

THE WAVE



VOLUME 7, ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 2009

Becoming a Church on Fire



This fall finds us in the book of Luke, viewing snapshots of Jesus as he calls his disciples and then teaches them through word and example. While the church really took off with the coming of the promised Holy Spirit (see the companion volume, the book of Acts for more on that) from Jesus we can learn much about being Christians on fire and a church on fire too.

The series begins October 4 and will conclude on **Sunday, November 8** with a combined worship service at **10:30am**, followed by a meal.



Red Carnation Day at Ponte Vedra UMC

We have all heard of a red letter day but what is a *red carnation day*? It is a new tradition at Ponte Vedra United Methodist Church! On Sunday, October 4 we will welcome **seven new members** into our church. You will know who they are because they all will be wearing a red carnation. Please make plans now to stay after the 9:30 service if you are a contemporary worshiper or come early if you are a traditional worshiper to welcome these people into our fellowship.

Upcoming Messages

- October 4 **While I Was Fishing** (Luke 5:1-11)
- October 11 **“You Give Them Something to Eat”** (Luke 9:10-17)
- October 18 **Withdraw to Deserted Places and Pray** (Luke 5:16)
- October 25 **The One Who Serves** (Luke 22:24-27)
- November 1 **“The Harvest Is Plentiful, But the Laborers Are Few”** (Luke 10:1-20)
- November 8* **Anticipating the Harvest** (Luke 8:4-15)

**combined 10:30 worship followed by a meal*

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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

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.”

Isaiah 52:7

Missions Corner

Operation Christmas Child



Operation Christmas Child brings joy and hope to children in desperate situations around the world through gift-filled shoeboxes and the Good News of God's love. This program of Samaritan's Purse provides an opportunity for people of all ages to be involved in a simple, hands-on mission project while focusing on the true meaning of Christmas - Jesus Christ. Our church will once again be sponsoring this mission by filling shoeboxes for the children. Collections

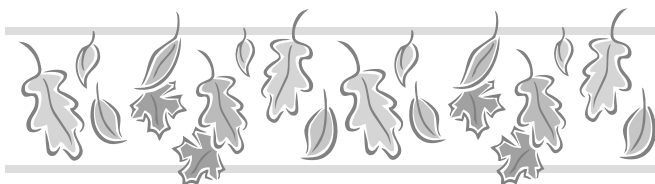
will be received Sunday, **November 22**. For more information visit <http://www.samaritanspurse.org>. Thank you, **Rita & Andy Andreu** for leading this effort again this year.

Saturday Serve, October 24

Mark your calendar... We're planning to do a yard cleaning from 9am to noon on Saturday, October 24. Watch for details and a sign-up sheet at the back of the worship space!

Christian Care Families

Sunday, September 20th we commissioned 24 Care Captains to kick off our Christian Care Family Ministry. This ministry is based on the early Christian church found in Acts 2. We at Ponte Vedra UMC want to follow the example they set of praying for each other, breaking bread together and taking care of each other. Those people in a small group, Sunday school class, choir, or an usher/greeter, this is your Christian Care Family. People not involved in one of those groups should be receiving a phone call from a Care Captain inviting them to a get-together. This is an informal gathering providing the opportunity to become acquainted with their Care Captain and others people in their family. This captain will be their point of contact if they have a physical, spiritual or emotional need. If you have any questions in regards to this ministry, please contact **Jerry Sanders** at 273-9993 or **Cecily Browning** at 285-2648.



Thank You...

I'd like to take this opportunity to say thank you to my church family for all the love, support and prayers that was sent our way during Dave's battle with lung cancer and subsequent death. You are all very special.

Thanks,
Dean Decker & Family

Ponte Vedra UMC Blood Drive - A Huge Success



On September 13 we had **31 potential blood donors** and we **collected 24 units of blood** for those in need. Just as exciting, we had many first time donors with The Blood Alliance. Next time you see the people listed below, **thank them for saving over 72 lives** in the Jacksonville area.

Priscilla Gerardo	Karen Johnson	Ron Schaffield	Vance LeClair
Phil DeRoziere	Tucker Holland	Sherrill Brown	Ellen Carson
Andy Andreu	Mike Elliott	Bill Harrison	Jeff Koch
Rusty Russillo	Ada Elliott	Janet McVann	Sadie Snyder
Debi Russillo	Chris Yale	Mike McVann	Loree Reed
Bob Harding	Marty Spooner	Cecily Browning	Gloria Myers
Mae Liberty	Collette Wright	Jenny Howard	Janis Wetmore
		Kristin Boehner	Georgia DeRoziere

B.E.A.M. Food Drive

We had a very successful food drive at Ponte Vedra UMC. The members of our church did it again on Sunday, August 30 providing **60 bags of groceries** to B.E.A.M. Vivian Southwell, B.E.A.M.'s director, mentioned that in today's economy her food pantry has been very depleted because of the increase in number of the families in need. It is very humbling to learn from Vivian that our church donates so much for a church our size. If you have suggestions for future drives I am open to your feedback. My email address is vance.leclair@pv-umc.org. Our next B.E.A.M. bag handout will be November 15. Thank you again for all your help in this great cause.

--Vance LeClair

Helping Hands Ministries Pecan Sales Fundraiser

Helping Hands Ministries provides emergency assistance to needy families. They offer food, clothing, and housing for homeless families with children. They also help families find additional services to meet their needs. This is the fourth year Ponte Vedra UMC has helped fundraise for Helping Hands through fall pecan sales. Order forms are included in your Sunday church bulletins through October 11. Call **Suvan Shine** for more information, 273-9667.

Hart Felt Ministries Poinsettia Sale

Decorating our homes, businesses, and churches with poinsettias and greenery during the holiday season is an American tradition. The mission of Hart Felt Ministries is to provide, at no charge, through a network of community volunteers, non-medical support services and companionship to the frail elderly who require assistance in living independently. Look for an order form in your Sunday church bulletins beginning mid-October. You may call **Loree Reed**, 285-8796 or **Bette McEvoy**, 280-4678 for more information.



On A Musical Note

C.I.A. Children In Action

Kindergarten through 5th Grade
Wednesdays 3:30-5:00pm

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

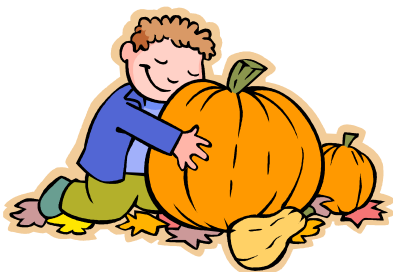
Kingdom Kids

We now have the 9:30am PowerXpress Rotation in place and we are looking for additional volunteers. Each week the kids are introduced to their lesson through a variety of means including storytelling, art and science. If you have a gift in any of these areas we need you on our volunteer team. We are asking for a short-term commitment of three consecutive Sundays. This is a great volunteer opportunity and one that we hope many church members will be a part of. Our 11:00am worship service remains the same with all youngsters in grades Kindergarten through fifth going to the same classroom. If you are interested in this wonderful opportunity please call **Lynn Straughan** at 904-806-4508 or send an e-mail to lynn.straughan@pv-umc.org.

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

C.I.A. is back in action! During the week of September 11 our kids visited the fire station on Canal Boulevard. The

kids wanted to say thank you to the firemen for all they do to keep us safe so they made "thank you" cards and took them some delicious treats. The fire fighters were very gracious and took time out of their schedule to give us a tour of not only the firehouse but the fire trucks as well. C.I.A. meets each Wednesday at 3:30 at the Palm Valley Community Center at 148 Canal Blvd. For more information please call **Lynn Straughan** (904) 806-4508 or e-mail lynn.straughan@pv-umc.org.



United Methodist Women News

On September 19, The North East District Florida Conference United Methodist Women met at Christ United Methodist Church in Neptune Beach for a well attended meeting and an excellent program. The "Mission Sampler" included topics on, The Beauty & Courage of Sudan, Food & Faith, Giving Our Hearts Away and stressed *being in missions isn't a time or place -- it's always*.

Ponte Vedra United Methodist Church UMW will hold it's next meeting on Saturday, **November 14**. Susan Merrill will host the meeting in her home and will also present an important and enlightening program. Susan's address is 74 Village Walk Lane, Ponte Vedra Beach. All are encouraged to attend and invite a friend to come along too.

Financial Status

Building on Faith Recap

Campaign goal	\$ 1.3 million
Pledged to date (96 pledges)	\$1,534,634
Pledges received to date (56.55%)	\$ 867,705
Non-pledges received to date	\$ 89,524
General budget receipts	\$ 33,332
Interest income	\$ 9,212
Total received to date	\$ 999,773

General Fund Recap August 2009

Tithes & Offerings	\$ 35,883
Expenses	\$ 36,813
Mortgage	\$ 2,448
Net Income/(Deficit)	\$ (3,378)

Building Fund Recap as of September, 2009

Income	\$192,531
Loan Draws	\$241,599
Expenditures	\$273,002
Balance	\$424,995

August 2009 Giving & Attendance

Date	Contemp. Attendance	Traditional Attendance	General Fund Giving	Capital Fund Giving	Other Giving
9/6	72	75	\$ 5,704	\$ 5,273	\$ 1,052
9/13	74	82	\$ 10,242	\$ 3,710	\$ 60
9/20	80	91	\$ 9,848	\$ 27,643	\$ 113
9/27	81	62	\$ 5,247	\$ 5,905	\$ 52

Designated Totals

Building Fund	\$ 424,995
Enhancement Fund	\$ 351
Memorials	\$ 8,780
General Fund	
Needed Weekly 2009	\$ 9,600



Campaign Followup

We are now 18 months into our 36-month capital campaign. We have received **56%** of funds pledged. Our midpoint goal was 50% and we are delighted to have surpassed it. Well done, church!

The building continues to progress. Each weekday finds an impressive array of subcontractors on the site. Work on the building's exterior should be completed early in the month. Installation of a critical fire protection subsystem we'd hoped not to have to do (10,000 gallon water tank and pump due to inadequate municipal water pressure and flow) will be underway this month. Everything else simply moves forward, week by week: electrical, mechanical, drywall, etc. We anticipate being in the building by Christmas.

Thanks so much to you have given and are giving, both to the building fund and to the general fund for our week to week operations and missions giving. Extra thanks to those of you who are going the 2nd (or 3rd!) mile by giving to *Furnishing our Facility*. See the current status online at www.pv-umc.org. Also, to those of you coming out to 76 to pray on Saturdays: Your prayers are powerful and effective. God bless you!

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



Round Of Applause



- 👍 For Ruth, Georgia, and the WHOLE hospitality team for all of their hard work on the Back to School Bash
- 👍 For Steve Boehner, Yolie Macon, Ashley Sabol, and Tucker Holland for chaperoning Rock the Universe this year

Upcoming Events

Mission Trip 2010 meeting! Sunday, October 18 at 5pm we invite any and all families interested in hearing our options for our middle school and high school 2010 mission trips to come to the Senior Center! We will meet from 5-6 and decide on dates and locations for these two very important trips! Please bring your family calendars!

Dignity-U-Wear! Friday, October 16. Meet at 56 South Roscoe at 11:30pm Bring a bagged lunch OR money for fast food. We will load our cars and head downtown to work with this very important ministry to our homeless brothers and sisters. We will return by 5:30pm.

Reminder: Mission Blitz is coming! December 20-22, our



church will again be hosting Mission Blitz. Last year's event was such fun, and we can't wait to do it again! This year we will be able to add an overnight component, and we will be staying in our building! We will meet after church on Sunday, have lunch together and depart to our mission sites. We will come back together at dinner time for meal and worship, and those who choose to will stay overnight. Then on

Monday morning we will meet at 9am, gather in our groups and head out to new mission sites for the day. You will have the opportunity to sign up for certain sites or certain days. And because of the great response we had last year, we will be offering child friendly sites Sunday afternoon, and Monday and Tuesday mornings. Looks for sign-up's in mid October! Don't think you can give the time, or maybe you don't know if you have the energy? We are also looking for people to provide our evening meals or donate money for our sack lunches during the mission days. See Kelly if you'd like to be involved!

A Word from Wesley

The founder of Methodism, John Wesley, was keen to grow in his relationship with Christ. Wrote Wesley,

I see abundantly more than I feel. I want to feel more love and zeal for God.

Jackson, XIII, 66.

Brew-ha-ha



The Wave is happy to report that, effective November 1, **Vance LeClair & Collette Wright** are taking over the coffee ministry. (Coffee lovers know it's much more than "making coffee Sunday mornings.") We say thank you, thank you, thank you to **Dod & Colleen Schroter** who have been faithfully brewing for us for years.

Vance & Collette will need coffee helpers to fill in for them from time to time. Might you be one of those persons? If you don't know beans about coffee, Vance & Collette will gladly provide training. Contact them at 249-4143 (Vance), 247-0727 (Colette) or vancecollette@gmail.com for details.

Computer Savvy?

Wanted: Tech savvy person(s) to edit video clips of those among us willing to share something of their spiritual journey with the congregation.

Wanted: Tech savvy person(s) to edit and upload the weekly message to church website as a podcast.

Wanted: Tech savvy person to maintain www.pv-umc.org.

Wanted: Tech savvy persons to run slides at either morning worship service.

Might you be one of the godly geeks we seek? Contact **Scott Tinsley** (scott.tinsley@pv-umc.org, 463-3791) or **Pastor Jeff** (jeff.bennett@pv-umc.org, 280-5141).

Furnishing our Facility - Way to Give!

We're delighted by the response to *Furnishing Our Facility*. In addition to members who are giving beyond their general budget gifts and *Building on Faith* pledges, several friends of Ponte Vedra UMC have contributed to the purchase of needed furnishings for our new building. To date over \$59,000 in cash and goods has been given or committed. Many items are still available; check out the list online at pv-umc.org or pickup a list any Sunday morning near the display.

Invest & Invite

How will we fill our new building with disciples of Jesus Christ who are transforming the world?

While it's true that some will come simply out of curiosity ("I wonder what that building looks like on the inside? I wonder who those people are?") most will come on the elbow of a friend who invites them. Be investing yourself in at least one relationship with someone who doesn't do church. Then invite them to church!

And for those who, by the grace of God, show up on the church doorstep, we must still **Invest & Invite**. Invest in getting to know them and Invite them to join in a small group for Bible study or serving. (A small group of any variety is a great way to invest ourselves in people new to us.)

A Note From Pastor Jeff:

Over the years I've attended a number of seminars and training events focusing on leadership, on how to grow your church, etc. There's a lot of talk about vision and strategy and it's not unhelpful. But I always come away thinking that, at the end of the day, it's God who grows people and God who grows churches. The apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians chapter 3,

I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.

People like to pull strategies from the Bible but I wonder if that doesn't miss the point: Faithful churches follow Jesus, being guided by the Holy Spirit, as did the early church. I have to believe that, while we do the work, it's God who must lead us in that work and God who grants any increase. Let's ask God to do this.

Let's be people who plant the seed of the gospel. Let's be people who water the seed. But above all else, let's be people who keep their eyes on Jesus.

– Pastor Jeff



PONTE VEDRA *United Methodist Church*

56 S. Roscoe Blvd.
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082

Phone: 904-280-5141
Fax: 904-280-0599
www.pv-umc.org

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