

POMPTON REFORMED CHURCH
FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER 2009

59 Hamburg Turnpike
Pompton Lakes, NJ 07442
973-835-0541

prc59@aol.com
www.pomptonreformed.org

LENTEN MOMENTS

Dear Pompton Family,

Toward the end of this month we enter the season of Lent--the 40-day period (not counting Sundays) leading to Easter. Lent begins with an Ash Wednesday service on February 25. There will also be opportunities for a congregational study as well as prayer sessions. But something new this year for our morning worship during the Sundays of Lent--**Lenten Moments**--where members are invited to share a writing, a poem, a personal testimony, a song or instrumental piece as a devotion to our Lord. The possibilities are endless: A duet or quartet or a household quintet, a one-act play, a photography display, a sacred dance... Even as you read this, I hope your mind churns as you think of a significant offering you might share with worshippers that conveys your love for Jesus Christ, and which might serve to move us to deeper levels of devotion.

A written reflection might be printed and included in the bulletin, or we will devote a portion of worship for the sharing of your gift. Worship Committee chair Pat Gordon or I are glad to receive word of your desire to participate. A nice dilemma would be to have too many respondents to "Lenten Moments." So, thank you for helping to make this happen. No need even to wonder; if you are reading this now, you are welcome to share your gifts.

For our congregational Lenten study, we will be using the 31-day devotional--*The Christ of Easter--Readings for the Season of Resurrection*, edited by Calvin Miller. Certainly this can serve as a personal devotional, but there will also be opportunities during Lent to meet for prayer and worship, and to share reflections together, to make this sacred season as meaningful as possible.

One pre-Lenten bonus: On February 22 we will be led in worship by one of the missionaries our church supports. The Rev. Marlin Vis, along with his wife (Sally, who will not be making this journey with him), have just completed four years of serving in Jerusalem. Marlin is a gifted preacher, and this has all the potential to be a very special day (as is every time we gather to worship our Lord!)

Your friend and pastor,
Tom Bartha

February is short on days but BIG on Love

By: Elaine Peacock

By the time February rolls around we are getting winter weary and still trying to shed those extra pounds that suddenly appeared during December. GOD, in his infinite wisdom, picked this month to remind us how much he loves us and he wants us to share that love with others. Oh yes the card manufacturers, candy companies and restaurants want us to believe it is all about giving that “special someone” an extra special gift or unforgettable evening, but GOD wants us to look past all the commercial hype and give away a bit of ourselves not only to the ones we love but extend ourselves to a hurting world. Maybe we can share a hug, a helping hand or a bright smile to someone who needs the “touch of GOD” in their life.

May the love you give away come back to you two fold my PRC Family.

A RETURN TO PRAYER

Submitted by Helen Gioia

Oprah Winfrey starts her day with this prayer everyday, which Marianne Williamson shared in her book -*Illuminata: A Return to Prayer*.

Dear God,

I give this day to You. May my mind stay centered on the things of spirit. May I not be tempted to stray from love. As I begin this day, I open to receive You. Please enter where You already abide. May my mind and heart be pure and true, and may I not deviate from the things of goodness. May I see the love and innocence in all mankind, behind the masks we all wear and the illusions of this worldly plane. I surrender to You my doings this day. I ask only that they serve You and the healing of the world. May I bring Your Love and Goodness with me, to give unto others wherever I go. Make me the person You would have me be. Direct my footsteps, and show me what You would have me do. Make the world a safer, more beautiful place. Bless all Your creatures. Heal us all, and use me, Dear Lord, that I might know the joy of being used by You.

Amen.

2009 Confirmation Class

Later this spring we will again offer Confirmation classes for youth who would like to make profession of faith in Jesus Christ, and be received into full membership in the church. Plans will soon be getting underway, in order to make this experience as meaningful as possible. Future bulletins and newsletters will have further details. We will likely begin in late February or early March. Please notify the pastor of your interest.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

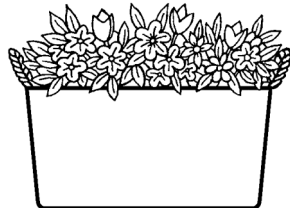
<u>Given by</u>	<u>In Memory of</u>	<u>Designation</u>
Susan Christie	Jean Anne Christie	Building Improvement Fund
Connie Griggs	Viola Martin	Undesignated
Connie Griggs	Roberta Martin	Undesignated
Karie Arienti	Honor of Janet & David Hackbarth	Building Improvement Fund
Helen Jenny	Fred Jenny	Undesignated
Bruce & Kathleen Jenny	Fred Jenny	Undesignated
Rick & Shirley Montanari	Mae Hansen	Christian Education
Rick & Shirley Montanari	Ingrid Herink	Missions
Rick & Shirley Montanari	Marie Reynolds	Missions
Rick & Shirley Montanari	Vernice Appel	Christian Education
Lois L. Hargreaves	Dorothy Brown Pope	Undesignated



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



Matt Evangelista Ed Van Schaack Emily Green Harry Bruederly
 Connor Conklin's 8th Birthday Judy Foester
 In Memory of Bob Finke in Heaven In Honor of Albert Peacock



A Word About Flowers

On most Sundays you notice flowers at the front on the sanctuary, in memory or in celebration of a loved one. If there is a special occasion or person you wish to remember, phone Maureen in our church office—973-835-0541--and she will take care of it. The cost is \$30.



By: Diane Barrett

Water nourishes, cleanses and refreshes. Used in the sacred sacrament of baptism and an essential nutrient, we can only live without water for a few days yet we do not seem to value its importance.

This morning, we woke to the sound of jackhammers. A water main break sent us scrambling to fill pots before they shut the water off completely. Each time I turned on the faucet to find it dry, I was reminded of the words of Archbishop Desmond Tutu- we are wastefully and recklessly devouring irreplaceable natural resources. The average American uses 100-150 gallons each day while 40% of people worldwide are experiencing water shortages. The Church World Services publication in the fellowship area tells us that one toilet flush in the U.S. uses as much water as the average person in a developing country uses in an entire day.

We may think water is abundant since much of the earth's surface is covered with water however only 1% is freshwater in lakes, streams and groundwater. The remainder of the earth's water is salt water and current desalination systems are not practical, they use enormous amounts of energy to produce drinkable water.

A leaky faucet wastes ~7 gallons a day, a leaky toilet wastes ~200 gallons day. To check for toilet tank leaks, simply place a small amount of food coloring in the tank. If it appears in the toilet before flushing, there is a leak.

Bottled water is also a serious problem. It takes 2 liters of water to produce a 1 liter plastic bottle, less than 14% of plastic bottles are recycled and tons of CO2 are discharged during production and transportation. Tap water is clean and if needed, affordable carbon filters can be used to remove a wide array of contaminants. For a dollars worth of tap water, you could refill a 16 oz reusable water bottle 4,000 times.

What would have to happen for you to consider reducing the amount of water you waste?

"For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, flowing forth in valleys and hills". *Deuteronomy 8:7*



With Sympat

Dorothy (Brown) Pope a former member of PRC.

Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to the family of

Library News

By: Roben Roon

Happy Valentine's Day!!! More new books are here...



Encouragement for Life - Chuck Swindoll

Cast of Characters - Max Lucado

You Were Made for More - Jim Cymbala

Every Now and Then - Karen Kingsbury

In the Beginning - Max Lucado

More Prayers on My Pillow - Celia Straus

(Words of comfort and hope for girls on the journey to self).

Take a break and read a book!!!



March newsletter deadline is February 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