

# POMPTON REFORMED CHURCH NEWSLETTER

November 2013

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**“All Hearts Go Home for Christmas...”**

**Come find the place where your heart belongs”**

This is what is on the front of the postcards the *Mission and Outreach Team* is ordering. It is a true statement I think. Whether we have good memories or bad ones of Christmas seasons gone by, most of us have pretty vivid memories and they often center around home and family.

For those of us who follow Jesus, Advent and Christmas is a special time of year. It is a time to slow down, remember who we are and *whose* we are. We remember the stories of a young mother afraid but trusting in God, stories of a young husband who goes against all logic to follow God's call, of angels singing in the night, of shepherds overjoyed at finding God's message to be true, and stories of a baby born in a barn. We remember Hope, Peace, Joy, Love and fulfilled promises. We remember we have a place in these stories too. We remember that we belong.

For much of the rest of the culture this is sadly no longer true. There might be some distant memories of having a place to belong in the church but, for many around us the church isn't a place where they feel welcome. It isn't a place where they can find themselves in the story of God, it isn't a place where they feel like they belong.

Feeling welcome and belonging always starts with an invitation. Think about it, when was the last time you received a personal invitation to something? Didn't it make you feel a little special? Someone went out of their way to consider you, and then invited you to join them usually for a celebration of some kind, like a wedding or party or for tea around a kitchen table.

For those of us who did not grow up in this church, we are here today because someone invited us. After we came the first time, we came back because we felt welcomed and eventually we found our stories here in the stories of God. That is the intent of the these postcard invitations, to help us consider people we know and personally invite to come and find a place where they can join the stories of their lives with the story of God alive and active in the word today.

In the next few weeks the Mission and Outreach Team will make 500 enveloped invitations available for us to give to people. I would ask you to begin today to pray about the people God would have you invite personally, to join us this Advent and Christmas season. As you pray, listen for the prompting of the Spirit to show you just the right person or people and the right opportunities.

I have no doubt God can and will use us to help people around us find a place where their hearts belong and where they can find that their stories have a place in God's story. In fact, I look forward to hearing how God will use these invitations as a doorway to new friendships and lives changed for eternity.

On the Journey anticipating God's action,

*Pastor Debbie*

P.S. I know this is early and the turkey is not even on the table yet or maybe not even in the freezer but since the stores have been selling Christmas stuff since September, I feel it is never too early to begin planning to welcome friends, new and old, to celebrate with us.



❖ In memory of Rick Montanari on what would have been our 59<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

From: Shirley Montanari (designated Endowment)

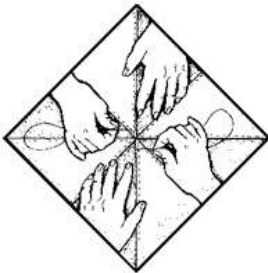
❖ In Memory of Kay Peacock on her birthday



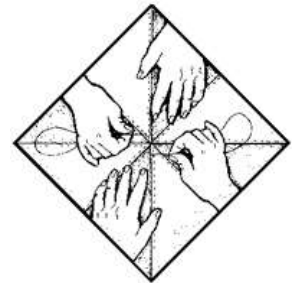
BLESSINGS  
ON YOUR  
BIRTHDAY

Joanie Warner  
Bruce Davis  
Emily Davis  
Kim Winter  
Jeremy Winter

JoAnn Sisco  
Roben Roon  
Joan Braunlin  
Megan Renee Lockwood  
Allison Ellen Lockwood



## PRAYER QUILT MINISTRY



It has been over a year now since we began our prayer quilt ministry. It has truly been a blessing to so many who have received the quilts; whether they were received because of a medical issue or other type of trial, or to celebrate a baptism or a life transition, such as high school graduation.

Recently it has come to our attention that some may not remember or understand the process for the distribution of these quilts. The Prayer Quilt Ministry Team as a whole does not choose the recipients. So just to review:

First - when you; yes, YOU, identify a person you believe would benefit from receiving a quilt, ask them if they would be open to receiving one. Perhaps you might want to ask what they would like us to pray for, and it is important that you ask what information about their situation may be shared with others. It may seem strange that someone might not want a quilt, but some might not feel comfortable being a "prayer focus" for a congregation and there is also the issue of confidentiality. A quilt was declined this past year. You may also request a quilt for yourself.

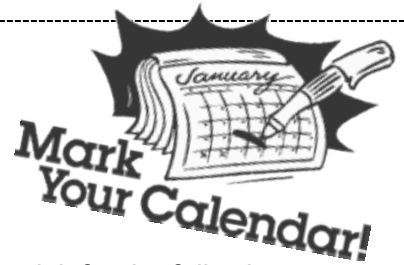
Second - contact Nancy Begin and request the quilt. It is helpful to provide the name *in writing* and any specific prayer request (you can contact Nancy at [nbjoyful@optonline.net](mailto:nbjoyful@optonline.net)). If there is one ready, it will be put out the following Sunday or as soon as one is completed.

Finally - it is a gift of love and prayer that cannot be bought or sold, so we never accept any form of payment for a prayer quilt.

As a team, we have also been incredibly blessed to be part of the creation of these quilts. New members are welcome any time, no previous experience or skills needed.



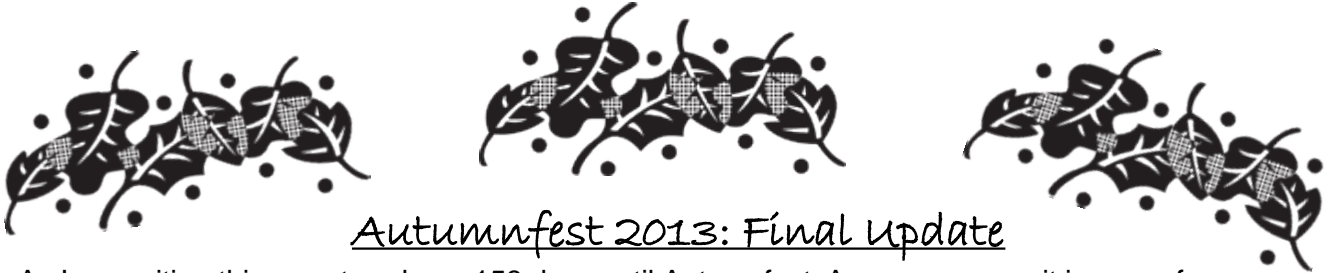
## Fellowship Happenings for 2013



Thanksgiving and so much to be thankful for... 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 end of 2013.

December 11 - Senior Luncheon.

December 22 - Cookie Social- immediately following the Service.



### Autumnfest 2013: Final Update

As I am writing this report we have 158 days until Autumnfest. As you can see, it is never far away from my thoughts. From all accounts, we once again had a very successful event. God once again blessed us with a great day. We had 57 vendors and crafters this year, 15 more than last year. As I walked around, everyone wore great big smiles and I could hear laughter coming from all over. When I talked to the vendors, they said they were happy that they had come even if some of them didn't make as much as they had hoped. Many of our vendors have come back all four years.

I had several people come to me and comment on how well-organized everything was and how smooth everything ran. They also commented on how friendly our church family is. This does not surprise me. I thank you all for this. You should all be proud of how well the Pompton Reformed Church is thought of in our community. This event could never run as smoothly without your cooperation, enthusiasm, generous donations and more than anything, your prayers. I want to especially thank Jackie Bush, who worked with me throughout the entire year. As you know, an event of this size cannot be organized in just a month or two.

I also want to thank my great friends on the Fellowship Committee who have to put up with me all year. I am also proud of our youth in this Church: Kaitlyn and Jared Hollar are going to use the money they made at Autumnfest to buy gifts for the children on the Angel Tree for Christmas. Our Youth Group had a table and want to use the money they made to clean up their room downstairs.

This kind of giving means so much more than how much we took in. But, of course, that is something everyone wants to know also. We took in a total \$4400, which includes \$300 from the Deacons' mum sale prior to Autumnfest. After expenses and next year's start-up money, we are left with \$3200.\*\* After much thought, the Fellowship Committee decided that with our financial situation the way it is this year, to give it back to PRC. Many of you are giving more to help get our church back on its feet and we felt we should too. So as I say goodbye to Autumnfest '13, I want to thank you all for the help and support you give me every year. After a two month rest, I will be ready to once again prepare for Autumnfest 2014. Save the date: October 18. I am truly blessed to have you all as my church family. God Bless You All. Jo-Ann

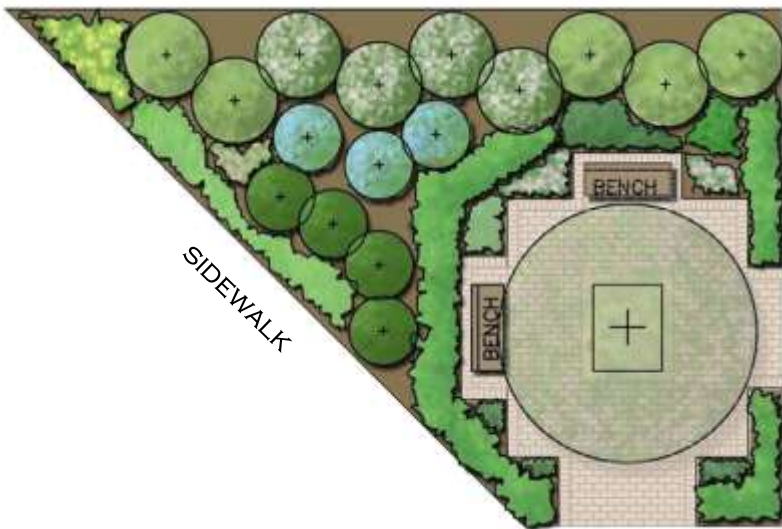
*\*\*Some financial details were omitted for editing purposes. Please see Jo-Ann for a complete report.*

# 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



## Roundtable of Thanks

(From October's Consistory)

--For all who made Autumnfest such an enjoyable venture and outreach endeavor. Special thanks to coordinators Jo-Ann Sisco and Jackie Bush.

--For all our community garden volunteers, under the gentle guidance of Master Gardener Nancy Shimmel. We have been able to give away fresh produce to area families and individuals, who are deeply appreciative.



PRC Family,  
Thank you for your prayers and many cards and calls over six months and at Rick's death and worship service, and your gifts in his memory.

Many, many thanks,  
Shirley Montanari & family

## Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart

By Elaine Peacock

November is the month we turn our thoughts to giving thanks for our Veterans on November 11<sup>th</sup> and of course, all our blessings on Thanksgiving, which this year is on November 28<sup>th</sup>. Did you know we are the only country in the world that actually sets aside a day for giving thanks? I know that sometimes our blessings come to us a bit veiled and they are probably not what we asked for, but they are blessings nonetheless. The title of this piece comes from one of my favorite hymns we sing here at PRC. It always makes me think of the things that I'm thankful for; my family, my country, and most of all the freedom I enjoy. I know our country is not perfect but at least we can criticize what we feel is wrong without fear of reprisal. We may not be as rich as we would like but we have the love of our family and friends to help us through each day. Giving thanks is easy when we have a mountain top experience but when we are going through the valley knowing GOD is walking beside us during those times makes it easier to give thanks with a grateful heart.



## **CLASSIS ASSESSMENT**

In your offering box, you will find a Classis Assessment envelope. As was mentioned in the recent funds appeal letter, PRC is assessed **\$80 per active member**. This fee covers new church starts, mission support, assistance to struggling churches, denominational staff and programs and much more. If you are able to cover all or a portion of this assessment, it will go a long way to aiding OUR budget.



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



1st Wed., Nov. 6:  
2nd Sat., Nov. 9:  
2nd Sun., Nov. 10:  
2nd Mon., Nov. 11:  
2nd Wed., Nov. 13:

7:30 pm Worship Committee  
Quilting Ministry  
11:30 am Youth Team  
7 pm Finance Committee  
6:30 pm Operations Committee  
7:30 pm Missions Team  
7:15 pm Christian Education Committee  
7:00 pm Consistory  
Thanksgiving Eve  
1:30 pm Knitters & Crocheters

3rd Mon., Nov. 18:  
3rd Wed., Nov. 20:  
4th Wed., Nov. 27:  
Every Tuesday:

~Sunday and Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm Prayer Gathering  
~Bell Choir is BACK & we're better than ever. Be a part of our music ministry.  
Meet us on Tues. nights at 6:30~



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](mailto:prcletter@gmail.com) or feel free to drop it  
in the mail slot in the church office.

The deadline for December's  
newsletter is  
Sunday, November 24, 2013.