

THE WAVE



VOLUME 11, ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2013

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Lenten Message Series A Disciple's Path

During the season of Lent you are invited to take the next step in becoming a dynamic, engaged follower of Jesus Christ. Our message series *A Disciple's Path* begins Sunday, February 10. A **daily workbook** is available in the foyer for a recommended donation of \$10. Begin the daily readings (five per week for six weeks) on Monday, February 4 to be in sync with the Sunday messages. Pastor Jeff used the workbook last summer and plans to work through it again; it is excellent!

Scout Sunday, February 10



Sunday, February 10 is Scout Sunday. **Please wear your uniforms to church that day.** We want to honor you. We are delighted to be the charter organization for Scout Troop 288, Venturing Crew 288 and Cub Pack 291 and the meeting place of Brownie Troop 1445. We're celebrating scouts and their families (regardless of their unit) as we join together in worship on the 10th.

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. Ash Wednesday, like the season of Lent, is never mentioned in the Bible; Christians are free either to observe it or not. We will be offering a traditional Lenten service at **7:00pm on Wednesday, February 13.**

Upcoming Messages

February 3 **Rage Rash: Neutralizing the Acid of Anger** (Rev. Jimmy Jones)

New Message Series *A Disciple's Path*

February 12 **How to Pray**

February 19 **How to Listen to God through the Bible**

February 26 **Being There in Worship and Small Group Community**

OUR MISSION:

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



PONTE VEDRA
United Methodist Church

Missions Corner

Ponte Vedra UMC Mission Trip to The Florida United Methodist Children's Home

PVUMC will be visiting the **Florida Methodist Children's Home** during the weekend of March 8-10. At present we have openings for six men and five women. The cost for the trip is \$50.00 per person (excluding transportation) but includes all meals and housing. We will be driving to Enterprise on Friday afternoon March 8. For more information please call George Garcia at 904-249-3382 or email george.garcia@pv-umc.org.

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"Teaching Moment" by Pastor Jimmy Jones, Teaching Pastor



I answer your questions in this column so feel free to call the office at 280-5141, ask in person, or email me with your Bible questions.

Question: I am interested in taking an international mission trip. And, I would love to know more about the beliefs of the United Methodist Church. Can you help?

Answer: Ponte Vedra UMC has two major international hands on mission efforts. **George and Loree Reed** lead our Cuba trips. If you are interested in going to Cuba this year, email George at george.reed@pv-umc.org. Also, if you'd like to join us for a mission trip to Costa Rica, contact me at jimmy.jones@pv-umc.org or simply call the church office. Our mission trip to Costa Rica will be **August 3-11**. The cost is \$1500 and includes your airfare, bus transportation, housing, meals, and a side trip. I will hold an information session at the church in the Future Preschool Room on **Sunday, February 10, 10:30-11:00am**. To learn more about our Costa Rica experience, visit www.faithfulservantmissions.org.

If you want to know more about the United Methodist Church and our beliefs, browse the church's website at www.umc.org. Also, I will be leading a four week coffee talk beginning Wednesday, February 20th (for four consecutive Wednesdays) on United Methodist beliefs. We will use Bishop Will Willimon's book United Methodist Beliefs and explore together the foundations of Methodism. Interested? Contact me at jimmy.jones@pv-umc.org or call the church office.

A Word from John Wesley, founder of Methodism

Wrote John Wesley:

[R]iches and happiness seldom dwell together. *Works III, 345*

Happy 10th Anniversary, PVUMC!

In the spring of 2001 Ponte Vedra UMC began its life as the South Campus of Beach UMC. On **January 26, 2003** we celebrated our transition to a new church start named Ponte Vedra United Methodist. On **January 27, 2013** we celebrated our **10th anniversary of our launch**. Thank you, Kelly Minter, for producing the five-minute video we enjoyed on the 27th. Did you miss it? Like to see it again? Go to www.tinyurl.com/pvumc10.

February is National Name Tag Month



Do you have a PVUMC name tag? Are you wearing it? If you don't have a name tag or yours has gone missing, please request one by way of the **Welcome Card** on Sunday morning and by the end of the month it will appear on the name tag boards in the foyer. (You can leave it there each week or take it with you; up to you.) We all want to greet you by name so in honor of **National Name Tag Month** (yes, we're making that up), request your name tag Sunday! (Membership not required.)

United Methodist Women

Spring is almost here! It's time to clean out your closets and donate your gently used items to the **United Methodist Women's Annual Garage Sale** to be held on **Saturday, April 6**. The Garage Sale will also include a silent auction and bake sale. Donations for the bake sale and items for the silent auction are appreciated.

The next UMW meeting is **Saturday, March 16** at 10:00am. All women of Ponte Vedra UMC and their guests are welcome to join us to share in our faith and fellowship.

The UMW is planning a trip to the **Alhambra Dinner Theatre** to see Driving Miss Daisy for the Sunday matinee on February 17. If you would like to join us call **Ann Cook** at 285-0579.

Mark Your Calendars!

Variety Show with Silent Auction



See those who sit with you Sunday mornings in a whole new light at the church wide **Variety Show** on **Sunday, April 29** at **6:30pm**. Proceeds to help underwrite the cost of the youth summer mission trips. \$8 per ticket, or your entire family for \$20.

Financial Status

General Fund Recap December 2012

Tithes & Offerings	\$ 92,666
Less Expenses	\$ 44,185
December Income/(Deficit)	\$ 48,482
YTD Income/(Deficit)	\$ 4,910

Designated Totals

Mission Funds	\$9,839
Enhancement Fund	\$1,672
Memorials	\$3,002
Building Fund	\$276,580
General Fund	
Needed Weekly 2013	\$ 14,160

January 2013 Giving & Attendance

Date	9:30 Attendance	11:00 Attendance	General Fund Giving	Missions Giving	Designated Giving
1/6	141	150	\$16,667	\$196	\$1,008
1/13	158	156	\$14,444	\$0	\$2,864
1/20	134	187	\$12,491	\$432	\$150
1/27	153	166	\$11,896	\$275	\$0

Owed on Church Facility: \$2,195,086

Owed on Parsonage: \$117,849

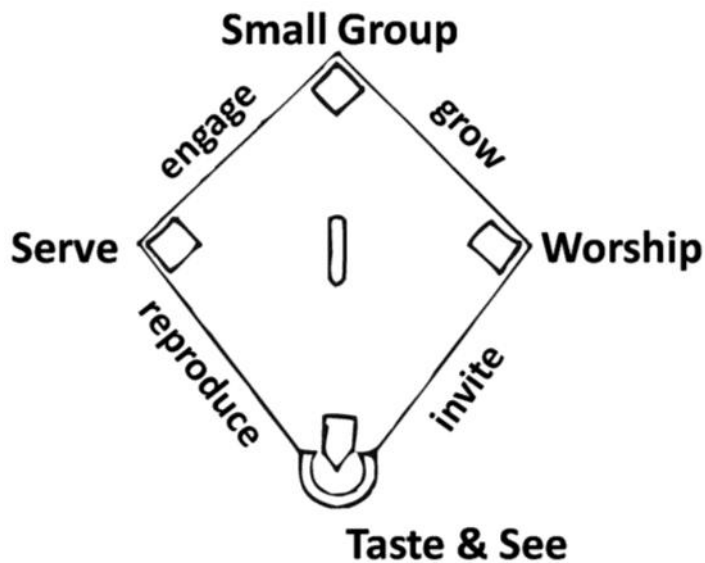
Money Matters

PVUMC Finishes 2012 "In the Black"

Again last fall we were concerned that a shortfall in general giving vs. expenses might require us to dig in to monies held in reserve from the *Building on Faith* capital campaign to cover the principal portion of the mortgage payments. And again, through God's faithfulness and the generosity of many, **we ended 2012 in the black**, to the tune of **\$4,900**. December was a month of exceptional giving. To all who gave during the final month of the year and to all who gave throughout the year, **Thank you and Praise God!**

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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 present connection to a local church will come with you on a Sunday morning if you invite them. But some people find it intimidating to 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 *Taste & See* event will be the Block Party and Easter Egg Hunt on March 30. 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.

Several of you volunteer individually on a regular basis. Some of you I see serving beyond the local church in the hospitals. Some of you I see serving children and youth through scouting. And there’s a bunch of serving I never see but it’s happening. Keep up the good work! We have groups that come together to serve at places like the soup kitchen at Mission House in Jax Beach. Awesome!

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Making Fully Devoted Followers of Jesus Christ... Continued

I'm looking for each of our "grow groups," our small group Bible studies, to **serve** in some way beyond the church. Our youth have a strong track record here... The PB&J sandwiches they take to the homeless each month is a prime example.

I'm challenging each of our small groups to go out and serve once this spring. We have a list of opportunities available, if you need it.

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.

Honestly, people don't have to run the bases in this order. Sometimes a person joins a small group before they ever participate in worship because someone invited them to their small group. It's another way to "taste & see." Sometimes a person will come and serve with your group because that's what connects with them. Awesome! Taste & see, right?

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.

You can become a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ. By God's grace you'll have opportunity to grow through our church. Whether you step up to the plate is up to you.

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.

To His glory,
Pastor Jeff



Suggestions from Pastor Jeff for Making Our Guests Feel Welcome

If you greet someone new, ask them if they've met our pastors yet. If they haven't, please bring them to me or Pastor Jimmy and allow us the privilege of meeting them. If you can't remember their names, that's okay. Jimmy or I will ask them in your presence and then we'll both know. ☺

If someone asks you for directions within the building (restroom, nursery, etc), walk them there yourself or take them to someone who can take them there. I always give high marks to stores whose employees invite me to go with them to the item I want. We can do even better than retail!

Give your pastors space to greet guests on Sunday mornings. Sunday morning is our chief opportunity to do this. Your greeting and handshake are always welcome but if you need a lengthier conversation, we will welcome an email, phone call, or appointment during the week.

– Pastor Jeff



On A Musical Note

Praise Choir

Tuesdays 6:30-7:30pm

C.I.A. Children In Action

Wednesdays 6:00-7:30pm

Traditional Choir

Thursdays 7:00-8:30pm

Children's Corner

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



These are the Books of the Bible! What fun we have had learning and singing the Books of the Bible. Bring a sack dinner and join us for our next Adventure!

Save your Toys! CIA will be selling used toys and other items during our PVUMC Spring Garage Sale on April 6th. All proceeds will go toward a charity that CIA chooses together.

Kingdom Kids

There's nothing that can help you understand your beliefs more than trying to explain them to an inquisitive child. ~ Frank A. Clark

TEACHERS and ASSISTANTS NEEDED! Email jenn.smith@pv-umc.org if you want to learn more about volunteering with the children of Ponte Vedra UMC.



Save The Date!

The annual **Easter Egg Hunt** and **Block Party** is **Saturday, March 30th from 4-6pm**. Bring your friends and neighbors (and appetite) to this fun event.

Joy, excitement, music and good times of **Vacation Bible School** is coming to PVUMC **July 15th – 19th**! Make plans now to be part of the fun!

Want to know what is going on in Children's Ministry at Ponte Vedra United Methodist Church? Sign up today to **receive emails** that will keep you and your family up to date on fun events in Children's Ministry. Go to pv-umc.org and go to the Children Ministry page to find the link. Or you can type the following in your browser:

<http://tinyurl.com/pvkids-email>

Then click "Create New Account" under "I am new". Fill out the information (and make sure you check "Children" from the drop down box under Database Area) and you will be on our email list!



Upcoming Events

Busch Gardens Trip Saturday, February 2, 7:00a.m. We will meet at the church and travel to Tampa for our annual Busch Gardens day trip. We return on Saturday evening, but very late (more like Sunday morning). Students have a choice either to sleep at the church or parents can pick up their kids between 1:00-2:00a.m.

Dare to A.O.P.E. February 15-17. This is a student leadership

gathering in Leesburg, FL. This weekend event costs \$85, a deposit of \$40 due on February 6 reserves your spot!

Gender Retreats March 15-17. On this very special weekend event, we separate our groups by gender and go away for some time together. More details to come, but mark this date on your calendars because you do NOT want to miss it!

Our summer 2013 mission trips have been chosen! The Senior High group will travel to Queens in NYC **June 22-29**, and our Middle School group will go to Topsail Beach in North Carolina **July 21-27**. A non-refundable deposit of \$60 is required to save a spot on the trip, and spaces are limited.

SIGN UP TO PROVIDE DINNERS We need families and church members who are able to help out our youth ministry by providing our weekly dinners. Right now we have many dates in February and March open! More details are available from Kelly. Thanks in advance for your help!



A Note From Pastor Jeff:

Churches cannot celebrate too much. Look at all we have to be grateful for. The God who created us pursuing us with divine love. God the Father offering God the Son that we might be reconciled to God. Giving us a place in the kingdom of God, giving us good and meaningful work in the family business, making us ambassadors of Jesus Christ. A place in God's forever presence. Certainly all of this is party worthy.

I love milestone celebrations. A child's first steps, first tooth, first birthday, first day at school. A 25th, 50th, 60th wedding anniversary. As church together **we're now celebrating the 10th anniversary of our launch** as Ponte Vedra United Methodist Church, a milestone indeed.

As I watched our 10th anniversary video (which you can view at www.tinyurl.com/pvumc10) I was flooded with fond memories of the places we've worshiped and more especially the faces of those with whom we've worshiped and worked side-by-side. Some have moved on to other kingdom work, others to our heavenly home. We've seen little children grow into youth and youth graduate college. We've seen people come to Christ and Christians become fully devoted followers of Christ. We've seen the transformation of the world coming through Christ's faithfulness to us and our faithfulness to Christ. Oh, we have much to celebrate. And yet I sense that the best is yet to come. How wonderful that you and I get to be part of it all.

Party on,
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

Lead Pastor	Jeff Bennett
Teaching Pastor	Jimmy Jones
Youth Minister	Kelly Minter
Children's Minister	Jenn Smith
Nursery Coordinator	Kim Knopp
Admin. Assistant	Susan Bowler
Accountant	Jim Larsen
Music Contemporary	Scott Tinsley
Music Traditional	Elisabeth Crumrine
Custodian	Sheila Epperson

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