

THE WAVE



VOLUME 4, ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2006

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COME THIRSTY { ...and discover a living water that will flood your soul and quench your thirst forever

What image best describes your heart? A water-drenched kid in front of an open fire hydrant? Or a bristled, desert tumbleweed?

You're acquainted with physical thirst. Stop drinking and see what happens. Coherent thoughts vanish, skin grows clammy, and vital organs shut down. Deprive your body of necessary fluid, and it will tell you.

Deprive your soul of spiritual water, and it will tell you. Dehydrated hearts send desperate messages. Snarling tempers. Waves of worry. Growing guilt and fear. Hopelessness. Resentment. Loneliness. Insecurity.

But you don't have to live with a dehydrated heart. God invites you to treat your thirsty soul as you would treat your physical thirst. Just visit the well and drink deeply. Christ does the hard part. All you do is ask. There is no spiritual "to do" list for you to tackle, no inventory of rules and regulations. Just drink. Let Christ be the water for your soul. Come thirsty, and drink the water of life.

Our six week church-wide study based on Max Lucado's book Come Thirsty begins February 26. New small groups will soon be forming!

Upcoming Messages

February 5	"Creating Environments Where Community Can Happen" (John 17:20-26)
February 12	"Seeing the More Excellent Way" (Philippians 4:4-9)
February 19	"Like Trees Planted by Streams of Water" (Psalm 1)
February 26	"Come Thirsty: The Well Is Deep" (John 7:37-38)
March 5	"Come Thirsty: Five Pillars of God's Grace" (Ephesians 2:1-10)
March 12	"Come Thirsty: God Didn't Leave Us Powerless" (John 7:37-39)
March 19	"Come Thirsty: Father Knows Best" (Luke 22:42)
March 26	"Come Thirsty: Five Life-Changing Questions" (Romans 8:31-39)
April 2	"Come Thirsty: What Would a Celebration Be Without Gifts?" (Jeremiah 2:12-13; John 7:37)

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

The Class by the Drums will receive groceries for **B.E.A.M.** (Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry) on Sunday, February 5. If you choose to shop for BEAM's pantry, please include the following on your list: chicken & dumplings, chile con carne, corned beef hash, beef stew, ham/spam, pork & beans, spaghetti sauce & pasta, green beans, peas, carrots, corn & peaches, instant rice, instant potatoes, tuna helper, macaroni & cheese, peanut butter & jelly, powdered milk and canned soups.

BEAM serves residents of the beaches who are in need.



Sunday, February 5 is Super Bowl Sunday. It is also *Souper Bowl of Caring* Sunday! While our brown bags go to BEAM, our **Youth Group** will receive dollars for **Mission House**, a ministry to the homeless of the beaches.

On February 5 bring with you to church food, dollars or both, along with your generous heart toward those who have no

A Word from Wesley

John Wesley, the father of Methodism, allowed for differing styles of worship across the church universal. He allowed for those with ideas different from his own, so long as those ideas did not strike at the essentials of the Christian faith. How seriously, though, did he take the practice of that faith! In Wesley's own words,

It is the glory of the people called Methodists that they condemn none for their opinions or modes of worship. They think and let think, and insist upon nothing but faith working by love. *Letters, VII, 190.*

We look upon ourselves, not as the authors or ringleaders of a particular sect or party; (it is the farthest thing from our thoughts;) but as messengers of God to those who are Christians in name, but Heathens in heart and in life, to call them back to that from which they are fallen, to real genuine Christianity. *Works IX, 337.*

From the Campaign Followup Team

A Journey of Faith goal: \$1.2 million
 Pledged to Date: \$1,302,921
 Received on pledges to date: \$ 547,419
 Building Fund Total Balance: \$ 665,712

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

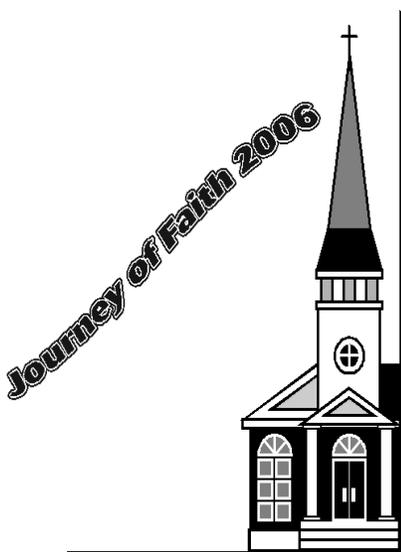


January 2005 Giving & Attendance

Date	Contemp.	Trad.	General	Capital
1/1	53	91	\$ 5,397	\$ 2,016
1/8	105	112	\$ 10,653	\$ 1,015
1/15	76	73	\$ 10,299	\$ 2,250
1/23	83	113	\$ 8,537	\$ 300

Designated Totals
 Building Fund
 \$ 665,712
 Missions (YTD)
 \$ 150
 Enhancement Fund
 \$ 4,748

Needed Weekly 2006
 \$10,346



News from the Youth...

January has been a great month in the youth ministry: An enjoyable lock-in event, a North Carolina ski trip, a new season of Sunday School classes, a strong team of student leaders steering the course for Sunday night youth group, and the thematic development of youth group have all come together in this last month getting us off to a great start in 2006.

The lock-in was our way of coming together after a long break and enjoying fellowship with one and other. Many regular students attended, along with some new faces as well. The youth have said on numerous occasions how thankful they are to have a place that lets them come together and be themselves while also finding who they are in relationship with God. Lock-ins at PVUMC help that to happen.

On Sunday mornings, the high school and middle school classes are taught by Katie Myers and Adam Myers, respectively. Each is presently using the United Methodist Social Principals as guide and material for each Sunday's class. The benefits are a better understanding of what it means to be a United Methodist, an opportunity to engage each other in our own principals, and an understanding of where we fit in with other denominations.

Every Sunday evening finds a group of youth gathering early to make decisions regarding the youth ministry. The bulk of the effort is deciding on themes, topics, and activities for Sunday night youth group, but student leaders also help with special events, new student integration, and event set-up/take-down. One development of the student leader team is a thematic approach to Sunday night youth group. Thematically planned youth groups allow for much work to be finished as a group well in advance of any given Sunday. A night's theme, discussion topics, and activities are put together over the course of several weeks.

February's themes include *Construction Night* (what are we building, and what are we building it upon?), *Board Game Night* (yes, this will be tied into a relevant message as well!), *Invader Zim Night* (a bizarre-yet-beloved Nickelodeon cartoon from which our topic of discussion is pulled), and *Improv Night* (where students take turns playing various parts in ultra-short skits devised on the fly).

If January has set the pace for the remainder of the year, 2006 is shaping up to be a memorable year indeed!

- Adam Myers, Youth Minister



On A Musical Note

*The Children's and Youth
Creative Arts Ministry*

Vacation Bible School

FIESTA! Where Kids are Fired up About Jesus. Making summer vacation plans and scheduling kids for camp? Be sure to save the dates of June 19 - 23 so you can join us for Vacation Bible School.

Cherubs Choir

Ages 3&4

Wednesdays 5:45-6:45pm

Preschool Room

Children's Choir

Grades K-5

Wednesdays 5:45-6:45pm

YCAM

Grades 6-12

Wednesdays 5:45-8:00pm

Praise Choir

Tuesdays 6:30-7:30pm

Traditional Choir

Thursdays 7:00-8:30pm



For Those Who Work

With Children or Youth:

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."

Volunteers and staff who work with children and/or youth in our church are required to attend a Child Protection Training and be screened by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. A brunch and training will be held on Thursday, February 9 at the home of **Susan Gelb**. At 10:00 all are invited to brunch, including those who have already completed the training, simply to fellowship with each other. The training itself will be from 11:00 - noon; those who have already completed the process may be excused at 11.

Please call **Jill Bennett** at 285-2134 for further information or to RSVP for the 9th. Thank you, Susan Gelb, for opening your home and providing brunch!

A Note From Pastor Jeff:

In my message of January 8 I shared three gifts that I want for you. I want to highlight them here.

The first is a **growing relationship with God through Jesus Christ**. Each and every one of us who hears the good news of Jesus Christ gets to choose how we'll respond. Will we except the forgiveness for sin that is ours through Christ's death and resurrection? Will we choose to follow him? Will we draw near to God through Jesus Christ? Will we listen? Trust? Obey? Receive his life? I want all of this for you and for me too. A growing relationship with Jesus Christ, not a one time decision that stops there. A dynamic relationship where we grow and change, becoming more like Jesus in the process.

The second gift I want for you is **community**. I want community for you. In North America we tend to isolate ourselves. We don't know our neighbor. Christians in our culture who get too busy to be in community with each other don't grow. Our church is determined to resist the tide of the culture. We will be in community through our small groups, our serving together, and our eating together. And we will share the gift by inviting others into this community of Christ's.

Third is the gift of **stewardship**. It's not about giving some percentage to the church; it's about what you and I do with 100% of what's been entrusted to us. It's about being free to do what God calls us to do when God calls us to do it. We'll be sharing God's principles and desires for our financial lives. There's no area of life about which God is unconcerned, including this one.

Three gifts I want for you. Three gifts I look forward to receiving more fully myself. May God bless us and our world through them.

- Pastor Jeff



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