



Getting to Know the Commissions

Worship Commission Mission and Goals

The Worship Commission works to support and facilitate the spiritual environment and working of the church. The commission helps to maintain spiritual services through coordinating materials, music, and human resources.

Members of the Worship Commission are responsible for preparing special worship needs for Palm Sunday, Easter, Pentecost, Advent and Christmas. Our Altar Guild prepares Holy Communion each month. The Worship Commission ensures there are acolytes, church checkers, church greeters and ushers for each Sunday service.

Other duties include:

- Overseeing and supporting the work of our choirs
- Arranging for altar flowers including special holiday flowers and candles
- Recruiting lay scripture readers for all Sunday services

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Commissions

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New Members Classes

New Members Classes will be held on Sunday October 17 and 31 for anyone who wishes to learn more about the church. Those who wish to join will be received into membership on Sunday, November 7 during morning worship. Childcare is available upon request.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY CREATION-Six Days or Fifteen Billion Years????

On Sunday, October 10th at 9:00 AM in the church library, we will begin a study on the book of Genesis. We will start at the very beginning with the six days of creation and in the future weeks will discuss:

Adam & Eve, The Flood, The Tower, Cain & Abel, Abraham & Sarah, Jacob and Esau, Etc.

Come, have a cup of coffee and enter into a spirited discussion of the very beginnings of our faith.

Bob Nichols

TOGETHERNESS CIRCLE:

The Togetherness Circle will hold its first meeting of the new church calendar on Thursday, October 21. We will meet in the conference room at 10:30 am and we are pleased to have our new Pastor The Rev. Dr. Mary Louise Howson as our speaker. All women of the church are invited. Bring a sandwich and the ladies of the Circle will provide desserts and beverages.

- Devotional literature
- Hearing aides and speaker system upkeep
- Musical programs
- Preparing special banners and denominational symbols
- Sanctuary decorations such as Easter flowers, the Harvest table, Christmas trees, flowers and wreaths
- Distribution of palms on Palm Sunday and red ribbons on Pentecost Sunday
- Planning and supporting worship for special services for Christmas Eve and Easter Sunrise

Our meetings are held the first Monday of each month at 7:30 P.M. New members are needed and always welcome.

Current members are: Lynn Jurena, Bob and Irene Lobell, Jane Nichols, Ron McIntyre, Kathy Rathbone, Ron Reece-Chair, Betty Schultheis-Secretary, Gail and Greg Werner, Mitzi Yamawaki.

Auxilliary Members are: Joe Itkor-Bell Choir Director, Rick Wilson-Usher Coordinator, Ann Zinn-Acolyte Coordinator, Paige and Julie Schmiedeke-Altar Guild.

DENOMINATIONAL NEWS:

You are invited to a service of Celebration and greeting for the new UMC Leader, Bishop Sudarshana Devadhare on Saturday, October 16th at 10:00 am at Princeton University Chapel, Princeton, NJ.

Welcome Home

New Jersey Association of the UCC, Fall Meeting presents "Welcome Home": a guide for providing an extravagant welcome and generous hospitality to all on October 16th 9:15 am until 3:00 pm at Community Church of Mountain Lakes. Please see the bulletin board for more information

Acolyte Training

On October 17, following the morning worship, we will be holding Acolyte traing in the sanctuary. It is very important that all youth who wish to participate in the program attend the training as there are some changes that will be made in the procedure. The training session will take about 15 minutes.

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

PVEM is “Letting God’s Light Shine”

By Amy Testa

September 12th was the first day of Church School and we had quite a turn out. 38 kids registered for Church School!!! All seemed to have enjoyed the Pancake Breakfast. Thanks to everyone who made the breakfast possible: Charlie & Doreen Schaffer, The Pflugfelder Family, Marilyn Schaffer and all the youth who helped serve.

Thank you to John Pflugfelder, Jr. for the awesome Lighthouse. It turned out to be more than I imagined. It is a sight to behold and I think now we are really a beacon on the hill!! Again we thank him (and all the little helpers) for all the hard work.

The children are currently learning about the Widow’s Mite and how important it is to give whatever you can. They will also be doing a moment for mission on October 24th and have a special gift to share with the congregation. Please plan to attend and let the children show what they have learned.

Again, thanks to everyone who helped start the church school year. All the volunteers, teachers, beacons, etc. We could not have done it without you. We are truly blessed to have so many people who “Share their Light.”

By the way, if you are interested in teaching our next rotation is “Joseph Forgives” which begins on October 24th through November 21st. We do need teachers so please sign up. If you have any questions, please give me a call. Thanks.

Youth Group

News from the youth

By Ashley Testa

Our Youth Group is now meeting every 2nd and 4th Friday of the month from 7-9 pm. Our first meeting was Friday, 8/13 and we had approximately 10 youth attend. Five of the youth were not from our church! We elected 4 officers, they are: Jessie Randis-President, Ryan Schaars-Vice President, Ashley Testa-Secretary and Elizabeth Pflugfelder-Treasurer.

Note From the Editor:

As we all experienced on September 26, our youth group has become very active and is now a very good reflection of the quality programs that we have in our church. Please continue to support them whenever you see an opportunity.

YOUTH GROUP CAR WASH

On Sunday, October 3rd the youth will be having a car wash immediately following worship. There will be no charge!!! All they ask is that you bring in a bag of food for the Lord’s Pantry. That’s it. This is just one way that the Youth Group would like to give back to the community. So remember, bring food and get your car washed!! How easy is that!!

New Church Directory

During the month of October, we will be scheduling photo sessions with church members. There will be a (\$5) five dollar charge per family sitting with no order required. Each family will receive a proof photo from which they may order additional prints (package prices will be available). The new directory will be available after the first of the year. Day schedules will be for Oct. 6 and 7 between 10 and 4. Evening schedules will be Oct 20 and 21 between 4 and 8. Watch for the announcements in the bulletin.



FROM THE PASTOR

With the arrival of September the church's program year has begun again. We are, I believe off to a very strong start. I continue enjoying getting to know you and I feel richly blessed to be in ministry with you.

Together we have already survived hurricane Ivan and my stomach flu on the same weekend. I am deeply grateful to all of you who helped to lead worship that day and especially to Dr. John Shayner who gave an excellent (so I am told) message on a moment's notice. He is one of the many gifted, faithful people whose presence in this congregation is a blessing to all of us.

Together we are standing at the beginning of a new time our life together as a community of faith. In many ways this September marks the "gate" of a new year – a time beyond the old when the future is as yet unknown.

In these transitional times we stand in the gate with one foot in the past and one in the future, looking first in one direction and then in the other. Always we carry some of the past into our future. Always we are filled with some grief for what is gone, some anxiety about what lies ahead, and hope for what the future will bring.

I would like to share with you some words that I find to be full of wisdom for all of us who stand on the threshold. They were quoted from an unknown source by King George VI of England in a speech he gave to the British people on Christmas Day, 1939.

Now it is important to remember that in September, 1939 England went to war with the Axis powers who already had conquered most of Europe. England would be nearly brought to her knees in the war that would follow. But she would also

emerge stronger, more united, and more committed than ever to the Biblical values of justice, compassion, and truth.

I said to a man who stood at the gate of the year, "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown." And he replied, "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than a light and safer than a known way."

I know of no better advice for us as we walk together through this new gateway into a future that we cannot see.

I hope that you will pray with me that instead of trying to be our own light, we will reach for Christ's hand in the darkness and trust in his pathway.

Our Sunday School theme this year is "Letting God's light shine." While not the most grammatically elegant language, it is phrased that way to teach our children and remind the rest of us that church is not a place where we come to shine our own light but rather a place where we practice letting God's light shine in us and through us. For it is God's light not our light that gives life to the world. And the lighthouse on our lawn is reminder that God's light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it. All we need to do is reach for God's hand.

Prayer Chain

And for all of you who seek to reach for God's hand we have a wonderful new opportunity. Eloise Mial has volunteered to coordinate a Prayer Chain.

A prayer chain is a group of people who agree to lift prayer requests to God. Most often the requests are from people in need. Sometimes they are prayers of thanksgiving. All requests are absolutely confidential. Members of the prayer chain pass the request along the chain either by email or telephone. Periodically the coordinator updates the information and notifies the members of any change in status.

Requests may be for individuals or for world or community situations.

If you wish to join the prayer chain, please notify either Eloise Mial (973-948—637) or Rev. Howson. If you have a prayer request, just let either of us know.

And let us all give thanks for a new ministry that helps all of us reach for God's hand.

Open Forum

HOW TO RECOGNIZE A STROKE

This information might be a lifesaver if you can remember three questions to ask the person you believe may be having a stroke. Unfortunately, the lack of awareness may result in unnecessary pain and suffering. The stroke victim may suffer brain damage when bystanders fail to recognize stroke symptoms.

Doctors are saying that any person can recognize a stroke by asking these three simple question:

- ✓ Ask the person to smile.
- ✓ Ask the person to raise both arms.
- ✓ Ask the person to speak a simple sentence.

If he or she has trouble with any of these tasks, CALL 911 immediately and describe the symptoms to the dispatcher.

Upon discovering that a group of non medical volunteers could identify facial weakness and speech problems, researchers urged the general public to learn these questions. These were presented at the National Stroke Association's annual meeting last February. "Widespread use of this test could result in prompt diagnosis and treatment of the stroke and prevent brain damage."
PASS IT ON.....

Letters to the Editor

Anyone in the church who would like to be heard can submit an article to the Happenings by turning it in to Amy or emailing it to hppnings@mindspring.com.

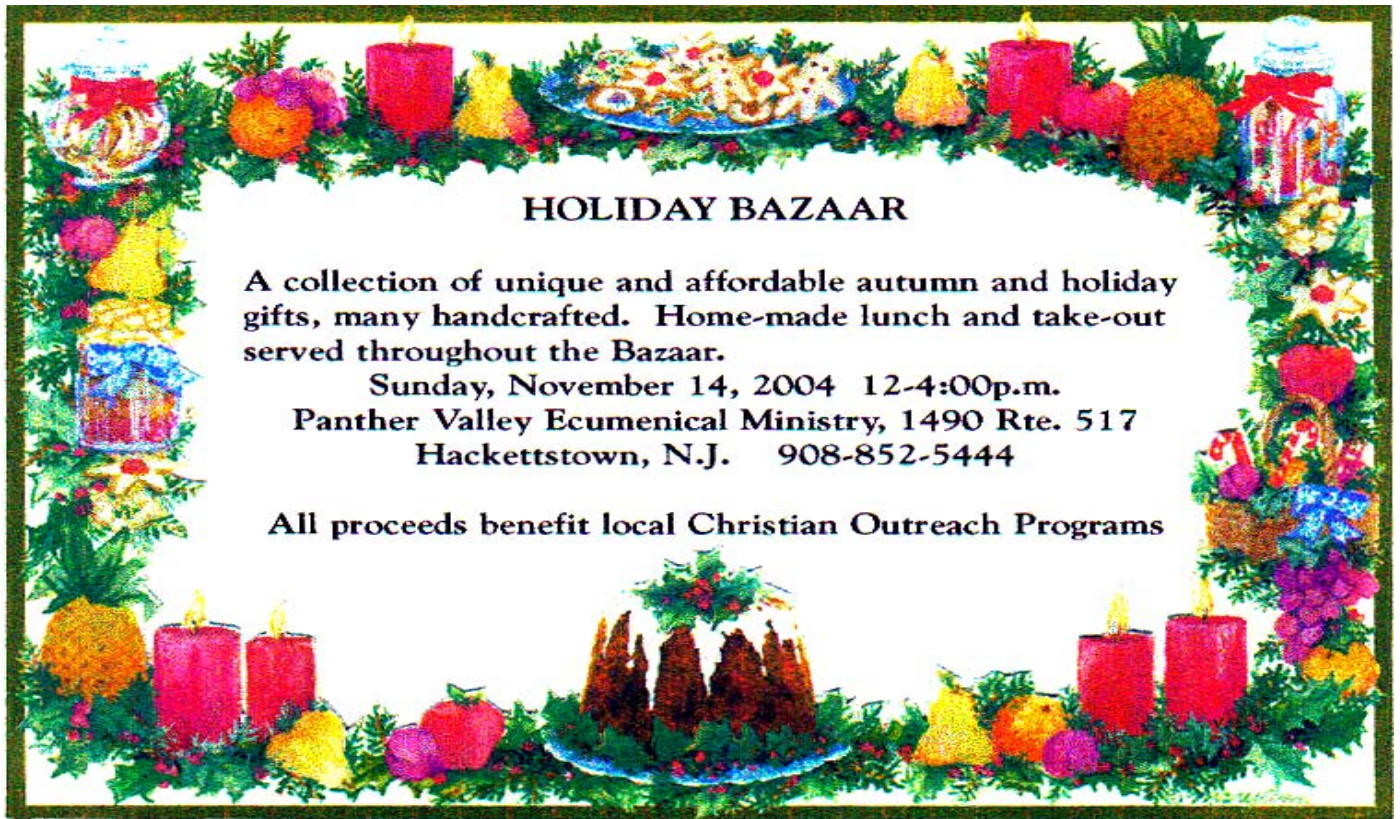
Thanks

Sincere thanks to Diane, "Fletch" and Dave for their many acts of kindness, as they came to my aid, when I fell in fellowship Hall They were very caring & professional in taking care of me
You're the best !!

God Bless and thanks again

Arlene Bailey

Do you have any ideas? Use this space to write them down. Then maybe you can bring it to a commission member or to a council member. Remember, the only stupid question, is the one you don't ask!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



HOLIDAY BAZAAR

A collection of unique and affordable autumn and holiday gifts, many handcrafted. Home-made lunch and take-out served throughout the Bazaar.

Sunday, November 14, 2004 12-4:00p.m.
 Panther Valley Ecumenical Ministry, 1490 Rte. 517
 Hackettstown, N.J. 908-852-5444

All proceeds benefit local Christian Outreach Programs

Crop Walk

Sunday October 24

Starts and ends at Trinity United
 Methodist Church

Join in to raise money for World
 Hunger

The walk will be 2.2 miles

For more information please call the
 church office.

PVEM 852-5444
 Trinity UMC 852-3020

ANNUAL FALL RUMMAGE SALE

The Panther Valley Ecumenical Ministry
 will be holding their annual fall rummage
 sale.

Fri, Oct 22nd, 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM
 Sat, Oct 23rd from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Items to be sold, clothing, sporting goods, small
 appliances, craft items,
 household goods and much more.

Drop-off days are Oct 18th, 19th and 20th.

If you would like to help, please contact
John Jurena 850-0987 or
John Pflugfelder Jr. 850-7605.

Hope to see you there!

Parish Nurse Update

Program Coordinator's Office Hours

Sunday, Teaching and other program related work until 1PM

Monday and Tuesday, non meeting days 3:30PM to 5:30PM

Meeting nights 7 to 9 PM

Wednesday, 9AM to 11AM

Thursday, 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM

Friday, 9 to 1 PM or attending Friday evening programs.

Saturday meetings with our Parish Nurse members and as needed to support programs

These hours are subject to special off-site meetings such as a meeting with Wal Mart personnel to negotiate for a grant, taping PVEC program, promotional opportunities for local TV and radio, meeting with local school counselors and others to develop creative programs.

Coffee hour assignments for the remainder of 2004:

October - United Methodist

November - UCC

December - Presbyterian



Gail Werner

October 2 Senior / Vendor Fair Warren County. Vo. Tech.

October 17 Blood Pressure Screening. Church Office

October 31 Collect for UNICEF, Sunday School & Fellowship

November 14, 15 Safe Driving Course Conference Room \$10 per person minimum 5% on certain insurance & 2 points expunged.

To quote Alice Luxton, one of our parishioners, who participated in this course states that it "was beneficial to attend due to the instructor's energetic style and the many helpful reminders about information previously learned. In addition, the new laws and safety tips were very enlightening. It does make us, senior citizens, more aware of our driving habits."

November Assisting with church Chrismon project.

- ✓ Please save all old eyeglass frames and place them in the basket provided in the narthex. Joan Gibbs, R.N., oversees this helpful project.

Thanks Joan!

Wheelchair:

The Parish Nurse Program does presently have a wheelchair available for use thanks to a donation by Maxine Romig Volger.

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or to submit articles for the "Happenings"
hppnings@mindspring.com
We're on the web www.pvem.net



INSTALLATION

On Sunday, November 7 at 4 pm Rev. Mary Louise Howson will be installed as the third minister of Panther Valley Ecumenical Ministry. Representatives of our four covenanting denominations will be present and will participate in worship. A reception will follow.

An installation is a time of celebration when a minister and congregation affirm the covenant they have made with each other and reaffirm their denominational covenant. Clergy from surrounding churches are invited to attend as a sign that we are all members of the church universal.

We hope you will all mark your calendars and join us to celebrate a new beginning in the life of our church.

"Sewers needed to help make costumes for the Christmas pageant"

We are looking for those of you in the congregation who can sew. This year we are having our Christmas Pageant on Christmas Eve and we would like to have really classy costumes for the children. On October 17th we would like to have a "Sewing Bee." We would all meet in the conference room and cut, pin and sew. Yes, there will be food!!! You can then either take the costume you have cut out, home to sew or we can have another "Sewing g Bee" the following Sunday and all sew together.

It shouldn't take too long, so please join us. We'll have a lot of fun. Please contact Amy to sign up or if you have any questions. We are really counting on your help!

