



# The PVEM Happenings



Volume 2, Issue 12

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December 2005

# Holiday Edition

This edition of Happenings will cover all of the events through January. There will be no January issue.

## Looking Back Over the Year

By: Ron Reece

This past year has been an exciting year for us here at PVEM. We have bonded with our new minister and together taken a serious look at who we are and together decided upon a path forward. We



have accomplished much as individuals, in committees, and in commissions to serve our church and our community:

- Our church school program has been revitalized and restructured, increasing participation by 75%,
- The confirmation program has been restructured to include active participation in worship, learning about all faiths through visiting other churches, and through participation in church activities, such as the Stations of the Cross event,
- Thanks to the Community Relations Task Force of the Stewardship and Communications Commission we have new church brochures and a new approach to public relations. We also have a new church directory with photos of our members,
- The Rigos painted and redecorated the Resource Room for the Church School,
- Bob Zinckgraf painted and redecorated the Conference Room,
- On June 20<sup>th</sup>, officials from our four founding denominations met with Mary Lou and Glenn to begin a new and active support for our church,
- Our Spring and Fall rummage sales were both enjoyable social events, provided a service to the

### In This Issue

- 1) Looking Back over the Year; Correction
- 2) Moving Forward
- 3) Commission News
- 4) Auction Update; Celebrating Advent at Home
- 5) Meet The Congregation; Holiday Event
- 6) From the Pastor; The Prayer Board
- 7) Upcoming Events; Coffee Hour Schedule; Worship enhancing Accessories

A Look Back

Continued on page 2, column 1

Correction from last month's Happenings. In the baptism announcement, I named Dennis Dowd as the Grandfather where he should have been Bill Dowd. My apologies.

# Moving Forward

The Survey Task Force presented their findings at the Congregational meeting on Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup>.

The congregation was supportive of the path forward mapped by the task force and three new task forces have been established to begin implementation of the plan:

1. Identity/Name
2. Internal Communications
3. Community Relations

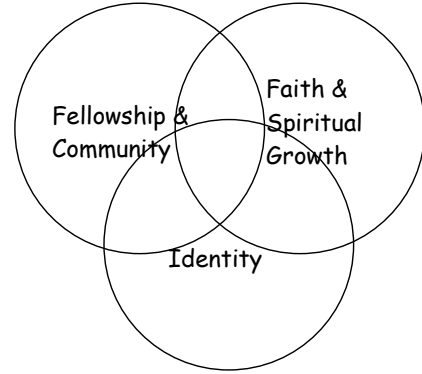
The task forces will begin work in December and will provide interim monthly reports to Council.

The task forces will have a three month life in keeping with the Survey Task Force finding that we need effective short-term assignments to accomplish work within the Church and that we need broad-based involvement.

The three groups will issue their reports to the entire Congregation at a meeting March 19<sup>th</sup> following worship service.

Stay tuned to the *Happenings* where monthly progress will be reported. This is an exciting time in the life of our church.

Let's all do our part as we strive for our goal;



If you missed the Congregational meeting and would like a copy of the report, please contact Betty Schultheis.

A Look Back continued from page 1

community, and raised almost \$5,000 for church programs,

- The Church Growth Committee began sending packets to people new to the community in July. Packets contain a letter, a church brochure, and a current issue of the *Happenings*,
- Church Fellowship Commission hosted a pitch-in dinner and game night, the annual church picnic, and several other opportunities to eat and share fellowship together,
- The Worship Commission developed a Prayer Ministry and enhanced many of the "special" worship services such as Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and World-wide Communion Sunday,
- Christian Outreach Commission not only fed those down on their luck from the Lord's Pantry, but also

supported Carmen Ministries, an Afghan school and other missions. These fabulous ladies also fed, entertained and provided boutique shopping opportunities to the congregation while raising money through their creatively staged events. All but \$100 of the "mission" funds were raised through their efforts,

- And last but certainly not least, we rallied together for a very successful golf outing to benefit Mike Billington. The medical expenses his family has had to deal with are tremendous and will continue to be so even into the next year.

You have all received a Holiday Season Brochure in the mail, inviting you to share in the worship activities planned for the next several weeks. This is a time for all of us to celebrate our ecumenicity and participate with joy and thanksgiving in our faith ...that WE all may be one.

## 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

# Commission News

## Buildings and Grounds

Nothing to report this month.

## Christian Education

Watch the weekly bulletins for some very special programs from the Christian Education Commission.

## Christian Outreach

THANK YOU!

We would like to thank the congregation for their wonderful support of our Holiday Bazaar. We greatly appreciate your coming down to shop and eat lunch.

Christmas Angels:

We will again have the Angel tree up on Dec.4th and 11th. You will be able to take a child's name to buy gifts for or take an envelope to donate \$25 for a sweatshirt for a young man in the juvenile system (Carmen Ministries). All donations are due back by Dec. 18th.

## Church Growth & Fellowship

We have continued in our efforts to reach out to new members and friends.

## Pastoral Care

In Memorium: On November 12, Sally Ann Lewis' husband died. Please remember the family in your prayers.

In Celebration: On November 12, David Johnson and Betty Lee joined in Holy Matrimony.

## Stewardship & Communication

The Stewardship and Communication Commission is continuing its efforts to bring our 2005 Fall Campaign to a successful conclusion. As of mid November, we've received 55 pledges totaling \$122,008 for our operating budget and 29 pledges totaling \$9,601 for the Maintenance Fund. Since our operating budget for 2006 will be approximately \$180,000, we have more work to do to adequately support next year's budget.

## Worship

The worship commission has scheduled the alter guild and church checkers for 2006. We have also begun to make plans for some of the special services that will occur during 2006.

We wish you all the best for the holidays and the New Year.



From the staff of Happenings  
may your holiday season be  
bright and cheerful.

# Auction Update

by Betty Schultheis

Thank you to all of the people who have contacted us this past month with your contributions for the Auction. By now you have had a chance to view some of the Auction articles on display during coffee hour. You can view many more by going on line to the church website [www.pvem.net](http://www.pvem.net)

One of the recent additions that those of you who are golfers will be interested in is: Golf Foursome at Panther Valley Golf and Country Club, including green fees and cart.



The Auction is now just six months away and it's time to kick into high gear. If you haven't already completed a donation form, contact a member of the Planning Committee: John Jurena, Kathy Pflugfelder, John Pflugfelder, Sr., Marilyn Schaffer, Dave Robinson, Ron Reece, or Betty Schultheis.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, December 13 at 7:30 PM. If you are interested in helping and did not receive a letter or did not previously volunteer, but want to be involved in the Auction, just come to the meeting.

## Celebrating Advent At Home

By: Betty Schultheis

Once again I embarked on my annual Internet search for "Advent" and once again I was amazed and energized by the creative ways to celebrate this wonderful Holy season with family and friends.

Let me recommend to all of you that you do a little research about ways to celebrate Advent with your family. You will be delighted with the creative suggestions and ideas for involving all ages in an interesting, fun, and meaningful way to celebrate Advent in your home. You may choose to make an Advent Calendar. There are suggestions for some very elaborate wall-hangings of felt as well as simple paper ones.

You will also enjoy reading about ways to "simplify" the Holiday Season and make it more meaningful. You might choose to do this by making your own nativity scene and completing a piece or two each day. This year we are making our own Christmas gifts.

You may choose to celebrate each evening of Advent with a quiet family time where an appropriate story is shared as an example of the "message" contained in the Advent scripture reading for the day.

Whatever you decide to do, involve the whole family in making the plan and in the plan's execution....and have an enjoyable Advent Season!

# Meet the Congregation

Rick and Diane Wilson have been members of the church for 18 years. They live in Andover. Rick works for a Title Company and Diane is an energetic, enthusiastic, stay at home mom. They are the proud parents of three handsome sons: Patrick age 15, Cory age 11, and Tyler age 5.



Rick is a golfer and Diane used to be an avid tennis player. Before they had a family the two of them used to enjoy some wicked racquetball matches. Now, they enjoy watching the boys participate in sports. Rick is doing some golf tutoring...and the Wilson foursome turned in a pretty good golf card at the recent Billington golf outing. Even Tyler knows how to keep his head down.

Rick has served on the Church Council and is currently the Church Treasurer. Diane teaches Church School and recently became a member of the Christian Outreach Commission.

Patrick is a member of the Confirmation class and has been a scripture reader for Sunday worship. Cory frequently knows the correct answer to questions asked by Pastor Howson during the children's sermon, and Tyler makes everyone smile when he flashes his 1000 watt grin.

They enjoy worshipping at PVEM and sharing the fellowship and friendship with other members.

A good way to meet Rick is to stop by the grocery certificate table during coffee hour.

## **HOLIDAY EVENT for the SPORTS ENTHUSIAST**

Saturday, December 3, 2005  
9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Studio of Unique Photography  
218 Main Street  
Ledgewood, New Jersey

A local artist, Ken Branch, a member of our congregation, who specializes in sports memorabilia will hold this event to display his work and other collectible items all of which will be available for sale. He will donate 10 % of all purchases by members of the congregation to our church.

Ken's work is or has been on display at the Yogi Berra Museum located at Montclair State University, Morristown Memorial Hospital, Overlook Hospital, various local restaurants, offices of doctors who specialize in sports medicine and many fund raisers, including the Rotary and just recently for the Michael Billington Golf outing and dinner.


He has also done poster board portraits for special events including one of Reverend Emil Augustine, for his retirement dinner, and one of Michael Billington for the golf outing dinner.

Ken hopes to see you at the event.

The following are directions to Unique Photography:

**ROUTE 80 EAST:**

Get off at Exit 28 Ledgewood] onto Route 46 East and move into the right lane. After the first traffic light exit onto Main Street. Go about 3 blocks and it will be on the right.



# FROM THE PASTOR

These days our lives have a drivenness. There is never enough time and we are always behind. But just as

wordswithoutspacemakenosense  
so  
lifewithoutspacemakenosense

Without space we become exhausted and strung out and we lose our very selves. Thus caught in constant activity we also lose touch with the sacred. Tilden Edwards suggests that much of our drivenness is imposed by our mistaken notion that “it is up to us to get and keep who we are . . . a kind of production of self.” As we are driven to produce at work in order to create our identity, who we are driven to consume in our “leisure”, devouring education, material goods, public events, hobbies, etc. When the pressure gets too great, he observes, we collapse into some form of oblivion such as sleep, drink, drugs, or any kind of TV or media that will numb us for a while. This is what we currently call “vegging out.”

Did you know that in the Ten Commandments the adjective “holy” is applied to one word only – Sabbath? Why is the Sabbath holy? Let me suggest several reasons:

Sabbath calls us into community in which we stop our endless retrace of achievement, productivity, and self-sufficiency which alienates us from ourselves, others and God.

We proclaim a God of infinite grace whose governance of creation is rooted in tranquility, well-being, and peace. Yet we live as if we were in charge and everything will collapse without our continued strivings. We need to stop, to remember that God is in charge and to rest in the divine mercy. We need to learn to trust, to relax, and let

God be God instead of trying to be in charge ourselves.

Sabbath rest is decreed for all human beings – even slaves – as well as animals and all of creation. In Sabbath rest the old destructive hierarchies are broken down for all are at peace together in God’s grace.

When we stop our busyness to experience this grace we also find time to nurture the community of family, friends, and faith. Then we actually participate with God in creating the well-being and peace in which all of creation is rooted. And we, too, become a participating member of that peace. We begin to experience wholeness.

Sabbath is thus a period of rest in which our spirits are healed, our souls renewed, our bodies relaxed, and our thoughts and anxieties slowed down. It is a time to put ourselves on hold and let God conduct the symphony. For in Sabbath-time we give God permission to rule in our lives and to bind us in grace to our neighbors across the globe. Thus by honoring Sabbath we become participants in the love which upholds all of creation.

As we enter this sacred season, may you create for yourself the Sabbath time into which the Christ child can be born into your life.

Mary Lou

## **The Prayer Board**

**These folks need our continuing prayer:**

Evie Lobell

Daughter-in-law of Bob and Irene Lobell  
She has lymphoma.

Marjorie O'Hara

Mother of Betty Schultheis  
She has Alzheimer's.

Jack Millelot

Father of Lauren Wittig  
He has Lung Cancer.

Gus Henkel

Father of Barbara Rigo  
He has bone cancer.

# Upcoming Events

Weds, Nov 23	7:30	Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service Rev. Jeff Archer preaching
Sunday, Nov 27	10:00	First Sunday of Advent
	11:30	making chrismons
	11:30	short meeting for pageant parts and finalizing rehearsal schedule
Sunday, Dec 4	10:00	Second Sunday of Advent
	11:30	making chrismons
	5:00	probably pageant practice
Sunday, Dec 11	10:00	Third Sunday of Advent
	10:00	Hanging of the Greens Children attend Worship
	11:30	Christmas crafts workshop Probably pageant practice
Sunday, Dec 18	10:00	Poinsettias
	11:00	Celebrate Church Birthday
	4:30	Pageant practice
	6:00	Christmas Caroling (?)
Saturday, Dec 24	10:00	Pageant practice, if necessary
	6:00	arrive at church for 7:00 Pageant
	7:00	Lessons and Carols
	11:00	Communion
Sunday, Dec 25	10:00	Morning Worship – no church school
Sunday, Jan 1	10:00	Morning Worship – no church school
Sunday, Jan 15, 2006	10:00	The week of prayer for Christian Unity
	3:00	Community Worship

For more information about these and other events, refer to the brochure that came in the mail.



## 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:

- Dec. Growth & Fellowship
- The 2006 schedule is being prepared now.

## Worship Enhancing Accessories

Do you need longer arms in order to read the church bulletin, pew Bible or Hymnal? Do you wish the announcements were louder? If the answer to any of these questions is yes, you need to utilize the items placed on the "Worship Enhancing Accessories" table on the left in the narthex.

You will find large print bulletins, pew Bibles, and Hymnals there as well as hearing aids.

Anyone needing a wheelchair during Worship Service should contact an usher as there is one available.



A special word of thanks to Mary Lou, special friends who transported me to different places, and for the lovely altar flowers. Your telephone calls and cards were much appreciated. My ribs are healing and I think the peach pie did the trick.

*Maxine*

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