

*POMPTON REFORMED CHURCH*  
*APRIL NEWSLETTER*  
*2008*

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**On The Road, and Here at Home**

Dear Pompton Family and Friends,

It is April as you read this, and I am in the first phase of my three-month sabbatical. Chances are that you are swimming somewhere in my thoughts. This month I will be spending nights in three separate spiritual retreat centers or monasteries. Plus, Mary and I will travel to Virginia to visit her mother, and then spend a weekend taking in wonderful music at the Cape May Jazz Festival. Other things too...but you'll hear about that later.

Last year's Staff Relations Committee scheduled a wonderful array of preachers and worship leaders. In April we will be led by:

April 6 --The Rev. Dr. Bruce Main from Urban Promise in Camden, N.J.

April 13 -- The Rev. Dr. Gregg Mast, President of the New Brunswick Theological Seminary (where Debbie Rundecker is studying, and from where Shirley Montanari graduated)

April 20 --Rev. Nancy and Sammy Garcia, who pastor Iglesia Oasis con Christo, the Hispanic church meeting here several times each week for worship and prayer. They will also teach us several lively praise songs.

April 27 -- Rev. James Knol, chaplain at the Christian Health Care Center in Wyckoff. Jim will also lead our worship in May and again in June.

Spring will also hold Appreciation Sunday for all of our vocal and bell choirs, reception of the 2008 Confirmation Class, the distribution of Bibles to third graders, recognition of 2008 graduates and presentation of scholarships, along with our monthly healing service and celebration of the Lord's Supper, and thanksgiving for our Sunday School teaching team who wind down their season in late May. Fellowship Committee has special events planned, of which you will read elsewhere in this issue.

I am writing this front page in the days before Easter, but this year's Lent has been an especially meaningful season. Thank you for your faithful support and prayers. It's exciting to dream how God will use us during these upcoming months! Thanks for making it happen. Blessings to all!

Your pastor and friend,  
Tom Bartha

## CONSISTORY ROUNDTABLE OF THANKS FOR MARCH

◀ Explorer Post 136, for the dozens of bags of food donated to our food pantry!

◀ Charlie Mulder, our faithful custodian, whose responsibilities have shifted now to cemetery work for the summer, and indoor painting for the winter. Thanks for the great job you have done over the years, Charlie! (And glad that you are staying around!)

◀ Michele MacDonald, our Membership/Finance Secretary, in going the extra mile in gathering data for our Finance Committee, and for her consistently faithful work.

### COMMUNION ENVELOPE OFFERINGS

Deep appreciation for such faithful support with the monthly communion offering envelopes. This year, for the first time, these offerings are designated toward a special cause. In January, you gave \$636 to help launch the new Pathfinder's men's ministry.

In February; you gifts totaled \$1157 in support of PRC's mission team traveling to the Katrina region.

March's gifts totaled \$682 toward new furniture for the Gathering Area (much-used, much-loved furniture has been around a l-o-n-g time!) and also the services of a structural engineer.

April's designations are to assist the ministry of the Boothville (Louisiana) Baptist Church, where our mission team spent a week. These wonderful folks are still rebuilding from Katrina's devastation, so thanks for again sending Pompton's love and support across the miles!

These gifts, incidentally, are above and beyond your regular tithes and offerings. If you have the means to provide this extra support, thank-you! If not, your prayers mean a great deal! Either way, thank you for making a difference for Jesus' sake!



<u>Given by</u>	<u>In Memory of</u>	<u>Designation</u>
Nancy Shimmel	Karin Mugavero	Music Fund
PRC Chancel Choir	Ann Sisco	Music Fund
PRC Chancel Choir	Walter Hojnicky	Music Fund
Rick & Shirley Montanari	Geraldine Poppen	Missions
Eleanor Haling	Grace Sangle, Sister	Undesignated
Eleanor Haling	Jean Ewing, Friend	Undesignated
Eleanor Haling	George Carboy, Friend	Undesignated
Blenda & Allan Ball	Roberta Martin	Undesignated
Jeanette Struble	Roberta Martin	Undesignated
Nancy Shimmel	Roberta Martin	Deacons' Fund
Dot & Jack Branford	Roberta Martin	Deacons' Fund
Helen & Chuck Gioia	Roberta Martin	Scholarship Fund

## Notes From Pathfinders

On Sunday night March 02, 2008, Pathfinders sponsored a bowling night at the Holiday Bowl in Oakland, N.J. Twenty men showed up to have a good time. I cannot begin to tell you how much fun that was had by all. Between the three games some men switched lanes and because of the automatic scorer they had to switch names, so to give you an example, Mark started out on one lane as Mark (go figure) and ended up on the other set of lanes as Drew, Harry became Tony, Tony became Mark, and Drew became Harry, etc. Our big hitter of the night was Matthew DeBlock who had the high game of 228 on the last game. The fellowship was strong, the laughter was easy, the memory lasting. It was good to see some interaction between father/son, father-in-law/son-in-law (or in my case, a future son-in-law), and grandfather/grandson. We also had some entertainment from a certain person who would get his bowling ball, sit on a chair with it and when the coast was clear, he would then run up as fast as he could, roll his ball, and run back to his seat. This seemed to work because you would not believe how well Pastor Tom bowled. Oops! I meant to say you would not believe how well THIS person bowled. I'm sorry I didn't mean to say Pastor Tom. Did I say Pastor Tom, again? I have got to stop saying that.

Anyway, things turned out so well that we (Pathfinders) are looking forward to sponsoring similar outings in the very near future so keep looking in the Monthly News Letter and the Sunday bulletin for upcoming events.

The Pathfinders study groups held each Sunday morning at 8:30 are doing well with a combined average attendance of 10 to 12 each week. The groups are set up so you can miss a week and still be able to engage in the discussions and fellowship.

### A Special THANK YOU!

Ladies, we would like to thank you for the beautiful flowers on Sunday, March 2, 2008. We would also like to say thank you to the congregation for your continued support.

*Ed Van Schaack*



Tammy Baker   Allison Geyer   Nick Polise   Benjamin Baker

Talents from PRC...

## *God's Special Gifts*

Written by: Elaine Peacock

We all like to give and receive gifts. The cost doesn't matter it's the thought that counts. That is the way it is with the gifts that GOD sends us every day. The most expensive items, society tells us we can't live without, pale in comparison to GOD's gifts to us; beautiful sunsets, a glorious sunrise, a beautiful crisp autumn day when the colors are at their peak., a special day with a friend or walk along the ocean.

We can give special gifts every day, a kind word, a hug, or just a smile. You'll never know how it may have changed the course of the day for another person, whether it is someone you know or a stranger. Remember GOD gives us the opportunity to share our gifts every day, just like GOD shares his gifts with us every day.

## The Interview with GOD

Submitted by: Kay Bergin

I dreamed I had an interview with God.

So you would like to interview me? God asked.

If you have the time I said.

God smiled. My time is eternity. What questions do you have in mind for me?

What surprises you most about humankind?

God answered...That they get bored with childhood; they rush to grow up, and then long to be children again. That they lose their health to make money...and then lose their money to restore their health. That by thinking anxiously about the future, they forget the present, such that they live in neither the present nor the future. That they live as if they will never die, and die as though they had never lived.

God's hand took mine and we were silent for a while. And then I asked...As a parent, what are some of life's lessons you want your children to learn?

He answered, to learn they cannot make anyone love them. All they can do is let themselves be loved. To learn that it is not good to compare themselves to others. To learn to forgive by practicing forgiveness. To learn that it only takes a few seconds to open profound wounds in those they love, and it can take many years to heal them. To learn that a rich person is not one who has the most, but is one who needs the least. To learn that there are people who love them dearly, but simply have not yet learned how to express or show their feelings. To learn that two people can look at the same thing and see it differently. To learn that it is not enough that they forgive one another, but they must also forgive themselves.

Thank you for your time, I said humbly. Is there anything else you would like your children to know?

God smiled and said, Just know that I am here...always.



Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to Sam Martin at the passing of his wife Roberta.

*Thank You!*  
**THANK YOU!**

Dear PRC Church Family, Friends and Family,

We prayed for courage and patience, but through you God also gave us strength and a caring love to carry Roberta and me through the last, difficult ten months of her life with ALS.

The reaching out by so very many of you with cards, phone calls, and offers of help plus the gift of a prayer shawl by the knitting group, dinners from Hands & Hearts, Communion with Pastor Tom, and visits from life long friends and family made you all a real blessing to us. How great Thou art!

With love,  
The Roberta Martin Family



Welcome to the family Sadie born to Alison and Mark Argott.



Mark your calendars October 4, 2008 is the Autumnfest. Preparations are in the beginning stages. We are in need of a few assistants with some helpful hints. Please contact Nancy Porter.



By: Roben Roon

HAPPY SPRING!!! We have a new book donated to our library by Sue Nicholas—"3:16" by Max Lucado. Thank you Sue! We will be ordering new books soon, so if there's a book you think would be great for our library please let me know.



## **FellowshipFellowshipFellowshipFellowshipFellowshipFellowship**

Activities we have planned are Adult dinner out at Kopici's in Bloomingdale (**Save the date May 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 with a cost of \$29 per person**), Two Ice Cream Socials, Victorian Tea, Lemonade and Ginger Snap Social, Church Picnic, Coffee House Talent Show, Mystery Social, Who's Who and Christmas Caroling.

Please make sure you keep an eye on the newsletters and weekly bulletins for specific dates to come in the future. If you have any questions please see any member of the fellowship committee (Jo-Ann Sisco (chair), Tom & Mary Bartha, Gail Freeland, Barbara Buckman, Liz Hanisch, Louise Newton, Emil Scarmazzo, Donna Doyle, Emily Hart, Rick & Barbara Pierce).



Mark your calendars for Vacation Bible School. It is going to be held from July 28<sup>th</sup> through August 1<sup>st</sup>. If you are interested in helping please see Liz Hanisch.



May newsletter deadline is April 18<sup>th</sup>. Please send submissions to [Samoa70@nac.net](mailto:Samoa70@nac.net) with PRC in the subject line or leave them in the newsletter mailbox. Make sure all submissions are signed in case of questions.

Thanks, Liz Hanisch

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