

The Wave



VOLUME 5, ISSUE 9

SEPTEMBER 2007

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Dinner on the Grounds

We'll enjoy a picnic supper on the grounds of our 76 S Roscoe Blvd property **Sunday, September 30** from **4:30 - 6:30pm**. We'll provide the burgers, dogs and fixin's along with a beverage; you bring along a side, salad or dessert to share. If you've got a favorite yard game, bring that along too. It'll be fun!

God Is Closer Than You Think. (See for Yourself.)

We all share a need to see the constant awareness of the presence of God. We know God is there, 24-hours a day, seven days a week, but we sometimes have difficulty seeing him. We get busy at work, distracted around the house, and we miss wonderful opportunities to be with him.

That's going to change, and beginning soon we're going to learn how to see God at work in our lives. We're going to learn together, in a six-week campaign that springs from a wonderful book, *God Is Closer Than You Think*, by John Ortberg.

This amazing opportunity to learn to see God will be the focus of Pastor Jeff's teaching for six consecutive weeks and will drive small group discussions. Invite your friends, neighbors and coworkers to get involved, too!

It all begins Sunday, October 7.

Upcoming Messages

September 2 **Jesus Coming In Through the Back Door** (Matthew 28:16-20)

September 9 **What Makes a Marriage Good?** (Mark 10:2-9), *Pastor Jeff & Jill Bennett*

September 16 **Growing Toward Wholeness** (Acts 14:8-18)

September 23 **Raising Good Kids** (Proverbs 22:6), *Pastor Jeff & Kelly Minter*

September 30 *Chaplain Don Lynn of Baptist Beaches Hospital, preaching*

OUR MISSION:

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

*On God rests my
deliverance and my
honor; my mighty
rock, my refuge is
in God.*

Psalm 62:7



Next Ponte Vedra UMC Blood Drive

It is not too early to be thinking about Ponte Vedra United Methodist Church's next blood drive on **October 7, 2007**. Why should you be thinking about it now? Because the next time Florida Georgia Blood Alliance calls and asks you to donate a pint of blood, **PLEASE, JUST SAY NO!** We are now in the 56-day window that you must wait between blood donations. If you donate a pint of blood between now and October 7th, you will not be able to support the PVUMC blood drive on October 7, 2007. Contact **Don Carson** at 280-2893 for more information.

Money Matters

An occasional column on things financial

Treasure is a gift and also a burden. We become consumed with material goods. Yet life can be lived very simply if we choose. It is not wrong to enjoy many of the amazing luxuries life has to offer. However, justice requires us to consider the needs of others as we enjoy the gifts we have been given. To some, food and housing has become a luxury they are unable to obtain. Our use of treasure to support the charitable works of the church helps to bring justice and equity to the world. Charity is not a tax. It should be given freely because we understand and believe in the end result of our giving of financial support to any ministry. Treasure is measured not only in what we give to the church but also in what we provide to other charitable efforts in our community. The biblical tithe or 10% for God's work includes all of your charitable giving. In light of this, many people are very generous and should feel good about what they do.

What should you give? There is no one answer, but we should all give according to what we have been given. Rather than gifts of equal size, gifts should be based on equal sacrifice. For example, those who earn minimum wage will find it difficult to provide even basic living needs for themselves and for their family. This financial responsibility is a priority but it may still be possible to be a good steward in terms of time and talent. For many others, it is very possible to make a financial gift. A gift that is truly a sacrifice is a gift out of our need, not just our excess. Only you and God know what is fair but one way to know when you are making the right gift is when you stop making excuses for its size and stop trying to rationalize why it is enough.

– Reprinted from stewardship.com

That last sentence brings to mind a stewardship principle I heard many years ago:

Don't "give 'til it hurts." Give until you feel good about what you're giving.

Something to think about!

– Pastor Jeff

A Word from Wesley

"Never be unemployed a moment. Never be triflingly employed. Never while away time."

Jackson VIII, 309

"A Journey of Faith" Followup

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN STATUS

<i>A Journey of Faith</i> goal:	\$ 1.2 million
Pledged to Date:	\$ 1,234,570
Received on pledges to date:	\$ 1,159,279
Building Fund Total Balance:	\$ 347,248
Indebtedness:	\$ 300,000

We are presently in the 30th month of the 36-month capital campaign which ends March 31, 2008. Thank you for your faithful, generous giving to the *Journey of Faith* capital campaign and for your giving in general in support of the ministry of the church.

– Your Followup Director Team: David & Patricia Branham

★The church office is open Tuesdays—Fridays from 10am—2pm.★



August 2007 Giving & Attendance

Date	Contemp.	Trad.	General	Capital
8/5	74	109	\$ 15,091	\$ 767
8/12	94	124	\$ 5,761	\$ 510
8/19	84	96	\$ 4,470	\$ 3,618
8/26	109	89	\$ 17,891	\$ 335

<u>Designated Totals</u>
Building Fund
\$ 347,248
Missions (YTD)
\$ 27,429
Enhancement Fund
\$ 3,691

Needed Weekly 2007 - \$11,346



On A Musical Note
The Children's and Youth
Creative Arts Ministry

Children's Arts Ministry

Age 4 through 5th Grade
Wednesdays 3:30-5:00pm
Resuming September 5

YCAM

Grades 6-12
Wednesdays 6:30-8:00pm

Praise Choir

Tuesdays 6:30-7:30pm

Traditional Choir

Thursdays 7:00-8:00pm

C.I.A. Begins Soon



C. I. A.

When: Wednesday, September 5
(And each Wednesday after that)

Time: 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.

Where: Ponte Vedra UMC
76 S. Roscoe Blvd.

Who: K-5th graders

Your mission, if you choose to accept it, will be to show your love for God through singing, missions, acting and crafting.... AND you'll have a great time! Join us! Questions? Call Jill Bennett at 285-2134 or Anne Torgerson at 221-8057.

Kingdom Kids Attendance

August 12	9:30	2	11:00	7
August 19	9:30	5	11:00	9
August 26	9:30	9	11:00	13

Y.C.A.M.
Youth Creative Arts Ministry



Youth come join the fun. YCAM is looking forward to the start of another great year. Do you like to sing? Can you play a musical instrument? Do you like to act? How about eat? If you are in the sixth grade through high school and this sounds like fun, YCAM is the place for you. Every Wednesday night dinner starts at 6:00 (\$3 per person) followed by music and fellowship 6:30 - 8:00. For more information contact Scott Tinsley (280-5141 or e-mail Scott.Tinsley@pv-umc.org.



A Word from our Youth Minister, Kelly Minter

Mission 2007 recap!

As you know, our youth embarked on not one but two summer mission trips in 2007. Our High School students went to Philadelphia PA and our Middle School students went to Daytona Beach. If you had the opportunity to attend youth Sunday in July, I know you were blessed by the retelling of their experiences!

We in our youth ministry recognize how fortunate we are here at PVUMC. Our church family has been so supportive of our trips and fundraisers! Did you know that we raised over \$700 at our talent show? That, added to the \$800 the trustees donated for our house cleaning services (the house that is now our office building), and the over \$900 we received with our flamingo fundraiser, made it possible for the families to pay no more than \$150/child for their trips this summer! It was a true testament to what a church family can and will do to support God's moving in our young people. So thank you, thank you, thank you to everyone who made it possible for these trips to happen. We returned transformed and renewed to carry out God's work here in our local communities.

Mission 2008

This coming year is going to be full of opportunities to be creative and to follow God's leading! Because of our present location, most of our conventional fundraisers will be difficult or impractical. However, our youth ministry knows that God makes His own way possible, so we are looking forward to the opportunity to be creative and flexible, because we know that the mission work we do is important to the communities we go to serve, our community at home, and our own spiritual journeys. Be on the look out for new and exciting things from our youth!

Dates to remember.

September 7-9: Night of Joy! We will meet at the church at 4PM on Friday and head to Orlando for two nights of Magic Kingdom, Christian Concerts, group fellowship, and mission work! We have a group of 23 heading out so far, and we will keep adding until they are sold out!

September 9: Our Night of Joy group will be leaving Orlando in enough time to go to Ocean Palms for worship, so invite your families to meet us there! (Yes, you can take your tired selves home before worship, but what a great way to close out our weekend, by worshipping together with our church family!

September 16: All students and their families are encouraged to meet together before youth group for a meal and mission trip meeting! We WILL be deciding on where we are going and when, so bring your calendars and your parents! Every family is encouraged to send at least one parent with their student, so we can all stay connected and well informed!!

With Thanksgiving

Our thanks for helping with time and effort in preparing 76 S Roscoe Blvd for use as church offices: Mae Liberty, Sue Morris, Allison Leigh Evans, John McEvoy, Scott Tinsley, Danny Booth, Jim Mooney, Dean Decker, Cecily Browning, Laura Boehner, Kristin Boehner, Sonja Rodgers, Jill Bennett, Norma Webster, Joyce Agent, and Mary Alice Sanders.

Ponte Vedra United Methodist Women

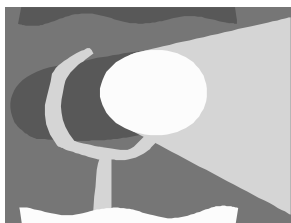
Time to hit the books!

The first UMW book circle meeting will be held at the home of Anne Torgerson on September 17 at 7pm. The book circle will meet on the third Monday of each month. Come join us and invite your friends to this excellent opportunity for spiritual growth and fellowship. Call Anne Torgerson for directions (221-8057).

UMW continues to collect items for Operation Shoebox, a volunteer organization which sends care packages to our troops deployed overseas. All donations are greatly appreciated by these men and women and enclosed notes of encouragement in these packages are also especially gratifying. Suggested items are: heat resistant candy, Fruit Breezes (throat drops), Twizzlers (candy), lollipops, mints, instant coffee packages, coffee creamer, sugar packets, energy bars (Clif or Balance), beef jerky, granola bars, pop-tarts, dry packaged lemonade, hot sauce (no glass containers), baby wipes, feminine hygiene products, hairbrushes, q-tips, disposable razors, shampoo, sunscreen, non-aerosol bug spray, zip lock bags, batteries, small flashlights, small fans, fly swatters, shoe insole cushions, sunglasses (black, non-designer), CD fanny packs, phone cards, funnies and puzzle pages from newspapers, disposable cameras, small stuffed animals, white athletic so socks. AND for those of you who are knitters there is a need for knitted caps to be worn under helmets. (Contact Jane Ellis, 273-0094, for knitting instructions.)



Our next UMW quilting meeting will be October 16 at 1:00pm. This is a great opportunity for fellowship and to produce something beautiful. Please call Marilyn Elston (223-9477) for information and directions.



Spotlight on Volunteers

Dod and Colleen Schroter can usually be seen among the Sunday morning people who give their time to help get things ready and set up for the contemporary worship service. They are Charter members who so willingly help with many church duties since the beginning of PVUMC!

They both help with Sunday morning: coordinating greeters and ushers, and now are being shepherds to greet newcomers to our Sunday morning worship service. They both have helped with both *The Wave* newsletter and stuffing bulletins. Colleen is on the hospitality committee, so we might see them both cheerfully helping to set up and clean up for the many church wide meals. Dod is on the capital campaign committee which he's been proud to serve on. He also has helped with Habitat several times! One of the most important "jobs" he has is getting the coffee going on Sunday mornings! Now you know who to thank for having it brewed and ready to drink when we get there!

Some of the things they do when they aren't at church include: traveling to Alaska (several times in recent years!), travel out west to visit Colleen's daughter and to the Atlanta area to visit Colleen's son, wife and grandson, Zach. Dod enjoys working in "his" yard (Colleen brings him water!), and goes fishing when he can! They also travel to visit Dod's family in South Florida.

Colleen calls Dod "a real gentle-man" which says it all about him! Dod says: "they are a "package deal" when Colleen offers to help with the hospitality committee duties as well as their other volunteer "jobs"!"

If you haven't gotten to know Dod and Colleen yet, they'd like to meet you! They are both easy to talk with and both have interesting things to talk about! These two caring people always have a smile, a hug, and encouragement to give to those they meet "and greet"! Just be sure to bring sweet desserts to the church functions for Dod's sweet tooth! Maybe that's why he's so willing to help when there's food involved...! Next time you get a chance, please tell this loving couple thanks for all they do for the church!



Guest Central: Helping Guests Find Their Way

Enter Ocean Palms Elementary by our main entrance and you will encounter a green cart with "Guest Central" on it. The smiling face standing nearby could be yours. We're looking for Guest Central servants to man that station on a rotating basis from 9:15 - 10:45 and 10:45 - 12:15. Why the cart? And why have a person serving there for 90 minutes at a time?

- Guests coming late to worship (or Sunday School) will appreciate someone to welcome and orient them. Guests are not always correct about the time and may show up at any point on Sunday morning. Regular attenders who are running late will also appreciate your presence.

Guest Central... continued

- Guests may want to know what the options are for their children. We are creating a list of frequently asked questions so you'll have ready responses to this and most other questions.
- A worshiper may step out of the sanctuary, needing to know where the restrooms, nursery or Kingdom Kids room are. This servant can escort them.
- Lastly, as guests and regular attenders leave worship and Sunday School, this servant can serve as a friendly face thanking them for coming.
- On the Guest Central cart itself will be copies of the current edition of our church newsletter, *The Wave*. Also any brochures we develop for our church.

Experts say that the more times a guest is greeted, the friendlier she or he perceives the church to be. This is the reason we spread out our usher-greeters; it's also another reason for your smiling face to be stationed at Guest Central. You can be another person to greet those arriving.

Please contact me if you'd be willing to try your hand at this important ministry. You will bless our guests as well as our regular attenders.

– Pastor Jeff

jeff.bennett@pv-umc.org

280-5141 x16



Our Survey Says...

Our recent church-wide survey had 111 respondents. Our thanks to each of you who took the survey. Following is a summary of the 15 categories of questions and a bar chart reflecting responses to the ten questions added by our Planning Team to the survey. The full report is available upon request.

Composite and 15 Scale Scores

Compared to the national norm, our church's Composite Score was at the 70th percentile, and was statistically significantly higher than the national average. (The 70th percentile means that 70% of churches had lower scores than ours.) Our church scored above the 50th percentile on 14 of the 15 Scales. The church's top three percentile scores were on the following scales: Financial Leadership (89th percentile), Effective Management (78th), and Embracing Change (76th). Even the lowest scores were good; our church scored below the 50th percentile on just one of the 15 Scales. The church's lowest three percentile scores were on the following scales: Unique Focus (48th), Meets Needs (54th), and Innovation and Creativity (58th).

*Our Survey Says... continued***Church's Relative Strengths**

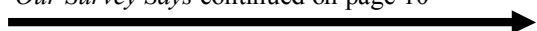
Compared to the national norm, your church scored highest on the following questions:

- Our leaders publicly discuss financial issues about the right amount of time (not too much, not too little).
- This church makes effective use of various communication methods (bulletins, newsletters, telephone, e-mail).
- Each individual member feels connected to the big picture of what the church is trying to accomplish.
- My church is...close-knit.
- Everyone is motivated by the church's vision for the future.
- Our church effectively manages its financial resources.
- I have received training from this church in some form of outreach, evangelism, or missions work.
- Our church discusses financial issues in an appropriate manner.
- Our church effectively meets goals (deadlines, results, and budgets).
- New information is effectively communicated to a large number of church members.

Church's Relative Opportunities for Improvement

Compared to the national norm, your church scored lowest on the following questions:

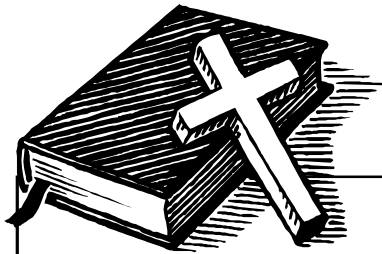
- This church's buildings and facilities are effective in supporting our ministries.
- Changes at the church rarely catch me by surprise.
- This church has clearly differentiated itself from other churches in effective ways.
- This church effectively meets the needs of children.
- I have a clear sense of how decisions are made in the church.
- If our church were to close down, our contribution to the community would be sorely missed.
- I am involved in a regular smaller group within the church.
- My church is...family.
- All members are encouraged to discuss their opinions about change.
- My actions influence the church.

Our Survey Says continued on page 10 

Custom Questions

The ten questions below were added to the survey by our Planning Team specifically for our congregation and provide information about issues that are currently of concern for our church.

The Planning Team has been led by **Cooper Agent** and comprises **Ada Elliott, Suzanne Joyner, John McEvoy, Ruth Murta, Bill Simon, Joe Voza** and Jim Wynn. Thank you, team!



Disciple I Soon Underway

DISCIPLE I - Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study will begin meeting Tuesdays from 10am to noon on September 11. The leader will be the highly acclaimed **Diane Lee**, know to many of us as **Willow**.

This highly acclaimed Bible study is a general survey of the entire Bible. You will read approximately 70% of the Bible during the 34 weeks. The purpose of the study is to develop biblically nourished persons committed to live as disciples. The study is appropriate to those just coming to the Bible and those who have studied it for years.

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.

To sign up for the class please call the office at 280-5141 as soon as possible. Prepare to be blessed!

A Note From Pastor Jeff:

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.
– Colossians 3:23-24

I like to think back on all the jobs I've had... Everything from mowing lawns, delivering newspapers and washing dishes to working with robots. In every task I could choose to be diligent in the work or I could slack off. Sometimes the work was enjoyable, other times not. Sometimes I had the kind of boss you looked forward to working for, other times not.

The challenge of the Scripture above isn't to work all the time but when you're working to put your heart into the work, to work as though you're working for Jesus. That can put a whole new spin on lousy tasks, difficult clients and a boss who's a real doofus.

Enjoy some rest and some play on Labor Day and when it comes time to go back to work (whether yours is paid or volunteer labor), give your all for the One who gives His all for you.

– Pastor Jeff



PONTE VEDRA *United Methodist Church*

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CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	Jeff Bennett
Youth Minister	Kelly Minter
Admin. Assistant	Susan Bowler
Accountant	Jim Larsen
Music Contemporary	Scott Tinsley
Music Traditional	Diane Wright
Nursery Coordinator	Kim Knopp

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