

# HAPPENINGS

Panther Valley Ecumenical Ministry

## From the Pastor. . .

Volume 1, Issue 1  
January 2004

*“The old song of my spirit has wearied itself out. It has long been learned by heart; It repeats itself over and over. Bringing no joy to my days or lift to my spirit. I will sing a new song. I must learn the new song for the new needs. I must fashion new worlds born of all the new growth of my life—of my mind—of my spirit. I must prepare for new melodies that have never been mine before.*

*That all that is within me may lift my voice unto God. Therefore, I shall rejoice with each new day. And delight my spirit in each fresh unfolding. I will sing a new song unto the Lord.”*

Howard Thurman

### THE INTERIM TIME:

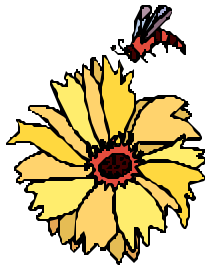
#### “A NEW SONG”

These words by the African American poet Howard Thurman speak of a new song for a new year— not only what we need, but what the whole world needs.

### Early Christianity 101—Bible Study

Listen and learn about our religious heritage from our own bible scholar, The Rev. Dr. Harry Taylor. Classes will be held, January 4th, January 18th, February 1st and February 15th. We will have a light lunch from 11:30 AM until 12:00 Noon. Class will go from

Not another year, but a new year. Nobel Laureate Elie Weisel, who survived Hitler’s concentration camps, has written about our need to find newness and to begin again: “When God created people, God also gave a secret— and that secret is not how to begin, but how to begin again. It is not given to human-kind to begin: that privilege is God’s alone. But it is given to people to begin again, and that is accomplished with the choice to side with the living of each day.”



A New Year.....

A new song; a new year; a new commitment to begin again: a new chance to live in the light of the birth of Jesus Christ; a new will to walk in the Way of God.

Peace,  
Harry

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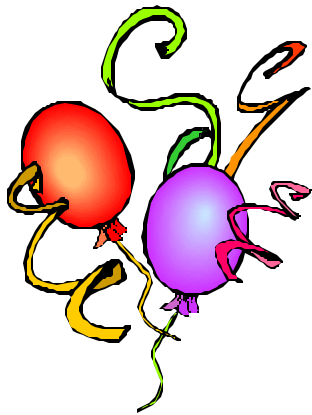
### Special points of interest:

- Youth Group
- Interfaith Hospitality
- Souper Bowl Sunday
- Christian Outreach

12:00 Noon until 1:00 PM.

If child care is needed, please let Amy Testa know as soon as possible so arrangements can be made.

Hope to see you there!



*Thank you for your help!!*

## HATS OFF TO...

- Thanks to all those who worked hard to make this a special day: Lynn Jurena, Amy Testa, Marilyn Schaffer, Kathy Pflugfelder, John Pflugfelder, Sr., John Pflugfelder, Jr., Santa, Bob Nichols, Jane Nichols, Greg Werner, Gail Werner, all the Elves, babysitters and each person who made time to attend this very successful first Breakfast with Santa. Plan to come next year and bring a friend!  
The Youth Group made over \$500 for the Summer Work Camp Trip located in New Hampshire this summer.
- Special thanks to the Parish Nurse Angel Project leader Karen Ivin who visited each Creation Station class to work with Express Times Teacher, Christy Jurena, in showing each class how to craft an ornamental Angel. This fundraiser realized \$100 for the purchase of new **CareNote** Brochures for free distribution in our narthex
- Colleen Newton, Sunday School Superintendent, worked with the students' input and teen helpers to organize a soul filled Christmas Pageant based on the Reba MacIntire song, "A Christmas Guest." This touching tribute will be among our Christmas Treasures.
- A special thank you to all who purchased and shared poinsettias with us this holiday season.
- With appreciation to Rev. Taylor who led us through this spirited season with care and guidance.
- Kudos to the Worship Commission and Bob Zinckgraf for the beautifully decorated sanctuary and Ron MacIntyre and our choir for the special Christmas Eve Music, Joe Itkor and the Handbell Choir for their musical talents.

## YOUTH GROUP NEWS!!!



*SERGE IS COMING BACK!*

Just a quick update on our Youth. They are working hard to raise the money for their Group Workcamp in the Summer!! They worked very hard at the Breakfast with Santa and the Babysitting. We are really proud of them!

On March 6th, the Youth Group will

be hosting the Christian Praise Band "SERGE!" Please keep the date open and join us. We will have refreshments available. All proceeds will go to the Workcamp trip.

Thank you for all your support!!

# CHRISTIAN OUTREACH NEWS!

Thank you for your generous support this Christmas. Gifts were given to 28 children from Allamuchy, NORWESCAP, and Carmen Ministries. We also had two pizza/candy parties and gave gifts to 59 young men at the State Juvenile Facilities at Warren and Voorhees.

### Coming up...

SOUPER BOWL Sunday will be February 1st. Please come and enjoy

homemade soup while donating to our Food Pantry. This year we had approximately 142 families use our pantry!

### Penny Money...

Also, please remember to bring your loose change for our overseas missionary in Zimbabwe. They are in great need.



*Thank you for your support!*

## Interfaith Hospitality

A special thank you to the following people who gave of their valuable time:

Jim Furgeson, Maxine Romig Volger, Kathy Zinckgraf, Lynn and Christie Jurena, Eloise Mial, Carol Hardiman, Linda

Trent, Abby Montgomery, Peggy Cihocki, Kelly, Jessica and Cassandra Randis.

From Dennis Dawley, IHN Liaison, Christian Outreach Commission

## TEACHERS NEEDED!

Just a few more weeks until we start the new rotation of "Mary & Martha." We need teachers for: Arts & Crafts, Drama, Cooking, Computers and Movies!

We will have the curriculum out for you to look at to see if this is something that might interest you.

It only takes 5 weeks. That's it and you are done!

Come share your time and talent with our Church School. We have some great kids and we have a lot of fun. Any questions please see Colleen Newton.



*"Mary and Martha....."*

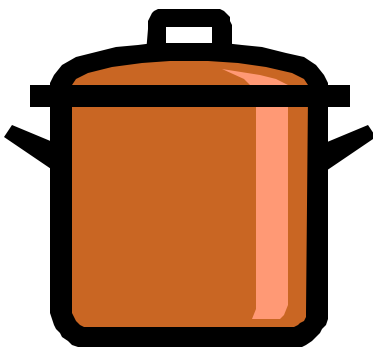
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## Panther Valley Ecumenical Ministry

DATED MATERIAL

1490 Route 517  
Hackettstown, NJ 07840

Phone: 908-852-5444  
Fax: 908850-4754  
Email: pvem@att.net



*SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY  
FEB. 1, 2004*

# SOUPER SPIRIT

## CATCH THE SPIRIT...

Share your caring spirit with thousands of others by dropping \$1 in a soup pot as you leave worship on February 1st. Every \$1 dropped in a soup pot helps people in need feel the powers of God's love. Since becoming a national event in 1993, the Souper Bowl of Caring has generated over \$20 million to help hungry and hurting people. Now that's something to cheer about!