

# POMPTON REFORMED CHURCH NEWSLETTER

## July/August 2013

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## Summer Update

Dear Pompton Reformed Family,

Every year, Reformed Church clergy are strongly encouraged to devote one week of the year to some form of Christian Education and professional development. Pastor Debbie and I have each used our annual week for conferences, seminars, retreats and such. This year I spent five days in Silverton, Colorado with my clergy network. This is a group of six clergy, who normally meet overnight every other month, for worship and reflection, listening to one another's concerns. A deep camaraderie has developed over the past.

This year we spent a portion of our week discussing Richard Rohr's fine book, *Falling Upward--A Spirituality for the Second Half of Life*, a challenging and worthy read. We each led worship, and devoted time to reflecting upon our call into ministry, the people and the situations God used. We chose Silverton because one fellow pastor was working there during a difficult and lonely stretch of life when he felt God's unmistakable calling to pastoral ministry. This was his first time back. We applied for and received a grant to cover lodging and transportation for the week. I've some beautiful photographs of the Rockies, if anyone cares to see.

It was around 1978, after I was married(!) that I wandered into seminary one afternoon on a steady prompting from the Holy Spirit, and felt the unmistakable "Welcome Home," that has marked my life ever since. Mary and I were roughly four months into marriage when this call came, and she had no idea she would be married to a minister. I began seminary in summer of 1978, and she has been a source of strength, guidance, wisdom and encouragement ever since, through raising four daughters, and the moves from Michigan to Chicago, then back to Michigan, and eleven years ago this month...to Pompton Lakes, New Jersey, where our devotion to Jesus only deepens. I'm condensing a great deal into three short paragraphs, but as I type for this newsletter, this is what has emerged to share with our faith community.

With gratitude toward the Savior,

**Pastor Thomas Bartha**

## Summer Ponderings from Pastor Debbie

**“I could never myself believe in God, if it were not for the cross. The only God I believe in is the One Nietzsche ridiculed as 'God on the cross.' In the real world of pain, how could one worship a God who was immune to it? I have entered many Buddhist temples in different Asian countries and stood respectfully before the statue of the Buddha, his legs crossed, arms folded, eyes closed, the ghost of a smile playing round his mouth, a remote look on his face, detached from the agonies of the world. But each time after a while I have had to turn away. And in imagination I have turned instead to that lonely, twisted, tortured figure on the cross, nails through hands and feet, back lacerated, limbs wrenched, brow bleeding from thorn-pricks, mouth dry and intolerably thirsty, plunged in Godforsaken darkness. That is the God for me! He laid aside his immunity to pain. He entered our world of flesh and blood, tears and death. He suffered for us. Our sufferings become more manageable in the light of his. There is still a question mark against human suffering, but over it we boldly stamp another mark, the cross that symbolizes divine suffering. 'The cross of Christ ... is God's only self-justification in such a world' as ours....' 'The other gods were strong; but thou wast weak; they rode, but thou didst stumble to a throne; But to our wounds only God's wounds can speak, And not a god has wounds, but thou alone.” -John Stot**

In the past few months I have had opportunities (sadly more than I would like) to contemplate suffering, pain and brokenness in the light of my faith in God's love for me, the reality of Jesus Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit. When I saw this quote, it resonated deeply within my soul and the questions I have been asking of God, of myself, and of others. Clearly I am not alone in my inability to understand suffering in this world. I suspect you have asked some of the same questions of God or, if you are serious about your faith, you will someday.

How then do we reconcile our faith in a world so broken and so full of pain? Like Jon Stot we look to the cross. There is no other religion, no other God, who inserts himself into history in such a real and physical way. All other religions I have studied have in large part steps one has to take in order to get to God, in essence we must earn his affection or earn perfection. But for those of us who look to the God of Jesus, we see a radical shift. Our God says, you are broken, our God “remembers we are dust” and steps out of time and eternity to show us a new way, to give us new freedom and a new way to live. He does it with a cross of suffering, a cross of pain. It isn't detachment from the world which brings the Kingdom of God into view for those who don't know their value and worth. It is real, physical presence and involvement with people and difficult situations. Like the God of the universe who stepped out of time and space to share our pain and suffering, we too must step out of where we are to journey with those who suffer and by some measure lessen the burden by our presence. I am not sure how all this works, though I have read plenty of theological treatises on how the God who took on flesh appears when we are in real, true committed relationships with each other.

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**Fellowship**

## Happenings for 2013



The dog days of summer are fast approaching as are the these following activities. Flip your calendar and mark it for the following events. More events and activities will be included with even more details as time moves on! We look forward to a fun and fulfilling 2013!

**August 18** – Ice Cream Social immediately following Service. Fellowship Committee will provide the ice cream, toppings, and beverages. We are asking our Church Family to come and enjoy!

**September 15** - Church Picnic. Fellowship Committee will provide the hot dogs, hamburgers, and rolls. If you are willing to bring any of the following salads or side dishes please let Jo-Ann know. We need Potato Salad, Macaroni Salad, Cole Slaw, Green Salad, Pasta Salad, and Bake Beans. If you would like to bring something else that is fine. But please let Jo-Ann know so we know what is coming in and what we need. We will be asking the Youth to once again be in charge of games for the young children and for themselves. Perhaps someone will volunteer to do some face painting. Fellowship wants to thank you all for your participation and donations!

**October 5** - Bus Trip to *Sight and Sound* to see "Noah."

**October 19** - There's 90 days until Autumnfest! Info below!

**December 11** - Senior Luncheon.

**December 22** - Cookie Social- immediately following the Service.



## Autumnfest '13 Updates

We want to thank those of you who came to the Autumnfest Meeting. As of now we have 19 vendors and crafters signed up so far. Last year we had 40 vendors and crafters. Inside space is going quickly, send in your contract soon!

- This year we will have a Candle and Accessory Sale. If you have candles or accessories you are not using, please save them and bring them in in September.
- Please remember to bring back a vacation souvenir for the Post Office.
- We still need bakers for our Bake Sale. You can either tell Dot, Lorna, Nancy or Jo-Ann that you are baking or we will be calling you in September. Pies and breads such as pumpkin bread, banana bread, and zucchini bread are very popular this time of year.
- This year we are going to have a Coffee Bar with different flavored coffees. We will sell something to go along with the coffee such as doughnuts, muffins or Brownies. Suggestions welcomed.
- We will also be asking for donations of Coke, Diet Coke, Sprite, Diet Sprite and bottled water.
- We will need many volunteers that day. If you are willing to help, let Jo-Ann know.
- If you are willing to loan us a pop-up tent for the day we would appreciate it.
- Each Committee will be asked to put a Basket together for the Basket Giveaways.
- If anyone has any new ideas it is never to late to hear them. Contact Jo-Ann or any other Fellowship member
- The Deacons will once again be selling Mums in September. So please plan to buy your Mums from the Deacons.
- The Fellowship Committee wants to thank you all for your prayers, cooperation, and donations. Our job is so much easier when we have so many wonderful people to help us. God has really Blessed Us to belong to such a wonderful Church Family! This summer we wish you all peace, relaxation, fun, and Joy. God Bless You All! Your Fellowship Committee



<u>From</u>	<u>In Memory of</u>	<u>Designation</u>
John & Nancy Nelson	Wilma McKechnie	Undesignated
Dot Ploch	Wilma McKechnie	Undesignated
Robert & Brenda Heitsenrether	Wilma McKechnie	Undesignated
Nancy Shimmel	Wilma McKechnie	Endowment
Mary McDonald	Wilma McKechnie	Endowment
Peggy Peine	Wilma McKechnie	Endowment
Cas & Jean Stark	Wilma McKechnie	Endowment
Geneva & Evan Maletsky	Wilma McKechnie	Endowment
Bruce & Sue Davis	Wilma McKechnie	Endowment
Rick & Shirley Montanari	Wilma McKechnie	Endowment
Corinne Tyndall	Wilma McKechnie	Endowment
Pompton Lakes Senior Housing	Wilma McKechnie	Endowment
Carol Stafford	Wilma McKechnie	Endowment
Circle Michal	Wilma McKechnie	Endowment
Helen & Chuck Gioia	Wilma McKechnie	Endowment
Betty & Jo-Ann Sisco	Wilma McKechnie	Endowment
Caroline Winter	Wilma McKechnie	Endowment
Margaret Matthews	Wilma McKechnie	Endowment
Ella Campbell	Wilma McKechnie	Endowment
Pam & Dennis Winter	Fred & Helen Jenny	Grounds Upkeep
Bruce & Kathy Jenny	Fred & Helen Jenny	Building Maintenance

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Choosing day by day, hour by hour, sometimes minute by minute to have faith in God when all else seems impossible and terribly difficult is a sacrificial offering for me sometimes. Consciously choosing to follow the way God calls me to live when it would be easier and less painful to say, lie a little, or look the other way is the tougher road. It is the road of change and growth for me and for the Kingdom of God.

Like Jon Stot, “there is still a question mark against human suffering” as I ponder the world of brokenness and pain I inhabit sometimes, but like him I say, “but over it we boldly stamp another mark, the cross that symbolizes divine suffering. 'The cross of Christ ... is God’s only self-justification in such a world” as ours” ...and pray for the peace of Christ to rule in our hearts and minds.

On the Journey

*Pastor Debbie*



## Do You Hear What I Hear?

By Roben Roon

People with hearing loss may seem like everyone else but they have trouble hearing what we are saying. Hearing loss is a lack or loss of the sense of hearing which may be partial or complete. It can occur in one or both ears. There are many ways we can help those with hearing loss. When you are talking to them always look directly at the person and speak normally –not loud. Most people with hearing loss need to use a hearing aid to assist them.

Our church has a hearing impaired system so all are able to be a part of our church service every Sunday. Many churches are accommodating these members with the hearing impaired system. One church in Egg Harbor Township has offered services to the hearing impaired for over 20 years! They use a sign-language interpreter to “sign” so all member can be a part of the church service. One member from the church said they wanted all members to feel welcome.

If you need to use our hearing impaired system, please see an usher or me and we will assist you.



## Hand Prints on God's Heart

By Elaine Peacock



Do you ever think about hand prints? You know the kind of hand prints I mean, the hand prints we have all made in kindergarten out of plaster of Paris. It was probably the first gift we actually made ourselves for Mom or Dad. Or how about the hand print mural we made in art class of our hand in a variety of colors? Remember how happy we were when Mom hung it in a place of honor on the refrigerator? Actually we make hand prints every day when we help a neighbor, give someone a ride; surprise someone with a meal or a visit. These hand prints are not visible but are hand prints on someone's heart not only the recipient but also on God's. Every time we leave a hand print on earth God stores them in his heart. So remember as we enjoy the lazy days of summer, keep making those hand prints. Not only will we have made some one's day, lifted our own heart but we will have made God smile. Have a wonderful summer PRC.



To All,  
Sorry for the delay in getting this note off to you. I'm sure Gail told you how appreciative Catherine and I were for the beautiful and meaningful prayer quilt. Please know it was a great comfort to her. I read the accompanying note to her many times. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.  
Sincerely,  
Victoria Freeland

Dear PRC Members and Scholarship Committee:

Thank you very much for granting me a PRC scholarship. I feel so fortunate to have been given this gift again as I attend Rowan University, for my 4th year. I am also blessed to have such a wonderful church family who has helped guide and encourage me along the way. Your prayers and support are greatly appreciated.

Thanks again.

Sincerely,

Matthew De Block

Dear Members of PRC and Scholarship Committee:

Thank you so very much for the PRC scholarship. I am honored to have received this gift as I begin my 1st year at Rowan University. My church family is very special and important to me and my prayer quilt will be a wonderful reminder of you.

Thank you again for the scholarship. I feel truly blessed.

Sincerely,

Bethany De Block

Dear Friends,

THANK YOU for all your wonderful cards and notes, I've experienced a good deal but this has been the worst of them. You have cheered me and here I am, able to write again.

Thank the Lord!

Love you.

Judy Foester



Madison Paulle Conklin  
Jim Doland  
Jan Pellington

Henry John Lockwood  
Dorothy Doland  
Chrissy Warner

In Memory of Albert Peacock on Father's Day



## Our Dedicated Chancel Choir

Once again, another season with the Chancel Choir has come and gone so quickly. We enjoy our time together on Thursdays preparing music for worship as well as great fellowship, a lot of laughter and of course, a time for reflection and prayer. This is a dedicated group with many levels of ability and talent. The willingness to serve the Lord with singing is abundant. We have experienced many joys and sadnesses together this season. We have had births, deaths, storm-related property loss, illness and just general life bumps and curves. When we bring it forward and share it with each other, it really seems to heighten the joy and diminish the sadness. That is Chancel Choir. Below, find a list of the dedicated volunteer musicians that give their time freely and joyously each week during the year to bring music to our worship service. And, once again, let me say that it is my pleasure to lead this group and to be a part of the larger family of God at PRC.

Thanks to our current faithful Chancel Choir voices: Nancy McCallum, Nancy Nelson, Kay Bergin, Rick Pierce, Evan Maletsky, Leslee Ferray, Mary Bartha, Barbara Wheeler, Lynn Scarmazzo, Dot Ploch, Louise Newton, Lucas Spaan, Pat Gordon, Eddie Van Schaack, Elsie Robertson, Caroline Winter, Terry Terhune, Corinne Tyndall and Kim Lampe. Choir Director: Patti Kitchell.

## The PRC Bell Choir



The bells (and their players!) will be taking a well deserved break for the summer after an enjoyable and busy year. We will start up again in the fall with Singers and Ringers for the youngest musicians, a new format for the Youth Bells who are always busy and the faithful Adult Bells. New ringers would be welcomed in every bell choir - no experience in note reading or bell playing needed! We have close to four octaves of bells but need many more hands to be able to play them all. Consider showing your love of God through this musical ministry. Bell Choir Director: Janine Maletsky.

### Adults

Beth Burke  
Pat Gordon  
Geneva Maletsky  
Cindi Petrides  
Valerie Petrides  
Roben Roon

### Youth

Elizabeth Amels  
Nicholas Beaudoin  
Caitlin Geniuk  
Jackson Hayes  
Jared Hollar  
Kaitlyn Hollar  
Timothy Laux  
Jenna Waibel

### Substitutes

Anna Gordon  
Jonathan Hayes  
Jeffrey Laux

You can beautify the sanctuary on most Sundays by purchasing Chancel Flowers for a \$36 donation in memory or in honor of loved ones. Many dates are still open. Contact the church office to schedule your date. 973 835-0541.



## Consistory Roundtable of Thanks!

(from June's Consistory)

- To the quiet servant who faithfully cleans the kitchen every Wednesday.
- Jessica for coordinating and serving in the nursery.
- Thank you to all the office volunteers who make it work.



On Behalf of the Scholarship Committee and the entire congregation, scholarships were presented to the following members as they pursue a higher education:

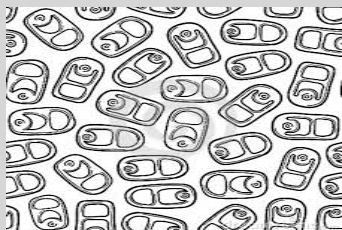
EMILY DAVIS  
JONATHAN HAYES  
DEBRA PIERCE  
CHRISTIN WARNER

BETHANY DeBLOCK  
TINA IRAGGI  
ALANNA SACHSE

MATTHEW DeBLOCK  
SABINE KROEGER  
NIKOL SACHSE

While we hope these scholarships will help ease the financial burden of obtaining a higher education – it is also important that each of the recipients know that we offer an even greater gift – that gift is the blessing, prayers and support from the entire congregation as they pursue their individual educational goals.

In Christ's Service,  
The Scholarship Committee



## Pull Tab Collection

In other PLHS news, a student is collecting pull-tabs from cans as a fundraiser for the Ronald McDonald House in Cincinnati, where his family stayed while he was receiving treatment. A container is in the kitchen. Save your tabs and let's fill it up!





## Planning Ahead

Here is a list of events that we welcome your participation by volunteering, sponsoring, or promoting. Find one, two or more that's right for your congregation to support. Then, let us know!

**International Summit: October 9-11** Visit with the directors and staff of all the UrbanPromise sites as they gather to learn from one another: Malawi, Uganda, Honduras, Vancouver, Toronto, Wilmington, Trenton, and Camden. You can join in to learn from our presenters, help supply meals for the event and of course keep us in your prayers.

**Banquet: October 24** Our annual Banquet highlights the achievements of our children and youth through an unforgettable performance that follows our delicious dinner. Become a table host for our annual Banquet!

**Thanksgiving Dinners: November** Help us provide Thanksgiving dinners for our families through a food collection of non-perishable food items and turkey collections. Also, join us to help serve dinner when we celebrate Thanksgiving with our camp families.

**Christmas Promise Store:** December Last year we returned dignity to our families through our Christmas store model. We hope to be bigger and better this year with your help! Angel Trees, Wish Trees, gift collections are the key to our Christmas store success!

**Martin Luther King Day and MLK Speech contest:** January bring your youth group and invite your families, but sign up early for our MLK Day of Service. Last year nearly 400 people participated in service projects here on campus and throughout Camden. Then, become a sponsor for our MLK Speech Contest and join us to hear the amazing speeches written by our students!

**AfterSchool Camp Spring Break Trips:** Each year our Camp Directors take students on exciting and educational trips. You can help sponsors a camp trip, invite a camp director to your church, or have a fund raiser to benefit Spring Break trips.

**Family Promise:** We anticipate the first visit of our friends at Family Promise this Fall. Below is a list of what we need for our guests. We are accepting gently used or new items. Please contact Elyse Kascik, Nancy Begin or the Pastors.

Need - New Or Used	Quantity
Twin Fitted Sheets	16
Twin Flat Sheets	16
Pillow Cases	16
Pillows - <i>must be new</i>	16
Twin Waterproof Mattress Pads	16
Waterproof Pillow Case Covers	16
Blankets/Comforters	16
Lamps	4 to 6
Pack & Play	2
High Chair	2
Children's Bed Rails	2
Washcloths	16
Hand or Bath Towels	16
First Aid Kit	1
Tupperware/Containers for leftover food	10 to 20



# September

Apple Juice  
donations are needed for after  
worship service. Please drop them  
off in the kitchen.  
Thanks!



1st Wed., Sept. 4:	6:30 pm Operations Committee
	7:30 pm Worship Committee
2nd Sat., Sept. 14:	Quilting Ministry
2nd Sun., Sept. 15:	11:30 am Youth Team
2nd Mon., Sept. 9:	7 pm Finance Committee
2nd Wed., Sept. 11:	7:30 pm Missions Team
3rd Mon., Sept. 16:	7:15 pm Christian Education Committee
3rd Wed., Sept. 18:	7:00 pm Consistory
4th Wed., Sept. 25:	7:30 pm Fellowship Committee
Every Tuesday:	1:30 pm Knitters & Crocheters



~Bell Choir is BACK in September! Meet us on Tues. nights at 6:30~



## Pantry Needs

Pasta sauce, canned fruit, mac & cheese, Parmalat milk, canned veggies (corn, carrots, peas and beans), Jell-o, pudding and baked beans. Low-fat, low-sodium products are always accepted.

*Thank you for supporting this important mission needed by so many!*

## DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

The Deadline for *Newsletter Articles* is the last Sunday of each month. Please send submissions to [prcletter@gmail.com](mailto:prcletter@gmail.com) or feel free to drop it in the mail slot in the church office!

The deadline for September's  
newsletter is  
Sunday, August 25, 2013.



# AUTUMNFEST/CRAFT FAIR

Sponsored by  
Pompton Reformed Church  
59 Hamburg Turnpike, Pompton Lakes, NJ 07442  
October 19, 2013  
10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Thank you for expressing an interest in being a crafter/vendor at Autumnfest 2013. The 3rd Saturday in October will be here soon...plans are being finalized for our Autumnfest/Craft Fair. Please read the guidelines below and submit your contract and payment as soon as possible. Space is limited so sign up early!

- Registration will begin upon our receipt of the completed application and payment of fees. Spaces will be assigned on a first-come, first-serve basis. Applications must be received by **Saturday, September 14.**
- **Fee is \$20.00 for a 6' by 8' space** in Fellowship Hall. **You must bring your own table.**
- Payment - checks or money orders made out to: Pompton Reformed Church
- Cancellations will be accepted until Friday, October 4th.
- No refunds will be given after October 4<sup>th</sup> and/or in the event of rain. There is NO raindate.
- Indoor spaces and electricity are limited. Outdoor spaces on the lawn—you will be responsible to provide your own tent/pop-up covering and table. Space will be unrestricted and no electricity is available.
- **Crafters/Vendors must provide their own tables. There will be no provisions made to have tables available to any Vendor/Crafter the day of the Autumnfest!** Two chairs will be provided per table.
- Please do not infringe on your neighbor's space. Every effort will be made to accommodate every vendor's need.
- There will be limited electricity; please note need for this on application.
- No loud machinery, music or loudspeakers allowed.
- Crafters/Vendors must be available at their tables at all times.
- The church will not be responsible for any thefts or damage to your property.
- You must be responsible for collecting your own taxes.
- Set-up will begin at 8:00 AM. Crafters/Vendors agree to stay until the closing time of 4:00 pm unless you sell out. "Coffee and" for vendors will be available during setup.
- Lunch and beverages will be available for purchase or you may bring your own.
- There will be no admission charge to the public.
- Autumnfest will be publicized in all local newspapers, Channel 77, flyers in schools and around town, WGHT as well as signage on Library sign and Church property.

Cut Along Line and Return as Noted:



Return to: Jo-Ann Sisco PRC Autumnfest Craft Committee Coordinator, 23 Durham Street Pompton Lakes, New Jersey 07442.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Detailed Description of Craft/Vendor Mdse \_\_\_\_\_

Electricity Yes or No (circle one)      Indoor \_\_\_\_\_ Outdoor on Lawn \_\_\_\_\_

Crafter/Vendor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_