

# ***PVEC Happenings***



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## **Congratulations 2010 Graduates!**

*Here is a look at a couple of PVEC's 2010 graduates and the achievements they have accomplished. Congratulations to you all and best of luck in your future endeavors!*

### **Liana Nicole Torlucci**

Liana Nicole Torlucci graduated from Kindergarten on Wednesday, June 23rd, 2010, from Mountain Villa School in Allamuchy. She was happy to have the "World's Best Teacher" this year, Ms. Muhlenbruch.

Liana is six years old and her favorite color is red, today, although often she says "rainbow" is her favorite color. She loves to make projects. She enjoys using scissors, construction paper, glue sticks and her imagination to create beautiful pictures and flowers.

Liana has been studying karate for several months, and is very proud to have finally earned a yellow stripe on her white belt. She is a good reader, and enjoys being able to read and write books.

Sunday School and Coffee Hour are special times Liana looks forward to each week. She has new running shoes and hopes to go running with her mommy. Liana is also a great hiker on the trails in Stephens State Park. Taking time every weekend to help daddy go grocery shopping is another thing she enjoys.

Liana has one sibling, four-year-old Soren whom she enjoys helping learn.



### **Amanda Abdelsayed-Tuttle**

Amanda Abdelsayed-Tuttle graduated this May from Montclair State University with a B.S. in Marketing, Management and Business Administration. A graduation party was held for Amanda by family and attended by Pastor David, Kelsey Jenks and Jerry and Penny Newell.



## “KOINONIA”

This fascinating Greek word can mean “fellowship”, “sharing”, or “participation”. In the world of the early Christian church, it was the word the believers used to describe the common life they shared together: one of breaking bread, caring for one another, and even donating goods to ensure those less fortunate had warmth, food, and shelter. It was the word the Christian church used to describe their unique community and life together. This same word was also used to describe the spiritual act of breaking bread together in the sacrament that we call the Eucharist, Holy Communion, or The Lord’s Supper.

And if I were to choose one word that described our goal as a church growing in faith together, it would be this special Greek word, *koinonia*, or “sharing life together.” What this word conveys is that when we come together, we are more than persons worshipping in the same room, more than shareholders, or even tablemates or committee members, but what indeed we share is a bonded partnership to one common life through Jesus Christ our Lord. When we break bread together, and listen to Jesus words’ “Do this in remembrance of me”, we are reminded that we are called not only to break bread together, but also to love and serve one another with the same love Jesus loved his own.

As your Pastor and with the Ecumenical Council of the church, we’ve decided that our focus for the summer is just this: fellowship or shared our life together. As we slow down a bit for the summer on some of the program and facility goals of the church, let us shift our building energy and turn it from bricks and stone to building the love we share as brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ. If we are ever going to grow together as a church, the foundation of that growth must be mutual trust, love, respect, and fellowship.

This summer, the church is will be hosting a number of special events to give us all opportunities to get to know one another better and share mutual hospitality. First of all, everyone is invited to participate in the **PVEC Summer Book Club**, led by Pastor David, and generously hosted by Pam and Terry Dougherty, two of our newest members. We will be meeting the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday evenings of every month, beginning on June 15<sup>th</sup> at their house on 53 East Avenue in Hackettstown.

Secondly, another special event we’d love for you to be a part of is a special **99<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party** that the church will be hosting for its oldest living member – Mr. Charlie Ort, one of the founder members of the congregation and currently a resident of Heath Village. His birthday will be on Saturday, July 10<sup>th</sup> at Heath Village.

Finally, with the help of our Care and Nurture commission, our church is planning a **Progressive Dinner Celebration** where you will be invited to eat and share fellowship together at the homes of different church members, concluding with dessert at the church. The tentative date for the progressive dinner is July 31.

So let us all take time this summer to get to know our church family just a little better. You’ll be amazed with the stories you’ll hear and new friends you’ll make when you do.

- In Christ, Pastor David Wright

## Thank You, Work Crew

Ron Reece

A great big thank you to the folks who stayed after Worship on June 13<sup>th</sup> to assist the Building and Grounds Committee of the Support Services Commission in “cleaning” both inside and outside the church. I hope I don’t leave anyone out. Barbara and Ron Philipp were working on the outside weeding and carrying off the trimmings. Jerry Newell was manning a chain saw ridding us of broken branches, Helen Guelich packed a mean hedge clipper and Don Guelich was ferocious with his chain saw (good thing he’s not a barber). Also working on the outside were Dick Kehler, Terry Dougherty and John Pflugfelder...mulching. Kudos to Don and Helen for finishing the mulching job after the rest of us left.

A crew of merry maids: Marilyn Schaffer, Janet DiCarlo, Penny Newell, Kathy Plugfelder Gloria Kehler, Linda Trent and Betty Schultheis, dusted and polished the sanctuary, and narthex, cleaned door windows and windows in the Church School wing and washed the toys in the Nursery. There was entirely too much laughing going on with this group...they were actually having fun...can you imagine? I’ll bet there were some surprised looks when someone opened the dishwasher and found Mr. Potato Head body parts.

A special thank you to Bob and Kathy Zinckgraf for making a list and organizing the chores to be done.

Having an attractive building both inside and out is an asset to our worship and it would be impossible to do so without the help of congregation members at our annual clean-up day.

## Access Books

By Cylvia Ultz

Christian Outreach Commission members are participating in an exciting plan to enrich the summer reading of five fifth grade students from Hackettstown Middle School. Six paper back books were provided to each child the last day of the school year. This program originated in Los Angeles. You may have seen something about the program on Oprah who donated over \$100, 000 to the program in California when she heard about it.

Many of you may have had summer school at your elementary school when you were growing up. There was a remediation program for children needing to make up missed work and programs designed to strengthen skills so they were not “lost” over the summer because they were not used. Part of such a program was a “reading list” for the summer and the opportunity to discuss the books as you read them with a teacher. Those programs cost about \$3,000/student and studies show that children actually do as well, or sometimes even better if they read the books at home and talk about them or read aloud with their parents or siblings. Therefore Access Books has been introduced in our area.

In our case, the children will read the books which Christian Outreach provided over the summer and then, there are sign-up sheets on a special bulletin board in Fellowship Hall with lists of the school supplies that are needed for each of these five students for the entire school year 2010-2011. We are looking for people to bring in these items by August 15. You may purchase a single item or multiple items on the list, just sign your name on the line, and bring them in.

## A Milestone Reached

By Betty Schultheis

When we were in the "search process" and utilizing Interim or Supply Ministers our Sunday School program almost disappeared, in fact only a year ago our average attendance during the school year was 2-3 children and during the summer we opted not to have regular Sunday School as many Sundays there were no children. This was of great concern to the Christian Education Commission who worked hard to offer a strong program and prayed to have young families again.

Prayers were answered and from the beginning of this past school year we averaged 8-10 children on Sunday and most of them were regular in attendance. As a result this summer we are having Sunday School each Sunday and many members have volunteered to teach for one or two Sundays to offer the children a wide variety of teachers. Nothing beats seeing those smiling faces at the front of the sanctuary listening to the children's sermon on Sunday morning.

## Going Up?

By Maxine Romig Volger

I want to begin by thanking the members and friends of the congregation for contributing \$22, 170. to the elevator fund to date. In addition, thanks to those who have pledged weekly/monthly.

Information concerning the elevator's location, dimensions and projected costs are included on charts located in the Narthex. There is also a thermometer which we will keep updated indicating donations to date. That way you will all be informed as we progress.

Why do we need an elevator? About a quarter of our congregation has a difficult time navigating the stairs most of the time and there are always some of us on crutches or in a cast who require an elevator during the time we are infirm. For these folks an elevator is the most important feature in the church. An elevator for the older folks is as important as the nursery for the young people and to serve everyone effectively we need both.

## Think Ahead to Help Local Children Go to School

By Cylvia Ultz

Christian Outreach will be collecting school supplies for 5 children going into 6th grade at Hackettstown Middle School. We are asking for church members who would like to donate some items from the school supply lists to sign up on the chart in Fellowship Hall. The chart will be on the bulletin board by the water fountain. We will coordinate all donations and see that the children get the supplies before school begins in September. Many of the items go on sale at Staples, the grocery stores, or the drug stores during the summer.

## TLC for Our Building

Ron Reece

As many of you know our building is aging. It's now over thirty years old and there is a need for repair and replacement. As part of our Stewardship Campaign in the fall, a "maintenance fund" was reinstated and many of you pledged to that fund. We thank you for that.

The Support Services Commission has been gathering information for several months and at their April meeting they prioritized the top four items requiring action. These items were presented to Church Council in May. You can expect to see action taken on these items as we can afford to take care of them.

The top four items are:

1. Replace the worst four windows on the lower level of the building.
2. Replace the front doors to the church. They will be replaced with fiber glass doors as those are most durable. We may also need to replace the Emergency doors as water is coming in around them.
3. The stucco needs to be refreshed so that it does not leak. There is now stucco "sealer" available that we may be able to paint on.
4. Re-seal the stained glass cross as water is beginning to leak in around it.

These are the most critical items, but there are many more that need to be quantified before adding them to the list. We will continue to keep you apprised of what needs to be repaired/replaced as we identify it.

The members of the Building and Grounds Committee of the Support Services Commission include: Don Guelich, Dave Johnson, John Pflugfelder, Sr., and Bob Zinckgraf.

## Spring Road Side Clean Up



Thanks to everyone who participated in the Roadside Clean up in Frelinghuysen Twp. Not only have they helped beautify the area, but for their efforts, our church has received \$500 from the town to put toward our operating costs. Even snakes and turtles did not deter these hard workers! Work crew included Marilyn Schaffer, Bob & Kathy Zinckgraf, Donna Weinberg, John Pflugfelder Terry Dougherty and John Jurena (on the other side of the camera!).

# Panther Valley Ecumenical Church Official Newsletter

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common ground in Christ"*

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## **Torlucci's Chair Family Promise Team for PVEC**

Ron and Sue Torlucci have agreed to chair the Family Promise team for the church. Family Promise of Warren County is a part of the Warren County Interfaith Hospitality Network. PVEC is serving in a "support" role for the hosting Second Presbyterian Church located in Oxford.

You may recall that representatives from the Warren County Interfaith Hospitality Network visited our congregation this spring to discuss the program and our interest in becoming a support church. Many of you completed an interest survey in the Church Bulletin and thus became members of our team. The PVEC team will be providing support for the week beginning July 4<sup>th</sup> at the host church. That support includes evening meal preparation, serving and eating with the families 5-7PM, participating in evening activities and conversation with the families from 7-9PM, and spending the night from 9-6:30AM. Each time slot is an opportunity for separate members of the team. Each evening could include the participation of six people.

There were 309 homeless men women and children in Warren County in January of 2009. Family Promise strives to transition families to permanent housing by:

1. Providing a safe environment that includes shelter, meals, and hospitality for homeless families.
2. Offering supportive services and assistance in the search for employment and housing.
3. Organizing congregations to reach out with compassion.

This is an ongoing activity that we will be supporting several times per year so if you think you would be interested in assisting in the future, you may contact Ron and Sue or call Erika in the church office.