

RAM Reformed At Millstone

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

From the **PASTOR**—

May 15, 2009

”...in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s mighty acts.”

Acts of the Apostles 2:11b

Dear Members and Friends,

“God is great

God is good

Let us thank him for this food.

Amen.”

That is the prayer my mother and father taught me to say before we ate our evening meal.

Note how the prayer starts – the prayer begins extolling God – praising God – for what? For God’s greatness and goodness.

How do we know God is great and God is good?

How do we learn about the character and goodness – or badness of anyone?

By how they act. By what they do.

We learn about God by what God does.

Notice that in the Pentecost, when people were seized by the Holy Spirit and began speaking in foreign languages and everyone was suddenly able to understand one another – notice what they were talking about. They were telling the mighty acts of God.

We learn about God by what God does.

What does God do? Creates good things. Forgives. Insists on righteousness. Reconciles. Above all else, God loves.

We learn what God has done in the past in the Bible. The Bible is essentially testimony of people touched by God.

Our task as Christians is to tell the mighty acts of God. One of the ways we do that is in public worship. People who know God come out to church to worship God – worship is ascribing worth – we worship God and celebrate his deeds – especially the act of sending his only begotten Son Jesus into the world to redeem us.

Then we go out into the world and tell all the world what God has done – we tell it in word and deed.

God is great. God is good. Look what God has done!

Pentecost Sunday is May 31. On Pentecost Sunday we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit. When the Holy Spirit came, the church was called into existence. The church began with people telling others from all over the world what God had done.

That is what the church is for today – to worship God and tell the world what God has done in Jesus Christ. You and I do that by showing up on Sunday mornings, and by being living witnesses to God’s acts the rest of the week.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Fred

One Amwell Road, Millstone, NJ 08844
Phone: (908) 359-3391 Fax: (908) 359-8311 Email: muel21@aol.com
<http://www.hillsboroughreformedchurch.org>



NEWS from our HRC COMMITTEES

FELLOWSHIP

There is a Progressive Dinner being planned for June 6th. If you are interested in attending, please contact Maryanne Devoti.

The Fellowship Committee is putting together a trip to the Somerset Patriots in July. More details to follow.

Maryanne Devoti, Sue Woods and Margo Myer

CHRISTIAN SERVICES

Raritan Valley habitat for Humanity is having Home Dedication Ceremonies on Thursday, June 25th at 6:30 p.m. and Saturday, June 27th at 10:00 a.m. Please come out and celebrate the new beginnings for these families. Details are available in the vestibule.

Catherine Kinrade and Sue Woods

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

This committee was formed to take on small projects that will go a long way in 'sprucing up' the church and Memorial Hall. We will be revamping the bathrooms. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Maryanne Devoti.

Maryanne Devoti

EDUCATION

Sunday School: Enjoy your summer! See you in September and thank you for your support.

Mike Williams and Colleen Eberhardt

Vacation Bible School

VBS is coming!! It is scheduled for Aug 3rd-Aug 7th from 6:30-8pm for Grades Pre-K thru 5th. The theme is "Becoming Missionaries for God".

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

Rae Quast

YOUTH MINISTRY

The Youth Group Picnic will be Sunday, June 14 at 12:30. at Lisa Medawar's house. The picnic is open to youth in 5th – 12th grade. There will be swimming, volleyball, food, etc. Specific details will follow.

Kurt Benson and Rae Quast

PLEASE NOTE:

There will be a **Congregational Meeting** on Sunday, June 21st immediately after worship.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

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, or if you have any questions regarding eligibility, please contact Julie Kinrade. Include information about the high school you are currently attending and your plans for next year. College students should supply details of their college and major. All applications must be submitted by **May 31st**. The date of the presentation will be **June 14th**.

Julie Kinrade

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Prior to Palm Sunday, we placed 156 invitations to our church on mailboxes in two developments off of Millstone River Road as well as placing our Easter banners at two intersections near our church. Al Meyer continues to send postcards each week to new homeowners in Hillsborough. We will meet on June 7th after church to work on revising the church brochure. Once printed, brochures will be placed on the newly reorganized Visitors' Table in the church vestibule along with some Hillsborough Reformed Church magnets. Over the summer, we will be working on creating name badges for members of our congregation with the goal of having them completed prior to Homecoming Sunday in September. Greeters have been doing a wonderful job on Sunday mornings and a greeters sign-up list is posted in the vestibule--if you have never greeted, try to sign up with someone who has done it before. It's a great way to meet people in the congregation. The website continues to grow with the help of Chris Williams. More information is yet to come, along with pictures of people in our church. Library listings have recently been added to the site. Please check it out at <http://www.hillsboroughreformedchurch.org> Anyone interested in Outreach can join us at the meeting on June 7th in Memorial Hall or contact me.

Jayne Czaplicki - Chair of Outreach

MORE HRC ACTIVITIES, EVENTS & UPDATES

ABOUT FOLKS WE KNOW ...

BAPTISM: Our congregation is pleased to have ministered the Sacrament of Baptism to Graeham Carter Nelson on May 24, 2009. Graeham is the son of Amy and Tim Nelson.

FAREWELL: We wish Dave, Julie and Tom Kinrade God's blessings as they move to Chicago, IL and start a new chapter in their lives.

WEDDING: Matthew Larew was married to Rosemary Cirianni on May 9, 2009. Pastor Fred presided over the wedding in Bethany Beach, Delaware.

HRC BIBLE STUDIES

The Women's Bible Study will meet on June 3rd and 17th.
We are continuing with the current study "Woman of God".

The Wednesday Noon Bible Tour will be meeting on Wednesdays in June.

The Tuesday Evening Bible Tour will continue the first and last Tuesday, from 7-8 pm in Memorial Hall; June 2nd and 30th. Any questions, please call Pastor Fred.



STEPHEN MINISTRY NEWS

The need continues for people to serve as Stephen Ministers. Many people in our church have benefited from the Christian help Stephen Ministry provides – one on one Christ-like caring.

We need people to train to be Stephen Ministers to provide caring and we need two people to go to be trained to be Stephen Leaders who make sure the programs ministers effectively.

Throughout our involvement with Stephen Ministry, we have experienced a great and happy surprise. Not only is the ministry helping people beyond our greatest hopes, the Stephen Ministers themselves have grown in amazing ways. As happens so often, when we offer ourselves in service to God, we find ourselves; the ones serving gaining as much if not more than the ones being served!

A delightful surprise to our Stephen Ministers has been how much the training itself has been such an advantage in all areas of their lives. Stephen Ministry develops skills in active listening, offering support, caring, spiritual assistance, understanding, compassion, confidentiality and trust. Our Stephen Ministers have found they improved in relationships in their own lives through their training – at home, at work, in the community and in church.

Stephen Ministry is an amazing, life-altering way of doing the Lord's work. If you will take the step to become a Stephen Minister, you may well find your self as the greatest beneficiary!

More information is available from our Stephen Leaders and Ministers. Please consider applying for our next training session to begin in September.

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>.

FROM OUR LIBRARY

Summertime . . . and the livin' is easy . . . You just may have more time for getting into our library books now that summertime is approaching. So what materials interest you? Why not look into books within series' in our collection?

Do you wish to know if our little library has a book or author you are interested in? Great news! The updated HRC web site will direct you to a library list and you may search our shelves online. Great for picking out books. Please visit <http://hillsboroughreformedchurch.org/library.html> and you will be pleased to learn just what we have available. Should you wish to access the library during the summer days, please stop by the office during Joanie's working hours or on Sunday mornings. Happy reading!

WANTED

If you have used, unwanted ink cartridges, please drop them off in the box in the vestibule. By recycling the cartridges, the church can get reward dollars at Staples to put toward necessary church supplies.

Thank You.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

The new 2009 non-pictorial church directory is available in the church vestibule.

REFLECTIONS AND RECOLLECTIONS

Father's Day Thoughts

A Father . . .

A father is a person who is forced to endure childbirth without an anesthetic. He growls when he feels good and laughs very loud when he is scared half to death.

A father never feels entirely worthy of the worship in a child's eyes. He is never quite the hero his daughter thinks ... never quite the man his son believes him to be. And this worries him sometimes, so he works too hard to try to smooth the rough places in the road of those of his own who follow him.

A father is a person who goes to war sometimes, but he would rather run the other way except that war is part of his only important job in life—making the world better for his child than it has been for him.

Fathers grow older faster than other people because they, in other wars, have to stand at the train station and wave goodbye to the uniform that climbs on board.

And while mothers cry where it shows, fathers stand and beam ... outside, and die inside.

Fathers are men who give daughters away to other men, who aren't nearly good enough, so that they can have children that are smarter than anybody's.

Mog, Denny Touched by an E-mail Bridge-Logos: 1999

A Prayer for the Household

Lord, behold our family here assembled.

We thank Thee for this place in which we dwell;

for the love that unites us;

for the peace accorded us this day

for the hope with which we expect the morrow;

for the health, the work, the food and the bright skies that make our lives delightful;

for our friends in all parts of the earth, and our friendly helpers in this foreign isle.

Let peace abound in our small company.

Purge out of every heart the lurking grudge.

Give us grace and strength to forbear and to persevere.

Offenders, give us the grace to accept and to forgive offenders

Forget ourselves, help us to bear cheerfully the forgetfulness of others

Give us courage and gaiety and the quiet mind.

Spare to us our friends, soften to us our enemies.

Bless us, if it may be, in all our innocent endeavors.

If it may not,

give us the strength to encounter that which is to come,

that we be brave in peril,

constant in tribulation,

temperate in wrath and in all changes of fortune,

and down to the gates of death loyal and loving one to another.

As the clay to the potter,

as the windmill to the mind,

as children to their sire,

we beseech of Thee this help and mercy for Christ's sake.

WORDS of WISDOM

Last month Words of Wisdom took us to the empowering of the Holy Spirit. And this led a little basic research into the term, **HOLY**. What does it mean to be **HOLY**? Can we indeed be **holy** individuals? How is this best understood? Looking at a biblical dictionary, this definition is one of many which may help explain the phenomenon of Holiness.

HOLY means moral and ethical wholeness or perfection; freedom from moral evil. Holiness is one of the essential elements of God's nature required of His people. Holiness may also be rendered "sanctification" or "godliness." The word **HOLY** denotes that which is "sanctified" or "set apart" for divine service.



God instructed Moses to "consecrate Aaron and his sons" (Ex. 29:9) to the priesthood. The children of Israel were admonished to "remember the Sabbath day, to keep it **holy**" (Ex. 20:8). The "**Holy** of Holies" (or 'Holiest of All") was the most sacred place in the desert tabernacle and in the Temple at Jerusalem (Ex. 26:33; Heb 9:1-9). Elisha was called a "holy man of God" (2 Kin. 4:9). Herod feared John the Baptist, "knowing that he was a just and holy man" (Mark 6:20).

While **holy** is sometimes used in a ceremonial sense, the main use is to describe God's righteous nature or the ethical righteousness demanded of His followers (Is. 1:10-14; Matt. 12:7). Originating in God's nature, holiness is a unique quality of His CHARACTER. The Bible emphasizes this divine attribute. "Who is like you, O Lord?" (Ex. 15:11). "There is none holy like the Lord" (1 Sam. 2:2). "Who shall not fear You,

O Lord . . . For You alone are holy" (Rev. 15:4). God's high expectations of His people flow out of His own **holy** nature: "You shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation" (Ex. 19:6); "Sanctify yourselves therefore and be holy, for I am the Lord your God" (Lev. 20:7).

Jesus was the very personification of holiness; He reinforced God's demands for holiness by insisting that His disciples must have a higher quality of righteousness than that of the scribes and Pharisees (Matt. 5:20). Like the prophets Amos and Hosea, Jesus appealed for more than ceremonial holiness: "I desire mercy and not sacrifice" (Hos. 6:6; Matt. 12:7).

The theme of sanctification, or growing into God's likeness and being consecrated for His use, is prominent throughout the Bible. Like Jesus, the apostles taught that sanctification, or true holiness, expressed itself in patient and loving service while awaiting the Lord's return. Peter urged the suffering Christians of the Roman Empire to follow God's example of holiness in their trials: "As He who has called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct (1 Pet. 1:15).

Paul's prayer for the saints at Thessalonica is timeless in its application to the church and individual believers:

And may the Lord make you increase in love and abound in love . . . so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints" (1 Thess. 3:12-13).

Lockyer, Herbert, Gen. Ed. Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary. 1985

HYMNS 4 HIM

I LOVE TO TELL THE STORY

by Arabella Catherine Hankey (1934-1911)

I love to tell the story of unseen things above, / Of Jesus and His glory, of Jesus and His love;
I love to tell the story because I know 'tis true, / It satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.

*I love to tell the story! / 'Twill be my theme in glory---
To tell the old, old story / Of Jesus and His love.*

I love to tell the story—"tis pleasant to repeat / What seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet;
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard / The message of salvation from God's own holy
Word.

I love to tell the story, for those who know it best / Seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest;
And when in scenes of glory I sing the new, new song, / 'Twill be the old, old story that I have loved so
long.

Kate Hankey, the daughter of a prosperous British banker, grew up in a stylish London suburb. She started a Bible class for girls in her neighborhood, and then, when she was only eighteen, Hankey went to London to teach a Bible class of "factory girls." In her twenties, she started other Bible classes for factory girls.

When she was in her early thirties, Kate Hankey became seriously ill. Doctors said she needed a year of bed rest. She was forbidden to teach her Bible classes for twelve months. During her long, slow recovery, she wrote two lengthy poems. The first, at the beginning of her convalescence, later became the hymn "Tell Me the Old, Old Story." The second, written ten months later, became "I Love to Tell the Story."

After ten months she felt strong enough to leave her bed. She soon returned to her Bible classes in London and continued teaching for many years. When she became too old to teach the factory girls regularly, she started a prison ministry in London—even then she continued to tell the story of Jesus.

You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you will bear witness for me in Jerusalem, and throughout all Judaea and Samaria, and even in the farthest corners of the earth.

Acts 1:8, REB

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

COMING EVENTS for June

Saturday, June 6

6:00 p.m. Progressive Dinner

Sunday, June 7

8:15 a.m. Early Service

10:00 a.m. Worship

Tuesday, June 9

6:30 p.m. Consistory Meeting

Sunday, June 14 – Scholarship Sunday

10:00 a.m. Worship

11:00 a.m. Healing Service

12:30 p.m. Youth Group Picnic

Sunday, June 21

10:00 a.m. Worship/ Holy Communion

11:00 a.m. Congregational Meeting

Sunday, June 28 – Summer Schedule Begins

9:30 a.m. Worship

DEADLINE

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

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

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The Coming of the Holy Spirit

Acts 2:1-4

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.