

The Wave



VOLUME 6, ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2008

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You are invited on
a
40 DAY
Spiritual Journey
to a more
**GENEROUS
LIFE**

You are invited to join us during these forty days of Lent in a church-wide daily devotional on the topic of generosity. Each day requires just a few minutes to read and consider a handful of Bible verses and a thought for the day.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 6, but you can start this daily devotional any day. Pick up your copy from the back of the worship space on Sunday.

OUR MISSION:

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

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is the name given to the first day of the season of Lent, in which the pastor applies ashes to the foreheads of Christians. The ashes remind us of the most bitter fruit of our sin: death. We are also reminded of our need to repent (turn from sin and toward God) and to receive the good news that through Jesus Christ there is forgiveness for sin.

Ash Wednesday, like the season of Lent, is never mentioned in the Bible; Christians are free either to observe it or not. We will be offering the service at **7:00pm on Wednesday, February 6 at The Players Community Senior Center, 175 Landrum Lane.**



Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to

Upcoming Messages

- February 3 **Changing Channels: From Guilt to Grace** (Luke 7:36-50)
February 10 **Changing Channels: From the Past to the Future** (John 5:2-9)
February 17 **A Funny Thing Happened On the Way** (Matthew 13:44-45; 6:19-21, 24-34)
February 24 **Three Stories: The Church Past, Present & Future**

Missions Corner

The final count of Publix gift cards for BEAM (Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry) received through *The Giving Tree* is in: 75 cards totaling \$1,725. This gift at Christmas will serve the clients of BEAM for months to come as they are used to meet needs beyond the food items normally stocked in BEAM's pantry: items like diapers and baby formula. Thank you, church!

La Sierra Luncheon



You are invited to celebrate our sister church in Cuba at a lunch featuring Cuban cuisine, music, and pictures from our recent missionary trip. Lunch will be served following the 11:00am service on February 17. **Ellen Carson**, and **Loree & George Reed** will tell us about their visit to La Sierra Methodist Church.

Join us in Christian fellowship to learn about the Methodist church's Cuba/Florida Covenant and to pray for our Cuban brothers and sisters at La Sierra. And learn how you can take a more active role in our Cuba mission by joining our La Sierra small group. Va a ser muy divertida. (It is going to be very fun!)

Costa Rica Mission

Many of you will remember **Larry & Cheryl Bradford** and **Gary & Julie Proctor**, friends of Ponte Vedra UMC. Last year they and others formed *Faithful Servant Missions* which is doing fine work in Costa Rica among impoverished Nicaraguan refugees.

You are invited to "Faithful Servant Missions Night," Monday evening, March 3. Enjoy a great dinner with family and friends at Cobblestones, located on the corner of Atlantic Blvd. and San Pablo in Jacksonville. Ticket cost is \$25 per person and proceeds benefit the Costa Rica Project. E-mail Julianne Overby (jnoverby@comcast.net) for additional information.

A Word from Wesley

The terms of acceptance for fallen man are repentance and faith. "Repent ye, and believe the gospel."
 – *Jackson X*, 322.

"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:	\$ 1,185,843
Total Received to date (inc. interest)	\$ 1,420,511
Building Fund Total Balance:	\$ 447,334
Indebtedness:	\$ 300,000

We are presently in the 35th 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

Considering Membership?

On January 13 we gladly received into membership **Randy & Julie Bringger** and **Ann Krawiec**. If you're considering joining Ponte Vedra UMC, our next **new member orientation** is scheduled for **Sunday, February 24**, from 3 to 5pm at the ministry house, 76 S. Roscoe Blvd. The group will be led by Pastor Jeff. Whether your thinking about membership or would simply like to learn more about our church, you are encouraged to participate.

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



January 2007 Giving & Attendance

Date	Contemp.	Trad.	General	Capital	Designated Totals
1/6	83	102	\$ 10,009	\$ 10,500	Building Fund \$ 447,334
1/13	93	90	\$ 15,649	\$ 290	
1/20	85	81	\$ 6,315	\$ 104	Enhancement Fund \$ 3,346
1/27	113	93	\$ 5,953	\$ 610	

Needed Weekly 2008 - \$10,100

Money Matters

An occasional column on things financial

Jesus said to them, “Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.” Then he told them a parable:

“The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, ‘What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?’ Then he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’

But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’

So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.”

– Luke 12:15-21

What does it mean to be “rich toward God?” Some thoughts from author John Ortberg:

Being rich toward God means growing a soul that is increasingly healthy and good.

Being rich toward God means loving and enjoying the people around you.

Being rich toward God means learning about your gifts and passions and doing good work to help improve the world.

Being rich toward God means becoming generous with your stuff.

Being rich toward God means making that which is *temporary* become the servant of that which is *eternal*.

– John Ortberg, *When the Game Is Over It All Goes Back in the Box*, p. 27



Spotlight on Volunteers

Whenever there is work to be done, you can count on seeing **Mae Liberty** with her sleeves rollup and ready to pitch in. You may find her serving food, serving on a committee, serving as coffee clean-up crew on Sundays, serving pancakes at Avante Villa, serving birthday cake at Pablo Towers, serving as an usher... well, you get the picture. It's always serving Christ through serving others for Mae. She wouldn't have it any other way.

Mae is a vital member of the Inquirers Sunday school class, past president of the Beaches Exchange Club, TPC volunteer, nursery helper, usher/greeter, counter, member and leader of a Bible study group that has been meeting every Tuesday for the last 14 years. Mae also serves on our hospitality committee throughout the year, and has accepted a leadership role in the upcoming *Building on Faith* capital campaign.

Mae truly asks herself every day, “What would Jesus do?” and then she does it. Thank you Mae, for being such a shining example of His live. You bless us!



On A Musical Note

C.I.A. Children In Action

Kindergarten 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

Third Grade Bibles to be Presented



We'll be presenting Bibles to 3rd graders in March. If you have a 3rd grader (or a 4th or 5th grader who hasn't received a Bible) please contact the church office (280-5141) or e-mail Children's Ministry Children's Ministry Coordinator Lynn Straughan (lynn.straughan@pv-umc.org).



Youth News!



ATTENTION! A flock of flamingos have escaped from the Jacksonville zoo.! According to migratory patterns, they are believed to land in Ponte Vedra on Saturday, March 15. Lucky for us, the youth of Ponte Vedra UMC are trained flamingo removers!

Beginning Sunday, February 24, we will be selling flamingo insurance after the worship services. The insurance will cost \$20 and will guarantee the safety of your lawn on March 15.

If you choose not to buy the insurance and the flock does happen to land at your house on June 10, you will need to call the removal team. (Flamingo removal is \$15.)

Also, you can send flamingos to people's yards! See the youth at the same table, beginning on February 24, and give us \$10 to visit the home of a friend, neighbor, employee, or your favorite pastor!

All flamingo proceeds will benefit the youth summer mission trips.

Ponte Vedra United Methodist Women

The February Quilt Circle meeting will be held at the home of Marilyn Elston on Thursday, February 7 at 9:00am. This is a working session. We'll be putting together quilt blocks for our Friendship Quilt. These blocks will eventually be signed by all of the members in our congregation. Please note: we will be meeting on Thursday this month instead of Tuesday.

PV United Methodist Church UMW President is Jane Ellis, the Treasurer is Vera Combs, and the Secretary is Dolores Harrison. The Vice President position is still open. Each of these ladies attended the N.E. District-Florida Conference Training Workshop January 26 at Lakewood United Methodist Church.

A budget meeting will be held Saturday, February 16 at 76 S. Roscoe ministry house. All are welcome to attend.

Our March meeting is RE-SCHEDULED for April 19, 10:00am at the 76 S. Roscoe ministry house.

The Operation Shoebox continually needs your donations. A receptacle is located at the back of the worship space on the first Sunday of each month (Communion Sunday) for your donations. A list of requested items will be posted on the receptacle and also below.

Heat resistant candy	Baby wipes	Feminine hygiene products
Fruit Breezes (throat drops)	Hairbrushes	Q-Tips, razors (disposable)
Twizzlers, chewing gum	Shampoo	Non-aerosol bug spray
Sunscreen, pens, stamps	Envelopes	Writing paper, magazines
Books, newspapers	Fly swatters	Small flashlights, small fans
Floss, mouthwash	Toothpaste	Toothbrushes, phone cards
Ziplock bags, batteries	Coffee, Creamer	Shoe insole cushions
Sugan packets, Pop Tarts	Beef Jerky, mints	CD fanny packs, lollipops
Sunglasses (black non-designer)	Dry packaged lemonade	Hot sauce (no glass containers)
Funnies and puzzle pages from newspapers	Small stuffed animals	Knitted caps (worn under helmets) Contact Jane Ellis for instructions, 273-0094.

Checks made out to: Operation Shoebox (used for postage.)

Yoga exercise classes each Saturday, 4:00pm at 76 S. Roscoe ministry house. All are welcome.

Prayer Emphasis Weekend

Friday Night Candle Lighting Service February 22

Join us as we honor our past by welcoming in the Prayer Emphasis Weekend with a traditional Friday night candle lighting service, February 22. This will be held at 76 S. Roscoe Blvd., outside, weather permitting. The service will begin at 5:30pm and will conclude by 6:00pm. Plan on stopping by on your way home, on the way out to dinner, or before you attend a sporting event. This will help all of us focus on the importance of prayer in our lives.

Prayer Vigil to be Held Saturday February 23

On Saturday, February 23 we will be having a prayer vigil at 76 S. Roscoe Blvd. Please consider joining other church members on this day to lift up prayers that have been requested for our country, leaders, church, family, friends and ourselves. We will join with those praying for property at 8:30am and continue until 12:30pm. Come when you can, stay as long as you wish. Details regarding prayer requests will be announced at the worship services.

Sunday February 24 Prayer Group Meets

Sunday February 24 you will have an opportunity to pray for others in the church as they worship. Consider staying a few extra minutes to pray for those in the 11:00am worship service if you attend the 9:30 service. Consider coming a few minutes early to pray for those in the early service if you attend the later. Details pertaining to the room we'll be meeting in will be coming soon. Come and join us as we pray for fellow worshippers, choirs, and of course Pastor Jeff.



*A Note From
Pastor Jeff.*

I write this on election day. It's a short ballot with one issue and a slate of candidates vying for their party's nomination for President of The United States. The phone calls started coming Saturday. We got so many calls from candidates that it soon became downright annoying. I'd have put my foot down and said, "Anybody who repeatedly calls my house with a recorded message is not going to get my vote!" except that I'd voted early this time around.

These calls got me thinking about that book we read together a year ago, "Just Walk Across the Room." I so appreciate that Jesus doesn't mean for us to push some generic gospel message on people. The candidates' computers dialing my home didn't care to hear my concerns for the nation; they were simply playing some pre-recorded spiel. When you and I share Jesus with our friends it's a two way conversation: we listen before we speak and having spoken, we listen some more. And I'm always grateful that it's not just me and my friend in the conversation. The Holy Spirit is also talking with our friends about Jesus in his own way.

Following the primaries two candidates for President will emerge; come November we'll vote again to choose one of them. I'm glad that regardless of who wins the race, Jesus Christ will still be King of kings and Lord of lords. I'm choosing Jesus. May we influence our families, friends and even strangers we meet along the way to choose him too.

– Pastor Jeff



PONTE VEDRA
*United Methodist
Church*

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CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	Jeff Bennett
Youth Minister	Kelly Minter
Children's Coordinator	Lynn Straughan
Admin. Assistant	Susan Bowler
Accountant	Jim Larsen
Music Contemporary	Scott Tinsley
Music Traditional	Diane Wright
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