

POMPTON REFORMED CHURCH
NEWSLETTER
JUNE 2008

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MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Dear PRC Family:

I'm filling in for Pastor Tom this month, so I would like to share a special story with you, a story about making a difference.

Recently a grocery store asked its employees to see if they could make a difference in the community by reaching out to their customers. Alex is a bagger at the grocery store, he is also autistic. Alex felt that since he was "just a bagger" he could not truly make a difference. Over dinner that evening he told his parents about the request of his employer and his frustration of trying to think of a way he could make a difference.

His father told him since he was very good at typing on his computer why not type some words of encouragement and make copies of it and put it in everyone's bag after he bags their groceries. Alex went right to work – he thought of a positive saying and made enough copies for his usual group of daily customers. The next day everyone that came through Alex's line received a note in their grocery bag. Alex continued to do this for about a week. The store started to receive calls telling them how nice it was to find note in their bag when they reached home, how it made their day and gave them just the lift they needed to make it through the day. One or two shoppers even called to say that they have changed where they shop just so they can receive the words of encouragement that Alex was giving out. After about a month Alex always had a back-up at his bagging line. Even when the manager tried to move people to a shorter line, they told him they didn't mind waiting since they were looking forward to receiving Alex's encouraging words for the day. The store's business boomed all because Alex chose to make a difference.

So dear PRC family this story truly proves that even the smallest gift of encouragement can make a BIG difference to someone. Whether it be a hug, a smile or a few brief words, we never really know how it will affect the person or persons we extend them to.

Remember GOD smiles when we serve him and step out of our comfort zone. What better way to serve GOD than when we become his eyes, his ears, his arms, his legs and most of all his heart in a hurting world. Make a difference to someone today!!

Blessings,
Elaine Peacock



Dear Church Family,

On behalf of our family, we praise God for each of you during this sorrow-filled time. We thank God for showing HIS presence through Pastor Tom, "Hearts and Hands" ministry and each of you. We felt completely surrounded by God's unconditional love with each hug, hand-holding, card, meal and prayer offered at the loss of our dear daughter, sister, aunt and "godmother". Although this is a painful part of life's journey, our faith will sustain us. We are comforted knowing that Cathy Lee Braunlin Iczkowski is resting peacefully and eternally in the Lord's House.

May God continue to bless each of you, just as you have been a blessing to our family.

With Our Love,
Joan Braunlin
Joanie, Mark, Christin and Michael Warner

Dear PRC Family,

I want to thank all my Christian friends at PRC for your inspirational cards, e-mail messages, calls and visits while I was in the hospital and convalescing in Cedar Crest. A special thanks for your prayers which were very important to my recovery. Thank you for your Christian love and friendship. May God, our Heavenly Father, bless you all.

Yours in Christ,
Jean Battersby



Shana Van Schaack Shirley Shaw
Honor of Kay Peacock for Mother's Day

MUSIC MINISTRY SERIES – Part II

A Vision for the music at PRC

Our mission statement for the music ministry here at PRC might read something like: “to continuously develop a dynamic and diverse music program; welcoming and nurturing the talents of all participants; lifting our music to the finest level to praise and worship our Lord.”

To this end we would like to incorporate some of the following ideas:

- ***To continue to work with vocal and instrumental soloists. This might include members with talents even on a one-time basis to sing, narrate, play an instrument or even sacred dance.
- ***We would like to encourage more young people as in the Christmas Pageant – 2007.
- ***We would love to welcome guest musicians.

We see an opportunity to enhance worship in some of the following ways:

- ***Combined Choirs – Our own or perhaps other churches as we did on Good Friday. The 60-voice choir that evening was inspiring!
- ***Cantatas/Pageants – Collection of songs and narration, at Christmas and perhaps during Lent.
- ***Small Groups for summer worship or special occasions.
- ***Antiphonal choral singing (using the great acoustical space we have. This could mean front/back – side/side or even up- (balcony) down (sanctuary level).

Another avenue for sharing our faith and building our church family might be to reach out to the community as a location for art-worthy events:

- ***Inviting guest musicians/choirs
- ***Advent concert series
- ***Lenten concert series
- ***Candlelight carol service on a December Sunday late afternoon.

As an additional means of financial funding for music programs, some ideas might be:

- *Form a grant committee to seek funds that may be available
- *Lease our space (to generate revenue) for other musical groups’ concerts. (Example: The “Harmony Singers”).

Non-musicians with a spirit and desire to participate may form a support team for extras like costumes when needed, or props, or even moving chairs to set up for events.

This is an overview or perhaps a “wish-list”. We feel that we can really take this music program in an “upward” direction, being skilled and creative, led by the Spirit always. We are thankful for musical gifts and talents. Together we have an abundance of experience and feel that the music is an exciting and truly vital part of each worship experience. We look forward to sharing thoughts and ideas with you.

Have a Blessed Summer
Patti and Diane

P.S. If you take the time to leave notes and ideas or comments in my mailbox-please sign your name so that we can discuss your concerns. Will the author of the blue card please see me! Patti

A Biography of Diane Battersby

International award winning pianist Diane Battersby has performed numerous solo, concerto and chamber recitals in Europe as well as throughout the United States. As a winner of the 1992 Artists International Auditions, she was presented in a New York recital debut at Carnegie's Weill Recital Hall in 1993. Other performances include Rachmaninov Hall in Moscow, Salle Cortot in Paris, Winnender Schloss-Matinee in Germany and American Landmark Festivals in New York City.

Ms. Battersby has broadcast live on National Public Radio including WFMT, WBAI and WNYC Radio and been a featured artist on Chicago and New York television. She has recorded for Nonesuch records and performed numerous concerts with the New Jersey Percussion Ensemble. Ms. Battersby has performed several world premieres of American and international composers' works.

Diane Battersby began her piano studies at the age of five. She received a Mast of Arts degree from Montclair State University and later studied at Moscow Conservatory, Ecole Normal de Musique de Paris and privately with Abbey Simon in New York City.

Ms. Battersby has served on a faculty at both Montclair State University and William Paterson University.

Diane Battersby has over 30 years of private teaching experience. Her students have worn numerous competitions and performed in New York at Carnegie's Weill Recital Hall, Steinway Hall, Cami Hall, Donnell Library and Greenwich House Music School. Several students have also gone on to study piano at Manhattan School of Music and other universities.

Diane is a member of the Piano Teachers Society of America (PTSA), National Federation of Music Clubs (NFMC), Music Teachers National Association (MTNA), Music Educators Association (MEA), The Leschetizky Association and several local music organizations. Ms. Battersby frequently serves as a judge for various piano competitions and auditions in the New York metropolitan area.

Ms. Battersby was the choir director and organist at the United Methodist Church of Verona, NJ for five years. She also served as a substitute organist throughout northern New Jersey for several years. Diane Battersby was baptized and confirmed at the First Presbyterian Church of Verona. She was later married to Dave Gish by his father; Reverend Robert W. Gish who was the serving pastor at that time.

Our Vision

"Building a church where every person knows Jesus, and believes he or she can make a difference for Jesus' sake."



I hope you have taken a look at the new books we added to our library. One of the books is "What Every Sunday School Teacher Should Know" by Elmer L. Townes. I have read this book and think it's a great one for all Sunday School teachers , even if you're teaching adults! Mr. Townes says that all learn differently and he teaches you about the Six levels of learning. He also says that memorizing is good and will help the student understand the Bible better. There are 24 secrets to being a better Sunday School teacher, but he wants you to become the Greatest Sunday School Teacher-----using Jesus as our example!!!

ROUND TABLE OF THANKS!

◆Debbie Pierce and mentors Joan Warner, Mark Warner, Mary Bartha, Kim Lampe, Ken Waibel and Drew Altorfer for their work with the confirmation class.

◆Anna Gordon for her workshop on meditation, prayer, and labyrinths.

PULPIT SUPPLY

June 1	Susan Kingma
June 8	Rev. Jim Knol, Christian Health Care Center
June 15	Rev. Tim Dunn, Christian Health Care Center
June 22	Rev. Bill Faulkner, Christian Health Care Center
June 29	Debbie Rundecker
July 6	Debbie Rundecker

As you see, June 8 is the only date with a new face. Pastor Tom will be worshipping with us again on July 6 and we will welcome him back with a potluck after worship. This will give us an informal time to speak with him. If you are in town that weekend please plan to join us. He will return to our pulpit on July 13.



Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to the family of Cathy Lee Iczkowski at her passing.



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



We would like to thank Fran Bierwas and Jeanette Struble for covering nursery in a pinch on Mother's Day!!! It was very much appreciated.



July/August newsletter deadline is June 20th. Please send submissions to 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