

RAM

Reformed At Millstone

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

From the **PASTOR**—

August 17, 2008

Dear Members and Friends,

It is almost time to bid farewell to the summer of 2008. Soon school will be back in session and our fall church program will be in full swing.

Homecoming Sunday is September 14th with worship returning to the 10:00 AM time.

Following worship we will gather for our annual Homecoming lunch. We hope to try something new this year. We will have a sort of “Ministry Fair” at Homecoming. Leaders of our consistory committees and church organizations will be on hand to look for help and give information about their ministries. The leaders will be at tables and during or after your meal and fellowship, you can browse opportunities to serve our Lord through our church.

Jesus said that if anyone wants to be his disciple, he or she must take up their cross daily and follow him. Our faith is about service! On Sunday mornings, the worship “service” offers service to God. After worship, Christians are sent out into the world to be the living presence of our savior Jesus Christ. Jesus said about himself that he came not to be served, but to serve. Jesus is our model.

Jesus told his disciples that the harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few. Let’s all be laborers in the vineyards of the Lord!

Carol Luidens and Jayne Czaplicki are still promoting our spiritual gifts effort – helping each of us discover our unique and special calling to serve God. Material is available in the vestibule to help you take a spiritual gifts survey and help discern how God is calling you to work in his church. This survey is completely private.

I hope you will spend some time in prayer about your service in the kingdom of God.

Yours in Christ,

Fred

PS. In two days I will celebrate my fifth anniversary as the Pastor of HRC@Millstone. I thank each of you for our ministry together. The Mueller family is truly blessed to be part of a church so rich in gifted people striving to put Jesus Christ first in their lives.

Sunday School for all ages begins **September 21**. Confirmation Class also starts that Sunday.

September 28 is “Bring a Friend to Church Sunday” Whom will you invite to worship with you?



HRC ACTIVITIES, EVENTS & UPDATES

SUNDAY SCHOOL START REMINDER

Sunday school begins **Sunday, September 21, 2008 at 9AM**. Please join us in the church basement for some light refreshments while you complete a current registration form for each child. You can see your child's classroom and meet their teacher as well. We look forward to another exciting year. We will once again be sponsoring Felicia, our Compassion child from the Dominican Republic. Once a month we collect a special offering, along with the regular Sunday school collection, which helps to support Felicia. Please watch your email for reminders, updates and other important information.

We are always looking for additional teachers, substitutes, assistants. If you are interested in teaching or volunteering to assist in any way, or if you have any questions or concerns, please contact Colleen Eberhardt, (908) 392-8633 or ceberhardt1217@aol.com.

Colleen Eberhardt

WOMEN'S GROUP NEWS

One fall project plan for the Women's Group will focus on a Prayer Shawl Ministry. We will kick off the year with a **Pot Luck Supper in Memorial Hall, Wednesday Sept. 17th at 6:30 PM**. Samples and directions for knitting, crocheting or quilting individual prayer shawls for persons in need will be shown. Prayer shawls are made with prayer and compassion for the recipient, as this sample shows:



May God's grace be upon this shawl as it is being made;
to provide warming, comforting, enfolding and embracing love.
May this mantle be a safe haven... a sacred place of security and well-being...
sustaining and embracing in good times as well as difficult ones.
May the one who receives this shawl be cradled in hope, kept in joy,
graced with peace, and wrapped in love. Amen.

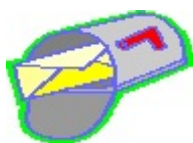
Anyone interested in contributing to this project is welcome to participate. We hope to culminate the completion of the shawls at a dedication during a church service in December. Please consider becoming part of our shawl ministry. If you want to check out what other groups have done go to www.shawlministry.com to get some ideas!

Just in case your specialty does not fall in the knitting, crocheting or quilting categories, please do not stay at home for dinner on September 17th! (*Encouragers are needed too!*) There are many other projects to plan and participate in and the fellowship is super. Join us!

Ginger Butler

FROM THE MAILBAG . . . "A big THANK YOU to everyone who kept me in their prayers during my lengthy hospital stay and recovery at home; I returned to work on 8/11/08 (exactly 4 months from the date I was hospitalized) after a successful skin graft. I appreciated your cards, the visits, the many wonderful and healthy meals that were provided for my family, my in-laws (who took care of me) and myself. God is indeed merciful; with a small spider bite, He saved my life by discovering how bad my diabetes was, and I learned to manage it."

Rae Quast & Family



HRC BIBLE STUDIES BEGIN FOR FALL

The Women's Bible Study - Our current Bible Study continues on the book of Acts using materials from the *Discover the Bible* series. The group normally meets at 7 PM on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, but **will begin again on September 24**. Anyone interested in participating should contact Jayne. All ladies are welcome!

Jayne Czaplicki—908-359-5717 or e-mail at funafloat@aol.com

The Daytime TOUR of the BIBLE meets **at Noon Wednesdays** in Memorial Hall. Please call Pastor Fred and/or the church office for the September start date.



The 7-8 PM Tuesday Evening TOUR of the BIBLE also returns in September. Please call Pastor Fred and/or the church office for the September start date.

PROJECT GRADUATION

It may be the beginning of another school year, but it is not too early to keep PROJECT GRADUATION in your thoughts now and throughout the year! Please use the large white bins across from the Hillsborough post office to recycle your gently used clothing. The goal remains the same: to help with the current graduating class' celebration in a drug and alcohol-free entertainment atmosphere come June. Thank you!



Jayne O'Connor

STEPHEN MINISTRIES UP-DATE

The Lord has encouraged us to help one another through prayer by calling on the Holy Spirit to bring healing to those in need. All of us at different times in our lives have been encouraged and strengthened by someone who has offered prayer and support as we ebb and flow through our particular dilemma. The wonderful aspect of this process is that the Bible is full of examples of healing, and in many ways, it commands us to do so through God's word. When God is doing the healing through others, all of those involved receive a very special blessing which can lead to life changing events.



Our Stephen Ministry program uses this biblical approach and we as a church have been truly blessed by how the Holy Spirit has worked its healing power not only in those in need but also in those whom God works through. Three years ago when we initiated this ministry, we had no way of knowing how it would develop. But, we did know that God was in charge and that He would guide us. Since then, God has provided our congregation with 11 trained ministers who have been active in serving others with the Lord's special care. We will be continuing this care for now and the future and, of course, we will need the entire congregation to pray and support us in our endeavors.

In addition, please be aware of our caring ministry needs. You can be the eyes and ears of Jesus. When you notice a need for care--perhaps a friend, a neighbor, a coworker, or a relative--talk to that person, let him or her know you care, tell him or her about Stephen Ministry, and bring the need to the attention of our Stephen Leaders. Or perhaps, you may want to become actively involved as a minister or a leader--both opportunities are quite rewarding--please let us know. Thanks!

Hope everyone had a restful summer.

In His service, Fred Butler, Nancy Dawson, Jean Thomas and Fred Mueller (your Stephen Leaders)

VOLUNTEERS CURRENTLY NEEDED

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We're looking for Sunday School Teachers. Those of you with *Teaching* and *Wisdom* skills, please feel free to contact Carol Luidens or Colleen Eberhardt.

**VOLUNTEER
CORNER**
* * * * *

If you have *Administration*, *Hospitality*, and *Service* spiritual gifts and are interested in participating on the Fellowship Committee, please contact Carol Luidens or Maryanne Devoti. The committee is open for your participation, and looking for more ideas.

Homecoming Sunday is scheduled for September 14. If you have *Service* and *Hospitality* skills and are willing to help contact people to welcome them back for a new year, please feel free to contact Carol Luidens or Maryanne Devoti.

We will be housing IHN guests the week starting September, 21. So, if you have *Giving* and *Hospitality* gifts and if you are interested in setting up, taking down, acting as welcome guest, providing dinner, or staying overnight, please look for the sign-up sheet at the back of the church, or contact Carol Luidens.

If you are willing to take communion to home-ridden people, please contact Carol Luidens. To contact Carol Luidens send email to cluidens@comcast.net or dial 908-359-7533.

Thanks for your continued help.

Identifying your Gifts

*Jesus said, ". . . whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." Matthew 16:25
When Christ's followers lose themselves in something far bigger than themselves, namely Christ's work, they find themselves.*

To explore what special abilities/spiritual gifts God has given you:

- (a) Pick up a copy of "Abilities/Spiritual Gifts Assessment" from the back of the church.
- (b) Use the online assessment at www.rca.org and choose Discipleship in the top green row and select -Spiritual Gifts from the drop down. Once on the Spiritual Gifts page, select "Finding Your Spiritual Gifts" which takes you to the ELCA website. Note, to print a copy of your score sheet, right click.

DEADLINE

The next RAM will be the **OCTOBER, 2008** issue. This RAM submission deadline is **Monday, September 15**. Kindly send information, articles, etc. for *ALL October* events to Sue Cole via email: tandscole@optonline.net, via regular mail, or they may be left in her HRC mailbox which is labeled, "Financial Secretary."

MILITARY PRAYER POSTER

We need to update our list of military serving overseas. Please let Ginger Butler (908 359 6791 or email millstonebutler@yahoo.com) know if any of the following men and women have returned home or are still active in the Middle East, or elsewhere overseas. Updates are welcome.

Steven Bonanni
Antonio Blazevice
Joseph Curry
Joe Corsetto
John Colton
Stephen Gahrman
Anthony Krockel
Don Kevn

Guillermo (Mito) Morales
Todd Murphy
Todd Olsen
Christine and Jacob Pierce
Joseph Teston
Preston Trexler
Joshua Walter
Christopher Wagner



Ginger Butler

WORDS FOR THE WISE ...

For a time now Carol Luidens and Jayne Czaplicki have drawn our attention to the identification of our personal God “giftedness.” So we’ll look into the deeper meaning and history of SPIRITUAL GIFTS.

There are two Greek expressions for “spiritual gifts” in the Bible. A “spiritual gift,” *pneumatikos* in Greek (pronounced *pnew mah tee KOHSS*), is a thing, event, or individual which serves as an instrument of the Spirit, manifests the Spirit, or embodies the Spirit. The other expression for “spiritual gift,” *charisma*, (pronounced *KAHR ees mah*) is an event, word, or action which is a concrete expression of grace or serves as a means of grace. *Pneumatikon* is the more general Greek word, *charisma* is more specific. Moreover, *charisma* is probably Paul’s own word in preference to the more ambiguous *pneumatikon* (Rom. 1:11; 12:6; 1 Cor. 7:7; 12:4), which seems to have been relied upon by those causing difficulty for Paul in Corinth (1 Cor. 2:13-3:4; 14:37; 15:44-46). Consequently, this word study will focus mostly on *charisma*. Not forgetting those passages where Paul uses this word in broader terms for the direct act of God (Rom. 5:15, 16; 6:23; 11:29, 1 Cor. 1:11), concentration will be on the passages where Paul speaks in more precise terms in particular manifestations of grace mediated through one individual to others.



The Greek term *charisma* is closely akin to the word *charis*, which means “grace” or “favor”; *charisma* denotes “that which is graciously given.” Paul used the term *charisma* synonymously with the Greek term *ton pneumatikon*—literally “the spiritual things”—because the word describes the endowment of spiritual gifts. These gifts were given by the Lord to various individuals in the church so as to enliven the meetings and to edify the believers in the church body. Each and every member has been gifted with at least one kind of *charisma*—whether it be the “gift of teaching,” “prophesying,” “exercising faith,” “healing,” “performing miracles,” “discerning spirits,” “speaking in tongues,” “interpreting tongues,” or other gifts. The lists of *charismata* are found in Romans 12; 1 Corinthians 12; Ephesians 4; 1 Peter 4. A “spiritual gift” is essentially “an act of God’s Spirit,” a concrete manifestation in word or deed of God’s grace through an individual for the benefit of others.

Whoever has the Spirit and is being led by the Spirit (Rom. 8:9, 14) will inevitably manifest the grace of God in some way. They should also be open to the Spirit’s power coming to expression in particular words and deeds within the community of the Spirit. For Paul, the church is the body of Christ. The functions of that body’s members are expressions of the spiritual gifts (Rom. 12:4-6; 1 Cor. 12:14-30). As the body is many different members functioning as one body, so the unity of the church grows out of the diverse functions (gifts) of its members. It follows that a spiritual gift is given primarily with the community in view. It is given “for the common good” (1 Cor. 12:7). Do you know what your spiritual gifts are and how to use them for the common good of the body of believers?

Carpenter, E E, Comfort P W Holman Treasury of Key Bible Words Broadman & Holman: 2000

THE COLLEGE CONNECTION - LOOKING FORWARD TO A NEW SCHOOL YEAR

The Scholarship Committee is pleased to offer THE COLLEGE CONNECTION to student members of our congregation while they continue their studies either away or while commuting from home. Designed to maintain contact with our HRC students, THE COLLEGE CONNECTION will send holiday greetings, gift packs and words of encouragement and messages from the congregation to our students on a bi-monthly schedule.



Tori Schryver will be organizing and implementing THE COLLEGE CONNECTION program. You may contact her at peschryver@comcast.net. Students and parents: please send Tori those college addresses. The first mailing is due to go out on September 30th.

TOP SHELF READS FROM OUR LIBRARY

Book Review - BELOVED



Beloved by Henri Nouwen was given to me as a gift for my birthday and I want to share it with all who might appreciate the nuggets of truth this celebrated author and spiritual mentor shares with us.

This small book is a previously unpublished interview; however, it comes with a CD and is the actual voice of the author as he answers questions and discusses contemporary issues relevant to all of us: loneliness, the tyranny of busyness, and choosing to live in ways that remind us of who we are---the beloved of God.

Take the CD and put it in your car and listen to small bits as you drive to work or the grocery store. You will find it studded with wisdom calling each of us to reflect on deeply transforming and life affirming gems of truth.

The introduction of the book describes the life and work of Henri Nouwen, "internationally renowned priest and author, respected professor and beloved pastor. He wrote over 40 books. He corresponded regularly in English, Dutch, German, French and Spanish with hundreds of friends and reached out to thousands through his Eucharistic celebrations, lectures, and retreats. Nouwen's books have sold over two million copies, published in over 22 languages.

Born in Nijkerk in Holland Jan. 24, 1932, Nouwen felt called to the priesthood at a very young age. He was ordained as a diocesan priest and studied psychology at Catholic University of Nijmegen. In 1964 he moved to the United States to study at the Menninger Clinic. He went on to teach at the University of Notre Dame, and the Divinity Schools of Yale and Harvard. He worked with the Trappist monks in the Abbey of the Genesee, and lived with the poor in Peru. In 1985 he was called to join L'Arche in Trosly, France and later L'Arche Daybreak near Toronto, Canada. These are communities where people with developmental disabilities live with assistants. He died suddenly on Sept. 21, 1996 in Holland and is buried in King City, Ontario. His spirit lives on in the work of the Henri Nouwen Society, Henri Nouwen Stichting, the Henri Nouwen Trust, the Henri J. M. Nouwen Archives and Research Collection and in all who live the spiritual values of communion, community and ministry to which he dedicated his life."

The book can be found in the church library and can be enjoyed by teenagers through adults seeking to live from the place where we each know we are the beloved of God.

Ginger Butler

CROP WALK

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 2:00 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 or 908-874-0143).



Pam Williams

Hymns 4 Him

I SURRENDER ALL

by Judson W. Van De Venter (1855-1939)

All to Jesus I surrender, All to Him I freely give; I will ever love and trust Him, In His presence daily live.

I surrender all, I surrender all. All to Thee my blessed Savior, I surrender all.

All to Jesus I surrender, Humbly at His feet I bow, Worldly pleasures all forsaken, Take me, Jesus, take me now.

All to Jesus I surrender, Make me Savior wholly Thine; Let me feel the Holy Spirit, Truly know that Thou art mine.

All to Jesus I surrender, Lord, I give myself to Thee. Fill me with Thy love and power; Let Thy blessings fall on me.

Someone once said, "Only in the Christian life does surrender bring victory." Judson Wheeler Van De Venter learned that for himself.

Born on a farm in Monroe County, Michigan in 1855, Judson grew up interested in art and music. He was converted to Christ at age 17. After graduating from college in Hillsdale, Michigan, Judson became an art teacher and then supervisor of art for the high school in Sharon, Pennsylvania. In 1885, he toured Europe, visiting art galleries and museums and studying painting. He was also a musician, having studied in numerous singing schools.

All the while, Judson was heavily involved in his local Methodist Episcopal Church where he sang in the choir. He found himself especially fulfilled when participating in evangelistic rallies and revivals in which people received Christ as their personal Savior. Friends encouraged him to resign from the school system to enter fulltime music evangelism, but for five years he struggled with the decision.

Finally falling to his knees, he said, "Lord, if you want me to give my full time to Thy work, I'll do it, I surrender all to Thee." For the next several years he traveled extensively through the United States, England, and Scotland, assisting in evangelistic work, leading the singing for Wilber Chapman and other evangelists, and winning men and women to Christ.



While engaged in meetings in East Palestine, Ohio, Judson stayed in the home of George Sebring (whose family founded Sebring, Ohio, and who himself later founded Sebring, Florida). It was there that he wrote the hymn, "I Surrender All," while recalling his own personal submitting to full-time ministry.

Moving to Tampa in 1923, he began teaching hymnology at Florida Bible Institute. He retired after several years, but still occasionally showed up on campus to lecture or speak in chapel. In the 1930s, a student at Florida Bible Institute sat wide-eyed, listening to Judson Van De Venter. That student, Billy Graham, later wrote: "One of the evangelists who influenced my early preaching was also a hymnist who wrote 'I Surrender All,' the Rev. J. W. Van De Venter. He was a regular visitor at the Florida Bible Institute (now Trinity Bible College) in the late 1930s. We students loved this kind, deeply spiritual gentleman and often gathered in his winter home in Tampa, Florida, for an evening of fellowship and singing."

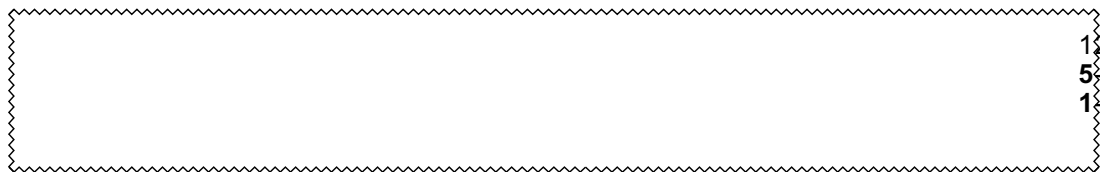
But now, O Lord, You are our Father; we are the clay, and You our potter; and all we are the work of Your hand. Isaiah 64:8

Morgan, Robert J. Then Sings My Soul, Thomas Nelson, Nashville: 2003

BIBLE QUIZ - Category: FILL IN THE BLANKS - This Quiz: SPIRITUAL GIFTS

1. **In the first epistle of Peter, Peter said, “And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity _____.**
a) is long suffering and is kind b) shall cover the multitude of sins c) always believes the best d) is not envious
2. **And Peter also said, “As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as _____.**
a) good stewards of the manifold grace of God b) every good and perfect gift cometh down from the father of lights
c) heirs of the promise of redemption through his blood d) unto the Lord
3. **To the Ephesians Paul wrote, “We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive. But speaking the truth in love, may _____.**
a) be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might b) warn all men of the judgment to come
c) grow up into him in all things which is the head even Christ
d) be obedient servants, and we will inherit a crown of life
4. **To the Ephesians, Paul wrote, “But unto every one of us is given grace according to _____.**
a) the will of the Father b) the desire of the Holy Spirit c) the measure of the gift of Christ d) our capacity to hold it
5. **To the Ephesians, Paul wrote, “And he gave some, apostles; and some prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for _____.**
a) the day cometh when men shall be mockers of God and of all that is good b) great is the Lord and greatly to be praised
c) ravenous wolves have gone out among you d) the edifying of the body of Christ
6. **In his first letter to the Corinthians, Paul said, “There are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man _____.**
a) to be a light to lighten the gentiles b) to convict the ungodly of sin and of judgment c) to profit withal
d) to the edification of the saints
7. **Paul explained the gifts of the Spirit to the Corinthians, then added, “But all these worketh that _____, dividing to every man severally as he will.”**
a) Father of lights in whom there is no shadow of turning b) selfsame Spirit
c) Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel d) Creator of all mankind
8. **Paul made the point that we all have different gifts, then he encouraged the Corinthians to earnestly covet _____.**
a) the best gifts b) the gifts that are not so common c) whatever gift they wanted d) prophecy
9. **Paul told the Corinthians we are the body of _____.**
a) believers b) Christ c) the Holy Spirit d) the great congregation
10. **Paul told the Romans we should cleave to _____.**
a) one another with brotherly love b) the promises which are yea and amen in Christ
c) your high calling in Christ d) that which is good

ANSWERS:



12:29-31. 9-b
5-d: Ephesians
1-b:1 Peter 4:8

The Basket

The story is told of an old man who lived on a farm with his young grandson. Each morning, Grandpa was up early sitting at the kitchen table reading from his old worn-out Bible.

His grandson who wanted to be just like him tried to imitate him in any way he could.

One day the grandson asked, "Papa, I try to read the Bible just like you but I don't understand it, and what I do understand I forget as soon as I close the book. What good does reading the Bible do?"

The Grandfather quietly turned from putting coal in the stove and said, "Take this coal basket down to the river and bring back a basket of water."

The boy did as he was told, even though all the water leaked out before he could get back to the house.

The grandfather laughed and said, "You will have to move a little faster next time," and sent him back to the river with the basket to try again.

This time the boy ran faster, but again the basket was empty before he returned home. Out of breath, he told his grandfather that it was "impossible to carry water in a basket," and he went to get a bucket instead.

The old man said, "I don't want a bucket of water; I want a basket of water.

You can do this. You're just not trying hard enough," and he went out the door to watch the boy try again.

At this point, the boy knew it was impossible, but he wanted to show his grandfather that even if he ran as fast as he could, the water would leak out before he got far at all. The boy scooped the water and ran hard, but when he reached his grandfather the basket was again empty.

Out of breath, he said, "See Papa, it's useless!"

"So you think it is useless?" The old man said, "Look at the basket."

The boy looked at the basket and for the first time he realized that the basket looked different. Instead of a dirty old coal basket, it was clean.

"Son, that's what happens when you read the Bible. You might not understand or remember everything, but when you read it, it will change you from the inside out."

That is the work of God in our lives. To change us from the inside out and to slowly transform us into the image of His son. Take time to read a portion of God's word each day, and remind a friend by sharing this story.

by Olumide Bada, www.havilahministries.com



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

NonProfit Org
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