

# PVEC Happenings



Panther Valley Ecumenical Church Official Newsletter

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July 2009

## Congratulations to our Graduates!

We would like to celebrate the accomplishments of several members of our congregation who have recently graduated from school. We are proud of you and all of your hard work!



**Brian Zinn**  
Graduated from

Newton High School on June 12, 2009. He was a member of the National Honor Society, received a President's Award and was a varsity Soccer player.

Brian plans to attend King's College in the fall majoring in accounting.



**Patrick Wilson**

Patrick is also a 2009 graduate of Newton

High School. He was a member of the Newton High Golf Team with awards that include 1<sup>st</sup> Team All State Group 2, State Sectional Champ (North Jersey), 1<sup>st</sup> Team All SCIL (Sussex Cty.), SCIL Player of the Year and SCIL Festival Champ. Pat plans to attend Susquehanna Uni-

versity in the fall and plans to possibly major in business as well as play on the golf team.

### **Sarah Zinckgraf**

Sarah graduated Magna Cum Laude from York College of Pennsylvania in December 2008. She received a B.A. in Elementary Education and will be pursuing a career in teaching.

### **James Zinckgraf**

James graduated from West Morris Central High School on June 19, 2009. He will be attending the University of

Rhode Island in the fall.



**Brian Wilson**

Brian is the grandson of Ralph and

Lila Minervino and lives in Cary, North Carolina where he graduated from Davis Drive Middle School. He will be attending Green Hope High School in the fall where his brother, Andrew, is a senior.

Congratulations to all and best of luck in your future endeavors!

## Meet our Pastoral Candidate, David Wright

We are in the middle of a very exciting time here at PVEC. We have a candidate that the search committee feels is a strong contender for our permanent pastoral position. The congregation will have a chance to hear David Wright preach on Sunday,

July 26th, but here is a taste of what he is really all about.

David was born in Schaghticoke, NY but grew up in Langhorne, PA where his father served for 23 years as the pastor of the Langhorne Presbyterian Church. Suspending her

career as a therapist, his mother joined his father as mission partners through the Presbyterian Church (USA) to be regional liaisons to Southeastern Africa. They have lived in Lusaka, Zambia since 2005 and their ministry includes service with mission part-

ners in Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, and Mozambique. David has one sister, Bethany Ides, who is 30, married to Joseph Bradshaw, and who teaches performance art at Pacific Northwest University of the Arts in Portland, OR.

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## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

“Summertime, and the livin’ is easy.” Well, if not always as easy as Gershwin’s words imply, we do enjoy longer days and the absence of ice and snow. Getting to church on Sunday mornings is definitely easier without having to clear the driveway first! The New Jersey monsoons have ceased, and it’s hard to beat this time of warm days and cool nights. The weather for our Red, White, and Blue picnic could not have been better, nor could the food and fellowship.

These latter memories are the ones I will cherish when my time at PVEC comes to a close. I cannot imagine a more loving community of believers! And you have supported me, helped me, encouraged me, and cared for me throughout our short time together. I thank you. Let us continue to pray for one another as we move into new

experiences, strengthened by the love we have shared these few short months.

Soon you will see a new and very different face in the pulpit on Sunday mornings and in the office during the week. I know you will welcome David as warmly as you welcomed me. He is more fortunate than he now knows to be called to a congregation so full of wonderful people. Pretty quickly, I suspect, he will propose some ideas that, to you and me, might seem a bit “wild and crazy.” I hope he does! And I hope you will say to him, even after expressing whatever reservations you have, “OK! Go for it! We’re behind you.” Not everything will work well, and some ideas may fall flatter than road kill! But one cannot succeed without trying, and some flops are part of the mix. Even Jesus’ broth-

*“I cannot imagine a more loving community of believers!”*

*-Dr. Sanders*

ers did not believe in him at first (John 7:5), and his hometown folks tried to throw him off of a high bluff (Luke 4:28-30)! And look what has happened to the message of Jesus since then!

“One of these mornings, You’re going to rise up singing. Then you’ll spread your wings, And you’ll take to the sky.” May God continue to bless the ministry of the Panther Valley Ecumenical Church!

With deep affection,  
Chip Sanders,  
Interim Pastor

## CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS

**Care & Nurture** wish to remind you that a big part of the “fellowship” that we share within the church takes place on Sunday mornings during coffee hour and that in order to have an enjoyable coffee hour, we need to have people sign-up to be hosts/hostesses and bring the goodies that we all enjoy so much. We really need to have at least two people sign up each Sunday so that it is not burdensome to anyone. A big “thank you” to the hosts/hostesses who have provided

our goodies in the past. A big thank you also to those who assisted in setting up/taking down tables and chairs and, kitchen clean up.

### Red, White and Blue Picnic

Everything was perfect for our picnic on July 5<sup>th</sup>! The weather was wonderful after all that rain and as usual, the food was extraordinary! We would like to thank everyone who brought a dish and helped in the kitchen and then helped clean up afterward. Our thanks also go to John Pflugfelder and

John Jurena for their “hot” labor at the grills.

Our thanks also go to everyone who made it possible to have the Hackettstown Community Band play for us. They certainly gave us an hour of toe tapping pleasure.

Care and Nurture will continue to bring us times of fellowship and welcome suggestions from the congregation. Just talk with Penney or Lila

**Christian Education** wants you  
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## Church Council Continued...

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to mark the dates for **Vacation Bible School** on your calendars. It will be August 3-7, from 9:30 to noon, with a "program" and cook-out Friday evening the 7<sup>th</sup>.

This year's theme is Camp Son Rock. Betty Schultheis will serve as VBS Director and Ron Reece will serve as the Music Director again this year.

We have made flyers and brochures to promote VBS and would like to distribute them at any community festivals there are this-Blairstown Footbridge Festival, etc. Please contact us with the information so we can rent a booth.

**Plant Sale News:** Christian Education would like to thank everyone for supporting our annual plant sale. It appears that we raised \$500. this year. What a blessing!

Doreen Schaffer has a favor to ask all our gardeners. She would welcome feed back on the plants. This will assist her in choosing plants for next year's sale. Again thank you for your support.

**Christian Outreach** thanks everyone in the congregation who continue to support the Lord's Pantry. ShopRite gift cards and food donations help us feed the local families in need during these hard times.

**Carmen Ministries:** We recently provided 25 Bibles to Tony Wood to use in his ministry.

**Support Services** has been working diligently to correct some problems the church has experienced over the past several months with the heating system. It has been determined that we need to

replace the furnace, and after several estimates were made, we have chosen Region Oil to do the job. The work will be completed in July. Thanks to Don Guelich, Bob Zinckgraf John Pflugfelder and Ron Reece for their efforts in this matter.

**Special Gifts:** Special Gifts were received in the month of June for the Ron Lundy Memorial.

**Worship:** Singers Needed! *Psalm 96:1 Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.*

We are missing our choir during these summer Sundays! Should you (or family members) have the ability to "sing to the Lord", either as a soloist or as a part of a duet or trio with friends, please give our organist, Roy Sargeant a call. He will be happy to help you select a suitable piece for presentation. He can be reached at 908-852-2818.

### ***(Pastoral Candidate Cont'd)***

David is a 2000 graduate of George School, a 2004 graduate of Amherst College with a B.A. in Classics and Religious Studies, and a 2009 M. Div. Graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary.

His career background is in Christian camping and social services, particularly working with adolescents with behavioral health needs.

He enjoys playing softball, cheering on the Philadelphia Phillies, running, spending time with kids of all ages, and popular music. His favorite recording artists are Bruce Springsteen, Neil Young, U2, Pearl Jam, and Bob Dylan. His favorite places to visit include the ballpark,

New Hampshire, the Jersey Shore, and Kirkwood, the Presbyterian summer camp where he still volunteers.

David's favorite Christian author is Anne Lamott. Other favorite authors include James Joyce and Richard Brautigan.

His has a passion for youth ministry, preaching, hospital and elder home visitation, and accessibility to persons with disabilities.

David is looking forward to personally meeting many members of the congregation one-on-one in the coming months, and welcomes them to come by his office, invite him to their home, or arrange a time to meet and share stories together.

### **Mark Your Calendars!**

Panther Valley Ecumenical Church Fall Rummage & Bake Sale will be October 16 and 17

### **Happenings Deadline**

**Please submit all articles by the 15th of the month for timely publication. All articles received after that date will be published in the newsletter for the following month.**

**Submit articles to Erika in the church office or to [office@pvem.net](mailto:office@pvem.net)  
Thank you!**

# Panther Valley Ecumenical Church Official Newsletter

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*“In our diversity we find common ground  
in Christ”*

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web at [pvem.net](http://pvem.net)*



## A Word About Endowment Funds

**WHAT IS AN ENDOWMENT FUND?** An Endowment Fund is like a permanent, never-ending bank account. The original amount of the principal is never spent. An endowment is intended to exist forever with the original funds preserved and invested with only the investment income to be spent.

**WHY ARE ENDOWMENT FUNDS AND THEIR INCOME IMPORTANT?** There are numerous reasons including:

- 1) An endowment serves to provide a stable financial base not always provided by an annual giving
- 2) to maintain the facilities
- 3) to sustain ministries

- 4) to extend mission work
- 5) to encourage stewardship

**WHO CONTROLS INCOME DERIVED FROM THE INVESTMENTS IN THE FUND?**

A committee of people from the congregation invest the principal funds and oversee the resulting interest. The entire congregation has a sense of “ownership” by being represented by this group. Perhaps the largest single use of PVEC’s endowment fund was contributing a large portion of the expenses incurred by Judy Coffey while pursuing her education to become an ordained member of the clergy.

**HOW IS AN ENDOWMENT FUNDED?** Money may be donated

directly and clearly designated “Endowment Fund”. A person may leave a specific amount or a percentage when executing their will. Tangible items such as cars, boats and real estate may be donated to the church. It is imperative that such donations be clearly marked “endowment fund”. The endowment committee then decides how to best invest and use these gifts.

**IN CONCLUSION,** providing principal for a church’s Endowment Fund is an ultimate act of faith in the future of the church and its mission to the world.