

November 2016

Pompton Reformed Church
59 Hamburg Tpk
Pompton Lakes, NJ 07442
(973-835-0541)



www.pomptonreformed.org

From the Pastor.....

Ministry Minute

Each Sunday in November a member will be describing what their experience with Pompton Reformed Church has meant. On October 30 Jack Tice, our church treasurer, spoke. If you heard it, we know you will want to review it again. So here it is in print.

Ministry Moment – 10/30/16

Good Morning, for those who don't know me my name is Jack Tice and I live in Norwood, about 35 miles northeast of here. I was born into the RCA and have been an active member of 5 North Jersey, congregations for most of my life. I served as Controller of the RCA from 1993 until I retired in 2008. I've been attending this church since 1995. When I talk to people about church I'm frequently asked why I travel so far to church. They normally ask "Aren't there any RCA congregations closer to Norwood than Pompton Lakes"? In fact there are quite a few, but this is home for me.

You see in November 1995 I was part of denominational planning team working on the RCA's 1996 budget. As things happen, the Rev. Lanni Hill was our worship leader for those days at Warwick. That was my first time meeting Lanni but it wouldn't be my last. There are many things that could be said about Lanni but the one I want to share this morning is that I saw someone who knew Christ in a way very different than I did. She had a personal relationship with him while I only knew only the historic Jesus not the life giving Savior that she knew. She had something that I wanted and would pay any price to obtain. So traveling a few extra miles on a Sunday morning was and still is a very small price to pay to gain new life in Christ. So I packed my bags and changed my church membership in December of 1995 to PRC.

So what are the things that I love about PRC and that have kept me here these past 20+ years? As you've undoubtedly heard many times, the church is not the building the Church of Jesus Christ is the people. There were and still are some very special people at PRC. When I walked through the door 20 years ago one of those special people introduced themselves and then introduced me to others. You may remember Jo Kackmar. She was one of those special people for me. Without her or someone like her to get me started that first visit it may have left me with a very different impression of PRC. But I do love this family even though we don't always see things in the same way but we understand that it isn't what we want but what He wants and

therefore we reconcile our differences and move forward for the good of the entire church.

I love the fact that 200+ years ago a small group of people cared enough about the importance of Worship and Fellowship to use their personal resources to build this church. They laid the foundation of what PRC is today and will be in the future. We inherited these facilities at no cost to us and frankly it is our obligation to pass them on to the next generation so they can worship, fellowship and minister to this community and to the very ends of the earth.

I love the way we can rally around projects like Autumnfest, our Free Community Breakfast, the Community picnic we had last year, the Food Pantry, Family Promise and the Hurricane relief work we did here in Pompton Lakes and with the Hawley's in Boothville, LA. and down the Jersey shore. The opportunity to serve has always been an important part of my growth in Christ.

So in closing on this Sunday as we begin our 2017 Annual Pledge Drive, I would like to leave you with a short story from The Daily Study Bible Series written by William Barclay.

Matt 25:31-46 The Daily Study Bible Series, William Barclay page 326

Martin of Tours was a Roman soldier and a Christian. One cold winter day, as he was entering a city, a beggar stopped him and asked for alms. Martin had no money; but the beggar was blue and shivering with cold, and Martin gave what he had. He took off his soldier's coat, worn and frayed as it was; he cut it in two and gave half of it to the beggar man. That night he had a dream. In it he saw the heavenly places and all the angels and Jesus in the midst of them; and Jesus was wearing half of a Roman soldier's cloak. One of the angels said to him, "Master, why are you wearing that battered old cloak? Who gave it to you? And Jesus answered softly, My servant Martin gave it to me.

Let us go from this place today to share with all those in need whether than need be food, clothing, comfort or the Good News. Let us give as if we were giving to Christ himself.

*To God be the Glory!
Jack Tice*

2017 Church Support Pledge Packet

Watch the church bulletin boards for cards describing what people are thankful for. Within the packet besides a pledge card is an appeal to consider God's blessings, give thanks, and jot down a list that can help us all be aware of our many blessings..

Consistory describes its commitment to you on another page.

By December 4, we hope to have a pledge from you—a strong statement to a prospective pastor about broad commitment to this congregation's ministries. And that pledge will be an encouragement to church leaders to continue faithful efforts to keep Pompton Reformed Church vital with expressions of the love and grace of Jesus Christ.

Advent

We will convene for worship each Advent Sunday in the Fellowship Hall. Remember where God chose to place the birth of Jesus? Joseph and Mary could not dwell in the comforts of home or even at the Inn in Bethlehem. Instead Jesus was born behind the Inn...in a lowly auxiliary place.

Our Advent surroundings will be a reminder that God is determined to be with us wherever we are. Shepherds witnessed in awe that holy moments happen in unusual surroundings. And we too shall be invited to marvel about places where God has chosen to bring blessings.

Sermons in Early Advent

November 27 "Do I matter? Does God Care?"

December 4 "God's invitation to a fulfilling, satisfying life."

Pastor Mel



What Are You Thankful For?

By Elaine Peacock

As we head into November our thoughts turn to Thanksgiving. Take a moment and think very carefully of what you are thankful for, actually for most of us the answer is pretty easy our family and friends.

On the days when things are going wrong, days we may be feeling a bit down, when we hear or read about a tragedy in another part of the world or closer to home that is when finding something to be thankful for gets harder for us.

That is the time when we have to reach down deep into our memories and remember something that made our hearts glad. It could be something as small as a beautiful sunset, a long talk with a good friend or a few hours enjoying a fun event with a special person in your life.

As our thoughts turn once again to giving thanks, I'll bet you'll be able to remember enough blessings that your heart will overflow with joy. Happy Thanksgiving!



Birthdays

Joanie Warner

Allison Lockwood (17)



Memorials

<u>From</u>	<u>In Memory Of</u>	<u>Designation</u>
Lois O'Hara	Mae Hansen & Dot Ploch	Roof Repair

From Elaine Peacock in memory of Kay Peacock on her birthday - designated "Roof"

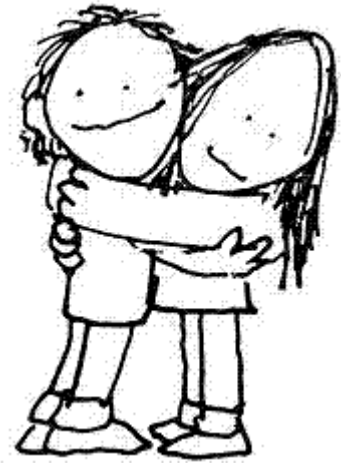
In honor of Ora Ferralasco's 93rd birthday - designated "Roof"

In memory of Rick Montanari on his 94th birthday - designated "Roof"

WORDS OF WISDOM

by Becky Netherland Submitted by Helen Gioia

Let kindness spread like sunshine
Embrace those who are sad
Respect their dignity, give them joy
And leave them feeling glad
Forgive those who might hurt you
And though you have your pride
Listen closely to their viewpoint
Try to see the other side
Walk softly when you're angry
Try not to take offense
Invoke your sense of humor
Laughter's power is immense!
Express what you are feeling
Your beliefs you should uphold
Don't shy away from what is right
Be courageous and be bold
Keep hope right in your pocket
It will guide you day by day
Take it out when it is needed
When it's near, you'll find a way
Remember friends and family
Of which you are a precious part
Love deeply and love truly
Give freely from your heart
The world is far from perfect
There's conflict and there's strife
But you still can make a difference
By how you live your life



James 3:17 But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.



Wilson Family & Ministry Update

Dear Friends, Family, & Partners,

On 1 July 2011, the three of us (Deb, Mark & Zach) boarded our flight at the Grand Rapids airport leaving behind friends, family, and the place that had been our home for 5 years. We have now been back in Cambodia for 5 years. How time flies! As you know through our past messages, it has been our joy, privilege, and yes, our challenge to follow Christ in mission and entrust to others what we've received. We are thankful for each one of you and thankful for the strength that is indeed found in the grace of Christ Jesus! With Zach beginning his freshman year at Northwestern College in the US, our family is now only two in Cambodia. Deb & Mark recently went on retreat to hear afresh God's call on our lives as individuals and as a couple, and we give thanks to God for keeping His promise to be found as we sought His face, for the reminder of His faithful presence, and for a refreshed and unfolding vision for the future.

Zachary- Again, thank you for your continued prayers for Zach. In August we were able to visit the US and spend time with Zach and take him to college. School began in August and Zach is adjusting to college life. We are thankful for the many wonderfully supportive people around him in Holland, MI, and now in and around Orange City, IA. We are also so impressed with how well he did during his "gap year." Recently, Zach was selected during his first audition to play a part in the school's Fall play, an adaptation of C.S. Lewis's *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*. Ladies and Gentlemen, we proudly introduce you to Mr. Beaver with classmate Alexander Lowry!

The Phnom Penh Bible School (PPBS)- We are thankful for the opportunity through FH/Cambodia to join our Cambodia Sisters and Brothers at the Phnom Penh Bible School now for 5 years! It has truly been a privilege to pass on to this next generation of Cambodian leaders what we received. The 2016-2017 school year is now upon us and we ask for your prayers as we prepare. Mark will teach the same four courses but will change some of his administrative responsibilities (details below). A copy of the school's latest newsletter, *The Ripen Field* – if you want a copy, just shoot us an email.

Visitors- In July Deb hosted the field portion of our first RCA "vision trip." For ten days we learned together about Cambodia (past & present), and what God is doing in and through our Local Mission Partners to rebuild His Kingdom here. The post-trip

evaluations were positive and Deb is working on plans for hosting another one in 2017 – stay tuned for details! The Bible School also welcomed the first ever RCA-sponsored short-term volunteer, who taught several weeks of English. He was the first, but hopefully not the last!

Pray with us.....

- Give thanks for a wonderful time with Zachary & family in the US.
- Give thanks for the "excellent" results of Deb's cataract removal (quote from the surgeon)
- Continue to pray for Zach as he adjusts to college life; may he fall deeper in love with Jesus and find a healthy balance in body, mind, and spirit.
Pray too for his relationship with AJ, his new roommate. (foto inside!)
- Pray for faculty and staff of the Bible School as we all prepare for the new academic year. Pray especially for the incoming students, that they like Zach will have a good transition and find their place at the school. Pray for Mark as he takes on new responsibilities at PPBS; in addition to his teaching and mentoring, he will lead two new teams, the Alumni Committee and Asia Theological Association accreditation working group. Lastly, pray for the recent graduates that they will remain steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord their labor is not in vain! For more details about their plans, see the newsletter, *The Ripen Field*. (Attached)
- Pray for the Leadership Team of Nimet Kampuchea church as they meet to consider next steps for the church; they are still without a Pastor and need to discern whether or not to continue with the Dormitory Ministry which has been financially supported by Korean missionaries who has returned to Korea for health reasons. Deb and Mark both are helping to facilitate the group through this process.
- Pray for the country of Cambodia as it continues to navigate social and political challenges (due to political pressure and threat of jail, the leaders of the opposition party remain in "exile" – one out of the country while the other at the party's headquarters in Phnom Penh).

Our thanks to you too for all the ways that you continue to enable us to follow God's call here in Cambodia!

Strengthen in Christ and Encouraged by you!

-Mark, Deb, & Zach



LOCAL MISSIONS

Closer to home

****Boxes of Love for distribution to Paterson churches are due back to PRC by Sunday, Nov. 6**

****Thanksgiving meals for our Pantry families will be collected in the next couple of weeks. Donations gratefully accepted!**

From Mission and Outreach Team

As we approach the Advent Season, the Mission & Outreach Team would like to share with you an idea from social media, and request that you consider it this year in support the PRC Food Pantry...a **Reverse Advent Calendar**.

Start a **Reverse Advent Calendar** when you start your regular Advent Calendar.

Grab a basket or box, and every day leading up to Christmas, add something useful for the Food Pantry to the box.

Then, on Christmas Eve (or even a day or two before), donate the entire basket and contents to the Food Pantry.

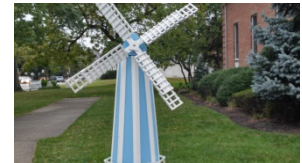
This year, make *someone else's* Christmas a little bit brighter.

As you fill the basket here are some items that are always needed at the PRC Food Pantry:

Parmalat (biggest need, infrequently donated)
Protein: Tuna, Peanut Butter, other canned meats
Canned fruit
Cereal
Canned vegetables
Pasta sauce & pasta

**Merry
Christmas**

Thank you & Merry Christmas!



Many thanks to Jo-Anne Sisco and Jackie Bush for their hard work on Autumnfest!

December
Newsletter submissions
Are due Nov. 28
To Khuyzers@msn.com