

THE WAVE



VOLUME 14, ISSUE 01

JANUARY 2015

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Upcoming Message Series: Revive Us!

A valley of dry bones. God says to Ezekiel, "Mortal, can these bones live?" It does not seem possible. They are dry, and we all know what dry feels like. Dry is when you are finding no career path in your 20s, struggling to get pregnant in your 30s, feeling distant from your spouse in your 40s, losing your job in your 50s, worrying about retirement in your 60s, and suffering the death of your spouse in your 70s. Mortal, can these bones live? "O Lord God," he says, "you know." The prophet is told to deliver the word of God to the dry bones, because this word has the power to create something new, to bring life to the dead. The message series *Revive Us!* begins **January 11.**

The 2014 Christmas Offering

We have received **\$17,526** through the 2014 Christmas Offering. These gifts will update and expand education and ministry programs serving over 400 children, youth and adults in Costa Rica through **Faithful Servant Missions** and, through the Florida United Methodist Children's Home's **Madison Youth Ranch**, serve children of north Florida experiencing abuse and neglect. God's blessing rest on each of you who participated in this "second mile" giving opportunity.

The Giving Tree

We're happy to report that through December 24 we've received **48** grocery store gift cards totaling **\$1,040** in value. These cards will bless many clients of BEAM (Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry) in the months to come. Good going, church! Haven't turned in your card yet? There's still time to get a card, charge it up (\$25 max per card, please) and turn it in through the collection plate.

Upcoming Messages

January 4 **From Rags to Riches** (John 1:14-18, Luke 19:1-10)

January 11 **Revive Us!** (Ezekiel 37:1-14)

January 18 **Revive Us! Prayer** (Exodus 32:1-14)

January 25 **Revive Us! Fasting** (Matthew 9:14-15)

February 1 **Revive Us! Study** (Psalm 119:9-16)

OUR MISSION:

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



PONTE VEDRA
United Methodist
Church

Missions Corner



Last Call for Cuba

George & Loree Reed will be leading a Jacksonville area group to **Cuba** on **January 15**. If you have gently used men's shirts, cell phones, medicines, laptops, or vitamins which you would like to donate to La Sierra, our sister church, please contact George or Loree, george.reed@pv-umc.org or loree.reed@pv-umc.org. Another way to help is drop your "Change for Cuba" into the weekly collection plate. **Pastor Bianco, Pastora Annia**, and their entire congregation appreciate all that we do. Let us know if YOU are ready to visit Cuba.

Thank You, PVUMC!

Many thanks to our church family for your generosity to The Florida United Methodist Children's Home. A total of **\$5,041** was given during 2014, not including the special Christmas offering for the Madison Youth Ranch. Thank you! -- George Garcia

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 pastors, staff and musicians

A Word from John Wesley, founder of Methodism

John Wesley's "Covenant Prayer" is a prayer used for the renewal of the believer's Covenant with God. It is often recited in special worship services, but is also a wonderful expression for individuals who want to affirm their commitment to God.

I am no longer my own, but thine.

Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.

Put me to doing, put me to suffering.

Let me be employed for thee or laid aside for thee,
exalted for thee or brought low for thee.

Let me be full, let me be empty.

Let me have all things, let me have nothing.

I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal.

And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
thou art mine, and I am thine.

So be it.

And the covenant which I have made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven.

Amen.

– as used in the Book of Offices of the British Methodist Church, 1936

2015 Altar Flower & Snack Calendars

The new **2015 altar flower** and **snack calendars** are posted on the bulletin board in the hallway outside the infant nursery. Sign up and reserve the Sundays that have special meaning for you. The price of altar flowers is \$45. Please place your check in the offering plate and mark them "altar flowers." Sunday morning snacks are available in the foyer from 10:30-11:00am and may be home made or purchased. Please mark both calendars using the pencils provided.

Ponte Vedra UMC Blood Drive, January 25

The next PVUMC blood drive is **Sunday, January 25** in the church parking lot. Appointments are available every 15 minutes from 9:00am to 12:30pm. Beat the crowds by signing up online and get the best time for your schedule. Go to www.igiveblood.com click on Find a Blood Drive, fill in the zip code 32082, check "Include Mobile Drives" type in 1/25/2015 as the start/end date and hit "search." Anyone in good health, who is 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 25. Remember, one donation can save up to three lives. Contact **Eleanor Snite** at nflagal@aol.com if you have any questions.

Financial Status

General Fund Recap November 2014

Tithes & Offerings	\$ 84,258
Less Expenses	\$ 64,454
November Income/(Deficit)	\$ 19,804
YTD Income/(Deficit)	(\$31,311)

Designated Totals

Mission Funds	\$25,013
Enhancement Fund	\$1,673
Memorials	\$1,314
Building Fund	\$220,224
Capital Reserves	\$21,997
General Fund	Needed Weekly 2014
	\$ 15,518

December 2014 Giving & Attendance

Date	9:30 Attendance	11:00 Attendance	General Fund Giving	Missions Giving	Designated Giving
12/7	126	149	\$28,567	\$1,107	\$6,775
Connections	28				
12/14	195	187	\$26,670	\$3,284	\$2,140
Connections	14				
12/21	118	170	\$16,910	\$4,159	\$3,970
12/24		610	\$ 8,314	\$10,383	\$0
12/28	82	106	\$12,257	\$1,435	\$0

Owed on Church Facility: \$1,998,284

Owed on Parsonage: \$64,451

Cut along dotted line

PLEDGE CARD 2015



In response to God's love and as a concrete expression of my faith in and commitment to Christ and his church, I/we plan to give \$ _____ per _____ (week/month/year).

Prayerfully consider computing these numbers. Reporting them is optional.

This pledge represents _____% of my income*.
Giving to God's work beyond PVUMC will represent another _____% of my income*.

"Where your treasure is, your heart will be also." Matt. 6:21

Name (printed) _____ Phone _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Thank you for returning this card by mail or in Sunday worship. Your commitment may be revised or canceled at any time. If you have a question, please contact the church office at 280-5141.

Ponte Vedra United Methodist Church
76 S. Roscoe Blvd.
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082

Money Matters

Made a Goal for Giving in 2015?

To accomplish important things over time we set goals. Have you set a goal for giving in the new year? Making a pledge to your church will help you keep yourself accountable in the financial stewardship aspect of being a follower of Jesus Christ. It also helps your church in setting its budget for the year now upon us. Cut the card from this newsletter and place it in the Sunday offering or mail it to the church. Or, for the first time ever, **make your commitment online** at pv-umc.org/pledge. May God bless you in your faithfulness!

Online Giving Now Available

You may now give online using **bank draft, debit, or credit card**. You may give on a one-time basis, or set up a recurring gift schedule. To avoid having the church pay debit/credit card merchant fees (2.75% - 3.50% of your gift) consider using the **free bill payer feature** available on most bank accounts. See pv-umc.org/give for details (with links) on these and other ways to give.



Ready to go directly to the online giving page? Scan the QR code with your smartphone.

PVUMC Organizational Structure 2015

The e-mail address of each leader and staff member is firstname.lastname@pv-umc.org

The **Church Council** provides for planning and implementing a program of nurture, outreach, witness, and resources in the local church.

George Reed '15 (Chair)
Charles Lovings (Lay Leader) '17
Barry Durden (SPRC chair) '15
Alan Lovett (Finance chair) '15
Andy Andreu (Trustees chair) '15
Ann Cook '16 (Council on Ministries Chair)
Jo Miller (UMW rep) '15
Ian Keller (youth min rep) '15
Tucker Holland (young adult rep/ Lay Member to annual conference) '15
Sherrill Brown (Treasurer) '15
Jeff Bennett (Pastor)

The **Committee on Finance** provides financial direction, an annual funding program, program budget, and financial reports.

Alan Lovett (Chair) '15
Barry Durden (SPRC Rep) '15
Ann Cook (COM Rep) '16
Charles Lovings (Lay Leader) '17
Carolyn Skordas (Trustees Rep)
Jeff Bennett (Pastor)
Sherrill Brown (Treasurer) '15
Sandy Ostroski (Fin Sec'y) '15
Lanny Benson '15

Continued on next page...

PVUMC Organizational Structure continued from page 5...

The **Staff Parish Relations Committee** guides, teaches, monitors, attends to conflict and organizes celebration of ministry of pastor, staff.

Barry Durden (Chair) '15

Ken Kehoe '17

Mary Ann Brandt '15

Bob Harding '17

Charles Lovings '17

Jeff Timm '16

June Koch '16

The **Council on Ministries** enables and encourages various ministries to work in concert to fulfill the mission of the church.

Ann Cook (COM Chair) '16

Charles Lovings (Lay Leader) '17

TBD (Hospitality)

Kelly Minter (Youth)

Dotty Rashba (Small Groups)

Jenn Smith (Children)

George Reed (Missions > 50 mi)

Sharon Kehoe (Missions < 50 mi)

George Garcia (Children's Home)

Dixie Thalmueller, Sue Morris

(Shepherding)

Jo Miller (UMW)

Mary Moyes (Prayer)

David Moenning (Teaching Pastor)

Jeff Bennett (Lead Pastor)

The **Board of Trustees** keeps an inventory of property, maintains equipment and facilities and plans future capital needs.

Andy Andreu '15 (Chair)

Bobbie League '17

Neal Price '17

Chris Chaney '15

Tom Murta '15

Ann Cook (COM Chair) '16

Brian Anderson '16

John Noble '16

Bob Spooner '16

The **Committee on Nominations & Leadership Development** selects and recruits people with appropriate gifts to lead the church.

Jeff Bennett (Pastor, Chair)

Charles Lovings (Lay Leader) '17

<open> '17

Phyllis Monie '15

Sue Morris '15

Carolyn Skordas '16

Catherine Timm '16

The **Permanent Endowment Fund Committee** administers the church's Permanent Endowment Fund.

Bob Spooner '15 (chair)

Lanny Benson '17

Regis Franskousky '16

<open> (Stewardship Rep)

Alan Lovett (Finance Rep)

Carolyn Skordas (Trustees Rep)

David Moenning (assistant pastor/non-voting)

Jim Larsen (church administrator)

Sowing Seeds for Tweens and Teens

Our Sunday morning 10:45am parent's study group titled Sowing Seeds for Tweens and Teens will begin a new study entitled **Running the Rapids, Guiding Teenagers Through the Turbulent Waters of Adolescence** by Kevin Leman. All parents of middle school and high school students are welcome to join us starting Sunday, January 11 at 10:45am upstairs in room 209. Contact Tena Schlingmann tena.schlingmann@pv-umc.org the class leader with questions.

The six lessons included are:

1. Know the River: What's so scary about Adolescence anyway?
2. Know the Raft: Home is where you transfer the values that teenagers need to build a positive life.
3. Know the Riders: What is acceptable and unacceptable teenage behavior and why?
4. Know the Risks: Tough Questions that deserve straight answers
5. Know the Relationships: Practical Guidelines for surviving the trip together.
6. Know the reality: You don't have to navigate the river of adolescence alone unless you choose to.

Coming Soon... The God We Can Know

Our spring church-wide study this year follows the recently published book *The God We Can Know* by Rob Fuquay. This 7-week worship and study series will help us all find and form an answer to the most essential question in the Christian faith, the question Jesus asked of his disciples, **“Who do you say I am?”** Jesus’ “I am” statements grab our imagination by revealing more about his purpose, shape our own Christian identity and connect us to the God of Moses, the Great *I Am*. Images of bread, light, shepherd, vine, and more give us ways to experience Jesus anew and to discover a God who is close and wants to be known. The message series will begin **Sunday, February 15**, with books available and small group sign up beginning this month. (An excellent weekly video recorded mostly in Israel accompanies the small group studies.)

New Member Orientation

Thinking about joining PVUMC? Just like to learn more about the church? Pastor Jeff would love to have you participate in the next **New Member Orientation** on **Wednesday, January 28** from 6 – 7:30pm. Care and activities available for all ages of children and youth via nursery (by request), C.I.A. and YCAM. Bring a snack supper if you like. Contact the office (280-5141, susan.bowler@pv-umc.org) and let us know you're coming!

Like us on Facebook; Follow us on Twitter!



@pv_umc



facebook.com/PonteVedraUMC



On A Musical Note

Praise Choir

Tuesdays 6:30-7:30pm

Traditional Choir

Thursdays 7:00-8:30pm

Children's Corner

C.I.A. (Children In Action)

C.I.A. (Children in Action) starts back on January 7 at 6:00pm upstairs in rooms 201 and 203. Bring a sack dinner and come join us in celebrating the New Year!

Kingdom Kids

January in Kingdom Kids we will travel around different stations learning about rocks, shepherds and more! Come join us on Sundays as we cook, create, make, and act out our Bible lesson for January!

Springtime By The Sea!

A family celebration weekend at Epworth by the Sea.

For the first time we are offering families a chance to celebrate being apart of God's family together. This weekend retreat will be held at Epworth by the Sea in beautiful St. Simon's Island, Georgia. The cost for a family of 4 is \$410 for two nights, 6 meals and all activities (and bonfire!). **Rev. Donna Bowan** will lead us in spiritual lessons. There are options for staying one night. Please contact **Jenn Smith**, jenn.smith@pv-umc.org if you would like more information. Deposit for the weekend is needed by January 9th. Scholarship opportunities are available.

**If you cannot make this retreat but would like this style retreat or different style offered, please let Jenn Smith know your thoughts. We are excited about this and other future retreat offerings.

Be An Acolyte

Do you have a child interested in being an acolyte? Contact **Jenn Smith** for more information and training. Want to be an Acolyte Leader? Great! Contact Jenn Smith.

Stuffed Animals Wanted

We will be accepting new stuffed animals (not too big) to pack in our blessings in a backpack in February.

December Thank You's

- Thank you to everyone who made the Advent Festival a joyous occasion for all!
- Thank you to everyone who donated books and to the volunteers that helped wrap the books to give to our blessings in a backpack families. We wrapped over 110 sets of books!
- Thank you to our C.I.A. children for doing an amazing job during our *Images of Adoration* cantata. And, to Lisa and Mindy for working backstage and Jill for taking pictures.
- Thank you to Jill, Laura, Mindy and Jen for driving C.I.A. to Vicar's Landing for caroling. And thank you C.I.A. for bringing Christmas joy to the residents there – with your beautiful carols.



Round Of Applause

- 👍 For our host families opening their homes and kitchens to us for our first annual progressive Christmas party! Thank you to the **Bemet, Brown, Lewis, and Beane** families!
- 👍 To our drivers **Rene Reimer** and Jill Bennett, and to **Lauren Senecal** who organized our event AND drove!
- 👍 For all of our 30+ church friends and family that took part in Mission Blitz 2014!

Upcoming Events:

Sign up to Provide Sunday Night Dinners! A huge thank you to everyone who has signed up to provide dinners this spring and summer. We are currently signing up dinner providers for February and beyond. This is a great way to support our youth ministry! Check out this link tinyurl.com/qa2ypnr to sign up or talk to Kelly!

Nerf War January 4. Come join in our annual “welcome back” party on Sunday, January 4. During regular youth group time we will be holding our Nerf war. If you have a Nerf gun, you are encouraged to bring it, and ammo. If you need a gun or ammo, you may rent some from the youth ministry.

Friends Lock-out January 30-31. We will be holding an all-nighter, traveling around the Jacksonville Beach and Ponte Vedra Beach areas to different (mystery) locations! Price TBA. Drivers will be needed (sign up times will be in shifts).

Student Leadership Retreat February 13-15. We will travel to Leesburg to participate in an annual student leadership event. The cost of the event is \$95 for the weekend. Deposits of \$45 will be due January 26 and are required to hold your spot.

United Methodist Women News

We begin this new year with a **prayer breakfast** on **Saturday, January 10** at **9:30am** upstairs in room 207. This will be a time to offer up our prayers in thanksgiving, seeking His direction and asking for guidance as we plan for the year ahead. We invite and encourage all women to attend. A nursery is available but **reservations for the nursery** are required and due by Wednesday, January 7 to jo.miller@pv-umc.org.

Our year end bake sale was very successful. All the proceeds will support missions. **Note cards** are still available in the church office or through the UMW. They feature a picture of our church painted by **Vivian Bolling**. They are packaged 8 cards for \$10. Thank you for your continued support for missions. Happy new year!

A Note From Pastor Jeff:

Here we are, on the threshold of a new year. Do you make new year's resolutions? While not against the practice, I set goals, begin new habits and drop old habits throughout the year; I'm not a big new year's resolutions guy.

I do spend some time reflecting on the past year. There are all sorts of things to look back on: good times and hard times, achievements and failures, things we've learned along the way and things we're still puzzling over.

Looking back I ask, **Where have I seen God?** Looking forward I ask, **Where do I anticipate seeing God?** In November I began praying for revival in our church and beyond. I don't know what that will look like, though one of the marks most certainly will be a radically increased hunger for God. I do know that I am eager to be a full participant in that revival and to that end I am seriously and intentionally increasing the amount of time I spend studying the Bible, praying and, for the first time in a long time, fasting. I can't bring revival; only God can do that. But I can do what I can to ready myself for it. And so I shall.

How long will revival be in coming? I have no way of knowing. But I'm in this journey with Christ for the long haul, so I pray and work and wait. Join me in this new year?

Certain that the best is yet to come,
Pastor Jeff



PONTE VEDRA *United Methodist Church*

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

Phone: 904-280-5141
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CHURCH STAFF

Lead Pastor	Jeff Bennett
Teaching Pastor	David Moening
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	Jim McDonald

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