

POMPTON REFORMED CHURCH NEWSLETTER

March 2014

59 Hamburg Turnpike
Pompton Lakes, NJ 07442

973 835-0541



~ prc59@aol.com ~ prcletter@gmail.com ~
~ www.pomptonreformed.org ~

Associate Pastor's Report*

"The opposite of the happy ending is not actually the sad ending--the sad ending is sometimes the happy ending. The opposite of the happy ending is actually the unsatisfying ending."

- Orson Scott Card

In the last few weeks, I have been trying to tie up loose ends. I have wanted to make sure everything was done and I am not leaving anything left undone or misplaced, but today I decided that was an impossible and impractical task and turned my thoughts to what it looks like to have a satisfying ending.

In the last 24 hours I have had the privilege to sit with two different people I care for deeply and listen to their stories of pain and hurt and a longing for God to come near. After both encounters I was struck once again with the awesome privilege it is to be a pastor and humbled to the point of tears that God has allowed me this privilege here at PRC and that God has now seen fit to call me to love and serve and experience that same privilege in Hasbrouck Heights.

Tom teased me one recent Sunday about my tears and those of you in worship that day got to see me weep during the benediction (the one I practiced so I wouldn't weep), but those tears are probably a necessary part of a satisfying ending. I wept after the recent lock-in with the youth maybe because I was exhausted after being awake for more than 24 hours, but more likely because I won't be here to watch these kids grow into the leaders they themselves will become. A privilege I had in seeing the current Youth Leaders grow from a bunch of unruly youth group kids to adults who lead with passion, integrity, and love. That is the satisfying ending I think, to be able to weep **and** rejoice at the work God has done and will continue to do. I said in my letter to the congregation that I believe that God has placed the right people in the right places to ensure your continued growth as disciples of Jesus and in your love for each other. That assurance is what gives me the ability to let go and trust God for the next steps. All I have to do is look at our current Youth Leaders when I doubt and I am reminded about God's faithfulness to raise the leaders necessary.

I probably will leave stuff undone; no, in fact, I know I will. Please be gracious in your forgiveness. It will take me a while to cart all my books and such out of my office, please be patient. I will weep a lot over the next few weeks, tears of joy, tears of sadness, please share the tissues. But I will never forget your love, grace and desire for God, it has healed me, challenged me, and shaped me as a pastor and now I bring that which I have experienced in you to a new place. That I think is a satisfying ending and a new beginning.

On the Journey,
Pastor Debbie

***This is a copy of the report given to consistory on February 19th.**

~Please see a final note from Pastor Debbie on page 3~



Fellowship

Events for 2014



Here is a run-down for the upcoming year! There is something for everyone in every month, except for November...so far!! Keep an eye out for details as they are added for the events & activities below as well as for any other new events that may be added, perhaps even in November!!

March 2 – Appetizer Social.

March 22 - Free Community Breakfast.

April 6 - Fish and Chips Dinner at 5 pm. Sponsored by the Deacons. Tickets will be going on sale this month.

April 13 - Palm Sunday Soup Luncheon. Our Church Family will be asked to bring in its favorite soup to share.

May 20 - Adult Church Dinner.

*The Deacons are working on an Applebee's Fundraiser some time in May.

June 8 - Ice Cream Soda Social.

July 13 - Pie and Strawberry Festival.

August 17 - Ice Cream Social.



Pie Social

*In September the Fellowship Committee will be sponsoring the Church Wide Picnic. Also, the Deacons will be having their pre- Autumnfest Mum and Pumpkin Sale.

October 4 - Fellowship will be sponsoring the Trip to Sight-and-Sound to see "Moses".

October 18 - Autumnfest 2014 from 10-4 pm.

December 10 - Senior Luncheon.

December 21 - Cookie Social.

Roundtable of Thanks

(From February's Consistory)

--Lucas Spann, Stan Dunitz and Jessica Fischer and others who assisted in installing the new flooring in the youth room downstairs.

(Be sure to check it out!)

--All who volunteered, supported, and prayed for the recent youth lock-in! A resounding overnight success!



Are you looking for a creative a way to serve PRC?

THEN THE NEWSLETTER NEEDS YOU!!

Or is it that YOU need the newsletter?
Why don't you prayerfully consider helping this important ministry?

Contact Beth at prcletter@gmail.com.



"I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God." -
Philippians 1:3-11

Lenten Worship at Pompton Reformed -- "Give It Up!"



In addition to the music of Chancel and/or bell choirs, a member will speak each Sunday of a time when she or he felt Christ's presence in an especially meaningful way.

| | | |
|----------|-------------------------------|--|
| March 5 | Ash Wednesday worship 7:30 pm | Imposition of ashes |
| March 9 | <u>First Sunday in Lent</u> | Matthew 4:1-11 -- Giving Up Control |
| March 16 | <u>Second Sunday in Lent</u> | John 3:1-17 -- Giving Up Resistance Healing Service |
| March 23 | <u>Third Sunday in Lent</u> | John 4:5-42 -- Giving Up Superiority Seminarian Debbie Pierce leading worship |
| March 30 | <u>Fourth Sunday in Lent</u> | John 9:1-12, 35-41-- Giving Up Putting Limits upon God |
| April 6 | <u>Fifth Sunday in Lent</u> | John 11:1-16, 38-45 -- Giving Up Our Lives Sacrament of the Lord's Supper |

A full Holy Week calendar will be included in April's newsletter

| | | |
|----------|---|--------------------------------|
| April 13 | Palm Sunday | |
| April 17 | Maundy Thursday worship 7:30 pm | Sacrament of the Lord's Supper |
| April 18 | Good Friday worship 8:00 pm -- Pompton hosts this year's gathering of area churches and choirs for this very sacred time. | |
| April 20 | Easter Celebration of the Resurrection! | |
| April 27 | Second Sunday of Easter | |



AUTUMNFEST UPDATE 2014

Just 222 days until Autumnfest 2014!



It is that time once again to begin our planning stages for Autumnfest 2014 to be held on October 18. We will once again be asking for prayers, donations, and participation as the year goes on. If you would like to be a Vendor or Crafter, please contact Jo-Ann Sisco for a contract as soon as possible! This year, the tables in Fellowship Hall and the Library will be \$25, tables going down the Hall towards the Nursery will be \$20, and tables in Rm. 103 (down the hall and across from the nursery) will be \$15. All tables outside will remain at \$20. If you are interested in an inside spot, please let Jo-Ann know as soon as possible as inside spots go quickly. If you have any ideas or suggestions for Autumnfest please speak to any Fellowship member. Thank you in advance for your prayers and participation. With your help and God's Blessings, Autumnfest 2014 will be bigger and better than ever! God Bless You All!



Marching toward Spring

By Elaine Peacock



You can bet after the snowy winter we have had we will be counting the days until spring officially arrives, but before the official day arrives on March 20th, we still have a few March milestones to pass. For basketball fans, March Madness starts March 1st, for all those Julius Caesars among us we need to get past the Ides of March (the 15th), and of course, March 17th, St. Patrick's Day. Still if you look around, GOD is already giving us signs of spring. I believe I saw a robin the other day; an early one, no doubt, that is sorry he came back too soon. Where the snow has melted and the sun is warm close to the buildings where I live I have seen the first signs that the earth is renewing and the crocus are starting to push up through the winter earth. GOD does not let us linger in the cold days of winter without signs of what is to come. We just have to look a bit harder to see them. So may GOD's spring signs fill your winter heart with joy and peace.



BLESSINGS
ON YOUR
BIRTHDAY

Dick Christie
Dot Ploch
Laria &
Riannon Hambleton



**BEFORE YOU GO TO BED
ON MARCH 8, YOU DON'T
WANT TO MISS CHURCH!**

Given By

Cas & Jean Stark

Given By

Eleanor Finke

George & Rena Martens

Andrew & Charlotte Elzinga

William & Diane Arnoldi

Michael & Susan Canonico

In Honor Of

George & Mary Freeman

In Memory Of

William Sinke

William Sinke

William Sinke

William Sinke

William Sinke

Designation

Endowment

Designation

Undesignated

Undesignated

Undesignated

Undesignated

Undesignated



IMPORTANT EMAIL ADDRESS CHANGE :

Jo Ann Sisco's email address has changed!

Please change your contacts to

Joanngiant@optimum.net.

If you previously received emails and are no longer receiving them, please contact her to be added to her contact list.

Care and Kindness Conference

This is a good time to mark May 2-3 on your calendars, as the Care and Kindness Conference returns to New Jersey. This is a weekend event of 25 workshops on a variety of themes, plus three addresses from Keynote Speaker Dr. James Kok. More information can be found on tables throughout the church.

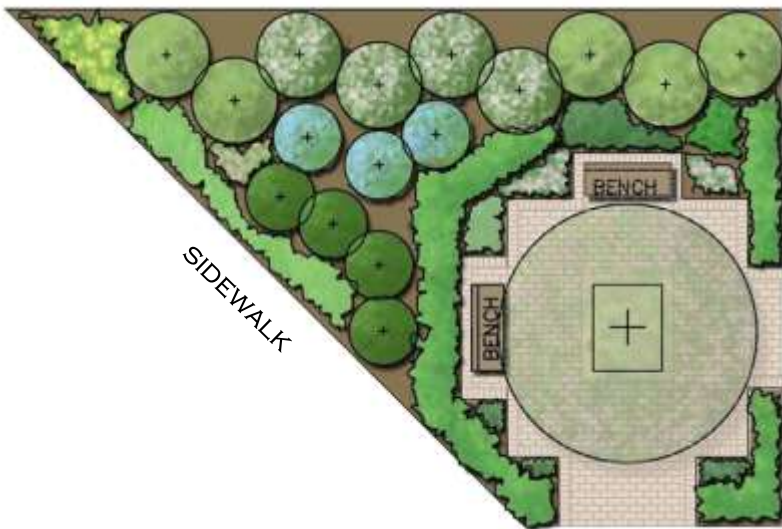
Early registration is \$65 through March 31, but there is a group rate of \$50 for six or more who register at the same time. This conference--held at First Reformed Church in Pompton Plains--is especially beneficial for caregivers, and those seeking growth/healing for themselves and others. This is first mention, but you will be hearing more.

Pompton Reformed Church

Legacy Garden

The Endowment Committee is proposing a long-term program directed to the beautification of the grounds surrounding the Church and the Gerrit Heemstra Memorial Building (Friendship Hall). The first phase in this program is the creation of the Legacy Garden prominently located in the roughly triangular area next to the playground and to the right of the west side entrance of the Heemstra Building. Within the Garden will be an area consisting of engraved commemorative bricks that will be surrounded by bushes, shrubs, two benches and a central tree planting. The inscriptions on these bricks may, for example, commemorate a deceased loved one, or celebrate a family or a special event such as an anniversary, wedding, birth of a child, or honor a living person. Your purchase of a commemorative brick will not only make a special remembrance for you but also will make you a participant in the creation of the Legacy Garden and in the long term improvement program of the Pompton Reformed Church grounds. Please use the order form below for your inscription.

PLAYGROUND



SAMPLE OF BRICKS



Each 4" by 8" brick costs \$100.00 and may contain two lines of up to 14 characters per line. Print your inscription in the boxes below. Punctuation, such as commas, periods, and hyphens, as well as spaces is counted as one character. Copy this form to order additional bricks.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Name: _____ Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____ Amount Enclosed: _____

Please make your check payable to: PRC Endowment Fund - Legacy Garden and mail to Pompton Reformed Church, 59 Hamburg Turnpike, Pompton Lakes, NJ 07442



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



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| 1st Tues., March 4: (March Only) | 6:30 pm Operations Committee |
| | 7:30 pm Worship Committee |
| 2nd Sat., March 8: | Quilting Ministry |
| 2nd Sun., March 9: | 11:30 am Youth Team |
| 2nd Mon., March 10: | 7 pm Finance Committee |
| 2nd Wed., March 12: | 7:30 pm Missions Team |
| 3rd Mon., March 17: | 7:15 pm Christian Education Committee |
| 3rd Wed., March 19: | 7:00 pm Consistory |
| 4th Wed., March 26: | 7:30 pm Fellowship |
| Every Tuesday: | 1:30 pm Knitters & Crocheters |



Bell Choir Meets on Tues. nights at 6:30. Be a part of our music ministry.~



Pasta sauce, canned fruit, mac & cheese, peanut butter, jelly, Parmalat milk, canned veggies (corn, carrots, peas and beans), shampoo, deodorant, toilet paper, toothpaste, detergent, 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 or feel free to drop it in the mail slot in the church office.

The deadline for April's
newsletter is
Sunday, March 30, 2014.