

# THE WAVE



VOLUME 7, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2009

## Philippians Message Series to Begin January 11

The apostle Paul wrote a most amazing letter to the church at Philippi. Paul's circumstances were bleak; it is widely believed by scholars that Paul was in prison in Rome at the time he wrote it. Despite his lot in life, throughout the letter Paul speaks again and again of his joy. *Joy?* How can this be!?

While you may never be imprisoned, it is a given that you will face unhappy days. How wonderful to know joy even in the midst of trouble. If Paul could be filled with joy, you can be too. Let's see what Paul can teach us through Pastor Jeff's upcoming series, **Joy in Adversity**. Beginning January 11.

## Coming Soon... Crown

Crown's Biblical Financial Study is a 10 week in-depth study of what scripture teaches about money and possessions. Participants have confirmed that marriages are being strengthened and individuals are finding their way out of debt. They are also becoming consistent savers, generous givers, and prudent consumers. Most importantly, people are entering into a closer relationship with Jesus Christ as they learn to apply his word. The group will meet for 2 hours every week and include scripture memorization and interactive discussions. The group will be led by Crown veterans **Ralph and Sadie Snyder**. Sunday afternoons beginning February 15.

## Upcoming Messages

January 4 "Where to Find Jesus" (Isaiah 60:1-6, Matthew 2:1-12)

January 11 "Joy in Adversity: Proclaiming Christ" (Philippians 1:1-30)

January 18 "Joy in Adversity: Imitating Christ" (Philippians 2:1-3:1)

January 25 "Joy in Adversity: Relying on Grace" (Philippians 3:2-4:1)

February 1 "Joy in Adversity: No Worrying" (Philippians 4:2-9)

February 8 "Joy in Adversity: Practicing Contentment" (Philippians 4:10-23)

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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

*Like good stewards of  
the manifold grace of  
God, serve one another  
with what ever gift each  
of you has received.*

*1 Peter 4:10*

## Missions Corner

### The Giving Tree



We've received 49 Publix gift cards totaling \$1170 for BEAM (Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry). Wow! These cards will come in handy for meeting needs beyond the food items normally stocked in BEAM's pantry, things like diapers and baby formula. The cards we gave last year lasted BEAM through the beginning of summer. Your giving makes a difference. Thank you!

### Missions Blitz

Our thanks to the youth and the adults (and children!) who joined them in their December 21/22 Mission Blitz. You gave freely of your time and were a blessing to many. May God bless each of you!



### From a Grateful Staff...

Thank you, Ponte Vedra UMC, for blessing us with a generous Christmas gift. You are always quick to share words of encouragement and now you have blessed us in this way too. You are giving people and we are privileged to serve Christ through serving you.

– Your pastor, staff and musicians

### United Methodist Women

Our January meeting will be held on Saturday, January 17th at the home of Vera Combs, 146 North Roscoe Blvd. (285-2854) at 10:00am. Please bring a dish or plate of goodies to share with those attending. All women are encouraged to attend. Hope to see you there!

### A Word from Wesley

Whatever religion can be concealed is not Christianity.

– Works I, 540.

## *Ponte Vedra United Methodist Church Organizational Structure 2009*

The e-mail address of each leader and staff member is [firstname.lastname@pv-umc.org](mailto:firstname.lastname@pv-umc.org)

The **Council on Ministries** enables and encourages various ministries to work in concert to fulfill the mission of the church.

**Don Carson** (Chair) '11  
**Cecily Browning** (Lay Leader) '11  
**Jill Bennett** (Children)  
**Ruth Murta** (Hospitality)  
**Kelly Minter** (Youth)  
**Sue Morris** (Shepherding)  
**Loree Reed** (Worship)  
**Lynn Straughan** (Children)  
**Dixie Thalmueller** (Worship, Shepherd)  
**Jeff Bennett** (Pastor)

The **Staff Parish Relations Committee** guides, teaches, monitors, attends to conflict and organizes celebration of ministry of pastor, staff.

**Dave Branham** (Chair) '09  
**Loree Reed** '09  
**Carol Harding** '10  
**Cecily Browning** (Lay Leader) '11  
**Tom Murta** '11

The **Board of Trustees** keeps an inventory of property, maintains equipment and facilities and plans future capital needs.

**John McEvoy** (Chair) '11  
**Bruce Morris** '09  
**James Pyle** '09  
**Ralph Snyder** (Finance Chair) '10  
**Don Carson** (COM Chair) '11  
**Jeff Bennett** (Pastor)

The **Committee on Finance** provides financial direction, an annual funding program, program budget, and financial reports.

**Ralph Snyder** (Chair/Trustee Rep) '10  
**Dave Branham** (SPRC Rep) '09  
**Don Carson** (COM Rep) '11  
**Cecily Browning** (Lay Leader) '11  
**Jeff Bennett** (Pastor)  
**June Koch**  
 (Treasurer/non-voting)  
**Gloria Myers**  
 (Financial Secretary/non-voting)  
**Jim Larsen** (Church  
 Accountant/non-voting)

The **Committee on Lay Leadership** selects and recruits people with appropriate gifts to lead the church.

**Jeff Bennett** (Pastor, Chair)  
**Cecily Browning** (Lay Leader) '11  
**Bev Schaffield** '09  
**Ellen Carson** '10  
**Dod Schroter** '11

## *Financial Status*

### Building on Faith Recap

Campaign goal	\$ 1.3 million
Pledged to date	\$1,535,434
Pledges received to date (28%)	\$ 528,679
Non-pledges received to date	\$ 57,004
General budget receipts	\$ 33,332
Interest income	\$ 4,095
Total received to date	\$ 623,110

### General Fund Recap November 2008

Tithes & Offerings	\$ 42,813
Expenses + Mortgage	\$ 39,677
Net income/(deficit)	\$ 3,136

### Building Fund Recap As of December 28, 2008

Income	\$ 98,862
Expenditures	\$ 2,500
Balance	\$462,795

## *December 2008 Giving & Attendance*

Date	Contemp. Attendance	Traditional Attendance	General Fund Giving	Capital Fund Giving	Other Giving
12/7	125	121	\$ 7,541	\$ 80,015	\$ 3,716
12/14	91	107	\$ 10,747	\$ 2,421	\$ 1,841
12/21	88	108	\$ 13,114	\$ 6,266	\$ 746
12/24	117	89	\$ 4,684	\$ 4,325	\$ 110
12/28	37	83	\$ 2,832	\$ 5,835	\$ 102

### Designated Totals

Building Fund	\$ 462,795
Enhancement Fund	\$ 966
Memorials	\$ 5,678

Needed Weekly 2008 General Fund	\$ 10,100
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## *Campaign Followup*

We are now nine months into our 36-month capital campaign. We signed off on the loan December 22 and site preparation is under way. The contractor tells us that the site should be cleared within two to three weeks.

Since work has now commenced, let's be praying for the many workers who will be employed through our project. May God keep them safe and bless them to know that their workplace is holy ground, consecrated to God's purposes. May they know joy at building a facility that will be used to glorify God, serving the body of Christ as we reach out in love to our community and the world.

Thank you praying for and giving in support of this ambitious project.

– Your Followup Director Team: Jim Wynn, Dave & Patricia Branham



*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  
Palm Valley Community Center  
148 Canal Blvd.

### **YCAM**

Grades 6-12  
Wednesdays 6:00-8:00pm  
Palm Valley Community Center

### **Praise Choir**

Tuesdays 6:30-7:30pm  
Palm Valley Community Center

### **Traditional Choir**

Thursdays 7:00-8:30pm  
Palm Valley Community Center

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

Children In Action will resume meeting on Wednesday, January 7, 3:30pm. Children in kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome! Need information? Contact Lynn Straughan (806-4508, [lynn.straughan@pv-umc.org](mailto:lynn.straughan@pv-umc.org)) or Jill Bennett (285-2134, [jill.bennett@pv-umc.org](mailto:jill.bennett@pv-umc.org)).

## *Y.C.A.M. Youth Creative Arts Ministry*

YCAM resumes its weekly gatherings Wednesday, January 7, 6:00 - 8:00pm. We'll be seeing more of this gifted group of youth in 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade in the weeks ahead. Scott Tinsley is the point man. He'll welcome your call with any questions you have (463-3791, [scott.tinsleyt@pv-umc.org](mailto:scott.tinsleyt@pv-umc.org)) or just come and check it out.

## *Praise Choir*

The Praise Choir resumes its rehearsals Tuesday, January 6, 6:30 - 7:30pm. This group loves praising God to the music of the band and they're saving a space on the risers for you! Scott Tinsley can answer any questions you have (463-3791, [scott.tinsleyt@pv-umc.org](mailto:scott.tinsleyt@pv-umc.org)) but feel free simply to show up!

## *Traditional Choir*

The Traditional Choir resumes its rehearsals Thursday, January 8, 7:00 - 8:30pm. They'd love to add your voice to theirs; just come! If you have questions contact Diane Wright (992-9500, [diane.wright@pv-umc.org](mailto:diane.wright@pv-umc.org)).



*Our Sunday evening youth group* is now meeting at The Players Community Senior Center, 175 Landrum Lane. Same time 5:30-8:00pm.

**Busch Gardens**...Saturday January 17. We are traveling to Tampa to spend the day at Busch Gardens! We will LEAVE at 7:00am (which means we are meeting at 6:30am). Cost is \$60/person, plus food for the day. We have to have 15 people in order to get this price, so sign up ASAP! We are in need of at least one, preferably two more adults for this trip, so contact Kelly if you are willing to chaperone/ drive!

**Guys only weekend** ...Date TBA. Every year we take a weekend for the guys to get together and be guys! Plans are in the works for this weekend of fun, including possibly camping! We will need at least one father to attend this weekend as a chaperone, so see Kelly if you would like to attend!

**Revolve Tour**...February 6-8. GIRLS ONLY! The girls of our group will be traveling to Orlando to participate in Revolve Tour, a retreat for teen girls sponsored by Women of Faith. We will be staying in a rental house (much the same as Rock the Universe) and will be cooking a few of our own meals. Due to the schedule, however, you will need to buy lunch on Saturday at the arena. Cost for the weekend (includes travel, housing, food except Saturday lunch, and ticket to event) is \$90/person. Only 10 slots still available, so sign up soon!

## *A Note From Pastor Jeff:*

I came across this ad in a catalog a couple of months ago:

***Inflatable Manger Cradle.*** *A must for any Nativity scene, this inflatable vinyl cradle folds flat for storage. 14" x 44". \$5.99 Each.*

It just struck me wrong. Yes, it looks cheap and tacky. (A blow up manger? Give me a break!) But the whole idea of storing it away seemed somehow sacrilegious. I say this knowing full well that as soon as I return from my week's vacation I will be hauling the artificial tree, bins of ornaments, lights and other decorations into the garage attic. But to pack away baby Jesus's bed? My!

It may sound sacrilegious, but it's not. It's good to linger at the manger but let's face it: the baby Jesus does grow up. And this Jesus calls us to follow him. Hanging around an empty feed trough isn't what he has in mind. At best we carry Christmas with us, holding fast to our memory of the time God-with-us came to earth as a baby.

So we can take a pass on the inflatable-manger-cradle-that-folds-flat-for-storage. While the attic can hold the trappings of Christmas, only the human heart can hold the treasure of Christmas.

– 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
Nursery Coordinator	Kim Knopp
Admin. Assistant	Susan Bowler
Accountant	Jim Larsen
Music Contemporary	Scott Tinsley
Music Traditional	Diane Wright

StaffEmail:

[firstname.lastname@pv-umc.org](mailto:firstname.lastname@pv-umc.org)