

# THE WAVE



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*Spring Study Begins February 22:*

*"A Long Obedience in the Same Direction"*

We live in an instant society where so much is available to us on demand. Need it now? Google it. Go to the store and buy it. Order it online and have it delivered to your doorstep. We begin to assume that anything worthwhile can be acquired at once. Such is not the case with what past generations of Christians called "holiness." Nor is it possible with the patient acquisition of virtue. These require us to sign on for a long apprenticeship.

In the Songs of Ascent (Psalms 120-134), Eugene Peterson (author of the popular *The Message* paraphrase of the Bible) discovers an old Hebrew songbook used by pilgrims on their way up to Jerusalem. He seizes on these verses to teach lessons on discipleship and encourage us to grow in joy, service, humility, and community. For 20 years Peterson's discipleship classic has been encouraging Christians to persevere.

Together we will seek to be formed by six of the 15 Psalms of Ascent through Pastor Jeff's message series and small group Bible studies. A small group resource will be available as well as Peterson's book itself. The book is a great read but not necessary for the study.



## OUR MISSION:

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



**PONTE VEDRA**  
United Methodist  
Church

## Upcoming Messages

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

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

– *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction* message series –

February 15 **Discipleship: "In It For the Long Haul"** (Jeremiah 12:5)

February 22 **Repentance: "I'm Doomed to Live in Meshech"** (Psalm 120)

March 1 **Help: "Oh, Blessed be GOD! He Didn't Go Off & Leave Us"** (Psalm 124)

March 8 **Joy: "We Laughed, We Sang"** (Psalm 126)

March 15 **Perseverance: "They Never Could Keep Me Down"** (Psalm 129)

March 22 **Hope: "I Pray to GOD . . . and Wait for What He'll Say & Do"** (Psalm 130)

March 29 **Obedience: "How He Promised GOD"** (Psalm 132)

## Missions Corner

### Let's Go Serve Saturday, February 21



Hart Felt Ministries has identified an opportunity for us to serve a neighbor in nearby Atlantic Beach. **Cathy** is only 50 but suffering the effects of a stroke. She has had several mini-strokes, along with a recent heart attack, and has a paralyzed left arm and hand. She uses cane, walker, and wheelchair and lives with dog and cat companions. Cathy has no family locally. We're looking to assemble a team to clean Cathy's yard February 21. Sign up any Sunday or phone or email our administrative assistant Susan Bowler (280-5141, [susan.bowler@pv-umc.org](mailto:susan.bowler@pv-umc.org)). Our own **Carolyn Schussler** will lead us on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

### Pray for Missionary Michelle Schussler

By the time you read this, **Michelle Shussler**, daughter of Dave & Carolyn Schussler will have begun serving for three months with Christ For the City International (CFCI) in a medical clinic in La Carpio, Costa Rica. Michelle has completed two years of med school and recently sat for the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE). Please be praying for Michelle, those with whom she serves and those for whom she cares.

Michelle is keeping a blog about her trip at [www.flatonmyface.wordpress.com](http://www.flatonmyface.wordpress.com).



### Beginning February 15... 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. The study includes scripture memorization and interactive discussions. The group will be led by Crown veterans **Ralph and Sadie Snyder** and is presently full. Interested in a future offering? Contact Susan Bowler ([susan.bowler@pv-umc.org](mailto:susan.bowler@pv-umc.org)) in the office (280-5141).

### A Word from Wesley

Go on, in a full pursuit of all the mind that was in Christ, of inward and then outward holiness; so shall you be not almost but altogether a Christian.

– *Works III, 332.*

## *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 25** at **The Players Community Senior Center**, 175 Landrum Lane.

## *New Member Orientation, Sunday, February 8*

Interested in joining Ponte Vedra UMC? Pastor Jeff will be hosting a new member orientation Sunday, February 8 from 3:00 to 5:00pm at our luxurious 56 S Roscoe Blvd church office suite. (Look for the single-wide with the red mailbox out front.) Even if you'd simply like to learn more about us, this time together is for you. Please call the office (280-5141) and let Susan know you're coming.

## *United Methodist Women*

UMW fulfilled it's mission objectives for 2008 through it's support to the Betty Griffin House, Mission House and dedicating our love offering to the Church World Service special service project: Giving Hope Foundation in remembrance of **Libby Denning**. We visited the Children's Home Society campus, participated in the UMW District meeting and, with grateful thanks to the congregation for their generous participation, continually provide supplies for Operation Shoebox (sent to our service men and women stationed overseas). The Quilting Circle undertook the task of designing and producing a lovely quilted wall hanging for the new church and arranged to have the congregation sign their names on the squares used in the quilt. They also produced and presented four beautiful baptismal blankets to our youngest at their baptism.

UMW looks forward to the new year and invites all Ponte Vedra United Methodist Church ladies to join us in active participation and fellowship. Programs and devotionals provide insightful information which encourage spiritual growth and meetings are scheduled on Saturday mornings to provide all the opportunity to attend. Your ideas, expertise and presence are welcomed! Plan now to attend our next meeting Saturday March 3 at **Gloria Myers** home.

## *Thank You...*

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to everyone who helped me when I fell at church on Sunday, December 28. I especially want to thank the two gentlemen who helped me get up off the floor! I greatly appreciate all the prayers and concern from my church family.

— Janet Knopp

## *Financial Status*

### **Building on Faith Recap**

|                                |                |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Campaign goal                  | \$ 1.3 million |
| Pledged to date (94 pledges)   | \$1,535,434    |
| Project cost                   | \$ 3.8 million |
| Pledges received to date (36%) | \$ 551,089     |
| Non-pledges received to date   | \$ 56,239      |
| General budget receipts        | \$ 33,332      |
| Interest income                | \$ 6,096       |
| Total received to date         | \$ 646,756     |

### **General Fund Recap December 2008**

|                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| Tithes & Offerings   | \$ 39,018 |
| Expenses + Mortgage  | \$ 33,316 |
| Net income/(deficit) | \$ 5,702  |

### **Building Fund Recap As of January, 2009**

|              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| Income       | \$ 21,745  |
| Loan Draws   | \$ 85,285  |
| Expenditures | \$ 85,285  |
| Balance      | \$486, 542 |

## *January 2009 Giving & Attendance*

| Date | Contemp. Attendance | Traditional Attendance | General Fund Giving | Capital Fund Giving | Other Giving |
|------|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| 1/4  | 73                  | 113                    | \$ 6,836            | \$ 11,915           | \$ 10        |
| 1/11 | 92                  | 98                     | \$ 14,839           | \$ 2,860            | \$ 5,025     |
| 1/18 | 118                 | 95                     | \$ 8,296            | \$ 4,985            | \$ 173       |
| 1/25 | 97                  | 86                     | \$ 8,407            | \$ 1,985            | \$ 75        |

### Designated Totals

|                  |            |
|------------------|------------|
| Building Fund    | \$ 486,542 |
| Enhancement Fund | \$ 966     |
| Memorials        | \$ 5,678   |



Building on Faith

## *Campaign Followup*

We are now ten months into our 36-month capital campaign.

If you've driven past 76 S Roscoe Blvd in recent weeks you've seen that the work is well under way. Following the underground plumbing and electrical rough-in, we hope to see the concrete slab poured and the masonry walls begun by the end of the month. We anticipate being in the building by Christmas.

We truly are building on faith. With our nation's economy the way it is, for many of us it will take all the faith we can muster to let go of dollars that are scarcer now than when we pledged them. May Christ find us in every way faithful to what he has called us to do.

Thank you for your prayers for and financial support of this ambitious project.

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

P.S. Please keep the many workers laboring at 76 S. Roscoe in your prayers as well as our contractor E.C. Kenyon Construction Co. and our architect, Ronald Scalisi Architects.



*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

## *Children's Corner*

### *Kingdom Kids*

Our Sunday School for children in kindergarten - 5th grade meets each Sunday during both the 9:30 and 11:00 services. We continue to grow in number and are currently looking for volunteers to join our team. What a wonderful way to get to know the kids in our church. Volunteers will serve one Sunday per month. Please contact **Lynn Straughan** at [lynnandmatt@bellsouth.net](mailto:lynnandmatt@bellsouth.net) or 806-4508 for more information.



### *Three and Four Year Old Sunday School*

This group meets following the 9:30 worship service Children's Time each Sunday. We want to grow these children and are looking for volunteers to read a story to our little ones during this time. Contact **Lynn Straughan**.



### *C.I.A. (Children In Action) update*

C.I.A. kids have been very busy completing our January mission work. Each child made placemats for the children at Wolfson Children's Hospital and we are in the process of collecting backpacks and supplies for Kids Bridge Supervised Visitation Center and will visit the center on February 11.

Children in kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome each Wednesday as C.I.A. meets from 3:30 to 5:00pm at the Palm Valley Community Center! Need more 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)).

### *Save The Date!*

April 4 - **Easter Egg Hunt** for children of all ages. (Place to be determined.)

April 17 7:00p.m. - **Churchwide Variety Show** at Ocean Palms Elementary

June 28 - July 2 - **Vacation Bible School** (Place to be determined.)

## Active Praise Choir Members are Needed!

Are you looking for a new way to exercise on Sunday mornings? We have a great “program” just for you! Sunday morning workouts on the risers are a good upper body (subtle!) aerobics. It will wake you up and energize you with the singing, clapping and swaying! We have a good time and lots of fun together, but have to be on our best behavior during worship service! Tuesday night at 6:30 at the Palm Valley Community Center the Contemporary Choir leader, **Scott Tinsley** takes us through all the songs we will be singing on the next Sunday. We sing, joke a lot, and pray together during rehearsal time. If you are interested in joining the Praise Choir, call Scott (280-5141) or e-mail him at [scott.tinsley@pv-umc.org](mailto:scott.tinsley@pv-umc.org). You could even just show up at the next rehearsal!



## Spotlight on Volunteers

Ponte Vedra UMC volunteers were committed to keeping our church moving forward during 2008. THANK YOU, to all the volunteers who are involved in some part of our church; Sunday worship set up/take down/pack up, all choirs, Sunday school leaders, children’s ministry classes and programs, youth classes and programs, ushers and greeters, missions, office help, carpentry, all committee members on the numerous boards and committees, capital campaign, prayer groups, communion, holiday decoration, packing and moving office locations, food/catering, fundraisers, ministry teams and every other thing that was done to help out. What a lot of jobs!

The new year of 2009 promises to be a year of challenges, changes, anticipations, and commitments. Thank you to all you do in the name of God! Happy new year.



## Round Of Ap-



- 👉 For **Paul Johnson** and his willingness to spend a LONG (but fun!) day at Busch Gardens with our group, and drive the van too!
- 👉 For **Bo Weems, Ashley Sabol, Tucker Holland, and Dori Schaffield**, our newest youth group counselors!
- 👉 For the YCAM band (now “76 south roscoe”) and their amazing worship leading on Sunday, January 18.

## Upcoming Events:

**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!

Our Sunday evening youth group meets at the senior center, 175 Landrum Lane. 5:30-8PM

# ATTENTION!!!!!!



The Flamingos have escaped from **Busch Gardens!** One of the PVUMC students left the cage open during our annual January visit, and now they are **MIGRATING TOWARD US!** At the current progression, they will be landing in the Ponte Vedra Beach area on Saturday, March 7 between 10AM-3PM. On that day they can land on **ANY** lawn they want, and they make a **MESS!**

In order to repent for their blunder, the youth of PVUMC have been taking classes in flamingo removal, and will be willing to help you out (for a small fee!) If, on March 7, your lawn happens to be “flocked” by the flamingos, you can call the flamingo removal hotline, and the youth will come out and remove them immediately (for a fee of \$20). Plus, for an additional \$3, you can choose where the flamingos go next!

Or, you can bypass the potential mess all together and buy flamingo insurance for your house. For just \$25, you can rest safely knowing you will not be bothered by these pink birds.

All proceeds go towards the summer 2009 mission trips to New York City and Tampa Bay, and insurance sales will begin on Sunday, February 15 after the worship services. Or you can buy insurance by emailing

[kelly.minter@pv-umc.org](mailto:kelly.minter@pv-umc.org).

## *A Note From Pastor Jeff:*

Change. There's been a lot of talk about change lately, throughout the campaign for the presidency and with the recent inauguration of President Obama.

While I believe that governments can promote or inhibit good change, I also believe that God has already given us everything we need to make the kinds of transformational change God desires in his world.

I recently saw a brief and most amusing video of two people stuck on an escalator. (That's *escalator*, not *elevator*.) These people are waiting, fretting and calling out for help when it is quite apparent that they could have just walked off the thing. (You can view this at <http://www.snotr.com/video/1196> and other places too.) I wonder how often we think we're stuck when all along there has been a path forward; we simply needed to begin walking.

What changes are you and I able to make? How much more can we do working together? If we will be full-on led by Jesus, we will be amazed by the changes he will make through us.

– 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)