



Amazing! In about a month we will be celebrating worship in our renovated sanctuary!

How will it help us?

People over the last 205 years maintained that sanctuary so with God's help they could perceive high holy purpose in life—aware God treasured them, aware Christ came to earth to redeem them and inspire them to moral living and compassionate leadership. Many of you will enter that space with grateful hearts for how you have been taught and inspired by congregational members over the years.

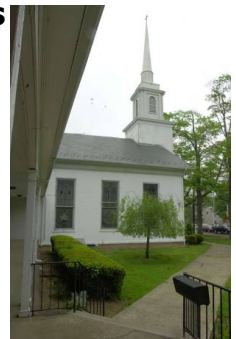
Donors from communities in this area see your congregation and its buildings as a force for improving moral character, strengthening parents and other mentors to build moral character in home training too. Those donors want to support a center that builds community- strengthening values. Our worship team continues to help me address how Christ has called us to be salt and light in today's culture. We want to convey Christ's redeeming love and renewing grace in the worship experience, and we want to be guiding people to be a Christ-like enriching presence in their daily influence.

Centuries ago King David addressed the value of going to the house of the Lord. Amazingly, what he wrote still has importance to us. (Psalm 122)

To be with many people from many different communities who all want to serve God and celebrate that God improves daily life. (:4)

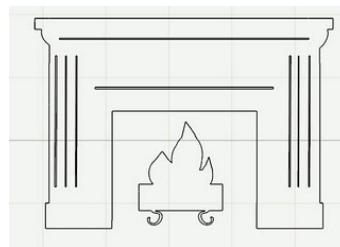
To pray for friends and relatives and for the best in all kinds of life situations (:8)

**David ends with a prayer:
Because of what happens there to me,
I will do my best for you, God. (:9)**



Hopefully you can help me and other worship service developers to reach those awesome goals. I'll welcome your suggestions, observations, and testimonies of faith-strengthened experiences.

Pastor Mel



LOVE TAPS

By Elaine Peacock

February is here, the shortest month of the year, but don't get too excited winter is far from over. When I look back at my pictures from years ago every one of the pictures with lots of snow has valentine decorations in the window.

Now don't let that put a damper on your valentine plans just think of all the cozy fun you can have after spending a day in the snow – like large cups of hot chocolate with whipped cream in front of a warm fire. Valentine's Day is the perfect time to share God's love taps. A hug, a smile, a phone call, dropping card they are all ways to share love with the people you care about or maybe someone you know that is going through a particularly hard time right now – what a great way to lift their spirits and let them know they are not alone. So my wish for you this Valentine's Day is may you receive and give away lots and lots of Love Taps. Happy Valentine's Day!!



Birthdays

Connor Conklin
Meridith Davis
In memory of Albert Peacock on his birthday



Memorials

<u>From</u>	<u>In Memory Of</u>	<u>Designation</u>
The Schmits/Coss Family William D. Widdowson Beatrice Carlsson	Anabelle Schmits Kristen Widdowson Kristen Widdowson	Roof Fund Roof Fund Roof Fund
Mark & Fran Maletsky	In Honor of Evan & Geneva Maletsky	Organ Reinstallation





ROUNDTABLE OF THANKS

- THANK YOU TO BRUCE FOOTE, JACK TICE AND KEN WAIBEL FOR THEIR FAITHFUL SERVICE EVERY SUNDAY FOR LIVE STREAMING SUNDAY WORSHIP
- THANK YOU TO DAVE HACKBARTH FOR DISMANTLING AND BRINGING IN THE OUTSIDE NATIVITY, THANK YOU DAVE!
- A HUGE THANK YOU TO LORNA CAROLL AND SUE UHLENDORF FOR HELPING PASTOR MEL DURING MICHELE'S ABSENCE; THEIR HELP HAS BEEN ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY.
- THANKS TO ALL FOR BRINGING FOOD AND SUPPLIES FOR THE FOOD PANTRY. YOUR GENEROSITY IS GREATLY APPRECIATED. KEEP IT COMING....THANK YOU ALL!!



Dear PRC family & friends,

Thanks to all who have been upholding me in prayer through my cancer surgery and recovery. I am deeply touched and grateful for all the prayers, cards and emails. As you may know, I had some complications from surgery, so it's been a bit of a rough recovery. Your cards, emails, my prayer quilt and knowing that so many people are praying for me has helped me through those difficult days and continue to help me each day. Complications aside, my doctor said my surgery was very successful and with chemo treatment, I have a very good chance of being cured for life. This is a wonderful prognosis as this type of cancer (primary peritoneal carcinoma) has a higher rate of recurrence than cure. I see my doctor on Monday, Jan. 30th to discuss the next step of chemo treatment. Please continue to remember me in prayer as I prepare for this next step towards being cured. Thanks so much! Love you all!!

- Michele Mac Donald

We are grateful that additional pledge cards continue to come in. The accompanying thanksgiving card recently had this thoughtful set of notes:

For all that You God have given, we share with You that for which we are most grateful.

1. **Comfort when I am lost**
2. Faith when I want to give up
3. Compassion when I have sinned
4. Hope when there is none



5. Fulfilling my financial needs.

Thank you to all who prayed for me during my recent biopsy. I greatly appreciated knowing so many people were upholding me. I am waiting for results. Karen Huysers



Lent begins March 1. Plan to participate in the Ash Wednesday evening service at 7:30 PM..

Message: "Breaking away from destructive temptations with the help of Jesus, the lamb of God, our redeemer."

Fellowship Dates for the year

January 29- Appetizer Social

February 26 Anything Chocolate Social

April 2- Soup Social

May 9- Lina's Adult Church Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

June 11- Ice Cream Social

July 23- Strawberry Social

August 20- Ice Cream Social

September 17- Church Picnic

October 21- AUTUMNFEST

December 17- Cookie Social

Dates to keep in mind

2/5 Deacon's Hoagie Sale- Hoagie Pickup after service

2/25 Free Community Breakfast- opportunities to serve abound!

3/1 Ash Wednesday evening service 7:30 PM

3/12 Return to the Sanctuary Celebration; Daylight savings begins, set your clock forward, you don't want to be late!

3/19 Deacons Fish and Chips Dinner (Chicken for those that don't like fish!)

5/20 Contemporary Praise Bands @ 4PM in the sanctuary (The popular Preakness Praise Band will headline and be joined by other local praise bands)

6/25 Rotary Club of PL sponsored Yankees Old Timer game- see Vincent Iraggi for info

Choir News

Patty Kitchell shared with us during Sunday Services that she has several Choir Anthems available for sponsoring. If this is something you would like to do in memory of someone or in honor of someone, please contact Patty and she will give you information. Cost is in the area of \$60- a one-time fee to sponsor an anthem. Each time it is sung by the choir, your sponsorship will be noted along with the person(s) honored by your sponsorship.

The choirs are always looking for new members. Chancel Choir meets on Thursdays at 7PM and Bell choir meets on Tuesdays at 6:30PM

Robert Barrett
804 Centre St. #208
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130
January 2, 2017

Dear Pompton Reformed Church Family,

I am excited to share that I will again travel to Port-au-Prince, Haiti on a mission trip in March. Over the course of the past 3 trips, Pompton Reformed has been a significant and much appreciated partner. The financial and prayerful support have been key in the work that God has done over the past 3 years. Haiti, as the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, not only continues to recover from the 2010 earthquake, but now also struggles in the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew and continued political unrest. However, I remain confident that through the power and hope of Jesus Christ, Haiti and the lives of its people will be transformed for the better. I write today to ask for PRC's support of this next trip to Port-au-Prince.

January 12 marks the 7th anniversary of the earthquake that devastated Port-au-Prince in January 2010. The recovery and rebuilding process from the earthquake continues today, with tens of thousands of people still without permanent shelter. The last year has also seen significant political unrest in a delayed presidential election marred by claims of corruption, and the destruction caused by Hurricane Matthew in October. Hurricane Matthew devastated the southern coast of Haiti, destroying entire villages, farmland, livestock, and took the lives of thousands. The organization we will travel with, Convoy of Hope, continues to be a part of the recovery and rebuilding process.

One thing that I have learned during my past trips is that there is no simple answer to poverty and no simple way to make that which is broken, whole again. Haiti is a truly beautiful place; a

Caribbean island with mountainous peaks that provide a breathtaking view. The Haitian people are also beautiful, their care and laid-back approach to life are aspects of their culture that I have grown to admire. However, this beauty is masked in a brokenness that I cannot even begin to describe. Last year we spent our week at a school and church that are transforming one of the worst neighborhoods in Port-au-Prince. We had the great opportunity to come alongside the pastor and teachers to hold a vacation bible school for these children, many of whom have placed their trust in Jesus as their hope for the future of Haiti. We were also able to paint some of the classroom furniture and mix and pour the concrete roof for their new food storage building. Each of the 700 children that attend this school receives a meal each day and Convoy of Hope feeds over 90,000 children each school day across Haiti. While there is no simple answer to the brokenness, God is at work in Haiti and through Him we have seen lives transformed and change start in even the smallest places.

This year, I will once again be partnering with Convoy of Hope and a group of students from Boston University Chi Alpha in making the trip to Haiti. While we are waiting for the final confirmation of exactly what our work will be, we know that we will be completing a work project that is part of a long term relationship that Convoy of Hope has with a Haitian school or orphanage. The work that we do will last and be just one part of what God is doing in the lives of the people we will meet. Additionally, we will have the opportunity to build relationships with Haitians who we will work alongside during the week. Some of these Haitian men have been a part of each of my trips so far, and strong friendships have begun to form. I look forward to once again having the chance to support their work, encourage them, and pray from them during this trip. The total cost of the trip is \$1680 per person to cover the airfare and expenses for the week. I am additionally working on raising the \$3,000 that we must raise to pay for our work project at the school or orphanage in Port-au-Prince. Last year, this money purchased the supplies for our VBS and the materials for us to build the food storage building. Also, this money was used to pay a number of Haitians to work alongside us in our project. Over 90% of Haitians are unemployed and to provide a handful of Haitians with a week's wage through the money we raise is a great gift that we can provide with our funds.

Any assistance PRC could give would be greatly appreciated along with continued prayers leading up to the trip and during the week in Haiti. We are looking to raise as much the finances as possible by February 1 before the trip on March 4-12. If we are able to raise even more than our goal, we will be able to complete an even larger work project. Any financial gift can be made out to Boston University Chi Alpha. I am also would love to be able to come and share once again, both before and after the trip, with the PRC congregation.

Thank you for your prayers and your prayerful consideration of supporting my trip.

Sincerely,
Robert Barrett



Editor's Note- Pastor Mel mentions each week how stories of faith help others to see Christ and show how God works in our lives. **If you have a story to share and would like it included, please let me know!**

Here is one of my stories.....

I grew up in this church but as a young adult, I drifted away. I had a job that I worked on Sundays, then married and moved a little bit away and then started a family. Some of the really old timers might remember that I was born with a very prominent birthmark on my neck. My parents had it surgically removed when I was very little, but two memories that stayed with me all my life was the fear I felt at the hospital AND a beautiful white frosted cake a church member brought to me after I was home recovering. The cake is long gone but the love that came with it remains in my heart. Fast forward to 1986 and I was due to have a planned c-section. I was in St. Mary's Hospital, waiting for the surgery to produce a new family member- a really happy occasion, but I was scared to death. A priest came to speak to me and seeing how scared I was, he prayed with me. His words comforted me and reminded me that God is with me every step I take. That moment, I felt God's presence and peace. I renewed my pledge to be an active member of God's congregation. And so I have tried to be ever since. The encounter with the priest, whose name I never knew, was God directed.



Attitude of Gratitude
By Janina Jayme

When you are ungrateful When your moods a stormy day
When you think "Woe is Me" and nothing goes your way...
When you're feeling anxious for each dawn you have to greet
take on an "Attitude of Gratitude" and your life will be complete
When you can't acknowledge the gifts God gave to you
When emotions of helplessness overcome out of the blue
When there's something missing in your heart or in your soul
take on an Attitude of Gratitude" and you'll know which way to go...
For "Attitude of Gratitude" is what God had in mind
When He blessed with friends and family and the hour glass of time...
Time to smell the roses walk along the beach
aroma of coffee brewing or Sunday morning preach.
Be grateful for each raindrop for the sun is on its way
Your "Attitude of Gratitude"
Thanks God for each new day...



Phillipians 4:6

Don't worry about anything; instead pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.

March Newsletter

Submissions are due 2/26/17.

Please email to khuysers@msn.com

