

# RAM

# Reformed At Millstone

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

---

---

*From the* **PASTOR**—

April 19, 2008

Dear Members and Friends,

As I write to you, I am preparing a sermon for April 20 on ecology and the environment. Under the leadership of Jayne Czaplicki, members of our church are interested in "going green," making our church as friendly as possible to the environment and looking for ways to cut back on energy use, pollution and waste.

We all know these are things we should be doing. What may be surprising are the far reaching consequences of our modern problems. We have all been concerned about the cost of oil. Filling up the tank of the car has grown costly and we watch the cost dial on the pump spin in a blur while the gallon dial creeps along.

We are all inconvenienced and looking for ways to cut back. Likewise we worry about the rise in commodities, since the cost of fuel effects everything.

What I was unprepared for, and maybe you were too, was the dear price that is being paid by the poor. Many factors are pushing up the cost of fuel, included among them converting agricultural land from the growing of crops for food to crops to produce fuel.

The poorest of the poor have seen the price of the most basic of food items go through the roof. People are starving, in places like Cairo, Haiti, New Delhi, Indonesia, sub-Saharan Africa, to name just a few places in this global crisis. To the poor it means the difference between life and death. They do not have enough money to buy food.

In the paper this morning was an article about one poor mother of five in Haiti who was heard saying to a stranger, "Please take one of my children. Just feed him." Will this food crisis lead to a swell in illegal trading of humans and prostitution? This is becoming not merely an economic crisis, but a moral one as well. When people are starving, they will do just about anything to satisfy their hunger.

I never guessed it, but it is all about food. I shouldn't be surprised. I read the Bible and know it well. Perhaps we are not so far away as we think from Joseph and Pharaoh's dream of the seven fat cows and seven skinny cows. It was all about food then. It is becoming all about food now.

I know this letter has unpleasant thoughts in it. But I approach this topic because the church needs to be the friend and helper of the poor. I think there is a lot of work ahead of us. I think that we will need the most creative minds and best intellects to help alleviate the suffering of millions of people in the near future. We will need the power of churches united to befriend the neediest. We do so to honor our Lord. God cares for neediest.

If you wish to know more about hunger advocacy, *Bread for the World* is a fantastic organization working to influence governments and policies to help the poor. Many Reformed churches belong to the group, and the RCA encourages churches to join. The web site is [www.bread.org](http://www.bread.org).

I invite you to join me in prayer to God for help, wisdom and guidance. Please join me in prayer to make us compassionate and for compassion to blossom as we seek to address these great issues.

Yours in Christ,

*Pastor Fred*

---

---

One Amwell Road, Millstone, NJ 08844  
Phone: (908) 359-3391 Fax: (908) 359-8311 Email: [muel21@aol.com](mailto:muel21@aol.com)  
<http://churches.rca.org/hillsborough/>



## NEWS from our HRC COMMITTEES



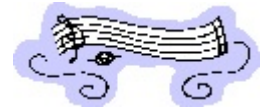
### MISSIONS & BENEVOLENCE NEWS

Our church-wide CROP/CWS bank project was superbly supported—as usual—by our congregation. The total given for the CWS banks was \$1762. On behalf of the M&B Committee at HRC, your generosity is appreciated.

Catherine Kinrade

### WORSHIP & MUSIC ANNOUNCES HYMN SING

SAVE THE DATE: Mark your calendars to join us on **June 29<sup>th</sup>** for our annual Hymn Sing. Start thinking of those favorite hymns you love to sing.



Jeanne Bowlby



### BUILDING & GROUNDS - HUGE THANKS!

I couldn't let time go by without offering thanks to the folks who helped with the church clean-up day, April 19. The men handled the outside chores and the women, the inside. The assistance was greatly appreciated from: Ed and Dot Schilke, Laurie Wittman, Roger Porter, Austin Maxwell, Mike Williams, Rich Fredericks, Audrey Jaegers, Fred Butler, Bob Koch, Jayne Czaplicki and Pastor Fred. Thanks also to Rich Fredericks and Audrey Jaegers for helping to curb the rain runoff onto our sidewalks with groundcover plants.

One upcoming B&G change to look for will be a change to two Memorial Hall doors, keeping them in sync with safety needs; the change will also enhance entry and exit of the kitchen rear and side ramp entrances. Changes are to be made within the month.

Tony Cole

### EDUCATION COMMITTEE - SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

**SPECIAL SUNDAY:** Please mark your calendar - our annual **Children's Sunday is May 18**. All the students will be reciting the memory work they have learned this year in Sunday school, singing songs and receiving their year pins and certificates. **This special worship service is followed by a church-wide picnic.** Please join us for a wonderful time of fellowship! (Fellowship Committee will post sign-up sheets for sides and desserts).

**HELP ENLISTED:** Are you Spring cleaning, going through your closets, drawers, craft and sewing baskets? Are you looking to get rid of all the stuff left over from projects? Our Sunday school is looking for donations of various craft materials (list of requested items follows). If you have any requested items, please place them in the basement in a box or bag labeled "Sunday school craft materials". Thank you for donations and support!!

#### Craft items:

markers  
scissors  
smocks  
fabric pieces

glue sticks  
felt pieces  
plastic table covers  
yarn

glitter glue  
tape  
cotton balls  
glitter

chalk  
writing paper  
pipe cleaners  
washable paint

Colleen Eberhardt, Superintendent

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - August 4-8

Please put those dates on your calendars! The format is slightly different, meeting in the evenings, from 6 - 8:30 PM. If you are interested in volunteering in some capacity, please contact Rae and Christy Quast, (732-469-8461). More information will follow.

Rae Quast

## “SPRUCE UP” COMMITTEE

The new “Spruce Up” Committee will update and revise the Memorial Hall kitchen. Should you, a committee, or past project group be storing items in the kitchen, your help is immediately needed! Please sort through the drawers, cupboards and closets to identify the items belonging to your group. If there is no other location for storage available, please place the items you need stored together on a counter with a note as to the group name, purpose of items stored. Anything not identified will be removed. Thank you very much.

Maryanne Devoti

## CHRISTIAN SERVICE - REMINDER - HABITAT WORK DATE - MAY 3



We have arranged our Habitat for Humanity workday for **Saturday, May 3**. Forms are available for completion prior to the work date and directions are also available. If you can make it, I hope that you will put this on your calendar. As you might remember there are four homes which are being built simultaneously in Franklin Township. Hopefully, we will get about 15 volunteers like the last workday. Please let me, Catherine Kinrade or Fred Butler know if you can make it. Thanks.

Al Meyer

## MORE HRC ACTIVITIES, EVENTS & UPDATES

### HRC BIBLE STUDIES

Women's Bible Study

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

Jayne Czaplicki—908-359-5717 or e-mail at [funafloat@aol.com](mailto:funafloat@aol.com)



The Daytime TOUR of the BIBLE continues **at Noon** Wednesdays in Memorial Hall, meeting **every Wednesday in May**.

The Tuesday Evening TOUR of the BIBLE will meet on **5/6 and 5/27, 7-8 PM**.

### ABOUT FOLKS WE KNOW . . . SYMPATHY EXTENDED

Our prayers and sympathy are with Wayne and Kathy Domkowski and their family on the death of Wayne's father, Benny Domkowski, who died March 17 at his home in Lanoka Harbor, NJ.

### CYSTIC FIBROSIS WALK SCHEDULED - MAY 18

The CF walk is **Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>** in Colonial Park. Jonathan, Keith and/or Ruth Standley will be happy to accept your donations to help Jonathan in his fight to cure this deadly disease. CF is a genetic lung disorder and is the number one killer of children and young adults in the US. Any questions can be addressed to Keith, or Ruth. Thanks.



Keith, Ruth and Jonathan Standley

## "BEHIND THE SEENS--FOOD FOR THOUGHT"

\* \* \* \* \*

*It's Sunday morning. You've gotten up early to come to the adult Sunday School class. It's nine AM and there's a wonderful aroma in Memorial Hall--it's the coffee brewing! Hopefully, you are filling the reusable cup/mug that you've brought from home (as suggested by the Going Green Committee). Oh, and look, there are bagels and fresh baked apple cake on the table (the one that has a cheerful spring tablecloth and some flowers on it courtesy of the Spruce-up Committee.) Who made that coffee????*

**VOLUNTEER  
CORNER**  
\* \* \* \* \*

*It's our one and only, Nancy Norcross. She has been arriving early on Sunday mornings for the past five years to serve us. The members of the adult class take turns bringing breakfast treats, but many times Nancy supplies these items herself. And when we are all rushing out the door as the bell in the tower calls us to church, Nancy is scrubbing up the coffee pots and wiping up crumbs! She truly shows the gift of service. Let's never take her efforts or the efforts of others in the church for granted! Give thanks!*

### Volunteers currently needed

Begin thinking about possibly being a Sunday School teacher next year. Openings are already being identified. Please feel free to contact Carol Luidens ([cluidens@patmedia.com](mailto:cluidens@patmedia.com) or 908-359-7533) or Colleen Eberhardt.

If you have Administration, Hospitality, and Service Spiritual Gifts and are interested in participating on the Fellowship Committee, please contact Carol Luidens ([cluidens@patmedia.com](mailto:cluidens@patmedia.com) or 908-359-7533) or Maryanne Devoti.

### Thanks for your help

We hosted **IHN** the week of April 20 thru the 26<sup>th</sup>, cleaning up on the 27<sup>th</sup>. Though St Joe's provided most of the coverage, members of this church helped out in setting up and taking down and **THANKS goes to ALL**. We will be hosting again in September, at which time we will be sharing the days with St. Joe's.

Also, if you are interested in having your car detailed, Mike, a guest with IHN has a business doing that right now. Please call him at 973-878-6984 any time. He has transportation, so can come to you to have it done.

### 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](http://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.

Carol Luidens

---

The next RAM will be the **JUNE**, 2008 issue. This RAM submission deadline is Thursday, May 15. Kindly send information, articles, etc. for *ALL of JUNE, 2008* events to Sue Cole via email: [tandscole@optonline.net](mailto:tandscole@optonline.net), via regular mail, or they may be left in her HRC mailbox which is labeled, "Financial Secretary."

**DEADLINE**

## STEPHEN MINISTRY MISSION



Multiple copies of several books published by Stephen Ministries St. Louis have been purchased by our church and are available for use by the congregation. The following descriptions are adapted from the Stephen Ministries web site.

Speaking the Truth in Love: How to Be an Assertive Christian, by Kenneth C. Hauck, offers principles that will help Christians learn to communicate with others in a confident, assertive, Christlike fashion. Assertive behavior is presented in a Christian manner focusing particularly on the way Jesus related to others. Readers are taught to recognize the difference between passive, aggressive, and assertive responses and are encouraged to be honest, direct, open, and natural in their relationships with others.

Don't Sing Songs to a Heavy Heart is also by Dr. Hauck. Did you ever wonder what to say to people who are experiencing suffering in their lives? How do you keep from making their pain even worse? This book offers practical guidance and common-sense suggestions to help care in ways that hurting people welcome—while avoiding pitfalls that can add to your pain. As you read, your heart will be touched and you will find words and actions that will bring God's presence and care to hurting people.

Finally, Journeying through Grief is available. This is a set of four short books which can be given or sent to grieving people at four crucial times during the first year after a loved one has died. Each book focuses on what the person is likely to be experiencing at that point in grief, and provides care, assurance, encouragement and hope.

Please just sign for any of these publications when you visit the bookcase in the Stephen Ministry corner at the back of the church.

Nancy Dawson for the Stephen Ministry Leadership Team

---

### FROM THE MAILBOX . . .



To beloved friends of the Hillsborough Reformed Church:

I cannot even begin or attempt to tell you what profound feelings of concern and love that have surrounded me during the time since my husband Cy's passing. The outpouring of love, effort and planning for the service and the reception following at St. Joseph's Church was not to be believed. Little snippets of information reached me during the week and I was so moved by all the effort I heard about in planning the service and reception. I simply could not believe the time and dedication that many members made to have such a beautifully planned reception after the service. It was overwhelming and so comforting. Cy would have thought it incredulous. We always loved this church and the love you showed in memory of Cy, and to me, his students, the community, family and friends was truly overwhelming and you were his friends, grieving too. I have heard so many truly wonderful comments about the service and the reception and I know it was due to your efforts. You reflected to the community what a truly caring Church is and how we care about our church family. I will always be greatly indebted to all of you. God's love was reflected in your actions and words of consolation.

Jerrie Hoover



**May 1, 2008 - National Day of Prayer**  
**2008 Prayer for Our Nation - Dr. Ravi Zacharias**  
 2008 Honorary Chairman, National Day of Prayer Task Force

Holy Father, in a world where so many are hungry, You have given us food in abundance;  
 In a world where so many are hurting, You offer to bind up our wounds;  
 In a world where so many are lonely, You offer friendship to every heart;  
 In a world longing for peace, You offer hope.  
 Yet, we are so stubborn and resistant. Have mercy upon us, Lord.  
 Our nation is at a crossroads this year; we look to you to be our strength and shield.  
 Please give us the guidance to elect one who will honor you and to respond to the wisdom from above so that our hope may be renewed and our blessings be treasured.  
 In God's holy name.

May 1 Events being held in our area:

Hillsborough: Anne VanMiddlesworth Park off Amwell Road at Woodfield Estates, 7-8 AM  
 Hillsborough: Municipal Bldg, Garden of Honor between 12-2 PM  
 Somerville on County Courthouse steps from 6-7:30 PM

**GREEN TEAM PLANS MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFAST**

On **Sunday, May 11 at 8:15 AM**, plan to come out th Memorial Hall for a delicious breakfast prepared by "The Green Team." The cost is still only \$2.00. Please sign up in the church vestibule.



**CAMP WARWICK - IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO PLAN FOR CAMP!**

Brochures for RCA Camp Warwick summer sessions have arrived and are available in the vestibule. Camp Warwick has 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>.

**SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE**

If you are an active church member and are graduating from high school this summer or if you are currently in college, you may be eligible for a church scholarship. The awards are available through a maximum of four years of college. If you would like to apply, please contact Julie Kinrade, [kinrade@aol.com](mailto:kinrade@aol.com) with information regarding the high school you are attending and your plans for next year. College students should supply details of their college and major. All applications must be submitted by JUNE 1. The awards will be presented during the worship service on JUNE 15. Please try to collect your award in person.



Scholarship Committee

**WWW.GOD NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED**

The May www.God meeting will be held on **Wednesday, May 21 at 7 PM**. The meeting will include devotions, a book review, and a light-hearted "chick-flick" movie with a message. Ladies, please come and enjoy a movie night out!



Ginger Butler

# WORDS FOR THE WISE ...

Fresh in our memories having all experienced Holy Week remembrances and Easter celebrations, we all recall Luke's words about Peter's denials of Jesus. Thinking about those events, we look to learn more about **PETER**, the man. The resource states, "Peter, rock, stone," not *Peter—the disowner*, as the gospels show us. How wonderful that God saw past Peter's denials to the promise Peter held inside!

The Greek expression for Peter is *petros, petra, lithos*, pronounced *PEH trawss; PEH truh; LEE thawss*. God specialized in making name-changes at critical moments in biblical history. For example, He changed Jacob's name to Israel, which means "He who struggles with God" (Gen. 32:19). When Jesus first saw Simon, the son of John, He immediately changed his name.



Addressing him, Jesus said: "You are Simon, the son of John; you shall be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter). When Jesus saw Peter He saw him for what he would become—Cephas, which is Aramaic for "stone." Peter would become a "stone" in the building of Christ's church (Matt. 16:16-18). Throughout his days with Jesus it appears that Simon was anything but a stone, but after Christ's resurrection and Pentecost, Simon Peter was strengthened and fortified. He became a pillar and a foundation stone in the building of the first century church (Gal. 2:9; Eph 2:20). Jesus not only sees what is in us, He sees what we can be through God's power and transformation.

A few years later, Peter made a remarkable, history-changing proclamation. He declared that Jesus was "the Christ, the son of the living God," to which Jesus responded, "Blessed are you, Simon, son of Jonah, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but my Father in Heaven. And I also say to you, that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church" (Matt. 16:16-18). As "Peter" and "rock" are one word in the dialect spoken by Jesus (Aramaic), the wordplay in this verse can be seen only in languages that have one word for both. In the Greek, the word for "Peter" is *petros* meaning "stone" or "fragment of a rock"; the word for "rock" is *petra* which is more specifically "rock mass." Some commentaries have indicated that though the two words are nearly synonymous, Jesus intended a distinction—Peter is but a fragment of the whole, while Christ Himself is the entire rock. Thus, it could be said that the church would be built on Christ, the Rock. Others have maintained that Jesus is saying in this passage that the church will be built on Peter's confession that Jesus is the Son of God.

However we interpret this passage, it is clear that Peter himself never declared that he was the single rock upon which the church was built. Rather, he told the believers: "you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ" (1 Pet. 2:5). The word "also" shows that he put all other believers in the same category as he: We all are living stones in the church God is building.

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



## CONFIRMATION SUNDAY - MAY 4

On **Sunday, May 4 at our 10 AM worship service**, the 2008 Confirmation Class will unite with the church. Refreshments will follow the service in Memorial Hall. Join us in congratulating the Confirmands.

# Hymns 4 Him

## IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL by Horatio Gates Spafford (1828-1888)

When peace like a river attendeth my way / When sorrow like sea-billows roll;  
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say / "It is well with my soul."

*It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.*

Though Satan should buffet, tho' trials should come / Let this blest assurance control,  
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate, / And hath shed His own blood for my soul.

My sin-O, the bliss of this glorious thought, / My sin-not in part but the whole,  
Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more, / Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

And, Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight / The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,  
The trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend, / "Even so"-it is well with my soul.

Horatio G. Spafford, a forty-three year-old Chicago businessman, suffered financial disaster in the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. He and his wife were still grieving over the death of their son shortly before the fire, and he realized they needed to get away for a vacation. Knowing that their friend Dwight L. Moody was going to be preaching in evangelistic campaigns in England that fall, Spafford decided to take the entire family to England. His wife and four daughters went ahead on the SS *Ville du Havre*, and he planned to follow in a few days.



But on the Atlantic Ocean the ship was struck by an iron sailing vessel and sank within twelve minutes. Two hundred and twenty-six lives were lost—including the Spaffords' four daughters. When the survivors were brought to shore at Cardiff, Wales, Mrs. Spafford cabled her husband, "Saved alone."

Spafford booked passage on the next ship. As they were crossing the Atlantic, the captain pointed out the place where he thought the *Ville du Havre* had gone down. That night, Spafford penned the words "When sorrows like sea billows roll . . . it is well, it is well with my soul."

*We rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. Romans 5:2-4*

Brown, R K and Norton, M R The One Year Book of Hymns Tyndale: 1993

## WOW! LOOK WHAT'S NEW AT THE CHURCH!

We have launched our new website, <http://www.hillsboroughreformedchurch.org>. Besides the calendar, there is information on the history of the church, Pastor Fred's sermons, a description of some of our programs, and a photo gallery. There is plenty of space to add additional information for other activities of our church, for example Youth Group, music interests, Women Walking With God, etc. If you have something you would like added, please contact Chris Williams at [cmw209@Lehigh.EDU](mailto:cmw209@Lehigh.EDU) or Chris Claus at [lclaus@patmedia.net](mailto:lclaus@patmedia.net). During the summer we will be looking for volunteers to learn how to add additional information to the web site.



Chris Claus

---

---

## REFLECTIONS AND RECOLLECTIONS

---

---

### CELL PHONES . . . NOW I WONDER . . .

I wonder what would happen if we treated our *Bible* like we treat our cell phone?

What if we carried it around in our purses or pockets?

What if we didn't leave home without it - and even turned back to go get it if we forgot it?

What if we flipped through it several times a day?

What if we used it to receive messages from the text?



What if we treated it like we couldn't live without it?

What if we gave it to kids as gifts?

What if we used it as we traveled?

What if we had Jesus' picture inside?

What if we used it in case of an emergency?

What if we upgraded it to get the latest version?

What if we went through the same grief if we *lost* it?

Do you use *both* on a daily basis?

Maybe you are even thinking . . . hmmm . . . where *is* my Bible?

Oh, and one more thing. Unlike our cell phone, we don't ever have to worry about our Bible being disconnected; Jesus already paid the bill!

—internet, 2006



---

---

### MOTHER'S DAY - MAY 11 YOUR MOTHER IS ALWAYS WITH YOU

Your Mother is always with you.

She's the whisper of the leaves as you walk down the street.

She's the smell of foods you remember.

She is in the scent of the perfume she wore and her favorite flowers.

She's the cool hand on your brow when you're not well.

She is the sound of the rain that lulls you to sleep, and the vision of a rainbow you see.

She is Christmas morning, special birthdays and quiet times too.

Your mother lives inside your laughter. She's crystallized in every teardrop.

She's the place you came from, your first home; she's the map you follow with every step you take.

She's your first love and your first heartbreak, first friend, first enemy . . .

And nothing on earth can separate you. Not time, not space. Not even death.

. . . for you carry her inside of you.

—from the Internet 2006, submitted by Margo Myer

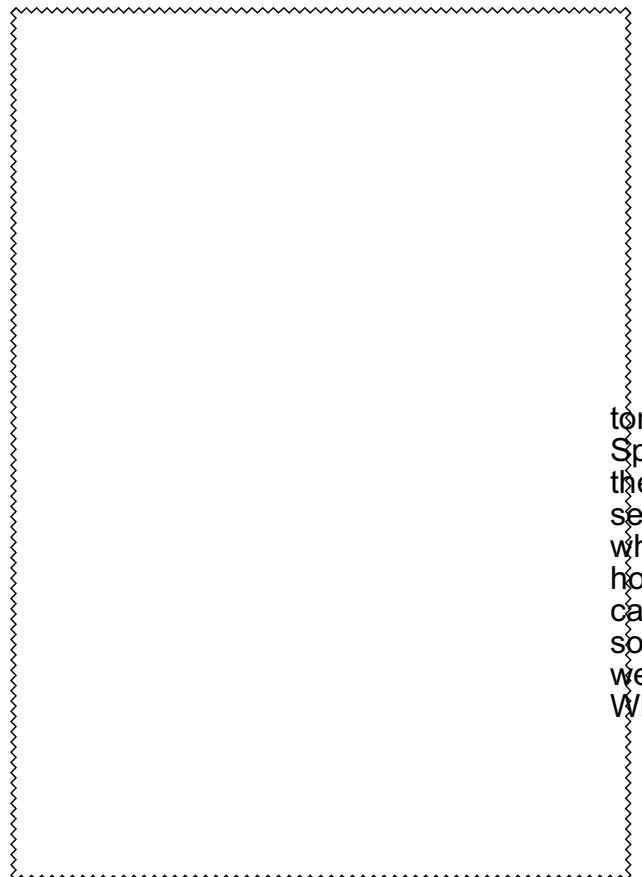


**MAY Newsletter from the  
Hillsborough Reformed Church  
One Amwell Road  
Millstone, NJ 08844**

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

**MAILED TO:**

PLACE MAILING LABEL HERE



tongues  
Spirit an  
them. All  
separate  
what see  
house w  
came fro  
sound lik  
were all t  
When th