

THE WAVE



VOLUME 8, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2010

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Winter Message Series:

What the Church believes... and Why it matters

These days there is a wishy-washy relativism that masquerades as faith in our culture. "It doesn't matter what you believe, as long as you believe." "All roads lead to God." "The important thing is to be sincere in your beliefs." If we know what we believe, we will resist such shallow claims. God is personal. God has told us about himself and what he requires of us. This rich knowledge of God is expressed through our Christian beliefs. While there have always been theological differences among Christians, there is a great deal we have in common. This common core of belief is the basis of this message series we'll begin January 24.



OUR MISSION:

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

New Member Orientation, January 31

Interested in joining Ponte Vedra United Methodist Church? Or just learning more about us? Pastor Jeff is leading an orientation on Sunday afternoon, January 31 from 4 to 6pm. Jeff promises it won't be two hours of him talking; we've got a fun activity thrown in there, plus you'll get to know some other fine folks during our time together. Call or email our administrative assistant Susan Bowler (280-5141 x12, susan.bowler@pv-umc.org) to let us know you're coming.

Upcoming Messages

January 3 **A New Song** (Psalm 98) "Willow Diane" preaching

January 10 **Who Are These Guys?** (Matthew 2:1-12)

January 17 **The Problem With Too Much Stuff** (Micah 6:1-8)

January 24 Begin the message series,

What the Church Believes... And Why It Matters



PONTE VEDRA
United Methodist
Church

Missions Corner

B.E.A.M.

We're happy to report that through December 27 we received **67** Publix gift cards totaling **\$1,565** in value. These cards will be bless many clients of Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry in the months to come. Good going, church!

Mission Blitz

Over 70 people participated in Mission Blitz this year serving four different areas of ministry. Nightly worship services were enjoyed, amazing food was eaten, bonding happened between church family members, and most of all, God's work was done! God bless all of you who made this happen. Thank you all for your support, and we can't wait until next year to do this all over again!

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

Scouting



Scout Troop 288 served us December 22 by treating the inside of our fence with water sealer to lengthen the life of the fence. (They would have done the outside the same day except that our supplier ran out of the product we were using!) The troop will meet at PVUMC on Monday evenings beginning January 4. Thank you, Troop 288!

A Word from Wesley

The founder of Methodism, John Wesley, very much favored unity in the church universal. Wrote Wesley,

But as to all opinions which do not strike at the root of Christianity, we think and let think.
Works IX, 34.

Women's Bible Study

The Thursday morning Women's Bible Study group will begin a new study on January 14. We meet each Thursday at 10:00. Call **Jill Bennett** at 285-2134 for additional information or watch the bulletin for further details on the topic of the study.

United Methodist Women

Our Saturday, January 9, 2010 meeting will be at 10:00a.m. in our beautiful church facility! All ladies of the church are cordially invited to share this time in fellowship as we plan our activities for the year. Bring your ideas and areas of interest and also a plate of goodies to share with the group as we enjoy meeting for the first time in our new home church.

Patience in the New Building

After worship on our second Sunday in the building I was speaking with one of the retired ministers who call PVUMC home. He was remembering a building that a church he was serving built: "It took about six months to get everything the way we wanted it." I found that encouraging; I already see several things that need tweaking. Please be patient as we work out the kinks and discern what works well for us in this place. Isn't it great to be in!

Blessings always,

Pastor Jeff

Ponte Vedra UMC Blood Drive - January 31, 9:30am - 12:30pm



Don Carson will be available beginning January 10 after each worship service to sign up donors.

If you prefer to sign up online to donate at our drive, go to <https://www.thebloodalliance.com>. If you have given blood before, click on I'm a donor. If you are new, click on I am not a donor. Once registered, click on Manage Your Appointments. On the next screen, enter 7931 instead of your zip code (this will take you directly to our blood drives). On our drive page, click on 01/31/2010. On the next page, pick an appointment time.

Anyone who is in good health, at least 17 years old and weighs at least 110 pounds may donate blood every 56 days. We are currently in the 56 day window for our next drive, so please don't give blood between now and January 31. There is no upper age limit to donate, as long as your doctor says it is okay. Please help.

Please bring a photo ID to your appointment. Call **Don Carson** at 904-280-2893 if you have any questions. Remember, one donation can save up to three lives.

Welcome James Grayer

Our Staff Parish Relations Committee and Trustees are delighted that **James Grayer** has joined the staff as part time custodian. We got to know James while he was working at Ocean Palms Elementary and serving us so ably on Sunday mornings there.

Willow Creek Leadership Summit 2009 Speakers

During the month of January, a DVD of all the speakers at last summer's Willow Creek Leadership Summit will be shown at 10:45am in the Cornerstone Sunday School classroom. All the members of Ponte Vedra UMC that attended last year's Summit felt that the speakers and their message were so outstanding that we should bring these messages back to our whole congregation. Please join the Cornerstone Class on Sunday and be inspired by these dynamic speakers.

Intercessory Prayers Needed

Looking for an exciting, rewarding position, laboring in love with other believers? We have just the thing for you! No experience necessary.

For several months, our prayer group has been meeting at the home of Willow St. John (AKA Diane Lee) for an hour each Tuesday morning from 10:00am to 11:00am. Now that we have more room in our new church building, we are ready to expand to cover all who wish to join us in a true blessing.

I can tell you from personal experience that this is the best hour of my week. We pray for prayer concerns from our church and beyond. We pray for our military, our leaders, for missing children, entire continents, and even pets.

One Tuesday morning Ron asked where I was going and I answered, "I'm off to SHOP." He looked scared that I was heading to the mall, until I explained that I meant Sweet Hour Of Prayer (AKA S.H.O.P.)

After the first of the year, we will resume S.H.O.P. at 76 South Roscoe Blvd. We will meet the same day and time in Room 209. Leave your credit cards at home and come "SHOP" with us – it's the best bargain anywhere!

- Bev Schaffield

Financial Status

Building on Faith Recap

Project Cost	\$ 3.8 million
Campaign goal	\$ 1.3 million
Pledged to date (96 pledges)	\$ 1,534,634
Pledges received to date (63%)	\$ 967,671
Non-pledges received to date	\$ 107,941
General budget receipts	\$ 33,332
Interest income	\$ 10,515
Total received to date	\$ 1,119,459

General Fund Recap November 2009

Tithes & Offerings	\$ 43,463
Expenses	\$ 37,366
Mortgage	\$ 2,443
Net Income/(Deficit)	\$ 3,654

Building Fund Recap as of December, 2009

Income	\$ 34,638
Loan Draws	\$ 317,651
Expenditures	\$ 377,865
Balance	\$ 273,820

December 2009 Giving & Attendance

Date	Contemp. Attendance	Traditional Attendance	General Fund Giving	Capital Fund Giving	Other Giving
12/6	104	87	\$ 9,432	\$ 2,480	\$ 1,507
12/13	222	226	\$ 15,127	\$ 4,360	\$ 217
12/20	126	149	\$ 18,540	\$ 20,908	\$ 824
12/24	318	135	\$ 11,811	\$ 1,175	\$ 0
12/27	109	157	\$ 10,367	\$ 2,165	\$ 59

Designated Totals

Building Fund	\$ 283,050
Enhancement Fund	\$ 594
Memorials	\$ 8,780
General Fund	
Needed Weekly 2009	\$ 9,600



Campaign Followup

At 21 months into our 36-month *Building on Faith* capital campaign, we have received nearly **64%** of funds pledged. Well done, church!

What a joy to worship in our new building December 13! There are still items on the punch list that our general contractor E.C. Kenyon is addressing but the building is substantially completed, to the delight of all.

We give thanks for our contractor E.C. Kenyon, also Ronald Scalisi Architects and the subcontractors who worked to make the building the excellent facility that it is. And we give thanks for each member of Ponte Vedra UMC for your prayers and your financial support of this ambitious project.

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



Round Of Applause



- 👍 For all of the families that donated food for Mission Blitz...we could NOT have done this event without you!
- 👍 For the adult volunteers who chaperoned Mission Blitz
- 👍 For the church friends and families that gave of their time to help with mission blitz!! THANK YOU!!!!

Upcoming Events

Busch Gardens Trip Saturday, January 23, 7:00am -11:00pm. Let's get together for a day of fun in Tampa! Cost of the trip will be \$55/person, plus food money for the day. Drivers will be needed.

YOUTH CULTURE 101 Sunday, January 24, 6:00 - 8:00pm. Do you have a teenager? Do you want to understand him/her better? Do you ever wonder just what is up with young people today? Are you interested to know why teens do what they do, and how to better mentor and build relationships with them? If you are a parent of a teen or not, you should come to this event! Child-care and snacks will be provided, but most importantly you will have an evening of insight into the lives, hearts, and minds of today's teens. Evening programming will be by Kelly Minter, Youth Minister and the youth of Ponte Vedra UMC.

Student Leadership Summit February 12 - 14 in Kissimmee Florida. We will join other United Methodist youth groups from across Florida for the weekend to explore how every student can be a leader in their own lives and schools. \$70/person plus food money for the weekend!

Do you want to try a different type of worship experience? In the months of January and February, the youth Sunday School classes will be combining to explore the idea of "experiential worship," and investigate the principles of worship... why do we do what we do and how do we focus on God during worship and not ourselves? Would you like to try this with us? Come to the Youth Room at 11:00am any Sunday during January and February!

A HAPPY
NEW YEAR



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

Praise Choir

Tuesdays 6:30-7:30pm

Traditional Choir

Thursdays 7:00-8:30pm

Children's Corner

Kingdom Kids - Kingdom Kids now has room to grow! We want to expand the program currently being offered to our children. We need your help to make this happen! There will be Kingdom Kids Leader training offered Wednesday January 27 at 5:30pm in the Kingdom Kids classroom. Please RSVP to Lynn Straughan at lynn.straughan@pv-umc.org by January 17. With your help we can increase our children's programs and enrich the lives of many.

Kingdom Kids and the 4 & 5 year old classes meet each Sunday at both the 9:30 and 11:00am services.

C.I.A. (Children In Action) Our CIA kids set out on the road once again to entertain our Ponte Vedra Beach neighbors with their wonderful Christmas Carols. They made stops at the local fire station where they sang and delivered treats to the fireman. From there they went to Vickers Landing where they sang for the residents and delivered treats and handmade cards.

Please join us for CIA we meet Wednesdays from 3:30-5:00pm.

Coming in February... **Movie Night!**
Be watching for more information.



Welcome, Adriana Posada

Adriana Posada joins Kim Knopp (nursery coordinator), Emma Knopp and Jasmine Ley as a regular nursery worker. Adriana is the daughter in law of Daisy Collozos who has served us for many years in the nursery. We're saddened that Daisy will soon be moving away from the greater Jacksonville area but hope to see her on occasion when she's back to visit her son, daughter in law and grandchild.

Traveling Tuesdays

Traveling Tuesdays will reconvene on Tuesday January 5 at the home of Dotty Rashba. Please call her at 273-0527 if you'd like to join the group who is currently continuing their study of Angels. All are welcome. We meet at 7:00 for some social time and then begin study at 7:30 pm.

Inquirer's Class

The Inquirer's Class continues its study of Angels. We are located on the second floor in classroom 209. We meet Sunday mornings at 9:45am and would love to have you join us. We discuss and contemplate the importance of Angels in the Bible and in our lives. All are welcome!

Personal Spiritual Assessment

The personal spiritual assessment below was created for your use by our lay leader Cecily Browning. It's not to be turned in but completed and kept for your own use. What a great way to take stock of the year passed and look forward to the year to come. Thank you for providing this tool, Cecily.

Personal Spiritual Assessment

Do you consider yourself to have a personal relationship with Christ?

Yes

No

I am not sure but want to know more about it.

How would you characterize your spiritual walk?

Exploring Christianity – I believe in God but not sure about my faith in Christ. My faith is not a significant part of my life.

Growing in Christ – I believe in Jesus and am working on what it means to get to know Him

Close to Christ – I feel really close to Christ and depend on Him for daily guidance

Christ-centered – God is all I need in my life. He is enough.

Do you set time aside daily for prayer? _____

How often do you read the Bible? _____



Have you taken a specific spiritual step in the last year that has brought you closer to Christ? If so, what was it? (Examples may be – personal Bible study, joining a small group Bible study, attending a spiritual retreat or seminar).

What area of your life do you think God is calling you to work on now?

How might you accomplish that?

Are you currently serving God in the local church? If not, what area might God want you to serve?

Are you currently serving God beyond the local church? If not, where might God want you to serve?

Do you have unchristian or unchurched friends that you could invite to church? _____
Who? _____

Do you share your faith with others? If not, why not? _____

Do you give financially to the Lord's work on a regular basis? What percentage of your income?

Signed

Date

A Note From Pastor Jeff:

Late one Saturday afternoon my family and I drove to St Augustine. We'd received a gift card to Harry's Seafood last Christmas, and then the Harry's in Jax Beach closed. Our mission: Redeem that card! We were down there by 5:15, located Harry's, then looped the restaurant in search of an elusive parking space. We balked at the \$9 all day parking lot but after the second time around we were ready to capitulate in order to redeem the card. On our third loop I dropped Jill off to check on the wait. 30 minutes! We chose to abort the mission in favor of Plan B: Borillo's Pizza.

This got me to thinking about Mary, Joseph, and no room at the inn. Of course no one in our minivan faced delivering a baby, though I was fearful our kids might have a cow since this was taking so long. Happily they held up pretty well. And Borillo's Pizza is much nicer than a stable.

Then I got to wondering, How often has God looped me, looking for a place to enter my life? As we embark upon a new year, be asking yourself whether you've made room for God, or if God is circling in hopes of finding His place. How sad if God must settle for anything less than Plan A for our lives.

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. - Revelation 3:20, NKJV

– Pastor Jeff



PONTE VEDRA *United Methodist Church*

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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
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