

PVEC Happenings



Panther Valley Ecumenical Church Official Newsletter

Volume 6, Issue 5

October 2009

The Ordination of our new Leader

October 11th was the Ordination Service of Pastor David Wright.

The Service itself was very moving and beautiful. David had many of his close friends, mentors, camp friends, and his father participating in their own special parts of the service.



With a very purple theme, hoagies from David's favorite sub-shop in Princeton, and an eclectic mix of music playing, the day was very much "David". A great time was had by all!

The service was attended by

many members of our congregation, David's family and friends as well as former pastors at PVEC. In all, over 180 guests attended this special event.

As recognition of this milestone in Pastor David's career, the congregation gave David the gift of a theological book series he favors to help write his sermons. Also, David was given a handmade custom stole by the church council. This stole, of course, included the color purple (see picture on left)!

We would like to extend a very special thank you to Lynn Jurena and the Ordination Committee for planning this special event, and to Calico Country Florist for donating the altar flowers, The Pavelchak family for arranging for the donation of the purple mums, and

Mars Snackfoods for donating 10 pounds of purple M&Ms!



Some Members of the Ordination Committee



David and his Father with his favorite Hoagie Haven Subs!

Our Fall Rummage Sale was a great success!

This years Fall Rummage Sale was held last Friday and Saturday. What a great way to promote team work (setup and cleanup), Fellowship (bagel breakfasts and pizza lunches) and raise funds for future improvements in our church all in one shot!

We would like to extend a big thank you to all who contributed to these efforts and all who

donated items to sell. Without you, there would be no Rummage Sale. Our efforts raised over \$2500!

Our youngest Rummage Sale helper, Sadie Pflugfelder





FROM THE PASTOR

“Welcoming More Than Your Pastor”

Dear Friends,

You have done a fantastic job in welcoming me to your church and helping me get acclimated to life here in Hackettstown. I have been overwhelmed with the hospitality of all your gifts: kitchenware, furniture, baked goods, linens, electronics, and more dinners than I can count. More than material things, you have shared your selves with me, your stories, and your time. This is the kind of welcome any pastor would be flattered to receive. You all have an incredible gift of hospitality.

The energy in this congregation right now feels like it's at a 52-week high as well! Every Sunday, it feels we have more in worship than we had the Sunday before. You all have enthusiastically invited your friends to come to worship, you've welcomed back members who had taken a hiatus, and you've even advertised our church on the radio. All that demonstrates the faith and confidence you all have in the ways God is working in our congregation right now. And as you know, faith, more than time or

money, or even a great parking lot, is the greatest asset a church can possess.

So now that we've begun to see our numbers swell again, you all have a new challenge: welcoming the visitors and new friends among us. Clearly showing hospitality is one of our greatest strengths as a congregation, demonstrated by the outpouring of love you've shown me as your new pastor. Now I'm asking you to turn to your neighbor in the aisle and show them the same kind of love you have so consistently showed me.

Showing hospitality to new friends can be as simple as offering your name during the passing of the peace, or inviting those around you to come down with you to coffee hour. But it can also mean inviting new friends to share life with you outside these walls. Consider inviting a new friend to your house, or finding an activity you enjoy. Invite them to join you in the things you love to do around the church, like choir, hand bells, knitting prayer shawls or sharing a meal as part of Togetherness Circle.

“Clearly showing hospitality is one of our greatest strengths as a congregation” -Pastor Wright

Remember too that receiving hospitality is as gracious a gift as it is to give. It may be flattering for you, but learn to accept graciously when someone new to you wants to know your name, get to know you better, or invite you out to play some golf.

Jesus, even when he was in his hour of perdition, demonstrated the gift of hospitality when from the cross he beheld his mother and the disciple whom he loved, and he declared to his mother, “Woman, here is your son.” And to the disciple he told, “Here is your mother.” And the scripture tells us, “And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.” (John 19: 26-27)

Remember that as a church we are a family in Jesus Christ. So to welcome one another as brother and sister is to welcome Jesus Christ into our fellowship and life together.

Members in the News



Proud great-grandma, Jane Nichols, with new twin great-granddaughters, Teal & Paisley.

Military Member Overseas

Ryan Schaffer, son of Doreen and Charles Schaffer is now serving in active duty in Iraq. We wish him a quick and safe return to his family.

Our condolences to the family of Dr. John Shayner. He was a former PVEC member and VP of Centenary College. He passed away in September.

Members on the Mend

We have 2 members that have suffered injuries recently. I am happy to say that Faith Farmer and Lois Herlin are healing nicely and we hope they will be back in action very soon.

Worship Commission Report

By Donna Weinberg

Your worship commission is hard at work planning an exciting, as well as meaningful, holiday season. Here are some upcoming dates with special celebrations:

November 1st – All Saints Day – Communion will be served

November 22 – Harvest Sunday **AND** PVEC's 40th Anniversary Celebration

November 29 – Advent Begins – We will gather at the Lord's Table for the second time this month!

***December 6th** – Hanging of the Greens

December 24th – Christmas Eve traditional evening service **AND** Candlelight Service

Please be aware of some special opportunities for you to minister to both our regular congregation and our visitors. When Jane Nichols calls for greeters or

scripture readers – **Say Yes** and **get excited about this invitation to serve!**

When you have something personal to celebrate or commemorate – **sign up for flowers** – your \$20 donation allows us to keep the flower budget very low, as well as allowing us to celebrate/remember with you (sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in fellowship hall).

The Worship Commission is always looking for new ideas and new members. If you would like to join us, call Donna Weinberg at 973-347-7113 (home) or come to our next meeting – the first Monday of every month (excluding July & August), 7:30 p.m. at the church.

Your Worship Commission: Betty, Bob, Cindy, Donna, Jane, Irene, Mitzi, Ron & Wanda

* PVEC's Annual Meeting immediately following the worship

Sunday School News

By Betty Schultheis

As you are cleaning your drawers and closets to look for items for the PVEC Rummage Sale..please put aside any children's or teen's bathrobes and scarves of any size or fabric. We would love to add these to our costume closet to be utilized in our dramatization of Bible stories. If you have old costumes those too would be welcome. The children remember the stories and their teaching points much better when they participate in creating the story.

We are using the "One Room Sunday School" Abington Press, curriculum this year. It enables us to have participation by children three to twelve years of age in one Bible story. We then, have separate/ appropriate by age group activities for three groups: non-readers, elementary readers, and skilled readers.

We are also singing each week. We have Bible song CDs that go along with our lessons. Eric Hendershot, one of last year's confirmands, is assisting with the music. Occasionally we use our instruments: tambourines, triangles, wooden blocks, drums, and bells, only occasionally because we get a little over exuberant with the instruments (smile).

Christian Outreach News

By Kathy Zinckgraf

On Oct 18th Christian Outreach will be hosting a special coffee hour. Sister Mary Lynne from St. John Baptist in Mendham, NJ will again be here to update on the Good Shepherd Home for Children in Cameroon. Last year we sponsored a child in honor of Rev. Myers' service at PVEC. We will

be serving our homemade apple crisp and taking donations for this worthy mission.

Don't forget Crop Walk on the 25th of Oct. at 1pm!

Lord's Pantry

The Lord's Pantry has been very busy. We appreciate all your donations of food and ShopRite gift cards. If you would like to help us shop, please take a blue canvas bag with a

short shopping list, the bags our down in Fellowship Hall.

Thanksgiving will soon be here and we will again be donating full dinners to Good Samaritan Inn to distribute to local families. We will be needing turkeys and donations of food/gift certificates. Again, thank you for all your support.

Denominational News

UCC NEWS

September 30, 2009 is John Thomas' last day as General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. We have been blessed by God with John's leadership.

On October 1, 2009 another gifted leader will assume this position, Geoffrey Black.

Geoffrey has invited us to join him in a call-in prayer service as he starts his new ministry. A link with instructions on how to participate can be found below.

Whether you can participate or not I trust we all will hold Geoffrey in our prayers.

UMC NEWS

On December 5th, PVEC will host a gathering with the Superintendent, Rev. McCleary at 11am. They are hoping to meet with as many of our Methodist members as possible. (Last year there was a mix-up and their meeting with our church did not happen.)

You Asked About Speakers at the Ordination Service....

Some of you have had questions about friends of mine who participated with me in leading the ordination and installation service this past Sunday. So here is a brief bio of everyone who was listed in the bulletin.

Joanne Wang Golann: Joanne is a Ph.D student in sociology at Princeton University. She is an Episcopalian herself, and is an active lay leader in her church, Trinity Episcopal Church of Princeton, NJ. She was Pastor David's next-door neighbor as a first-year student while we were both at Amherst College in Amherst, Mass.

Jim Mecouch: Jim is an elder at the Riverview Presbyterian Church of Drexel Hill, PA. He is a lifer of Kirkwood Camp, having served on staff there with Pastor David most of the last decade and now serves on the camps' Board of Directors.

Kelly Roman: Kelly is a 3rd year dual Master of Divinity / Master of Christian Education student at Princeton Theological Seminary. She is a candidate for ordination under care of the Presbytery of New Brunswick and a member of the Nassau Presbyterian Church of Princeton, NJ. She was David's closest seminary friend.

Joshua Skiles: Josh is a graduate of Amherst College and masters student in architecture student at Virginia Tech. He is the adopted father of Jasmine (9) and father of Naomi (10 mo.). He and his twin brother Jeff were Pastor David's two closest friends at Amherst, and David is a frequent winter and summer guest at their home.

Rev. George W. "Blake" Blakesley: Blake is the Pastor of the Newtown Presbyterian Church in Newtown, PA. He is a longtime friend of the Wright family having served that church 15 years. Blake was one of David's field education supervisors, a mentor and good friend in ministry.

Rev. Nicole Duran: Nicole is the Pastor of Trinity United Presbyterian Church of Clifton Heights, PA. She was David's most recent field education supervisor, until Memorial Day of this year. Together her and David led worship, taught the Sunday School and coordinated the session and church programs at Trinity.

Deb and Matt Edmonds: Deb is the daughter of our own Donna Weinberg. She presides in West Chester, PA where she teaches music.

Rev. Charles E. "Ted" Wright: Ted is David's father. During the past four years he has been a mission co-worker with David's mother Susan in Lusaka, Zambia. Formerly, Rev. Wright was the pastor of the Langhorne Presbyterian Church in Langhorne, PA from 1982-2005. He is currently embarking on a new pastoral call in MD.

Pastor David would like to thank everyone who attended the ordination service as well as everyone who took part in making it happen. It was a wonderful day and reflected all the effort all of you have put into our life together.

CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS

Support Services

By Ron Reece

Stewardship:

“If ten people give a spoonful of rice we will have a bowl of rice.”

This year’s pledge is coming in a few weeks and our bowl is a little bigger now that we have a full time pastor. This year we also need to look at the maintenance fund again. We have some projects that need attention such as, window frames and repairing the parking lot.

Building and grounds:

Over the past several weeks there has been some extensive work done on the heating system for the church. We now have a new furnace that is much more efficient and we can depend on the church being warm when we need it.

If you should see something that needs attention please, leave a message with Erika and she will give to the B&G committee.

PVEC “CARE CORNER”

By Sarah Zinckgraf

We all know that leaving home for the first time can be tough. Mom and Dad are no longer there to do the laundry, be your back up alarm clock or fill your stomach with home cooked meals. The new found independence is wonderful and college is a lot of fun but once in awhile you miss home (and the pantry that magically fills with snacks every week). Here at PVEC we wanted to show our freshman college students that we are thinking of them (and their hungry stomachs) by sending out care packages. Thanks to the help of Eric Hendershot, Pastor David and I, we were able to send out four packages filled with snacks, candy, and school supplies to Patrick, James, Brian, and Chelsea in September. We hope that the students will enjoy their treats and know that their church family is always here for support, no matter

how far away from home they are.

We would like to continue this support throughout the year. There will be sign-ups posted in Fellowship Hall in the coming weeks as we put together our “Care Corner” program. We are asking members of the congregation to “adopt” one of our young adults for a month and send them a care package. More information regarding this project will be coming in the near future.

Freshman students are not the only ones that need our support and our prayers. Please send me an email at szinckgraf@verizon.net with the name and address of any of our church family that is away from home, studying at school or in the service, so that we may add them to our Care Corner!

SPECIAL GIFTS

Special gifts were received this month for Ron Lundy and Shirley Lockheed.

Roadside cleanup in Frelinghuysen Twp.

This is a youth group activity to take place on October 25.

Through the NJ Clean Communities Grant, we will be picking up debris and trash along Southtown/Heller.

By doing so, they will pay us and the monies will be used for "youth group" activities.

CROP WALK- Oct. 25th 1pm

Lets help fight world hunger by walking with other churches in the Hackettstown area to raise funds and awareness for this problem. We will meet at the church at 1pm and car-pool from there. The most important thing, is to show up and walk!

Mark Your Calendars!

Nov. 22- PVEC 40th Anniversary Celebration

Nov. 25 Evening Ecumenical Service for Thanksgiving.

Nov 27 – Dedication Sunday

December 6 - PVEC Annual meeting immediately following Worship

December 19 - Christmas caroling 4PM

Tid- Bits

Is anyone interested in teaching computers? See John Jurena for details!

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 Thank you!

Panther Valley Ecumenical Church Official Newsletter

Panther Valley Ecumenical Church
1490 Rt. 517
PO Box 463
Allamuchy, NJ 07820
Phone: 908-852-5444
Fax: 908-850-4754
Email: office@pvem.net



*"In our diversity we find common ground
in Christ"*

*Visit us on the
web at pvem.net*



Quote of the Month

"Coincidence is when God chooses to remain anonymous"

Recipe Corner..

Japanese Cabbage Salad

by Donna Weinberg

Here's a quick, easily transported salad (that requires no refrigeration) for your next party - served at Pastor David's ordination dinner. Many requested the recipe:

1 Tbs. soy sauce
1/2 cup salad oil
1/4 cup red wine vinegar
1/3 cup sugar

1 head cabbage, chopped (or 1 large bag pre-chopped cabbage)
6 scallions, chopped
1 pkg. Top Ramen Noodles -Chicken Flavor
1/4 cup butter
8 oz. pkg. whole cashews (unsalted)
butter and cashews. Cool thoroughly. Just before serving, toss cabbage and onion with noodle mixture. Pour all of the dressing over and toss.
Dressing: Mix the soy sauce, salad oil, red wine vinegar and sugar. Make in advance to mix flavors. Mix cabbage and onions; set aside. Smash noodles and brown in skillet with seasoning packet from noodles,