

# THE WAVE



VOLUME 6, ISSUE 3

MARCH 2008

## Holy Week Happenings



### *Palm Sunday*

We'll celebrate the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, March 16. Worshipers will be invited to enter the sanctuary waving palm branches and singing their hosannas. The morning message of this **10:30am combined service** will be brought by our choirs through "**At the Name of Jesus, A Musical for Easter.**" Worship will be followed directly by a meal celebrating Christ's commitment to us and our commitment to Christ through the *Building on Faith* stewardship campaign.

### *Holy Thursday*

At 7:00pm on March 20 our Holy Thursday worship service will be held at **The Players Community Senior Center**, 175 Landrum Lane. We will receive Holy Communion that evening.

### *Easter Sunday*

Easter Sunday, March 23 will find us worshipping at our regular hours of 9:30 and 11:00 at Ocean Palms. You will be invited to place flowers on our wooden cross outside the entrance to the school. Got a friend you've been thinking about inviting to church? There are no better times than Christmas and Easter!

## Upcoming Messages

- March 2 **It's a Loaner** (Matthew:14-30)  
March 9 **Not Equal Giving** (2 Corinthians 8:1-15)  
March 16 **At the Name of Jesus: A Musical for Easter** 10:30am  
March 23 **Have It God's Way** (John 20:1-18)  
March 30 *Begin the "Live Like You Were Dying" series*

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### OUR MISSION:

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



**PONTE VEDRA**  
*United Methodist  
Church*

And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it.

Matthew  
28:2

## Missions Corner

**Interested in being a short-term missionary to Costa Rica?** Beach UMC invites us to join them in a pair of mission trips this summer. Members **Cecily Browning** and **Susan Merrill** can attest to the joy of this experience; they traveled with Beach a couple of years ago. Give your name and number to our own **Brett Merrill** ([brett.merrill@pv-umc.org](mailto:brett.merrill@pv-umc.org), 273-4593) and we'll arrange to have your questions about the trip answered.

Details of the trips...

When: June 8-15 (led by Rev. Tim & Debbie Machtel)  
June 15-22 (led by Bob & Julianne Overby)

Where: San Ramon, Costa Rica

What: Between the two trips, providing Vacation Bible School for 300 and pouring concrete floors for 30 homes.

Why: To share the love of Christ through evangelism and meeting the physical needs of the poor.

Who: Anyone who feels led by God to this ministry in Costa Rica

How Much: \$1,300 (covers transportation, food/lodging, fees, supplies)

## Ministry Emphasis Sunday

Sunday, March 2 is Ministry Emphasis Sunday. We will have a special Power Point presentation of all the varied ministries in which our church is involved. We want members to stand when any ministry they have been involved in is shown on the screens. It will be amazing to see how active our members are. At the same time, we will take a building block for each ministry and use it to build the architect's actual elevation of the new church. You won't want to miss it!

## "Building on Faith" Celebration Luncheon

There will be a *Building On Faith* celebration luncheon immediately following the 10:30am combined service on March 16. (It's at this service that we will receive commitments toward the building of our new church facility.) The church will provide the meat and drinks, and we ask everyone to bring a covered dish of their choice to help us celebrate this special time in our church.

## A Word from Wesley

We are not at liberty to use what he has lodged in our hands as we please, but as he pleases, who alone is the possessor of heaven and earth, and the Lord of every creature. We have no right to dispose of anything we have but according to his will, seeing we are not proprietors of any of these things.

– *Works II*, 283-84.

## "A Journey of Faith"

A Journey of Faith goal:	\$ 1.2 million
Pledged to Date:	\$ 1,234,570
Received on pledges to date — 96%:	\$ 1,182,166
Total received to date (inc. interest)	\$ 1,431,909
Building Fund Balance:	\$ 451,818
Indebtedness	\$ 300,000

We are presently in the final month of the 36-month capital. 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

### Thank you, Don Johnson

It's amazing how much behind-the-scenes work is required for us to function as the church. I want to recognize one of the servants who has been doing that work. **Don Johnson** began serving as our church treasurer at the very beginning of our life as Ponte Vedra United Methodist Church. For the past five years Don has advised us on best accounting practices, overseen the work of a succession of two administrative assistants and an accountant, served the Finance Team with faithful reporting of our expenses, and signed many a paycheck, mine included.

None of our volunteer positions requires lifelong service, though I was ready to make an exception in Don's case! Late last year Don asked to be relieved of this duty but graciously offered to stay on board until a new treasurer could be found. With **June Koch** now serving, all that remains is to say, "Thank you, Don, for your years of faithful service." I can hear Jesus saying, "Well done, good and faithful servant." When you see Don, please echo Jesus' words. They fit him well.

– Pastor Jeff

### February 2008 Giving & Attendance



Date	Contemp.	Trad.	General	Capital	<u>Designated Totals</u>
2/3	82	105	\$ 17,806	\$ 455	Building Fund \$ 451,818
2/6 Ash Wednesday	51		\$ 285	\$ —	
2/10	93	97	\$ 11,935	\$ 308	Enhancement Fund \$ 3,346
2/17	63	75	\$ 6,078	\$ 135	
2/24	91	80	\$ 7,929	\$ 3,075	Memorials \$ 5,678

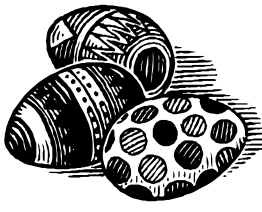
Needed Weekly 2008  
\$ 10,100

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



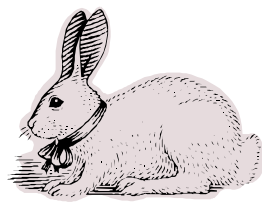
*On A Musical Note*  
The Children's and Youth  
Creative Arts Ministry

## Easter Egg Hunt



Mark your calendars – you will not want to miss our annual Easter Egg Hunt. This year the event will be held March 16 (Palm Sunday) at 4:00 p.m. on the grounds of 76 S. Roscoe Blvd. All youngsters through the fifth grade are invited to come out and join in the fun. Bring a friend and bring your basket and come prepared for an exciting Hunt. See you there!

For more information call Lynn Straughan at 806-4508.



### **C.I.A. Children In Action**

Kindergarten through 5th Grade  
Wednesdays 3:30-5:00pm

### **YCAM**

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

### **Praise Choir**

Tuesdays 6:30-7:30pm

### **Traditional Choir**

Thursdays 7:00-8:00pm

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

July 14-18 ~ 9am - noon ~ Mark your calendars!

*More fun than human beings should be allowed to have, it's...*  
**The 2008 Talent Show**



A perennial favorite, this year's show will feature acts that have never been seen before (and in the case of some, will never be seen again!). From the silly to the sublime, there promises to be something for everyone. Got a talent? Share it!

Our booking agent Scott Tinsley (280-5141, [scott.tinsley@pv-umc.org](mailto:scott.tinsley@pv-umc.org)) is waiting to hear from you. It all happens Friday, April 18 at 7:00pm at Ocean Palms Elementary. Tickets will soon be available for the bargain price of \$8 (two for \$16) or your entire family can attend for an Andy Jackson. (That's a twenty, by the way.) Proceeds to benefit the youth on their summer mission trips.



We have a new logo! Last year, we renamed our youth ministry H2O (helping, healing, outreach). Based on the design of one of our students, this is our official logo!



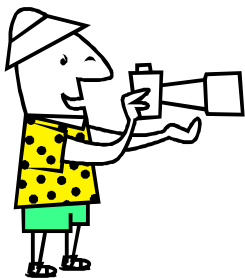
### *Pink Flamingo Fundraiser*, March 15.

Youth arrive at 76 S. Roscoe that day at 9am dressed in pink! We will be “landing” on the lawns of church members all over Ponte Vedra. Make sure you bring a lunch. We will be finished by 2PM.

**Casting Crowns Concert** money due by March 2! \$40/person reserves your space for the March 22 Concert.

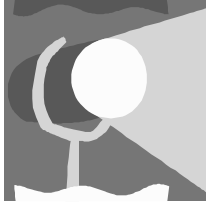
**Talent Show 2008**, Friday April 18. Come and see the hidden talents of our church family! Youth members, we are looking for MCs and acts!

**Photo Scavenger Hunt**, April 19...NOTE THE DATE CHANGE! We will meet at the church at 10am, split into groups, arm ourselves with cameras, and follow the clues! We will come back for lunch at 12:30, and after our lunch break we will be putting together our presentations for judging. Big prize for the winners!!! Bring friends and \$2 to cover lunch costs.



**Senior Trip 2008**, June 23-29. (Juniors are invited too!!) We will be leaving

FL on Monday, June 23 and setting out on a road trip to the biggest Christian Concert in the USA. We will spend Monday evening en route, and arrive in Shirleysburg, PA on Tuesday. From Wednesday-Saturday evening we will be camping with 75,000 of our closest friends! There will be concerts, speakers, communion, an amazing candle lighting ceremony, and God's beautiful creation all around us! We will pack up on Sunday morning and drive home, most likely arriving around 1 or 2am on Monday. The trip is \$140/person and a \$70 deposit is due by April 1 to hold your spot. Hope to see you there!



## *Spotlight on Volunteers*

PV United Methodist Church is blessed with many volunteers who cheerfully keep our church thriving or who thrive keeping our church cheerful! **Andy** and **Rita Andreu** are two of them who do many things! Rita is the Church Missions Chairperson and is also on the Council on Ministries (the group responsible for getting church activities on the master calendar). Rita is also on the e-pray-er list and has been in two Bible studies, Robin Walter's group and the Traveling Tuesdays group.

Both Andy and Rita continue to be usher/greeters at the contemporary worship service as they have been for the past several years. On occasion, they bring the Sunday goodies everyone from both services looks forward to. They will also assist serving communion at a moment's notice. They were instrumental in organizing the Operation Christmas Child ministry this past Christmas.

Andy, an avid golfer, is also an independent insurance adjuster while Rita teaches second grade at Ponte Vedra Rawlings Elementary school in Ponte Vedra Beach. Rita has taught school for almost 20 years. She likes to shop, read, work in her flower garden and play a little golf just to spend time with Andy.

They have been "beach people" since being married at Beach United Methodist Church in 1991. They enjoy walks together on the beach, watching movies and spending weekends with friends. They cherish their time spent with family and friends.

Ponte Vedra UMC is blessed to have these dedicated volunteers.

## *A Word from the "Building on Faith" Spiritual Life Director*

Our Prayer Emphasis weekend was a tribute to each of you who participated. We had over fifty folks take part in the Prayer Vigil on Saturday morning. YCAM did a great job blessing us with music during the Friday night candle lighting service, which we were able to hold outside on our OWN property! Sunday we blessed each other by praying for members in opposite worship services. What a gift to our church to have been so blanketed in prayer for an entire weekend. We came into His courts with praise, blessed His name, and now hope to build a building where His truths will endure forever!

Watch for a little something to take home from worship to remind you to pray for our Capital Campaign, yourself and your involvement in the Campaign, and our community as a whole.

Thank you again, one and all, for your support, both physical and spiritual, in surrounding our church family in prayer this past weekend.

— Dotty Rashba

## *Money Matters*

*An occasional column on things financial*

Many, if they were willing to be candid, would say that Christians are fools, giving the way we do. Giving not just money but time and effort too. “Just think about how much free time you’d have if you weren’t ministering to youth in the Detention Center, or running an errand for someone who can’t get out, or volunteering at the soup kitchen or the hospital or the schools. And why do you give all that money to the church? You could take a nice vacation / buy a nice car / buy a second home.”

Someone once said, **“He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.”** That someone was Jim Elliot, a missionary to Ecuador who was killed at age 28 while attempting to evangelize the Huaorani people. Was he a fool to risk his life sharing the gospel with a violent people? Were he alive today, Elliot would be 80. Whether 28 or 80, our days are numbered; we do not live here forever. Yet Elliot has gained life eternal, the life one cannot lose.

It is often said of money and possessions, “You can’t take it with you.” How true. Why not do as much good with our money and possessions and time and talents as we possibly can? Why not give?

“For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life?”

– Jesus of Nazareth, Mark 8:34-37

“Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys.”

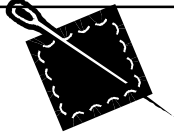
– Jesus of Nazareth, Luke 12:33



Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup>

## *United Methodist Women News*

### *Quilting Circle*



The next quilting circle meeting will be held Tuesday, March 11 at noon at Marilyn Elston's home. Please call 223-9477 for more information.

The quilting circle is making a Friendship Quilt that will commemorate our Building on Faith Stewardship Capital campaign. We are asking all to sign a fabric block. Families may sign their names together in one block, or the children may sign their own blocks. After the blocks are signed, we will complete the quilt. Please look for our table at each service We'll have special fabric pens available for signing the blocks.

### *Yoga Exercise Class*

Yoga exercise class meets each Saturday from 4 to 5pm at our 76 S. Roscoe Blvd. ministry house. Contact Jane Ellis, 273-0094 for more information.

## *United Methodist Women*

The next UMW meeting will be Saturday, April 19 at 10:00am at the 76 S. Roscoe Blvd. ministry house. Everyone is welcome to attend and encouraged to bring a friend.

### *Operation Shoebox*

Below is a reprint from one of several wonderful thank you letters received from Operation Shoebox recipients. This one has such a heartwarming message we wanted to share it, unedited. Thank you for your continued support every first Sunday with your contributions placed in the basket in the back of the worship space and your continued prayers for our troops everywhere.

— United Methodist Women

Dear Operation Shoebox Volunteer,

In the past two days I've received eight boxes full of Christmas stockings from you. I just want you to know how very much we appreciate all your time and the effort that you spend



## *Operation Shoebox ...continued*

preparing these boxes for us. It was a God send and I'd like to share my story with you.

I'm a Christian and I've always loved Christmas. I've always actually enjoyed giving and watching others open their gifts more than receiving gifts myself. I'm 48 years old and have three daughters and one grandson, and am expecting my second grandchild May 27, which will be two months before I get home. My oldest daughter is 29 years old, so in other words, I've been playing Santa for a very long time. The group I am with here is a joint effort of Mississippi and Illinois National Guard Units. There are about 20 females, most of which are very young, some not even 20 years old yet. I'm from Mississippi and the other E-7 female, Louann, is from Illinois. She is 51 and we have become great friends. She also has grown children, so she is used to playing Santa too. I guess we are the "motherly type" and we were talking four days ago and discussing how nice it would be if we had stockings to fill and put on all the girls' beds. Anyway, as I sat and read my devotional that night I kept thinking about those stockings. Most of these girls aren't married and probably have never been away from their parents on Christmas and it's difficult being away from your family. The stocking thing was weighing heavy on my mind all night. I never actually prayed for stockings because I knew that, even if I called someone in the states to send them, they wouldn't have time to get here before Christmas. Well, day before yesterday when the PFC from my section came back from picking up the mail he had four big boxes with my name on them. I had forgotten all about my signing my unit up with your organization, but there they were, four big boxes full of hand-made stockings, already stuffed with snacks and happies. It was over two months ago that I signed up and I know that you had to have started working on sewing all those stockings long before Louann and I even thought about them. Then the next day I received three more boxes, and yesterday one more box. That's a total of 120 stockings, which is about how many enlisted people will be here on Christmas Eve. Now Louann and I can play Santa to all the girls in the barracks! If we receive another box today, we may even share them with the officers!

You answered a prayer that was never even prayed. It just reinforces the fact that God knows what we need, or are going to need, and He is preparing to meet our needs long before we even know that there is a need. Those ladies sewing those stockings had to have been sewing them months ago, probably before I ever even signed up with Operation Shoebox. I am ashamed because I didn't actually pray for the stockings. It seemed so trivial and impossible to get them before Christmas, but God knew the desire of my heart and provided them anyway. It's amazing how many desired items have miraculously appeared over here in boxes sent from people all across the U.S. So, no matter how trivial or silly your wants, needs, and desires may be, or how impossible it may seem, God's able to provide anything, anywhere, at exactly the right time! But He can't do it without earth bound angels like you and your group.

Thank you and Merry Christmas to you and all that helped make our Christmas better.

SFC Charlene "Candy" Baldwyn

Flt Opns

## *A Note From Pastor Jeff.*

I was talking with our six-year old daughter Abby about our new church building. She asked me, Why do we need a new church? (This is why Abby is not on the *Building on Faith* leadership team!) Nonetheless, her point is well taken. She and her brother and sister like going to church; it doesn't matter to them if church is in an elementary school. It took me awhile to get used to it, but I'm good worshipping there too. (My heart does go out to you selfless folks who set up and take down week after week, month after month. I never hear any complaining but I know it's hard work. God bless you!) Why sacrifice the way we will have to sacrifice in order to build a church facility? We are growing at the school; why not stay there? The heart of the matter for me is the many unconnected people whom we will not reach while meeting at Ocean Palms. Some simply won't do church in a school. Doesn't matter whether that's right or wrong; it's true. It is also true that Jesus loves them and is seeking them. As followers of Jesus, we will do the same, whatever it takes. May God bless us as we seek those whom Christ seeks.

– Pastor Jeff



### **PONTE VEDRA** *United Methodist Church*

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#### CHURCH STAFF

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Children's Coordinator	Lynn Straughan
Admin. Assistant	Susan Bowler
Accountant	Jim Larsen
Music Contemporary	Scott Tinsley
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