

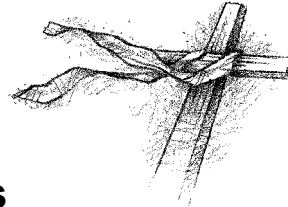
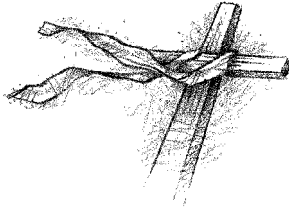
POMPTON REFORMED CHURCH
NEWSLETTER APRIL 2009

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www.pomptonreformed.org



Cross Thoughts

Dear Pompton Family

During our Good Friday worship each year, one of the segments includes the terrible sounds reminding us of Jesus' hands and feet being nailed to the cross. This task last year was my responsibility. The sanctuary was dark when I slipped out into the hallway. There was a hammer and a board, which I pounded hard. The sound is jarring, and if you are not expecting it, it startles you.

After about four blows my eyes suddenly welled with tears. In my mind was such a vivid image of the soldiers driving nails into Jesus' outstretched arms and feet, and the brutality and anguish of this. For your sins and for mine. Out of pure love.

This year's Good Friday worship (April 10) is at the First Reformed Church of Pompton Plains at 8:00 PM. We join with several other churches in the area, and next year it will again be our turn to host. The prior evening's Maundy Thursday worship, in our sanctuary, is at 7:30 PM. Lord's Supper is served. At the conclusion of that service the sanctuary is stripped of all adornment. What remains is the cross, where, during Lent, we have posted our sins and needs. When we gather on Easter morning, a new sight shall greet us.

As I write this reflection, Universal Steeplejack equipment is on the church's front lawn, and workers have been repairing and painting. The cross, which blew off in a windstorm last spring, damaging our roof, is being replaced, and the entire steeple is freshly painted. It looks wonderful. How fitting it is to see the cross atop the steeple again. Be sure you glance heavenward as you drive by, and see the cross under which we stand.

Your friend and pastor,
Tom Bartha

APRIL Worship Service Schedule

April 5 - Palm Sunday Worship (10:00 AM)

April 9 - Maundy Thursday Worship (7:30 PM)

April 10 - Good Friday Worship (8:00 PM) at First Reformed in Pompton Plains

April 12 - Easter - Celebration of the Resurrection. (10:00 AM)

Including singing of "The Hallelujah Chorus"

All of PRC's adult and youth vocal and bell choirs have been hard at work, to help make our worship as meaningful and as Christ-honoring as possible.

A letter from a person who needs our help!

To the congregation of Pompton Reformed Church,

First let me thank you for taking the time to read my letter, and I would especially like to thank Lorna and Liz for their kindness.

I am writing this letter in hopes that I might learn more about my father and his family. My father, Vernon Van Houten passed away in 1975, and he is buried in the cemetery at PRC. He is buried in a family plot, which consists of eight graves, where he is joined by his parents Louis and Mary Van Houten. According to the very limited amount of info available, church record indicate Louis was buried in 1937 and his wife Mary was buried in 1936. Since my dad was born in 1920 this means he was still 15 (almost 16) when his mom passed and 16 (almost 17) when his dad passed, which is quite sad. I have never seen a photo of my grandparents.

I recently discovered he had 8 additional siblings! I met two of his sisters when I was much younger and vaguely remember a brother and another sister. The two sisters I did know, married and have passed away. Since they are not buried in the family plot, it is my guess they chose to be w/their husbands. But why are there still five empty graves? Does that mean I may have uncles or aunts who are alive? At the very least there should be cousins. From what I understand (don't know this for sure) my dad was born and raised in Pompton Lakes. We (our family) lived in Bloomingdale and Butler for about 23 years.

I have lived in Virginia for the past 30 years and a couple weeks ago my mom passed away, and it became very clear how I may be missing out on a very important part of my heritage. I don't want to interfere in anyone's life...I just want to know. Maybe a photo of my grandparents? Maybe a photo of my dad as a child? I've never seen one...not even one of him as a teen. It would be amazing to see a photo of his siblings or to hear about them.

I don't know if his family was active members of PRC, but since they bought a family plot there must be some connection...at least the only one I have at this point.

My dad had a nickname I believe given to him by his family...it was "Bubby."

If you knew my dad or his family, please email me or call...I would be most grateful.

Warm Regards,
Rosemary Van Houten
rosemaryakamom@aol.com
757-250-3195

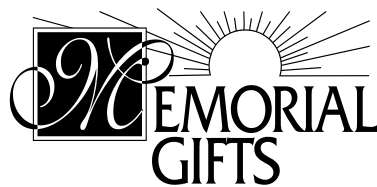


Stuart Carroll Judith Dickinson Jeff Romaine
 Jeanette Poulsen Susan Davis

2009 Standing And Special Committees

Staff Relations: (as needed)	Fellowship Committee: (4th Wed)	
VP of Consistory: Kim Lampe	Rick & Barbara Pierce, Co-Chairs	
Education: Drew Altorfer	Eva Terhune	Jackie Bush
Worship: Cas Stark	Mary Bartha	Liz Hanisch
Operations: David Hackbarth	Barbara Buckman	Jo-Ann Sisco
Finance: Jeff Romaine	Emil Scarmazzo	Gail Freeland
Pastor: Tom Bartha	Louise Newton	Kris Polise
Education: (as needed)	Finance: (2nd Thurs.)	
Drew Altorfer: Chair	Jeff Romaine, Chair	
Janine Maletsky	Jack Tice	Michael DeBlock
Joanie Warner	Cas Stark	
Lynda Amels	Terry Terhune	
Donna DeBlock	Eva Terhune	
Mark Warner	Douglas Struyk	
Geneva Maletsky	Sue Uhlendorf	
Sue Uhlendorf		
	<u>Missions/Outreach Committee:</u>	
	<u>(Quarterly)</u>	
	Kathy Csencsits, Chair	
<u>Operations: (1st Wed.)</u>	Ken Waibel	Kris Polise
Jeff Anders, Chair	Phil Lorusso	Keith Hanisch
Cliff Amels	George Buckman	
Dick Christie	Michael DeBlock	
John Nelson	Jack Tice	
David Hackbarth	<u>Cemetery Committee:</u>	
	Jeff Anders, Chair	
	Joanie Warner	
<u>Worship Committee: (1st Wed.)</u>	Michele Mac Donald	
Pat Gordon, Chair		
Kay Bergin	<u>Educational Trust Fund (Scholarship)</u>	

	<u>Committee:</u>
Bruce Foote	John Nelson
Elaine Peacock	Robin Sharpe
Roben Roon	Joanie Warner
Glenn Oleksak	Elder: Edward Van Schaack
Ed Van Schaack	Finance Comm. Rep. - TBD
Elena Van Schaack	
Cas Stark	
<u>Endowment Committee: (1st Sunday of Each Qtr)</u>	
Jack Tice: Chair	
Bruce Davis	
John Roon	
Eva Terhune	



Given by

Dot & Jack Branford
 Betty & Jo-Ann Sisco
 John & Nancy Nelson
 Eleanor Haling

In Memory of

Mary Camps
 John Buckman
 Mary Camps
 Loved Ones

Designation

Deacons' Fund
 Undesignated
 Scholarship Fund
 Undesignated



Library News

By: Roben Roon

Happy Spring! Happy Easter! We have some new books to add to our library. Thank you to who ever dropped them off in a duffle bag. Your duffle bag can be picked up , see me.

Some new items we have are 2 DVD's made by Ed Van Schaack. It shows all the events and programs that go on at PRC from Mission trips, VBS, our Community Pancake Breakfast and of course, Scenes of our church services.

We also have a folio of poems "Twice Told" written by Rev. Jill Fenske. During Jill's sabbatical, which was here at our church, she was able to put the folio together.

New books will be coming soon. If you have read a book that you'd like our library to purchase, please let me know.



New Pictorial Directory, See All the People



The church is really not the building; the church is really not the steeple. The church really is... **THE PEOPLE**. The church is a community that worships Christ, grows in faith, and serves its neighbors. The church is a unique family that is meant to live, to love, to care for and to support each other. A church directory is a means to helping us be in better community with each other.

So guess what? A new church directory is in the making at PRC! It is expected to:

- ◆ Be a connecting tool, a great way to identify others, call each other by his or her precious name and help our church family grow
- ◆ Create a snapshot of the exciting life of our church at this time, reflect the personality and ministries of PRC, and tell a story that can be passed on from generation to generation
- ◆ Provide an opportunity to obtain beautiful professional photographs for our own special purposes and be a family keepsake.

The PRC directory will be in full color with portraits, names, addresses (including email) and phone numbers of (hopefully all!) church members and non-members who worship with us. Each individual or family scheduled for a sitting will receive a complimentary 8"x10" portrait and a complimentary photo directory. There are no sitting fees. Portrait packages will be offered for purchase (it will be absolutely fine, however, to order only the free portrait and buy nothing else).

Please give the gift of your time to help make our new PRC directory complete. With full participation, Olan Mills offers ways for us to expand our outreach to others. If we have 185 portraits taken, we will be able to publish a wonderful directory *and* we may also be able to develop and publish bulk copies of an outreach brochure about PRC and our mission.

Pictures will be taken at the church on Wednesday and Thursday, April 15th and 16th and on Friday and Saturday, May 1st and 2nd. Weekday photo times are 3 to 9:30 p.m. and Saturday times are from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sign ups are in full swing with over 100 portrait sessions slots already filled. There are three easy ways to sign up. On Sunday mornings through Easter, sign up in Fellowship Hall. At anytime (except Sunday mornings), sign up online at www.signup.olanmills.com, using the church phone number (973) 835-0541 or contract number 40171 as the password. Or call Marcia Coningswood at (201) 337-8589.

Jackie Bush, Marcia Coningswood, Jill Laux, Eva Terhune

*A new command I give to you: Love one another. As I have loved you,
so you must love one another. John 13:34 NIV*



Adult Dinner at Kopici's

The dinner will be held on Tuesday, May 5th at 6:30 P.M. Sign up sheet and menu are by the kitchen. The cost is \$30.00 per person. Please give payment to Jo-Ann Sisco by April 26th. Checks can be written out to Jo-Ann or Cash. Everybody had a great time last year; we hope to see you there this year.



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



Sympathy goes out to the family of Bill Donkersloot (Associate Pastor at PRC from 1993 – 1999) along with sympathy to Laura Beiner at the passing of her father, Rocco Ambrogio.



Education News: On a frosty March evening a rather motley looking crew of PRC members and friends met up in the PRC parking lot to head off for an adventurous evening of snow tubing. The evening did not disappoint. The participants were of all ages. But those of us who took up the challenge of traversing down the icy hills at Tuxedo Ridge were all transformed into children. So much fun! Many of us preferred to spin our way down the steep course. Others enjoyed a leisurely jaunt down the alpine slopes. And still others relished in the ride back up the hill thanks to a convenient tow line. We even had a snow tuber decide to make her own tubing course as she broke through the hay bails and continued her run down the mountain. An Olympic moment! The evening concluded with fellowship and hot chocolate in the lodge. Thanks to all who participated and to Lynda Amels for organizing this alpine event.

Peace,
Drew Altorfer



SIGN UP FOR COFFEE HOUR!!!

All you need is a $\frac{1}{2}$ gallon of milk and clean up the kitchen. Please see the sign up sheet by the kitchen. Your help is greatly appreciated by the fellowship committee.



May newsletter deadline is April 17th. Please send submissions to Samoa214@yahoo.com 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