



Pompton Reformed Church
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December 2019

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

The recent sudden passing of beloved member shook us all up a bit. We don't expect people to suddenly leave us. And it makes us more aware that each day is not guaranteed. Life is fleeting; Accidents happen; illness sometimes wins.

This makes me remember that every day we have here on earth is a gift and a day we can make a difference for the Lord who has gifted each of us. Our gifts are all different- but we all have something we can offer to our Lord and his people.

Make each day count!

Later in this issue you will see information about a "Reverse Advent Calendar." We all know Advent Calendars- open a "door" each day and find a surprise behind it. A child's Advent Calendar has little pieces of chocolate. Another one might have little Christmas ornaments.

This Reverse Advent Calendar is a "giving back" idea and what a better way to anticipate the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ than in giving back to his people. I particularly like this idea because it will fill our food pantry for many weeks to come for the families that need it.

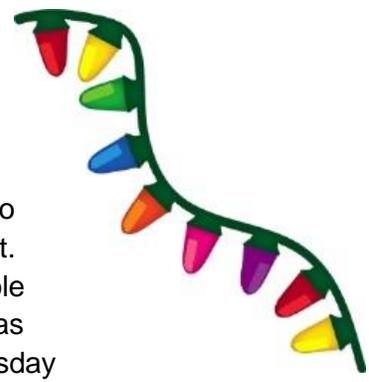
"Come, Lord, Jesus, our Guest to be. And bless these gifts bestowed by Thee. .
Blessed be God who is our bread; may all the world be clothed and fed."

Christmas Eve Service 5PM



Christmas Memories

By Elaine Peacock



My memories of Christmas always center around Christmas lights. No not the over the top displays of today, but the simple lights of the past. Wanaque Avenue in Pompton Lakes had lights strung from pole to pole and those simple lights transformed Wanaque Avenue into a Christmas wonderland. My mom and I would go shopping one night usually a Thursday when the stores were open late. We would check out Gelman's, Singer's, the 5 and 10 and the Army & Navy store for gifts for my Dad; it would be cold and snowing a bit. After we finished shopping my Dad would pick us up and we would head for home and of course my Dad would ask what we bought and if he could see it. My Dad was like a big kid at Christmas. Another special trip was the drive to Paterson to "see the lights". We all thought that Paterson had the best Christmas lights. After seeing all the lights we would go to the ice cream parlor on lower main street and have ice cream. Yes, it was cold but the trip to see the lights wouldn't be the same without stopping for ice cream. Not only was this homemade ice cream special this store had chocolate, too. The whole front of the store was full of chocolate Santas, reindeer, snowmen and nut crackers large and small. I hope you all take a little time this Christmas and relive those special Christmas memories from your childhood I'm sure they will make you smile.

Merry Christmas one and all!

Thank You!

To Pompton Reformed Church,

I just have to say how overjoyed and blessed I have been, between the Healing service two days before my first surgery, including the laying on of hands, to all of the continued prayers, afterwards. These along with the many cards, well wishes, visits, phone calls, and cookies have served as a reminder of what a close and friendly church we are.

A thank you to everyone just doesn't seem to be enough!

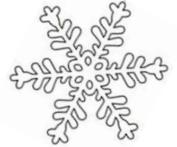
I am hoping to be able to see you all soon!

Eddie Van Schaack

THANK YOU

Round table of Thanks:

- 1) Everyone that helped with Autumnfest and help make it a success
- 2) Everyone that helped with the ceiling tiles project.



Greeting from Snowy La Crosse Wisconsin!

I moved to Wisconsin at the beginning of August and so much has happened since then. I don't know where God will take me nine months from now but I can tell you where I have been. I have worked regular shifts, done 24-hour on calls, and been sleep deprived. I have grieved with people who have lost loved ones and I have sat on the floor weeping with parents who have lost their children. In the midst of the suffering in the hospital, I have been able to laugh at the beautiful mystery that faith, hope, and life. The patients, nurses, doctors, and staff at Gundersen Medical Center have become both my colleagues and my congregation. It feels as if I have learned more from the patients than I have offered them.

The Spiritual Care department is a supportive group of clergy devoted ministering to those in need and training new chaplains. I am have become part of a diverse group of chaplain residents. Darlene is Catholic and from Laos, Linda is Presbyterian and has lived in Japan for the last 30 years, Honore is a Catholic Priest from the Congo, and Phil is Lutheran from Connecticut. Each of us brings our own gifts, personal histories, and stories of loss with us when we visit patients. When I started at the hospital, I requested to be assigned to the Orthopedic, Neurology, and Rehabilitation floors, and my request was granted! I had a strong desire to work with these patients because of my personal history with migraines and a sleep disorder and my family's history watching my grandmother experience and recover from multiple strokes.

Normally as a hospital chaplain, I am only able to visit a patient once, maybe twice before she is discharged. It has been a blessing to work on Orthopedics and Neurology since many of the patients are then transferred to Inpatient Rehab. This allows me to continue visiting with the person and their family as they heal and gain the skills needed to return home. I am able to be a friendly, familiar face as they get used to the new staff, routines, and hard work of rehabilitation. I would like to thank my church family for your continued prayers, words of encouragement and support. I wouldn't be able to do the hard work of chaplaincy without the faith and love of Pompton Reformed Church!

Blessings,
Anna Gordon

Anna's address is 2251 South Ave, LaCrosse, Wisconsin 54601 if you would like to send her a card.



Birthdays

Mark Warner

In memory of Jeanette Struble on her birthday from Walt



In Loving Memory

Memorials

<u>From</u>	<u>In Memory Of</u>	<u>Designation</u>
Karen Huysers	Jeanette Poulsen	Capital Campaign
Patricia Joppien	Jeanette Poulsen	Undesignated
Helen & Chuck Gioia	Cindi Petrides	Capital Campaign
Karen Huysers	Cindi Petrides	Capital Campaign
Construction Info Systems	Cindi Petrides	Bells
Nancy Shimmel	Cindi Petrides	Bells
Corinne Tyndall	Cindi Petrides	Bells
Ed & Marie Tokonitz	Cindi Petrides	Bells
Roben Roon	Cindi Petrides	Bells
Kevin & Lorna Carroll	Cindi Petrides	Scholarship
Linda Arajs	Cindi Petrides	Scholarship
Nan Louise Barry	Cindi Petrides	Undesignated

CHRISTMAS VESPERS

December 15th at 4 o'clock p.m.

Imagine the warmth of our sanctuary with mercury glass candle goblets and pine in the windowsills, and candles of remembrance on the communion table.



Then add to that:

- 🎄 The Hope~Filled readings and prayers of the season.
- 🎄 The Joy~Filled Choir Anthems and Congregational Carol Singing.
- 🎄 The Peace~Filled feeling after sharing this worship experience.
- 🎄 The Love~Filled Holiday Reception that follows in the Library.

Everyone is invited to join with us for Winter's Promise; preparing our hearts for the coming of the Christ Child: **The Light of the World. Emmanuel.**

**Vespers is a thoughtful and deeply~moving service of:
Candles, Carols, Special Music, Stirring Readings and Prayers.**

**Sunday December 15th at 4 o'clock p.m. In our Sanctuary.....
Followed by a Gathering with Holiday Refreshments in the Library.**

Bring friends and neighbors. All are welcome.

🎄🎵 Hosted by The Chancel Choir

The Fellowship Committee



By Jo-Ann Sisco

The Fellowship Committee has been a big part of my life since I was a kid. Prior to Fellowship Committee it was Friendship 52. Many people my age who grew up in this Church remember Friendship 52 because our parents were involved in it. Part of their job was to send cards and make phone calls to our members. This is where I developed my love for sending cards. I can remember as a kid sitting at the kitchen table watching my Mom writing out her cards. She always looked so happy doing this and when I asked her why she said how much people really appreciated receiving these cards and it made her happy. It was at that time I knew I wanted to feel that same happiness.

Throughout the years Friendship 52 changed and now it is the Fellowship Committee. I think of the Fellowship Committee as the heart and soul of our Church. Our vision is to care for the people who call PRC their church home. How do we care for them? We have Coffee Hour every week. When our friends line up for their coffee we always give them a cheery hello and how are you doing? Our seniors enjoy socializing with each other each week and are usually the last ones out the door each Sunday.

We usually plan a social each month. The Chili and Soup Socials are always the most popular.

Rick and Barbara Pierce chair our bus trip to Sight-and-Sound Theater in Lancaster, Pennsylvania each year. This is a way for our congregation and members of our community to come together to experience a very Spiritual play. After the play we go to Good and Plenty to have an old-fashioned Pennsylvania Dutch Dinner while sharing friendship and fellowship with one another. Other ways we share food, fellowship, and friendship is by organizing the Adult Dinner in May and organize the Church-wide picnic in September. I think you must see a pattern here now. When you think of Fellowship you think of food, friendship, and fellowship!

The Fellowship Committee oversees other events including Autumnfest. Autumnfest has been a part of PRC since the 1950's. I can remember as a kid helping out at Autumnfest. In 2010 I retired and I had heard that Nancy Porter was stepping down as Chair. I didn't want to see Autumnfest end so I went to Pastor Tom and asked him if I could take over. He said yes but he didn't want me to do it alone. He told me to bring it to Fellowship and see if they would take it on. My wonderful friends could see how excited I was about this and they said yes! This is how Autumnfest fell under Fellowship. But this is not only a Fellowship event. This is the biggest Church-wide fundraiser we have on an annual basis. Since 2011 we have averaged \$4000-\$5000 dollars a year. Throughout the years many areas of the church benefitted from the money made from Autumnfest. We have given to Missions by donating to their Mission Trips. We have given money to the Scholarship Fund. In the last several years Autumnfest money bought the new doors and the furniture in Pastor John's office. We have given towards the Roof and Furnace Fund. The Deacons participate in Autumnfest by having a Farm Stand. Whatever money they make goes into their account which helps those in need. This year a young girl from the community had a drink table and made \$200. She donated the \$200 to our Food

Pantry. Whenever we were told about an urgent need we were there to donate the Autumnfest money.

This year things have changed. We were told that all fundraiser money goes into General Fund and Consistory decides where the money will go. We were also told that we could submit a list of items or projects that we would like the money to go towards. We were then told that if there were no emergencies and Consistory agreed then the money could go to items on the list. Autumnfest made approximately \$6500 which includes the Garage Sale money this year. We had a Garage Sale because we had a lot of items left from the "This and That Shop" the year before. Rick Pierce who is our Chair submitted our list to Consistory at their November meeting. Many of the projects we submitted are not expensive and will help to beautify our already beautiful Church and also to keep us safe. Those are two very important goals if we want to bring new people in. We will let you know what the money is going towards when we hear from Consistory. We will be having Autumnfest 2020 and would like to hear your ideas on how we can make Autumnfest bigger and better than ever. We will have an Autumnfest meeting in April so start thinking of new ideas now. Please remember without all of you there is no Autumnfest!

When I say we are the heart and soul of our church this next area really proves my point. We oversee the Repast Committee. For approximately ten years Jackie Bush has given her heart and soul to this committee. Jackie will talk to the families asking them such things as how many people they expect, who is doing the catering and what time the food is to arrive, and what colors they would like the centerpiece flowers to be. We provide the coffee, tea, milk, and cups. The family supplies the food and the paper products. The committee members are a mixture of Fellowship and non-Fellowship people. The committee sets-up and cleans up. The tables are beautifully set. Once again the committee members are very caring people. Jackie is very passionate about this area and should be commended for it. The families are so appreciative for all that is done for them at this very difficult time in their lives.

Although it is not official yet, I do believe that Fellowship will be overseeing the new Communication Team which Jackie and I are Co-Chairing. This Team sends out cards to our Church Family in good times and bad. This brings me back to my childhood when I watched my Mom making out cards!

With all of the areas we oversee, you would think we have about thirty members! But that is not true. We only have thirteen members and we can really use new members and new ideas. We also have a few people who help us out but are not members. If you are a people person and you love caring for people then this committee is for you! Please think about this and perhaps one of your New Year's resolutions will be to join Fellowship!

I would like to thank the members of the Fellowship Committee for your hard work and dedication to this committee. Not only do we work hard but we have fun doing it! We also have food at every meeting which could be an incentive for new people to join! Thank you all for being my friends! Here is the fantastic Fellowship Committee: Doreen Apgar, Laura Beiner, George Buckman, Jackie Bush, Marcia Coningswood, Gail Freeland, Patti Kitchell, Barbara Pierce, Rick Pierce, Emil Scarmazzo, Lynn Scarmazzo, Jo-Ann Sisco, and Eva Terhune.

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

We are encouraging families to celebrate Advent a bit differently and as an opportunity to give to others. Rather than opening the various "doors/windows" of the traditional Advent calendars to receive a chocolate treat each day – we encourage children and their families to make an offering of something as a blessing for someone less fortunate.

*Get a large box or two grocery bags and place them where the family often gathers.

*Each day place one of the listed food/personal items into the box/bag.

*Offer a simple prayer such as:

"Oh God – As we anticipate the birth of our dear Lord Jesus, we offer
this _____ as a blessing to someone less fortunate than ourselves. AMEN".

On Sunday, January 8th – please bring your filled box/bags to church for restocking of our food pantry.

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR 2019

Each day add an item to your collection box/bag

On January 8, 2020 donate the contents to our food pantry



December 1 Box of Cereal

December 2 Peanut Butter

December 3 Stuffing Mix

December 4 Parmalat Milk

December 5 Baked Beans

December 6 Jelly/Jam

December 7 & 8 Laundry Detergent

December 9 Macaroni and Cheese

December 10 Pudding Mix

December 11 Canned Peaches

December 12 Canned Tuna

December 13 Canned Potatoes

December 14 & 15 Shampoo & Conditioner

December 16 Canned Soup

December 17 Canned Brown Gravy

December 18 Toilet Paper - 4 pack

December 19 Canned Pears

December 20 Box of Instant Potatoes

December 21 & 22 Toothpaste & Toothbrush

December 23 Package of Pasta

December 24 Spaghetti Sauce

December 25 Brownie/Pound Cake Mix

MISSIONS/OUTREACH Update

Thank you for your generous response to the Angel Tree and Star of Hope Christmas Joy requests made at the end of November. Early deadlines are necessary to allow time for redistribution of your purchases. Should you see a bargain on children's pajamas while shopping this month consider picking up an extra set. **The Oasis January monthly drive is pajamas. February will be baby items.** Items for Oasis can always be put in the labeled container in room 104 if no box is out in the fellowship area.



This month we would like to highlight one of the RCA missionary couples we support, Mark & Deb Wilson. The following information comes from the RCA Global Missions website.

“The Christian church in Cambodia was nearly wiped out in the late 1970s under the Khmer Rouge. Since the return of peace in the mid-1990s, the church has been steadily growing. Its leaders need nurturing and a strong biblical and theological foundation.

The Wilsons' goal is to rebuild the church by supporting local leaders so that Cambodians can bring the gospel to all Cambodia. Deb is strengthening young church leaders and Christian organizations through training, coaching, mentoring, and prayer ministry. Mark's ministry is to love, encourage, and equip the Cambodian church and its leaders to discover, understand, and live into God's intentions for them, and to teach others to do the same.

Mark and Deb work in partnership with the Phnom Penh Bible School (PPBS), the Evangelical Fellowship of Cambodia (EFC), and the Theological Education by Extension Association of Cambodia (TEEAC).”

Please pray for the Wilsons, their son Zachary, and the graduates of the PPBS that they may follow God's plan for their lives.

CCO Campus Ministry at CCAC & Coaching CCO staff in Support Raising

with Jared Cave

Answers to Prayer

Here's how God has been answering prayers on campus this semester.

Jiyong - I have been able to stay connected to Jiyong and encourage her through a busy season of grad school applications.

Andrew - God provided some unexpected support for Andrew's ministry. He has been faithful in this season even when he has not seen fruit.

Leah - Leah has been incredibly faithful in her work of support raising. This is a notable change from the previous semester.

Here we Go...

I have a handful of students I am striving to invest time in this semester. Here are the students I have direct contact with on a regular basis.

On Campus

- **Dean** - He has shown to be very eager to grow and learn new things. Pray for him to slow down to see what God is doing around him.
- **Christina** - She has had a very busy semester, because of lots of good things going on in her life. Pray for her balancing between school and family.
- **Jiyong** - In our last conversation we talked about seeing more of what God is doing and Jiyong was excited to continue that discussion.
- **Seth** - Seth and I continue to have some positive interactions. We enjoy each other's point of view. Pray we can begin to engage more on the topic of faith.
- **Jayson** - Jayson is a student I have met this semester. He is a nursing student who is also working in a local hospital. Pray we can find time to learn more about each other's stories soon.
- **John** - John is a non-Christian student I have developed a relationship with over talking about riddles. Pray we have time to engage a real relationship together.

CCO Staff

- **Brandon** - Brandon is at full support!!! He is now learning about some faithful rhythms of support raising throughout the year. Pray for him as he pioneers a new ministry in Indiana.
- **Andrew** - Andrew has recently seen some needed provision in his ministry funding. Please pray that God continues to work in this area so he can turn his full efforts toward campus.
- **Leah** - Leah has begun to show much more discipline in her support raising. Pray that she will be fully funded by the end of the year.
- **Becky** - Becky is a veteran staff who has not done well in support raising work. Pray she will be able to develop new habits and be able to reach full funding by the end of the school year.
- **Brendon** - Pray for Brendon and specifically for his partnership to be able to contribute more toward his ministry funding needs.
- **Shelly** - I have recently begun meeting with Shelly to help her set some better rhythms of support raising. Pray she can learn new things as she has developed her habits over many years of service with the CCO.
- **Ben** - I have recently begun meeting with Ben, a new staff to the CCO this year. He is doing a great job on campus, but needs to increase his funding. Pray Ben is able to regain some momentum with his support raising in this season.
- **Ray** - Because of a cohort program, I have been assigned to coach Ray throughout the program. Pray that he is able to set up the meetings he needs to in order to reach full funding.
- **Ryan** - Pray that Ryan will begin to prioritize support raising throughout his work week.

Family



- **Piper** - Thank you for your prayers for Piper's health. Her digestive issues have seemed to settle down. She is growing into a sweet & caring individual. She is beginning to enjoy playing with family in friends. Daily she mentions that she misses her cousin. Pray for her as she continues to develop friendships with children at church & daycare.
- **Sarah** - Please continue to pray for Sarah's job and her future.
- **Jared** - Pray for me as I begin to look to the future work of Support Raising Coaching in the CCO. I will be developing training, policies and resources for staff & coaches.

Look at the Candy Cane
Stripes that are red
White is for my Savior
"J" is for Jesus My Lord, that's for
Turn it around
Jesus my shepherd



What do you see?
Like the blood shed for me
Who's sinless and pure!
sure!
And a staff you will see
Was born for Me!



Sad news.....

For those of you who remember the Van Hartoghs, MaryAnn (Heemstra) Van Hartogh let us know the sad news that her husband, George, passed away on November 13th. The Van Hartoghs were long-time active members of PRC until they moved away to St. Augustine, FL in 1998. George is survived by his wife, 4 children, 7 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.



Dates to Remember

December 8- Congregational Meeting, all requested to attend

December 15- Cookie Social

December 22- Christmas Pageant

Christmas Eve 5PM Candlelight Service

Intergenerational Christmas Pageant

The annual PRC Christmas Pageant will take place on December 22 during worship. The pageant will again be **intergenerational** with shepherds, angels, animals, kings, Marys and Josephs of all ages coming forward to create a living nativity as the congregation sings Christmas carols. The junior and senior high students will be narrating so there are no lines to learn. Just come forward when the narrator invites you forward. Costumes will be available that morning in the Children In Worship room (103) or you can wear your own.

If you have any questions contact an Education Committee member.



January
Newsletter
Submissions
Due
December 29