



The PVEC Happenings



Volume 6, Issue

Published by the Stewardship Committee

March 2009

Pastoral Search Status

By Jerry Newell

What is happening? After a long and frustrating six months the Church Information Form was finally accepted by the Presbytery for upload to their website. As of February 17, 2009 18 matches have been sent to me as well as four resumes. The PIFs (Personal Information Forms) from the matches are only a computer match and the individuals probably know nothing about PVEC nor would they be interested. The committee is reaching out to those we feel would best meet the needs of the church. The resumes are being scrutinized as well and we are reaching out to those we feel, again, would meet the needs of the church. As this all sounds very positive we are aware that the process may take an extended period of time and longer than we would like. Let me assure everyone that the search committee will not settle for second best. Please keep us in your prayers.

Plan for Youth

Brian Zinn, Church Council member representing the "youth" of the church announced a plan for attracting High school age students to join our church in worship. He is proposing a *game night* in the near future for teens to hang out for an hour, one night a week at the church. This way, we can meet new and possibly prospective youth members in a friendly environment in which they don't feel threatened to commit to our church in any way. Even for teens not interested in our church, it will also be a safe place for them to have fun and stay out of trouble.

Lila and Ralph Minervino are donating a ping-pong table. Brian plans to set it up along with board games, video games and any other fun activities we can think of. If anyone has a game to donate or any ideas to contribute, contact Brian and let him know.

If any adults would be willing to volunteer to chaperon, it would be greatly appreciated as well.

Brian's contact information 862-266-7782
Zinny1414@yahoo.com

In This Issue

- 1) Pastoral Search Status; Plan for Youth; Greeters
- 2) Information Request; Lent
- 3) Church Council News; Who am I?
- 4) Can You Assist; Congregational Involvement
- 5) From The Pastor
- 6) Did You Know; Super Market Gift Cards; New Eyes for the Needy; Think About Endowing PVEC
- 7) Please Welcome; Organize/Refresh Our Library

Greeters for March

- March 1-Eleanor Braun-- Millard Branch
- March 8-Don, Helen Guelich
- March 15- Lila, Ralph Minervino
- March 22- Bob, Irene Lobell
- March 29- John, Kathy Pflugfelder

Information Requested

Lent

It has been suggested that it would be nice if *The Happenings* had a column each month providing names of congregation members who are having birthdays or anniversaries. We thought that was a great idea, so we're asking each of you to complete the following form. This will take care of single people, couples and families. Please return to the Church Office.

Name _____

Birth date _____

Name _____

Birth date _____

Anniversary _____

Child

1 _____

Birth date _____

Child

2 _____

Birth date _____

Child

3 _____

Birth date _____

Child

4 _____

Birth date _____

By Betty Schultheis

As we approach the Lenten season of the year, I am reminded of how different it is today than when I was growing up. I grew up in a Baptist home back in the days when all of my Catholic friends ate fish every Friday. During Lent, we ate fish on Friday too. We had a "Lenten Calendar", similar to the Advent Calendars familiar to people today, posted in our kitchen with the special prayer services printed on it. Each of us had to make a list of the things we were giving up for Lent and then we all helped each other remember to honor our lists.

I haven't seen a Lenten Calendar in years, so I thought I would do a little research. I don't know what "do a little research" means to you, but to me it means "Google it". So I Googled Lent and discovered all kinds of wonderful information. There were ideas for getting the most spiritual meaning from the season, lists of resources to buy at a bookstore or online, and family packages that could be purchased. The family packages include explanations of Lent, the liturgy of Lent, and beautiful Lenten Calendars. So, if you are looking for a way to personally enrich your Lenten experience, head for your computer and take advantage of what you find there.

Ushers for March

- March 1 Cory Wilson, Pat Wilson, Brian Zinn
- March 8 Frank & Joan Gibbs
- March 15 Maxine Volger & Donna Weinberg
- March 22 (open)
- March 29 Bob & Jane Nichols

Please Honor the Happenings Deadline

Please submit all articles by the 15th 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



News from the Commissions:

Care, Nurture and Fellowship is planning to host a monthly “Fellowship” event and would welcome any ideas you might have. They will be kicking off with a covered dish lunch on Sunday, March 15. Bring a covered dish and an appetite. They will furnish the beverage, bread and dessert.

Christian Education wants you to “save the date” Palm Sunday, April 5 for a Seder. We hosted one in 2007 and it was enjoyed by all. Details will be unfolding over the next month.

Christian Outreach provides an update on the Lord’s Pantry: the Lord’s Pantry began the New Year with a flurry of calls that reflected the serious problems in our economy. As a result, we reinstated some guidelines that were followed in the past such as calling ahead for appointments, limiting use for emergency situations, and qualification by Social Services or other agencies. In the past few weeks, Pantry use has stabilized and resembles previous winter months.

We greatly appreciate the generous donations from the congregation. They have been a big help. We always need canned fruit, canned pasta, tuna, stew, and baked beans.

Support Services: During the past several weeks, there has been a problem with the heating system. That problem has been solved and the sanctuary and fellowship hall should be comfortable to everyone now. There is still some work needed due to the age of the furnace and we will continue to monitor the situation.

Worship, as you know took a survey of the congregation to see what Lenten and Holy Week services the congregation preferred. This information was utilized to plan our services. The Ash Wednesday Service will be held at 7:30PM on February 25th. There will be a Lenten Bible Study at noon on Wednesdays beginning February 25th. During Holy Week, the Maundy Thursday Evening Service will feature a soup supper in Fellowship Hall and include the optional foot washing. The Good Friday Service will be at 7:30PM and will be a tennabrae service. There will be one service on Easter Sunday, our regular 10:00AM Service, and Communion will be served.

Who AM I?

This is going to be a new column in the monthly *Happenings* newsletter. We will provide little known information about someone in our congregation and you, the reader, will try to figure out who the person is. You may then email Ron Reece (ronreece@optonline.net) with your guess and the next month we will let you know who was able to guess the correct answer and also identify the person from the column.

I am somewhat of a quiet person. I have a terrific memory and a penchant for remembering old commercials. When you get me going I have been known to sing and/or say numerous commercials for 15 minutes or longer. I can be very entertaining and the source of great amusement. Who am I?

Can You Assist

The Frelinghuysen Township School 5th & 6th Grade students will be hosting an Inaugural Ball and Veterans War Memorial Museum Program on February 26, 2009 at 7 PM, with a snow date of February 27. The event will be held at the school located at 780 Rt 94, Johnsonburg, N.J.

The evening will be free for invited guests including war veterans, V I P's, senior citizens, 5th & 6th Grade students and their parents. Earlier Inaugural Balls held 1997, 2001 and 2005 were a great success earning a special place in the Congressional Record and serving as inspiration for both students and adults. This formal evening will consist of dancing and refreshments as well as historical displays, war exhibits, and visits with our "living" presidents: George Washington & Martha will step through time to attend, along with fellow presidents and first ladies.

We are seeking historical displays and memorabilia that relate to any of our country's Presidents, as well as displays for the Veteran's Museum, which covers 200 years of military history and service from the American Revolution through 2009. We have been honored in the past with many exhibits including the Salvation Army, US Armed Forces, Red Cross, President Lincoln's exhibits, and many fabulous historical groups representing soldiers from the past.

We would appreciate your assistance. Please contact Renae Jensen directly as she will be

coordinating all of the displays for the evening with the assistance of the 5th and 6th grade parents.

Renae Jensen Inaugural Program Coordinator
Phone: cell 908 797-5225 home 908 459-4005
Renae@designharmony.com
Historical Displays

Congregational Involvement

It is always a wonderful experience when we welcome the son or daughter of a congregation member into the church through the sacrament of baptism. It makes us feel as though we are an active participant in the lives of the young family and we look forward to the day when we will participate in the confirmation of the child, the day when s/he will sign the church covenant and become an active member of the church.

We were privileged to not only participate in Sadie Lynn Pflugfelder's baptism, but also be a part of the family reception following the service and in getting to hold Sadie and make her acquaintance up close and personal. What a delightful experience it was.





FROM THE PASTOR

As I write this, I am still relishing the memories of the baptism of Sadie Pflugfelder on the day after Valentine's Day, February 15. It was good to see the pews filled with new faces, and the Fellowship Hall was beautifully decorated and resounded with happy voices enjoying each other and the marvelous repast prepared by the extended family. It surely was a wondrous sampling of the kingdom of God on earth!

We are now in the period of the church year known as Lent. Traditionally, Lent has been celebrated with a more intentional effort at self-examination and meditation in preparation for the events of Holy Week. Many of you may have at home devotional booklets or other materials that you can use for your own personal or family meditation. On Ash Wednesday we began a noontime study of the Gospel of Mark that I am leading. We are reading the entire Gospel of Mark, using a modern translation called *The Message*, by the Rev. Eugene Peterson. If you are interested in this reading of Mark, please bring a bag lunch for yourself or even a pot of soup to share. We also plan several special worship services during Lent, beginning with the Ash Wednesday service to be held on February 25. See the calendar section of the Sunday bulletins for the dates and times of those services, which take place during Holy Week (from Palm Sunday through Easter).

Even as we celebrate the season of Lent, the work of the church continues. The personal visits I invited everyone to schedule with me have begun, albeit a bit more slowly than I had hoped! The ones that have taken place were good visits and very helpful to me as your interim pastor. Please call me or the church office to suggest a good time for you (and your

spouse/family) to meet with me so that we may get to know each other better. I will also initiate contact with those who are home-bound or in retirement or nursing homes.

As an essential aspect of this interim time as you search for a pastor, in the coming weeks I will be asking Council members especially to wrestle with some issues that relate to the growth and strengthening of the Panther Valley Ecumenical Church. If you have ideas or suggestions for us to consider, please share them with a member of Council or with me.

I hope you will feel invited always to contact me, via email, telephone, or in person. I will have office hours Tuesday through Thursday mornings each week, and you are encouraged to call for an appointment so I can plan for our time together. If you have a personal emergency or other urgent reason to contact me when the office is closed, you may call my home (973-292-1246) or my cell phone (201-919-8908). My email address is chipsanders@optonline.net.

Sooner than we might think, crocuses will have begun to spring forth from their wintry tombs, reminding us of the coming to life in the northern hemisphere of God's earthly creation, reminding us that there is life after life. Yes, as the flower is different from the seed, so our own future will be different from the present one, a new life springing forth from the old. May your early springtime be joyously anticipated.

Hallelujah! Amen.

Did You Know????

By Lila Minervino

That most Sunday mornings at 11:15 AM a group from our congregation meets in a Church School classroom for Bible study under the very capable leadership of one of our own, Bob Nichols.

Bob has extensive knowledge of religion and the Bible, both through years of study and personal travel experience with his wife Jane. He usually starts with a film from his own library and then leads the group in a lively discussion. He manages to bring current events and every day living experiences into the dialogue.

The group always leaves the class having learned something new and with lots to think about. Besides being enriching, this class gives the attendees a chance to get to know each other.

All are welcome! Bring your coffee and join us!

Buy Supermarket Gift Cards

We all have to buy groceries every week, so why not help raise money for the church at the same time? We have gift cards for A&P, ShopRite and Weis. Here's the way it works: if you usually spend \$100. at the grocery store, buy a gift card for \$100. You receive the gift card to do your shopping and the church receives 5% of the value.

It is an easy and painless way to support the church. The total gift cards sold through February 15th were \$6,620.00, which netted the church \$331.00. If you are unable to purchase your gift cards on Sunday mornings and would like to purchase gift cards during the week, you can call or email Helen Guelich, (908) 852-0923, d.guelich205@comcast.net, and make arrangements with me to drop them off at the church office for you or whatever other arrangement might be convenient.

Thanks to all of you who faithfully purchase gift cards.

New Eyes for the Needy

Our congregation has been supporting "New Eyes for the Needy" since 2003. To date we have collected more than 180 pairs of eyeglasses and glasses cases. There is a basket in the Narthex in which to place your donation. Also in the basket is a pamphlet, which details the work of the organization, which collects the glasses from donor organizations and distributes them to needy recipients. Thank you for your continuing support.

Think About Endowing PVEC

By Maxine Romig Volger

It's just plain thoughtful to think about how your estate will be divided when you are not around. It's just plain thoughtful to take care of your family when you are gone. Go one step further: Isn't it just plain thoughtful to take care of your church when you are no longer here?

It isn't thoughtful to leave only an empty pew when you are gone!

We don't know when we need to have our will in order. Maybe you have done some planning for the future, but did you take care of PVEC in those plans?

Most of us have spent a lifetime of involvement in a faith community. Panther Valley Ecumenical Church has been a blessing for many persons over the years.

It will be here for years to come- it will be here to show your family where you devoted much of your talents, time and money. You can point the way for their journey of faith by how you leave the church.

Do you need help in formalizing your estate plans? First, you must state that your gift be directed to the PVEC Endowment Fund. This assures that it will be used in the future for what you designate. You may leave an insurance policy, stocks/ bonds, an IRA or cash. Remember that the PVEC Endowment Committee stands ready to assist you in your plans. If you have a specific question, we will help you find the correct answer.

Please Welcome



Sadie Lynn Pflugfelder
Born: 8-6-08
8 pounds, 9 ounces
21 inches tall
Baptized 2-15-09
Parents:
Tracy and John Pflugfelder, Jr.



Alexander Robert Johnson
Born 11-19-08
6 pounds 11 ounces
19 inches tall
Parents:
Betty and Dave Johnson

Organize/Refurbish Our Library

By Betty Schultheis

We have countless resources in our Library and it would be wonderful for the congregation to be able to utilize them, but first the materials need to be organized. Unfortunately, it's probably been almost 10 years since anyone has been actively involved with the library. I would like to form a committee dedicated to making our library usable again. I will get this effort organized because it needs to be done, but do not plan to be involved because it is not in my set of skills.

The task at hand will involve several steps:

1. Deciding the topics to be included within our limited space
2. Discarding "old" material (by that I mean there are many topics that change as technology/philosophy changes for example books for expectant mothers...we have dozens of these some are no longer relevant and simply need to be discarded)
3. Setting up a system for signing out the materials
4. Cataloging all materials
5. Building a database of our Library materials
6. Adding cards to materials without cards
7. Establishing a system for tracking borrowed materials
8. Establishing an ongoing "Library Committee"

So, if you are interested in participating in this project please contact me and then we can set up a meeting to get you all together and get started. This project can make use of individuals' time whenever you have it. I may be reached at 908-850-0179 or by email bettyschultheis@optonline.net, or at church on Sunday morning.

Panther Valley Ecumenical Church
1490 Route 517
P.O. Box 463
Allamuchy, NJ 07820

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE PAID
ALLAMUCHY, NJ
PERMIT NO. 11
DATED MATERIAL

Phone: 908-852-5444
Fax: 908-850-4754
Email: info@pvem.net
or to submit articles for the "Happenings"
Email: ronrecede@optonline.net
We're on the web www.pvem.net

