

# RAM

## Reformed At Millstone

*The historic church with the ageless mission:  
Joyfully Embracing Christ and Community*

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### *From the* **PASTOR**—

September 20, 2008

Dear Members and Friends,

Time marches on. Seasons change. People move away. We grow older.

It has been enlightening to watch as the construction goes on in front of the church. For those who live away – there is a major project going on at the corner Millstone River Road and Amwell Road – right in front of the church and parsonage. New culverts and underground pipes are being installed. The road has been torn up and heavy machinery has been rumbling six days a week for a month. The purpose of the project is to help with overflow from storms when the intermittent stream between the church and parsonage floods.

Every day I look at the heaps of soil that has been dug up, hoping to come across some artifact from colonial times. Nothing so far.

What I do see is the old pipe, and gas and water lines – now discolored and crumbling. Once, long ago, those lines were new and installed. Now they are debris.

Things change and time marches on.

Babies are born. People get married and start families. New people join the church.

One of our significant beliefs in the reformed churches is that God is sovereign over history. It might not always be apparent. But we can count on God.

Some people look at change and shrug and say it is too bad. Others look with hope. We are people of hope.

God changed things forever when God sent his Son Jesus to save the world. What a change that was! We are now living in the “gospel age.” The gospel is good news.

No matter what happens around us, God has promised good to his people. In Jesus Christ, the best is yet to come.

God reigns. In fact, the only things that last are the things of faith. Road culverts become obsolete. Stock markets soar and crash. But Jesus Christ is the same. God is moving history to its final fulfillment in God’s perfect kingdom.

Every week we pray, “. . .thy kingdom come.” The word from God is “Behold, I make all things new.” The future is sure and it is brighter than anything we can imagine.

Let us rededicate ourselves to Christ’s church and God’s service.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Fred

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NEWS from our HRC COMMITTEES

**BUILDING AND GROUNDS NEWS - FALL CLEANUPS SCHEDULED for NOVEMBER**



Looking ahead, the Fall cleanup date(s) are scheduled for **Saturday, November 8**, the focus of which will be the church grounds—all outside work, and the second on the following **Saturday, November 15** which will focus on the interior of the buildings. Each workday will begin at 9 and end by 1 PM. On 11/8 Please bring rakes, tarps, pickup trucks, and leaf blowers; on 11/15 please bring spray cleaners, polish, glass cleaner, wax, buckets & mops, floor cleaners and rags. Morning refreshments will be provided. Come and help make our church sanctuary and buildings all they can be!

Tony Cole

**FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE**



**DINNER & A MOVIE** - The Fellowship Committee presents “The Bucket List” for our October DINNER AND A MOVIE in Memorial Hall. All adults are welcome—couples and singles. Guests are also encouraged. Please sign up in the vestibule if you have an interest in attending. The date will be determined later, but we want to get an idea of how many might attend. Contact Margo Myer at [mrgmyr@earthlink.net](mailto:mrgmyr@earthlink.net) for more information.

Margo Myer

**FALL SOFTBALL** - Attention All Casual Ball Players: We are looking to revitalize our HRC softball team this Fall!! For those of you who played in the past, find your old yellow HRC ball shirt and wash it. If you don't have one, wear any shirt you'd like and come out and play. Please sign up in the vestibule or e-mail Margo Myer at [mrgmyr@earthlink.net](mailto:mrgmyr@earthlink.net) or talk to Mark Panek or Dan Devoti. After we assess how many players we have, we'll choose a few dates in October or early November and just have fun. All ages are welcome—bring your bats, gloves, balls and any other equipment we can share. Let's go out and *Playyyyyyyyyy Ballllllllllll!*



Margo Myer

**CHRISTIAN SERVICE UPDATES**



First of all, thank you to everyone that helped when we hosted Interfaith Hospitality Network the week of September 21 at HRC. And as a Habitat for Humanity update, the four houses in Franklin Township that we supported on two work days have been completed and dedicated this summer. We will be arranging another workday with Raritan Valley Habitat in the near future. Please look for announcements in the coming weeks or contact Alan Meyer or Katherine Kinrade.

Al Meyer

**ARCHIVES COMMITTEE INFORMATION**

The Archives Committee has changed it's meeting date to the **2nd and 4th Wednesdays** of each month. We meet in the basement of the Church at 7pm and end at 9pm. If you are interested in serving on this committee please call Lorrie Larew at 908-359-2793 or e-mail her at [ljlarew@aol.com](mailto:ljlarew@aol.com). We are looking forward to greeting some new members! Feel free to 'pop' in for an evening to check us out - you will find us a fun group who have the pleasure of preserving and protecting some of the treasures of our church and it's history!

Lorrie Larew

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## MORE HRC ACTIVITIES, EVENTS & UPDATES

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### HRC BIBLE STUDIES - ALL IN SESSION

Women's Bible Study

The Women's BIBLE Study - The current study on Acts continues the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of each month (**October 8 and 22**). Questions? Contact Jayne at 908-359-5717.



The Daytime TOUR of the BIBLE continues each **Wednesday in October at Noon** and in Memorial Hall.

The Tuesday Evening TOUR of the BIBLE continues the first and last Tuesdays, meeting 7-8 PM, **October 7 and October 28**.

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### HRC WOMEN'S GROUP NEWS ([www.God](http://www.God))

Our fall season opened on 9/18 with a fellowship covered dish which was enjoyed by all. The group learned about a Prayer Shawl Ministry.

The next meeting of WWW.God is scheduled for the third **Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, at 7 PM** in Memorial Hall. Ladies interested should bring their knitting needles, crochet hooks, yarn or quilting materials for a wonderful time working on these shawls. *Not a crochet or knitting enthusiast?* Please come anyway--learn just how you can help with the project! Fellowship with other women in the church - come, chat, share some refreshments, words of encouragement and a hear a mini book review.



Looking ahead, the group plans to repeat its popular November project--making holiday boxwood trees. Look for those details in a later issue.

Ginger Butler

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The **NOVEMBER, 2008 RAM** submission deadline is **Wednesday, October 15**.

Kindly send information, articles, etc. for **November** events to Sue Cole via email if possible to [tandscole@optonline.net](mailto:tandscole@optonline.net), via regular mail, or they may be left in her HRC mailbox which is labeled, "Financial Secretary."

**DEADLINE**

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### A WORD ABOUT PARKING



The construction folks have taken care of us. They have built a bridge of sorts over the gulch between the parsonage and the church.

They filled in part with gravel and put down a large steel plate. They marked the edges of the walkway with orange marker spray.

If you want to park in the parsonage lot, that's fine. Just don't wear your best shoes - if it rains, the gravel might be a little dirty in places.

The project will be completed soon - hopefully by the time people read the RAM!

Pastor Fred

## COULD STEPHEN MINISTRY BE RIGHT FOR YOU?

*"My Stephen Minister listened to me as no one else could at that point in my life. He was always there—listening, sharing Scriptures, praying with me. That was when I realized that God was still working in my life, Jesus was still saying 'yes' to me, and I was going to be okay."*



These are the actual words of a man who received care from a Stephen Minister when he was going through a divorce and were excerpted from material supplied by Stephen Ministry. He resisted asking for help at first, but a "voice deep inside" challenged him to ask others for help. Stephen Ministers offer caring Christian friendship and concerned listening to people when they most need it in a strictly confidential atmosphere.

Do you feel a loss of God's presence?  
Do you question how God is working in your life?  
Are you experiencing a life situation that leads you to question whether or not you'll be okay?

Could you benefit from the care of a Stephen Minister? Also, encourage those that you know who might answer "yes" to any of these questions to accept Stephen Ministry care. Contact Pastor Fred or Jean Thomas, our Referrals Coordinators.

Nancy Dawson, for the Stephen Ministry Leadership Team

## CROP WALK PLANNED FOR OCTOBER 19



HRC will be participating in the South Somerset County Crop Walk hosted by St. Charles Borromeo in Skillman on **October 19, 2008. Registration begins at 1:30 PM with the walk to start at 2 PM.** The Crop Walk has been organized to help stop hunger and poverty here in our community and around the world through self-help initiatives. One quarter of the funds raised this year will be split equally between the Food Bank of Somerset County and SHIP. Last year 232 walkers raised more than \$22,000 in the South Somerset County CROP Walk.

Please support our effort again this year by walking or sponsoring a walker. Contributions may be made by cash or check (payable to CWS/CROP). We will also be collecting jars of peanut butter for the food bank. Contact Pam Williams for registration forms or more information ([mpcawill@comcast.net](mailto:mpcawill@comcast.net) or 908-874-0143).

Pam Williams

## CHURCH-TIME CARE

The Fall Church-Time Care rotation is being formulated. As usual, each Sunday one adult and one teen are necessary to supervise the children in our Church-Time Care. A second teen can be recruited on particularly busy weekends, but any unneeded teens should be sent back to service by the adult in charge. The adult in charge will use his or her discretion.

Confirmands will be assigned a few Sunday services during the 2008/2009 year which will fulfill a portion of their church service requirements for confirmation. The parents of the confirmands will be asked to do one fall duty with their child.

No program can be successful without volunteers. If any adult or teen would be interested in being added to the rotation or the sub list, please contact Margo Myer at [mrgmyr@earthlink.net](mailto:mrgmyr@earthlink.net) or 908-874-6557 to be added to the next rotation.

Since I will be teaching Sunday School this year plus continuing my duties on other committees, it's essential that a trainee-assistant work with me this season in anticipation of taking over Church-Time Care next year. Please contact me by e-mail or phone if you feel Church-Time Care might be a good fit for the gifts you want to offer to our church family.

Margo Myer

## TOP SHELF READS FROM OUR LIBRARY - THE SHACK

This best selling fiction by William P. Young is an adventure of the spirit. Through personal experience with tragedy, the author journeys through “the valley of the shadow of death.” He discovers the Good Shepherd in a mystical week-end at the shack, the place where love and understanding meet his pain and doubt.



Readers compare this work to John Bunyan’s Pilgrim’s Progress. I quote Mike Morrell, [zoecarnate.com](http://zoecarnate.com) who wrote:

“Finally! A guy-meets-god novel that has literary integrity and spiritual daring. The Shack cuts through the clichés of both religion and bad writing to reveal something compelling and beautiful about life’s integral dance with the divine. This story reads like a prayer—like the best kinds of prayer, filled with sweat and wonder and transparency and surprise. When I read it, I felt like I was fellowshiping with God. If you read one work of fiction this year, let this be it.”

Published by Windblown Media, this 248-page paperback will leave you thinking and feeling you have found something that was missing.

Jean Thomas

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## A FEW WORDS FROM OUR PASTOR EMERITUS

At a men’s retreat in January at the Jersey Shore with my older son’s church, I heard this fascinating account in a small reflection group.

Vernon was sharing his faith story by telling that he grew up in a Baptist church in the South. When his teenage friends were joining the church by way of baptism, he did not participate because he didn’t feel born again. Church was not a part of Vernon’s life in the years that followed as he went off to college, set off on his career, married and started a family.

Throughout those years Vernon never neglected to phone his mother every Sunday night. Invariably, his mother would ask the same question somewhere in their conversation, “Vernon, did you go to church today?” Surprisingly, he did not resent that inquiry because it was offered with care and compassion, but he always had to answer in the negative and his mother would respond by saying, “You will son, someday you will.”

As the years went by, Vernon felt a void in his spiritual life which he and his family decided to fill by visiting the churches in their town. The first church they visited welcomed them gladly and they quickly found a spiritual home there. In time, Vernon was baptized at that Presbyterian Church and soon after was nominated as an elder. He told us that one of the greatest days in his life was the day of his ordination as an elder, which was especially sweet because his mother had made the trip North to see it.

That story touched me because often we don’t know how to express our hope and prayer that adult family members and friends who have drifted away from the church will find their way back to faith and worship. Vernon’s mother found a special way to keep that hope alive for her son without coming across as a nagging parent. “You will son, someday you will.” That prayerful approach may not work for everyone but it is a reminder that expressions of faith and care offered in loving relationships can produce results in God’s good time.

Vernon’s story reminds me of St. Paul’s words to a young disciple in 2 Timothy 1: 5, 7. *“I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure lives in you... For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but the spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.”*

Cheerio, Rev. Allen G. Buurma

## VOLUNTEER CORNER - BEHIND THE “SEENS”—CONSISTORY



The Consistory of our church is often visible to us during our worship services. However, there is much more behind the scenes work that the Elders and Deacons do that we may not realize. We see the Deacons collecting the offering, but we may not know that they take turns each week counting it, sorting it into checks and cash and marking the envelopes so that the financial secretary can record it for your personal giving record. In addition, there are many times that special offerings are given and must be recorded as such. It is a bit time-consuming, especially if you get to count on one of the holidays! After all is counted and recorded, a trip to the bank completes the task. The Deacons also meet to make decisions on how the Deacons’ fund contributions are spent.

The Elders are visible during the administering of sacraments, such as Holy Communion and Baptism. But their jobs don’t end there and there are many other ways that they participate. As just one example, did you know that they are responsible for the examination of the Confirmands each year?

All of the Consistory members, which includes Pastor Mueller, meet at 7:30pm each second Tuesday of the month for two or three hours to discuss matters of the church and to make decisions. The church treasurer gives a report and the meeting information is documented by a recording secretary. Each Elder and Deacon chair or co-chair at least one committee and may very well participate on others. That means that in between the Consistory meetings, they meet with their committees and report back on their recent activities and plans at the Consistory meetings.

There are committees for Christian Service, Music and Worship, Outreach and Hospitality, Fellowship, Building and Grounds, Finance and Stewardship, Youth Ministry, Education and Missions and Benevolences which encompass most, but not all, of our church functions.

The willingness to serve and dedication of each of our Elders and Deacons is awesome to behold and Hillsborough Reformed Church is blessed to have these people serving God!

A special thanks to our Elders: Jeanne Bowlby, Christopher Claus, Tony Cole, Maryanne Devoti, Susan Hasner and Jim Nelson.

A special thanks to our Deacons: Colleen Eberhardt, Catherine Kinrade, Bill Larew, Al Meyer, Rae Quast and Mike Williams.

Jayne Czaplicki

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## REMINDERS

EARLY SERVICES BEGIN - October 5 begins our early services. Come the first Sunday of each month at 8:15 AM for a shorter version of our worship services. Stop in early now and then!



WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY is celebrated **October 5**. The National Council of Churches (USA) states that: World Communion Sunday (originally called World Wide Communion Sunday) originated in the Presbyterian Church (USA). In 1936, for the first time, the first Sunday in October was celebrated in Presbyterian churches in the United States and overseas. From the beginning, it was planned so that other denominations could make use of it and, after a few years, the idea spread beyond the Presbyterian Church.

The Department of Evangelism of the Federal Council of Churches (a predecessor body of the National Council of Churches) was first associated with World Wide Communion Sunday in 1940 when the department’s executive secretary, Jesse Bader, led in its extension to a number of churches throughout the world.

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# REFLECTIONS AND RECOLLECTIONS

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## **12 REASONS WHY A LOCAL PASTOR STOPPED ATTENDING SPORTS EVENTS**

1. Every time I went, they asked me for money.
2. The people with whom I had to sit didn't seem friendly.
3. The seats were very hard.
4. The coach never came to call on me.
5. The referee made a decision with which I could not agree.
6. I was sitting with some hypocrites—they came only to see what others were wearing.
7. Some games went into overtime and I was late getting home.
8. The band played some songs I had never heard before.
9. The games are scheduled when I want to do other things.
10. My parents took me to too many games when I was growing up.
11. Since I read a book on sports, I feel that I know more than the coaches, anyhow.
12. I don't want to take my children because I want them to choose for themselves what sport they like best.



Samra, Cal & Rose [Holy Humor, Inspirational Wit & Cartoons](#)

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### **CONCERNING APPETITES . . .**

When our souls thirst for the Lord as our parched tongues thirst for water, when our appetite for righteousness equals our appetite for food, then we will make it a habit of rising early in the morning to make our first appointment of the day an appointment with God.

*"As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God." Psalm 42:1-2*

Kroll, Woodrow [Have a Good and GODLY Day](#)

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**The best help in all action is—to pray, that is true genius;  
then one never goes wrong.**

—Soren Kierkegaard

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### **FROM OUR MAILBOX . . .**



Thank you to the entire church family for your many thoughts, prayers and cards during my mother's recent hospital stay and passing. Your love and support were a great comfort to us in a very difficult time. We appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Pam Meyer & Family

# HYMNS 4 HIM

## FOR ALL THE SAINTS, by William Walsham How (1823-1897)

For all the saints, who from their labors rest,  
Who Thee by faith before the world confessed,  
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest. / Alleluia, Alleluia!

Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;  
Thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;  
Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light. / Alleluia, Alleluia!

O may Thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,  
Fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,  
And win with them the victor's crown of gold. / Alleluia, Alleluia!

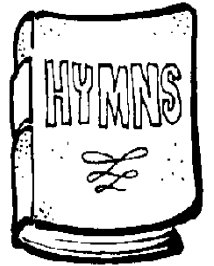
O blest communion, fellowship divine!  
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;  
Yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine. / Alleluia, Alleluia!

And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,  
Steals on the ear the distant triumph song,  
And hearts are brave again, and arms are strong. / Alleluia, Alleluia!

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,  
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,  
Singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. / Alleluia, Alleluia!

In 1864 Bishop William How wrote this hymn for All Saints Day. He cited Hebrews 12:1 in his original title, but he drew on all of Hebrews 11 for inspiration. That's the famous "faith chapter," which praises the faithful deeds of a score of Old Testament heroes.

The author might be considered a hero of the faith himself. He was a man of the people, regularly reaching out to minister to the poor and needy in his area. Once he listed the characteristics that a minister should have; among them was being "wholly without thought of self." Those who knew him said that Bishop How was like that, selflessly caring for others.



*“So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God’s household, having been built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together is growing into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.”*  
Ephesians 2:19-22 NASB

Brown, R K and Norton M R One Year Book of Hymns. Tyndale: 1995

### A ‘Secret’ Message from the Editor Re: Clergy Appreciation Month . . .

A nifty new way to celebrate Pastors is “Clergy Appreciation Month” (October), and specifically “Clergy Appreciation Day”, October 12. For information and ideas, visit a few web sites, like [www.christianitytoday.com](http://www.christianitytoday.com) or [www.parsonage.org](http://www.parsonage.org) (a Focus on the Family site focusing on pastors). Let’s each find a small way to celebrate our Pastor and his family!

Sue Cole

September, 2008

Dear Church family and friends,

Re: Administrative Transition

Maryann Tepper has served faithfully and with extraordinary skill and dedication as our church secretary since 1988. She is beloved by all and her work has been an incredible asset to our church. Maryann's progressive health problems have led her to the decision to retire from her position in our church office. Words cannot describe the value she has been to our church as well as to all of us individually.

The consistory has accepted the recommendation of a committee made up of the pastor, former Vice-President Nancy Dawson and present vice-president Jim Nelson, along with consultation with Maryann, to offer the position to Joanie Panek. Joanie has accepted.

Joanie has important qualifications for this important job. She has vast administrative experience, both in office management as well as in filling almost every office job there is. She is a gifted organizer, experienced church leader and knowledgeable of the congregation. Her personality fits the task and demands of this sensitive job. Most important of all, Joanie has a deep and growing faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Maryann will be training Joanie to replace her. Please pray for Maryann's health and her sadness at having to retire. Please thank God too, for her years of inspired service to the Lord and to our church. Please keep Joanie and her family in prayer as they make this transition.

In Christ,

*Pastor Fred*

Fred Mueller

# WORDS FOR THE WISE

In our culture, angels are en vogue. Bookstores and television shows popularize the stories of people who have encountered angels, and it is difficult to discern truth from falsehood. As Christians, we have the Bible to direct and guide our understanding of who angels are and their purpose under God. The English word “angel” comes directly from the Greek word *angelos* which means “messenger.” In Luke 9:52, Jesus sent “messengers” ahead of him. Usually the same word is translated to “angel” and is understood to mean a spiritual messenger from the Lord.

Angels were created by God and for God (Ps. 148:2, 5-6; Col. 1:16), and the Bible even suggests that they witnessed the creation of the world (Job 38:7). As wholly spiritual creatures, they are free from many human limitations, such as death (Luke 20:36). They appear throughout the Bible in human form and were perceived to be men, never women or children. But, Matthew writes that they do not marry and so they could be regarded as sexless. Their power and awesome appearance (Matt. 28:2-4) sometimes tempted people to fear or worship them, but the New Testament does not condone such worship (Col. 2:18; Rev. 22:8-9). Angels are stronger and wiser than human beings, but their power and knowledge are limited by God (Ps. 103:20; Matt. 24:36; 1 Pet. 1:1-12), plus they share the status of “created being” with humankind.



Angels’ ability to communicate in human language and to affect human life in other ways is essential to their role in the Bible. They appeared to many of God’s people to announce good news (Judg. 13:3), warn of danger (Gen. 19:15), guard from evil (Dan. 3:28; 6:22), instruct (Acts 7:38), and guide and protect (Exod. 14:19). When Christ came to earth as the Savior, angels heralded His birth (Luke 2:8-15), guided and warned His parents (Matt 2:13), strengthened Him when he was tempted (Matt. 4:11), fortified Him in His last distress (Luke 22:4-44 in some manuscripts), and observed his resurrection (Matt. 28:1-6). Angels are also mentioned in the following passage Jesus spoke about the guardian angels of little children (Matt. 18:10); Philip was guided by an angel (Acts 8:26); the apostles were rescued from prison by an angel (Acts 5:19; 12:7-11); and Paul was encouraged by an angel in a frightening situation (Acts 27:2-25). Angels throughout the Bible offered continual support, guidance, wisdom, and other messages of love and justice from the one Almighty God.

Carpenter, E E and Comfort, Philip W. Holman Treasury of Key Bible Words 2000

**OCTOBER Newsletter from the  
Hillsborough Reformed Church  
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### **Psalm 24**

The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters.

Who may ascend the hill of the Lord? Who may stand in his holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to an idol or swear by what is false. He will receive blessing from the Lord and vindication from God his Savior. Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek your face, O God of Jacob.

Lift up your heads, O you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the king of glory may come in.

Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.

Lift up your heads, O you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

Who is he, this King of glory? The Lord Almighty—he is the King of glory.