



Pompton Reformed Church
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Dear people of the Pompton Reformed Church congregation,

I am thrilled and honored to partner with you in this time between installed pastors. I've learned ideas for worship and people development from Pastor Bartha over the years. I have enjoyed helpful conversations with your two Debbie's now in church leadership ministries in Bergen County. When I became a youth worker, your Sue Kingsma was a significant advisor. Her guidance then continues to enrich what I do in parent enrichment today.

I believe each of you are in ministry, seeking to be the very presence of Christ in your life situations, and through developing your life skills. During the summer months I hope to learn how each of you sees God's vision about a fulfilling life for you at this stage in your life ventures. I'll try to be a resource to your church's support in the spirit of Ephesians 4:12 "to equip all God's people for their ministries."

One of your church strengths is your "God Moment" in the worship service. So that you can get acquainted with me, I'll tell you some of mine during the June message times. The theme for the month will be:

"God, Are You With Me?" Venturing into an uncertain time of discovery.

June 5: God can work for good in all our situations Romans 8:28

June 12: God and you—perfect together: Benefits in checking on God's visions for your development
Romans 12:1,2

June 19: The Great Effects of Prayer James 5:16

The Consistory was intentional on wanting more than a preacher in this interim time. They wanted a pastor available to you. You can reach me 24/7 on my cell phone 201-881-9431.

The Consistory also wanted a transitional minister to work with church people in living out Christian life in daily relationships and life situations. I will be learning as a partner. And I hope I can be a helpful instrument so that this transitional time is a great time of continued exploration, testing out possibilities, and making personal development discoveries with you.

With gratitude that I can team with you in Christ-like ministries,

Pastor Mel Van Hattem
201-881-9431
mvanhattem@pomptonreformed.org



Let's Make Summer Memories

By Elaine Peacock

Well June has arrived and I know all the kids are anxiously awaiting the last school bell of the year and the chance to make summer memories. Vacations are being planned, trips to the beach and mountains are closer than they were several months ago and eating outdoors on the patio make meals with family and friends so much more fun. The smell of the grill gets your taste buds going after an afternoon spent with your friends swimming in the pool. It's time for street fairs and carnivals. Don't forget to honor Dad on June 17th – Father's Day. Even though he says "I don't need anything " make him a card, give him some extra hugs & kisses and let him know how much he means to you every day of the year. Also June 14th is Flag Day, so fly the stars and stripes proudly. My last wish is for all the graduates out there Congratulations and Best Wishes!



ROUND TABLE OF THANKS

- ❖ THANK YOU TO MARK AND JOANIE WARNER FOR CO-ORDINATING AND SETTING UP FELLOWSHIP HALL FOR WORSHIP EVERY WEEK AND ALSO TO THE VOLUNTEERS WHO COME TO HELP.
- ❖ A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL THE SATURDAY SCHOOL LEADERS WHO ENRICH AND ENHANCE THIS WONDERFUL MINISTRY.
- ❖ THANK YOU TO THE GARDEN CLUB AND ALL THE VOLUNTEERS WHO HELPED WITH THE MULCHING OF THE GROUNDS.





RCA Organizational Structure

The Reformed Church in America has a presbyterial, or representative, form of government that is biblically based.

Each congregation is governed by a body called a consistory. The consistory is made up of elders and deacons, elected by the congregation, and the congregation's installed minister(s).

[Elders](#) maintain order, exercise Christian discipline, and assist in pastoral care. They are responsible for the spiritual life of the congregation. They receive individuals into the membership of a church and plan and participate in the observance of the [sacraments](#).

[Deacons](#) lead in ministries of mercy, justice, service, and outreach. They care for the needs of people within the congregation, in the surrounding community, and around the world.

Ministers serve as pastors and teachers of the congregation. They are called by God to preach the Word of God, administer the [sacraments](#), and care for the members of the congregation, building up and equipping the church for its ministry in the world.

A consistory is in turn governed by its [classis](#). A classis gathers minister and elder representatives from a group of congregations, usually according to their geographical proximity. Each classis supervises the congregations and ministers within its bounds. It exercises judicial power over the decisions of individual consistories; receives new congregations into the denomination; ordains, installs, and dismisses ministers; and oversees students of theology.

The [regional synod](#) is the next assembly in the RCA. There are eight regional synods in the United States and Canada. Each oversees the interests and concerns of the classes within its geographical area and creates programs to further the work of the gospel and the denomination in its region.

The [General Synod](#) is the highest assembly and governing body in the RCA. Its membership is made up of minister and elder representatives from each classis and regional synod. In its annual meeting, the General Synod sets the direction and tone for denominational ministry. It has authority in all matters relating to denominational program and policy. It also has general responsibility over all lower assemblies (regional synods, classes, and consistories).

General Synod 2000

Submitted by Jack Tice

As an RCA staff person for fourteen years beginning in 1993, I had the opportunity to serve as a resource person for many of the annual meetings during that period. Each was interesting and challenging in its own way but by the end of Synod the church had moved forward and was fulfilling its calling in new and exciting ways. The most memorable synod for me was in the year 2000. At that meeting Pastors, Elders and ecumenical and mission partners drafted **The Pentecost Letter** which was sent to the General Secretary and then forwarded to each RCA congregation. Frankly the year 2000 was a long time ago and until just the other day I had forgotten all about the letter but in preparing the agenda for our Search Team meeting the other night I was reminded of the content and the direction we were given by the Holy Spirit. How is it that we individually and as the body of Christ at PRC live out our calling to be the hands and feet of Christ? Who will lead us into the future to fully implement PRC's recently adopted

Mission and Vision Statements? We may not know that answer yet but we do know that HE has a plan for us and I believe that plan has many similarities to the challenges of The Pentecost Letter. Here are just a few quotes from the letter that I think directly relate to PRC and its bright future.

“You have a history of grateful and responsible response to God’s call to mission, reaching out in God’s love for you in Jesus Christ love to a diverse people.”

“The Spirit is at work in new ways among you – moving you in mission.”

“Where is the fire of your love for Christ? I see you making idols out of your comfort, your safety, your rules, your busy work in and out of your churches.”

“I call to you outside your window, but you do not hear me. I call as the single parent and as the homeless child, as generation who cry out to you for a living faith. I call to you as your brother who speaks a different language and as your sister who looks different from you, or as the one who walks an unfamiliar path, and you do not listen to me.”

“I knock at your door looking for a welcoming home, but your door is too often closed. To us the Spirit said, I invite you to repent, and so this we did: for not making a bold witness for Christ; for failing to meet the needs of people in a purposeful way; for not expressing our unity around the Word of God.”

“Today I call you, The Reformed Church in America:

- To fall on your knees in prayer, as a church made up of “houses of prayer.”
- To discern God’s yearnings for new ministries in the new millennium.
- To venture into new frontiers of servanthood, leading to worldwide ministry in cities, suburbs and the countryside.
- To be a people who can lead others into a saving relationship with Christ.
- To identify spiritual gifts and passions so that all persons can name their places in ministry.
- To partner with other churches and denominations in ministry.”

“And we heard the Spirit speak this promise to us and to you: if you are faithful, I promise to bless you. Your acts of faithfulness will be multiplied. What you ask in Christ’s name will be given to you.”

“Let those who have ears to hear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.”

Let me ask you a simple question. Are the above words stale and out of date or do they still have new power and life in them. For me they are just as fresh and powerful as they were when I first heard them sixteen years ago. So how do go about implementing Mission & Vision?? I think The Pentecost Letter gives us both a challenge to examine our own hearts and then respond as Christ would in this lost and broken world that He so loves.

To God be all the Glory!

★HAPPY★ BIRTHDAY!

Birthdays

Madison Paulle Conklin



Memorials

<u>Given By</u>	<u>In Memory Of</u>	<u>Designation</u>
Lorna & Kevin Carroll	Jean Van Broekhoven	Undesignated
Chuck & Helen Gioia	Jean Van Broekhoven	Media Fund
John & Nancy Nelson	Jean Van Broekhoven	Scholarship
Corinne Tyndall	Jean Van Broekhoven	Scholarship
Jeanette Poulsen	Jean Van Broekhoven	Endowment
Kathleen, Donna & Paul Demarest	Jean Van Broekhoven	Music
Dorothy Bogнар	Jean Van Broekhoven	Undesignated
Paul & Nancy Van Broekhoven	Jean Van Broekhoven	Undesignated
Suzanne Casterlin	Jean Van Broekhoven	Undesignated
Mary Milewski	Jean Van Broekhoven	Undesignated
Shirley Montanari	Jean Van Broekhoven	Bells
Jeanette Poulsen	Wilma Smith	Endowment
Arlene Piazza	Wilma Smith	Undesignated
Margherita & Wayne Theilke	Wilma Smith	Undesignated
Shanna Darrah	Shirley Lehigh	Endowment
Shanna Darrah	Ida Darrah	Endowment
Eleanor Haling	Melissa Ann Gouger	Undesignated

In memory of Kathryn Peacock on Mother's Day from Elaine Peacock

In Honor of Lawrence & Nancy Van Wallendael from Judy & Bob Foester designated Roof Repair

In Honor of Pastor Tom & Mary Bartha from Colin & Dee McKechnie designated Endowment



Wilson Ministry & Family Update-
-join us in prayer-
April 2016

Dear Friends, Family, & Partners,

As we write this letter to you, we realize that there are great many things that we all need to be praying about throughout the world and in the US where many of you are located. Please do not take this or any of our other letters as a sign that we are not aware of, care about, or pray for any of these other concerns. We do try to stay informed, we do care, and we do pray. The following are requests and updates that many you may not be able to pray into unless we share with you ... it is in this spirit that we share this and other letters with you.

Nimet Kampuchea Church- On Easter Sunday, members of the church gathered together to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus as well as the work of God in the lives of ten young people. Please pray especially for each of these 10 who were baptized, that they might continue to live into their new lives in Christ. They are: Samnang, Vannmary, Sreynich, Dalin, Leakana, Solina, Tynoern, Masya, Chanrotha, and Sreynich (#2)

The Phnom Penh Bible School (PPBS)- Join us in praying for all of the students, staff and faculty as they seek to embody the mission of providing the Cambodian Church with leaders of sound Christian character and the ability to: faithfully serve the Christian community, effectively teach the Bible, and boldly proclaim the Gospel through words and actions. We've included the names the students that Mark interacts with each week. **Year 4** (above left): Samuth, Daniel, Chhengly, Sreyleak, Netra, Boun Neak, Saveoun, Hana, Vireak, Rachna, Leav, Lam, and Viseth. **Year 3** (above right): Siha, Vannary, Kieang, Samol, Sina, Sopheak, Channa, Vannaro, Rany, Tainghen, Chanthly, Pisey, and Pol. **Small Group** (right): Small Group: Rany, Vireak, Leav, Sarom, Thavy, Seum, Phyrom, Chantear, Darit. **Leadership Team** (no photo): Principal Mr. Son Vuthy, Vice Principal Mr. Taing Nary, Head of Student Dept. Miss Nhep



Vanna. Pray especially for Miss Vanna and mom: her has TB in her spine and staying with her on campus. Very challenging. Pray too for one of our female students who has a large lump in her breast (growing fast) and they do not know what it is.

Food for the Hungry/Cambodia- Please continue to pray for the "new" Country Director Miss Linly Gula (left) as she leads the organization in full its mission to walk with churches, leaders and families in overcoming all forms of human poverty by living in healthy relationship with God and His creation.

Zachary- Thank you for your continued prayers for Zach. He is doing very well. He has now been accepted at his first choice college, Northwestern College in NW Iowa. We are proud and excited! Pray for this time of transitions including finishing well at his job, a meaningful and Spirit-filled "TCK" (Third Culture Kid) retreat with old friends, and preparation for moving to Iowa and beginning school in the fall.

Mark's Health- Thank you again to all who have been praying, encouraging, and walking with us on this journey. We had a general setback not directly related to the previous issue: over the Cambodian New Year holiday, Mark ended up in the hospital. He had been sick two weeks previous which we



thought had been cured with a course of antibiotics. However, just a few days after finishing that treatment, his symptoms returned "with a vengeance," including a very high fever. The diagnosis: *acute prostatitis*. Mark was and continues to be thankful for Deb's faithful love and service over our holiday (a four-day hospital stay and three-day out-patient treatment). Please continue to pray for Mark's recovery as he still tires easily. Plus, his

“identity” was stolen a week and a half ago which has meant many very late (and frustrating) nights trying to untangle the mess; not very restful.

With love and blessings.

In Christ Alone,

-Mark and Deb Wilson

Ps. It is common now for some movies to include short additional clips or “trailers” after the end to reward those who stay for the credits. For those of you who have made it to the end of this letter, here is a small “blast from the past” ... We will never forget the day in 1997, when by the grace of God, Mark and his FH/C co-worker, Sambo Brom, were among the first to return to Cambodia after the “factional fighting” (military coup). As they got off the plane in the photo, it was being prepared to fly out all the people still fleeing the country for fear of their safety and security. Just days before, we truly did not know if we would ever see each other again in this life; Zach was 7 months old at that time. Deb was helping to comfort and encourage the Cambodians while rockets, bullets and military vehicles passed by. Mark stopped shaving the day his flight to Cambodia was canceled "*because of the war on the streets of Phnom Penh*" as the airline agent explained to him. What a day of celebration when Mark and Sambo were able to get back into the country! Great is God's faithfulness! Thank you all to for your faithfulness in prayer!

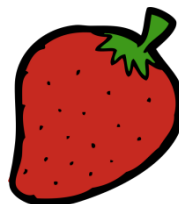


Upcoming Events at PRC

6/5- After service Welcome for Pastor Mel

6/6-6/9- Family Promise Fundraiser at ThatcherMcGee's. Be sure to get a flyer and 20% of your dinner goes to FP.

7/17- Strawberry Social



WEBSITE LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

Hi. I'm privileged to serve as transitional pastor and Christian partner with this wonderful congregation. My hope is that when you attend you can commune with God, and through my exposition of the Scriptures, you may sense how Christ is able to bless your daily interactions.

After our 10 am Sunday morning worship experience you'll have opportunity to discover more about those who attend here at the 11 am refreshment time.

Pompton Reformed Church is a multi-generational Christian community welcoming all who seek God's Word and Christian fellowship. They are encouraging and resourceful. They grew up in various Christian church backgrounds--liturgical churches including Roman Catholic and Episcopal, mainline denominations including Lutheran, Methodist and Presbyterian, and congregations with broader worship leadership such as Pentecostal and Baptist. From our backgrounds and faith experiences, together we discover more about fulfilling Christian ways of living. We link to Christians in many lands through our historic, yet constantly transforming ecumenical denomination, the Reformed Church in America. .

I served as pastor for 27 years in a similar church in Ho-Ho-Kus. My expressions of the Christian faith continue to grow as I learn about people's varied faith journeys. I pray about their diversity of life situations. I want insight on how God may be calling me to be a helpful presence.

My wife Irene and I enjoy visiting with people. We have a son Matthew who loves trains and now is a RR planning consultant. We have a daughter and son in law nearby in Oakland. Melynda is an x-ray technician at Holy Name Hospital; Scott is skilled at carpentry, stone work, and landscape development. And he is a great cook. Irene enjoys many friendships and an interest in complimentary medicine. My other special interests are swimming, roller coasters, fixing things, food, especially desserts, small group fellowships, and spiritual resources on parenting and for young adults and business leaders.

Come some Sunday and discover more with us how Christ's teachings bring fulfillment to daily life.

Pastor Mel Van Hatterm



Romans 5:1-11

5 Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we^[a] have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have obtained access^[b] to this grace in which we stand; and we^[c] boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³And not only that, but we^[d] also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. ⁹Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God.^[e] ¹⁰For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. ¹¹But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Submissions happily accepted!

Please email to

khuysers@msn.com

Last day for submissions for the July/August

Newsletter is 6/27/16