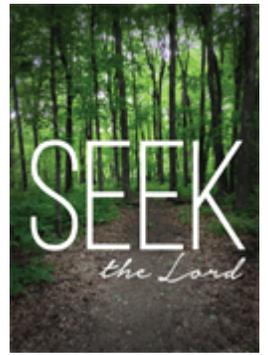




Pompton Reformed Church
59 Hamburg Tpk., Pompton Lakes, NJ 07442
(973) 835-0541
www.pomptonreformed.org
April Newsletter



Following a New Path

So, approximately 155 PRC newsletters later (figuring on 11 per year, plus a half year's worth in both 2002 and 2016), my final one. Words cannot adequately express the love Mary and I hold for you. You have walked with us through our time of leaving two daughters hundreds of miles behind, seeing two daughters through high school, and the marriages of all four, births of two grandsons. You have carried us through the deaths of our mothers and my brother. You have encouraged, challenged, blessed and supported us in every possible way, and enriched our walk with Christ immeasurably.

April will be a month of the long goodbye. There is the big farewell event of April 9, but then we'll have three additional Sundays together. On April 10 I will serve as liturgist for the Rev. Andrew Rienstra, whose home we purchased in the Pocono's. For April 17, I am revising the first sermon I ever preached here at PRC--on a late June morning in 2002, after which the congregation met and voted to call us as next pastoral family. Thank-you for the confidence! Evidently I did something right with the Romans 1:1,7-15 text, so I'll give it another whirl. I debated entitling the final message here, *Laughing to Keep from Crying*, but *Deepest Gratitude* seems more appropriate. I Corinthians 2:1-5 is the text for April 24, our final Sunday with you.

Shortly after that we settle in East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, while you have the grand privilege of exercising the priesthood of all believers, drawing increasingly upon the gifts and resources which abound in this body of Christ. Such an openness here, such a willingness to try new things and be open to the Spirit's promptings, such a willingness to serve and to give, and to extend yourselves. Little wonder Mary and I have enjoyed these 14 years so profoundly.

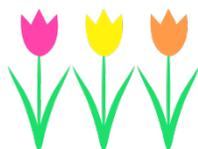
Pompton will forever be a precious part of our lives, and the events of your life will always matter to us. But we can no longer be a part the way we have been since 2002. There will be moments when we will long to be with you, to comfort or to share a hurt or a joy. But to do so would hinder the way a church evolves in a fresh and God-guided direction after a pastor leaves. We have to step back, but it is out of love. Our relationship with you is not ending, but taking on a new shape as we all follow a new path. For the gift of serving Jesus alongside of you, and your love which we carry with us, thank-you! Hold firmly to that vision of a world where all experience and share the love and grace of Jesus Christ. All glory to Him!

Amen.

Thomas and Mary Bartha, Jean Strate, Sarah and Jared Cave, Katy, Trevor, Soren and Thomas Christianson, Andrew and Molly Towers.



Spring into April
By Elaine Peacock



When April arrives spring truly begins. Gone are the changeable days of March. April shows off her beautiful spring daffodils, tulips and hyacinths, flowering trees and milder temperatures. GOD's handiwork surrounds us with all the sights and beauty that is April. So grab your umbrella for those unexpected April showers, take a walk and get out and enjoy all April has to offer. April gives us a taste of what is to come and a spring in our step as we get ready for the milder, warmer months ahead.

The Best Kind Of People

Submitted by Helen Gioia Author unknown

The best kind of people are the ones who come into your life and make you see the sun where you once saw the clouds, the people who believe in you so much that you start to believe in yourself, too, the people who love you simply for being you, the once in a lifetime kind of people.

Round Table of Thanks (from March consistory)

- > The crew who installed the new hallway lighting & ceiling: Charlie Quant, Kevin Carroll, Ralph Hook, David Hackbarth, Jeff Anders, and Michael Earle.
- > All who made March's Chili luncheon such a delicious day! (Next Fellowship event is the Appetizer potluck following April 24 worship).



Memorials



From
Shanna Darrah

In Memory Of
Shirley Leigh

Designated
Legacy 200

From Eleanor Haling, with Thanks to the Lord for all his Blessings on her every day in so many ways...

Birthdays

Jeff Romaine
Susan Davis
Roger Lockwood, Jr.





Scholarship Application Packets Available: High school seniors and college students may obtain packets for the PRC scholarship application from the Church office. Student must be a worshipping member of PRC, or a dependent of a PRC member. The deadline for return of all application materials is May 8, 2016.

Help Support Our Scholarship Fund: Extending our past practice of supporting the scholarships of PRC students through a direct contribution, a special envelope has been provided in your envelope packet for this purpose. We will be receiving this special offering on Sunday, May 15. Special gifts and Memorials dedicated to the Scholarship Fund are another important means of supporting our youth. These gifts are welcome throughout the year. Memorial gifts and donations to the Scholarship Fund are an excellent way to express your belief that religion and education must work together in providing the basic knowledge for our youth to be successful and lead purposeful lives. If you are grateful for what education has provided for you or a member of our church family, what better way to say thank you than to invest in the youth of our church.

Search Team Update

Consistory has recently appointed a Search Team to work with our two Classis supervisors, the Rev. Nathan Busker (Ponds RC) and Rev. Chris Vande Bunte (First Hawthorne) to help us identify candidates for the Senior Pastor position. The search process is a lengthy one and is likely to last for a year or more. The Search Team will provide both Consistory and the congregation with periodic reports to update you on our progress. The search process will continue until a candidate for the position is identified and approved by both Consistory and the Congregation. The Search Team is comprised of the following members. If you have questions about the process please feel free to talk with the Search Team Chair.

Jack Tice – Chair

Kim Hollar	Terry Terhune	Joanie Warner	Keith Hanish
Susan Kuebler	Drew Altorfer	Cristina Earle	Elena Van Schaack
Doreen Apgar	Kristin Widdowson	Vince Iraggi	Russell Hubbard



What is the Vision and Mission of Pompton Reformed Church?

To begin, let's consider why the church needs to have a vision and mission statement? A vision statement provides direction for the future. One article suggested that a vision statement to be bold enough that you never finish fulfilling it. A mission statement(s) is a practical description of why the church exists and what actions will be taken to achieve the vision. In short, a vision statement focuses on tomorrow while a mission statement focuses on today. Together they give the congregation and the leadership shared goals and a foundation for every decision that is made.

As we move into a time of transition, it seems timely to examine the vision and mission of Pompton Reformed Church.

The vision of PRC has been *A community where all experience the love and grace of Jesus Christ*. After experiencing the abundance of Christ's love and grace Jesus then calls us in Matthew 28:19 to go and make disciples, in other words, to share with the world this love and grace. In our new vision statement the word community has been replaced with *world* to better reflect the intent of the vision and to move us in the direction of fulfilling Christ's call.

VISION STATEMENT:

A WORLD WHERE ALL EXPERIENCE AND SHARE THE LOVE AND GRACE OF JESUS CHRIST

Each team/committee of PRC has their individual mission statements, however the church as a complete body has not had a mission statement. The development of church mission statements is to focus on unified goals so that every ministry is building off of and into one another. As we move into the future these new statements will guide our direction and keep us focused on our vision.

MISSION STATEMENTS:

EXISTING TO GLORIFY GOD BY INTRODUCING PEOPLE TO JESUS CHRIST AND

DEVELOPING ALL BELIEVERS INTO DEVOTED FOLLOWERS OF JESUS.

CALLING PEOPLE TO DEEPER LEVELS OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH, OUTREACH AND SERVICE

KNOWING CHRIST AND SHARING HIS LOVE WITH THE WORLD

Special Fellowship Dates:

April 24- "Pastor Tom and Mary's Last Day" Appetizer Social

(April 24th will be a very sad day for our Church Family. We will be saying good bye to our wonderful Pastor Tom and his wonderful wife Mary and their wonderful family. While they will be beginning a new stage in their life with excitement and a bit of nervousness I suspect, we will be left with a huge emptiness in our hearts! Pastor Tom has asked Fellowship to have an Appetizer Social on their last day. So we will be asking our generous and loving Congregation to please bring your favorite appetizer to share. We would love this to be the biggest Social we have ever had! We invite everyone to be there on that day and no RSVP is needed.)

June 12- Strawberry Social

July 17- Ice Cream Soda Social

August 14- Ice Cream Sundae Social

September 11- Church Picnic

October 15- Autumnfest

November 13- Soup Social

December 18- Cookie Social

Autumnfest Update

Autumnfest will be October 15 this year. Please remember we will once again have our Accessory Shop. We will be asking for donations of pocketbooks, change purses, scarves, belts, and costume jewelry. If you have any questions or would like to work in the Accessory Shop please see Doreen Apgar.

We will once again be having our famous "Dot Ploch Bakery". We will be asking for donations of homemade pies, breads, cakes, cupcakes, cookies, brownies, and whatever else you would like to bake for us. At this time of the year pies and breads are very popular. We will also need sugar free items. We will once again be asked to put the ingredients on our baked items. If you are interested in working in the Bakery please see Lorna Carroll or Nancy Shimmel.

We will be asking for donations of canned soda and bottles of water. If anyone has any new ideas on what we can do for Autumnfest please see me or an Fellowship Member.

I will be sending out contracts to Vendors/Crafters in May. The inside spaces go very quickly. Inside spaces are \$25.00 and outside spaces are \$20.00. If you are interested in an inside spot please let me know as soon as possible.

We will need many volunteers and many prayers to make this event As successful as it has been throughout the years.

Jo-Ann Sisco

Mission News....



Greetings!

First, and most importantly, thank you for supporting our trip to Haiti. The financial gifts will impact hundreds of Haitian children next week. Our bags are packed and we are ready to head to the airport tomorrow morning.

In the last couple of weeks we have been able to finalize some of the details of what our projects will be while we are in Port-au-Prince. We will be spending our time at a primary and vocational school with over 900 young people. For the elementary school-aged children we will be playing camp-style games and activities that are all tied to sharing the gospel and the bible with the children. For the older students, we will be leading English classes and hoping to learn some creole from them too. For our physical work project, we will be doing some of the final work on the 2nd floor of the school building. We will learn more about this when we arrive.

Please continue to pray for myself, the team, the children we are going to meet, and the work we will be doing. We will land in Haiti tomorrow (Sunday) evening and begin work at the school Monday morning. I can't wait to step off the plane into the chaos of PAP airport. Please specifically pray for the Haitian government, there is significant instability in the political system and presidency at the moment. I'm sure we will see and experience aspects of this during the trip.

In the guesthouse we are staying, the electricity comes and goes, as does the internet. I will try to post some pictures and updates through twitter, @rbarrett33, each day, but will have plenty of updates and pictures to share when we return on the 13th.

Once again, thank you for supporting our trip and for the prayers and encouragement leading up to and throughout our week in Haiti.

Blessings,

Robert Barrett

(Editor's note- updates will be shared next newsletter.)

And also from the Couto Family....

Dear Pompton Reformed Church Family,

Over the last few months, we have felt the Lord directing us back to the United States but we will continue working in full time camp ministry. We have put feelers out to a few camps, but as of right now we don't know the next camp we will minister in and we ask that you continue in prayer with us in that. After helping with the camps this month, we will be back in the States in mid March. We appreciate your prayers and ask that you would continue as we finish our time in Uruguay, visit our churches in the States and transition to wherever God has us next.

Summer began in December with a work team of 32 people from North Jersey, whom were a tremendous blessing. We had many projects planned, one of which was to finish the final mini-golf hole, but the Lord had other plans for their time here. During their time, the river rose and ended up flooding most of camp. The many hands made for lighter work of emptying the cabins and lodge of all the bunk beds, 94 in total. Once the water receded, in January, many days were spent cleaning, power washing, disinfecting and rebuilding to get ready for teen camp and missionary conference which were within days of the water clearing out.



For family camp we had about 85 people! They had a wonderful time of teaching and fellowship for the week. Bruno was able to train some of the pastors to be more aware of what goes on in the background at camp.

After family camp ended, our friends and pastors had a going away dinner for us with a service afterward where they expressed how much they enjoyed us being here. It was very touching and encouraging to see the impact of God's work in just 5 years.

Kids camp is going on right now. We almost had to cancel due to lack of kids, but due to some last minute scholarships, camp is able to go on. There are about 50 kids here and lots of them are not saved. Please be praying for open hearts!



We are trying to sell most of our furniture and household items to help the missionaries with things that are hard to get here, and to have less to transport back to the States. The plan is to share a container with another missionary who is shipping a vehicle to the States. The container should be at camp to pack on March 1st right before our two short term guys leave March 2nd. We will then have about 10 days to finish packing up, transferring responsibilities, and say goodbyes.

It has been a very conflicting time between sad goodbyes mixed with excitement to see family and friends stateside, and leaving behind a ministry but looking forward to how God will use us next.

Thank you again for all your prayers.

Praises

We are grateful for the time we were here and the things God taught us through this experience.
Praise God for Stephanie, Joni, and baby that will continue in this ministry.

Prayer

Please be praying for Callie and Miguel especially in this time because packing up the household and saying goodbyes "forever" is very hard.

Pray for wisdom as we seek God's guidance on where to be in ministry next.

Please keep Stephanie and Joni in your prayers as they will be set in charge of the whole camp ministry and Stephanie is newly pregnant! (with all the unfun symptoms)

In Him,

Bruno, Audrey, Callie and Miguel Couto

The follow-up to this was recently received.....

Dear Pompton Reformed Church Family,

We have arrived back on US soil and are excited to have already connected with many of you but look forward to see you if that hasn't already happened. We have been truly blessed with a very warm and encouraging welcome.

Many of you are probably wondering what to do with this and subsequent months support. Since we are transitioning from our ministry with GMSA, our mission board, but have not found our "permanent" future ministry, GMSA has very kindly offered to continue to process our support until September.

So what does that mean for you? Nothing changes on your end, the mission board will receive your support and continue to send it to us and you will continue to receive the tax receipts.

Just in case you already deleted the missions info:

Gospel Mission of South America
1401 SW 21st. Ave.
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312

Praises

We are grateful for a safe trip back to the US.

Praise God for the many prayer and financial partners that make our ministry possible.

Prayer

Pray for wisdom as we seek God's guidance on where to be in ministry next.

Please keep this time of traveling visiting church in your prayers.

In Him,

Bruno, Audrey, Callie and Miguel Couto



PARISH HEALTH MINISTRY

SPRING: a season of hope

The word hope is by its very nature an indication that some other emotion has taken place or is taking place. The Scriptures are full of "crying out to God".

We have times in our lives when we also "cry out to God". Illness, death, depression, losses of various kinds, and disappointments come uninvited.

The Old Testament book of Lamentations reflects the sense of loss that accompanied the destruction of the city of Jerusalem, the temple and the exile of the people of Judah. It is an example of great loss and suffering.

In chapter 3 of Lamentations the author says, "I will never forget this awful time, as I grieve over my loss. Yet I still dare to HOPE when I remember this: 'The unfailing love of the Lord never ends'.

So what exactly is hope? One definition says "hope is a desire for something to happen, while expecting or being confident that it will come true." Does that sound like what happens every year at the Spring season? Does it sound like what the writer of Lamentations is talking about when he refers to the unfailing love of the Lord? Is there something here that speaks to the losses that happen?

The author Emily Dickenson writes

"Hope" is the thing with feathers that perches in the soul

And sings the tune without the words

And never stops at all.

Does that remind you of a bird in Spring? The music is all around us but can we hear the tune?

The terminal buds on the bare branches are beginning to swell. The promise of the leaves to come is apparent. Spring is a season of hope. God's love is unfailing. Spring is a season of hope. The Psalmist writes ". . . *those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.*" Spring IS a season of hope.

As the hope of Spring is a visual entity in nature, so the hope offered those who embrace the grace of God becomes imbedded in our heart for all time. Romans 15:13 "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

Carol O'Neill is the Old Reformed Parish Nurse and mom of our Nancy Begin....

We thank her for including our congregation in her health messages.



Published author in our midst!

A well-earned sense of accomplishment to Elaine Peacock, upon publication of her book, Happy the Hippocampus. It's a great story, richly illustrated by Michelle Hayes. Elaine's volunteering one day each week to read to the blind was the inspiration behind the story. Elaine is glad to sign any copies, available for \$9. An excellent gift idea!

FREE Community Pancake Breakfast, April 16 from 9AM-12PM.
Bring your friends and neighbors! Also plenty of opportunities to Serve!



The Deacons thank all who participated in the Fish and Chips (and Chicken) dinner. Funds raised went towards the Deacon's Fund.

Submissions for the May Newsletter are due Monday,
April 25. Please send submissions to
khuyzers@msn.com or place in the office mailbox.