

RAM Reformed At Millstone

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

From the **PASTOR**—

June 19, 2009

Dear Members and Friends,

Summer in central Jersey! Love it and hate it! What's to love? We live in a beautiful place. New Jersey has beaches, rivers, streams, fields, farms and forests. We also are graced with beautiful lawns on which live herds of deer! (sorry to bring that up – but they are cute, as long as they stay off road).

What's to hate – two things – heat and humidity! There are worse places for heat and humidity though.

You know what else we have? Churches! Lots of Reformed churches, besides others.

In the summer we move our worship hour up a little – to 9:30 AM. We also open our doors for Vacation Bible School. This year we will try having VBS in the evenings. By the way, Memorial Hall and the church basement have window air conditioners which make things tolerable.

Whatever plans your summer holds – vacation or “stay-cations” or just work (one of our members asks, “What is a vacation?” having never had one!) or unemployment as some of our members face this summer – whatever your summer holds, make sure it holds church. Our ministries slow down somewhat in the summer months. But we still do thing number one – we worship God. We gather in the mornings on the Lord's Day and thank God for his goodness, we confess our sins and are assured of forgiveness flowing from God's mercy, we hear good news through Jesus about God, we sing to the Lord, we rejoice and support those who are weeping, we pray, we read and we give and share!

Please don't neglect to be part of that. I like saying our church is rich. We are rich in people. God has drawn us together through the Holy Spirit and made us a congregation of love and faith. You are I are part of something amazing. You and I are part of something holy.

By the way, if you are traveling through a weekend – do yourself a favor and find a church at which to worship. Some of our families bring home the bulletin from a church they visited and throw it on my desk in the Pastor's Study. I DO look through those and love seeing what other churches are up to and rejoice that you enriched another congregation away from here.

Thank God for the summer! Thank God for the church! Thank God for Jesus!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Fred

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NEWS from our HRC COMMITTEES

EDUCATION

Vacation Bible School

VBS is coming!! It is scheduled for Aug 3rd-Aug 7th from 6:30-8pm for Grades Pre-K thru 5th. Please invite your friends to come and have lots of fun. The theme is "Becoming Missionaries for God".

We are looking for teen volunteers. More details to come!

Rae Quast

Sunday School: Please watch your email and the bulletins for details about Sunday School beginning again in September. Enjoy your time off! See everyone in September!

Mike Williams and Colleen Eberhardt

MISSIONS & BENEVOLENCE

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

Carol Luidens, Catherine Kinrade and Eric Kraehenbuehl

SPRUCE-UP COMMITTEE

Attention Adoptive Painters: Our rooms await your TLC (Totally Lively Colors)!!! Now that the warm weather is upon us, and the children have vacated the Sunday School rooms, adoptive painters may want to escape the heat and start painting in the Church's cool basement. Our rooms will then be ready for September, which seems a long way off, but will arrive as quickly as Pastor Fred's sailboat on a windy day! We have cans of paint in the basement if anyone needs to look through them. Please bring your own painting equipment and drop cloths. You can come in any day to paint, just let Pastor Fred or Joanie know ahead of time. Thank You!!

Maryanne Devoti

WORSHIP & MUSIC

We all enjoy the musical talents of our congregation. We are looking ahead to growing our choirs in September. Anyone interested in joining the Senior Choir should contact Akiko Hosaki, anyone interested in joining the Adult Bell Choir should contact Carol Koch, and any teens wishing to the join the Teen Bell Choir should contact Nancy Mest.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Pastor Fred is planning a tubing trip for Tuesday, August 11, with a rain date of Wednesday, August 12. Look for more details in your bulletins.

Kurt Benson and Rae Quast

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

College Connection - It's not too soon to think ahead to September! The College Connection is a program designed to help the congregation of HRC stay in touch with our students while they pursue their studies both near and far from home. Holiday cards, messages from the congregation and care packages of goodies are sent out to our students.

Sign up today!!! Send your name and school year address to Tori Schryver.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

By the time the next RAM is out, the Outreach Committee will have the new church brochure available, our name badges should be well on their way to completion and the church website should be fairly complete. As these things become accomplished, we hope to focus more on reaching out into the community with hands-on missions. We have talked about assisting with food and clothing needs in our nearby areas, promoting blood drives and having a visible presence at the Millstone-wide yard sale in June of 2010. We are looking into ways to help children in the area who are in need of school supplies or tutoring. In lieu of a pictorial directory, we would like to make a Congregational Album, where each member or family would create their own pictorial/informational page. The completed album will help us get to know one another better as well as being a guide for newcomers.

By meeting with the head of Social Services in Hillsborough, we have identified that they routinely need items such as toilet paper, paper towels, dish soap and laundry detergent. The smaller containers and individually wrapped paper goods (not bulk supply) are preferred for easier distribution to families. We will work on intermittent collecting of these items to help the Hillsborough Food Bank.

If anyone is interested in helping with Outreach or if you have any suggestions for us, please talk with Jayne Czaplicki, any of the Outreach Committee members or leave a message at the church office at 908-359-3391.

Jayne Czaplicki - Chair of Outreach

MORE HRC ACTIVITIES, EVENTS & UPDATES

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

A meeting of the congregation was held immediately following the service of worship on June 21, 2009. The purpose was to present recommendations of the Property Opportunities Committee (POC) to the congregation. Eric Kraehenbuehl presented two proposals being considered for areas to increase church parking. 1) The Hazel Dickinson property adjacent to the church. This would require purchase by the church. 2) The area just south of the parsonage would be obtained by an exchange of the waterfront property of the Parsonage. These proposals were presented to the Great Consistory and received a unanimous vote of approval. This was followed by a unanimous vote of Consistory to purchase these properties. The meeting's discussion reflected concerns of the congregation. There are many details that need to be worked out.. The POC is prepared to address these. Dave Mest assured members there are liquid resources available in the Trust Fund Accounts. The congregation will be able to borrow from the funds which can be repaid through a capital fund drive. Pastor Mueller explained that the responsibility of the decision rests with the Consistory who wanted all members to be informed. It was moved and seconded that the congregation show its support for both opportunities. Motion passed unanimously.

HRC BIBLE STUDIES

The Women's Bible Study will be ending their current study on Wednesday, July 8th, with a dinner meeting. A new study will begin in the fall.

The Wednesday Noon and Tuesday Evening Bible Tours are done for the summer. They will meet again in September.



WORSHIP SCHEDULES

Summer Worship Services began June 28 at 9:30 a.m. and continue through September 6.

Worship services will return to 10:00 a.m. on Homecoming Sunday, September 13.

Early Services will resume October 4.

STEPHEN MINISTRY TRAINING

What a privilege it has been for me to have been a part of our Stephen Ministry Leadership team for the past three years. After attending the training for Stephen Leaders, and planning along with the other leaders for Stephen Ministry within our church, we have held training classes for eleven of our members to become Stephen Ministers. Through this time, God has always been at the center of our ministry. During the training we hear and learn to live by the belief that we become caregivers for others while God is the caregiver. So when Fred Butler mentioned in church, "God calls us to work in His garden - we plant, we water, we nourish whether or not we get to enjoy the harvest", he was giving us a glimpse of the work of a Stephen Minister.

Now we are planning for another training class this fall. With this RAM comes a Stephen Minister job description along with an application. Please prayerfully consider joining us in serving our Lord in a very special way. One of our ministers, Roberta Wynings has said, "In the short time that I have been a Stephen Minister, I feel that I have learned and received so much more than I have given". I can only echo this for myself as I've grown, and continue to grow, in my relationship with God through Jesus Christ along with my relationships with church members.

So, please consider completing the application and returning it to the church office or any member of the leadership team. Any one of us would be happy to answer questions.

Nancy Dawson for the Stephen Ministry Leadership Team
Pastor Fred, Fred Butler, Nancy Dawson, Jean Thomas and Joanie Panek

CAMP WARWICK

It's never too early to plan for camp. Brochures for the RCA Camp Warwick summer sessions have arrived and are available in the vestibule. Camp Warwick had programs for those in Grades 2 through 12, along with Family Camp. Just a reminder that our church offers \$75 "camperships" to all who attend. Visit Warwick online at <http://www.campwarwick.com>.

A NOTE OF THANKS

Donald Singley sends his thanks to all those who contributed to the Memorial Service, reception and art show for his mother Janet Singley. Because the family all live away now, it was wonderfully helpful that so many took part in preparing food, offering hospitality and attending the service.

ABOUT FOLKS WE KNOW ...

With regret and gratitude for her service, the consistory has accepted Sue Hasner's resignation as elder. Chris Russoniello was ordained and installed as elder on June 28, 2009.

THANK YOU

Thank you to our HRC family for all your beautiful cards, flowers, and food. Mom and Nana's passing was very sudden and difficult for all of us, & your beautiful bouquet of flowers were here when we came home from Clifton. Mom always felt very welcome at our church. Our faith is very strong thanks to mom's love of God and devotion to others first. Very Sincerely, Jayne, Alyson, Timothy, Jonathan O'Connor and Kiersten and Robert Parks.

Thank you Hillsborough Reformed Church for my Scholarship. Thank you also for all my "goodie" packages sent to me the past 2 years at Monmouth University. The snacks, messages, words of encouragement and prayers were very helpful during midterms and finals. It's comforting to know friends back home are thinking of you. Thanks for all you have done and continue to do for myself and our family. Very Sincerely, Alyson Beth O'Connor

REFLECTIONS AND RECOLLECTIONS

HOUSE FOR SALE

ADDRESS: Heaven

FEATURES:

Many rooms with a master suite
Spacious love
Open floor plan for peace
Large eat-in grace
Fenced in mercy with room for expansion
Son room with a marvelous view of salvation
Pool of milk and honey in the back
Pearly gates in front



DIRECTIONS: The only way to the Father is through the Son

PRICE: \$0.00 - Calvary - Owner financing

COMMUNITY:

Friendly angelic neighbors
Great family and friends
Praise the Lord all day and night

BONUS:

Crown of stars, new luxurious robe
Golden slippers with matching wings

Bring a friend and get a reward

For more information...Call your local agent or representative listed below . . .

NAME: Jesus Christ

ADDRESS: Repent Highway and Streets of Gold

PHONE: Dial John 3:16

Author: Pam Ryans, thekingsvinyard.com

INTERESTING THOUGHTS . . . IF ONLY . . .

If every Bible in the world gathering dust was blown off at the same time, we'd all die in the dust storm.

If the largeness of one's heart is determined by the number of people for whom we genuinely care, how big God's heart must be.

If we get our eyes off our problems and on their solution, off our circumstances and on the God who controls them, off ourselves and on Him, there's no telling what God will do for us.

Kroll, Woodrow Have a Good and Godly Day Good News: 1996

WORDS OF WISDOM

Looking ahead to summer, rest and relaxation, I was led to investigate the term, “**Peace.**” The word has multiple meanings at many different levels, but let’s look at what PEACE means in the biblical sense. According to Robert Willoughby, an editor of Zondervan’s Handbook to the Bible, “Peace is one of the main things which human beings long for. So it is hardly surprising that the risen Jesus makes peace central to what he says to the disciples when he meets them behind locked doors.”

‘Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you’ (John 20:21). Jesus probably used the Hebrew word *shalom* which can be taken simply as a greeting. But it is equally likely he is pointing out that in his death and resurrection, he has obtained peace for his followers. Jesus knew that his disciples were agitated and worried about their own future and he has kept on reassuring them that things will work out for the best (John 14:1, 27; 16:33).

The idea of peace, *shalom*, has a rich Old Testament background. It can simply mean the absence of a war, but more often it implies a sense of wholeness and general well-being. Sometimes it even implies prosperity or safety. This is usually tied up with society’s or the individual’s relationship to God.

It is God who brings peace, both politically and spiritually. It is for this God-given peace that the priests were instructed to pray in the words of Aaron’s blessing: ‘The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace’ (Numbers 6:24-26).



In Jeremiah 28 we read about false prophets who were so aware of the people’s longing for peace that they promised it even when the people had forfeited any right to it by their disobedience. Jeremiah makes it clear that real peace cannot be experienced by people who are in rebellion against God.

Only God can truly bring peace and we are conscious of this when Jesus stands amongst his disciples after the resurrection. This is what the company of angels had promised when they witnessed the birth of Jesus: ‘Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests’ (Luke 2:14).

Paul understood this and links the gift of peace to the cross of Christ where humanity is put right with God. The sin which cuts a person off from God can be forgiven and that person can become a friend of God. According to Paul, such peace leads to joy even as we suffer because perseverance, character and hope are the results.

For individual believers peace is a ‘fruit’ of God’s Spirit in their lives as they rely upon God and live for him. They are described as particularly blessed when they take up the role of peacemaker. Clearly the peace which they have experienced in their relationship with God is good news for others too.

Just as the cross could bring about peace between Jews and Gentiles—the greatest racial barrier in the ancient world—so the good news of what Jesus has done can bring peace and overcome all barriers today.

Christ’s followers have a responsibility to deliver that message. This is why Jesus adds, ‘As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.’

Key passages on PEACE: John 20:19-23; Romans 5:1-11; Ephesians 2:14-18; Philippians 4:6-7; Numbers 6:22-27; Jeremiah 28

DEADLINE

The **September 2009 RAM** submission deadline is **Saturday, August 15th**. Kindly send information, articles, etc for *September* events to Joanie Panek via email, regular mail or leave in church office on Joanie's desk.

HYMNS 4 HIM

BATTLE HYMN of the REPUBLIC

by Julia Ward Howe (1819-1910)

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord,
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
He hath loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword—His truth is marching on.

Glory! Glory, hallelujah! / Glory! Glory hallelujah!
Glory! Glory, hallelujah! His truth is marching on.

I have seen Him in the watch fires of a hundred circling camps,
They have builded Him an altar in the evening dews and damps;
I can read His righteous sentence by the dim and flaring lamps--His day is marching on.

He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never sound retreat,
He is sifting out the hearts of men before His judgment seat;
O be swift, my soul, to answer Him! Be jubilant, my feet! / Our God is marching on.

In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,
With a glory in His bosom that transfigures you and me;
As He died to make men holy, let us live to make men free, / While God is marching on.

Julia Ward Howe wrote these lyrics in the heart of the Civil War. She sent the words to the *Atlantic Monthly* magazine and received an honorarium of five dollars. But the money wasn't her concern. Her purpose was to provide some wholesome lyrics for the tune of "John Brown's Body Lies A-Moldering in the Grave." She accomplished that and more. When President Abraham Lincoln first heard the hymn, he asked to have it sung again.

The text is filled with biblical allusions. The expression "grapes of wrath" refers to Revelation 14:19; the sounding trumpet is probably from Revelation 8. For the Christian, the message of this song is that God's truth is eternal. Although circumstances may appear overwhelmingly difficult, God will still accomplish His purposes, and His truth will endure

It can be dangerous to identify political causes or even national patriotism with God's truth. Nations may rise and fall, but God's truth remains forever. "His truth is marching on."

After that the end will come when he will turn the Kingdom over to God the Father, having put down all enemies of every kind. For Christ will be King until he has defeated all enemies, including the last enemy—death. This too must be defeated and ended. For the rule and authority over all things has been given to Christ by his Father.

1 Corinthians 15:24-27, TEB

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

JUST A THOUGHT...

If God brings you to it, He will bring you through it.

***July/August Newsletter from the
Hillsborough Reformed Church
One Amwell Road
Millstone, NJ 08844***

MAILED TO:



Spiritual Blessings in Christ

Ephesians 1:3-4, 7, 11-14

Blessed be the God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love.

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace...

In Christ, we have also obtained an inheritance, - so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory.

In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.