

RAM Reformed At Millstone

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

From the **PASTOR**—

December 2009

Dear Members and Friends,

This morning I went into one of the Sunday School classrooms and the chalk boards caught my eye. On one chalkboard was a list of things titled "How to Pray." It listed:

- 1) Adoration – awesome God
Dear God
- 2) Forgiveness
- 3) Thank you for
- 4) Ask
- 5) In Jesus name, Amen.

On another board were the first four of the Ten Commandments. It was obviously a work in progress.

I was touched. Within those walls Christian education and nurture was taking place. Sitting at those chairs were kids full of energy and life, their minds and hearts soaking up the gospel.

Children are the joy of the church. They are a sacred responsibility for us. In baptism we pledge to provide for them – worship, nurture, the daily bread of life if needed – everything for body, soul and spirit.

Our task is to provide them with a safe place, a place of love and cheer and welcome, a place centered in God's Word in Jesus, a place of prayer, a place to grow in all things into Christ our Lord. At a recent funeral for an unchurched man, less than half the people could recite the Lord's Prayer. Where will this generation learn that? Where will they learn the Twenty-third Psalm? Where will they learn the names of the gospels, Matthew Mark, Luke and John?

It is impossible to understand western civilization and culture without an understanding of the Bible and the history of our faith. Thank God for that! Moreover, the foundations of our democracy and even our science (I would maintain) will be opaque without a basic understanding of Christianity.

But that is not what matters most. What matters most is nurturing the faith of our children and learning from them. Jesus said we must become like children to enter the kingdom of God. He also said, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven."

Christmas draws near. Every little American boy and girl will know about Santa, magical flying reindeer, Christmas lights, stockings, Frosty the Snowman and the Grinch. Those things are out there. But it is within the walls of the church that they will meet the savior who has come at Christmas. It is our joy and duty to show them what faith looks like.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Fred

PS Thank a Sunday School Teacher today!



NEWS from our HRC COMMITTEES

FELLOWSHIP

Millstone Cafe is reopened. Join us immediately after each Sunday 10:00 service in the Memorial Hall for a time of fellowship.

Maryanne Devoti and Susan Woods

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The Outreach Committee met on November 8th to review the activities of 2009 and to plan for 2010. We have an exciting year envisioned and would like to invite anyone who is interested in joining our group to notify the church office at 908-359-3391. Our brand new Christmas banners showing the Christmas Eve service times will be hung in the community. We have printed door-hangers to be handed out to the congregation so that each person/family can invite someone in their neighborhood to church. "

Jayne Czaplicki - Chair of Outreach

MISSIONS AND BENEVOLENCE

The Missions and Benevolence committee will be delivering the filled Christmas Stockings to Somerset County Jail, Somerset Home for Temporarily Displaced Children, Ship (Samaritan Homeless Interim Program) and to the Learning Day Care Center at the People Care Center in Finderne the week of December 14. It is not too late to participate.

Catherine Kinrade - Chair of Missions and Benevolence

YOUTH GROUP

Drop and Shop Babysitting on December 6 between 12:30 and 3:00. Need a shopping getaway? The youth can help with watching your children between the ages of 2 – 9 years of age. While you are shopping the youth will help your child with making holiday crafts, playing games, provide a healthy snack and entertain them with Christmas cartoons and stories. Contact Pam Bakker at pbakker@nbts.edu for more information.

Christmas Tradition – the Youth Group will be providing Christmas Dinner for the Soup Kitchen at the South Bound Brook Church on Wednesday, December 23. They enjoy and look forward to many of our same menu traditions that we have been bringing every year!!!! PLEASE mark this date on your calendars to think about preparing an item, purchasing or donation items. Sign—ups and more information will begin soon. Please get in touch with Carey or Tim Erdman if you have any questions.

Warwick has two Great Winter Youth Rallies this year!

Jr. High Youth Rally (Grades 6-8) - March 5th - 7th
 Sr. High Youth Rally (Grades 9-12) - March 19th - 21st.
 Registration forms will be available soon.

Kurt Benson and Lisa Medawar

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Special thanks to everyone who helped paint and scrape the windows and doors in the sanctuary and memorial hall.

Blue Jean Sunday was a success and again we thank everyone who came out to spruce up the grounds. Please check out the bulletin board in the Narthex to see the familiar and not so familiar faces of the folks who came out to work. And plan on joining us next year.

Maryann Devoti and Tony Cole

MORE HRC ACTIVITIES, EVENTS & UPDATES

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING DECEMBER 6 after 10:00 Worship

The 2010 Church budget will be voted on and the election of elders and deacons will take place. The nominations for the Consistory of our church are:

For the office of Deacon: Katherine Falcone and Audrey Fredericks.

For the office of Elder: William Nardone and Chris Russiniello

COMPASSION SUNDAY is celebrated on the first Sunday of each month in Sunday School. A special offering is taken for the compassion child Felicia. It is also “Bring a Friend to Sunday School”, so bring a friend to share the good news of our Lord.

CHURCH TIME CARE

In order for any program to continue to function, it needs volunteers. Adult and teen help is urgently needed in order for Church-Time Care to continue. The program requires one adult and two teens to be on duty each Sunday during Service to watch over the littlest members of our congregation. The existing sign-up sheet method has not been working effectively.

Therefore, we need volunteers in order to create a Church-Time Care volunteer rotation. Volunteers will be assigned one Sunday every few months during the year.

Please contact Margo Myer at mrgmyr@earthlink.net or 908-874-6557 or Kim Kirwan at kimkirwan21806@yahoo.com or 908-359-3729 to volunteer or with any questions. A brief meeting will be held in January (date to be determined) during Sunday School to discuss expectations and guidelines for Church Time Care.

We all want this program to continue to be successfully, but this cannot be accomplished without your help. The children will be blessed for your care and you will be blessed for caring for them, too!

Yours in Christ,

Margo Myer & Kim Kirwan
Co-Chairs of Church Time Care

HRC BIBLE STUDIES

The Women’s Bible Study “Dust to Glory”. This is a DVD study tour the highlights a book of the bible We will meet Wednesday, December 9 from 7-8:30 pm in Memorial Hall. For questions, call Jayne Czaplicki at 908-359-5717.



Tour of the Bible lead by Pastor Fred

The Wednesday Noon Bible Tour will meet on Wednesday, December 9, 16 and 23.

The Tuesday Evening Bible Tours will meet on Tuesday, December 29 7:00.

ANNUAL BOXWOOD TREE NIGHT – The women’s group invites you to join them on Wednesday, December 16 at 7:00 p.m in Memorial Hall to make your own beautiful table decoration for Christmas. The cost for a basic tree is \$15.00 and you will need to bring your own decorations. Note: for \$20, the decorations will be provided. The sign-up sheet is in the vestibule with a few pictures from a previous year. For more information, you may call Jayne Czaplicki at 908-359-5717 or email her at funafloat@aol.com. There is a limit of 33 trees, so sign up ASAP. Bring a friend or a family member and enjoy the fellowship of the women in our church.

ABOUT FOLKS WE KNOW ...

BAPTISM – Our congregation is pleased to have administered the Sacrament of Baptism to Milena Lipani the daughter of Troy and Maria Lipani

NEW MEMBERS – We are pleased to welcome Jamie and Carolyn May Bonnel, Carrie McCarty, Mary Ann McCarty, Timothy McCarty and Brent Mulder as new members who joined the Church on November 8.

Carol Luidens in Bethlehem



Our own Carol Luidens is now working as a volunteer in Bethlehem in Israel where she is observing Israeli and Palestinian families to watch for human rights abuses. Carol is working with EAPPI, The Ecumenical Accompaniment Program in Palestine and Israel. EAPPI seeks to support local and international efforts to end the Israeli occupation and bring a resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict with a just peace, based on international law and relevant United Nations resolutions. The mission of the EAPPI is to accompany Palestinians and Israelis in their non-violent actions and to carry out concerted advocacy efforts to end the occupation. Participants in the program monitor and report violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, support acts of non-violent resistance alongside local Christian and Muslim Palestinians and Israeli peace activists, offer protection through non-violent presence, engage in public policy advocacy and, in general, stand in solidarity with the churches and all those struggling against the occupation.

Carol covets your prayers for her. If you wish to receive her e-mails, please send us a request at HRCsecretary@comcast.net.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

In Paul's letter to the Ephesians he wrote "It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not nullify the grace of God".

This powerful message of truth should prevail on all of us, and if so, we need to share this faith in our daily walk. Stephen Ministry is one of the special pathways for sharing God's healing grace as it works **THROUGH** you, not **BY** you, to those in need. Thus, the good news is as a Stephen Minister you are not in control but your faith is!

Yes, we are continuing to recruit Stephen Ministers for 2010 and we encourage you to consider taking this faithful step. Jesus proclaimed that the, "harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few". Unfortunately this is as true today as it was in His time.

Please take a moment right now to ask God if you are called to this powerful, dynamic and important **service**.

Fred Butler for the Stephen Ministry Leadership Team
Pastor Fred, Fred Butler, Nancy Dawson, Jean Thomas and Darlene Purcell

Stephen Ministry has been privileged to have Phyllis Marganoff, EDD as a resource. Dr. Marganoff resides in Millstone and is a practicing psychologist in the area. She has met with the Stephen Ministers and Leaders several times, most recently on November 21, leading a discussion on "Trauma". Phyllis sees her role as leading the group toward a greater sense of awareness of what caregivers are seeing in order to direct care receivers to sources of relief. She has presented helpful insight and information into depression and trauma.

Nancy Dawson

Remember those in Need

There are reminder cards for food and non-food donations available in the Narthex. These handy cards will fit in your wallet and will serve as a reminder of what is needed when you go shopping. Some of the items needed are:

Rice, Soup, Tuna, Macaroni & Cheese
Cereal (hot and cold) Canned Fruit
Canned Meats, (Spam/Corned Beef/Stew)
Parmalat Milk, Canned and Powdered Juice
Spaghetti Sauce, Pasta (Canned and Dry)
Peanut Butter and Jelly
Boxed Instant Potatoes

There is also a great need for household supplies such as detergents, cleaners, paper towels, and toilet tissue. You may drop them off in the Narthex when you come to church.

Advent Season 2009

Special Services

Mark your calendars for Sunday, December 13th for a wonderful day of Music and celebrations.

We are pleased to announce that we will be presenting the Advent and Christmas portions of Handel's Messiah during our worship service on Sunday, December 13th. This special worship service combines scripture and music to tell of the coming of our Savior. Please extend an invitation to your friends and families to be a part of this wonderful worship service.

The Raritan Valley Choir will be presenting a concert "A Season to Celebrate" in our church on Sunday December 13th at 3:00 p.m. Enjoy the afternoon of music for the holiday season with the Raritan Valley Choral Society, the Riverside Quartet and the Summit Strings.

Join us the same evening at 6:00 p.m. for our traditional Chrismons Service. It is a great family time to sing our favorite Christmas Carols while decorating our sanctuary Christmas Tree. It is always a fun event for all!

December 20 join us at the 10:00 a.m. Sunday Service for the Children's Pageant "Twas the Year Before Christmas"

On December 24 there are three Christmas Eve Services planned and each one will have special music. They are as follows:

4:45 p.m. Pre- Service Music

5:00 p.m. Family Service

7:00 p.m. Adult Bell Choir and Brass Pre-Service Music

7:30 p.m. Readings and Carols

10:45 p.m. Pre-Service Music with Clarinet and Piano

11:00 p.m. Communion Service

DEADLINE The **January 2010 RAM** submission deadline is **Tuesday, December 15, 2009**. Kindly send information, articles, etc for **January** events to Darlene Purcell via email to hrcsecretary@comcast.net, regular mail or leave in church office on Darlene's desk.

<http://www.hillsboroughreformedchurch.org>



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

NonProfit Org
US POSTAGE PAID
NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ
PERMIT NO. 17

MAILED TO:

Current Resident or

PLACE MAILING LABEL HERE



“For unto us a child was born, unto us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.”