



Pompton Reformed Church
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Hello Friends!

Our family has really been enjoying this advent season and we are really looking forward to our first Christmas here in New Jersey! My mom is flying in from Michigan on the 21st and we are hosting our family Christmas dinner with my sister Amanda and her husband Eddie coming in from Brooklyn. After Christmas we are heading to Canada to spend time with Jill's family in Burlington, Ontario. Lots of food, lots of presents!

This past Advent, we have spent a lot of time in the Psalms talking about how we long for hope, peace, joy and love in the midst of a broken world. It has been a powerful time for me personally and I hope it has been meaningful for all of you as well! Also, such a huge thanks to all of you on Worship Design and Fellowship who have made Christmas such a meaningful time for people at our church!

Looking ahead to 2020 (can't believe we are about to start another decade!), we will be doing a series on the Life of Jesus by walking through The Gospel of John. As we learn more about his life and his teachings, we will continually ask, "What does it really mean for all of us to follow Jesus here and now?"

Looking forward to seeing what God does through Pompton Reformed in 2020!

Grace + Peace,
John



New Year Wishes
By Elaine Peacock

These are my New Year Wishes for all of you. May you find hope in each new day of 2020 because hope is the spark that helps us improve the situations in our surroundings that need changing. May you find joy even if it is just a small joy that makes your heart rejoice. May you find peace, the peace that gives you strength to face whatever the world throws at you. Lastly, I wish you love; the love of family, the love of friends, may it surround and protect you. May you find hope, joy, peace and love in each new day of 2020. Happy New Year!!



Round Table of Thanks:

Everyone that participated in the Mission Team December Activities.

To my church family.....

There are not enough words to fully express my heartfelt “thanks” to everyone at Pompton Reformed Church these past few months as well as the difficult holiday season and new year ahead.

Your prayers, phone calls, cards, meals, “hugs” or even a “smile”, love, kindness, friendship and support are a great comfort to me.

I feel truly blessed to be a part of this warm, wonderful church family.

Love and “hugs”

Val Petrides

*in loving
memory*

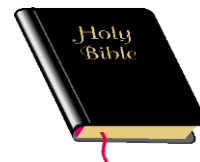
<u>From</u>	<u>In Memory Of</u>	<u>Designation</u>
Shirley Montanari	Cindi Petrides	Scholarship
Mark & Joanie Warner	Cindi Petrides	Scholarship
Construction Info Sys	Cindi Petrides	Scholarship
David & Janet Hackbarth	Cindi Petrides	Scholarship
Marcia Dondersloot	Cindi Petrides	Scholarship
Dorothy & Dennis Caufield	Cindi Petrides	Scholarship
Gail & Michael Freeland	Cindi Petrides	Scholarship



From Eleanor Haling in thanks for God's many blessing every day...

Fresh Starts

Every January we begin a new year with new year resolutions that often fall by the wayside. I, myself, have started reading through "the Bible in a year" several times only to find there is so much to read at one sitting that I can't take in the meaning and eventually give up. Maybe the next submission will convince some like me to try again but with a different approach. Happy New Year!!



Editor's Note: Jack Tice has been sending me many daily Bible Study readings for use in the newsletter. After receiving one with an interesting note, I asked Jack to write something for all of us, indicating what these readings mean to him. His reply follows.

William Barclay Commentaries by Jack Tice*

I was born into the RCA as my parents were married in a CRC church in Clifton and moved to Hackensack and River Edge where they became members of local RCA congregations. I attended church and Sunday school at Cherry Hill Reformed Church until I was old enough to escape. That strategy included an early Sunday morning newspaper delivery route which by design normally didn't get me home in time to attend church. I did however actually attend frequently enough to at some point become part of a confirmation class. We met for a number of months to study the 129 questions and answers found in The Heidelberg Catechism because the Elders were going to ask us one of those questions and we were required to respond with the correct answer in order to become members of the church. Talk about the Fear of God!!

Fast forward to November 1995 when I attended the RCA's annual budget meeting at Camp Warwick. If you can't guess, our worship leader for those three days was the Rev. L'anni Hill. In those few days I began to understand that L'anni was very different from other pastors that I had known. I didn't initially understand what that difference was, but I knew I wanted what she had. By December 1995 I was attending PRC and it has become my new home ever since. I wanted what L'anni had and I eventually learned what she had was a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. I had heard many sermons in my years of attending church and read the Heidelberg more than a few times, but I don't think I ever met Jesus in those words or pages. Knowledge about isn't necessarily relationship with.

So, wanting what she had, I asked L'anni at one of her Bible studies how I might develop that relationship. She asked if I had read any of Barclay's commentaries, of course the answer was no, so I went out and bought the complete set. Since then I've been an avid reader with the objective of growing in my faith. Many of the things in my home library I've read multiple times, and in every reading, I walk away with increased knowledge and an increased desire to know Christ and to make him known.

The Daily Study Bible Series by William Barclay is an easy read and very likely would provide you with an enhanced understanding of the Word.

Holy Bible, New Living Translation Matt 25:31-46

The Final Judgment

31 "But when the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit upon his glorious throne. 32 All the nations will be gathered in his presence, and he will separate the people as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33 He will place the sheep at his right hand and the goats at his left.

34 "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world. 35 For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. 36 I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.'

37 "Then these righteous ones will reply, 'Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38 Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing? 39 When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you?'

40 "And the King will say, 'I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!'

41 "Then the King will turn to those on the left and say, 'Away with you, you cursed ones, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his demons. 42 For I was hungry, and you didn't feed me. I was thirsty, and you didn't give me a drink. 43 I was a stranger, and you didn't invite me into your home. I was naked, and you didn't give me clothing. I was sick and in prison, and you didn't visit me.'

44 "Then they will reply, 'Lord, when did we ever see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and not help you?'

45 "And he will answer, 'I tell you the truth, when you refused to help the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were refusing to help me.'

46 "And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous will go into eternal life."

Matthew 25 by Jack Tice

Like many Bible readers, I had on several occasions pickup up the Bible and began reading at Genesis 1:1. After several days of reading, I finally got to some of my least favorite books in the Bible e.g. Leviticus and Numbers. I didn't find those books terribly relevant to the issues in my life and frankly just gave up reading. Fast forward to 1975, probably the lowest point in my life, finding myself unemployed and recently divorced. Seeking comfort and direction, I again turned to the Bible. However, by that time I was at least a bit smarter and decided to start reading the New Testament with Matthew 1: 1. (Today I would recommend starting at John 1: 1) One day while I was home alone, I began to read The Sheep and the Goats Matt. 25: 31 - 46 and as I completed reading verse 41 I heard an audible voice saying "this will be your life." Still there was nobody else in the house and there was no radio or TV turned on. So, where did those words come from? I have always taken them to be directly from God to clarify His plan for my life. But what do those words actually mean? How do they clarify a specific direction? To be honest, I still don't think I have a precise answer to that question however as I look back at my life over the past 40 plus years, I can now see His leading of my direction and employment decisions. From the corporate world to more recent decisions of the Reformed Church in America to the Bowery Mission to Eva's Village and finally PRC. I have been truly blessed in spending much of my life's work attempting to support those organizations and individuals sharing The Good News and making disciples.

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.

***William Barclay** (born 5 December 1907 in Wick, Scotland; died 24 January 1978 in Glasgow, Scotland) was a Scottish author, radio and television presenter, Church of Scotland minister, and Professor of Divinity and Biblical Criticism at the University of Glasgow. He wrote a popular set of Bible commentaries on the New Testament that sold 1.5 million copies
From Wikipedia

Pompton People

PRC lost long time member, Gregory Cockefair, suddenly on Christmas night. Bobbi and Russell may be reached at 26 Albert St., Pompton Lakes, 07442 if you wish to send a card.

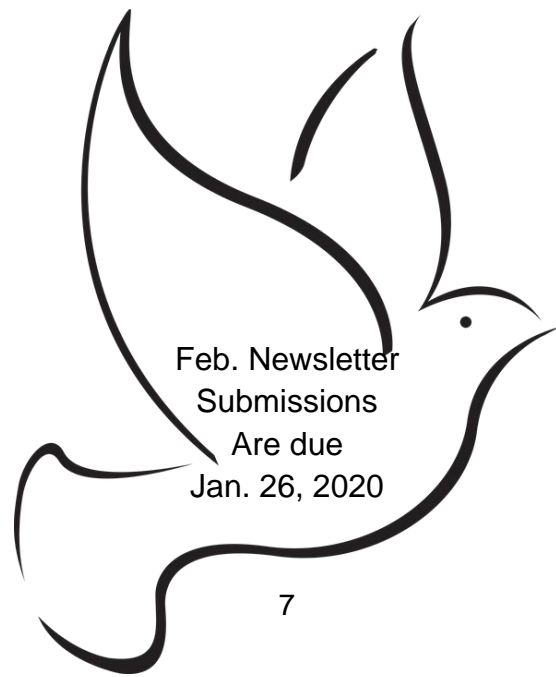
It was nice to see Robert Barrett at a recent service. PRC supports Robert in his ministry to Haiti and related areas. Robert is a child of PRC.



Intergenerational Christmas Pageant, 12/22/19
Photo by Gerry Mamalis



Christmas Eve Service, 12/24/19



Feb. Newsletter
Submissions
Are due
Jan. 26, 2020



If You Look for Me at Christmas...

Author Unknown

If you look for me at Christmas,
you won't need a special star;
I'm no longer just in Bethlehem,
I'm right there where you are.

You may not be aware of Me
amid the celebrations.

You'll have to look beyond the stores
and all the decorations.

But if you take a moment
from your list of things to do,
and listen to your heart, you'll find
I'm waiting there for you.

You're the one I want to be with,
you're the reason that I came,
and you'll find Me in the stillness,
as I'm whispering your name.