



Mike Billington Day October 21, 2005



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The Golf Outing began with worries about the weather. All the tee signs were prepared for the possibility of rain. The goody bags were filled and double counted. The cars arrived that were to be awarded for anyone making a hole-in-one on #2 or #14. All of the anxieties were tied into their perfect knots. Prayers, hugs, good wishes, et. al. were passed around among the committee and the players – and then they were off to a fun filled day of golf and fellowship.



One of the features of the day was a young golfer of five years old, Tyler Wilson.

Several players came close to a hole-in-one on hole #2. The only problem was that they teed off from #18. From the 14th tee, there was at least one shot where the ball was a tee-in-one for the 15th hole. Of course several of the bunkers and water features were very holy by the end of the

day as they were well blessed by several of the players.

The day ended with a wonderful dinner attended by 176 friends and relatives. There were several awards for various good shots or otherwise handed out as well as several door prizes and a few auction items. Everyone went home happy.

For more photos see the web site at pvem.net and for more information refer to the pastor's article on page 6

Parish Nurse Update

By: Carol Miller

The PVEM Parish Nurses and Jazzercise held a Super Session on Friday Oct. 14th to raise monies for the Mike Billington Fund. A Super Session is a 90 minute workout using the Jazzercise format of dance, aerobics, weight training, flexibility and balance. I approached Chris Biamonte the Hackettstown Franchise owner about two months ago and she took my suggestion and ran with it. There were nine area instructors present (wearing yellow) to take turns teaching routines. The session was open to the public and you didn't need to be a student of jazzercise to participate.

Our junior jazzercisers kicked off the evening by performing a routine for everyone that they had learned this summer.

The set that Chris put together was full of hopeful and inspiring music. There were numerous door prizes from area businesses and refreshments. 70 people participated and we raised over \$2,000.

We were so thrilled to have Mike's mother Pat and sister Melissa with us that evening. It was wonderful to see so many kind, caring, and supportive people come together to help a local family in need. We will all continue to keep Mike and his family in our thoughts and prayers.

Congregation Meets

Today, October 30, the congregation will meet to hear the report of the Survey Task Force.

Congregation members shared their individual vision, expectations and hopes

via the survey instrument.

The task force report provides the "collective" results of what we individually said. We, the congregation, will then participate in a "path forward" to accomplish our vision.

The report is interesting and exciting and the path forward provides a niche for each individual to participate in building our future.

There will be opportunities to serve on short term task groups to move us forward to become a dynamic, vibrant, **GROWING** Church.

Auction 2006

by Betty Schultheis

During the month of November we will begin to showcase items that have been donated for the Auction. There will be a table during coffee hour with a display so you can get an idea of what will be available.



Ducks Unlimited wood duck print s/n, with two duck stamps.

Several of you have contacted committee members this past month to complete the paperwork concerning your donation. Thank you!

Anyone who volunteered to be on an Auction committee in the spring should have received either an email or a snail mail (jargon for U.S. Postal Service) during the past week inviting you to a meeting on **Tuesday, November 15th at 7:30 pm** in Fellowship Hall.

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.

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

Commission News

Buildings and Grounds

Christian Education

See insert

Christian Outreach

Holiday Bazaar on Nov. 6th!

Please plan on coming down to the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, Nov. 6th after church. Christian Outreach will be having their main fundraiser, the Holiday Bazaar. Start your Christmas shopping early and enjoy a homemade lunch!

Thanksgiving Baskets:

We will again be putting together a Thanksgiving meal for local families in need. Please help us by donating turkeys, gift certificates, or money to help cover the costs.

Invite a friend! The bazaar will be held from 11:15am to 4:00pm

Church Growth & Fellowship

The Fall Fellowship Fest at the Schaffer's was held on October 22 despite the miserable weather.

The food was delicious and fun was had by all. We enjoyed talking and painting pumpkins in front of a roaring fire in the fireplace. Many thanks to Charlie and Doreen for their gracious hospitality.

The Church Growth committee began an experiment in July. They are mailing welcoming letters along with a copy of the new church brochure and a copy of the current month's *Happenings* to new residents of Panther Valley. A follow-up letter is being mailed with a current month's copy of the *Happenings* during the second month.

Pastoral Care

In remembrance: Marion Barnes Mother, Mabel Stalker passed away during October. Please remember the family in your prayers.

In Celebration: The Granddaughter of Suzanne and Bill Dowd, Casey Mabel Gilbert, was baptized on October 23. Photo on page 4 Column 2.

Stewardship & Communication

PVEM Fall Campaign and Maintenance Fund

Our annual Fall Campaign approaches, with Consecration Sunday scheduled for Sunday, November 6th. During worship, we will submit two pledge cards for 2006: an Estimate of Giving Card in support of the operating budget and a Maintenance Fund Pledge Card in support of our Maintenance Fund. While most of you are familiar with our operating fund, we would like to explain again the Maintenance Fund, which is only in its second year of operation.

The Maintenance Fund replaces our old Church Improvement Fund. In the past, we raised money for major capital expenses such as the roof or the siding on the church on an as needed basis. The concept behind a Maintenance Fund is to plan for these expenses by considering how long such capital items are expected to last and how much they will cost when we need to replace them.

By setting aside funds each year in a Maintenance Fund, we'll have the money needed when the time comes. It's a more proactive way to approach these major expenses.

Going forward, we estimate that we'll need \$55,000 per year in order to adequately finance this fund. While that's a daunting amount, we can make a start this year and manage our capital budget so that we have the funds necessary when these major expenses come due.

Anyone with questions about the Maintenance Fund is urged to speak to Dave Robinson.

Worship

Worship Commission members look forward with anticipation to preparation of the table for Harvest Sunday on November 20th. The table will stay in place for the **Community Thanksgiving Service** on Wednesday, November 23rd at 7:30 pm. Since PVEM is hosting the service we hope you will join us in welcoming guests from Trinity United Methodist Church, St. James Episcopal Church, and First Presbyterian Church, all of Hackettstown.

The Prayer Ministry

The Worship Commission has been working to formalize the prayer Ministry at PVEM. The purpose is to help members of the congregation feel more comfortable in requesting prayer for self, family members and friends. It is also to help members who are praying for others to feel more connected to the persons for whom they are offering prayers.



*From the Prayer Ministry at PVEM Brochure in the Narthex display rack

We want people to be able to retain privacy if they so desire, but to offer more information to others if that will ease their concerns.

*

Prayer List

You may continue to enter names on the prayer list in the Narthex. These names will be read in Sunday morning worship.

Prayer Cards

Prayer cards are available in the Narthex, the pews and the church office. Complete the card, marking it appropriately whether you wish it to be given to the Prayer Chain, printed in the Sunday bulletin, or kept confidential. These cards will be placed on the altar for two weeks.

Bulletin Prayer List

You may complete a prayer card or call the office to include someone on the prayer list printed in the Sunday bulletin. Generally speaking, names will be listed for four consecutive Sundays. This list focuses on acute circumstances rather than on chronic conditions. You may, however, request prayer for the same person more than once.

Prayer Chain

Several of our members participate in this confidential ministry of daily prayer. You may request prayer (or become a member) by calling Eloise Mial, or Rev. Howson. This group has no meetings. They simply lift people up in prayer.

Pray Together

All of us have times when we seek prayer support and fellowship. Each Sunday one or two people who are willing to pray with others will sit in the front of the church following morning worship. You are welcome to join them for 5-10 minutes of prayer and sharing.

Prayer Board

A section of the Worship Commission bulletin board in Fellowship Hall includes the names of those in chronic or ongoing need of prayer. For instance, members in nursing homes or overseas in the armed forces are listed on this board. Their names will also be published in "Happenings" each month.

Prayer Shawls

Several members and friends knit prayer shawls that may be given as gifts to those who are facing surgery or illness or who are struggling with grief, depression, etc. They can also be a wonderful gift of love for a new mother. Please contact Eloise Mial if you know someone you would like to receive a prayer shawl. Recipients need not be a member of PVEM.

We invite you to participate in this ministry in as many ways as you wish. As we pray for one another and with one another in all our joys and struggles, we will grow together in love and faith, and give glory to God.



Baptism of
Casey Mabel Gilbert

Meet the Congregation

Brian and Lauren Wittig moved to Andover in 1997. Lauren had been visiting churches for awhile when she searched the Internet for UCC and found us. Her first visit was in December 2004 and the family became members this spring of 2005



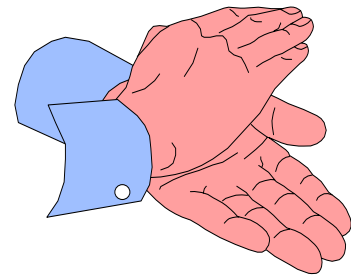
Lauren teaches middle school math at West Paterson and Brian is an outside sales representative for a large plastics company. Brian is also an avid fisherman.

They chose PVEM because they can both celebrate Holy Communion in the way that is comfortable to each of them while worshipping together as a family. They enjoy the fact that all are included and none excluded in worship.

Lauren is a part of the Church School Leadership Team and her handiwork can be found on the Church School poster in the narthex. She is also a member of the Survey Task Force. Her enthusiasm is boundless.

They have two adorable children: Jake is seven and Abigail is three.

If you don't know Brian and Lauren or Abigail and Jake introduce yourself and prepare to smile.




Thank You

The Fall Rummage Sale netted \$2,041.60 that will go toward the operating budget. The bake sale made \$100.00. The proceeds will help fund the replacement of the hallway carpet in the education wing.

I want to thank my co-chair, Penny Newell, and all of the men and women who helped make this sale a great success. I look forward to working with you again in the spring at our next PVEM rummage sale.

John Jurena





FROM THE PASTOR

As I sit down to write, I long to be able to communicate how the Spirit of God has been so tangibly alive among us these past weeks.

On Monday the taskforce evaluating the results of the Church Survey which you filled out in the spring, made their report to the church council. We had a meeting filled with insight, energy, and hope as we began to look toward the future. The taskforce of Betty Schultheis, Linda Yaeger, Tom Roberts, Lauren Witting, Tracy Quinn, Charlie Schaffer, and Bob Zinckgraf have been at work since August. Their work has enabled us to see much more clearly the pathway into a vibrant and life-giving future. Be sure to mark your calendars to attend the Congregational Meeting after church on October 30 in order to hear their report. Child care will be available.

On Friday, which was Michael Billington Day, Mike came from Sloan Kettering to join 98 golfers and 176 dinner guests at Minebrook Golf Club. He had had a difficult week: his first week of radiation along with the chemo. Because the doctors anticipate that it will become difficult for him to eat, on Wednesday Mike had surgery to install a stomach tube. It was still bothering him Friday night.

Since we began working on the event, we have been surrounded by an energy of love, cooperation, and true community which came to fruition in the event itself. Although a final accounting is not complete, the golf outing and the Jazzercise event that Carol Miller put together last weekend, have raised over \$25,000 to help Mike and his family.

While I do not wish to discount the funds raised because they are so important for the family, it was the love and prayers that Mike talked about when

he thanked everyone. For it is your love and prayers that continue to uphold him in the dark days. And to be sure, it is your love and prayers that have enabled us to raise the money.

Very special thanks go to the members of our Golf Outing Committee: Ralph Minervino, chair, Ron Phillip, John Abromitis, Joan deRuiter, Jim Howson, Doreen Schaffer, Helen Guelich, Dick Kehler, Millard Branch, Rick Wilson, Laurie Krauss, Jeff Testa, Amy Testa, Stella Souder, Jane Nichols, and Kathy Zinckgraf. In case there are names you don't recognize, they are people from the community who asked to join us. Special thanks also go to Ron Reece for being our official photographer and to Ron MacIntyre for printing and donating the bulletin.

We have much for which to give God thanks and praise.

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

Sunday, Nov 6	10:00	Pledges received
	11.30	Fall Bazaar
Sunday, Nov 13	11:30	Stewardship lunch
Sunday, Nov 20	10:00	Harvest Sunday
		Special Church School program
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
	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	tba	Morning Worship – no church school
Sunday, Jan 1	tba	Morning Worship – no church school



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:

- Nov. United Church of Christ
- Dec. Growth & Fellowship

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.

Panther Valley Ecumenical Ministry
1490 Route 517
Hackettstown, NJ 07840

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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”
hppnings@mindspring.com
We’re on the web www.pvem.net



Think About It – Now’s the Time!!

By: Jeanne Bateman

If you’ve set a date to leave us, meaning you and your family (just kidding), please think of our future McGregor Memorial Garden, designed only for the interment of ashes. While we won’t see it completed for years, it is going to happen – a little at a time. Starting this coming year we hope to at least build one wall, perhaps with one bronze plaque. All we need is that green paper stuff.

You’ll see a brochure soon explaining the garden.

Think about it....

