

THE WAVE

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 4

APRIL 2009

Holy Week Happenings

Palm Sunday

We'll celebrate the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, April 5. Worshipers will be invited to process into the sanctuary waving palm branches and singing their hosannas. The morning message at each service will be brought by our choirs through **"Raise the Crown, A Musical for Easter."**

Holy Thursday

At 7:00pm on April 9 our Holy Thursday worship service will be held at **The Players Community Senior Center**, 175 Landrum Lane. We will receive Holy Communion that evening. We'll share in this service with Lord of Life Lutheran Church.

Easter Sunday

Easter Sunday, April 12 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 Eve and Easter!

Inside...

April 5 Easter Egg Hunt

April 17 Variety Show

April 18 Work Day

...and more

Upcoming Messages

April 5 **"Raise the Crown - A Musical for Easter"** – combined choirs

April 12 **Alive with Christ** (John 20:1-18, Acts 10:34-43)

April 19 **Help! I'm Still Married: Great Expectations** (Genesis 2:18-25)

April 26 **Help! I'm Still Married: Keeping On Keeping On** (Luke 8:4-8, 11-15)

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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

But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said."

Matthew 28:5-6a

Missions Corner

BLOOD DRIVE A HUGE SUCCESS!



We had 26 potential blood donors and we collected 18 units of blood for those in need. Those 18 units will save up to 54 lives! Our next drive will be September 20, but you don't have to wait that long to give. Anyone who gave blood last Sunday can begin giving blood on May 17. August 23 is the magic day to stop donating so that you can support our drive on September 20. Thank you to everyone who helped make the blood drive a huge success.

An Opportunity to Serve Edward & Shirley, April 18

Edward and Shirley are 69 and 70 years old respectively and live near Beach Blvd & Hodges Blvd. Edward suffers with Parkinsons and heart problems; Shirley has rheumatoid arthritis. They are not affiliated with any local church..

Despite his Parkinsons, Edward is able to cut their grass with his riding mower. But he is unable to do any edging or trimming. Their yard is neat, but rather large and has several metal outbuildings. He would really appreciate those **small buildings being washed down** to get the mildew off, along with the **trimming and edging**.

We can do this project and perhaps one other in the same morning, Saturday April 18 beginning at 9:00am. Interested? Sign up at the back of the cafetorium one Sunday morning or phone or email our admin assistant Susan Bowler (susan.bowler@pv-umc.org; 280-5141 x12).

Our thanks to Hart Felt Ministries for this referral.

A Word from Wesley

Whosoever will reign with Christ in heaven, must have Christ reigning in him on earth.

– Jackson X, 364.

Easter Egg Hunt

Our Easter Egg Hunt & Party will be **Sunday, April 5 at 4:00pm**. This year's fun will be at Accotink Academy By the Sea, 171 Canal Blvd. Bring your kids, your friends' kids, your neighbor kids, your grandkids. And don't forget your Easter basket!

Ann Graham Lotz... Just Give Me Jesus

Women of PVUMC: Do you want to be 'stirred up', when you worship? Do you wish to be inspired by prayer and singing; do you want to feel that God is speaking to you personally and relevantly? If the answer is *Yes!* then come to "Just Give Me Jesus." While Billy Graham preached a salvation message to the unsaved, his daughter Anne Graham Lotz is called to bring a revival message. She is founder of AnGel Ministries and author of eight books. Anne launched Just Give Me Jesus in the year 2000 and we are thrilled that she is bringing this message to inspire women in Jacksonville.

The Just Give Me Jesus-Jacksonville revival is free for all to attend. Registration is not required. Just bring your Bible, pen and paper as you join this life changing revival with invigorating praise and worship being led by Fernando Ortega and Stephanie Sheefeldt, inspired in prayer with Jill Briscoe and ignited in God's word by the teachings of Anne Graham Lotz.

You may pick up a brochure in the church office (56 S Roscoe Blvd) or contact the Jacksonville revival office at 904-379-2084 or at JGMJESUSJAX@gmail.com for information on sharing your time, treasure and talents by serving on the local revival team. DeAn Foulk (280-5937, da-foulk@comcast.net) is a revival team representative from Ponte Vedra UMC and would welcome any questions you may have regarding this important event.

Thank You...

We would like to thank everyone from the bottom of our hearts for all the prayers, visits, cards, phone calls, and the wonderful food that we have been receiving. We also want to thank Joyce Agent for the great job, so well organized, on the delivery of food. The "Methodist heart" shows once more in all its strength. God bless you and our love to all.

Lolo and Dick Eldridge

We want to thank all of you for your prayers, concerns, phone calls, visits, and meals during my recuperation from my fall and surgery. We definitely have needed all the support you've given us. I am anxious to come back to church as soon as I am a little more healed. I miss seeing all of you!

Sue and Max Stanley

Dave and I want to thank all of you for your thoughts, prayers, cards, e-mails, phone calls and all of you who gave blood on my behalf. We thank God for our church family, you are so dear to us. I look forward to my quick recuperation so that I might once again be with you in church on Sunday. God bless all of you.

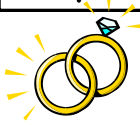
Patricia and Dave Branham

Church-Wide Variety Show: You've Got to See It to Believe It!



Penned Shakespeare, "All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players." Merely players? Not on the stage of Ocean Palms Elementary at **7:00pm Friday, April 17**. That evening those who sit around you Sunday mornings will take to the stage, presenting acts from the ridiculous to the sublime, all for the benefit of summer youth missions. Tickets are now available for \$8 a head (your body admitted at no extra charge) or \$20 for the entire family.

Help! I'm Still Married



There's the wedding... and then there's the marriage. We live in an age when so many marriages don't make it "till death do us part." In the series beginning April 19 we'll look at what God designed marriage for and how we can make marriage good. Single? Don't tune out! This series may bless you in a future relationship or equip you to bless a friend with a word of wisdom.

Wanted: People to Mow



The man who was mowing the lawn at 56 S Roscoe has had to quit due to back problems. We're going to save some money by mowing it ourselves. Would you be willing to walk behind a self-propelled lawnmower every few weeks?

If this is successful we'll add a riding mower into the mix when we move into our new home at 76. We can do a lot of ministry with what we'd spend to mow five acres (likely \$600 / month!).

Reap mow blessings today by signing on Sunday at the back of the sanctuary or by contacting our lawn care coordinator [Charles Lovings](mailto:charles.lovings@pv-umc.org) (charles.lovings@pv-umc.org, 814-8846).

P.S. If you'd like to donate a mower in good working condition, let us know!

Wanted: E-Prayer With A Pen



Ponte Vedra United Methodist Church has some great prayers participating in our e-prayer ministry. We are looking for an individual or two that would be willing to send a pre-printed note to people on our prayer list letting them know that people at Ponte Vedra United Methodist Church are praying for them and their specific need. The note paper and postage would be provided. If you are interested in this special ministry, please contact Cecily Browning at 285-2648.

If you are not currently an e-prayer and would like to be, please call our church secretary, Susan Bowler 280-5141 or e-mail her at susan.bowler@pv-umc.org so you can be added.

How to Transition to a New Building

Some surprising advice from Jim Griffith, church planting coach and author of *Ten Most Common Mistakes Made by Church Starts*. Jim writes,

No new initiatives for 12 months. Let your people enjoy the work of their hands. Time must be set aside to live into the new facility and become acclimatized to the changes necessary.

Everyone in the church is far more exhausted than anyone cares to imagine and guilt often replaces euphoria. Misplaced guilt resides just under the surface, usually over not possessing the energy that the pastor requires to meet the “new” goals.

Euphoria dissipates quickly after the opening of the new facility. It most often is replaced by a deflation of emotion(s), somewhat comparable to “post-partum” depression suffered by many birth moms. The end of the building celebration is followed by a long period of “post-partum” depression that sets in to the congregation. This is more pronounced in those who have been intimately involved in the project, but extends to everyone in one degree or another.

Launching new initiatives into the teeth of a tired, exhausted, yet euphoric group sets the church up to have serious personnel issues over the next several months. This, coupled with an exhausted pastor and staff, can deal a significant blow to growth and fruit down the road.

In the next issue of *The Wave*: What a congregation should do during its first year in a new building.

Block Party at Sawmill Lakes, May 16



We'll be enjoying a cookout with our neighbors in Sawmill Lakes on Saturday, May 16 beginning at 4:00pm. There'll be good food and fun for adults and children alike. While residents of Sawmill Lakes will be our special guests, this would also be a great opportunity to introduce a friend to our fine church family. Plan now to come; we'd like every guest that day to get a sense of how much we enjoy being together. (Directions will appear in next month's edition of *The Wave*.)

Financial Status

Building on Faith Recap

Campaign goal	\$ 1.3 million
Pledged to date (94 pledges)	\$1,535,434
Pledges received to date (36%)	\$ 564,237
Non-pledges received to date	\$ 59,172
General budget receipts	\$ 33,332
Interest income	\$ 6,172
Total received to date	\$ 662,913

General Fund Recap February 2009

Tithes & Offerings	\$ 37,592
Expenses + Mortgage	\$ 38,195
Net income/(deficit)	\$ (603)

Building Fund Recap as of March 1 - 23, 2009

Income	\$ 9,143
Loan Draws	\$150,475
Expenditures	(\$228,793)
Balance	\$381,818

March 2009 Giving & Attendance

Date	Contemp. Attendance	Traditional Attendance	General Fund Giving	Capital Fund Giving	Other Giving
3/1	85	80	\$ 8,798	\$ 960	\$ 46
3/8	81	101	\$ 9,294	\$ 2,363	\$ 781
3/15	98	85	\$ 12,453	\$ 2,980	\$ 577
3/22	100	97	\$ 7,159	\$ 2,840	\$ 72

Designated Totals

Building Fund	\$ 381,818
Enhancement Fund	\$ 966
Memorials	\$ 9,095
General Fund	\$ 72
Needed Weekly 2009	\$ 9,600



Campaign Followup

We are now one year into our 36-month capital campaign. We have received 37% of funds pledged.

Regarding our 76 S Roscoe project itself... Our general contractor has fallen behind schedule. We have requested that the contractor demonstrate to us how they will accelerate the work and get back on schedule.

We continue building on faith, grateful for every dollar given to the building fund and to the general fund for our week to week operations and missions giving. May God continue to find us faithful in every way.

Please remember in your prayers our general contractor E.C. Kenyon, also Ronald Scalisi Architects and the subcontractors on the site. May God give them wisdom and keep them safe as they build.

Thank you for your prayers and your financial 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

Kingdom Kids



Thank you to our two new volunteers **Nancy Noble** and **Georgia de Roziere**. Both Nancy and Georgia have graciously volunteered to teach one Sunday of the month. The two of you will be a blessing to the young people of our church. 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 lynn.straughan@pv-umc.org or call 806-4508 for more information.

The three and four year old children meet following the 9:30a.m. 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.

Mark Your Calendars



Easter Egg Hunt, April 5 from 4:00 - 6:00p.m. - All ages to 5th grade

Vacation Bible School, June 29 - July 2

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



Mrs. Lynn & Sunday School Class
 Thank you so much for the
 calendar & letters of encouragement
 that really meant a lot to me.
 The pictures were great. Take care
 & God bless!
 Sr. Kevin L. Motz
 United States Navy

Our C.I.A. kids sent congratulations cards and calendars to a unit of young sailors going through Boot Camp in Naval Station Great Lakes. We received this picture and note from one of the sailors. In addition, the word I received from the parents and relatives that were able to attend the graduation were "the boys were moved to tears that people who did not even know them cared enough to take the time to write."

Children in kindergarten through 5th grade are welcome each Wednesday. C.I.A. meets from 3:30 - 5:00p.m. at the Palm Valley Community Center. Need more information? Contact **Lynn Straughan** (806-4508, lynn.straughan@pv-umc.org) or **Jill Bennett** (285-2134, jill.bennett@pv-umc.org).



Round Of Applause



- 👍 For our church family, who helped us raise just over \$1,000 for our summer mission trips during the Pink Flamingo Fundraiser!
- 👍 For the students and counselors who worked so hard to make sure we had had a fun and safe time during the fundraiser!

Upcoming Events

No Youth Group on Sunday, April 12...it's Easter!



Variety/Talent Show Friday, April 17. Come to our annual Variety/Talent Show on Friday night at Ocean Palms Elementary. Do you have a talent or act you'd like to perform? See Scott Tinsley. Proceeds from the show will benefit the youth summer mission trips.

Photo Scavenger Hunt... Saturday, April 25. We will gather at 10a.m. that Saturday and head out around Ponte Vedra for a day of fun, picture taking, and more fun.

RELAY FOR LIFE, Saturday May 16 (noon) through Sunday, May 17 (6:00a.m.).

Join us to take part in raising funds for cancer research. We have formed a team for the event, so if you'd like to join us as a participant, or if you would like to donate to our team's fundraising efforts, you can either email Kelly (kelly.minter@pv-umc.org) or you can go to www.relayforlife.com and click on the "join a team" or "donate" box. After entering your email address, you can search for our team (Ponte Vedra UMC youth (H2O)).

Youth Sunday, May 17. The youth will be leading worship at both services on this Sunday, through music, drama, talks, and serving, all centered around the themes of Hands and Feet. Please make sure you are there!



United Methodist Women

Our next meeting will be held at 10a.m., Saturday, MAY 16th at the home of Mary Lil McClure, 1000 Vicar's Landing Way, #F201. You will find interesting programs and an opportunity for great fellowship as we emphasize spiritual growth, mission study, nurture and outreach opportunities central to our goals. Meetings are scheduled on Saturdays in order to provide a greater opportunity for all ladies at Ponte Vedra UMC to participate. Until our church facility is completed, these informal gatherings meet every other month in the homes of our members. There is no need to bring anything but yourself --- and perhaps a friend or two.

Salty Service



**I joined Jesus
as a
Salty Servant
this last week.**

Please place this in the offering plate as a sign of having offered yourself as a Salty Servant this last week.

Years ago this question was posed to me: **If your church ceased to exist would your community notice?** The question continues to gnaw at me.

Last summer I preached a message series called The Methodist Way. The five subjects were Passionate Worship, Radical Hospitality, Intentional Discipling, Extravagant Hospitality and Salty Service. **Since last fall I've been looking for ways to increase opportunities for Salty Service.** (That's what those every other month local mission projects have been about.)

What kinds of service are we talking about here? Included would be

- service done to make a positive difference in the lives of others that you would not have done were it not for your relationship to Christ
- service requiring hands-on, face-to-face engagement with the needs of people that you might not ordinarily come to know
- service that pushes you out of your comfort zone to make a real difference in the lives of people

Examples of things I know several of you are involved in would include soup kitchen, detention center, volunteering at the hospital, Hart Felt Ministries, Habitat for Humanity, scouting, even building a relationship with someone far from Christ. And by no means is this an exhaustive list.

So how are we as a church doing? **Beginning April 19 we'll begin measuring our church's salty service.** Each week you'll find a salty service "ticket" in your bulletin like the one reproduced here. If you've served beyond the local church for an hour or more in the week past, you'll be invited to put the card in the offering plate. There's nothing to fill out; we'll simply be tracking the percentage of those in attendance who have served in the past week to see if we're growing as salty servants.

I personally will be challenged to put a card in the plate since so much of my time is devoted to serving in the church. At first I will be aiming to put a card in once every other week! John Wesley said, **"The world is my parish."** For too many congregations (pastors included), the parish has become their world. May it not be so among us.

– Pastor Jeff

**Happy
Easter**

A Note From Pastor Jeff:

“Surprising Yourself in Times of Adversity.” If I titled these notes that would be this edition’s heading. On Sunday, March 1, ten minutes before the 9:30 service was to begin, the power at Ocean Palms Elementary flickered and went out. This, after all the sound equipment had been set up and checked, the musicians had tuned and warmed up on their electronic instruments and the vocalists had rehearsed with them. Off went the electricity.

Did we have church? You bet we did! The praise choir and band sang a capella and the congregation never sounded better. The girls of C.I.A. (Children In Action) I thought especially brave. There were to be six of them but two were out sick. And then there was no CD accompaniment. These four girls sang beautifully! And with no microphone, your preacher became a “shouting Methodist.” ☺

We often think that things have to be a certain way for life to be good. We are wrong. That morning we worshiped in the dim emergency lighting of an elementary school. During that hour life was good, even without electricity.

What adversity are you facing right now? What adversity do you fear? Said Jesus,

“Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.” – Luke 12:32

Life is good because God is good. All the time. Fear not!

– 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:

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