

RAM Reformed At Millstone

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

From the **PASTOR**—

February 2011

Dear Members and Friends,

What a brutal winter this has been so far! The first heavy snow storm was a fun challenge, but they have kept rolling in one after the other. The last storm with ice-coated snow was particularly challenging. It is one thing flinging fluffy lightweight snow. It is another thing to have to cut through the crust of heavy wet snow. We are hardly at mid-winter!

Doctors talk about an affliction called Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD). SAD is a condition brought on by the short daylight times we experience every winter. It is a state of depression which recurs yearly during the shortest days of the year. Whether or not you have SAD, glum, gloomy raw winter days make most of us yearn for spring.

The Bible has a lot to say to us when we are down, depressed sad or slipping. A theme running through the Bible end to end is hope. God's people will never know defeat. We face anguish, trial and hardship, but we know the day will dawn and God will vindicate his people.

In Romans we read, “. . .we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time, Christ died for the ungodly.” (Romans. 5)

The Bible exhorts us to trust in the Lord. In the dark and solemn times; in the times of loneliness; in dark times, we don't go it alone. The Lord is with us.

So we await spring, knowing mild days, days of flowers and sprouting plants and new leaves on the trees will come. Now? We snuggle against the cold and struggle against hardship. But not alone. With Christ and with Christ's people.

And if the winter weather gets you down, think about your friends who love skiing and how happy they are for snow and cold slopes! Be happy for them!

Yours in Christ,

Fred

One Amwell Road, Millstone, NJ 08844



HRC HAPPENINGS
NEWS from our HRC COMMITTEES

Buildings and Grounds

Thanks to all who came to the Building and Grounds meeting. Don't forget that your input is welcome on the "See It and Say It" sheet you may also volunteer your time and talent on the "To Do List".

Thank you in advance for your input and help.

Audrey Fredericks co-chair

Congregational Care Committee



Dinner and a Movie - Saturday, February 12th at 6:30 P.M.
"Marty" starring Ernest Borgnine

Ernest Borgnine a lonely butcher looking for love finds it with a girl he meets at a dance.

An Italian dinner will be served.

Look for the signup sheet in the vestibule.



Thank you, Kathy Falcone, Chairperson

Christian Education

Please watch for an organization meeting in the near future.

Chris Russoniello

Sunday school

A huge thank you to everyone for the support and participation in our Christmas pageant! The costumes were beautiful and the kids did a fantastic job! I am so proud of them!! Thank you to Akiko and Emily Russoniello for the beautiful music and props! We could not have done it without them!!

Looking ahead, we will have our annual parade around the church and pony rides on Palm Sunday, April 17th.

We have a new Compassionate child we are sponsoring - her name is Yohanna and she is 3 years old from the Dominican Republic. The other child we sponsored, Felicia, is no longer participating in the program. We collect our compassionate offering on the first Sunday of the month in addition to our regular offering.

If you have any questions, please email or call me anytime!

Colleen Eberhardt, Sunday School Superintendent

Outreach and Hospitality

By the time you read this, our committee will have met to begin plans for 2011, so please watch for more information in the bulletin and RAM.

We have a wonderful group of volunteers on our committee and would love to add some more. Our goal is "to reach out into the community with a message of hope--that all can be a part of our community of believers in Jesus Christ. We are responsible for sharing information about the life of our church with the surrounding community as well as warmly welcoming visitors into our congregation." A few of the activities that we are responsible for are: greeting on Sunday mornings, maintaining the Welcome table, hanging the banners at nearby intersections for Easter, Christmas, Vacation Bible School & the start of Sunday School, being present at the Millstone Wide Yard Sale, helping to prepare the pictorial directory, organizing new member potluck dinners and arranging the Christmas Caroling. If you would like more information on our committee, you may look at the church website under "Outreach Committee", watch for the End-of-Year Reports for 2010 soon to be printed and/or contact Jayne Czaplicki, chair of Outreach & Hospitality Committee.

Thank you, Jayne Czaplicki, chair of Outreach & Hospitality

Youth Group

Once again we had an excellent turnout for the Christmas Dinner at the Soup Kitchen in South Bound Brook. The youth, organizers and everyone who volunteered their food items and time did a great job. All of our guests very much appreciated this Christmas Dinner Tradition.

Our Youth Group will be having their annual "Super Bowl Sub-Sunday" Fundraiser February 6th. Once again the Youth will be making delicious hoagies for your enjoyment on Super Bowl Sunday. Please support the Youth by purchasing several hoagies to share... or eat all by yourself! See the flyer in the Sunday Bulletin. Thank You.

Kurt Benson

Women Walking With God (www.GOD) upcoming events

On **February 28th**, we will gather in Memorial Hall for a post-Christmas gift "basket auction". This event is back by popular demand. It involves bringing an unused gift that you would like to part with. Assigned a number, you then get to pick either one of the new gifts or one that someone else has already chosen. Here is a game where it benefits you to be the last one, as you get the final choice of gift. All is in the spirit of fun.

In **March**, we will once again have a "baby shower" to obtain items for "The Friendship Center for New Beginnings", a non-profit Christian agency in Flemington that our church supports. The event will be like any baby shower, with games, decorations and refreshments. The gifts (which we will have a needs list) are to be new and unwrapped. We also plan to have a speaker from the agency to tell us more about the program. This is an event that you won't want to miss.

In April, the Reformed Church's women's retreat, "Crossroads", will once again occur at Harvey Cedars on Long Beach Island. Our own Carol Luidens will be one of the presenters at the conference, which is on **April 15th and 16th**. See separate insert. Registration forms will be mailed out 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. You will have the opportunity to share ideas for future meetings. 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 needs of our congregation, denomination and nearby community.”

Jayne Czaplicki and Sue Cole

Reaching Out to Others

Remember those in Need



The Food Bank Network of Somerset County is incorporated as a not-for-profit organization. We receive assistance from Somerset County and United Way, but the majority of our food and funding come from donations made by Somerset County residents. The single largest source of funding comes from contributions to the United Way designated for The Food Bank Network of Somerset County.

The Food Bank meets emergency food needs on a daily basis for people referred by social service agencies and responds to family needs during natural emergencies, such as flooding. In addition the Food Bank distributes U.S.D.A. government surplus food when available, purchases special dietary foods for people with health problems who are without funds and delivers weekend meals to shut-in senior citizens.

Christian Service - IHN (Interfaith Hospitality Network)



Thank you to all of the people who helped make our recent guests feel welcomed. Without the support of so many people in the church we would not be able to provide a temporary home for our guests. Our next opportunity to host will be March 13 – March 20. A sign-up sheet will be posted later in the month in the vestibule. If you would like to know more about this wonderful mission, contact Carol Luidens.

Carol Luidens, Coordinator

Stephen Ministry Training



We recently commissioned four new Stephen Ministers in our church. They completed the fifty hours of training necessary to be qualified.

Here a few theological assumptions of Stephen Ministry:

- 1) God calls us to care for one another.
- 2) God empowers us to be Jesus Christ present for each other.
- 3) God is the CURE giver, we are CARE givers.
- 4) God will heal his people when in need. Help, hope and healing come through the one on one Christ-like caregiving of Stephen Ministers.
- 5) Stephen Ministry is founded on God's love for us and call to love one another.

We are never alone. God is always with us, and Christians are present for one another. Please let us know if you or someone you know needs a Stephen Minister. Please consider training to become a Stephen Minister or Stephen Leader.

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

Scholarship Fund

Each spring our church awards grants to active members graduating from high school and to students currently in college. If you would like to contribute to this worthy cause you may do so on February 27th.

There is an envelope included with your regular offering envelopes for the scholarship fund, or you may use a generic envelope from the pew. Help us show our young people that we support them in their endeavors.

News from the Consistory

At the January Consistory Meeting elections were held to select the Consistory officers for 2011. They are as follows:

Vice President – Jayne Czaplicki

Clerk of Consistory – Bill Nardone

Recording Secretary – Darlene Purcell

General Treasurer – Bob Koch

Co-Treasurer – David Mest

Trust Fund Treasurer – David Mest

Financial Secretary – Sue Cole

***President of Deacons** – Kathy Falcone

***Deacons' Fund Treasurer** – Eric Kraehenbuehl

Classis Delegate – Kurt Benson

Classis Alternate – Chris Russoniello

Auditors – Fred Butler and Arlene Dickerson

*President of Deacons and Deacons' Fund Treasurer were selected by the Deacons at a previous Deacons meeting.

Consistory Chairs are:

Building and Grounds – Audrey Fredericks and Bill Simmons co-chairs

Christian Service – Carol Luidens (Bill Nardone)

Christian Education – Chris Russoniello

Congregational Care – Jerrie Hoover and Kathy Falcone

Fellowship – Sue Woods and Christine Fung co-chairs

Mission and Benevolence – Bill Nardone (Carol Luidens and Jerrie Hoover)

Outreach – Jayne Czaplicki (Christine Fung and Audrey Fredericks)

Stewardship and Finance – Eric Kraehenbuehl (Bill Simmons)

Worship and Music – Kathy Falcone and Chris Russoniello co-chairs

Youth – Kurt Benson

If you are not already on a committee and would like to participate on one, please feel free to call one of the chairs or the church office or watch the bulletin for the dates and times that the committees meet.

Collection for the Deacon's Fund Sunday, February 20th.

The Deacon's Fund is for human needs and emergencies within our congregation and community. The past year has been a difficult one for many. If you know of someone in need, please speak to one of the Deacons. 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. The Deacons would like to thank all who have contributed to the Fund and its mission.

The Deacons

A Report from the Treasurer for 2010

The church budgeted \$269,230.00 for the 2010 year. Our giving amounted to \$253,153.23 and expenses were \$253,131.26. With the 2009 carryover we ended the year with a balance on December 31 of \$616.71. Our biggest expenditures were salaries that accounted to \$112,222.00. We gave \$35,888.00 to benevolent needs. We paid health, property and workmen's comp. insurance of \$30,316.00. Classis Assessments came to \$15,114.00. All other operations in the church came to \$59,591.26. Our problem throughout the year is one of cash flow. The weather affects attendance, weekly giving varies, summer

giving falls until September. December has traditionally been a month of generosity. We are a generous church and lead the classis in benevolent giving. We make benevolent giving a priority. That's something to be proud of...

Remembering Those We Love and Will Miss

Lois Dilly, 97, a former member of Hillsborough Reformed Church died on December 22, 2010. Lois was a resident in the Frederick Mennonite Community Residence in Frederick, PA.

John Berg, grandfather of Beth Richardson Reinert and Scott Richardson passed away on Wednesday, January 12th at the age of 90. Beth grew up in our church and served as a deacon before marrying Ryan Reinert and moving to south Jersey. They reside at 26 Cedar Hill Drive, Sicklerville, NJ 08081 with their two daughters. Scott Richardson and his wife, members of our church reside in Hillsborough with their two daughters.

Madeline McDonough, 90, passed away on January 15. Madeline was a resident of the Amwell Group Home and attended worship service regularly

Doris V. Walter Jelicks, 78, passed away on Wednesday, January 19, 2011 in Florida where she had resided since 1990. Doris was a former active member of our church and well known for her humor and working in Sunday school and Vacation Bible school. Surviving are her two daughters, Jill Panico and husband, Sal of Neshanic Station and Nancy Jelicks of Ocala, FL; her two sons, Jeffrey Jelicks of Three Bridges and Glen Jelicks of Hillsborough; ten grandchildren; one great granddaughter; her sister, Eleanor Kappock of Willow Valley, PA; and her brother, Rev. Ralph Walter of Green Brook.

HYMNS 4 HIM

JESUS, the VERY THOUGHT OF THEE

attributed to Bernard of Clairvaux (1091-1153), translated by Edward Caswall (1814-1878)

Jesus, the very thought of Thee / With sweetness fills my breast;
But sweeter far Thy face to see, / And in Thy presence rest.
Nor voice can sing, nor heart can frame, / Nor can the mem'ry find
A sweeter sound than Thy blest name, / O Savior of mankind!
O Hope of every contrite heart, / O Joy of all the meek,
To those who fall, how kind Thou art! / How good to those who seek!
But what to those who find? Ah, this / Nor tongue nor pen can show:
The love of Jesus, what it is / None but His loved ones know.
Jesus, our only joy be Thou, / As Thou our prize wilt be:
Jesus, be Thou our glory now, / And through eternity.

Knowing God is a matter of the heart. This truth dominated the life of Bernard of Clairvaux. At a very early age Bernard was drawn to spiritual things, largely influenced by the piety of his mother. At twenty-two he entered a monastery at Citeaux, and three years later he founded a monastery at Clairvaux, serving as its spiritual leader until he died in 1153.

In spite of his many pressing responsibilities and frequent travel, Bernard never lost sight of what he prized most—the love of Jesus. God's love was Bernard's lifeblood, pulsing through everything he said and did. His knowledge of God was deeply personal, a mystical love affair that not only gave meaning to his life on earth but formed his vision of heaven. As Bernard said, "[God] is Himself the reward of those who love Him, the eternal reward of those who love Him for eternity.

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with

plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

1 Corinthians 2:1-5, NRSV

Brown, R K and Norton, M R, Eds. The One Year Book of Hymns Tyndale, Wheaton: 1995

TOP SHELF VIEWING FROM OUR LIBRARY . . .

A SONG FROM THE HEART

This is what the DVD cover says: Maryann Lowery (Six-time Grammy® Award Winner Amy Grant), a beautiful, blind cellist and music teacher at the Milford Conservatory of Music, enjoys her quiet, comfortable life with her friend and widowed neighbor, Oliver (Academy Award® Winner Keith Carradine). When world-famous musician Gregory Pavan (D.W. Moffet, TV's Friday Night Lights) visits the Conservatory to record an upcoming album, he sees undiscovered talent in Maryann, promises her fame, and convinces her to undergo a risky eye operation. As the two fall for each other, it will take a life-changing moment for Maryann to realize that sometimes, true love is right before our eyes, waiting to be discovered.



It is obvious it's a movie more suited to women, and somewhat predictable, yet definitely suited to a Valentine theme . . . therefore, it's what I chose to review for the month of February. I hope you enjoy both the movie and Amy Grant's included music CD.

This case also includes a bonus music CD, "Gospel Songs: 1. Rock Of Ages; 2. Blessed Assurance; 3. Amazing Grace; 4. Love Lifted Me; 5. Swing Low, Sweet Chariot; 6. Glad Reunion Day. The entire DVD/CD is appropriate for all ages, and all sexes, definitely a family movie.

Sue Cole

Please join us for...

CROSSROAD XXVII

A Retreat for Women

Suffering & Joy: Our Journey with Christ

*Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."
Matthew 16:24*



Keynote Speaker

E.J. Emerson

RCA Pastor

Special Guest Speaker

Wesley Granberg-Michaelson

RCA General Secretary

HOT Topics

- Being Single
- Christian Marriage
- Dealing with Infertility
- Discerning God's Will
- Experience in Palestine
- Forgiveness
- Human Side of Immigration
- Making Room for the Other

Music by Ocean Community Praise Ensemble - including favorite hymns and praise songs - and the Crossroads Choir!

Retreat Leaders

- ◆ Leah Ennis
- ◆ Marisol Ferrer
- ◆ Linda Bulew Gold
- ◆ Cathy Gumpert
- ◆ Joanne Hala
- ◆ Sharon Hayes
- ◆ Johnnie Lovejoy
- ◆ Carol Luidens
- ◆ Sandi Masters
- ◆ Ellen Morris
- ◆ Claudette Reid

- ◆ **Friday - Saturday**
- ◆ **April 15 - 16, 2011**
- ◆ **Harvey Cedars Conference Center**
- ◆ **Long Beach Island, NJ**

Registration Forms will be mailed in January 2011

For more information, please contact: Darlene Purcell at 908-904-0800 (Monday), 908-359-3391 (Tuesday - Friday) or purcelldm@comcast.net. (Please put CROSSROADS in the subject line.)

Sponsored by the Crossroads Committee of the Synod of Mid-Atlantics

"Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you" (Lk 1:28). These are the words the angel Gabriel spoke to Mary before he told her that she would be the mother of our savior. This greeting instituted a new world order and a change in our relationship with God forever. These words are powerful and still impact our lives. We are all favored and the Lord is with each one of us. These words were not only spoken to Mary, but are spoken to you and I. Maybe you are having a rough day, a difficult year, or are bearing a heavy burden. God's response is, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." Immanuel, the with-us God. Not only in this season, but year round you are favored, loved, and cared for by our Lord.

We really felt this presence throughout the year. "Change" is the word that sums up our year. We had changes in jobs, location, training, and in our family. On 21 May, after a long period of desert wandering and waiting, Brent left NJ for officer training at Maxwell AFB, Montgomery, AL. After six weeks of training, Leah joined Brent for graduation and his official induction into the Air Force officer ranks. From there life took us to Wright-Patterson AFB in Dayton, OH. We moved into our new home the first week and the second week Brent began in-processing for his new assignment. The next week we were off again to Fort Jackson, Columbia, SC for five weeks of chaplaincy training. Since then Brent has returned to Ft. Jackson for an additional week of training.

While Brent was in Alabama Leah was in Iowa for a summer with her family. She had a great time with family and the time flew by during our separation. She was able to participate in many things she otherwise would have missed out on. She was able to road trip with her sister, Lynae, back to Iowa, met her niece Carlee Grace for the first time, spend long awaited time with relatives, road trip to Colorado for her sister Laura's wedding, and do some sightseeing with extended family while in Denver.

We are now starting to gain our bearing in our new lives. Although in life there is no such thing as being "settled in." As a chaplain, Brent now spends his days counseling, working out, preparing for and leading worship, traveling a 6-state region doing funerals and memorial services, training, attending commander and chapel meetings, walking around his units visiting with Airmen, planning religious functions for the base, and performing additional duties that come along with being an officer. Each day is new and there are always opportunities for learning and growth. Leah is beginning to get used to her new life out of the workforce and preparing for motherhood. Oh, yeah, on top of all this we are expecting our first child in May so we are preparing as best we can for more transition in the months and years to come. Flexibility is not only the key to airpower, but seems to be the key to life.

Wishing all of you a very merry Christmas this year. May your lives be filled with blessings from our Lord. We look forward to seeing you again.

Brent & Leah Mulder

6801 Brandt Pike, Huber Heights, OH 45424



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

Every Wednesday

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

Every Thursday

- 7:30 a.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal

Other Important Dates:

February 6

- Early Service at 8:15 a.m.
Compassion Sunday and Bring a Friend

February 1

- Bible Tour at 7:00 p.m.

February 8

- Consistory Meeting at 7:30 p.m.

February 9

- Jr. Leader's Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
Ladies' Bible Study at 7:00 p.m.

February 13

- Worship and Music Committee

February 20

- Deacons Fund Collection

February 22

- Bible Tour at 7:00 p.m.

February 23

- Ladies' Bible Study at 7:00 p.m..

February 15

- RAM Deadline

February 25 – 26

- Leaders Retreat at the Farm

February 27

- Scholarship Collection

February 28

- www.God (Women Walking with God)
at 7:00 p.m. gift exchange

DEADLINE

The **March 2011 RAM** submission deadline is **Tuesday, February 15, 2011**. Kindly send information, articles, etc for *March and beyond* to Darlene Purcell via email to 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



What's New...

Letter from Pastor Fred

Letter from the Mulders

Consistory Committee Leaders

Top Viewing Review – A Song From the Heart