

THE WAVE



VOLUME 6, ISSUE 7

JULY 2008



Vacation Bible School to begin July 13



VBS runs Sunday through Thursday at Ocean Palms. Our theme is *PowerLab: Discovering Jesus' Miraculous Power*. Whether you're a 9:30 or 11:00 attender, on Sunday the 13th you'll get to experience the music of VBS, see famed chipmunk Chadder featured in *Chadder's Theater* and experience the day's Bible story portrayed live through *Bible Adventure*. Know the joy of Vacation Bible School that you help provide each and every year for our kids and kids from the community.



A Service of Healing July 20

God doesn't promise that we will be spared suffering but God does promise to be with us in our suffering. Trusting that promise, we are able to recognize God's sustaining presence in pain, sickness, injury and estrangement. Likewise, God doesn't promise that we will be cured of all illnesses; and we all must face the inevitability of death. A Service of Healing is not necessarily a service of curing, but it provides an atmosphere in which healing can happen. Pastor Jeff's message that Sunday is entitled **My Refuge and My Fortress**; our text will be Psalm 91.

Upcoming Messages

July 6 "Do You Hear the Bell?" (Mark 5:1-20)

The Reverend Don Lynn, Baptist Beaches hospital chaplain, preaching

July 13 **PowerLab** "Jesus Gives Us the Power to be Thankful" (Luke 17:11-19)

July 20 "My Refuge and My Fortress" (Psalm 91)

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OUR MISSION:

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



PONTE VEDRA
United Methodist
Church

Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name. When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble, I will rescue them and honor them. With long life I will satisfy them, and show them my salvation. *Psalm 91:14-16*

Missions Corner

June was indeed a great month of giving!

On June 8 you gave **62 bags of groceries** to BEAM (Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry), an independent, nonprofit, ecumenical service center dedicated to providing short-term social services for residents of the Beaches. BEAM is so appreciative; in summer they experience their lowest levels of giving and the greatest demand for food, since area children receive no school lunches during these months. Thank you for your participation in this wonderful outreach opportunity!

La Sierra Opportunity

Our La Sierra small group has the opportunity to send two PVUMC members to visit our sister church in Cuba November 4-11. If you would like to bless our brothers and sisters in Christ there, and have a passport valid through at least May 2009, get in touch with Loree Reed at loree.reed@pv-umc.org or 285-8796.

John McEvoy Named Trustee

Trustee Joe Vozza has resigned from his position as Trustee due to health concerns. Joe has served in this capacity for two years and was presently serving as chair of Trustees. His service will be greatly missed.

John McEvoy has been invited to serve the remainder of Joe's term which ends in December. John is up to speed on our building project by virtue of leading the Building Design Team and has served faithfully as Trustee (and as chair of Trustees) in the past. We are glad to announce that John has accepted the position of Trustee. As the Trustees elect their own chair, the matter of who will serve as chair will be taken up at the Trustees' next meeting, scheduled for Thursday, July 17.

We welcome John to the Board of Trustees and commit ourselves to praying for Joe who has served our board and our church so well.

A Word from Wesley

Let us therefore hold fast the sound doctrine "once delivered to the saints," and delivered down by them with the written word to all succeeding generations: that although we are renewed, cleansed, purified, sanctified, the moment we truly believe in Christ, yet we are not then renewed, cleansed, purified altogether but the flesh, the evil nature, still remains (though subdued) and wars against the Spirit. So much the more let us use all diligence in "fighting the good fight of faith." So much the more earnestly let us "watch and pray" against the enemy within.

"Building on Faith" Campaign Followup

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN STATUS

Building on Faith Recap		General Fund Recap May 2008	
Campaign goal	\$ 1.3 million	Tithes & Offerings	\$35,849
Pledged to date	\$1,534,434	Budgeted expenses	\$35,319
		Net income/(deficit)	\$ 530
Pledges received to date	\$ 378,171	Building Fund Recap As of June 25, 2008	
Non-pledges received to date	\$ 12,485	Income	\$ 5,741
General budget receipts	\$ 20,834	Expenditures	\$ 46,707
Interest income	\$ 1,282	Balance	\$296,390
Total received to date	\$ 412,772		

Here's an update courtesy of the Trustees on the project itself.

The site permit application yielded three chief concerns of the county regarding the site. The concerns and anticipated remedies are

- ◆ Fire protection access to the building: A modification of the site plan should satisfy the requirement.
- ◆ Provision of sidewalk: We can pay \$10,000 into a sidewalk fund in lieu of spending nearly \$30,000 for grading, storm drainage and the sidewalk itself. (Yes this would be a sidewalk from nowhere to nowhere; it's a county requirement.)
- ◆ Setback: The county has ruled that we're to be set back 50' from centerline of Roscoe Blvd. We're having to move our site plan back 14' to accommodate this change.

The civil engineer will resubmit the site plan the week of June 23rd.

Building permit application will be made the week of June 23rd. Submission will mark the beginning of a 30 day review period. Contract pricing will be reviewed at a meeting July 1. Formal loan application cannot proceed without a contract. Loan approval may require up to 60 days.

We continue to be on track for a fall groundbreaking. Construction is anticipated to require 12 months once underway. We continue to pursue the rental of nearby property to host office and midweek ministry functions during construction.

Your continued prayers for the many parties involved in this work are appreciated, as is your generous giving toward this project through our Building on Faith campaign.

– Your Followup Director Team: Jim Wynn, Jon & Sherri Hatfield

Money Matters

An occasional column on things financial

We typically run articles in this column that give us wisdom in managing the financial aspects of our lives. This month, something different. Jesus is always talking about the kingdom of God or the kingdom of heaven in parables. “The kingdom of God is like...” I’m often surprised by how things that having nothing to do with the kingdom of God help me better understand it.

This month I’ve been reading *Buffett: The Making of an American Capitalist*. Warren Buffett is regarded as one of the world’s greatest stock market investors. He is the largest shareholder and CEO of Berkshire Hathaway. With an estimated net worth of some \$62 billion, Buffett has been ranked by Forbes as the richest person in the world.

Many of the lessons Warren Buffett has learned regarding investing can be applied to life in the kingdom of God. For instance, Buffett has always had a keen eye for value. He is quick to purchase stock in companies (and even entire companies) that are undervalued by the market. These companies come to generate huge profits for Buffett which he reinvests. I see Jesus investing himself in the last, the least and the lost, people whom society tends to write off. They in turn, are used to increase the kingdom. As we follow Jesus’ example, we too will find hidden gems in the people whom Christ redeems.

Buffett buys with the idea that he will hold his investments forever. No flipping stocks to make a quick buck. God had that idea first, only God doesn’t stop at investing with what he *has*. God chooses to invest *who he is*. God invests himself in us, beginning with the sacrifice of his one and only son, Jesus Christ and continuing with the gift of the Holy Spirit. And God holds on to his investments (that’s us) forever.

Buffett is keen on creating wealth, taking a little bit and making it more. God creates out of nothing, simply by speaking. And when we offer to God the little bit we are, stand back! In the end we will see what God can do with a life surrendered to him. In your life alone, God will make Buffett’s return on investment look downright puny. You may see only hints of the profit to the kingdom in this life, but in the life to come you’ll be blown away by what God has done with your faithfulness.

Warren Buffet never set out to be the richest man in America. In fact, being incredibly frugal, he rarely spends his wealth. (Buffet lives in the same house in Omaha that he bought 50 years ago for \$31,500.) His one goal seems to be simply to increase wealth; he learned as he went along. What if the overriding desire of our lives was to see the kingdom of God increase? What if we dedicated ourselves to giving God complete reign over our lives? We’d learn, step by step, from the Master what we were to do and how we were to do it. And our lives and the lives of others would be enriched in ways we can barely fathom.

I’m much more impressed with the potential of every single person in our congregation than I am with Buffett’s billions. At the same time, I’m grateful for a glimpse into what one focused person can achieve.

– Pastor Jeff



The church office
is open
Tuesday — Friday
from
10am—2pm.

June 2008 Giving & Attendance

Date	Contemp. Attendance	Traditional Attendance	General Fund Giving	Capital Fund Giving	Other Giving
6/01	85	92	\$10,446	\$1,355	\$122
6/08	113	66	\$11,171	\$1,210	\$177
6/15	101	81	\$8,839	\$ 832	\$60
6/22	96	66	\$7,747	\$2,344	\$1,379

Designated Totals

Building Fund	\$ 296,390
Enhancement Fund	\$ 966
Memorials	\$ 5,678
Needed Weekly 2008	\$ 10,100



The church office will be closed Friday, July 4.



Don't Forget the Church this Summer

Many of us will be enjoying vacations this summer. Though you may not be present when the plate is passed, remember the church this summer. Thank you for your part in helping us stay current on our expenses through May; please be faithful in helping us carry on through the summer. Most importantly, pray for your church. Blessings!

New Series to Begin July 27

Beginning July 27 we will invest five weeks learning about five core practices that are becoming known as, “The Methodist Way.” There is nothing uniquely United Methodist about the practices referred to as “The Methodist Way.” They firmly have their roots in Scripture. They clearly were practiced well when the Methodist movement swept across England and America. But these practices are also practiced well when any congregation lives up to their Kingdom potential, making disciples for a transformed world.

What “The Methodist Way” does is assist United Methodists in being very clear about the specific behaviors, activities and practices which are essential to disciple making. These five core discipling practices move us from abstract intentions to practical and personal directions for ministry.

Cultivating a congregation of passionate worshipers.

Extending radical hospitality to our community and the next generation.

Forming persons in Christ through deep and intentional discipling.

Sending out into the community disciples as salty servants.

Pouring ourselves out in extravagant generosity.

July 27 **Passionate Worship** (Psalm 100)

August 3 **Radical Hospitality** (1 Corinthians 5:18-20, Matthew 25:40)

August 10 **Intentional Discipling** (Matthew 28:18-20)

August 17 **Salty Service** (Matthew 5:13, 20:26-28)

August 24 **Extravagant Generosity** (Luke 16:1-13)



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

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


C.I.A. Takes a Break

Children In Action (C.I.A.) Is taking a break from their weekly Wednesday, 3:30 - 5:00 pm activities. Not to worry; this popular program will return come fall!

YCAM Hiatus

Youth Creative Arts Ministry (YCAM) resumes their Wednesday gatherings on July 30, 6:30 - 8:00pm.

Favorite Hymns to be Sung All Summer Long!

 We will again sing your favorite hymns during the months of June, July, and August. If you would please give me a list on Sunday, email them to me (diane.wright@pv-umc.org), turn them into the office, or however you want to get them to me, I would appreciate it. We will sing as many as we can. I look forward to hearing from you.

Diane Wright

Minister of Music - Traditional



Power Lab VBS Right Around the Corner

On Sunday, July 13 we kick off Power Lab Vacation Bible School during both worship services. Those arriving early will have the opportunity to play games and make snacks. Worship times will remain the same (9:30 and 11:00) but come dressed casual and prepared to participate in music, crafts and Bible story time. It will be a great opportunity to remember your own VBS experiences and share the love and power of Jesus with our kids.

During VBS week we will collect school supplies for Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry (BEAM) and schools in Costa Rica. You are welcome to join in our ministry outreach by bringing any of these items on Sunday the 13th or during the rest of VBS week (Monday - Thursday).

School: spiral notebooks, lined paper, pencils, pens, markers, crayons, glue, scissors, backpacks.
Additional needs of Costa Rican children: rain gear, rubber boots, flip flops.



Vacation Bible School Needs You

We still need your help!

Don't skip over this announcement! We Need You! Not able to help during the week of Vacation Bible School? We still need your participation in a number of ways.

Pray! Pray for our leaders and for the children who will come.

Help pick up sets and decorations.

Help decorate Ocean Palms Elementary.

Here are the dates and times we need you! Contact Lynn Straughan at 806-4508 or Jill Bennett at 285-2134 if you can help.

- ◆ Friday, July 11, 1:00 - pick up decorations and sets at Beach UMC. We will need large vehicles.
- ◆ Friday, July 11, 2:30 - sort through decorations at Ministry House
- ◆ Sunday, July 13, 8:00-9:00am - decorate at Ocean Palms
- ◆ Sunday, July 13, 12:00-1:00pm - decorate at Ocean Palms
- ◆ Sunday, July 13 afternoon - pick up additional sets from Beach UMC to take to Ministry House
- ◆ Monday, July 14, 8:00am - finish decorating Ocean Palms rooms and stage
- ◆ Thursday, July 17, 12:30pm - return sets to Beach UMC



Ponte Vedra UMC Blood Drive—A Huge Success!

On June 15 we had 31 potential donors attempt to donate and we collected 20 units of blood for those in need. Just as exciting, we had 5 first time donors with The Blood Alliance. We even had one dedicated donor give in advance before going on vacation making our donation 21 pints - way to go Bev! Next time you see the people listed below thank them for saving over 63 lives in the Jacksonville area.

Carol Kilpatrick	Carol Hart	Andy Andreu	Patricia Branham	Cooper Agent
Stephanie Branham	Ruth Murta	Tom Murta	Yolie Macon	Rick Williamson
Janet McVann	Mike McVann	Sue Stanley	Max Stanley	Jerry Sanders
James Pyle	Bill Harrison	Jill Bennett	Mike Elliott	Ada Elliott
Charles Lovings	Beverly Lovings	Susan Gelb	Elizabeth Callander	Ellen Carson
Don Carson	Sadie Snyder	Loree Reed	Gloria Myers	June Fasolas
Phyllis Monie	Bev Schaffield			

United Methodist Women News

A heartfelt THANK YOU for your support kicking-off our summer fundraiser. Donations for baked goods, items and services are appreciated. The first week of August is the final week of the fundraiser so call Jane Ellis (273-0094) with your order soon. All items are homemade and available while supplies last:

5-flavor pound cake
 sour cream pound cake
 pineapple surprise cake
 carrot cake
 3 dozen chocolate chip cookies
 decorative Betta fishbowl
 4 one-hour office assistance
 2 half-hour tutoring sessions for pre-school through 8th grade
 4 one-hour local errands
 4 one-half hour local chauffeur service
 a day of office organizing – sort and purge

Nine United Methodist Women visited the Children's Home Society of Florida (CHSF) on June 21st. Our thanks to Nick Geinosky, our host, for his interesting and informative comments and tour. Nick gave us much to discuss over lunch at European Street Café, following the visit. We hope to participate in one of the many volunteer opportunities for CHSF in the near future.

Our Quilting Circle presented its first baptismal quilt to **Joshua Coleman Hodges** on May 25th. **Charles Lovings** captured beautiful moments of the event with his camera. Thank you Charles, and please keep your camera ready as we will be presenting two more baptismal quilts on August 31st.

Our next meeting will be September 20th and will be in collaboration with Christ United Methodist Church UMW on Penman Road. We will meet there to hear a guest speaker from Church World Services. All women are encouraged to attend, bring a friend and enjoy fellowship with the ladies of our combined churches as we learn firsthand about the efforts of Church World Services.

UMW needs you! If you are interested in any of the following, please contact Jane Ellis (273-0094):

- ◆ liaison to Children's Home Society
- ◆ hosting a Reading Circle
- ◆ serving as Vice President
- ◆ maintaining a webpage

REMINDERS: Ladies, please stay current with your pledges so that we may honor our local and District commitments. Contact Vera Combs (285-2854). Please bring your World Thank Offering to the November meeting, November 1st.

Just for Women

Anne Graham Lotz will be leading the two-day revival "Just Give Me Jesus" at Jacksonville's Veterans Memorial Arena, April 24 - 25, 2009. Ladies, get yourself a 2009 calendar and mark this on it!

Welcome New Members!

We are pleased to welcome into our church family last month **Mary K. Ashby**, **Susan Brandenburg** and **Dona & Horace Prall**. Also **Gloria Myers** whom we received March 30. We are blessed to have you join us!

Attention All Chefs

Are you willing to prepare one meal for church members who may be ill or in distress. Please sign up at the back of the worship area with your name and phone number. You will be contacted as the need arises. Please contact Joyce Agent, 273-2657 for information. Thank you for helping take care of our church family.



Spotlight on Volunteers

Spotlighting the **Branham family** is an easy thing to do. They are committed to making Ponte Vedra UMC a success. **David**, **Patricia**, and **Stephanie** (when she is home from college) are always ready to offer help whenever asked and often participate in setting up for Sunday morning worship service.

David's volunteer duties include (past and present), Finance Committee, Chairman of the Staff Parish Relations Committee, Traditional service liturgist, and a member of the Traditional Choir. Patricia and David were Follow Up Directors of the Journey of Faith Campaign, and have helped lead the Shepherd's Sunday School class.

When they are not helping out at Ponte Vedra UMC, David works as the Facilities Manager at Community First Credit Union and plays golf on Saturday morning.

Patricia works at CSX and likes to work in her garden, especially her butterfly garden. Maybe she will give the rest of us some gardening tips!

The one thing they both look forward to is watching daughter Stephanie swim. They've put in lots of miles traveling, in state and out, watching high school and college swim meets giving them the title of, very dedicated parents!

Next time you see the Branhams, please tell them, thank you for all you do at Ponte Vedra UMC.



Round of Applause:

For **Allison Evans** and **Yolie Macon** who chaperoned (and participated in) our lock in and immediately after put in a full day at work!

For all of our students who invited their friends to the summer kick off lock-in!

For the Senior Highers, who won the friendship challenge and earned a party at Pump it up!

↶ Upcoming Events: ↷

Senior High Mission Trip: July 5-12. Pray for the senior highers as they travel for mission work!

Vacation Bible School: July 13-17. We need lots of help! See Kelly to find out how you can volunteer!



BEACH DAY: After VBS on Thursday, July 17 we will meet at Mickler's Landing and hit the beach together! Meet on the beach at 1pm-4:30pm.

Middle School Mission Trip: July 27- August 1. Pray for our middle schoolers as they travel for mission work!



Continued...

Service Opportunities **DATE CHANGE!**

Wii day at The Players Community Senior Center is now scheduled for Tuesday, July 22, 10am-Noon.

Pastor Jeff Bobbleheads! We are currently taking pre orders for our Pastor Jeff Bobbleheads! This is not a joke, we really have ordered bobble heads of our fantastic pastor (he is being a very good sport!). They will be \$15 each if you preorder, or \$20 each if you wait until the shipment arrives. All proceeds go to the summer mission trips!



Congratulations, Austin Patneau!

We are proud to report that one of our youth, **Austin Patneau, Jr.**, member of Troop 288, was awarded Scouting's highest rank at an Eagle Scout Court of Honor June 7. Congratulations, Austin, on becoming an Eagle Scout!



**Have a safe
and happy**

A Note From Pastor Jeff:

I grew up in the 60's and 70's. One of my favorite things about that era is the space program. I was eight years-old when Neil Armstrong walked on the moon; I remember watching it on TV. Remarkable!

This past month I've enjoyed watching the mini-series, "When We Left Earth." I am so impressed by President John F. Kennedy's setting forth the goal, in 1961, of "landing a man on the Moon and returning him back safely to earth." On July 21, 1969, astronaut Neil Armstrong set foot on the moon.

The television series reminded me that the goal wasn't accomplished immediately. First a suborbital flight, then putting a person in orbit. Docking two spacecraft. An EVA, or space-walk. Orbiting the moon. Mercury Redstone, Gemini, Apollo. Take a step and learn. Take another step and learn.

This is so much how it is with our life in Christ. My favorite understanding of God's purpose for us comes from the Westminster Shorter Catechism (1647): "Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him for ever." Rarely am I as confident in planning as NASA was in creating a decade-long program to reach the moon. But I usually have a sense of what I need to do next. Once I've taken that step, I learn about the next step. It's a faith walk. You don't get to the moon in a single day.

I still love the space program. (Jill recently found me watching a live webcast of crew members aboard the international space station. What a geek!) But I'm even more intrigued by what we can do together when we follow Jesus.

Glad to be flying this mission with you,
– Pastor Jeff



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