

# THE WAVE



VOLUME 9, ISSUE 9

SEPTEMBER 2011

Church-wide study, beginning September 25...  
*The Hole in Our Gospel*

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Our church-wide study *The Hole in Our Gospel* begins Sunday, September 25. Sign up for one of our many study groups in the foyer any Sunday. This

six week study teaches what the Bible says about helping those in need. The study centers around the best selling book *The Hole in Our Gospel* by World Vision CEO Richard Stearns. Each study uses a DVD with narrations from popular Christian leaders, Richard & Renee' Stearns, Bill & Lynn Hybels, Max Lucado, Kay Warren, John Ortberg, Ken Blanchard, Chuck Colson and others. The study guide has action steps that we can take to make a difference. As Bill Hybels has said, "the church can and is the only thing that can change the world." Don't miss this opportunity to join Christ in transforming the world. \$10 buys you book and the study guide. Available in the foyer on Sunday mornings.

#### OUR MISSION:

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



PONTE VEDRA  
United Methodist  
Church

#### Also this month...

Labor Day, Monday, September 5 at 10:00, **bottled water giveaway** at Mickler's Landing. (See page 7)

Friday, September 9 at 6:00, **Wesley, the Movie**; (See page 6)

available in Cinema 2 (the Future Preschool Room): *The Incredibles*.

For the little ones the nursery will be available.

September 18<sup>th</sup>, **Bring a Guest Sunday!** (See page 7.)

Also on the 18<sup>th</sup>, **The Ministry Fair** (See page 3.)

#### Upcoming Messages

September 4 **Gig** (Romans 12:1-8)

September 11 **9/11... Can We Forgive Them?** (Matthew 18:21-35) *A Service of Healing*

September 18 **eHow Hope** (1 Peter 3:8-22) *Ministry Fair, Bring a Guest Sunday*

– *Begin The Hole In Our Gospel message series* –

September 25 **What Is the Hole?** (Luke 4:14-21)

## 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**.

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

### Fall 2011: Work to Come

**Haiti** – District team including PVUMC members **Jill Bennett** and **Ellen Carson**, September 3 – 10.

**Mountain T.O.P.** - Ministry in the mountains of Tennessee, October 6 - 9. There is space available on this team of six. Contact **Ellen Carson** at [ellen.carson@pv-umc.org](mailto:ellen.carson@pv-umc.org) or 233-1007.

### 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 6 - 9 (note the date change)** 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](http://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. Ages 18 and up and all ability levels are needed. Team size is six people. If you are interested in joining us, contact **Ellen Carson** at [ellen.carson@pv-umc.org](mailto:ellen.carson@pv-umc.org) or 233-1007.

## Hart Felt Ministries



Hart Felt Ministries has two fundraising opportunities available. You can watch golf's future stars at the **Winn-Dixie Jacksonville Open** October 17 - 23 at the TPC Sawgrass/Dye's Valley Course and 100% of the ticket sales will support Hart Felt Ministries. Or you may prefer the **Hart Felt Ministries Dinner and Silent Auction** on Saturday, October 15 from 5:00 - 8:00pm. Please contact **Bette McEvoy**, 280-4678 or **Loree Reed**, 285-8796 for more information.

## Volunteer Opportunities

### Ministry Fair

The Ponte Vedra UMC **Ministry Fair** is **Sunday, September 18** before and after each worship service. Ministries serving within and beyond Ponte Vedra UMC will have tables with information about how you can get involved. Volunteers are needed to set up starting at 8:30am and take down at 12:15pm. For more information or to volunteer, contact **Eleanor Snite** at [eleanor.snite@pv-umc.org](mailto:eleanor.snite@pv-umc.org).

### Prepare Meals

Do you love to cook? Have we got a deal for you! There is an ongoing need for food for 20 to 25 teens on Sunday nights and 10 to 15 teens on Wednesday nights. Suggested dishes include pasta, chicken nuggets, sandwiches, casseroles, anything with cheese...typical teenage (or big family) food. On Sundays the dish can be brought to the church any time between 5:00 and 5:30pm (dinner is served at 5:30) and on Wednesdays anytime between 5:00 and 6:00pm (dinner is served at 6:00pm). Contact **Kelly Minter** at [kelly.minter@pv-umc.org](mailto:kelly.minter@pv-umc.org) for more info and to volunteer for a meal.

### Small Group Leader

Our new church-wide study *The Hole in Our Gospel* starts on Sunday, September 25 and leader training is Sunday, Sept. 11. Are you interested in leading a small group for the six weeks of this study? You can select the day, time and place for your group to meet each week. Contact **Dotty Rashba** at [dotty.rashba@pv-umc.org](mailto:dotty.rashba@pv-umc.org) for information and details. First time leaders and "old" pros are welcome to volunteer.

### Altar Flowers

The beautiful flowers on our alter each week are donated by church members to honor or remember loved ones, celebrate a milestone or say thank you to someone. To be a part of this, sign up for a week on the calendar over the table on the hallway to your right as you exit the sanctuary. Contact **Susan Bowler** 280-5141 for more information.

### Sunday Morning Snacks

We need help with the Sunday snacks that are served in the foyer. You can get together with friends or make it a family project, cook up your favorite snack recipe or bring it straight from the grocery. Check for open dates on the calendar over the table on the hallway to your right as you exit the sanctuary. Sign up right there or contact **Georgia de Roziere** at [georgia.deroziere@pv-umc.org](mailto:georgia.deroziere@pv-umc.org).

# Financial Status

## General Fund Recap July 2011

Tithes & Offerings	\$ 45,761
Less Budgeted Expenses	\$ 48,491
Less Mortgage Principal	\$ <u>8,828</u>
Income/(Deficit)	\$(11,558)

## August 2011 Giving & Attendance

Date	Contemp. Attendance	Traditional Attendance	General Fund Giving	Missions Giving	Designated Giving
8/7	112	124	\$12,519	\$167	\$325
8/14	100	101	\$11,267	\$34	\$760
8/21	118	132	\$7,695	\$10	1,345
8/28	125	130	\$8,876	\$10	\$120

# Money Matters

### A Word About Tithing

The tithe is the spiritual discipline by which Christian disciples practice generosity. The Old Testament law required that the first 10 percent of the harvest be given back to God in gratitude for God's generosity. In fact, the prophet said that if we don't give the tithe, we are robbing God. (Malachi 3:8)

But for those who have experienced the generosity of God at the cross, the law is only the beginning. The tithe is the bare minimum below which we do not allow our generosity to fall. Some say that the tithe is a good place for generosity to begin, but a bad place for generosity to end. We are called to go beyond the law and to give in extravagant generosity in response to the extravagant generosity of God. The amazing thing is that when we practice generosity, we experience more of the generosity of God.

Here's an email written to Pastor Jim Harnish by a man from the Hyde Park UMC congregation during their stewardship emphasis a couple years ago:

Each year, at this time, I take a long, hard look at my budget. I begin by first subtracting the 10 percent tithe. Then I subtract 10 percent for savings. That leaves me 80 percent, right? By the time I subtract those expenses I have no control over: taxes, insurance, etc... the 10-10-80 formula becomes 10-10-40-40. It baffles me that Uncle Sam and my insurance companies get 4 times more than God. But I've learned not to worry about that ... since I have zero control over it. Then I cut my personal expenses down to match what is left. Each year this gets harder and harder to do. But strangely, I find this "cleansing" very freeing. Each year I learn that I can live without "stuff" that I thought I had to have. And I find that I don't even miss those things. It is amazing. In fact, it is a miracle! Each year God shows me that indeed he is faithful to me when I honor his tithe. I used to dread this time of year, but now I look forward to it knowing that God will once again teach me something new. Well, I guess I better get busy on my budget for this year. I can't wait!

### Designated Totals

Mission Funds	\$1,927
Enhancement Fund	\$1,677
Memorials	\$4,410
Building Fund	\$210,812
General Fund	
Needed Weekly 2011	\$ 13,287

Owed on Parsonage: \$150,578

Owed on Church Facility: \$2,322,304

## *United Methodist Women News*

Our next meeting will be Saturday, September 17 at 10:00am in Room 207. **Helena Zuber** will be our guest speaker. She was educated in a French convent and at the age of 16 was recruited to assist with the resistance movement during World War II. At the age of 18 she was captured and spent 2½ years in a German concentration camp. After coming to this country she earned a masters degree in nursing at Johns Hopkins. Ms. Zuber will be telling us about the importance of her faith throughout her life. At this meeting, we will also be planning our Christmas cookie and bake sale. All women are welcome to join us to share in our faith, fellowship and food.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to Operation Shoebox. We collected enough supplies to fill the back of an SUV!

The UMW is planning an outing to **Alhambra Dinner Theatre** on November 6. The show is **My Fair Lady** and we will be attending the Sunday matinee. If we have twenty people, our discounted price will be \$40.30. Neighbors, friends and family are welcome to join us. Call **Ann Cook**, 285-0579 for details.

## *Welcome, New Members*

We're pleased to welcome **Chalker Kingry** and **Alex Awad** into membership. Chalker and Alex were part of the spring confirmation class and joined by confirmation on August 21.

## *New Member Orientation, September 18*

Been thinking about joining Ponte Vedra United Methodist Church? Or just learning more about the church? Pastor Jeff is leading an orientation on Sunday afternoon, **September 18, from 3 to 5pm**. Jeff promises it won't be two hours of him talking; we've got a fun activity thrown in there, plus you'll get to know some other fine folks during our time together. Call or email our administrative assistant Susan Bowler (280-5141 x12, [susan.bowler@pv-umc.org](mailto:susan.bowler@pv-umc.org)) to let us know you're coming. **Childcare available with advance notice**; let Susan know!

## *Lay Servant Courses Offered*

The Lay Servant Ministries Basic Course will qualify the participant as a **Local Church Lay Servant**. In this course you will be encouraged to recognize and employ personal spiritual gifts for the church in order to use them as God fully intended. Students are invited to consider the importance of exercising servant leadership, developing future leaders, remaining rooted in consistent spiritual practices and being part of a group that holds members accountable in discipleship. Courses will be offered at **Oak Crest UMC** on **Friday, September 23** from 6:30 - 9:00pm and **Saturday, September 24** from 8:30am - 4:00pm. All classes are \$30 and tuition covers all materials and lunch. For further information contact Gwen Dubé, District Director, 904-751-4912, [ggdube@comcast.net](mailto:ggdube@comcast.net).

## 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).

## *Wesley - The Movie... September 9!*



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.**

The children and youth ministries requested the purchase of a popcorn maker which the Trustees approved for purchase from the memorial fund! The popper has arrived; yum! Also, hot dogs, nachos and cheese, candy bars and canned soda will be available at 1950's prices; we'll have some tables set up.

The movie *The Incredibles* for the kids will be showing in the Future Preschool Room. The nursery will be available for the youngest ones.

## *The Hole in Our Gospel "Pray Today" Bulletin Inserts*



"PRAY TODAY" prayer inserts will be found in the bulletins of the first five Sundays of our Bible study, *The Hole in Our Gospel*. These prayers are taken from the content of the book. After sitting down each Sunday please take a moment to reflect on their message with prayer as we prepare our hearts for this intense study of selflessness. After you have reflected and prayed please initial and place in the collection plates as they go by. These prayers will be gathered and used to make a "chain of prayer" in support of this study as we strive to know God's will for our lives.

## *The Beach, Labor Day, and a Cup of Cool Water*

Here's a fun opportunity to serve people and get the word out about our church. We'll meet at the beach (Mickler's Landing) on Labor Day (September 5) at 11:00am to hand out bottled water with the name of our church and information about our upcoming church-wide study, *The Hole in Our Gospel*. This will serve our thirsty neighbors and maybe get a soul or two thinking about God's love for them. Who knows but that those living nearby will show up the following Sunday seeking living water. (See John 4:10 for more on that!)

Interested? **Bev Schaffield** will lead us again. (Thanks, Bev!) Please email [volunteer@pv-umc.org](mailto:volunteer@pv-umc.org) to let us know you'll help.

P.S. This act of hospitality will require about an hour, leaving plenty of time to barbecue with family and friends!

## *Bring a Guest Sunday, September 18*

**Most people visit a church because someone invites them.** Who in your circle of friends, family, coworkers isn't active in a local church? Why not invite them to your church? Any Sunday is a good Sunday to bring a guest but **September 18** is a special opportunity. The ministry fair that day will be a great way for your friend (and you too!) to see what PVUMC is doing and Pastor Jeff's message will center on hope, a topic with broad appeal. And don't worry: we won't do anything to embarrass you or your guest. You don't even have to tell them it's *Bring a Guest Sunday*!

## *Attention: All Men 12 to 110 Years of Age!*



There will be a Men's fellowship breakfast on **Sunday, September 11** at **8:15am** for all men ages 12 to 110 years old. We will learn about our **Cuba sister church**, La Sierra Methodist Church from those who have been there. Our guest panel will include George & Loree Reed, Rev. Jeff Bennett, Ellen Carson and Bruce Morris. You won't want to miss this opportunity to grow in your faith with other men of the church. Please RSVP to Cooper Agent at 904-273-2657 or e-mail [cooperagent@comcast.net](mailto:cooperagent@comcast.net). (We request a \$3 donation at the door for the breakfast.)

## *Sign up for a "The Hole in Our Gospel" study group*

To receive the full benefit from this wonderful church-wide study, please sign up for a small group at the table in the foyer. There are many groups on various days and times. The Sunday church groups will meet at 8:30, 9:45 and 10:45am; the weekday church groups will meet at 8:00am and 10:00am Thursdays; and 11:00am Saturdays; home study groups will meet 7:00pm (Jacksonville area) Mondays 4:00pm (Nocatee and Plantation areas) and Tuesdays at 7:00pm in various homes.

## *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.



### On A Musical Note

#### **C.I.A. Children In Action**

Kindergarten - 5th grade

Wednesdays 6:00

Rooms 201-203

#### **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

CIA (Children in Action) will begin meeting on **Wednesday, September 7** at **6pm** in **Rooms 201** and **203**. Children in Kindergarten through Fifth grade are invited to bring their sack supper and enjoy a time of fellowship, music, games and Bible story adventures.

Our first unit of operation this year is "**CIA Survivor**". That's right! We'll be marooned on a desert island for six weeks! What will we eat? Where will we find shelter? What dangers will we meet? Using the Bible as our survivor manual we will learn to use all of God's blessings in creating an abundant and joyful life! Come and join the adventure!

## Welcome Kingdom Kids Teachers

It's a new school year and a new year in Kingdom Kids! Won't you take a moment and thank the following for dedicating their time, love and creativity to the Kingdom Kids ministry at PVUMC?

9:30 K-2 Lisa Hancock/Kyle Hancock and Jenn Smith/  
Zachary Murta

9:30 3 – 5 Anne and Gretchen Torgerson

11:00 K-2 Nancy Noble and Mary Slaton/Hans Torgerson

11:00 3 – 5 Jill Bennett and Alicia Bernet

Kingdom Kids meets each Sunday immediately following the Children's Message at both the 9:30 and 11:00 worship services. We are still looking for Assistants to alternate Sundays during the 11:00 hour. If you are interested in helping, please contact Anne Torgerson at [anne.torgerson@pv-umc.org](mailto:anne.torgerson@pv-umc.org).

## Third Grade Students to Receive Bibles

PVUMC will present all third grade students with a new bible on **Sunday, September 11** at both worship services. Any fourth or fifth grade students who have not received bibles are also welcome to come forth. If you would like your child to receive his or her bible, please call the church office at 280-5141 and let us know the name of your child and which service you will be attending.

## Save the Date!



**Trunk or Treat** is just around the corner! We will be hosting Trunk or Treat for the community on Saturday, October 29 from 6:30-8:00 pm. Be watching for details, you don't want to miss the fun!

## A Salute to Grandparents

The other day I was making plans for a luncheon that I am going to host. As I chose a dessert recipe, I thought to myself, "I feel like I'm my Grandmother!" Oddly enough, the thought did not make me feel as if I were old or out-of-date. Instead, it made me feel competent and sure of myself. Grandparents are

## *A Salute to Grandparents Contin-*

wonderful teachers. They really have lived long enough to know better and to show young people how to do a thing or two!

At our church I observe many grandparents at work in the lives of their grandchildren. I see them bringing them to church, picking them up from Kingdom Kids, helping out with Vacation Bible School and donating time, goods and service to CIA. How much richer is this young generation for the wonderful dedication that these grandparents show! How much richer are we at PVUMC for all that the grandparents in our congregation contribute!

**National Grandparents Day** is on Sunday, September 11. True, it's what we call a "Hallmark Holiday". But, it's also an excellent excuse to tell a grandparent thank you for everything that they have been in your life. -- Anne Torgerson



- 👍 For our church family who made it possible to take our mission trips
- 👍 For our first time mission trip attendees; Gretchen Torgerson, Sophie Hallam, Sophie Casarico, Callie Brown, Andrew Brown, and Jackson Bernet. And thanks to Cooper Gelb for his experience and expertise!
- 👍 Preston Sluder, Yolie Macon, and Ashley Sabol for their leadership on the middle school mission trip

## **Upcoming Events**

**We have new friends!** Do you know someone who just started 6<sup>th</sup> grade? Let us know, we'd would love to add them to our Youth Ministry family!

**Back to School Bash** was in August. If you missed it and need the information from the parent meeting, please contact Kelly Minter

**ROCK THE UNIVERSE!** September 9-11. A high school only weekend retreat to Universal Studios. For the whole weekend, Christian bands take over universal studios for a weekend of music and speakers and Christian fellowship. \$97/person pays for your ticket and housing for the weekend, plus breakfast on Saturday and Sunday mornings. You will need money for four meals and spending money as your wish. \$45 saves your space, and spaces are limited! Deposits were due by August 28, but contact Kelly to see if there are spots, or to get on the waiting list! \*\*This year ONLY we are allowing our middle school students to attend RTU on Friday evening, and they will return on Saturday afternoon. The cost is \$50 and spots are also first come-first served!\*\*

**Tailgate Madness!** Friday, September 23. On the day of the Nease at PV football game, join us for some tailgating fun! From 4:30-6:45pm stop by the Ponte Vedra Parking lot to share in food and fellowship before the game!

**Middle School Retreat October 15-16.** An on-site retreat for middle schoolers, lead by our Senior Highers! We will go on a bowling or mini golf outing, but we will be staying overnight at the church. Check the website for more information!

## *A Note From Pastor Jeff:*

In our nine summers of being church together, this summer has been my hands down favorite. To me it's been even more exciting than Summer 2009 when our building was under construction. Why? It's the mission work with which we've engaged the world up close and far away. Our congregation's vision is "**making fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.**" You have been a part of that transformation through a visit to our Cuba sister church by Bruce Morris, mission teams to Costa Rica, Bahamas, San Diego, Blue Ridge, GA and the Lincolnville area of St Augustine. This month we go to Haiti and in October, to Grundy County, Tennessee.

Even if you did not participate in these efforts by your presence, if you gave to your church you were part of the action by underwriting mission expenses and/or providing staff support. Consider also your special giving toward our children's home and your volunteering with Hart Felt Ministries, Mission House, scouting, local hospitals, etc... God is using you to transform the world!

I am eager for the even greater challenge to transform the world that we'll receive through our upcoming "The Hole in Our Gospel" church-wide study. Yes, it's about **learning** what the good news of Jesus Christ requires of us, but it's also about stepping up and **doing** what we're learning we must do. This is a great time to be the church. And I am...

Glad to be the church with you,  
Pastor Jeff



### **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
Custodian	Jim Wooton

Staff email:  
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