

THE WAVE



VOLUME 9, ISSUE 3

MARCH 2011

Lenten message series

24 Hours That Changed The World

On March 6 Pastor Jeff begins a new message series, **24 Hours That Changed the World**, recounting events from that last day of Jesus' life leading up to his crucifixion. A DVD-based companion study is available through many of our small groups and Sunday School classes. Both study and message series spring from a book with the same title by Adam Hamilton.

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. We will be offering the service at **7:00pm on Wednesday, March 9.**

Beginning March 16...

Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University

Dave Ramsey's **Financial Peace University**, begins **Wednesday, March 16.** Through this 13-week life-changing program learn to achieve your financial goals by eliminating debt, saving for the future, and giving like never before. (See page 3 inside for course outline.) Highly entertaining, with a unique combination of humor, informative financial advice and biblical messages. \$99 per person or couple. Nursery, children and youth activities available. 6:00 – 8:00pm, bring a snack supper if you like. Contact the office (280-5141, susan.bowler@pv-umc.org) to register but **please register right away.** Your course materials will be ordered as soon as we've received your \$99.

Upcoming Messages

Begin 24 Hours That Changed the World message series

March 6 **Defining a People by Grace** (Mark 14:12-25)

March 13 **Anguish in the Garden** (Mark 14:32-52)

March 20 **Condemned by the Righteous, Denied by the Faithful** (Mark 14:53-72)

March 27 **The Pull of the Crowd** (Mark 15:1-15)

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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



Sunday
March 13

Missions Corner

Special Offering for our Cuba Sister Church

Our Cuba sister church is La Sierra Metodista and we are so privileged to have La Sierra pastor **Damián Pacheco Diaz** with us for a few weeks. We've been receiving a **special offering** to send home with Damián for our sister church. If you missed this opportunity and would like to give, please get your gift to the office by Friday, March 4.

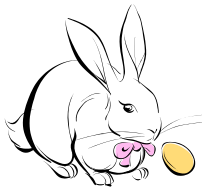


Our Hearts Go Out To...

... the family of **Jean Glover** at Jean's death on February 1. Among Jean's children are daughter Beverly (& Ron) Rapaport. Our prayers are with Beverly and her siblings, other family members and friends.

... the family of **Edison Russell** at Edison's death on February 20. Our prayers are with Marlene, their children, wider family and friends.

Save the Date



Block Party & Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday April 16, 4 - 6pm

Saying Farewell to Diane Wright

We knew that when Tom & Diane Wright retired from their "day jobs" the clock was ticking for Diane to leave her position as our Minister of Music – Traditional. Alas, that day is nearly upon us. Diane's last Sunday serving on staff with PVUMC will be Easter Sunday, April 24. Diane and Tom plan to do some traveling and then relocate to Tennessee. While our Staff Parish Relations Committee is searching for someone to fill this position, we know we can't replace you, Diane. We'll miss you both!

A Word from John Wesley, founder of Methodism

The founder of Methodism, John Wesley, wrote,

[Y]ou will frequently see little fruit of all your labour. But leave that with Him. The success is His. The work only is yours.

Jackson, XIII, 23.

Financial Peace University

Financial Peace University empowers churches to train their congregations to handle God's money according to biblical principles. In each two-hour weekly session, your class will watch an entertaining lesson on DVD and then engage in an active small group discussion. Dave Ramsey teaches your church members in 13 informative lessons:

Week 1: Super Saving Proverbs 6:6–9

Common Sense for Your Dollars and Cents

Week 2: Relating With Money Matthew 6:21

Nerds and Free Spirits Unite!

Week 3: Cash Flow Planning Luke 14:28–30

The Nuts and Bolts of Budgeting

Week 4: Dumping Debt Proverbs 22:7

Breaking the Chains of Debt

Week 5 Credit Sharks In Suits Proverbs 3:27

Understanding Credit Bureaus and Collection Practices

Week 6: Buyer Beware Proverbs 10:22

The Power of Marketing on Your Buying Decisions

Week 7: Clause and Effect Proverbs 27:12

The Role of Insurance in Your Financial Plan

Week 8: That's Not Good Enough! Proverbs 11:1

How to Buy Only Big, Big Bargains

Week 9: Of Mice and Mutual Funds Proverbs 21:5

Understanding Investments

Week 10: From Fruition to Tuition Proverbs 13:22

Planning for Retirement and College

Week 11: Working In Your Strengths 1 Peter 4:10

Careers and Extra Jobs

Week 12: Real Estate and Mortgages Proverbs 24:27

Keeping the American Dream from Becoming a Nightmare

Week 13: The Great Misunderstanding Psalm 24:1

Unleashing the Power of Generous Giving

Small-Group Discussion After the class views the video each week, a volunteer coordinator will circle the chairs and lead an engaging small-group discussion. This is where genuine life-change takes place. Together, the group will walk through Dave's Seven Baby Steps toward Financial Peace. This isn't a time to pry into everyone's private situation; it's a time to sit face-to-face and knee-to-knee with other families as you work *together* toward a common goal.

**Course begins
Wednesday March 16
6:00 - 8:00pm**

Offering the Gift of Radical Hospitality

Here are some ways through which each of us can extend hospitality to those present Sunday mornings. Rev. Dr. Jeff Stiggins, Executive Director of The Center for Congregational Excellence, cites five specific ways to help us offer our guests the gift of radical hospitality. They are

1) The 3 minute rule: suggested by the ReThink Church material, this encourages people to spend the three minutes just before and just after the worship service greeting those they do not know. So often people visit with those they know at church and believe that they have a friendly congregation. Yet when visitors come, their experience too often is that, other than ushers and greeters, no one speaks to them. So the “3 minute rule” reminds people to be intentional about greeting and getting to know someone they don’t know during these two times.

2) The 10 foot rule: also suggested by ReThink Church material, encourages persons to greet anyone they don’t know within 10 feet of them. No one wants the entire congregation converging on them when they visit. Instead, those who are closest to worship guests take responsibility for introducing themselves and engaging them in friendly conversation.

3) It’s all about them: this comes from a conversation I had with someone who moved a year ago and their family church shopped for a season trying to discern the right congregation for them. She said that during some of their visits, when people did speak to them – and they often didn’t – “we felt like fresh meat in a lion’s den.” She said people descended upon them wanting her to teach Sunday School and her husband to be on this or that committee. “We weren’t looking for a job, we were looking for a church family.” She went on to say that at one church a man started telling her all about their financial struggles and did everything but give her a pledge card. “I think people forget that visitors aren’t visiting because they want to fill some position or bail the church out financially.” “It’s all about them,” means that first time visitors should never be treated as the answer to the congregation’s needs. Rather, we need to explore with them how the congregation can be the answer to their needs. So, instead of trying to get our guests to help our church, tell them something you love about the church, try to get to know them a bit, ask what they are looking for in a church home and explore with them how the congregation can assist them in their journey.

4) Help them make connections: This has two parts. As you begin to get to know a guest and learn what they are looking for in a congregation, help them make connections with others who are like them and who can assist them in finding whatever they are searching for. If they have youth, introduce them to another family with youth or with the youth pastor. If they are retired from Michigan, introduce them to someone else who is retired from Michigan. If they are interested in missions, connect them with persons who are



Offering the Gift of Radical Hospitality, Continued

involved in missions in your congregation. You get the point. And the second part of “Help them make connections” involves receiving hand-offs well when people get introduced to you. Help them feel welcomed and make the connections for which they are looking. In other words, don’t just say, “Oh, hi,” and then turn back to your friends and ignore them like they are an interruption. Instead, be intentional about receiving them and helping them make the connections for which they are searching.

5) Remember their names and use them: It’s such a simple thing, but so powerful. I joined Gold’s Gym recently and there are two staff members that remember my name and greet me using it every time I go. I find myself looking for them when I go work out. Just that simple thing – which I’m sure they are trained to do – makes me feel more like I belong when I walk in the door. People are people, whether they are new at the gym or new at the church.

So there you have it. Five strategies for bringing Radical Hospitality into focus:

The 3 minute rule

The 10 foot rule

It’s all about them.

Help them make connections

Remember their names and use them.

– From a November 16, 2010 post to Stiggins’ blog at www.congregationalexcellence.com.

Ponte Vedra United Methodist Women

The Ponte Vedra UMC United Methodist Women invite all women interested in helping us raise money to support our missions, to attend our next meeting on **Saturday, March 19 at 10:00am**. We will be planning our next fundraiser which is our second annual garage and bake sale scheduled for Saturday, April 30. You may donate your no longer needed articles or you may purchase a table to sell your items and keep the proceeds. We will have an interesting presentation by **Sue Morris** who will give a history of the beautiful stained glass in our sanctuary. Our meeting will conclude with a time of fellowship and food.

New Study: Christian Beliefs

What do Christians believe? This six-week Bible study begins Sunday, March 6 following 9:30 *Alive!* worship. Participate in all six sessions or just the topic that interests you. Leader: **Rev. Donna Bowen**. Leaving the sanctuary, turn right; last room on the right. **10:40am**.

March 6: God in the World & in the Word – *Psalm 19*

March 13: Knowing God – *Isaiah 40:9-31*

March 20: Jesus: God with Us – *John 1:1-18*

March 27: The Holy Spirit – *John 14:15-27*

April 3: Our Identity & Dignity – *Genesis 1:24-2:25*

April 10: Our Identity & Depravity – *Genesis 3*

Financial Status

Building on Faith Recap as of February 28, 2011

Project Cost	\$ 3.8 million
Campaign goal	\$ 1.3 million
Pledged to date (97 pledges)	\$ 1,526,434
Pledges received to date (86.3%)	\$ 1,317,929
Non-pledges received to date	\$ 175,557
General budget receipts	\$ 33,332
Interest income	\$ 16,311
Total received to date	\$ 1,543,129

General Fund Recap January 2011

Tithes & Offerings	\$ 51,200
Expenses	\$ 42,607
Parsonage Mortgage	\$ 1,764
Net Income/(Deficit)	\$ 6,829

Building Fund Recap as of February 28, 2011

Income	\$ 9,685
Paid on Principal	\$ 205,000
Expenditures	\$ 0
Balance	\$ 75,719

February 2011 Giving & Attendance

Date	Contemp. Attendance	Traditional Attendance	General Fund Giving	Capital Fund Giving	Other Giving
2/6	137	179	\$ 9,451	\$ 1,555	\$1,922
2/13	170	151	\$13,248	\$ 915	\$1,462
2/20	106	134	\$ 7,604	\$ 940	\$1,043
2/27	139	153	\$ 15,574	\$ 6,275	\$4,756

Designated Totals

Building Fund	\$ 92,136
Memorials	\$ 12,111
Enhancement Fund	\$ 1,295
General Fund	
Needed Weekly 2011	\$ 13,287

Owed on Parsonage: \$163,473 Owed on Church Facility: \$2,370,000



Campaign Followup

At 35 months into our 36-month *Building on Faith* capital campaign, we have received nearly **86%** of funds pledged. Well done, church!

In January our building loan converted to a 19-year permanent mortgage of \$2.37 million with a monthly payment of \$14,915. Last year we paid interest only on our loan (approx \$8,000 per month) from the operating budget; our challenge this year is to grow into the full payment. You will help greatly in this by fulfilling any outstanding pledge to our *Building on Faith* capital campaign which concludes this month. Your giving will help with the principal portion of the payments.

Building on Faith is on track to become an incredibly successful capital campaign in the midst of a very challenging and uncertain economic period. For this we give praise to God and thanks to you who have given and are giving so faithfully. God bless you!

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



Round Of Applause

- 👍 For everyone who made our pink flamingo fundraiser happen! The youth ministry raised \$1200 towards our summer mission trips. Thank you for your support!
- 👍 Our student leaders who attended Dare to MOVE. It was a great weekend full of information and leadership training!
- 👍 Our counselors and their tireless hours they devote to our youth ministry!

Upcoming Events

Confirmation 2011 Sunday, March 6. Beginning at 9:30am we will meet in the youth room for confirmation class. This 14 week course will give students a background on Christianity, help them to understand the fundamentals of God and the Bible, learn about United Methodist history, and what it means to be a “member” of a church family. If you want to sign up contact kelly.minter@pv-umc.org. Confirmation Sunday will be June 12.

GUYS RETREAT! Friday, March 18 - Sunday, March 20. The men of PVUMC youth group will be going camping and playing paintball in Yulee, Florida. We will be spending the weekend discussing what it means to be a man of God in today’s society and learning how to overcome the trials we face. Cost \$40/person. Meet at church at 5:30pm Friday and return by 11:30am Sunday. Register online, on Sunday mornings or evenings, or contact tucker.holland@pv-umc.org.

Girl’s Retreat! Friday, March 18 - Sunday, March 20. We will be going to Lakeland, Florida to participate in Revolve Tour! We will stay in a rental house nearby and return Sunday! We will meet at church 4:30pm Friday and return by 2:30pm Sunday. Cost \$50/person, plus money for 3 meals. Register soon! There are a limited number of spots available. You can register online, on Sunday nights or mornings, or contact kelly.minter@pv-umc.org.

Spring Break Sweet Sleep Project. Our students will be participating in the sweet sleep campaign this year during spring break! We will be receiving pledges and staying up all night to raise money to build beds for children in third world countries! Want to get involved? We are challenging the adult Sunday schools and small groups to raise money also, and whichever group raises the most for this cause will get a prize! The event will be held at the church from Monday, March 28 - Tuesday, March 29. See Kelly or our website for details!





Children's Corner

On A Musical Note



C.I.A. Children In Action

Kindergarten through 5th Grade
Wednesdays 6:00-7:30pm

YCAM

Grades 6-12
Wednesdays 6:00-8:00pm

Praise Choir

Tuesdays 6:30-7:30pm

Traditional Choir - GodSong

Thursdays 7:00-8:30pm

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

We are well into our Heroes of the Bible study in CIA (Children in Action). We have braved the lion's den with Daniel, entered the belly of the whale with Jonah, watched the city of Jericho fall with Joshua and cared for the poor with Dorcas. As a response to our study of Dorcas, the children have participated in a clothing drive to help local children in need.

Who will be the next hero of our study? HINTS:

"Who knows?"

This person is the subject of a major Jewish celebration.

A book of the bible was named after this hero.

CIA meets every Wednesday from 6 – 7:30. All children K-5 are invited to bring their sack supper and join the journey.

Kingdom Kids

Each Sunday in Kingdom Kids, students have an opportunity to bring an offering. This is a chance for parents to talk to their children about tithing and giving to God as a part of worship. In the next several months, we will be using that offering to purchase animals for Heifer International.

Heifer International is an organization that has helped more than 12 million families in more than 125 countries move toward greater self-reliance through the gifts of livestock and agricultural training. Children will have a tangible way to see how their gift is working in God's kingdom. Watch the Kingdom Kids rooms for more information about Heifer International.

Amazing Arithmetic:

One Heifer egg produces one hen that can lay around 400 eggs during her lifetime; half the eggs (200) will be cocks (male) and half, hens (female). If the 200 hens each lay 400 eggs in their lifetime (80,000), and half are given to adults, how many eggs are there to provide hungry children with nutritious protein food?

Answer: 40,000

EASTER EGG HUNT



Jelly Beans, Bunnies and Eggs – Oh, my! Mark your calendar for the PVUMC Annual Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, April 16 from 4 – 6 pm.

Vacation Bible School Will Soon Be Served

Stories, songs, science and sport are all on the menu this summer at the **SHAKE IT UP CAFÉ!** Make your reservations **June 27 – July 1** for VBS at the Ponte Vedra United Methodist Church campus and get prepared to carry out God's recipe as we bring celebrations of the bible to life.

VBS Missions Opportunity

This summer PVUMC has the privilege of hosting a Vacation Bible School at the Cyprian Center for Expressive Arts in the Lincolnville area of St. Augustine. The Cyprian Center is a non-profit organization that endeavors to bring art, music and enrichment to children and adults in St. Augustine and St. Johns County with a special focus on those that may not otherwise have access. In addition to serving the students at the Cyprian Center, we will also serve the children from the Homeless Coalition and the Betty Griffin House. We expect to bring the fun and excitement of Vacation Bible School to about 60 children.

This off-campus VBS will take place **Monday, July 25 through Thursday, July 28**. Please consider volunteering to help make crafts, tell stories, compose snacks, create sets, hold hands, take pictures, pray or contribute in any way that is possible for you and your family during this very special week of learning and mission.

For more information about VBS or any children's programming at PVUMC contact Anne Torgerson at anne.torgerson@pv-umc.org.

Blood Drive A Huge Success!

We had 30 attempts to donate and we collected 27 units of blood. These donations have the potential to help save 81 lives. We are planning our next blood drive in April or May. Watch your Sunday bulletins and the Ponte Vedra UMC Update for announcements.

Next time you see any of the people listed below; please give them a big **THANK YOU** for their participation and for making the blood drive a huge success.

Cooper Agent	Jeff Koch	Rusty Russillo
Andy Andreu	Vance LeClair	Carolyn Schussler
Kristin Boehner	Guenther Mayer	Eleanor Snite
Cecily Browning	John McEvoy	Sadie Snyder
Michael Dahlin	Mike McVann	Sue Stanley
Phil de Roziere	Nancy Mings	Max Stanley
Austen de Roziere	Charlene Morgan	Shelia Warren
Bob Harding	Tom Murta	Janis Wetmore
Ron Hovdestad	Gloria Myers	Collette Wright
Carol Kilpatrick	Sonja Rodgers	Chris Yale

A Note From Pastor Jeff:

My children, ages 9, 6 and 6, love to be surprised. On a recent Saturday Jill and I told them we would all be going on a trip the next day after church. We'd be staying overnight in a hotel since there was no school the next day. We asked if they wanted to know where we were going. No, they decided. "We want it to be a surprise." Most of the time they're like this. "Don't tell us; surprise us!"

When we get to be adults we tend to become wary of surprises. We want to know what's going to happen and when. This is a definite handicap when it comes to the things of God. What are we so afraid of, anyway? Isn't our God the one who said "**I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future**"? (Jeremiah 29:11) I'm thinking it's time we become a kid again, trusting God with the surprises our futures hold. While not every surprise in my life has been pleasant, I've often been surprised at how God brings good out of some pretty lousy circumstances.

Oh yes, the trip. By Sunday afternoon my kids couldn't stand it any more. We were packed and ready to go. Tell us where! Tell us where! Jill invited them to ask us yes/no questions and soon they had their answer. Disney World! And a good time was had by all.

Praying you'll let God surprise you ,
Pastor Jeff

Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them. – Mark 10:15-16



PONTE VEDRA *United Methodist Church*

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CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	Jeff Bennett
Youth Minister	Kelly Minter
Children's Minister	Anne Torgerson
Nursery Coordinator	Kim Knopp
Admin. Assistant	Susan Bowler
Accountant	Jim Larsen
Music Contemporary	Scott Tinsley
Music Traditional	Diane Wright
Custodian	Ron Hovdestad

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