

THE WAVE



VOLUME 10, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2012

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Normal Isn't Working

Normal people are stressed, overwhelmed, and exhausted. Many of their relationships are, at best, strained and, in most cases, just surviving. Even though we live in one of the most prosperous places on earth, normal is still living paycheck to paycheck and never getting ahead. And when it comes to God, the majority believe in him, but the teachings of scripture rarely make it into their everyday lives. Normal isn't working. **Message series begins January 8.**

Alpha Begins Wednesday, January 25

Alpha is an opportunity to explore the meaning of life in a relaxed, friendly setting. Enjoy laughter and learning in a fun and friendly atmosphere where no question about life or God is seen as too simple or too hostile... questions like — Is there a God? Why am I here? Where did I come from? Where am I going? Alpha is for anyone who thinks there may be more to life than meets the eye. *See page 6 for details.*

Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University Begins Sunday, January 29

Through this life-changing program learn to achieve your financial goals by eliminating debt, saving for the future, and giving like never before. Highly entertaining, with a unique combination of humor, informative financial advice and Biblical messages. *See page 5 for details.*

Inside...

Life Journal Reading Plan (a great spiritual discipline for the new year)

Wanted: Communications Person (page 7)

Wanted: Children's Minister (page 7)

Upcoming Messages

January 1 **Holy Moments and Thin Places** (Ecclesiastes 3:1-13)

January 8 **Normal Isn't Working: Time** (Luke 10:38-42)

January 15 **Normal Isn't Working: Money** (1 Timothy 6:17-19)

January 22 **Normal Isn't Working: Relationships** (Genesis 29:1-28)

January 29 **Normal Isn't Working: Values**

OUR MISSION:

Making fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.



PONTE VEDRA
United Methodist
Church

Missions Corner

B.E.A.M.

We're happy to report that through December 27 we've received 71 Publix gift cards totaling \$1,490 in value. These cards will bless many clients of Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry in the months to come. Good going, church!

The Giving Tree remains up through Epiphany Sunday, January 10; there's still time to get a card, charge it up (\$25 max per card, please) and turn it in through the collection plate.

New Opportunity to Feed the Homeless - St Augustine

The **Food Sharing Program of St. Augustine** provides food to hungry and homeless people every night behind the Lightner Museum in downtown St. Augustine. This program provides an opportunity for people of all ages to be involved in a simple hands on mission. Please join me Monday evening, January 30 in helping our less fortunate neighbors. For more information, please email me at debi.russillo@pv-umc.org or call me at (904) 823-9601.

Thank You,
Debi Russillo

Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied. – Luke 6:21

"Change" for Cuba

Don't forget to get rid of that pesky loose change in your pocket every Sunday morning. Coins in each Sunday's collection plate support our Cuba sister church, La Sierra (we accept other donations too!). **Cooper Agent, Loree Reed, and George Reed** will travel to Havana on January 26, taking money, medicine, books (for seminary), a bike seat, and drum parts to La Sierra.

PVUMC Mission Trip to The Florida United Methodist Children's Home

When: March 30 – April 1

Where: FUMCH in Enterprise, Florida

Cost: \$50.00 per person

We have room for 19 women and 19 men from PVUMC on our mission trip. The group will leave the church and head for the children's home at 4:00pm Friday, March 30. Saturday, March 31 will be a work day at the home. On Sunday, April 1 we will worship with those who serve and are served by FUMCH in the morning and head home after church services.

A short informational meeting will be held Sunday, January 15 between worship services at 10:40am in the Future Preschool Room. For more information contact team leader George Garcia (707-2800, 249-3382, george.garcia@pv-umc.org).

Blood Drive, January 29

Don Carson will be available to sign you up after each worship service on **January 15** and **January 22**. Want to sign up now? Go on-line to www.thebloodalliance.com.

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 29**. There is no upper age limit, as long as your doctor says it is okay. Please help. Remember, one donation can save up to three lives. **A photo ID is required to donate.**

Greeting Our Guests

Most Sundays we are blessed with guests at our worship services. A friendly greeting goes a long way in encouraging guests to return. We're praying for our Christmas Eve guests to worship with us again; it will be important for us to welcome them personally. Someone you don't recognize Sunday morning may be a guest. Take a step in their direction with, "**Have I met you before? My name is ...**" Even if they happen to have come every Sunday since we opened our doors, everyone appreciates a warm greeting!

Welcome PVUMC New Members

On November 27 we received new members **Roy & Charlotte Evans** and **Elaine Corley**. On December 11 we received new members **Alan & Laura Lovett** and welcomed their children **Scott, Natalie** and **David**. We are delighted to be serving Christ together with you!

New Member Orientation Offered Sunday, January 22

Thinking about joining PVUMC? Just like to learn more about us? Pastor Jeff would love to have you participate in the next New Member Orientation **Sunday, January 22** from 3 - 5pm. Contact the office (280-5141, susan.bowler@pv-umc.org) and let us know you're coming. Childcare for 5 & under available with advance notice.

Our Hearts Go Out To...

...Jan Knopp at the loss of her husband Jack Knopp, Sr. on December 8. You and your family are in our prayers, Jan.

Heartfelt Thanks...

On behalf of Dod and myself we want to thank our church family for the tremendous outpouring of love and support during my recent surgery and ongoing recovery. We are so thankful for the visits, food, cards, phone calls and especially prayers that we received. Dod and I miss seeing you at church and look forward to returning as soon as I am able.

God bless you!
Colleen and Dod Schroter

Financial Status

General Fund Recap November 2011

Tithes & Offerings	\$ 77,528
Less Expenses	\$ 45,523
November Income/(Deficit)	\$ 32,005
YTD Income/(Deficit)	\$ (35,488)

December 2011 Giving & Attendance

Date	Contemp. Attendance	Traditional Attendance	General Fund Giving	Missions Giving	Designated Giving
12/4	144	225	\$16,693	\$190	\$429
12/11	102	123	\$19,226	\$228	\$2,235
12/18	147	129	\$22,310	\$136	\$1,721
12/24 4:00		183			
12/24 5:30		170			
12/24 7:00		133			
12/25		75	\$34,352	\$0	\$2,631

Designated Totals

Mission Funds	\$1,483
Enhancement Fund	\$1,580
Memorials	\$4,062
Building Fund	\$204,452
General Fund Needed Weekly 2011	\$ 13,287

Owed on Parsonage: \$143,110

Owed on Church Facility: \$2,294,611

Money Matters

Gifts to the Building Fund

Gifts designated **Building Fund** are being held for **future building/property acquisition**. If you'd like to help with the building we already have, please give to the **General Fund**. That's the source of funding for our mortgage payments. (If we fall short in 2012, monies held in reserve from the Building on Faith capital campaign will be used to make up the shortfall on the principal portion of the mortgage payments.)

Offering Envelopes

Please remember to pick up your **offering envelopes** on the table in the back of the sanctuary. If you do not see envelopes assigned to you but would like them for 2012, please sign the clipboard. If you still have 2011 offering envelopes please discard them. Using them could result in your offerings being posted to the wrong account. You can e-mail our accountant Jim Larsen at jim.larsen@pv-umc.org. If you have been receiving envelopes but do not wish to use them, we would like to know that too.

Coming January 29...

Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University

Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University, begins Sunday, January 29. 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. Highly entertaining, with a unique combination of humor, informative financial advice and Biblical messages. \$99 per person or couple. **Sundays, 2:00-4:00pm.** Contact the office (280-5141, susan.bowler@pv-umc.org) to register. Register by January 15 to receive course materials at first session. Leader: **Ralph Snyder** (ralph.snyder@pv-umc.org, 819-0011).

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.

The Alpha Course: Explore the Meaning of Life

What is Alpha?

Alpha is an opportunity to explore the meaning of life in a relaxed, friendly setting. The Alpha course meets weekly for 10 weeks, and includes an amazing one-day getaway. Each session people enjoy sharing food, laughter and learning in a fun and friendly atmosphere where no question about life or God is seen as too simple or too hostile...questions like – Is there a God? Why am I here? Where did I come from? Where am I going?

Alpha is for anyone... anyone who thinks there may be more to life than meets the eye.

People attend from all backgrounds, religions, and viewpoints. They come to investigate questions about the existence of God, the purpose of life, the afterlife, the claims of Jesus and more. Some people want to get beyond religion and find a relationship with God that really changes life. Others come for the close, long-lasting friendships that are built during the Alpha course.

Many guests have never been to church, others may have attended church occasionally but feel they have never really understood the basics of the Christian faith. Everyone is welcome.

The talks each week cover the following topics, acting as a springboard for the small group discussions:

Introduction: Is there more to life than this?

Week 1: Who is Jesus?

Week 2: Why did Jesus die?

Week 3: How can we have faith?

Week 4: Why and how do I pray?

Week 5: Why and how should I read the Bible?

Week 6: How does God guide us?

Week 7: How can I resist evil?

Week 8: Why & how should we tell others?

Week 9: Does God heal today?

Week 10: What about the Church?

Weekend: Who is the Holy Spirit?

Our leader for The Alpha Course: Bill Coggins (bill.coggins@pv-umc.org). For more information on Alpha, see www.alphausa.org.

This 10-week course begins **Wednesday, January 25, 6:00-7:30pm** (bring a snack supper if you like). Nursery (for those who pre-register), children and youth activities available.

A Word from John Wesley, founder of Methodism

Wrote John Wesley:

[I]t is impossible that an idle man can be a good man, sloth being inconsistent with religion.
Works III, 269.

Whether you work for money or not, may the new year find you gainfully employed in God's kingdom work!

Wanted: Communications Person

We're seeking a volunteer PVUMC'er to keep *The Ponte Vedra Leader*, *The Ponte Vedra Recorder* and the *Times-Union Shorelines* in touch with church happenings that will be of interest to the readers of these publications. The Recorder and The Leader are especially good at running photos with captions that we provide them. If you're good with a camera and have a knack for writing (or can do one or the other), please be in touch with Pastor Jeff (jeff.bennett@pv-umc.org).

Our thanks to **Carol Harding** (carol.harding@pv-umc.org) who faithfully served in this role in 2011. (She'll gladly share with you her press contacts and what she's learned along the way.) Carol is leading our Stewardship Team in the new year.

Wanted: Children's Minister

We are greatly saddened that **Anne Torgerson** and her family will soon be moving to Rapid City, South Dakota. We'll miss you Anne, Pete, Hans, Gretchen and Kai! We are seeking a **new children's minister** to begin in February. Please share this ad with anyone with the gifts and experience to join our staff in this capacity:

CHILDREN'S MINISTER-PT needed at Ponte Vedra UMC beginning in February. Lead, plan programming, choose curriculum, coordinate volunteers. In place are Sun morning, Wed evening and four seasonal programs. Avg 15-20 hrs/wk. E-mail or FAX resume. kids@pv-umc.org 904.280.0599.

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 a giving people and we are privileged to serve Christ through serving you.

– Your pastor, staff and contract musicians

Wednesday Evening Study Group to Begin in January

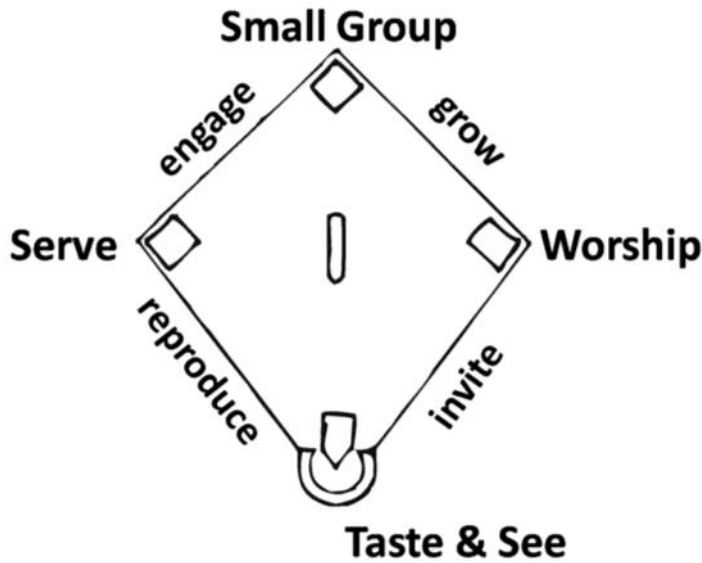
Join a Wednesday night group while your children are in C.I.A.! Bring your dinner or snack, and join us as we study *Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World*. Begins Wednesday, January 11, 6:00pm. Nursery provided. All welcome.

United Methodist Women News

Thank you to all who supported our Christmas Bake Sale, either with donations or purchases. A special thanks to the choir who supported us with their purchases and with the beautiful music during the sale.

Our next meeting will be **Saturday, January 21** at 10:00am in Room 207. Our agenda will include the nomination and election of officers for 2012 and we will be planning our spring garage sale. Our guest speaker's topic is child trafficking. Come join us and bring a friend!

Making Fully Devoted Followers of Jesus Christ



“Making fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.” That’s PVUMC’s mission statement. But how does a person become “a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ?” How does a church make fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ?

This is our strategy at Ponte Vedra United Methodist Church. You might call it *the path of discipleship*. Since it’s patterned after a baseball diamond, you might also call it *running the bases*.

We’ll start from home base. It’s exceedingly difficult to “go and make disciples” without actually being with people. The number one reason that people come to church is because someone invites them. Several of your friends with no pre-

sent connection to a local church will come with you on a Sunday morning if you invite them. But some people find it intimidating to just show up on a Sunday morning, especially if they’ve never done church before.

So from time to time our church has what we call *Taste & See* events. These are events we can invite people to that no one would find threatening. They allow folks to come and get to know us. We’re having fun and they have fun right along with us. Our next big *Taste & See* event will be the March 31 block party and Easter Egg Hunt. If they don’t have a church home, maybe they’ll take a chance on us on a Sunday morning. We invite them to **worship**.

When someone begins coming to worship Sunday mornings, that’s a real good thing. Fully devoted followers of Christ worship. Worship is good but to grow into a fully devoted follower of Christ, you need also to get into the Bible and you need a group to grow with. I read the Bible daily and commend the practice. But I grow so much more when I’m also in a weekly **small group Bible study**. I’m amazed at how often I hear God speaking to me through the people in my small group.

Fully devoted followers don’t just “sit and soak” in worship and Bible studies. To *follow* Jesus implies motion. Jesus is going places and we are called to follow him to those places and **serve** right along with him. While we need people to serve in the church (and thank you very much, those of you who do) we also need to be serving out in the world. Lastly, fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ **reproduce**. Our roles in this vary but fully devoted followers result in more and better disciples of Christ.

People don’t have to run the bases in order. And people who have yet to cross the line of faith can do so at any point in the diamond. But I don’t see how you can become a fully devoted follower without touching all the bases.

Where are you on the baseball diamond? Run to the next base. Help someone else run to the next base. Together we will find ourselves making fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

-- Pastor Jeff



On A Musical Note

C.I.A. Children In Action

Kindergarten - 5th grade
Wednesdays 6:00pm
Rooms 201-203

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

C.I.A. Briefs

Ring in the new year! C.I.A. will be ringing in 2012 with an exciting menu of games, crafts, Bible adventures and hand bells! We begin meeting again on Wednesday, January 11 at 6:00pm. Bring your sack supper and join the New Year fun!

Kingdom Kids Briefs

Kingdom Kids meets each Sunday during the 9:30 and 11:00 worship services following Children's Time. We are in need of teachers. Please stop by the Children's Ministry Fair to find out how you can help!

Children's Ministry Fair

Make plans to stop by the Future Preschool Room on Sunday, January 8 before, between or after both Worship Services to see what is new in Children's Ministry and find out how you can be a part of it!



Round Of Applause

- 👍 For our church family and friends who supported Mission Blitz 2011
- 👍 For our students who participated in Mission Blitz 2011
- 👍 For Chick-fil-a, St Augustine who donated 25 sandwiches for Saturday's lunch!

Upcoming Events

Bowling night! Sunday, January 15. At 8:45pm (after youth group) we will travel to Beach Bowl for 2 hours of bowling. Students can be picked up at Beach Bowl at midnight on Sunday. Don't worry, it's a school holiday on Monday!

MISSION TRIP 2012 DEPOSITS DUE! January 22. The high school will be traveling to Appalachia this summer for their mission trip, and the middle school will be returning to the Carolina Coast. The trips cost \$455 for the Senior high and \$450 for the Middle school. Deposits of \$50 are due to hold your spot!

Busch Gardens Our Annual Busch gardens trip will be Saturday, February 4. Meet at the church at 7:00am. We will return by 2:00am. Students are invited to spend the night at the church, or are free to go home when we return. Cost is \$75/person plus spending money for lunch and dinner. Register (and/or pay) for the trip on our youth group website or on Sundays. Deposit of \$40 is due by January 22.

A Note From Pastor Jeff:

My guess is that you spent a good amount of time thinking about what your children (regardless of age), other family members, and your friends wanted for Christmas. I pray they received with deep gladness the gifts you chose for them.

This month I invite you to think about what these same people *need*. God calls us to be people who hold out God's good news to those around us. What are our family, friends and neighbors hungry for? Some prayerful pondering is in order here. Many people know what they *want* but are much less in tune with what they *need*. (Sometimes that describes me!)

I'd love for you to share with me what you come up with. I'm always casting about for message ideas... And our church is quite open to trying new things that may connect us with our neighbors. Shoot me an email or drop me a note. I'm listening!

Looking forward to new possibilities in the new year,
Pastor Jeff



PONTE VEDRA *United Methodist Church*

76 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 Minister	Anne Torgerson
Nursery Coordinator	Kim Knopp
Admin. Assistant	Susan Bowler
Accountant	Jim Larsen
Music Contemporary	Scott Tinsley
Music Traditional	Elisabeth Callahan
Custodian	Jim Wooton

Staff email:
firstname.lastname@pv-umc.org