

RAM Reformed At Millstone

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

From the **PASTOR**—

March 17, 2009

Dear Members and Friends,

He is risen!

In a few short weeks, we will be repeating the great words of the resurrection of our Lord. Jesus died on the cross and after three days in the tomb was raised by God.

Preaching Easter Sunday is a joy and a challenge. It is one of those days when people come to church who rarely do otherwise. Some people come not because they particularly want to, but to keep peace in the house. Yes, preachers know that!

In the congregation will be people for whom it is very difficult to believe that a dead man rose from the grave. There is no way to prove that Jesus rose. It is a matter of faith.

But I also want to affirm the doubt some people will bring with them when they walk up our path on Easter Sunday morning. They doubt because it seems like it is too good to be true. If people doubt for that reason, they may be closer to the truth than they think!

God turned the world upside down with Easter. Before you could be sure of only two things, as the saying goes – death and taxes. Since God has conquered the grave for us in his Son, the only thing we can now be sure of is taxes!

God has completely upset the order. We now need not be resigned to our deaths. In fact, we find ourselves not getting a day nearer death every day, but one step closer to eternity! In fact, since Jesus has been raised, we are in eternity.

Your eternal life commences not at the funeral home – it has already begun!

Everyone is welcome Easter Sunday – life-long believers, new converts and, yes, the skeptic. Come on in! It seems too good to be true. If that's what you are thinking, then you are on to something!

In Easter, God has changed everything. He lives!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Fred



NEWS from our HRC COMMITTEES

FELLOWSHIP

The Fellowship Committee is sponsoring the Maundy Thursday Potluck Dinner on April 9. If you are interested, please sign-up in the vestibule.

Maryanne Devoti and Sue Woods

CHRISTIAN SERVICES

Please sign up for the next **Habitat Work Day** on April 4th. We will be working at 4 Clifton St. in Somerset, N.J. from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. For those interested we will meet at the church at 7:45 a.m. Our church has 10 spots to fill so please sign up in the vestibule and also pick up the Waiver form. The forms have to be returned to Catherine Kinrade or place in her mailbox in the church basement. If there are any questions, contact Catherine at KinradeCH@gmail.com.

Catherine Kinrade and Sue Woods

MISSIONS & BENEVOLENCE

Thank you to all who have given such generous donations for Easter Baskets and Crop Banks (CWS Blankets Program).

Catherine Kinrade and Sue Woods

SPRUCE-UP COMMITTEE

This committee was formed to take on small projects that will go a long way in 'sprucing up' the church and Memorial Hall. We have already tackled the kitchen, now our small groups will be revamping the bathrooms. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Maryanne Devoti.

Maryanne Devoti

EDUCATION

LENTEN/EASTER Schedule

Wednesday Evening Services – We will gather in the sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. for the last worship service on April 1. The sermons have been on the “Seven Last Words” of our Lord from the cross. Those words are:

Father forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.	Luke 23:34
Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.	Luke 23:43
Woman, here is your son... Here is your mother.	John 19:26-27
My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?	Matthew 27:46, Mark 15:34
I am thirsty.	John 19:28
It is finished!	John 19:28
Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.	Luke 23:46

Palm Sunday, April 5 – 9:00 a.m. Pony Rides and Sunday School Parade, Return CWS Banks

Maundy Thursday, April 9 – 6:30 p.m. Potluck Supper in Memorial Hall; 7:30 p.m. Holy Communion

Good Friday, April 10 – 7:30 p.m. – Tenebrae Worship Service

Easter Sunday, April 12 – 7:00 a.m. Sunrise Service in the graveyard; 10:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary

Mike Williams and Colleen Eberhardt

YOUTH MINISTRY

We are celebrating **Youth Sunday on April 26**. The youth group has been working very hard on the worship service. Please come and celebrate with the youth of our congregation.

Kurt Benson

WORSHIP & MUSIC

After receiving great reviews from many who participated in December's singing of Handel's Messiah, we are excited to present Part III of Handel's Messiah once again this year. Whether you choose to sing along or merely let the soloists' and choir's voices lift you. We will be using Part III of Handel's Messiah (which begins with "Hallelujah") as the basis for worship on the Sunday after Easter, April 19th. Much like we did during

Advent, all present will receive a copy of the score so they can follow along (and sing if you choose to do so). Singers and non-singers alike will find this to be a wonderful addition to their Easter worship.

Jeanne Bowlby

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

WANTED: ADOPTIVE PAINTERS. Our Sunday School classes need painters to adopt them. Groups of four, who are willing to spend a few hours together giving the rooms a fresh coat of paint, and a cheerful new look for the new year, are needed. Won't you consider adopting a room???? Sign up in the vestibule, where you can choose a room. There will be great prizes for the first four groups that sign on. More great prizes for the first four groups to finish! Everyone will receive adoption papers and the room will bear the names of the adoptive painters!

Tony Cole and Maryanne Devoti

OUTREACH

In the community, we are looking to expand the number of HRC signs that appear along the roadside. Of course, our signs will once again be up with information about Easter Services. We also plan to hang some Easter Service invitations on doors in the Claremont development.

And if you are wondering who that person is in church that looks familiar, but you aren't sure of his/her name—fear not!! We will be wearing name badges soon!! They'll be the kind that you wear each week, not the peel-off sticky kind!

There are more plans in the works, such as hanging Easter invitations on doors of houses and maybe having a blood drive next spring, so if you are interested in joining us for any part of our reaching out, please contact Jayne Czaplicki (chair) or any member of the Outreach Committee.

Jayne Czaplicki

MORE HRC ACTIVITIES, EVENTS & UPDATES

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Please join us for our annual Sunday school **Palm Sunday Parade and Pony Rides** on Sunday, April 5th at 9:00 a.m.!! We will celebrate Jesus' Ride into Jerusalem waving palms and shouting "Hosanna". Who will be Jesus this year?

Easter Sunday – The children of the church may sing during worship. Look for an email with the details.

Children's Sunday is scheduled for May 17th.

Thank you for your continued support for our Compassion child, Felicia. We collect an additional offering the first Sunday of every month to send to her to help cover her expenses. Please bring your Compassion offering for Felicia on Sunday April 5th (Palm Sunday).

Remember friends are always welcome in Sunday school, but the 1st Sunday of the month we designate as "Bring A Friend" to Sunday School. It's a wonderful way to spread the word of the Lord and share it with those closest to us! Please bring a friend on April 5th.

Colleen Eberhardt, SS Superintendent

IHN

We will be hosting IHN guests the week starting Sunday, April 19th. So, if you have Giving and Hospitality gifts and if you are interested in setting up, taking down, welcoming guests, providing dinner, or staying overnight, please look for the sign-up sheet in the vestibule, or contact Carol Luidens.

- Carol Luidens

STEPHEN MINISTRY NEWS

You Are Invited

Please visit the Millstone Cafe in Memorial Hall after the Service of Worship on Palm Sunday, April 5th. The Stephen Ministry Team will be serving refreshments, answering questions and providing information about the Ministry. During this time of informal fellowship you will have the opportunity to meet with the ministers and leaders who share in this vital part of the church ministry and find out more about this world wide Interdenominational Christian Ministry. We always eat well.

Stephen Ministry Leadership Team

CHURCH TIME CARE LIST REMINDERS

The April rotation list is included. Should you need to change, please use your contact listing for substitutes and teens. Feel free to phone either one of us if needed.

4/5	Stasi Devoti	Charisse Devoti	
4/12	Easter Sunday	NO Church Time Care	
4/19	Margo Myer	Lauren Panek	Nolan Myer
4/26	Amy Williams	Jacob Hasner	

We are looking for a volunteer to help coordinate Church Time Care. If you are interested please let Margo or Tricia know.

The Church Time Care Rotation list is now on-line. Please check it out at

<http://www.hillsboroughreformedchurch.org/carecal/mpnth.php>

Margo Myer and Tricia Heddy

HRC BIBLE STUDIES

The Women's Bible Study will not be meeting during LENT. We will resume with the current study "Woman of God" on Wednesday, April 15th.



The Wednesday Noon Bible Tour will not be meeting during LENT. We will resume on Wednesday, April 15th. Any questions, please call Pastor Fred

The Tuesday Evening Bible Tour will continue the first and last Tuesday, from 7-8 pm in Memorial Hall; April 7 and 28. Any questions, please call Pastor Fred.

MISSION TRIP

A Mission Trip is being planned to Kentucky for the Jackson County Ministries. We are looking for families or singles to participate in this opportunity to help rehabilitate homes of low income families in Jackson County, Kentucky. The plan is to go down on Saturday, July 18, spend the week there, and leave on July 24. If you are interested in this GREAT opportunity to share your time with people less fortunate, please contact Carol Luidens (cluidens@comcast.net or 908-874-7530).

- Carol Luidens

CAMP WARWICK

It's never too early to plan for camp. Brochures for the RCA Camp Warwick summer sessions have arrived and are available in the vestibule. Camp Warwick had 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>.

JUST A THOUGHT...

Coincidence is when God chooses to remain anonymous.

- Internet (Author unknown)

COMING EVENTS for APRIL

Sunday, April 5 – Palm Sunday

8:15 a.m. Early Worship Service
9:00 a.m. Pony Rides and Parade
10:00 a.m. Worship
11:00 a.m. Stephen Ministry Awareness

Thursday, April 9 – Maundy Thursday

6:00 p.m. Potluck Dinner
7:00 p.m. Worship Service

Friday, April 10 - Good Friday

7:30 p.m. Tenebrae Service

Sunday, April 12 – Easter Sunday

7:00 a.m. Sunrise Service
10:00 a.m. Worship Service

Friday, April 17 – Saturday, April 18

Confirmand Retreat

Sunday, April 19

10:00 a.m. Messiah Sing-A-Long
11:00 a.m. Set Up for IHN

Sunday, April 19 – Saturday, April 25

Hosting IHN

Sunday, April 26

10:00 a.m. Youth Sunday Service

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY – MAY 3

On Sunday, May 3 at our 10 AM Worship Service, the 2009 Confirmation Class will unite with the church. Refreshments will follow the service in Memorial Hall. Join us in congratulating the Confirmands.

DEADLINE

The **May 2009 RAM** submission deadline is **Friday, April 15th** (tax day). Kindly send information, articles, etc for **May** events to Joanie Panek via email to jepanek77@aol.com, regular mail or leave in church office on Joanie's desk.

JUST A THOUGHT...

The best mathematical equation I have ever seen: 1 cross + 3 nails = 4 given.

-Internet (Author unknown)

REFLECTIONS AND RECOLLECTIONS

A Few Thoughts for the Season of Lent

A holy man was having a conversation with the Lord one day and said, "Lord, I would like to know what Heaven and Hell are like."

The Lord led the holy man to two doors.

He opened one of the doors and the holy man looked in. In the middle of the room was a large round table. In the middle of the table was a large pot of stew, which smelled delicious and made the holy man's mouth water.

The people sitting around the table were thin and sickly. They appeared to be famished. They were holding spoons with very long handles that were strapped to their arms and each found it possible to reach into the pot of stew and take a spoonful. But because the handle was longer than their arms, they could not get the spoons back into their mouths.

The holy man shuddered at the sight of their misery and suffering.

The Lord said, "You have seen Hell."

They went to the next room and opened the door. It was exactly the same as the first one. There was the large round table with the large pot of stew which made the holy man's mouth water. The people were equipped with the same long-handled spoons, but here the people were well nourished and plump, laughing and talking. The holy man said, "I don't understand."

"It is simple," said the Lord. "It requires but one skill. You see they have learned to feed each other, while the greedy think only of themselves."

–Internet



A Prayer for Grace to Honor God

Dear Lord, in weak moments, I want to hoard all my blessings to enjoy by myself.
But Your commandment, Lord, is that I become a humble servant
sharing with those who need my encouragement, my help, and my love.

Instill in me the same generous spirit that fills Your heart.
Make me willing to give so that my life may bring praise and honor to You.
Amen

–from The Heart of God, by Woodrow Kroll

HYMNS 4 HIM

THE DAY OF RESURRECTION

by John of Damascus (eighth century); Translated by John Mason Neale (1818-1866)

The day of resurrection! / Earth, tell it out abroad;
The passover of gladness, / The passover of God.
From death to life eternal, / From earth unto the sky,
Our Christ hath brought us over / With hymns of victory.

Our hearts be pure from evil, / That we may see aright
The Lord in rays eternal / Of resurrection light;
And listening to His accents / May hear so calm and plain,
His own "All hail!" and, hearing, / May raise the victor strain.

Now let the heavens be joyful! / Let earth her song begin!
Let the round world keep triumph, / And all that is therein!
Let all things seen and unseen, / Their notes in gladness blend,
For Christ the Lord hath risen, / Our joy that hath no end.

It is said that John of Damascus started his hymn writing career with a funeral hymn for a fellow monk. The monk wasn't dead yet, but everyone thought death was near. So John prepared his song and was singing it loudly in his room, testing it out. Suddenly the monk for whom it was written burst into the room and scolded John for raising such a racket. Tradition says that John was expelled from the monastery briefly for causing this disturbance, but then the Lord told the abbot that John would be doing great things with music, so the abbot welcomed John back.

And John did some great things, collecting and organizing the great hymns of the Greek-speaking church. His major accomplishment was the writing of the Golden Canon, an Easter liturgy still used in the Greek Orthodox Church, and from which this hymn is taken. Scholars have called his text the finest sacred poetry in the Greek language.

Then [Jesus] said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And you are witnesses of these things. Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high."

Luke 24:46-49, NKJV

Brown, R K and Norton, M R, Eds. The One Year Book of Hymns Tyndale: 2003

LESSON FOR EASTER

"He is not here; he has risen, just as he said."

- Matthew 28:6

Lord Jesus Christ, you are risen; you are risen indeed. We rejoice in all that you have revealed to us on this glorious day. May your revelations continue to enlighten us in the days to come as we seek to keep learning more about you. Alleluia! Amen.

- Mark Zimmerman (Lessons of LENT)

April Newsletter from the
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John 20 1-8

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed;

John 20:17

Jesus said to her, “Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, “I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’ “