

*POMPTON REFORMED CHURCH*  
*NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2008*

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**Speaking of Good News...**

Dear Pompton Friends and Family,

This may date me, but I remember well watching and listening to husband and wife comedy team George Burns and Gracie Allen. In one exchange Gracie was questioned about sending her mother an empty envelope. Her response: *"I wanted to cheer her up. No news is good news."*

Good news is the word for this month. Good News seems to be in short supply these days, with unrest in our economy, and enough warfare and terrorism and hunger, and crime to fill the pages of each day's newspapers. But then we call to mind the angel's words to shepherds in the fields: *"I bring you good news of great joy for all the people."* Not an absence of difficulty and woes. Scripture never promises that. But God's presence in the midst of them, God's presence in the midst of us. You'll be hearing those timeless words in our Christmas Eve worship.

*God Reaches In* is this year's Advent sermon theme. Slowly the messages are taking shape on how God reaches into this world and into our lives to disturb, challenge, comfort, and unsettle. Adult and youth vocal and bell choirs have been working on Advent and Christmas music for some time. Bulletins will have a full schedule.

As you well know, December runs the range of emotions. The evening of December 21 holds a time of worship for those for whom this season may be especially difficult. Thank you for watching out for those who need a word of welcome, or an embrace, or a listening ear or an encouraging word. These friends are all around us. Hold to the words of evangelist, D. L. Moody: "We may not be able to do any great thing, but if each of us will do something, however small, a great deal will be accomplished for the Lord." Thanks for your part in helping to keep Pompton Reformed centered in Jesus Christ, as together we strive to build a church in which every person knows Jesus, and believes he or she can make a difference for Jesus' sake.

Your friend and pastor,  
Tom Bartha

### A Point of Clarification

During the April, May, June sabbatical, I wrote that this was my first such experience. Verbally during worship (but not in print), I mentioned that I had a six week sabbatical midway through my 14 year pastorate at Ada Community Reformed Church in Michigan. It was a period of study, prayer and "spiritual realignment," with much of the time spent extended retreats at The Hermitage, a Mennonite retreat center. That was a wonderful gift from the Ada church, as was this year's sabbatical. Several Ada friends who read our church newsletter online brought this omission to my attention, and rightly so. I whined and moaned that I had mentioned it, but it never saw the light of print...until now. So thank-you, Michigan friends, for calling me on this, and thank-you both--Ada and Pompton--for gift of this time, which far too many clergy (and churches) never have the opportunity to experience!

PS--If you've never checked out our web site, visit [www.pomptonreformed.org](http://www.pomptonreformed.org). Big thanks to Gail Freeland for keeping it up to date!

## *Christmas Presents*

By: Elaine Peacock

Christmas presents can come in all shapes and sizes. I'm not talking about the size or shape of the boxes they come in I'm talking about a different kind of Christmas present.

A child's eyes as big as saucers as they sit on Santa's knee, the familiar carols we sing along to, a card from someone we haven't heard from in a very long time, a chance to make someone's Christmas wish come true, a holiday hug, watching the old familiar Christmas shows **again** this year, taking time to have a relaxing snack with a friend, a smile from a stranger as you stand in line at the mall, the familiar ringing of the Salvation Army bell, the smell of chestnuts coming from the vendor on the corner, Christmas Eve as we sing Silent Night by candle light.

These are the sounds, sights and smells of Christmas they are worth more than any store bought gift we will receive or will give this year. GOD wants us to look beyond the "trappings" and "wrappings" and focus on his gift to us – the gift of his son to save us all. Open your heart and let GOD's peace enter and calm you at this most wonderful, but hectic time of the year.

Merry Christmas PRC Family!!



Our Senior Christmas Luncheon is on Wednesday, December 10th.  
Bring a sandwich and a gift! And, Have Fun !!!



The Lord has blessed Hands and Hearts for so many people signing up. As we launch this we still would like more people to sign so we can spread our blessings to the people who need us. To sign up please see the list it is in the church hall or see me. Thanks to all. God bless. Jackie Bush

### Consistory Roundtable of Thanks

Finance Committee, for their hard work in putting together our 2009 budget (and so much more!). A special thanks to Sue Uhlendorf for chairing this committee, and to Jack Tice for volunteering many hours in putting figures onto paper.

Operations Committee, for all their care and oversight of properties, with special thanks to Jeff Anders (chair) and Cliff Amels, for recent work on trees and roofs.

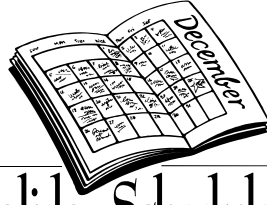
<u>Given by</u>	<u>In Memory of</u>	<u>Designation</u>
Dot Ploch	Mae Hansen	Scholarship Fund
Anonymous	Jesus	Deacons' Fund
Helen & Chuck Gioia	Honor of our son, Charley's birthday	Scholarship Fund



Jelly, Spaghetti Sauce, Canned Fruit, Canned Vegetables, Canned Soup, Canned Tuna Fish, Mac & Cheese, Jell-O/Pudding mix and Cereal.



The fellowship committee is asking for everybody to bring in his or her favorite cookies for coffee hour on Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>.



## Holiday Schedule

- December 7      Second Sunday in Advent  
Mark 1:1-8 and Isaiah 40:1-5  
God Reaches In: Turnaround  
Lord's Supper  
Annual Congregational Meeting immediately following worship
- December 10      Wednesday 12:30 p.m. – Seniors Luncheon and gift exchange
- December 14      Third Sunday in Advent  
John 1:6-8, 19-28 and Isaiah 61  
God Reaches In: A Voice in The Darkness
- December 21      Fourth Sunday in Advent  
Luke 1:26-38  
God Reaches In: Holy Perplexity  
Children's Christmas Pageant  
Christmas caroling to homebound members, followed by pizza
- Christmas Eve      Worship at 7:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m.  
Music from all of Pompton's bell and vocal choirs
- December 28      First Sunday after Christmas  
Healing Service  
Luke 2:41-52 The Child Grows



Mark Warner      Roben Roon      Joan Braunlin      Jeanette Struble  
Lorna Carroll      Leslie Carroll

Bruce & Susan Davis in Honor of Joan Warner's Birthday,  
Designated for the Library Fund



## HARMONY SINGERS

Harmony Singers, will be in concert at PRC on Saturday, Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM. I am the current President of the group, which has been performing in the area for over 40 years. There are approx. 40 individuals. We offer two concerts a year. This concert will feature holiday favorites, some classical and even Hanukkah songs. Tickets are \$10.00 and are available either from Louise Newton or at the door. A reception will follow the concert in Fellowship Hall.

### **Give the gift of your talents**

“For everything created by God is good...” 1 Timothy 4:4.

During the holidays many people enjoy receiving homemade gift such as baked goods, knitted accessories and hand-made coupons. Not everyone is a skilled knitter or has time to bake but this year why not share one of your talents and give a gift that any recipient would want because you made it. God has blessed us all with our own unique abilities and although we sometimes think of these gifts as ‘everyday’ qualities, to another they can be a treasure.

Multi-grain pancakes are a favorite of my friends and family but I do not have the pleasure of making breakfast for them as often as I would like. The following recipe is simple and will make a nice gift when the instructions, written on a homemade card, are tied around a bagful of the dry ingredients with a pretty ribbon. You can add your favorite dry ingredients such as unsalted chopped nuts, sunflower seeds and dried fruit such as blueberries or cranberries. Be creative and substitute ½ cup of flour milled from teff, barley, brown rice, spelt, buckwheat or graham for ½ cup of the unbleached flour.

#### **Multi-Grain Pancake Mix**

3 cups	Unbleached Flour
2 ½ cups	Whole Wheat Flour
½ cup	Oatmeal
1 cup	Cornmeal
1 cup	Wheat Germ
5 TB	Baking Powder

Combine all ingredients, store in an airtight container.

#### **To use:**

Combine 1-cup milk, 1 egg and 2 tablespoons oil, mix well. Add to 1 cup of dry mix, stir gently, and cook on a hot griddle.

THANK YOU

Dear Friends

Thank you for sending the church news, I really enjoyed reading it. It's almost as good as being there!

Sincerely

Louise & Herb Rodgers



**CAROLING** Keep December 21<sup>st</sup> open for Christmas Caroling. Meet in Fellowship Hall at 12:00 with your singing voices.



January newsletter deadline is December 19<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