

THE WAVE



VOLUME 9, ISSUE 8

AUGUST 2011

reCONNECT begins July 31

On **Sunday, July 31** we begin the five-week series **reCONNECT**, designed to draw you closer to God, help you discover meaningful, Christ-centered relationships, and enable you to grow as a disciple. **reCONNECT** incorporates worship, daily Bible study, reflection and prayer. For \$1.00 purchase and print a copy of the companion journal at www.tinyurl.com/pvreconnect.

Renew. Recharge. **reCONNECT**.



Vacation Bible School

Shake It Up Café a Huge Success... Twice!

The last week of June found PVUMC hosting *Shake It Up Café, Where Kids Carry Out God's Recipe*. **80 children** were served by 60 volunteers. During the last week of July some 30 volunteers took the café on the road to bless **another 80 children** in the under-served Lincolnville area of St Augustine. PVUMC really knows how to "Shake It Up!" Thank you, **Anne Torgerson**, for leading us in both of these efforts.

Upcoming Messages

– 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)

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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

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 joined with members of First UMC – Sanford to serve with Faithful Servant Missions in Costa Rica. Team leader: **Ellen Carson**.

Bahamas – High school senior & college students worked with Bahamas Methodist Habitat.

St Augustine – We offered the *Shake It Up Café* VBS in the Lincolnville area of St. Augustine, serving 50 children. Team leader: **Anne Torgerson**.

Summer 2011: Work Underway and Still to Come

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

Haiti – District team including PVUMC members **Jill Bennett** and **Ellen Carson**, September 3 – 10. *Space available on this team!*

Travel to Haiti?

Jill Bennett reports that there are **two 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.

We are going to the Mountain T.O.P.!

No passport, no airline hassles, no foreign language, no foreign currency! Just a short, inexpensive weekend mission and spiritual retreat in the mountains of Tennessee where we do home repair and enjoy Christian fellowship. A team from Ponte Vedra UMC is going to Mountain T.O.P. **October 13-16** to serve the less fortunate of Grundy County Tennessee. Why should we serve this mission?

Because 2 of 5 children in Grundy County live in poverty, 75% of the students are considered economically disadvantaged, 2 of 3 students receive free or reduced lunches

Because Grundy County has an unemployment rate of 11.3%

Because 1 of 5 people is illiterate

Because Grundy County is ranked 94 of 95 in terms of unhealthiest counties in Tennessee

Because people need to know that God has not given up on them

You can learn more about Mountain T.O.P. and see videos of their work in Tennessee at www.mountain-top.org. You will even see some familiar faces from our last trip by clicking on Galleries>Slideshows>2010 AIM Fall Weekend #4 Slideshow. All ages, 18 and up, and all ability levels are needed. If you are interested in joining us, contact **Ellen Carson** at ellen.carson@pv-umc.org or 233-1007.

Report on Annual Conference 2011

I had the privilege of attending the Florida Annual Conference in Tampa, Florida June 1-4 as your Lay Delegate. “**Living as Peacemakers**” was this year’s theme with approximately 2,000 Florida United Methodist attending. At this year’s Conference, members focused on electing lay and clergy delegates from the Florida Conference to the 2012 General Conference, which will be held in Tampa April 24-May 4, 2012 and the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference, to be held July 18 -20, 2012. Our own youth minister, **Kelly Minter, was elected as an alternate delegate to the Jurisdictional Conference.**

Thursday afternoon, **the bishop officially presented us with our church charter.** Kelly Minter, Tucker Holland, Reid and Rion Johnson were also present along with Pastor Jeff and me for this honor. The only other church receiving a charter was River of Life, also from the Northeast District and St. Johns County. **PVUMC was also recognized in a report as having one of the largest increases in 2010 average worship attendance over the previous 4 year average.**

The four days were filled with many challenging speakers, inspirational worship services, informative workshops, interesting exhibits and a lot of business reports on the status of our conference. They kept us busy from 9:00 am to 9:00 pm. I gained a much better understanding of the mission, ministry and structure of the United Methodist Church after attending Annual Conference.

There are four denomination-wide areas of emphasis that the Florida Conference supports. They are:

- Developing principled Christian leaders
- Starting new congregations and revitalizing existing ones
- Engaging in ministry to the poor
- Fighting diseases of poverty, such as malaria, and HIV/AIDS

I have put several copies of the Lay Member Summary on the information table outside the nursery if you are interested in reading more details of the Annual Conference. Thank you for allowing me to attend and represent our church.

Cecily Browning
Lay Leader

{ **What is the hole in our churches?** }

Lay Servant Courses

Lay servant courses will be held Friday and Saturday, September 23-24 at Oak Crest UMC, 5900 Ricker Road, Jacksonville. The Friday classes begin at 6:30pm and the Saturday classes begin at 8:30am. You may choose from Basic or Advanced classes and each is \$30. Tuition covers materials and lunch on Saturday. For more information please find brochures on the table in the foyer outside the nursery or call Gwen Dubé, 904-751-4912 or ggdube@comcast.net.

Financial Status

General Fund Recap June 2011

| | |
|----------------------------|------------|
| Tithes & Offerings | \$ 39,515 |
| Less Budgeted Expenses | \$ 43,867 |
| Less Mortgage Principal | \$ 8,798 |
| Income/(Deficit) | \$(13,150) |
| From Building Fund for P&I | \$ 13,150 |
| Net Income/(Deficit) | \$ 0 |

July 2011 Giving & Attendance

| Date | Contemp. Attendance | Traditional Attendance | General Fund Giving | Missions Giving | Designated Giving |
|------|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 7/3 | 118 | 120 | \$9,930 | \$112 | \$2,500 |
| 7/10 | 96 | 116 | \$12,911 | \$98 | \$606 |
| 7/17 | 78 | 100 | \$8,832 | \$56 | \$1,065 |
| 7/24 | 98 | 105 | \$6,284 | \$391 | \$327 |

Designated Totals

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|
| Mission Funds | \$2,157 |
| Enhancement Fund | \$1,806 |
| Memorials | \$4,364 |
| Building Fund | \$219,120 |
| General Fund Needed Weekly 2011 | \$ 13,287 |

Owed on Parsonage: \$152,421

Owed on Church Facility: \$2,329,038

What percent of the world population lives on \$2 or less a day?

Money Matters

Do Good While Doing Well

Do good while earning 2.25%!

Any Florida resident may open a participation account in the The Florida United Methodist Foundation's Development Fund with a minimum investment of \$100. Money deposited in the Development Fund earns a higher rate of interest (presently **2.25%**) than most commercial savings, money market or certificate of deposit accounts. Interest is accrued from the time of deposit until the time of withdrawal. Money is available, without penalty, on demand. Earnings are reported quarterly.

Investors in the Development Fund also earn the satisfaction of knowing that their money is being used to further the work of the United Methodist Church. The Development Fund, with more than \$83 million in assets, supplies low-interest loans to churches and conference agencies. Since 1976, the Development Fund has loaned more than \$120 million in loans conference-wide, with no defaults. (Ponte Vedra United Methodist Church is among the borrowing churches.) Every loan has been repaid in full and no investor has lost a penny by investing in the Development Fund.

The interest rate is set by the Foundation Board of Directors and is subject to review and/or change on a quarterly basis. Savings and loan rates are posted at www.fumf.org and printed in the Foundation's newsletter, or may be obtained by calling the Foundation toll-free at (866) 363-9673, ext. 100, or by emailing them at: Foundation@fumf.org.

United Methodist Women News

Our recent meeting featured representatives from **Hugs Across the County**. These volunteers from St. John's County shop and arrange containers of food for about 125 elementary school aged children in St. Augustine to take home from school each Friday. It only costs \$80 to send weekend food home for one year. Currently they are seeking funding for additional children and tutors and mentors are needed. If you can help please contact **Ann Cook** at ann.cook@pv-umc.org.

Christmas in July for Operation Shoebox will soon end. This projects consists of collecting items such as razors, baby wipes and hard candy to be sent to our deployed soldiers. The collection basket and a list of needed items is located on the table in the hallway by the nursery.

UMW is planning an outing to the **Alhambra Dinner Theatre**. The show is My Fair Lady and the date is Sunday, November 6 at 2:00pm. If 20 people attend we will pay a discounted price of \$40.30. Neighbors and friends are welcome. Contact Ann Cook if you can join us.

Our next meeting is **September 17 at 10:00am** in Room 207. Our guest speaker is a survivor of Hitler's concentration camp. You won't want to miss this!

What does God expect of us?

Please Give Blood

It's been 56 days since our last blood drive. I'm sure all you previous donors are already getting calls from the Blood Alliance to give a pint. Just say "YES." Our next blood drive is in two months so here's your opportunity to make a difference in the community this summer. Remember, tell them that you are from PVUMC and give them our donor registration number: 7931

Inquirer's Class

The Inquirer's class is studying the book by Lee Strobel titled **The Case for Christ**. We meet every Sunday morning in Room 211 at 9:45am. You can join us any Sunday and participate in the discussion. We'd love to have you.

Volunteer Opportunities

Hospitality needs help with **Sunday snacks** in August. Please check the calendar over the table in front of the nursery. Sign up on the calendar or contact **Georgia de Roziere** at georgia.deroziere@pv-umc.org.

Shepherds are needed to greet guests and those seeking information about our church. The ideal situation would be folks who can volunteer to man the Shepherd table in the lobby one Sunday a month. But anyone willing to take a Sunday is welcome. Please contact **Sue Morris** at sue.morris@pv-umc.org.

Hard to believe but it's time for back to school and our friends at BEAM are already gearing up for the 18th annual **Back to School with BEAM** event on Saturday, August 13th, at Beach United Methodist Church. Volunteers are needed to help sort and distribute back packs and other items for children to start the school year. Contact **Eleanor Snite** at eleanor.snite@pv-umc.org for more information.

Mark it on your calendar – Labor Day - Monday, Sept. 5th is 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. Contact **Bev Schaffield** at bev.schaffield@pv-umc.org or 221-7262.

Coming Soon! 'The Hole in Our Gospel' Sep 25 - Nov 6

Wesley - The Movie... Save the Date!



The year is 1732, a time of spiritual decline in England. The gulf between rich and poor is pronounced. Cheap methods of producing gin have created the 18th century's version of a crack epidemic among the lower classes.

Into this world steps a self-righteous young Anglican priest named John Wesley. Having grown up believing he had to earn his way into Heaven through good works, Wesley spent a great portion of his time visiting prisons, studying the Bible and praying – all to escape the fires of Hell himself.

His rigorous self-discipline attracts the attention of General Oglethorpe, who has just been appointed governor of the new colony of Georgia. Oglethorpe invites the young Wesley to serve as chaplain of the newly settled community of Savannah. Inspired by an encounter with a native American, John and his brother Charles travel to America with dreams of evangelizing the native peoples.

During the long journey to America, a terrible storm nearly sinks their ship, and Wesley's confidence in his own faith is shaken. He is astounded to see the small group of Moravian missionaries calmly singing during the storm, confident in their faith.

Upon reaching Georgia, he falls in love with the beautiful young Sophy, niece of the local magistrate. But Wesley has made a commitment not to marry, and their star-crossed love affair ends in bitterness and a lawsuit. Charles fairs no better as chaplain of Fort Frederica, when he is sent home early in disgrace.



Wesley – The Movie... Save the Date! Continued...

When John returns to England bereft and depressed, he finds that his brother Charles has found the spiritual solace and peace that Wesley's heart is so desperately lacking. Through the friendship of a young Moravian missionary, John finally finds "heart religion," the manifestation of grace that he has been searching for.

With renewed energy and deep faith, Wesley begins a revolutionary movement that will ultimately transform the face of England and the fledgling country across the Atlantic. Under his leadership, the first shelters for battered women are begun, the poor of England are empowered and transformed by saving faith, prison reforms are started, and the anti-slavery movement begins. Across the former colonies, Methodist lay preachers on horseback reach the remotest frontier settlements with the message of the Gospel.

This true story, filled with adventure and challenge, is one that is a natural for the silver screen. It has a bit of the swashbuckling energy of *Master and Commander* and some of the bittersweet romance of *Sense and Sensibility* – and it is a film that conveys a powerful message pertinent to our times.

Starring Burgess Jenkins, June Lockhart, Kevin McCarty and R. Keith Harris, **Ponte Vedra United Methodist Church** is screening this motion picture **on Friday, September 9 from 6:00 to 8:00pm**. Save the date!

Coming Thursday Evenings: DISCIPLE III Remember Who You Are

Resident in the title is the driving idea in this study – the connection between memory and identity as the people of God. The word *You* in the title is meant to be heard both in its singular form (the individual) and in its plural form (the community). We are a community of memory. Participants in this thirty-two-week study will read the major and minor Old Testament prophets, with the exception of Daniel, and will read the thirteen letters traditionally attributed to Paul. To establish the historical context in which the prophets spoke for God, daily reading assignments also draw on the books of Deuteronomy through Chronicles. Study of the prophets will follow their historical sequence rather than their biblical sequence. The dating of Paul's letters influences the sequence of their study.

"Remember Who You Are" is prepared for those who have completed DISCIPLE I "Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study".

This group will meet **Thursday evenings from 7:00 - 9:00pm** beginning September 8. Led by **John McEvoy**. Sign up with Susan in the office (susan.bowler@pv-umc.org, 280-5141).

A Word from John Wesley, founder of Methodism

John Wesley, founder of Methodism, spoke often on the subject of stewardship. Wesley said,

Use your God-given gifts well and wisely, to earn all you can, that you might practice frugality and save all you can, that you might have more than enough so that you are able to give all you can.



Children's Corner

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

Be still and know that I am God. Psalm 46:10

Dear Children and Parents of PVUMC,

Take time this August to be still! So very soon it will be time to hurry to school, hurry to sports teams, hurry to music lessons, hurry to clubs and yes, even hurry to church activities. Savor these final weeks of vacation! My grandmother (who turned 100 years old this July) tells me that HER grandmother used to tell her to make the most of every summer day and use the memories to keep warm through the winter months! Here are a few slow suggestions:

1. Sit in the grass and watch ants. Give them something to carry. Watch them climb over and around obstacles. Where do they get that strength?
2. Go outside in the very early morning and just sit. Listen to the birds talk to each other. What do you think they are saying?
3. Look at the stars. (Remember the story of Abraham from Kingdom Kids?) Which star do you think is yours? Ask your grandparents if THEY know any star stories.
4. Write a letter and send it in the mail with a stamp. Maybe the person you write to will send YOU a letter, too! But be patient, this kind of mail takes time. What other good things take time?
5. Listen to a book on a CD. Imagine what the characters and places look like. Long ago, people listened to stories on the radio instead of watching television. Try listening to a baseball game on the radio. Does the announcer's voice make it more exciting? Can you see what he is seeing? Could you make your own radio play? What other things can you know and see without using your eyes?
6. Make cookies and taste absolutely everything you put in the bowl – the flour, the sugar – even the baking soda. Some of it you will like - some of it you won't like so much. When you eat the cookie can you taste each ingredient – or just the cookie? Why is that? What does it tell you about the ingredients God puts in YOUR life to make YOU one delicious cookie!?
7. Ask your mom or dad if you can buy a fruit or vegetable that you have never tried before. Now, you have to try it. How many different kinds of fruits and vegetables do you think God made? How many can you count that you have tried? What other blessings do you think God made for you that you haven't even tried yet?

Enjoy going slow for awhile. When you do, you will find out new things about yourself and you will find out new things about God. He has so much to share with you! Happy Summer!

Love,
Ms. Anne

P.S. Kingdom Kids continues to meet throughout the summer every Sunday following the Children's message at the 9:30 and the 11:00 service. We learn Bible stories, do crafts and play games. All children who have completed K – 5 are invited to join us!



- 👍 For our church family who made it possible to take our mission trips!
- 👍 For Tucker Holland, Eric Morris, Rion Johnson, Ashley Sabol, Dori Schaffield, Kelly Jarvis, Jenn Kocher, and Cindy Harris for their exceptional hard work on the Bahamas Methodist Habitat house!
- 👍 Nathan, Abe, and Manex for making out college/young adult mission trip so wonderful!

Upcoming Events

We have new friends! Do you know someone who has just finished 5th grade? As soon as school was out we opened our doors to our incoming 6th graders. Come to whatever you'd like to over this summer, we'd love to see you! If you would prefer to wait until the fall to join us, we'll see you then.

Beach Days are over! Beach Day Wednesdays will be ending on Wednesday, July 27 but they will be back next year!

Back to School Bash Sunday, August 28 we will hold out annual Back to School Bash! Bring your whole family for a night of food, games, and a super informative parent information session! 5:00pm - 8:00pm. The evening is free, but you are invited to bring a dessert to share!

ROCK THE UNIVERSE! September 9-11. A high school only weekend retreat to Universal Studios. For the entire weekend Christian bands take over universal studios for music, speakers and Christian fellowship. \$97/person pays for your ticket and housing for the weekend, plus breakfast on Saturday and Sunday mornings. \$45 saves your space, and spaces are limited! Sign up online or at the youth room board, and deposits are due by August 21.

What are the 3 greatest commandments?



Why isn't church popular anymore?



A Note From Pastor Jeff:

My 6-year old son does not like to stand out. While we were on vacation Spencer lost the first of his two front teeth. (The second hung by a thread for days; it moved every time he breathed, it was so loose.) Five days later his Tallahassee grandmother came for a three-day visit. He avoided her for the first hour. And when he finally showed himself he kept his mouth with its missing tooth closed. Spencer just doesn't like to be fussed over. Then again, he wouldn't be happy if no one paid him any attention.

We returned from our travels a few days before my vacation was up. Jill and the kids came to PVUMC while I worshiped alone at another local church. On the one hand, I was glad that this church had given up the practice of making guests stand and introduce themselves. (Most people don't like that; I'm one of them.) On the other hand, I was saddened that no one said hello or introduced themselves to me. It wasn't until someone recognized me on my way to the parking lot that I experienced a personal touch.

We have some folks trained as "shepherds" to greet our guests. (See *Volunteer Opportunities* inside if you'd like to serve in this way.) But what if each of us took a small role in this every week? Here are some ideas:

- (1) for the first 3 minutes after worship, talk only to people you don't know well
- (2) speak with anyone within 10 feet of you that you do not know well
- (3) connect guests with others in the congregation of a similar age & stage in life

Ours is a great church home. May it become the home of many more.

Pastor Jeff

P.S. Spencer's second front tooth finally did come out. Don't make too great a fuss when you see him Sunday. ☺



PONTE VEDRA *United Methodist Church*

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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 |
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