in worship at Cedar Key United Methodist Church. The congregation was made up of children, youth and adults, mostly an older group but they were very enthusiastic about having us. A highlight came when they offered up a prayer for us before we began the service. A retired pastor who had served some 30 years prior at Cedar Key had come specifically to see YCAM; he started the prayer by encouraging our young leaders, proclaiming that they were the future leaders of the Methodist Church! We then traveled on to Chiefland's First United Methodist Church where we led a 5pm program. The youth director had invited many homeless people to attend the service; he was prepared to provide them with shirts and shoes and promised them a meal following the service. We were so blessed to have had this opportunity to spread God's word and his love. The pastor of the church came on the bus as we were leaving and thanked us for coming and encouraging their small youth group and prayed over us all. It just goes to show what the song says: **"We Can Make A Difference."** The **Youth Creative Arts Ministry** will kick off on September 7 at a new time, 5:45pm. Team Time with Mr. Z will run from 5:45-6:45. Bring \$2 for pizza and we'll finish by 8. Come and be a part of this growing ministry committed to sharing the love of Christ through the Arts. Thank you for your continued support and prayers; it has been an Awesome Year!



and the beat be gone.....



## 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 that will yield excellent dividends. If you'd like to sign on for DISCIPLE I, DISCIPLE IV or CHRISTIAN BELIEVER then contact the church office (280-5141).

### **DISCIPLE I - BECOMING DISCIPLES THROUGH BIBLE STUDY**

*Meets Wednesday evenings at 7pm beginning September 7 for 34 weeks.*

*Leader: Diane Lee. Prerequisite: None.*

Group purpose is to develop biblically nourished persons committed to live as disciples.

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

*Meets Wednesday evenings at 7pm beginning September 7 for 32 weeks.*

*Leader: Jerry Sanders. Prerequisite: DISCIPLE I*

A welcoming invitation to shelter, security, and rest in God's love. Focus on John, the Writings and Revelation.

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

*Meets Sunday evenings at 6pm beginning September 11 for 30 weeks.*

*Leader: Gary Proctor. Prerequisite: None.*

Study the classical doctrines of the Christian faith. Understand more fully what the Church has believed and taught over the centuries.

...sometimes it just has to get done...

## PVUM ChurchWORKINGS

If you'd like to meet some interesting PVUMCers, or help out with the administration of the church, you should consider joining the ChurchWorks team. For more information contact Deborah Dickerson at **280-5141**. Hours are flexible, and in some cases you can even work from home.

#### **Available opportunities:**

- ◆ **Publishing:** Write stories for *The Wave* and then paste them up and print them too. Or help produce the Sunday bulletins. Fun fellowship and it only takes about an hour.
- ◆ **Shopping:** If you are a 'shop until you drop'-er, this is the job for you. Purchase supplies and food for the church at Sam's twice monthly and turn in the receipt for reimbursement.
- ◆ **Greeting and Meeting:** Answer the phones, greet members and guests of the church and get to know the staff. If you like people, this is the place to be.
- ◆ **Multi-tasking:** If you have good organizational skills, your recordkeeping and bookkeeping experience will be appreciated. Often you can work from your home on these projects.



## *A Note From Pastor Jeff:*

On September 25 we'll enter a 40 day journey entitled, *Reality*. It's based on the popular workbook *Experiencing God* by Henry Blackaby. If you're expecting a recipe on how to go about experiencing God, I'm afraid you'll be disappointed. Consider Moses. He encountered the living God through a burning bush. So far as we know, it was a one-time event; God never met Moses that way again. Nor has God met anyone since in that way! No, experiencing God doesn't lend itself to a formula.

The good news is that God desires a relationship with you. God wants you to experience him but it must be on God's (thankfully generous) terms. Despite our attempts to make God into who we want God to be, God is who God is. Take seriously the seven biblical truths we'll investigate these 40 days and you'll be ready to move forward in your relationship with God. And if "experiencing God" doesn't happen the way you expect, take heart: God is who God is. Our encounters with God are on God's terms. And this is a good thing.

– Pastor Jeff



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