

THE WAVE



VOLUME 14, ISSUE 02

FEBRUARY 2015

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Missions Corner | 2 |
| Financial Page | 4 |
| Children's Corner | 8 |
| H2O News | 9 |

Beginning February 15: 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 begins Sunday, February 15. **Books and small group sign up sheets** are available in the foyer. (An excellent weekly video recorded mostly in Israel accompanies the small group studies.)

Double Down on Debt

PVUMC received a large matching gift in December to be used to reduce the church’s mortgage debt. This gift of \$100,000 fully matched would yield \$200,000 to be paid against our debt of \$2.1 million. Meeting this goal will satisfy the \$64,000 parsonage mortgage and, by applying the monthly parsonage payment to the church facility debt, reduce the time needed to pay off the sanctuary building from more than 14 years to less than 11. This is a tremendous opportunity to free the church of the future for increased mission and ministry. Designate your gift “**Debt Reduction.**” (This is a listed option in our online giving service. See pv-umc.org/give for details on online giving.) This opportunity to *Double Down on Debt* concludes **March 31.**

Connections Resumes... See page 3 for details

Upcoming Messages

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

February 8 **Revive Us! Service** (Matthew 20:20-28)

– Church-Wide Study series, The God We Can Know –

February 15 **Knowing the Great “I Am”** (Exodus 3:1-14)

February 22 **“I Am the Bread of Life”: Knowing God’s Satisfaction** (John 6:27-59)

March 1 **“I Am the Light of the World”: Knowing God’s Guidance** (John 7:2,14; 8:12)

OUR MISSION:

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



PONTE VEDRA
United Methodist Church

Missions Corner

News from Cuba



Pastor Bianco and Annia were delighted to receive our gifts to La Sierra. The beautiful kids' dresses created by our Women's Bible Study group were a huge blessing. The girls (and their families) were delighted. La Sierra continues to grow and bring new people to Christ. They pray for us continuously. On our last night there, they held a special "goodbye" service; each person received a small gift from PVUMC (bath soap and clothes detergent). Thanks to all for your continued support for "Change for Cuba." We make a difference.

Pastor Damian and Samira are doing very well with their new church in Matanzas, and send their love to all at PVUMC. We would like to send others from our congregation to La Sierra this year. If you are ready to go (or think that you might be), please be in touch.

-- George Reed (george.reed@pv-umc.org)

Imagine No Malaria

**IMAGINE
NO
MALARIA**



Our Faith In Action.

The people of The United Methodist Church

Malaria, caused by the bite of a mosquito, is a preventable and treatable illness, and yet a child dies every minute from this disease. Since 2006, the United Methodist Church has shown the world that we put our faith in action by fighting to end the suffering malaria causes. Through the distribution of mosquito nets, and a focus on new treatments, education and communication, the **Imagine No Malaria** campaign has resulted in major advancements against malaria. We are the most powerful weapon against a disease that constitutes a global crisis.

2015 Honduras Medical Mission Trip

Several members of our congregation, led by **Carolyn Schussler**, will be heading to the Healing Hands Global Mission Hospital in Honduras February 14 - 21 to share the message of Christ while assisting in the provision of medical, dental and educational services. Our prayers will certainly be with them as they serve in this jungle hospital community.

A Word from John Wesley, founder of Methodism

If you cannot relieve, do not grieve, the poor. Give them soft words, if nothing else.

– Works XX, 176.

Sweaters and Jackets for School Kids

There are many elementary school aged children that are in desperate need of warm sweaters and jackets. If you have any gently used children's sweaters, sweatshirts or jackets, sizes 5-12, please leave them in the Children's Clothing Donation Bin in the future pre-school room or contact **Sharon Kehoe** at sharon.kehoe@pv-umc.org.



Connections Resumes February 8, 6:30pm

The new kind of worship opportunity we call *Connections* is back **Sunday evenings** beginning February 8 at **6:30pm**. *Connections* is geared especially to youth and older elementary students, their parents and other adults who love them. We are praying that this interactive worship will engage every generation. You are invited!

Ash Wednesday, February 18



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 offer a traditional Lenten service at **7:00pm on Wednesday, February 18**. Pastor Jeff will bring the message **Taking Inventory**; his text will be **Joel 2:1-2, 12-17**.



Have You Joined a Small Group Yet?

The **God We Can Know** church wide study will begin Sunday, February 15. You may purchase your book (\$8) and sign up for the small group of your choice on the table in the foyer. Don't see a time that fits your schedule? Start a small group of your own! Contact dotty.rashba@pv-umc.org or david.moenning@pv-umc.org for more information and they will help you get your group started. (This book is also available for e-readers thru Amazon.com.)

Grab a book, a friend, then join a group and get in on the excitement of experiencing an **entire church** seeking to *Know God* better!

Financial Status

General Fund Recap December 2014

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| Tithes & Offerings | \$ 99,551 |
| Less Expenses | \$ 58,574 |
| December Income/(Deficit) | \$ 40,977 |
| YTD Income/(Deficit) | \$ 9,717 |

January 2015 Giving & Attendance

| Date | 9:30 Attendance | 11:00 Attendance | General Fund Giving | Missions Giving | Designated Giving |
|------|-----------------|------------------|---------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1/4 | 107 | 166 | \$16,888 | \$184 | \$1,928 |
| 1/11 | 125 | 161 | \$10,602 | \$62 | \$7,909 |
| 1/18 | 110 | 177 | \$15,745 | \$362 | \$7,587 |
| 1/25 | 116 | 169 | \$10,050 | \$55 | \$5,790 |

Designated Totals

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|
| Mission Funds | \$4,378 |
| Enhancement Fund | \$1,673 |
| Memorials | \$1,514 |
| Building Fund | \$221,078 |
| Capital Reserves | \$22,080 |
| General Fund Needed Weekly 2015 | \$ 16,085 |

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

Owed on Parsonage: \$64,451

Money Matters

PVUMC Finishes 2014 "In the Black"

Through God's faithfulness and the generosity of many, **we ended 2014 in the black**, to the tune of **\$9,700**. December was a month of exceptional giving. We received well over \$17,000 in our Christmas Offering, all of which went toward ministry partner Faithful Servant Missions' work in Costa Rica and the Florida United Methodist Children's Home Madison Youth Ranch. To all who gave during the final month of the year and to all who gave throughout the year, **Thank you and Praise God!**

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 to the online giving page? Scan this QR code with your smartphone:

Scout Sunday, February 8



Sunday, February 8 is Scout Sunday. To the children, youth and adults of our congregation who are involved in Scouting: **please wear your uniforms to church that day.** We want to honor you. We're delighted to be the charter organization for Scout Troop 288, Venture Crew 288 and Cub Pack 291. What's more, several girls and leaders of Girl Scout troops are a part of our church, as are Scouts and Cub Scouts in other units. We look forward to celebrating all scouts and their families as they join us in worship on the 8th!

Serving Homeless Families through Family Promise

Family Promise of Jacksonville (<http://www.familypromisejax.org>) is a non-profit, interfaith hospitality network providing temporary assistance, hospitality and case management for families with children experiencing homelessness.

Family Promise's economical, individualized plans help families take the necessary steps toward lasting independence. Each family receives the resources necessary to maintain a healthy life including **overnight accommodations at a local congregation**, three meals a day, access to shower and laundry facilities and transportation to school or work. Additionally Family Promise aims to get every family back on their feet as soon as possible through intensive case management, social support and linkage with applicable social and educational services. This innovative model of care operates at 1/3 the cost of a traditional shelter.

Our church's opportunity to serve would come through hosting 2 - 3 families for 7 consecutive nights, likely three times per year. Families would enjoy a meal prepared by us and sleep in our upstairs classrooms. A host individual or couple would spend the night in the building also. (Folding beds are provided by Family Promise.) Transportation to/from the church is provided by Family Promise, as is breakfast and lunch.

Intrigued? Family Promise Director **Mark Landschoot** is providing us an **information session** on **Thursday, February 19** from **4 to 5pm**. Please come and learn about this incredible opportunity we have to serve.



The Flamingos have escaped! Have you purchased your flamingo insurance?

Mark Your Calendars! Variety Show with Silent Auction, April 12



See those who sit with you Sunday mornings in a whole new light at the church wide **Variety Show on Sunday, April 12 at 6:30pm** with Silent Auction beginning at 6:00. Proceeds to help underwrite the cost of the youth summer mission trips. \$8 per ticket, or your entire family for \$20. (Rumor has it that **Pastor Elvis** will be making an appearance; please come anyway.)

Suggestions 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 Dave and allow us the privilege of meeting them. If you can't remember their name, that's okay. David 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. Sunday morning is our chief opportunity to do this. A greeting and a handshake are always welcome but if you need a lengthier conversation, we will welcome an email, phone call, or appointment during the week. Thanks!

– Pastor Jeff

Altar Flowers and Sunday Morning Snacks



Flowers at the altar on Sunday morning is a longstanding tradition at PVUMC. They are not only beautiful to look at, they have special meaning each week to someone in our church family. The flowers may have been given in loving memory of a family member or in celebration of a wedding anniversary or birthday. Have you considered giving flowers for the altar? There are still many Sundays available. Please stop by and choose the date that has special meaning for you. The flowers are \$45 and you may drop your check marked altar flowers, in the offering plate. The calendar is located on the wall next to the nursery.

Sunday morning snack time is enjoyed by everyone. If you would like to provide snacks, please sign the calendar on the wall next to the nursery. To make it easier for volunteers, we are serving the snacks from 10:30 to 11:00am, between the two services. The coffee service still begins before the 9:30 *Alive!* service. You can always sign up your small group, as a family or provide them yourself. Thanks to all who have been participating.

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.)

An unusual Gift

PVUMC member **Brian Anderson** applied for a grant from his employer (Staples) for the Florida United Methodist Children's Home, a ministry near and dear to his heart. Staples said yes and **\$3,500** is now winging its way to the Children's Home. **Well done, Brian, and well done Staples!** Does your employer have a program like this? Do you have a favorite non-profit that might be a good match? Multiply the good you do!

United Methodist Women News

Our January prayer breakfast was very inspirational. **Jennie Dorsey** presided over the service. We were so pleased to have two sets of three generations present. Two grandmothers, two daughters, one grandson and one granddaughter.

Our year end mission outreach totaling **\$4,345** was distributed among seventeen groups locally, nationally and internationally. Thank you, once again for your support of the UMW.

The **sanctuary kneeler** project continues being stitched. The colors are so beautiful. This is a slow, tedious process and most certainly a labor of love.

The **North East District Women's Retreat**, S.E.E. is **March 6 - 8** at Epworth by the Sea, St. Simon's Island, Georgia. Information and registration forms are available via e-mail at jo.miller@pv-umc.org. The due date is February 13.

Our next **UMW meeting** is **Saturday, March 21** at 10:00am in Room 207.

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) is learning about LOVE! God's love, family love, friends love and love for each other. Bring a sack dinner and join us on Wednesdays from 6:00 – 7:30pm.

C.I.A. Plays



Every Wednesday from 5:40- 6:00pm. Children participating will be playing two bell songs on February 8, during both services. Thank you, Mr. Scott, for leading us!

Kingdom Kids

February in Kingdom Kids we will travel around different stations learning about queens and cousins! Come join us on Sundays as we cook, create, make, and act out our Bible lessons on Queen Esther, Jesus and John the Baptist!

Stuffed Animals Wanted



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

Vacation Bible School

Monday, June 22nd through Friday, June 26th



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 March and beyond. This is a great way to support our youth ministry! Check out this link tinyurl.com/qa2ypnr to sign up or see Kelly Minter at church.

Connections is back! Beginning February 8, we are back on Sunday evenings for *Connections* worship. This is not just a youth ministry worship service, but a service for people of all ages. Come to the sanctuary Sunday nights at 6:30pm and be ready to interact with the idea of worship in a new and exciting way!

Student Leadership Retreat February 13-15. We will travel to Leesburg, Florida to participate in this annual student leadership event. The cost of the event is \$95 for the weekend.

Pink Flamingo Fundraiser February 28. This is our first official fundraiser for our summer 2015 mission trips. Attendance is mandatory for any student attending the mission trips and wishing to earn credit towards their mission trip accounts. We will be meeting at the church at 8:30am and be finished by 4:00pm. Please bring a brown bag lunch. We need parents to drive, so if you are available please contact **Renee Reimer**, raslreimer@yahoo.com or **Mindy Waters**, 703-554-5123.



A Note From Pastor Jeff.

I love a good opportunity and February is loaded with them. In this edition of *The Wave* you'll read about the incredible matching gift opportunity to reduce the mortgage on the buildings we own through **Double Down on Debt**. We're offering an excellent spring study **The God We Can Know** through many of our Bible study small groups (including three new groups!). There's the Feb 8 **Scout Sunday** when we get to welcome neighbors who participate in scouting here but may not have a church home.

Then there's the opportunity to sleep homeless families with children in our building in partnership with **Family Promise**. (We'll explore this on Thursday the 19th; see page 5.) Whether or not we take advantage of this opportunity will depend solely on whether we're willing to offer ourselves personally in hospitality to the poor. I'm praying hard that we will. It will serve them and bless us to put names and faces to those who are homeless. I love the idea of sharing with those who need a place to sleep the wonderful building with which God blesses us.

Finally, at 6:30pm Sundays there's **Connections**, beginning **February 8**. Every season is new as our students take greater and greater responsibility in offering God tremendous worship. Come check it out some Sunday night.

Opportunity is knocking!

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 | 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