

*POMPTON REFORMED CHURCH*  
*JANUARY NEWSLETTER*  
*2008*

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**"WHAT DID YOU GET FROM CHRISTMAS?"**

It is a question we have all heard before: "What did you get for Christmas?" "Oh," my own parents would say year after year, "handkerchiefs, talcum powder, a potholder, an ashtray from each of our three sons." (Did my brothers and I hold secret notions that our non-smoking parents might take up this habit?)

But throw a twist into that question: "What did you get from Christmas?" Is there a challenge, or hope, or assurance that you carry into the year ahead? What draws me to that question is found in the first chapter of Luke, where the angel announces to young Mary that she will conceive and gift birth to a son, to be named Jesus.

Mary's wondering, "How shall this be?" shortly gives way to this remarkable declaration: "Here I am, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word."

Imagine--no visible support for Mary. No precedent to fall back upon. No dramatic sign from heaven to confirm the angel's proclamation. All Mary has is this divine word...and yet it is enough! She offers herself to the Lord's will.

Centuries later, Mary's example continues to inspire. What a gift to be able to pray in this same spirit: "Lord Jesus, I give myself to you. Let it be with me according to your Word. If this means sacrifice, if it means realigning priorities, if it means reversal or change, Lord, I will do it! Let it be with me according to your word."

In Mary's humbleness, in her trusting God without having all her questions answered, in her yielding in obedience, we see genuine faith lived out. To follow Mary's pattern is one gift from the Christmas season that I pray would remain fresh and vibrant for the year ahead. A blessed 2008 to you!

Pastor Tom Bartha

*★ Thank You! ★*  
**THANK YOU!**

Dear PRC Friends

I would like to express my appreciation to all who remembered me with prayers, cards, phone calls and visits at rehab and at home following my total right knee replacement at Chilton Hospital on July 25<sup>th</sup>, as well as thanks for help with errands and transportation.

Special thanks to Pastor Tom for his prayers and concern at my home prior to surgery, at the hospital, rehab center and after I returned home when pain not helped by medication became extreme.

Special appreciation also to Elder, Elaine Peacock, who visited me at Chilton with prayers and concern following my surgery, plus tanks to Elaine and Elder Jo-Ann Sisco who gave me communion at home.

Many thanks to the Hands and Hearts Ministry for the delicious meals, coordinated by Elena Van Schaack and delivered by Barb and Rick Pierce – all done with much love. I'm also grateful to the deacons for treating me to a spaghetti dinner and sending me such a generous portion that I was able to make three dinners for myself. It all helped tremendously because the pain from the knotted muscles of my right hip and thigh make it very difficult to stand in one place for more than five minutes to prepare any thing. Physical therapy provides a little relief but it's only temporary.

Praise the Lord that I can walk wee, have a good range of motion, a straightened right leg and the ability to drive.

I feel blessed that I've been able to return to church, choir and my caring, thoughtful, loving church family, all of which I missed greatly for 2 ½ months.

Thank you for your continued prayers.

Love

Dot Ploch

*With Sympathy*

Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to the family of Paul Geyer upon his passing.



## **2008 CONFIRMATION CLASS**

Early in 2008 will begin the next Confirmation Class, designed especially for students in middle or high school who would like to make profession of faith in Jesus. Debbie Pierce and Tom Bartha will be leading these sessions, examining various aspects of Christian life and faith. We spend time sharing our stories, and discussing how God is moving in our lives. It is a rich time of growing in love for Jesus. Meeting times will likely be on Sunday afternoons, but there is variation and flexibility. If this is something you are considering, or desire more details, please notify either Debbie or Pastor Bartha.

## Talents at PRC...

### *What does the New Year have in Store for you?*

By: Elaine Peacock

A Paul McCartney song has a verse in it that says “a another year has ended another just begun – your another year older – what have you done?”

Every time I hear these words it makes me stop and take stock of how my life is going. We all hope that we have “done the right thing”, “made some one happy”, “and did some good deeds.” GOD appreciates all we attempt to do, but he wants us to remember how we became his “special children” he cared for us so much that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ to save us. We can start out this New Year knowing that GOD will always be there for us and all we have to do is ask him to be with us and protect us each day of this New Year and all the New Years to come. That is what the New Year has in store for all of us. Happy New Year PRC!

### **Philosophy**

Submitted by: Helen Gioia

**One of the best tools for longevity and good health is not just taking a walk outdoors but taking your walk while holding the hand of God. When we walk in gratitude for each and every moment, we empower ourselves by empowering our spirits. When we breathe in nature through our eyes, ears and lips, we become certain that not only are our souls eternal, but that God knows how to manage our lives, our troubles, our worries and our days better than we do. So, today and everyday "Let go and Let God."**



#### Given by

Rick & Shirley Montanari  
George & Barbara Buckman

#### In Memory of

Paul Geyer  
Paul Geyer

#### Designation

Building Imp  
Deacons' Fund



• Elena Van Schaack  
• Wilma Mc Kechnie

Joan Braunlin  
Matt Evangelista

Moira Carroll

What a year it has been and what a year it will be. The Staff Relations Committee has broadened its responsibilities this past year to include the formation of two search committees. The first one was for the Music Director position so aptly filled by Patti Kitchel. The other is for a part time Associate Pastor position. This search committee, chaired by Elder Terry Terhune, will begin its groundwork this month with advertising. Please keep them in your prayers.

The other focus has been in working closely with Pastor Tom on plans for his sabbatical for April 6 through July 6. The question that I am sure comes to your mind is, “What will be happening at PRC during this time?” The answer is quite a bit. We have all thirteen weeks of pulpit supply covered some by people who have close ties to PRC: Susan Kingma, Debbie Rundecker, and Robert Barrett. Others of whom we know through our mission projects. It will be great to get to know them better. The first Sunday we will be lead in worship by Bruce Main of Urban Promise ministries. Some others are Reverend Gregg Mast president of The New Brunswick Theological Seminary, Reverends Jim Knol and Bill Faulkner from Christian Health Care Center, Walter Howard and Danny Iverson from Trinity Reformed in Newark and Pastors Nancy and Sammy Garcia from our Spanish Church.

During this time, you will see the Elders take on a more active roll as they assume all visitations. There are also plans to have them available to you at PRC on a weekly basis. Watch for the details in the bulletin or newsletters. There will also be area pastors on call for crises.

The spring of 2008 should prove to be an exciting time for us. Hopefully, this will be a time for growth and renewal not only for Tom but for PRC as well.

I ask that you keep the consistory, Staff Relations and Tom in your prayers as these plans unfold.

Yours in Christ's Service,  
Sue Nicholas / Vice President of Consistory



The deadline for the February newsletter is January 19<sup>th</sup>. Make sure all submissions are signed and have PRC in the subject line in case of questions. You can reach me at [Samoa70@nac.net](mailto:Samoa70@nac.net) or drop it in the newsletter mailbox. Thanks, Liz Hanisch