

## *From the* **PASTOR**—

April 2011

Dear Members and Friends,

It seems things are moving ahead at a good pace on our project with 11 Amwell Road (Hazel's House). The Planning Board has granted our variances and our goal is within sight.

The east wall of the northern addition of the house has disintegrated, making it necessary to move swiftly. Things are coming together.

You will hear from the Capital Campaign Committee soon about their plans to raise funds to complete this project and the work at the parsonage. Pledges and gifts are always welcome. We are deeply grateful to the generosity of our members and friends who have pledged and contributed.

God always answers prayer. Much about this effort has been achieved more quickly and with pleasant surprises than we thought would happen. We are blessed as a church! Thanks be to God.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Fred

### ***Did you mark your calendar?***

We will celebrate the twentieth anniversary of our pipe organ on May 1 at four o'clock PM with a reception afterwards. Former music leaders Gavin Black and Joe Heise will be with us and will play, along with others.

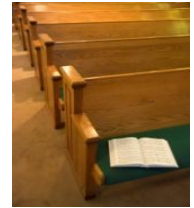
Yours in Christ,

Fred

### Buildings and Grounds



The Building and Grounds Committee needs motivated individuals who are passionate about keeping our church property in pristine condition. Our work schedule is flexible. We work alone; in small groups; and in large groups. We work during the week and on weekends. No matter what your experience, there is always a variety of work on every level of difficulty and time required from which to choose.



This Spring Dot Simmons will once again head our "Pick a Pew" effort, and we will have a hands on workshop for those interested in learning how to install screening material on screens which need improving. Check the "To Do" List for many more opportunities to help and give a gift of time. For further information contact Audrey Fredericks, Bill Simons or the church.

Audrey Fredericks co-chair

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### Christian Education



### Vacation Bible School

#### **Inside Out & Upside Down on Main Street** Where Jesus makes a difference every day!

**August 1-5, 2011 from 9:00 am - 11:30 am**

Children preschool to entering 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to join us for a week of **Inside Out & Upside Down on Main Street!** The children will explore Jesus' parables, taking a new look at what the Bible says about gratitude, compassion, forgiveness, grace, and faithfulness. There will be singing, crafts, snacks and games. Volunteers 6<sup>th</sup> grade to adult are needed to make this a great week for the children. Look for registration forms and volunteer sign-up in the vestibule. Bring a friend and join the fun.

Pam Williams

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### Fellowship



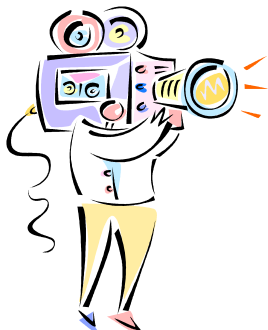
Check your calendars and volunteer to host Millstone Café.



Christine Fung

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### Outreach and Hospitality



**Lights! Action! Cameras!** The Outreach & Hospitality Committee is looking for someone who loves to take pictures and would be willing to photograph various events in our church life. Currently our website needs photos of people and we would like to have interesting events in our church submitted to area newspapers. Also, we are also looking for a good used or new digital camera. If you would like to volunteer or have a camera to donate, please contact Jayne Czaplicki.

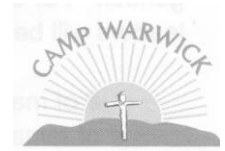
Thank you,

Jayne Czaplicki, chair of Outreach & Hospitality

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## Youth Group

Warwick will again offer many great **Summer Camps** this year beginning in June. One and two week camps are available (ages 7-17). They all look like a lot of fun. New for 2011, Camp Warwick will be leading a mission trip for high school students July 16 - 23. Brochures with more information and registration forms are available at the Youth Group bulletin board in the basement of the church. More information is also available online at [www.campwarwick.com](http://www.campwarwick.com).



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Kurt Benson

## Women Walking With God (www.GOD) News

On Saturday, March 19th our women's group was invited to the Annual Lenten Breakfast held at the Readington Reformed Church. The speaker was Diane Hunt, the Director of Addiction and Recovery Ministries and Development at Americas Keswick. Her message centered on "Living the Dead Life", a look at how we are called to be dead to the flesh and walking in the resurrected life in Christ. Inspirational music and prayer completed the Lenten celebration. We are thankful to Readington Reformed Church for their hospitality to us as sisters-in-Christ.

Also, on March 28th, the group enjoyed a light-hearted evening-- a "mental-health" break after our long winter. Indeed we laughed with Liz while watching the Liz Curtis Higgs' tape, "Only Angels Can Wing It-- The Rest of Us Have to Practice," about the Proverbs 31 woman. The evening dusted each with a little sunshine as we anticipate Spring! Liz Curtiss Higgs is the same author/speaker we all enjoyed in "Bad Girls of the Bible."

The April event(s) will occur at "Crossroads," taking place at Harvey Cedars Conference Center on Long Beach Island. Our own Carol Luidens will be one of the presenters at the conference, which is April 15th and 16th. This conference occurs annually, and more information may be obtained from Darlene Purcell at the church office (908) 359-3391.



The Baby Shower originally scheduled for March is now set for Monday, May 23 at 7 p.m. in Memorial Hall. The "baby shower" benefits The Friendship Center for New Beginnings, a non-profit Christian agency in Flemington, which our church also supports through mission and benevolence funds. The fun evening will be like any baby shower with games, decorations and refreshments. The gifts (for which we will have a "needs" list) are to be new and unwrapped. A speaker will be present to tell us more about their program. This is an event you won't want to miss. Look for a Baby Shower poster in the Narthex to appear shortly!

All women of the church are invited to join us at our monthly events—bring a friend and double the fun of Christian fellowship. Our mission is "to inspire women in the church and community in their personal walk with God. We intend to use devotional readings based on the Bible and book reviews of Christian literature to encourage women to grow spiritually." We will also use the tool of service to reach out to other women and children in order to meet the needs of our congregation, denomination and nearby community.

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Sue Cole and Jayne Czaplicki



**Prayer Shawl Dedication** will take place on April 3rd during our regular 10:00 a.m. worship. Please bring your completed shawls and/or lap blankets with you that day. These shawls/blankets continue to bring comfort, joy, peace and God's love to those who receive them. Please contact Jeanne Bowlby or leave word in the church office if you know of someone in need of a prayer shawl or lap blanket.

Questions may be directed to Jeanne Bowlby or to Jayne Czaplicki.

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Jeanne Bowlby and Jayne Czaplicki



## Attention all Graduating High School Seniors and College Students

It is time to apply for this year's scholarship awards. The grants are available to active members graduating from high school and to students currently in college. To apply, please fill in this form with your Name, School Name, Course of study/major, and status (high school/ college junior, etc.) and place in offering plate, OR please contact Eric Kraehenbuehl with this information.. **All applications must be submitted by May 31<sup>st</sup>**. The date of the presentation will be June 12<sup>th</sup>.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Status (Junior, etc) \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

Study/Major \_\_\_\_\_



**There is still an opportunity to contribute to this worthy cause. Please make all contribution to the Reformed Church of Hillsborough with a memo note that it is for the Scholarship Fund. Thank you**

## Reaching Out to Others

**Multiple Sclerosis Walk** will be held on Sunday, April 10th in Somerville. If you would like to sponsor Jayne O'Connor's team "Lorraine's Loved Ones" please contact Jayne.



### **Christian Service - IHN (Interfaith Hospitality Network)**

#### **THANK YOU**

Well, we've hosted IHN one more time, successfully. Thank you all for your continued support. The work and support you do makes it all possible. You are ALL fantastic.

We will once again host with St. Joseph's the week of May 15th. Please mark your calendar and watch for ways that you can help.

Thank you all,  
Peace

Carol Luidens, Coordinator



**From the Deacons - Thank you for your continued support by contributing to the Deacon's Fund.** The Deacon's Fund is for human needs and emergencies within our congregation and community. Through discussion and prayer, the Deacons come to a decision on how the Fund can be used to help those in need. The Deacon's Fund Treasurer then ensures that needs are filled in accord with the decision. Assistance through the Deacon's Fund is strictly confidential.

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## Stephen Ministry



Stephen Ministry is an important way we at HRC care for one another. If you are going through a difficult time consider the benefits of having a Stephen Minister. If you know someone else who is facing difficulties suggest that he/she requests a Stephen Minister.

There are certain aspects of the Stephen Ministry that should help you make the decision for yourself or others:

### **CONFIDENTIALITY!**

That is what we are all about. Everything a person tells his or her Stephen Minister is kept in strict confidence. People are often afraid that if they tell someone what is troubling them, word will get around and others will look down on them. But a Stephen Minister keeps everything a person shares confidential, while God works miracles of healing and peace through this sharing.

### **LISTENING!**

Because a Stephen Minister has received 50 hours of training in providing Christian care, he/she can focus on your needs and be able to listen to what you really have to say.

### **GOD'S PRESENCE!**

Paul wrote to the Romans "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Stephen Ministry allows you to accept God's love through the interactions of someone who really cares.

May the Holy Spirit lead you or someone you know to accept the care and resources of Stephen Ministry.

God bless,

Fred Butler for the Stephen Leader Team  
Fred Butler, Nancy Dawson, Darlene Purcell and Jean Thomas

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## SAVE The DATE

### May 1 at 4:00 p.m



## Organ Anniversary Concert and Reception

### Guest Performers will be Gavin Black and Joe Heise

Watch for more information in the weekly bulletins

Worship and Music Committee



NEW JERSEY  
STATE  
COUNCIL  
ON THE  
ARTS

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## *Raritan Valley Chorus Concert*

*Friday, May 13, 2011*

*At 7:30 p.m.*

*LOVE IN THE AIR*



The Raritan Valley Choral Society invites you to a concert which will be held in our church on May 13. The Choral Group will be singing Brahms' Liebeslieder (Love Songs), Brigadoon and other selections. The Riverside Quartet will appear once more to entertain one and all with their repertoire.

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## Top Shelf Reads - or Book Reviews

### Mad Mary: A Bad Girl from Magdala, Transformed at His Appearing

by Liz Curtis Higgs



Since the HRC women's group seems to enjoy Liz Curtis Higgs' *Bad Girls of the Bible* series, I chose to get another book by this author, and I'm really glad I did. All about Mary Magdalene, you will likely never hear her mentioned in Scripture OR conversation without remembering this remarkable book.

Of the book, Liz herself says, "Come meet the genuine Mary Magdalene of the Bible—not the scarlet-draped legend—and follow her one-of-a-kind story of deliverance and dedication, despair and declaration. Like my previous Bad Girls books, *Mad Mary* begins with a fictional journey of Mary Margaret Delaney, a bad woman—or was it a madwoman?—adrift in contemporary Chicago, desperate for someone to save her from herself.

"Once Mary Delaney's story has prepared our hearts for learning, we'll leave the Windy City and go verse by verse through Mary of Magdala's ancient biblical tale, tossing aside modern misconceptions as we embrace the real Mary M. "Prepare to be amazed by this eye-opening sister who was transformed twice when You-Know-Who showed up and spoke her name. Oh, Mary!"

Missionary and Bible Teacher Kay Arthur said, "Liz has done it again! She captures the heart and circumstances of a woman of Magdala and brings her into the twenty-first century. Then after captivating us with Mary's story and with careful and detailed research, Liz unveils the biblical and historical truths of a demonized woman misunderstood by many but gloriously set free by Jesus Christ. What hope and promise this will bring to many people who cannot comprehend how very precious they are to God."

Since about half of the book is fiction, that IS its location in our library. But amazingly it will also bring us through some "Reference" and "Biography"—*how many books fit into so many categories?!* I was more and more amazed the farther I got into this book. All I can say is, it truly *is* what we'd expect from Liz Curtis Higgs! Enjoy it.

Sue Cole

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## WORDS of WISDOM

This month we commemorate the painfully solemn time we know as Holy Week, just before the jubilant and joyous Resurrection Day. Thinking of the week of Jesus= extreme suffering, we might wish to learn more about the place of his crucifixion, **GOLGOTHA**. Golgotha, pronounced *gawl gaw THAH*, would have faded away into history as some obscure place of execution (just outside Jerusalem) had not it been the place where Jesus Christ was crucified. The term *Golgotha* appears in the New Testament only in the accounts of the crucifixion. Three of the Gospels use the Hebrew or Aramaic term, which is transliterated into Greek as *Golgotha* (Matt. 27:33; Mark 15:22; John 19:17), while one uses the Latin equivalent, *Calvary* (Luke 23:33, meaning "skull" or "cranium").

The exact location of the site is unknown. The Bible gives us only general indications: It was outside the city proper (John 19:20; Heb. 13:12). It may have been on an elevated site since it could be seen from a distance (Mark 15:40). It was perhaps near a road since "passersby" are mentioned (Matt. 27:29; Mark 15:29), and John's account places Golgotha near a garden that contained the tomb in which Jesus was buried (John 19:41). The use of the definite article, "the place of the skull," would indicate that it was a well known place.



Why is this place called "the skull"? Again, no one knows for sure. An early tradition, apparently originating with Jerome (A.D. 346-420), said that it was a common place of execution and that the skulls of many who had been executed were left around the site. Some suggest that since it was a

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place of execution that “skull” was used figuratively, simply as a symbol of death. Origen (A.D. 185-253) mentioned an early, pre-Christian tradition that the skull of Adam was buried in that place. This is probably the oldest explanation of the name, and is referred to by several writers after Origen. Others said that the name resulted from the fact that the place of the crucifixion was a hill that had the natural shape of a skull. None of these viewpoints, however, can be historically validated.

In 1842 Otto Thenium posited the hypothesis that Golgotha was a rocky hill about 250 yards northeast of the Damascus Gate. He based his opinion on the assertions that it had been a Jewish place of stoning, lay outside the city wall, and was shaped like a skull. Later, General Charles Gordon also advocated this spot, and it has come to be known in many circles as “Gordon’s Calvary”.

No matter what Golgotha’s original origin, it has significance because “Golgotha” or “Calvary”, is the place in which our Savior Jesus died for our sins. In the place of skulls, Jesus gave us life.

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

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## HYMNS 4 HIM

### THE STRIFE IS O’ER

Symphonia Serenum Selectarum, 1695, Latin Hymn  
Translated by Francis Pott (1832-1909)



The strife is o’er—the battle done, / The victory of life is won;  
The song of triumph has begun: / Alleluia!

The pow’rs of death have done their worst, / But Christ their legions hath dispersed;  
Let shouts of holy joy outburst: / Alleluia!

The three sad days have quickly sped, / He rises glorious from the dead;  
All glory to our risen Head! / Alleluia!

He closed the yawning gates of hell, / The bars from heav’n’s high portals fell;  
Let hymns of praise His triumphs tell: / Alleluia!

Lord, by the stripes which wounded Thee, / From death’s dread sting Thy servants free,  
That we may live and sing to Thee: / Alleluia!

Note the pattern of this hymn: negative undone, positive done, our response. In each triad we see first the forces of evil that tried to conquer Christ but were beaten. Then we see a more positive expression of what has occurred. Christ has won, He rises, He opens heaven and frees slaves. Finally, we respond with songs and shouts of joy: Alleluia!

The richness of the text is matched by the majesty of the music, written by the sixteenth century composer Giovanni de Palestrina. He was a devout Roman Catholic who created many wonderful sacred works still used in churches and secular settings. This tune was adapted from a “Gloria Patri” in one of his choral works. It first appeared with Francis Pott’s translation of this Latin text in 1861.

The Bible describes the work of Christ in many different ways, and Christian writers through the ages have elaborated on all these ideas. God exercised His power on our behalf when He raised Christ from the dead. Death has no ultimate power over us because we are risen with Christ. Alleluia!

*O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

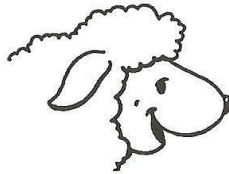
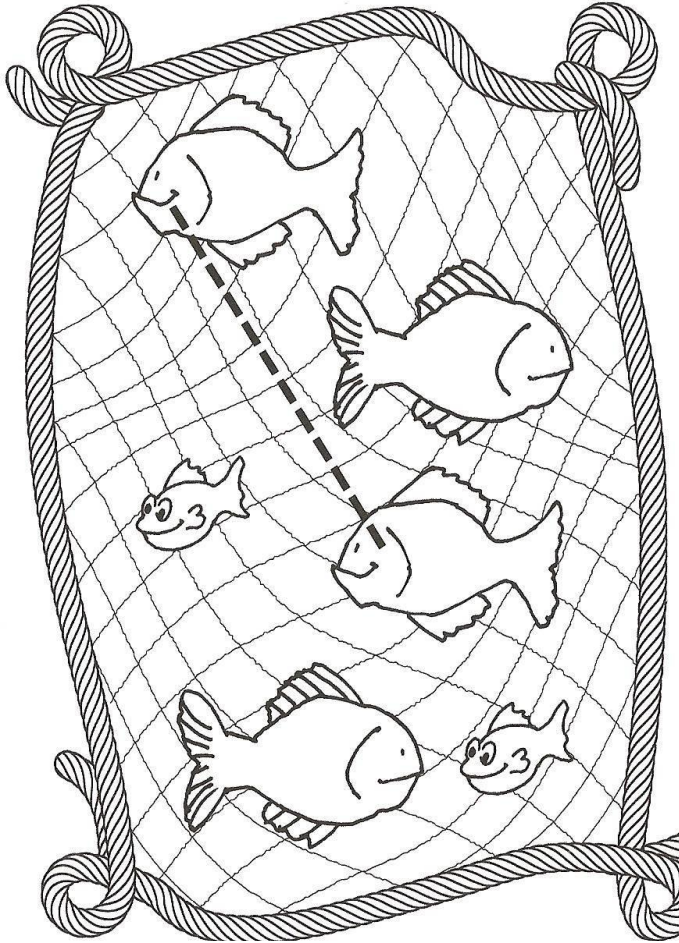
1 Corinthians 15:55-57, KJV

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

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The kingdom of heaven  
is like a net full of fish.

Match the fish below.

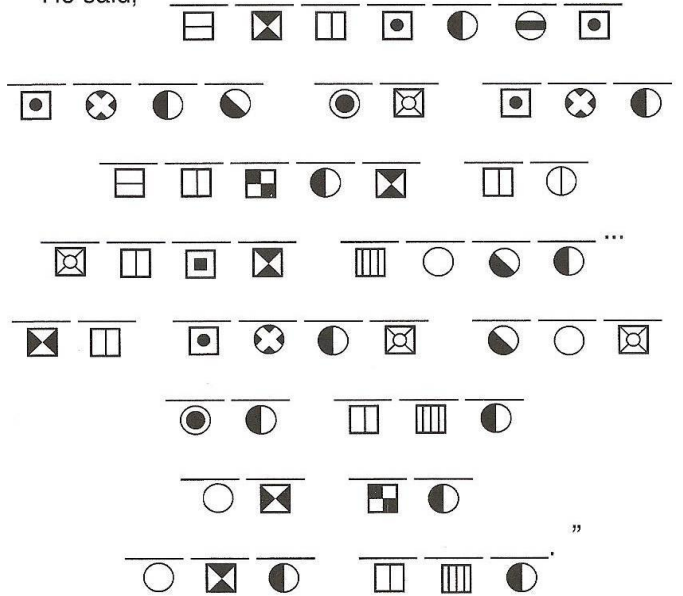


Jesus prayed for His friends.

Use the code to find some of His words.

○=A	●=E	◐=I	◑=M	▨=Q	▩=U	⊠=Y
◉=B	◌=F	◒=J	▨=N	⊠=R	▩=V	◼=Z
◕=C	◖=G	◗=K	▨=O	⊠=S	▩=W	
◔=D	⊗=H	◌=L	▨=P	◼=T	▩=X	

He said, “



”



Find 10 things that are different in the second picture.

Jesus prayed to His Father in heaven.

Jesus Prays

John 17:1-11

ages 7-12

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## REFLECTIONS AND RECOLLECTIONS

As the last week of the season of Lent begins with Palm Sunday, our thoughts again focus on deep and honest self examination and penitence.

Yet Catherine Marshall wrote a joyous story published in 1963 about what may have occurred in the Garden, entitled, **Happy Easter!**

The sun rose in a soft pink glow over the garden of Joseph of Arimathaea. Sleepy birds shook themselves awake and began to flutter and twitter. A white rabbit peered out from behind the trunk of a great tree. A dappled baby deer nuzzled her mother awake. A black sheep munched on the dew-drenched grass.

But this sunrise—so long ago—was different from any other in the world's history, for this was the dawning of the first Easter.

On Friday, Jesus had been taken down from the Cross—dead. Sorrowfully and gently, His friends had laid Him in a cave in Joseph's garden.

Now—on Easter Sunday morning—there were strange stirrings within the cave. And soon, out into the rose-tinted sunrise, walked Jesus—alive.

All the animals in the garden saw Him. Long before at Jesus' birth the friendly animals in the stable had been the first to welcome Him. So once again they welcomed Him, even before His human friends.



A dove lighted on His shoulder and cooed her delight. The white rabbit scampered joyously around His feet. The little deer nestled close, and He smiled and stroked her dappled head. Birds circled His head, singing their happiest songs. The black sheep lay down at His feet.

Perhaps that is why the animals still help us celebrate Easter. The hen gives us her eggs to dye in rainbow color. Fluffy yellow chickens appear in children's Easter baskets. Live bunnies with pink eyes, toy bunnies, and candy bunnies decorate the store windows.

And out on green hillsides, frisky lambs run joyously. Little colts stand on tall uncertain legs. Trees burst into bloom, and birds build their nests and sing carols.

Each animal is saying in its own way, "We are happy because spring is here again, and love and beauty have come to earth."

And because Jesus rose from the dead on that first Easter, we too are happy, for not one of us need ever be lonely or afraid again. **Happy Easter!**



The story of Easter is the story of God's wonderful window of divine surprise.  
~Carl Knudsen

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## *Lenten Schedule*

**Palm Sunday – Pony Rides for the Sunday School – April 17**

**Maundy Thursday Pot Luck Dinner at 6:30 p.m.  
Followed by Communion at 7:30 p.m. – April 21**

**Tenebrae Service – Friday, April 22 at 7:30 p.m.**

**Easter Sunrise Service – April 24 at 7:30 a.m.**

**Green Team Breakfast – April 24 8:15 a.m.**

**Traditional Easter Worship Service – April 24 at 10:00 a.m.**

**Annual Palm Sunday parade on April 17th** The children parade around the church shouting "Hosanna!" and following "Jesus" riding on a "donkey", sort of a re-enactment of how He entered Jerusalem many, many years ago. It is a wonderful tradition our church has followed for many years and the children always look forward to the pony rides in the cemetery!



**Maundy Thursday on April 21.** Join us for the traditional Maundy Thursday Pot Luck Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Following the dinner we will share in the sacrament of communion. The Confirmands will be assisting Pastor Fred with the service and Akiko will accompany us on the piano.

**A Tenebrae Service will be held on April 22.** The word 'Tenebrae' is Latin for shadows. The purpose of the Tenebrae service is to recreate the emotional aspects of the passion story, the betrayal, abandonment, and agony of the events and it is left unfinished, because the story isn't over until Easter Day. As each reader finishes reading a scripture passage a candle is extinguished until the congregations is in near total darkness. Join us for the scriptural readings and singing.



**Easter Sunday, April 24.** On Easter morning there will be two services. The sunrise service will begin at 7:30 in the cemetery followed by a breakfast prepared by the Green Team. If interested in going to the breakfast, it is advisable to sign up ahead of time to help the team determine how many people they need to prepare for.

Sunday school will take place at 9:00 a.m. and will be followed by the traditional worship service at 10:00 a.m.

Worship is a voluntary act of gratitude offered by the saved to the Savior,  
by the healed to the Healer, and, by the delivered to the Deliverer.

--Max Lucado

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## IMPORTANT DATES and *TIMES TO REMEMBER*



### Every Sunday

- 9:00 – 9:50 a.m. Sunday School
- Classes for children age three through 8th grade
  - Confirmation Class
  - Young Adult Class
  - Adult Sunday School
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service  
11:00 a.m. Handchime Choir Rehearsal  
7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal

### Every Wednesday

- 7:00 a.m. Morning Prayer  
8:15 a.m. Stephen Leaders Meeting

### Every Thursday

- 7:30 a.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal

### Other Important Dates:

April 3

- Early Service at 8:15 a.m.  
Compassion Sunday and Bring a Friend  
Youth lead the Worship Service

April 5 and 19

- Bible Tour at 7:00 p.m.

April 12

- Consistory Meeting at 7:30 p.m.

April 13 and 27

- Ladies Bible Study  
Consistory Meeting at 7:30 p.m.

April 14

- Archive Committee Meets at 7:00 p.m.  
Jr. Leaders Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

April 15 – 16

- Crossroads Retreat

May 1's

- Concert to Celebrate the Pipe Organ's 20th Anniversary

## DEADLINE

The **April RAM** submission deadline is **Friday, April 15, 2011**. Kindly send information, articles, etc for *May and beyond* to Darlene Purcell via email to [hrcsecretary@comcast.net](mailto:hrcsecretary@comcast.net), regular mail or leave it in church office on Darlene's desk.



Our church website, <http://www.hillsboroughreformedchurch.org> is full of information about church committees, ministries and events. There is a church calendar, church library listings as well as links to other related sites. We have found that there are still some members of our congregation who are unable to open this site beyond the welcome page. If you are having trouble opening the website, you most likely need to update your browser. If this is confusing to you and you do not have someone able to make these adjustments for you, please leave a message in the church office at (908) 359-3391 so that we can find someone to help you.

**MAILED TO: Current Resident or**



*Christ reached out to us in love,  
so we could reach out to Him  
and live*

***Check out the Lenten Schedule and the Details Inside!***

***Palm Sunday – April 17  
Maunday Thursday – April 21  
Tenabrae Service – April 22  
Sunrise Service and Traditional Easter – April 24***