

THE WAVE



VOLUME 9, ISSUE 7

JULY 2011

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reCONNECT, beginning July 31

Join us for a five-week experience **beginning July 31** that will draw you closer to God, help you to discover meaningful, Christ-centered relationships, and enable you to grow as a disciple. **reCONNECT** incorporates worship, daily Bible study, reflection and prayer.

Renew. Recharge. reCONNECT.

Upcoming Messages

– Continue Life on the Inside *message series* –

July 3 **What, When, Where, Why and How to Pray** (Luke 11:1-13)

July 10 **The School of Life Is in Session... Study Up!** (Philippians 4:8)

July 17 **Moving Fences** (John 4:5-30, 39-42) – Rev. Joe Albright

July 24 **Who Do You Say That He Is?** (Matthew 16:13-18; John 14:6) – Rev. Carmen Johns

– Begin *reCONNECT message series* –

July 31 **Longing for Connection**

August 7 **Prayer: Our Connection with God's Power** (Luke 11:1-13)

August 14 **Presence: Our Connection with God's People** (Acts 2:43-47)

August 21 **Gifts: Our Connection to God's Generosity** (Acts 4:32 - 5:11)

August 28 **Service: Our Connection to God's Transformation** (Ephesians 4:1-16)

OUR MISSION:

- to know Jesus
- to grow disciples
- to show love
- to go and make disciples of Jesus Christ



PONTE VEDRA
United Methodist
Church

Missions Corner

Summer 2011: Work Completed and Underway

Cuba sister church – **Bruce Morris** visited our Cuba sister church La Sierra Methodist and participated in the Cuba Methodist Annual Conference at Camp Canaan.

San Diego – Our 19-member high school mission team were the hands and feet of God as they served among the poor of San Diego. Team leader: **Kelly Minter**.

Costa Rica – Five from Ponte Vedra UMC are joining with members of First UMC – Sanford to serve with Faithful Servant Missions in Costa Rica. Team leader: **Ellen Carson**.

Summer 2011: Work Still to Come

Bahamas – High school senior & college student trip, July 14 – 18. Team leader: **Kelly Minter**.

Blue Ridge, GA – Middle school mission team, July 30 – August 6. Team leader: **Kelly Minter**.

St Augustine – Hosting *Shake It Up Café* VBS on Lincolnton area, July 25 – 28. Team leader: **Anne Torgerson**.

Haiti – District team including PVUMC member **Jill Bennett**, September 3 – 10. *Space available on this team!*

Travel to Haiti?

Jill Bennett reports that there are **three openings** on the North East District team to Haiti, September 3 – 10. Cost is estimated at \$1,500. Contact Jill (285-2134, jill.bennett@pv-umc.org) for information.

Travel to Our Sister Cuba Church?

George Reed anticipates the visa situation for travel to Cuba will be opening up in the next year. Our sister church is mightily blessed when we visit them. Interested? Contact George (285-8796, george.reed@pv-umc.org) for information.

No Passport Required!

Do you want to go on a mission trip, but don't want to leave the country? Then this mission is for you! **Mountain T.O.P.** (Tennessee Outreach Project) is an interdenominational, non-profit Christian Mission affiliated with the Tennessee Conference of the United Methodist Church, dedicated to rural life ministry in the Cumberland Mountains of Tennessee. The Adults in Ministry (AIM) program brings adults from all over the country together to the Cumberland Plateau in Tennessee to meet the great needs of the people in one of the most poverty stricken areas of America. The AIM Major Home Repair program allows MTOP to take on and complete vital structural repairs and renovations of local homes and to form relationships through the love of Christ through building porches, painting houses and actively interacting with the people of this area. If you are interested, please e-mail **Don Carson** at don.carson@pv-umc.org or volunteer@pv-umc.org.

Committee on Nominations

The Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development is responsible for identifying the gifts and strengths of people in the congregation, developing their skills and deploying them in areas of service within the church, community and world. Members of the current Committee on Lay Leadership are **Jeff Bennett** (280-5141), **Sherrill Brown** (285-3717), **Cecily Browning** (285-2648), **Dod Schroter** (285-3818), **Jim Wynn** (285-2157), **Ron Owen** (686-1416) and **Dotty Rashba** (273-0527).

If you know someone that you feel would be good in a leadership position, please pass that information along to one of the team members. Church membership is required to serve in an elected leadership position such as Staff Parish Relations Committee, Trustees and Finance. In addition to membership, one year of attending the church is preferred.

Volunteer Opportunities

Happening now: Do you know how to play **bunko**? We are looking for someone to head up a bunko "Taste and See" event in mid to late July. The Taste and See events are fun for members and are aimed at folks who want to check out who we are. For more information or to volunteer, e-mail Eleanor Snite at eleanor.snite@pv-umc.org.

Looking ahead: Though school just got out, our friends at **B.E.A.M.** are already gearing up for the 18th annual Back to School with **B.E.A.M.** event on **Saturday, August 13th**, at Beach United Methodist Church. Volunteers are needed to help distribute back packs and other items for children to start the school year. For more information or to volunteer, e-mail Eleanor Snite at eleanor.snite@pv-umc.org.

Mark the date: Labor Day - Monday, Sept. 5th for our annual bottled water distribution to people on the beach at Mickler's Landing. What a great witness and a way to let more people know about our church. For more information or to volunteer, e-mail Eleanor Snite at eleanor.snite@pv-umc.org.

United Methodist Women News

It's Christmas In July! UMW is collecting item for **Operation Shoebox**! Please pick up a list of requested items from the basket on the table in the hallway outside the nursery. Thank you for your support!

The next UMW meeting is **July 16** at 10:00am in Room 207. Our guest speaker will be from **Hugs across the Country**. She will explain the program **Blessings in a Backpack** which provides a backpack full of food every weekend to over 70 of St. Johns County's neediest children. All women are invited to join us for faith, food and fellowship.

A Word from John Wesley, founder of Methodism

John Wesley, founder of Methodism, wrote,

We are not at liberty to use what he has lodged in our hands as we please, but as he pleases, who alone is the possessor of heaven and earth, and the Lord of every creature. We have no right to dispose of anything we have but according to his will, seeing we are not proprietors of any of these things.

– Works II, 283-84.

Financial Status

General Fund Recap May 2011

Tithes & Offerings	\$ 57,174
Other Income	\$ 0
Total Income	\$ 57,174
Less Budgeted Expenses	\$ 40,894
Less Mortgage Principal	\$ 8,486
Net Income/(Deficit)	\$ 7,794

June 2011 Giving & Attendance

Date	Contemp. Attendance	Traditional Attendance	General Fund Giving	Missions Giving	Designated Giving
6/5	138	157	\$9,423	\$310	\$1,937
6/12	154	160	\$15,530	\$7,811	\$3,607
6/19	148	113	\$5,292	\$120	\$4,319
6/26	100	118	\$7,448	\$25	\$785

Designated Totals

Mission Funds	\$1,590
Enhancement Fund	\$2,627
Memorials	\$8,342
Building Fund	\$230,038
General Fund Needed Weekly 2011	\$ 13,287

Owed on Parsonage: \$154,275

Owed on Church Facility: \$2,336,012

Money Matters

Confessions of a Tither

The first of July is upon us. Hard to believe we're halfway through 2011! At this midpoint I invite you to review your giving to the church.

There is concern about our church finances among our leaders. So far this year some \$27,000 worth of monthly mortgage payments have come from our steadily diminishing building fund. Yet I know that if even half of us gave a tenth, or *tithe*, of our income, we would fully meet our budget. I'm encouraging our leaders to

- 1) Review their own giving. Are they giving a tenth of *their* income to the church or moving in that direction?
- 2) Be relentless in our shared mission of making fully devoted followers of Christ.

Being good managers of all that God entrusts to us is part of our discipleship. Let me ask you: How are you doing in your giving?



Confessions of a Tither, Continued...

Below is a chart of 2010 giving to the general fund. My eyes immediately go to my family's giving and I'm concerned that there are not more people above Jill & me. We give a tenth of our income to the general fund of PVUMC. My goal is to also give a tenth of the value of the housing the church provides us; that's a stretch for us. Were I retired, my goal would be to give not less than 10% of what I was living on.

One of the things I've learned is that tithing sometimes keeps me from meeting some very worthwhile financial goals. For instance, I would love to be able to save enough to send my three children to college. I've run the numbers and there's just no way we can do this at my present income while meeting higher priorities, including tithing. The cash we use says, "In God We Trust" and that's my policy. Put God first (in all things, not just money) and trust God to provide. If my kids need to go to college, God will make a way for them to go. Maybe what we can set aside will be enough. Maybe we'll receive a windfall. Given the ages of our kids it may be another 16 years before God's trustworthiness in this matter can be fully proven. You can ask me then how it all worked out. Or you can trust God right now and have your own story to share.

Jesus said,

"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

-- Luke 6:3

Be blessed,

Pastor Jeff

If you have a tithing story, please send it to Pastor Jeff (jeff.bennett@pv-umc.org)

2010 General Fund	
Contribution Range	# of Giving Units
45,000.01–60,000	1
30,000.01–45,000	2
25,000.01–30,000	0
20,000.01–25,000	0
15,000.01–20,000	1
12,000.01–15,000	2
10,000.01–12,000	4
8,000.01–10,000	1
6,000.01– 8,000	8
4,000.01– 6,000	19
3,000.01– 4,000	16
2,000.01– 3,000	17
1,000.01– 2,000	26
500.01– 1,000	28
200.01– 500	33
100.01– 200	13



On A Musical Note

C.I.A. Children In Action

Resumes in September

YCAM

Grades 6-12

Wednesdays 6:00-8:00pm

Resumes August 10

Praise Choir

Tuesdays 6:30-7:30pm

Traditional Choir

Thursdays 7:00-8:30pm

Children's Corner



Three Cheers for Vacation Bible School!

As I write this VBS hasn't even happened yet. And yet as all of you read this, VBS 2011 will be over. I can't tell you yet how the week went. If it goes down anything like the months of planning have gone down – it's going to be a fabulous week!

The response to preparing VBS has been tremendous. All told we have had more than **sixty volunteers** who have painted, shopped, planned, donated, figured out how to hang awnings, rehearsed music, created videos, navigated a thousand hidden logistics and trained so that they could give their best to the children that come to Vacation Bible School at Ponte Vedra United Methodist Church. The youngest volunteers were fresh from kindergarten and the oldest volunteers were in their seventies. Perhaps even better than receiving their cheerful help was hearing them say time and time again, "Well, I've never done this before but I could sure give it a try!" So thank you all for a fabulous time. And everyone, please, mark your calendar to **attend worship on Sunday, July 3**. We will be sharing pictures of our time at the Shake It Up Café!



A Staycation Mission Project

Looking for the fulfillment of a mission trip this summer but you just can't schedule a trip to Costa Rica? Then join the Children's Ministry as we **travel to St. Augustine** to serve those who need our love and care in the Lincolnville area. We will be hosting Vacation Bible School **July 25 -28** for a group of about sixty children. We can use ALL KINDS of help! Please contact **Anne Torgerson** at anne.torgerson@pv-umc.org if you are able to serve!

Extra! Extra! Read to Feed All About It!

Kids, turn those summer reading hours into your own mission project! Join the Read to Feed program for **Heifer International**. All program materials are available on the bulletin board near the Kingdom Kids rooms.



- 👍 For our church family who made it possible to take our mission trips
- 👍 For our students who are dedicating a week of their summer to reach those in need
- 👍 For Tucker Holland, Ashley Sabol, Taylor Brill, and Tom Murta for their help with the San Diego mission!

Upcoming Events

We have new friends! Do you know someone who has just finished 5th grade? As soon as school is out we are opening our doors to our incoming 6th graders. Watch *The Wave* newsletter and the bulletins to see what's going on over the summer and feel free to join us in what ever activities sound fun to you! If you would prefer to wait until the fall to join us, that's fine too. Parents, be looking for information via email in the beginning of July!

Beach Days are back! Beginning on Wednesday, June 15 and continuing through August, Wednesday will be beach day! From 11:00am - 4:00pm come by the beach at Mickler's and hang out for as long as you can. If you can't be there the whole time, that's ok too! Come up the boardwalk and look to the left by the lifeguard stand, we will be right there (look for the large red and orange quilt!).

Ichetucknee River Tubing Trip Thursday, July 21. We will meet at the church at 9:00am and travel to Fort White where we will tube the river! Cost of the trip is \$10/person, plus money for lunch or you may bring a bagged lunch if you wish! We will eat before we get on the river, tube for a few hours, and then be home at 6:00pm.

VBS #2 July 25-28 in Lincolnville. We will travel to St Augustine to hold our VBS for the community around the Cyprian Center! Sign up outside of the youth room if you want to help!

Girls only Bible study Tuesdays from 10:00am - 11:30am the ladies of PVUMC student ministries are meeting at the church to study and fellowship! Come and join us!

High School Mission Trip took place from June 18 - June 25. Thank you for your prayers for our high school mission team as we traveled to San Diego, CA to take part in a week long mission adventure! Those who participated are: Laura Boehner, Sam Casarico, Kari Davidson, Tyler Davidson, Brendan Day, Graham Hancock, Reid Johnson, Rion Johnson, Eric Morris, Zack Murta, Taylor Pyle, Holly Smith, Caroline Straughan, Drake Warren, Taylor Brill, Tucker Holland, Ashley Sabol, and Kelly Minter.

A Note From Pastor Jeff:

In recent weeks I've discovered how much I take for granted. It's the forest fires that got my attention, filling the air with their smoke on a daily basis. All these years I've lived here I've been taking clean air for granted. Rain, too, as it turns out.

How many other things have I been taking for granted? Food. (I eat a good meal three times each day; many in the world do not.) A house to live in. Air conditioning! A comfortable bed. Health. A car. A family that loves me. Citizenship in a nation with liberties that allow me to live my faith, vote for those who govern me, travel freely.

A God who loves me, and grace to know it. A Savior who reconciles me to God. A church that affords me and my brothers and sisters in Christ the privilege of transforming the world. The list goes on.

They say you don't really appreciate something until you've lost it. I don't see any reason why that has to be true. Join me in counting your blessings. Today.

-- Pastor Jeff



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Children's Minister	Anne Torgerson
Nursery Coordinator	Kim Knopp
Admin. Assistant	Susan Bowler
Accountant	Jim Larsen
Music Contemporary	Scott Tinsley
Music Traditional	Elisabeth Callahan
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