



# The PVEM Happenings



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## Getting to Know the Commissions

**Pastoral Care** - to provide a means of caring for members of the congregation.

- It shall provide ways through which the members of the congregation will minister one to one another.
- It shall be responsible for seeing that those who volunteer and work within the Ministry structure are recognized and appreciated.
- It shall contact members of the congregation whose participation appears to have waned.

Commissions

Continued on pg 2 column 1

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## The McGregor Memorial Garden

by: Jeanne Bateman

**HOLD YOUR HAT ON...** The long-ago hope for a Memorial Garden on the grounds of the Panther Valley Ecumenical Ministry is finally becoming a reality! We have a great committee of volunteers consisting of Linda Trent, Penny Newell, Bob Zinckgraaf, Flo Aaroe, Helen Guelich, Bob Nichols, John Pfulgfelder and Glenn Stevenson. Glenn is our money-man and has already obtained two generous gifts which will be used to start our first stone wall. I think everyone knows the garden will be located on the bank of our property starting from Fellowship Hall and will fill this area to the top of the hill. At the base of the garden will be a brick patio, perhaps with benches and a planter, and the bricks will be available for those who would like to be remembered in this way with their name on the brick.

As formerly reported, we have a general landscape plan and will follow it pretty much as drawn with some changes and/or additions. The plan will be displayed again on our bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

Now... what can our members do to help with this garden? Of course, the primary need is money with which to prepare the terrain. And then it would be wonderful if members could volunteer their know-how -- when the time comes -- by working in the garden with planting, etc. Donations for small trees, plant material, benches, etc., will be welcome. There will be no monuments or marking in the garden. It is to be a place for meditation and prayer.

Let's go back to our first stone wall: It will be built where the wooden wall is now and will be

Life is a wonderful journey to  
be enjoyed by all!

Memorial Garden continued on page 2 column 2

- It shall find ways for the Ministry to show care for shut-ins and provide means to minister to those in crisis.
- It shall administer a pastoral care program that results in members being visited on a planned basis.

### ***Fundraising Project for High School Students***

The High School students are selling note cards during coffee hour each Sunday to fund two projects.

Funds raised will be split between two projects:

- A Christian Outreach Program to assist Brazilian "street children" by providing food, shelter and clothing.
- Funds to attend Work Camp in the summer of 2006. (Work Camp costs \$500 per student.)

10 Note cards/envelopes \$10.00 (Students will make \$5.00)

- Plain or Thank You
- Flowered cards come all of one variety or a mix of 5 cards (2 of each)

Order one Sunday and receive the cards the next week.

### **Please Honor the Happenings Deadline**

Please submit all articles by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month for timely publication. It takes time to build the newsletter; however, if for some reason you don't have the information for the article that you know you will need space for, just let us know so we can reserve the space. We realize that sometimes events create the need for a last minute addition, so we will try to be understanding. Otherwise, any late submissions will be in the following issue. Thank you

the home of bronze plaques on which will be placed a nameplate showing the deceased name, birth and death dates. (Another area where we will need donations – for the plaques; the name-plates will be purchased by the family of the interned member).

I know there will be many questions and I shall be happy to answer them if I can and to talk with anyone about this garden and its' future. Call or see me – I'd be thrilled.

### **PVEM Website statistics**

Top five pages looked at on PVEM.net

1. PVEM home page
2. Sunday School
3. Monthly Calendar
4. Announcements
5. Community links

Top three Search engines referring to the PVEM website:

1. Yahoo
2. Google
3. MSN

Keyword search for search engines:

1. Valley
2. Panther
3. Counseling
4. Ecumenical
5. Jersey

Amount of hits PVEM.net received in:

Jan. 2005 = 6641  
 Feb. 2005 = 5572  
 March 2005 = 6901 (Through 3/20)

Busiest day of the month visitors viewed PVEM.net:

January 2005 = Monday  
 February 2005 = Monday  
 March 2005 = Saturday

## H S Students Active Participants in Church Programs

The High School Church School class members are actively involved in assisting the various Church Commissions with their programs.

They are assisting the altar guild of the Worship Commission with the preparation and clean-up after Communion. They are also serving as greeters and reading the scripture on Communion Sunday.

Students assisted with the Palm Sunday Worship Service and will be preparing a surprise for members attending worship services on Easter Sunday.

They will be preparing the soil and planting the vegetable and flower gardens for the Christian Education program.

Students made greeting cards for the Pastoral Care Commission to send to members who are shut-ins and those who are ill. They will be making baskets filled with homemade treats to be distributed to shut-ins in May.

The students are currently assisting the Christian Outreach Commission with a project collecting items for our troops and their families. (Articles concerning this project have appeared weekly in the Sunday Bulletin.)

Check the PVEM website for up-to-date information concerning weekly activities.

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When Life gives you nothing but lemons,  
and you make lemonade, does that mean you  
can't drink anymore fruitpunch?



## A Lesson in English

During conversations we never realize some of the similarities and often the too subtle differences of the words we use. However, when we write, we are confronted with synonyms, homonyms, palindromes, pronouns, who vs. which, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, ad. Inf..

Then to make things more difficult – spelling, word usage, tense....

Well, just to poke a little fun at the English language, enjoy the following and don't let any of it scare you away from writing.

### FOUR ALL WHO REED AND RIGHT

We'll begin with a box, and the plural is boxes;  
but the plural of ox became oxen not oxes.

One fowl is a goose, but two are called geese,  
yet the plural of moose should never be meese.

You may find a lone mouse or a nest full of mice;  
yet the plural of house is houses, not hice.

If the plural of man is always called men,  
why shouldn't the plural of pan be called pen?

If I spoke of my foot and show you my feet,  
and I give you a boot, would a pair be called beet?

If one is a tooth and a whole set are teeth,  
why shouldn't the plural of booth be called beeth?

When one may be that, and three would be those,  
yet hat in the plural would never be hose, and the  
plural of cat is cats, not cose.

We speak of a brother and also of brethren,  
but though we say mother, we never say methren.

Then the masculine pronouns are he, his and him,  
but imagine the feminine, she, shis and shim.

Look for more in next month's Happenings.



# A Walk Through Holy Week

Following worship on Palm Sunday the children of the church participated in a "Walk Through Holy Week." We thank our storytellers:

- Amy Testa - the Triumphal entry
- Mary Lou Howson - the last supper
- Jesse Yeager - the Garden of Gethsemane
- Rick Wilson - the Trial before Pilate
- John Jurena - the Walk to the Cross
- Suzanne Dowd - the Crucifixion

And we thank all those who helped in the kitchen to provide a wonderful lunch following the program: Marilyn Schaefer, Doreen and Charlie Schaeffer, Lynn Jurena, and Helen and Don Guelich.

We also thank Barbara and Raymond Rigo for their help with setting up the Easter egg hunt that followed lunch.



## Public Relations Task Force

Together with the Church's Council, the Stewardship and Communication Commission is in the process of forming a task force whose mission will be to identify ways to improve our public relations efforts in the community. We expect to be exploring ways of improving our efforts in the following areas:

- \* Advertising
- \* Promoting church activities and events
- \* Attracting new members
- \* Spreading church news to both young and old.

While public relations may seem like an incongruous term for a church to use, we feel that it's critical that we improve our ability to spread the word about our unique church and its mission.

We're looking for friends and members to brainstorm, plan and implement new ideas. Experience with advertising, public relations, either professionally or at other organizations would be helpful but certainly not required. If you're creative and have some good ideas, we'd love to hear from you!

Anyone interested can contact Dave Robinson.

PVEM Stewardship and Communication Commission

## Spring Rummage Sale

Friday April 15

9am – 2pm and 5pm – 7pm

Saturday April 16

Bag Day \$3/Bag 9am – 12 noon

Drop off times

Mon. 4/11 and Tues 4/12, 9am – 2pm and 6 – 8pm

Wed 4/13 9am – 2pm (FINAL)

A needy home for large furniture items may be found by calling **First call for help: 454-4850**

## Upcoming Events

### Fun and Fellowship

Mark Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup> 6:00PM on your calendars now. Church Growth and Fellowship is sponsoring "Family Activity Night".

There are sign-up sheets in Fellowship Hall for potluck dishes. We all know what great cooks we have in our congregation look forward to enjoying a delicious meal.

For those of you who have never attended a "Family Activity Night" before, you are in for a treat. Prepare to laugh until your sides ache and tears are running down your cheeks.

**DON'T MISS THIS EVENT!!**

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### Going, Going, Gone

The "Auction" has been delayed until May 20<sup>th</sup> 2006. The delay is because we discovered that successful auctions take more than a year to plan.

The planning committee is hard at work even as you read this. Progress reports will appear in each issue of the Happenings as well as on the PVEM website.

Those of you who volunteered to be on a committee will be receiving a calendar of meeting dates within the next couple of weeks.

Anyone who has not yet volunteered and would like to do so please contact Betty Schultheis at (908) 850-0179.

## Quotable

Labor to keep alive in your breast that  
little spark of celestial fire called  
conscience



# FROM THE PASTOR

## The Daffodil Principle

Since childhood I have had a special love for spring flowers - they have always represented the renewal of the promise. For the last 35 years when we have lived more in the country than in the suburbia where I grew up, daffodils have come to symbolize the promise of new life. They have been the only flowers hardy enough to survive among the voles, moles, chipmunks, and deer.

So you can imagine my interest when I saw an article entitled *The Daffodil Principle*. It told the story of a woman in Lake Arrowhead, CA who began in 1958 to plant daffodil bulbs on a remote hillside. One by one she planted until the hillside was covered with about 50,000 bulbs. They were planted in majestic, swirling patterns – great ribbons and swaths of deep orange, white, lemon yellow, salmon pink, saffron and butter yellow. Each different-colored variety was planted as a group so that it swirled and flowed like its own river with its own unique hue. In all these swirls and patterns covered five acres.

One bulb at a time, she had transformed the hillside. How often we look at a task and are overwhelmed by its magnitude – and we never begin. Yet one small step at a time we can work with God and set new life free in the world.

Daffodils are not just any flower. They are a sign of renewal and new life. From the ugly old bulb that appears to be dead, gorgeous new life springs forth.

Jesus made this point in his teaching about a grain of wheat but he might just as well have used a daffodil. “Unless a [daffodil bulb] falls into the

earth and dies, it remains just a single [bulb].” (John 12:24)

It is in dying that we gain life, or in losing our self that we truly find our self. A young friend reminded me this week that three years ago her husband had had leukemia. Their son was only one and a half years old at the time he was diagnosed. It has changed everything, she said. They both see life differently than they had before. Now they recognize what truly matters.

In the Christ hymn from Philippians that we heard on Palm Sunday we heard the same message from St. Paul:

Have this mind among you which is in Christ Jesus our Lord who though he was in the form of God did not count equality with God as a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave . . . And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross.

Have this mind among you which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. We, too, have been created to plant something beautiful. But we plant not in glory but in humility. The very word humility comes from the Latin *humus* which means soil.

Our humility allows us to become the soil within which the seeds of Christ’s love can sprout and transform the hillsides of the world with love, compassion, and new life. This Easter season, let us pledge to ourselves and to one another that one bulb at a time, we will begin to let the harvest of new life thrive within us and among us,

Mary Lou

### Wisdom From Grandma

Never be afraid to try something new. Remember that a lone amateur built the Ark. A large group of professionals built the Titanic.

# Open Forum

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## A letter to the Endowment Committee

February 28, 2005,

Dear Maxine,

It is with a grateful heart that I write this to you and your Endowment Committee. Your most generous gift surprised me at just the right time, and I am extremely thankful.

I have felt so welcomed at Panther Valley Ecumenical Ministry since the very first time I opened your door one Sunday morning, and becoming a member of PVEM and partaking in your warm and rewarding ministry fills me with peace and joy. Mary Lou leads with warmth and with the spirit of God which is present and so important to me and you all have offered me a spiritual home as I move forward on this glorious journey. Due to the depth of my fulfillment I am renewed to face each new week and all the rigorous challenges ahead in my studies with strength in my heart and a fresh and vigorous conviction.

Your ministry has made me feel a part of a community which is loving, dedicated, munificent, open, full of the light of God, dedicated to each other and willing and anxious to face new growth in so many ways – and obviously charitable to one newer faithful and grateful member.

Each day I am reminded of your lovely gift which; is so appreciated. To have your vote of confidence reinforces so clearly my commitment to follow the path on which God is leading me, and I thank you all so very, very much.

Blessings and Love

Judy Coffey

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## Coffee Hour

In case you've ever wondered how all of those wonderful cookies, brownies, bagels, etc. appear like magic on the tables in Fellowship Hall every Sunday morning after Worship Service. It's because the "Master Scheduler" (for 2005, it's Penny Newell) has contacted the various Commissions and Denominational Groups to host coffee hour and bring the goodies.

The Calendar for 2005:

- Jan. Worship Comm.
- Feb. Ecumenical Community
- March Church Council
- April Stewardship Comm.
- May Episcopal
- June Methodist
- July Choir
- August Pastoral Care Comm.
- Sept. Christian Outreach
- October Presbyterian
- Nov. United Church of Christ
- Dec. Growth & Fellowship

Penny has posted a calendar in the kitchen so if you forget when your group is scheduled you can check it there.

Penny and her partner, Lynn Jurena, also stock the kitchen with supplies, so if there's no sugar or artificial sweetener you know whom to tell.

Join us for coffee hour every Sunday following Worship. It's a great way to meet people and stay up-to-date on all that's happening in the church.

Panther Valley Ecumenical Ministry  
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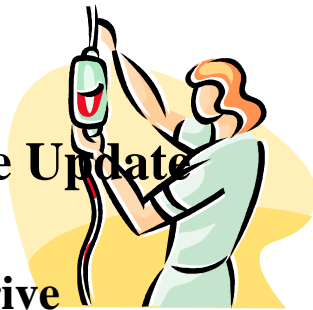
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## Parish Nurse Update

### Blood Drive



The PVEM Parish Nurses are sponsoring a blood drive on Sunday April 24<sup>th</sup> in Fellowship Hall. It will run from 8:30am until 12:30pm.

Please call Carol Miller at 908-850-8170 to register or if you have any questions. We will also hold sign-ups after church for the weeks preceding the drive. There will be raffle prizes and refreshments so spread the word to your family, friends, co-workers etc. Help us save a life.

Miller-Keystone Blood Center will be taking the donations.

**Happenings** is a newsletter of the Panther Valley Ecumenical Ministry: A multi denominational Church.

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Dave Robinson, Maxine Romig Volger, Betty Schultheis, Ron Reece, Glenn Stevenson and John Pflugfelder, Sr.

**The Open Forum** is for all members to voice their opinions and ideas.

**All commissions, committees and members are invited to submit articles and photos.**

