

The Wave



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God Is Closer Than You Think (See For Yourself)

Intimacy with God can happen right now if you want it. A closeness you can feel, a goodness you can taste, a reality you can experience for yourself. That's what the Bible promises, so why settle for less? God is closer than you think, and connecting with him isn't for monks and ascetics. It's for business people, high school students, busy moms, single men, single women ... and most important, it's for YOU.

Beginning October 7 we will engage in a church-wide study that springs from the book *God Is Closer Than You Think* by best-selling author John Ortberg. Together we'll see God's hand stretching toward us and see ways in which we can reach toward God and complete the connection – to our joy and his.



Picnic Picnic Picnic

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. Enjoy our kids enjoying several fun games and of course there'll be fellowship for all.

Upcoming Messages

September 30 **Waiting and Trusting** (Genesis 12:1-3, 15:4-6, 17:15-19), *Rev. Carmen Johns*

"God Is Closer Than You Think" Message Series

October 7 **Open Our Eyes** (2 Kings 6:8-23)

October 14 **God in the Pits** (1 Kings 19:1-8)

October 21 **This Is the Day** (Exodus 8:1-10, Ps 118:24)

October 28 **Listening to the Voice of God** (1 Samuel 3)

OUR MISSION:

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

Clap your hands, all you peoples; Shout to God with loud songs of joy. For the Lord, the Most High, is awesome, a great king over all the earth.

Psalm 47:1-2

Missions Corner

Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry (BEAM) thanks us for our generous donation of 65 bags of food and grocery gift cards given at the end of August. While our gifts are always welcome, Executive Director Cindy Funkhouser acknowledges that the food pantry was in desperate need at that time. Your gifts were doubly appreciated!

Ministry Fair to be Held October 28

Ever wonder how you can get connected to a ministry within our church? Ever thought, How can I connect to mission that reaches beyond our church? From 10:30 - 11:00am Sunday morning, October 28 you'll be able to experience the breadth of ministry and mission going on in and through PVUMC. Visit the tables at the back of the worship space following the contemporary service or before the traditional service and check it out. You might just leave connected in a new way to what God is doing in the church and in the world!

Parenting and High School... Coming November 12

Parenting and High School is a free, interactive seminar being hosted by PVUMC for parents of high school students. The two hour program will empower parents by helping them understand that they can positively influence their sons and daughters despite the many other influences that exist today in the life of a high school student. The seminar also offers concrete advice about special issues that arise when parenting a teenager. **Ross McDonough** of New Day Counseling in Jax Beach will lead. **The original date has been changed; the new date is Monday, November 12.**

A Word from Wesley

“Always remember the essence of Christian holiness is simplicity and purity; one design, one desire—entire devotion to God. But this admits of a thousand degrees and variations, and certainly it will be proved by a thousand temptations; but in all these things you shall be more than conqueror.”

"A Journey of Faith" Followup

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN STATUS

| | |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| A Journey of Faith goal: | \$ 1.2 million |
| Pledged to Date: | \$ 1,234,570 |
| Received on pledges to date: | \$ 1,162,554 |
| Building Fund Total Balance: | \$ 350,834 |
| Indebtedness: | \$ 300,000 |

We are presently in the 31st 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

Money Matters An occasional column on things financial

Generous God,

We marvel at your lavish gifts to us:

- Your magnificent creation,
- Life and breath,
- Food and shelter,
- Opportunities for work and play
- And, most especially, hope and peace in Christ.

We pledge ourselves

- To mirror and reflect the glory of your self-giving love,
- To continue in the pattern of generosity
- Perfectly revealed to us in Christ. Amen.

From the opening worship of the Stewardship Summit held September 15 at St. Luke's United Methodist Church, Orlando.



September 2007 Giving & Attendance

| Date | Contemp. | Trad. | General | Capital | Designated Totals |
|------|----------|-------|-----------|----------|------------------------------|
| 9/2 | 98 | 68 | \$ 4,695 | \$ 285 | Building Fund \$ 350,834 |
| 9/9 | 117 | 68 | \$ 10,755 | \$ 2,705 | Missions (YTD) \$ 27,429 |
| 9/16 | 90 | 89 | \$ 4,783 | \$ 1,155 | Enhancement Fund \$ 4,035 |
| 9/23 | 96 | 81 | \$ 6,213 | \$ 1,160 | |

Needed Weekly 2007 - \$11,346

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



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



Youth News!

Children In Action

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

YCAM

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

Praise Choir

Tuesdays 6:30-7:30pm

Traditional Choir

Thursdays 7:00-8:00pm

LOCK-IN!!! Friday, October 26-27, 8pm-8:30am.
Bring friends, and dress up for Halloween fun! Games, costume prizes, movies, food, and Bible study...is there a better way to spend a Friday night? I don't think so! \$4/person to cover food and supplies, medical release required...

District retreat Friday, November 9-Sunday, November 11. We will meet at the church at 5:30PM and travel together to Epworth in Georgia. We will join 6 other UMC churches from our area in a weekend of God and fun! Friends are welcome!! \$70/person, medical release required.

Revolve Tour...February 1-3 in Orlando. Revolve Tour is a weekend convention geared towards teen girls! Put together by Women of Faith, the weekend is full of concerts, speakers, praise and worship, and fun with a stadium full of your closest friends ☺ Put this on your calendar!

Mission Trips 2008

We have picked dates and locations for both of our 2008 mission trips! Our High School students will be traveling to San Francisco with Youthworks the week of July 13. The cost per student is \$648. The Middle School students will travel to Birmingham Alabama (also with Youthworks) the week of July 27 at a cost of \$383 per student. A \$50 deposit and consent forms for both trips are due by Sunday, November 25.

Top 20 Reasons to be a part of PVUMC

We recently asked members of our Council on Ministries to offer a list of reasons they are a part of Ponte Vedra United Methodist Church. Here are 20 of those reasons.

1. Innovative youth minister
2. Pot lucks, ice cream socials, other food celebrations
3. Excitement of moving toward building a home for our church
4. Broad range of ministries within the church
5. Great small group Bible studies
6. Fellowship
7. Active church - something for everyone
8. Outreach to those in need within our own community
9. Outreach to those beyond our community
10. PVUMC stays connected (*Pastor's Pen* e-mail, *The Wave* newsletter, mailings)
11. Youth programs
12. Music programs
13. Casual
14. Choice of worship styles, contemporary and traditional
15. Not too big; not impersonal
16. In addition to the spiritual rewards, it is FUN!
17. You make new friends
18. Children are valued
19. Church wide studies
20. You can relate to Pastor Jeff's sermons

New Member Orientation November 18

Pastor Jeff will be offering a new member orientation on Sunday, November 18 from 3-5pm at our offices at 76 S. Roscoe Blvd. 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).

Ponte Vedra United Methodist Women

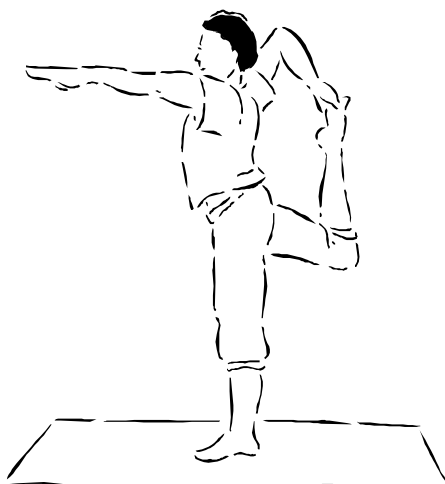
All women are invited to enjoy great fellowship at the UMW meeting October 20, 11:00am. Bring a covered dish to share at the church office location, 76 S. Roscoe Blvd. We will continue to collect items for Operation Shoebox which sends care packages to our service men and women deployed overseas. This project is even more important as preparation of Christmas packages is well under way. We want to offer a great big THANK

YOU to the youth of PVUMC who have written notes to be included in these packages.



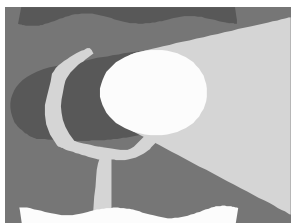
Book Circle meets on the 3rd Monday of each month. Call Anne Torgerson (221-8057) for information.

Quilting Circle will meet Tuesday, October 16 at 1pm. Call Marilyn Elston (223-9477) for information.



Yoga Classes

Try something new this fall! Beginning October 13 yoga classes will be offered every Saturday at 4:00pm at 76 S. Roscoe Blvd. During the hour long class we will explore a diverse series of yoga poses focusing on increased flexibility, endurance and relaxation. All levels are welcome. This will be a gentle yoga class with lots of attention for those with limitations. Each class is \$5 and you will need to bring a yoga mat. Space is limited. Call Alexandra Beltman (434-4898) for information. Coordinated by Jane Ellis.



Spotlight on Volunteers

I know this is supposed to be a “volunteer highlight” and Jeff Bennett is on the payroll, but a lot of what he and his wife Jill do is above and beyond the job description. Although he is an excellent preacher and a great listener, it’s what he does outside the pulpit that makes him the most incredible shepherd who tends and cares for his sheep (us).

Many of us have been blessed to have Jeff pray with us before surgery (and he’ll even hold your hand with an IV sticking out of it—yuk!). He bears our burdens and supports us in our walk. He’s an encourager in the truest sense of the word and has helped us to grow in our faith by his excellent example. And speaking of examples, Jill is the best example I know of servant evangelism, with her work at the soup kitchen, Kingdom Kids, and didn’t I see her cleaning up the coffee service last Sunday? We are so blessed by Jeff and Jill Bennett and their service to Christ. How can we ever thank them?

Sunday, October 14 is Clergy Appreciation Day. It’s a good opportunity for us to show our appreciation for the love they have shown to us. Have you hugged your pastor lately?



Ponte Vedra UMC Blood Drive

Please join us Sunday, October 7 from 9:30am to 12:30pm for Ponte Vedra United Methodist Church’s second blood drive. Contact **Don Carson** to make an appointment (280-2893) or walk-ins are gladly accepted. Anyone who is in good health, at least 17 years old, weighs at least 110 pounds, and has not donated blood in the past 56 days is encouraged to participate. A photo I.D. is required. There is no upper age limit to donate as long as your doctor says it is okay. Please help. Remember, one donation can save up to three lives.

A Note From Pastor Jeff.

I lost my lawn care guy recently. This man had mowing the parsonage lawn for 2½ years. All of a sudden he quit coming. Missed one week; no big deal. The second week went by and the yard was looking pretty hairy. I left a message. Then a third week was passing by and I left a second more frantic message and then a third. To this day I have no idea why he quit us, but I sure do miss him now that he's gone!

My lawn care guy got me to thinking: Who in my life do I take for granted? How can I acknowledge my gratitude for what they do? I made a start on Monday. I'd forgotten to take out the recycling when I heard the truck coming. I ran out, meeting the man at the curb with my bin. As I handed it over I thanked him for serving us. Yeah, I know he gets paid, but his work is important to me.

Who else in our lives might we thank? The garbage collectors; boy, do we need them. The checkout person at Walgreen's. The letter carrier. The wait person at the restaurant. No doubt you can think of more. Thank them!

– Pastor Jeff

P.S. As I cultivate my attitude of gratitude, I'll be thanking you who serve Christ and the church in so many ways. I appreciate you.



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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