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# The LIGHT

NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH OF CLIFTON AND PASSAIC  
“A Church UNITED in faith, hope, & love!”

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## Learning to Dance

My youngest daughter, Rebekah, got married last month. It was a joyful celebration full of ceremony, family, friends, good food and dancing.



In preparation for the event, my wife and I took ballroom dancing lessons. For the past 16 weeks, we have been learning to waltz, rumba, swing, cha-cha, fox trot and tango. Truth be told, we are still not very good, but we're having a good time and improving slowly. The dance floor at the wedding was too crowded to "show off" our moves, so mostly we did the dance floor shuffle. That's the dance where you hold each other close and shuffle back and forth while trying not to step on each other's toes. It's nice, but it won't win you any points on "Dancing with the Stars."

Most of my life I have been too embarrassed to dance. I've always been afraid that I would look like a fool on the dance floor and so I kept to the sidelines throughout high school, college and even on into my adult years.

And yet, isn't life about taking risks in relationships? Only when we get up on the dance floor will we have the chance to discover a celebrative relationship with someone else. My dance lessons have not been so much about becoming an expert dancer as they have been about getting me over my fears. I probably still looked foolish on the dance floor, but I didn't care. I was having a great time. I danced with my daughter, I danced with my wife, I danced with my granddaughters, and I even encouraged the teenage daughters of my friends from Cleveland to get up and dance. It's not about looking like an expert; it's about celebrating what is good in your life.

The same is true of our relationship with God. Ken Medema, a Christian singer/songwriter who has been blind since birth, describes this experience in his song "She Asked Me to Dance."

*She asked me to dance and I'd never tried dancing before.  
I had visions of everyone laughing us right off the floor.  
Though I protested, it just wouldn't be any good,  
She gently insisted and finally I told her I would.*

*Unforgettable! She was a fresh breath of spring on a cold winter's day.  
Unforgettable! She taught this singer to sing in a whole new way.*

*He asked me to dance and I'd never tried dancing before.  
I had visions of saints and angels laughing us right off the floor.  
Though I protested, it just wouldn't be any good,  
He gently insisted and finally I told Him I would.*

*Unforgettable! He was the coming of spring on a cold winter's day.  
Unforgettable! He taught this singer to sing in a whole new way.*

(to hear this song go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qWal5aDedOI>)

Faith, like dancing, is about taking a risk. It means trusting your partner to open up a whole new world. Get up and get out on the dance floor!

In Christ's Love, Pastor Mike