

THE WAVE



VOLUME 6, ISSUE 9

SEPTEMBER 2008

Fall Study Begins September 28: "The Jesus I Never Knew"

In *The Jesus I Never Knew*, Philip Yancey reveals the real Jesus beyond the stereotypes, offering a new and different perspective on the life of Christ and his work – his teaching, his miracles, his death and resurrection – and ultimately, who he was and why he came. Relating the gospel events to the world we live in today, *The Jesus I Never Knew* gives a moving and refreshing portrait of the central figure of history.

With a willingness to tackle difficult questions, Yancey looks at the radical words of this itinerant Jewish carpenter and asks whether we are taking him seriously enough in our own day and age. From the manger in Bethlehem to the cross in Jerusalem, Yancey presents a complex character who generates questions as well as answers; a disturbing and exhilarating Jesus who wants to radically transform your life and stretch your faith; and a Jesus who is brilliant, creative, challenging, fearless, compassionate, unpredictable, and ultimately satisfying.

You supply the popcorn...



A new six-session video resource for small groups can help us experience the Jesus we may never have known. Excerpts from motion pictures are used to compare well- and little-known film portraits of Jesus with the Jesus of the Bible.

Listen to the Sunday messages, read the book, participate in a small group Bible study. Whichever of these you choose, expect to draw closer to Jesus. Coming to PVUMC September 28.

*Participate with an existing small group or Sunday School class or be part of one of the new Sunday morning groups forming just for this study, led by **Dave Schussler** at 9:45 and by **John McEvoy** at 10:45.*

Upcoming Messages

August 31 "Not Saved by Works or 'Oh, You Can't Get to Heaven'" (Galatians 5:2-11, Ephesians 2:8-9)

September 7 "What They Think About Us: Christians Only Care About Converting People" (Acts 17:1-4; Acts 17:16-34)

September 14 "What They Think About Us: Christians Are Judgmental" (Colossians 4:5-6)

September 21 "When the Church Behaves Badly: Seeking Forgiveness" (James 5:15-16)

September 28 Begin the fall study "The Jesus I Never Knew"

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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

Missions Corner

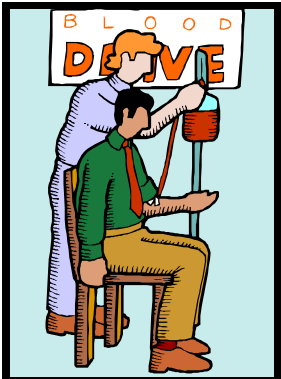


The Beach, Labor Day, and a Cup of Cool Water

Here's a fun opportunity to serve people and get the word out about our church. We'll meet at the beach (Mickler's Landing) on Labor Day (September 1) at 11:00am to hand out bottled water with the name of our church and the message, "God loves you; no strings attached." This will serve our thirsty neighbors and maybe get a soul or two thinking about God's love for them. Who knows but that those living nearby will show up the following Sunday seeking living water. (See John 4:10 for more on that!)

All ages are encouraged to participate; there will be an adult with every twosome or threesome that goes out. Will you help? Event organizer Bev Schaffield (221-7262) would love to hear from you or simply show up at the beach for an hour of serving in the sun.

Blood Drive



The Ponte Vedra United Methodist Church's next blood drive is on October 19 from 9:30am - 12:30 pm. Why should you be thinking about it now? Because the next time the Florida Georgia Blood Alliance calls and asks you to donate a pint of blood, **PLEASE, JUST SAY NO** unless you must be away on October 19. 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 19th, you will not be able to support the PVUMC blood drive.

On Sunday, September 21st and the following 3 Sundays, Don Carson will be available after both services outside the cafetorium main doors to sign up donors. Walk-ins are also gladly accepted. Anyone who is in good health, at least 17 years old and weighs at least 110 pounds may donate blood every 56 days. There is no upper age limit to donate, as long as your doctor says it is okay. For your convenience, the blood mobile will be located in the bus lane just outside the entrance doors to the school. Please help. Remember, one donation can save up to three lives. Please bring a photo ID when you donate. Contact **Don Carson** at 280-2893 for more information or to make an appointment.

A Word from Wesley

[The Methodists sing] not lolling at ease, or in the indecent posture of sitting, drawling out one word after another, but all standing before God and praising Him lustily and with good courage.

– Jackson XIII, 217.

A Fond Farewell

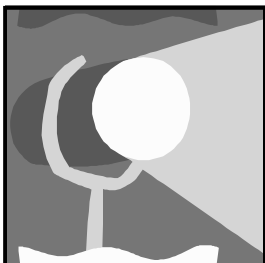
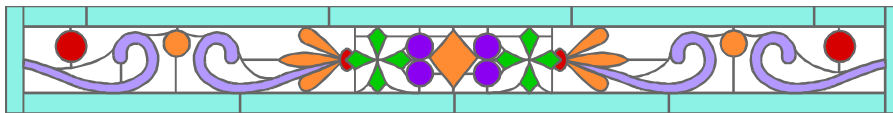
Dear Church Family,

Libby and I have had to make a difficult decision. We have decided it is time, due to poor health, to move in with our daughter and her family at their home in Fernandina Beach. We will miss our church family so much and we want you all to know that we will never forget any of you. Your caring, kindness and love to us has impacted our lives in a tremendous way.

Our new address as of September 15 will be 96436 Marsh Hen Road, Fernandina Beach, Florida 32034. Please drop us a line from time to time. Remember, you will always be “our church family.” May God richly bless each of you.

Sincerely,

Art & Libby Denning



Spotlight on Volunteers

Yolie Macon is one of Ponte Vedra UMC’s youth leaders... and we are all glad she is! She is involved with the youth as a middle school small group leader, helps with youth fundraisers, Sunday evening dinners, teaches middle school confirmation classes and goes on mission trips. Yolie attended both middle and high school trips this summer. Yolie also participates in Children’s Time during worship service, Kingdom Kids, and Vacation Bible School as well as helps take down chairs after church. Yolie enjoys big kids and the little kindergarten children that she teaches.

In Yolie’s spare time she likes to read, make beaded jewelry, and visit her mom when she can. She loves to travel to the mountains.

Yolie always has a big smile and a hug for her church family members on Sunday mornings. Please thank her for all that she does to make our youth feel loved.

Disciple I, Disciple IV Being Offered

DISCIPLE I - Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study

Meeting Sundays 8:45-10:45 in the Teacher Workroom beginning September 14.

Introductory session Sunday, September 7, 9:30 - 10:45.

Contact the office (280-5141) to sign up.

Leader: Diane Lee, aka 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.

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.

DISCIPLE IV - Under the Tree of Life

Meeting Wednesdays 4:30-6:30pm beginning September 17 in the home of Jerry & Mary Alice Sanders.

Contact the office (280-5141) to sign up.

Leader: Jerry Sanders

Prerequisite: DISCIPLE I

The word under in the title is meant to convey a welcoming invitation to shelter, security, and rest in God's love. Come and rest in the words of John, The Writings, and Revelation while we study the mystery and wonder these books have to offer. 32 weeks.

Mini-Series Beginning September 7

Christianity in North America has an image problem. Research shows that Christians are best known for what they are against. Paul advised the first believers to “live wisely among those who are not Christians” and to “let your conversation be gracious and effective.” Why do non-Christians perceive us as they do? How can we get back on track? September 7, 14 and 21.

"Building on Faith" Campaign Followup

The Trustees report that permitting for our project continues to move forward at an excellent pace. The final condition of the site permit is payment to the county's sidewalk fund. The building permit application received no comments from the Building Department (this is exceptional!) and four minor comments from the fire marshal. These comments are being addressed. The only other requirement for the building permit is the permit on the septic system, anticipated any day.

The district has approved the increased cost of our project, up to a total of \$3.8 million. The modified financial plan for the project is too lengthy to reprint here but is available through the church office.

Our construction loan application was mailed August 28. Approval may require up to 60 days.

The contract to build is nearly ready.

We continue to be on track for a fall groundbreaking and expect within the month to announce a date for a groundbreaking ceremony.

Thank you for your support. Please continue to pray for your church as together we are *Building on Faith*.
 – Your Followup Director Team: Jim Wynn, Jon & Sherri Hatfield



"Building on Faith" Campaign Followup

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN STATUS

| Building on Faith Recap | | General Fund Recap July 2008 | |
|------------------------------|----------------|--|------------|
| Campaign goal | \$ 1.3 million | Tithes & Offerings | \$ 32,539 |
| Pledged to date | \$1,534,434 | Budgeted expenses | \$ 40,698 |
| | | Net income/(deficit) | (\$8,159) |
| Pledges received to date | \$ 395,889 | Building Fund Recap As of August 27, 2008 | |
| Non-pledges received to date | \$ 17,371 | Income | \$ 12,501 |
| General budget receipts | \$ 29,166 | Expenditures | \$ 0 |
| Interest income | \$ 2,237 | Balance | \$ 327,280 |
| Total received to date | \$ 444,663 | | |

August 2008 Giving & Attendance

| Date | Contemp. Attendance | Traditional Attendance | General Fund Giving | Capital Fund Giving | Other Giving |
|------|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| 8/03 | 70 | 76 | \$12,419 | \$ 5,326 | \$ 141 |
| 8/10 | 75 | 80 | \$ 11,465 | \$ 1,895 | \$ 436 |
| 8/17 | 64 | 88 | \$ 5,779 | \$ 1,065 | \$ 225 |
| 8/24 | 99 | 79 | \$ 7,147 | \$ 4,215 | \$ 1,518 |

| Designated Totals |
|--------------------|
| Building Fund |
| \$ 327,280 |
| Enhancement Fund |
| \$ 966 |
| Memorials |
| \$ 5,693 |
| Needed Weekly 2008 |
| \$ 10,100 |

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



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. (Children In Action)

CIA (Children in Action) kicks off the new year with a pool party on Wednesday, September 3 at 3:30 at the Fairfield Community pool. All kids in grades K-5 are invited to join the fun. We'll begin meeting each Wednesday from 3:30-5:00 on September 10 at the ministry house at 76 S. Roscoe Blvd South for crafts, singing and missions. Call Jill Bennett for more information at 285-2134 or email jill.bennett@pv-umc.org.



Round of Applause:

- For our middle school students who went on our mission trip to Birmingham this summer...thank God for their willingness to serve!
- For Yolie Macon who gave her free time to go on ANOTHER mission trip ☺
- For everyone who has supported the youth in their mission experiences this year...you have made a difference in their lives, and the communities they ministered to!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Rock the Universe: September 5-7. Join us for a weekend Christian concert series at Universal Orlando, and invite your friends! We will meet at the church at 4:30pm and leave for Orlando for the weekend! \$90/person for the weekend, which includes housing, most food, and admission into both parks (Universal Studios and Islands of Adventure) Friday-Sunday. We have 20 tickets, and they are available on a first come, first served basis. \$35 deposit (non refundable) reserves your spot! This is a great outreach event, so invite your friends...after all, who doesn't want to spend three days at Universal Orlando for that price? ☺

Back to School Bash: September 14. Families and friends of our students are invited out to our back to school party! Food, fun, and plans for the fall! This will also be a chance to make some decisions about summer 2009, so MAKE SURE you bring your parents, your friends, and your friend's parents to enjoy the food, games, bouncy fun, and planning!

District Youth Rally at Murray Hill: September 21. We will be traveling to the Murray Hill Theatre for an evening of fun with other United Methodist youth groups! We will meet at the church at 4:30PM and return by 8:30PM.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP SUMMIT: October 3-5 in Orlando. The Florida Conference is hosting a training event for student leaders this fall! Because this is an unbudgeted event, and because our church values our students and their leadership abilities, we are looking for some people to scholarship our leadership students for this weekend. The cost would be \$50 per student. If anyone is interested please see Kelly, or email her at Kelly.minter@pv-umc.org.

United Methodist Women News

Calling All Women!



CHURCH WORLD SERVICE

On Saturday, September 20 at 10:00am, Ponte Vedra United Methodist Women and Christ United Methodist Women are hosting an event for Church World Services.

Come hear guest speaker Dolly Dyer as she shares with us about programs in East Africa which are saving lives and the very future of thousands in that area.

A covered dish brunch will be served so everyone is asked to bring a dish to share. Ask a friend to come along, too. Those planning to attend are asked to call Jane Ellis (273-0094).

This event will be held at Christ United Methodist Church, 400 Penman Road, Neptune Beach, 249-5370. We hope to see you there!



Other important happenings...

Saturday, November 1 will be our final UMW meeting for the year. Please bring your World Thank Offering and also complete pledge commitment at this time. Contact Vera Combs (285-2854). Process for determining officers for 2009 begins. To volunteer for one of the offices please contact Jane Ellis.

Thank you to all who baked and provided other services during the recent fundraiser. Your generous help is appreciated as we endeavor to fulfill our mission and district goals for the year.

Operation Shoebox continually needs your donations and now that we are gearing up for the Christmas shoeboxes for our service men and women overseas the need is at it's greatest. We ask for your support every first Sunday of the month with your contributions and continued prayers for our troops. A list for the most requested items follows, travel sized are requested most. Thank you for your help in making this coming Christmas season a little better for those who are so far away from their homes and loved ones.

Most frequently requested items include: 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 socks.

Make donation checks used for postage to APO/FPO addresses out to OPERATION SHOEBOX.

A Note From Pastor Jeff:

My grandmother died last month. She was 91. As the family talked together and as her pastor gathered up her life during the funeral, I was reminded just how difficult her life had been at times. Her mother had died when Nana was just 11, the victim of an automobile accident in which her father was likely driving drunk. My grandfather died at the age they expected to retire. Five or so years later my grandmother married a truly fine man, Clayton Miller. Ten years ago Clayton died.

My grandmother was well acquainted with grief. Yet one thing I will always remember about her is this: Nana was easily delighted. And she had this trademark way of displaying her delight. She'd say, "Oh, you guys!" or "Oh, Clayton!" or "Oh, whomever" along with this certain chuckle that I will never forget. Indeed, I'd like that sense of delight to be my inheritance. And when days of sadness come to me, I'd like to remember that though my grandmother knew tears, she always learned to laugh again.

– Pastor Jeff

A cheerful heart is a good medicine, but a downcast spirit dries up the bones.

– Proverbs 17:22



PONTE VEDRA *United Methodist Church*

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Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082

Phone: 904-280-5141
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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 |

StaffEmail:

firstname.lastname@pv-umc.org