

# RAM

Reformed At Millstone

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

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*From the* **PASTOR**—

May 20, 2008

Dear Members and Friends,

One of my favorite things to say to people is “be yourself.” I always think twice when I say that however. As reformed Christians, we believe we are all sinners in need of grace. “No one is righteous,” says the Bible, and “All have sinned and fallen short of the mark.” So when I say, “be yourself,” am I violating a basic tenet of our faith?

No.

The truth of the Bible is that God loves us for who we are. The scriptures say that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” God loves us and wants us back. God wants to reclaim us from sin and death. God values us. We are God’s treasures, even though we are sinful treasures!

God sent God’s Son to die for us. How much more valuable can we be than that! You are worth saving!

Be yourself! Whom else could you be?

God has a dream for you. God has something in mind for you to be and become. We see what we can be by looking at Jesus. God is making us to resemble Jesus. It will take some time! It will take some time--but God is doing it. Already your sin is gone.

What? Yes, Jesus has taken your sin from you. You have a fresh start every day. You have been born again by the Spirit of God.

Be yourself! Be the self God dreams you to be. You are beloved of God. God is your father in heaven. How’s that for patrimony?

Accept yourself. Accept God’s mercy. Accept God’s dream for you. Trust your heavenly Father and live in faith.

This is what the Bible says about you: “See what love the Father has given us; that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are...Beloved we are God’s children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we shall see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.”

1 John 3:1a,2,3

Yours in Christ,

**Pastor Fred**



NEWS from our HRC COMMITTEES

WORSHIP & MUSIC - WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE HYMN?



Please join us on **Sunday, June 29<sup>th</sup> during our 9:30 worship** for our annual Hymn Sing. We would like to know your favorite hymns. Our program will be created based on this survey, so please list 5 hymns you love. The hymns **do not** have to be in our current hymnbook. Can't recall the name? Give us a few words from what you remember!

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. \_\_\_\_\_

Please submit it into the box located in the vesture (or email [jbowlby@yahoo.com](mailto:jbowlby@yahoo.com)) by 6/8.

Thank you very much - The Music & Worship Committee

CHRISTIAN SERVICE - HABITAT for HUMANITY UPDATE



Thank you to our 12 volunteers who showed up to work May 3 on the four houses that Raritan Valley Habitat for Humanity is currently building in the Somerset section of Franklin Township. The four houses are all moving along and have been enclosed with interior construction progressing at various stages. We participated in sheetrock installation, painting and cleanup in several of the houses. Raritan Valley Habitat has now constructed 27 economical homes that house 109 people who might otherwise not have been able to afford their own home. If you are interested in participating in our next workday please let Alan Meyer, Catherine Kinrade or Fred Butler know and keep your eyes open for announcements.

Al Meyer

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE - DEADLINE REMINDER - 6/1



If you are an active church member and are graduating from high school this summer or if you are currently in college, you may be eligible for a church scholarship. The awards are available through a maximum of four years of college. If you would like to apply, please contact Julie Kinrade, [kinrade@aol.com](mailto:kinrade@aol.com) with information regarding the high school you are attending and your plans for next year. College students should supply details of their college and major. All applications must be submitted by JUNE 1. The awards will be presented during the 9:30 AM worship service on JUNE 15. Please try to collect your award in person.

Julie Kinrade for the Scholarship Committee



SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE BEGINS JUNE 15 - Father's Day

Please note that our summer worship schedule will begin at **9:30 AM on Sunday, June 15, Father's Day**. Worship time will remain 9:30 (with no 8:15 early services) until the Fall.

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## MORE HRC ACTIVITIES, EVENTS & UPDATES

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### HRC BIBLE STUDIES - BREAK FOR THE SUMMER

Women's Bible Study

**The Women's Bible Study** - Our Bible Study season will meet at 7 PM on the second and fourth Wednesdays of June, **6/11 and 6/25**. The group then takes a break until September.

Jayne Czaplicki—908-359-5717 or e-mail at [funafloat@aol.com](mailto:funafloat@aol.com)



The Daytime TOUR of the BIBLE and the Tuesday Evening TOUR of the BIBLE have taken a break for the summer and will resume in September.

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### CHURCH-TIME CARE- NEW SUMMER SIGN-UP SHEET

As Jesus said in Matthew 19:14: "Let the little children come to Me and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven."



As the school year comes to a close, our Church-Time Care Rotation also takes a vacation. However, we still need people to "man" the duty during the summer worship services. Please check in the vestibule for a SUMMER CHURCH-TIME CARE SIGN-UP SHEET. One adult and one teen are needed to watch over our little ones, so moms and dads can fully join the hour of quiet contemplation and worship. Please look at your schedule and offer an hour to this church mission. Church Time Care is not only a true one-hour ministry to parents—it's a great family project! Please contact Margo Myer at [mrgmyr@earthlink.com](mailto:mrgmyr@earthlink.com) or phone me at 908-874-6557 for information.

As my own children get older and I follow their involvement into Youth Groups, now is a perfect time for another volunteer to work with me in the coming year to learn more about the program for the future. Please request more information!

Margo Myer

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## DEADLINE

The next RAM will be the **COMBINED JULY-AUGUST, 2008** issue. This RAM submission deadline is **Sunday, June 15**. Kindly send information, articles, etc. for *ALL of July AND August, 2008* events to Sue Cole via email: [tandscole@optonline.net](mailto:tandscole@optonline.net), via regular mail, or they may be left in her HRC mailbox which is labeled, "Financial Secretary."

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### FROM THE MAILBOX . . .

Thanks to all of you who gave so generously to the Multiple Sclerosis Walk. Donations may be accepted prior to May 27. Thank you for helping meet our goals.



Jayne P. O'Connor



### CAMP WARWICK - DON'T BE LATE (Signing UP) FOR CAMP!

Brochures for RCA Camp Warwick summer sessions are still available in the vestibule. Camp Warwick has programs for those in Grades 2 through 12, along with Family Camp. Just a reminder that our church offers \$75 "camperships" to all who attend. Visit Warwick online at <http://www.campwarwick.com>.

## STEPHEN MINISTRY GROWS

We celebrate over 2 years of participation in Stephen Ministry. It is a journey that has strengthened us all in wearing the "Armor of God." While one on one care..... listening, loving, praying, and sharing the hurts and suffering of another leads us to depend wholly on Christ, Stephen Ministers and Leaders also experience their own trials in life with a maturing faith.



### Ephesians 6:10-18

*Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.*

Yes, it's all one paragraph! While faith, truth, righteousness, salvation, and readiness defend us, the sword of the Holy Spirit is our offense. In Stephen Ministry we exercise the ways of Christ and support each other, growing in the Word of God.

The whole congregation is called to participate in Stephen Ministry. It is really not separate from the loving care of Christians toward one another. This resource of one on one care is helpful to those who are experiencing a life event that is shaking them up. A Stephen Minister will partner with a care receiver to listen, reflect, and look through the lens of The Word. When you or someone you know is hurting and feeling vulnerable, please consider using a Stephen Minister who is skilled, compassionate, full of faith, and trustworthy. This is a gift that keeps on giving.

Pew cards for Stephen Ministry are easy to use for referral or volunteering. Information about Stephen Ministry is provided in pamphlets and paperback books in the Stephen Ministry Corner. You can speak to a Leader....Pastor Mueller, Nancy Dawson, Fred Butler, Maryann Tepper, or Jean Thomas, or a Stephen Minister.....Jeannie Bowlby, Ginger Butler, Sue Cole, Barry Graziano, Bill Nardone, Rae Quast, Debbie Varga, Rose Villiere or Roberta Wynings if you have questions.

Presently we are looking for 2 persons to attend training to be a Stephen Leader. Several of the Stephen Ministers are completing their 2 year commitment and we need others to take their place. This is not an elite club, but a gathering of disciples to serve in situations that challenge and humble God's people. We need all of God's armor. Can you help?

Jean Thomas for the Stephen Leader Team



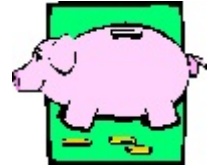
## THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE - THE COLLEGE CONNECTION

The last mailing for the 2007 - 2008 year has been postmarked. Many thanks to Ginger Butler for providing the photography for these personalized messages of encouragement as our students prepared for Final Exams. Thank you to everyone who has helped to make this program a success.

The Schryvers

## FINANCIAL HAPPENINGS

With Summer just around the corner, it's a good time to recall how well we've supported the programs of the church during the winter and spring of 2008. Remember last December at the congregational meeting when we passed the \$255,544 budget for this year? We continue on track towards that goal. Cash and envelope giving for the first four months of this year was \$75,840, almost the same as in 2007. Congregational giving towards the Assessments that we pay to the General, Regional Synods and Classis of Delaware Raritan was \$5,529, which is \$1,000 more than last year. We are assessed \$15,832 by the Synods and Classis for 2008. We still have a long way to go with \$37,300 of mission and benevolence monies to be distributed before years end. We have been faithful stewards and while vacation time is approaching, the church takes no vacation. Let us continue to be faithful stewards throughout the next eight months of the year.



Bob Koch, Treasurer

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## CONFIRMATION CONGRATULATIONS!

Our young people have worked long and hard to be confirmed. We confirm young people when they enter the ninth grade. They attend classes from September through May and weekly attendance at worship is also mandatory. Our young people explore many dimensions of our faith. They study church history, geography of the Holy Land, our creeds, how we worship, the Bible, the sacraments, church government, discipleship, and much more. Pastor Mueller leads the class.

We also require ten hours of Christian service. Our young people did many things, from raking leaves in the church yard, assisting with VBS, helping out in the church nursery, improving our church and parsonage grounds and community service. We have 11 confirmands this year, meaning they put in well over 100 hours of Christian service! They are also required to help lead worship. The confirmation class creates a special service for Maundy Thursday. Each confirmand has a sponsor who helps guide the confirmand toward full church membership. A special word of thanks goes to Barbara Mueller who prepared each of our confirmands to read scripture in worship. We must also thank all of the parents of our confirmands – every family stood behind the confirmation process, making sacrifices to have their young persons at class, worship and special meetings and activities. Whenever anything was needed, all families responded selflessly. The following is a list of 2008 confirmands and their sponsors:

### CONFIRMANDS

Randy Gacek  
Heather Good  
Jeremy Levine  
Katie Maley  
Austin Maxwell  
Lauren Miska  
Dylan Rose  
Tori Schryver  
Sarah Skrabal  
Justin VondenSteinen  
Sean Woods

### SPONSORS

Gary Myer  
Julie Kinrade  
Maryanne Devoti  
Bruce Heddy  
Crystal Evanko  
Donna Rose  
Patty Maxwell  
Tricia Heddy  
Susan Woods  
Cy Hoover/Pastor Fred  
Rae Quast/Pastor Fred

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### Consuming Thoughts

May you and I be more and more drawn in,  
taken over, and consumed by this love from God.

–Richard Foster

## 2008 VBS - JESUS LOVES YOU AND ME: WHAT ARE MISSIONS?

This year's Vacation Bible School will be held **August 4-8, 2008 from 6:30-8:30 PM** for children pre-school through those entering grade 5. The program will focus on the answers to the following questions: What are missions? Who are missionaries? Where are missionaries? What mission work does our church support? We expect to "meet" the missionaries—find out more about them, discover how HRC works with them, and discuss ways we can all be "missionaries" by helping the local food bank, CROP banks and Church World Service, IHN hosting, supporting our missionaries, or helping with Habitat for Humanity projects. Volunteers are needed in many categories. More information may be obtained by contacting Christy Quast (908-217-7633, or emailing at [cquast@att.net](mailto:cquast@att.net)). Please use the following form to register and to volunteer.



Christy Quast

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### 2008 VBS CHILD REGISTRATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Age/Grade entering Fall, 08 \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

List Known Allergies \_\_\_\_\_

Questions: 908-217-7633 / [cquast@att.net](mailto:cquast@att.net)

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### 2008 VBS TEEN/ADULT VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION

Yes! I want to volunteer! Minimum age: entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade. No maximum! Males and Females welcome!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Area of expertise \_\_\_\_\_  
(craft, story, game, snack, music, snacks)

Contact Phone(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Email(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Questions: 908-217-7633 / [cquast@att.net](mailto:cquast@att.net)

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# REFLECTIONS AND RECOLLECTIONS

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## WAKE UP CALL

One day a man went to visit a church. He got there early, parked his car and got out. Another car pulled up near him. The driver got out and said, "I always park there! You took my place!"

The visitor went inside for Sunday School, found an empty seat and sat down. A Young lady from the church approached him and stated, "That's my seat! You took my place!"

The visitor was somewhat distressed by this rude welcome, but said nothing.

After Sunday School, the visitor went into the sanctuary and sat down. Another member walked up to him and said, "That's where I usually sit! You took my place!"

The visitor was even more troubled by this treatment, but still he said nothing.



Later as the congregation was praying for Christ to dwell among them, the visitor stood up, and his appearance began to change.

Horrible scars became visible on his hands and on his sandaled feet. Someone from the congregation noticed him and called out, "What happened to you?"

The visitor simply replied as his hat became a crown of thorns and a tear fell from his eye, "*I took your place.*"

–Author Unknown, Internet, 2007

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## A FATHER'S PRAYER - HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

"Our Father who art in heaven,  
I am a father on earth.  
You have given me this gift and responsibility.  
Grant me the wisdom to carry it our.  
Let me be there for my children when they need me,  
And get out of their way when they don't."

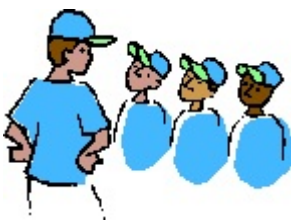


Adolfo Quezada, Holy Humor, Inspirational Wit & Cartoons

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## WHAT MAKES A HAPPY FAMILY?



A happy family is like a baseball team—with Mom pitching, Dad catching, the kids fielding, and everyone taking a turn at bat.

McLellan, Vern, Practical Proverbs & Wacky Wit

**JUNE Newsletter from the  
Hillsborough Reformed Church  
One Amwell Road  
Millstone, NJ 08844**

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