

POMPTON REFORMED CHURCH
NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2009

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The Gift of Hope -- A Prayer for the Year Ahead
(adapted from a prayer by Joyce Rupp)

Dear Pompton Friends and Family,

God of hope, come! Enter into our memory and remind us often of the yearning of the people of history. Stir up stories of how our ancestors hung on to your promises, how they stole hope from tiny glimmers about You, passed on from age to age. Help us to hear the loud, crying voices of the prophets who proclaimed that a new age would dawn.

God of hope, come! Enter into our hearts which too often miss the message of your encouragement because we are so entangled in the web of our own whirl of life. Enable us not to lose sight of the power of your presence or the truth of your consolation.

God of hope, come! Enter into the lives of all those we love, the ones whose lives are marked with pain, struggle, and deep anxiety, those whose lives bear ongoing heartaches, those whose difficulties threaten to overwhelm them with helplessness and despair. Come and gift them with a deep belief about you and your never-ending faithfulness and companionship.

God of hope, come! Enter into every human heart that cries out for a glimmer of your love, for a sign of your welcoming presence, for a taste of your happiness. Be the one who calms the restless and gentles the ache of the human journey.

God of hope, come! Enter into this New Year with the grace of joy and laughter. Fill faces with smiles of delight, and voices with sounds of pleasure. Let this gift come from deep within. Replenish all with the joyful blessings that only your peace can bring.

God of hope, come! Be the Morning Star in our midst, the Light that can never go out, the Beacon of Hope guiding our way to you. Come into our midst and make of our lives a home, where your everlasting goodness resonates with assuring love and vigorous hope.

Your friend and pastor,
Tom Bartha

JANUARY A NEW BEGINNING

By Elaine Peacock

2009 is upon us and a new year is knocking at our door – will we open the door to our heart and invite the New Year in, a new year filled with new adventures and infinite possibilities or will we keep the door to our heart shut keeping out possible hurt and heartache?

GOD gives us a new start every day, but especially on January 1st, we can start by sweeping out the old hurts and old grudges. We can let in GOD's light to fill all those little dark places we keep so well hidden. Let 2009 be the year that GOD takes away those things that have been cluttering up our lives for so long.

May 2009 be one of peace, contentment and joy for each one of you – my PRC family.

ANGELS AMONG US

Submitted by Helen Gioia

There have been many Angels in my life who helped me, therefore, I love this verse from the Bible, --- "Don't forget to be kind to strangers. For some who have done this have entertained angels without realizing it." Hebrews 13:2



Dear Pastor Tom, Members of Consistory and the Body of Christ, which is the Pompton Reformed Church,

Words cannot express my gratitude for the gift of office space and time that you have offered to me over the last several months while I was on Sabbatical with the Franklin Reformed Church in Nutley. From Maureen's welcoming smile and the kind greetings of those of you whom I had the pleasure to cross paths with over the fall months, to the peace and quiet that your office space afforded me, I was made to feel welcome and at home.

I have completed a folio of poems entitled *Twice Told* each of them lovingly crafted in part in this welcome and safe space that you have given to me, there will be a copy given to the Church library on publication in mid-January. I thank God for you, and for this ministry of space and support that you have shown to me in this season of Sabbatical. Yours in Christ, (Rev.) Jill C. Fenske

Dear PRC Family

Thank you, thank you for your support through prayer, encouraging words, calls, notes, cards, mighty helpful housework, delicious and generous meals, taking on our laundry, a railing on our back porch and so much more: your time, energy, thoughtfulness and LOVE.

Thank you, Pastor Tom, for your visits, prayers and extras like hanging laundry, picking up papers for recycling, phone calls to see if we needed any additional help.

May your Christmas be blessed as you have blessed us through 2008!

Our love,

Rick & Shirley Montanari

Someone You Know...On Stage!

"*I Do! I Do!*" is a heartwarming musical following the fifty years in marriage of Agnes and Michael. Beginning with their wedding night in 1945 through the birth of their children and into their senior years, "*I Do! I Do!*" will bring smiles and tears to audiences of all ages.

The original Broadway production starred Mary Martin and Robert Preston. The 4th Wall Theatre production features none other than our own **Will Lampe**. Performances are January 30, 31, and February 6, 7 at 8:00 PM, plus February 1 and 8 matinees at 2:00 PM. Tickets are \$22 general admission and \$18 for students and senior citizens. (A group of 20 or more receives tickets at \$15).

All performances are in the beautiful Westminster Arts Center in Bloomfield, NJ. Call 973.748-9008 ext. 279, or see Will Lampe for more information.

www.4thwalltheatre.org

Children at the Lord's Table

In the Reformed Church in America, children who have not yet made profession of faith are welcome to partake of communion at the request of parents to the board of elders. In response to the request, elders and pastor provide a class each year, where the meaning of the sacrament is briefly explained to children (and parents), allowing us all a more meaningful observance. If you are interested, please mention to the pastor or one of our elders. The class will be immediately following worship on January 18.

Given by

Dot Ploch

Cas & Jean Stark

Bill & Erika Herz

In Memory of

Vernice Appel

Grace & Perry Babcock

Grace & Perry Babcock

Designation

Scholarship Fund

Undesignated

Deacons' Fund

Roundtable of Thanks from December's Consistory

--The VanSchaack and Roon families for all their behind-the-scenes help with the Deacon's December pancake breakfast. (photography, decorations and more!)

--Kathy Csencsits for the Angel Tree gift co-ordination. Over 70 wrapped gifts were delivered to children in need!

--Elders and deacons who have now completed their three-year term. Deep thanks to elders Jo-Ann Sisco, Terry Terhune, and Pat Gordon, and to deacons Louise Newton, Phil Lorusso, and Sue Uhlendorf. You have served faithfully and well!



By: Roben Roon

Happy New Year! We have new books for our library.

The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey by-Susan Wojciechowski

The Centurion's Wife by-Davis Bunn & Janette Oke

Prayer by-Philip Yancey

Faith, Doubt by-John Ortberg

The Purpose of Christmas by-Rick Warren

A Christmas Star by-Thomas Kinkade & Katherine Spencer

God Gave Us Christmas (Children's Book) by-Lisa Tawn Bergren

When God Winks at You by-Squire Rushnell



Happy Birthday to Arthur A. Poulsen



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

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.

Our Heartfelt Sympathy to the family of Vernice Appel at her passing, along with the family of Pete Moen, PRC's previous long time business manager.



February newsletter deadline is January 16th. 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