

# RAM Reformed At Millstone

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

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*From the* **PASTOR**—

February 20, 2009

Dear Members and Friends,

Lent draws near. Somber and solemn are two words that describe this season. Another word is hope. The word derives from the Old English word “lencten,” which means as you can see, “lengthen.” So the title of the season is more about the cycle of the seasons of the natural world than a religious theme (although the cycle of the seasons is a religious theme for us because the seasonal cycle of Summer, Fall, Winter and Spring is part of God’s covenant with us through Noah, see Gen. 8:20-22). So while Lent is solemn, it is also crammed with hope.

The days are lengthening, and as I walk the dog around the parsonage lawns, I have been looking for the tips of daffodils and crocus. They have been slow to appear this winter, because the ground is frozen hard from some colder than usual weather. But this morning, there in the bed on the western exposure of the house, were some narcissus, peeking up from the cold earth to see if was time to rise. It is. Wake up flowers.

Lent is like that. It starts on Ash Wednesday with brutal honesty about our sin. We are mortal and deserve to die for our sin. Ashes are a reminder that we are doomed. That is the somber and solemn part. But into our penance and sorrow for sin comes the gospel. It is like the surprise of new life in Spring. Throughout Lent, we remember the cost of human evil and the price paid for our sin. The cross is the stark symbol of the worst of human evil – the political execution of the Son of God himself in the most heinous way imaginable.

But that is not the end. Easter comes next. Easter is the God given surprise of life bursting forth when it looked like all was lost.

This year, we will go into the valley of Lent with special services of worship on Wednesday night. March 4, 11, 18, 25 and April 1 we will gather in the sanctuary at 7:00 PM to worship God and hear sermons on the Seven Last Words of Christ from the cross. The schedule is in this issue of RAM. On the evenings of March 4 and 25, you are also welcome to a pot-luck supper in Memorial Hall at 6:00 PM. Please make every effort to enrich your Lenten season by being at worship Wednesday nights at 7 PM through the season of Lent. Together we will hear anew the amazing gospel of God’s love for us in Jesus Christ. We will hear the amazing grace that Jesus died to take away our sin and give us the gift of eternal life – all because our merciful God loves us – no matter what.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Fred



**NEWS from our HRC COMMITTEES**

**FELLOWSHIP**

It's never too late to join the Fellowship Committee. If you are interested, talk to Maryanne Devoti or look for meeting information in the bulletins.

Have you been to the Millstone Café? Come out to Memorial Hall for a great time of fellowship after every worship service. Would you be interested in hosting? Let Maryanne know.

Maryanne Devoti and Sue Woods

**BUILDINGS & GROUNDS**

We would like to thank all those who came out on January 31<sup>st</sup> to paint the main room in the church basement. It looks great!

**WANTED: ADOPTIVE PAINTERS.** Our Sunday School classes need painters to adopt them. Groups of four, who are willing to spend a few hours together giving the rooms a fresh coat of paint, and a cheerful new look for the new year, are needed. Won't you consider adopting a room???? Sign up in the vestibule, where you can choose a room. There will be great prizes for the first four groups that sign on. More great prizes for the first four groups to finish! Everyone will receive adoption papers and the room will bear the names of the adoptive painters!

Tony Cole and Maryanne Devoti

**EDUCATION**

We are looking for a volunteer to help coordinate Church Time Care. If you are interested please call Margo Myer or Tricia Heddy.

**LENTEN/EASTER Schedule**

Wednesday Evening Services – We will gather in the sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. for worship services March 4, 11, 18, 25 and April 1. The sermons will be on the “Seven Last Words” of our Lord from the cross. Those words are:

Father forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.	Luke 23:34
Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.	Luke 23:43
Woman, here is your son... Here is your mother.	John 19:26-27
My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?	Matthew 27:46, Mark 15:34
I am thirsty.	John 19:28
It is finished!	John 19:28
Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.	Luke 23:46

Wednesday Evening Potluck – 6:00 p.m. March 4 and March 25 in Memorial Hall

Palm Sunday, April 5 – 9:00 a.m. Pony Rides and Sunday School Parade, Return CWS Banks

Maundy Thursday, April 9 – 6:30 p.m. Potluck Supper in Memorial Hall; 7:30 p.m. Holy Communion

Good Friday, April 10 – 7:30 p.m. – Tenebrae Worship Service

Easter Sunday, April 12 – 7:00 a.m. Sunrise Service in the graveyard; 10:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary

Mike Williams and Colleen Eberhardt

**CHRISTIAN SERVICES**

Please sign up for the next **Habitat Work Day** on April 4<sup>th</sup>. We will be working at 4 Clifton St. in Somerset, N.J. from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. For those interested we will meet at the church at 7:45 a.m. Our church has 10 spots to fill so please sign up in the vestibule and also pick up the Waiver form. The forms have to be returned to Catherine Kinrade or place in her mailbox in the church basement. If there are any questions, contact Catherine at [KinradeCH@gmail.com](mailto:KinradeCH@gmail.com).

Catherine Kinrade and Sue Woods

## OUTREACH

Be sure to watch the Hillsborough Reformed Church Website for more information on committees and other groups in the church. We believe the expansion of the website will both aid newcomers seeking information about our church as well as help our own members to stay informed.

Our committee will be assembling new visitor packets as well as expanding the number of volunteers who greet. Greeters, Elders and Deacons will all be making an effort to talk with newcomers to our church. This might mean that you'll see us sitting in different pews!!!!

In the community, we are looking to expand the number of HRC signs that appear along the roadside. Of course, our signs will once again be up with information about Easter Services. We also plan to hang some Easter Service invitations on doors in the Claremont development.

And if you are wondering who that person is in church that looks familiar, but you aren't sure of his/her name—fear not!! We will be wearing name badges soon!! They'll be the kind that you wear each week, not the peel-off sticky kind!

There are more plans in the works, such as hanging Easter invitations on doors of houses and maybe having a blood drive next spring, so if you are interested in joining us for any part of our reaching out, please contact Jayne Czaplicki (chair) or any member of the Outreach Committee.

Jayne Czaplicki

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## MORE HRC ACTIVITIES, EVENTS & UPDATES

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### SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Look for details about Palm Sunday Pony Rides!!

Thank you for your continued support for our Compassion child, Felicia. We collect an additional offering the first Sunday of every month to send to her to help cover her expenses. Please bring your Compassion offering for Felicia on Sunday March 1<sup>st</sup> and April 5<sup>th</sup> (Palm Sunday).

Remember friends are always welcome in Sunday school, but the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month we designate as "Bring A Friend" to Sunday School. It's a wonderful way to spread the word of the Lord and share it with those closest to us! Please bring a friend on March 1<sup>st</sup> and April 5<sup>th</sup>.

Colleen Eberhardt, SS Superintendent

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### CHURCH TIME CARE LIST REMINDERS

The March and April rotation list is included. Should you need to change, please use your contact listing for substitutes and teens. Feel free to phone either one of us if needed.

3/1	Donna Rose	Brianna Glowinski	Dylan Rose
3/8	Christina Quast	Courtney Eberhardt	Emily Quast
3/15	Lisa Medawar	Lauren Panek	Alex Medawar
3/22	Melissa Skrabal	Kristen Levine	Sarah Skrabal
3/29	Debbie Huff	Lauren Benson	
4/5	Stasi Devoti	Charisse Devoti	
4/12	Easter Sunday	NO Church Time Care	
4/19	Margo Myer	Lauren Panek	Nolan Myer
4/26	Amy Williams	Jacob Hasner	

We are looking for a volunteer to help coordinate Church Time Care. If you are interested please let Margo or Tricia know.

The Church Time Care Rotation list is now on-line. Please check it out at

<http://www.hillsboroughreformedchurch.org/carecal/mpnth.php>

Margo Myer and Tricia Heddy

## JUST A THOUGHT...

When God takes something from your grasp, He's not punishing you, but merely opening your hands to receive something better.

- Author unknown

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## HRC BIBLE STUDIES

The Women's Bible Study will not be meeting during LENT. We will resume with the current study "Woman of God" on Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>.



The Wednesday Noon Bible Tour will not be meeting during LENT. We will resume on Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>. Any questions, please call Pastor Fred

The Tuesday Evening Bible Tour will continue the first and last Tuesday, from 7-8 pm in Memorial Hall; March 3 & 31, and April 7. Any questions, please call Pastor Fred.

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## YOUTH GROUP NEWS

**THANK YOU** to all church members and friends who so generously contributed to help provide Christmas dinner to the people at the South Bound Brook Reformed Church Soup Kitchen on December 17<sup>th</sup>! Thank you for all the food contributions, both warm and cold. Thank you to everyone who contributed in any small way to help make the dinner a success. The Youth Group could not provide such a wonderful service to others if it were not for the collective efforts of our church family! It is always such a busy time of year and everyone has so many things to do, but our church family has begun to make it a tradition! Sharing our blessings with others comes naturally at Hillsborough Reformed Church throughout the year and at Christmas, the feelings of giving are stronger.

The youth of our church were excited and joyful helpers as always. The older teens enjoyed coming back and showing the younger beginners just how it is done. The younger teens are anxious to move-up and become servers! Those who have been there before know just what to do! Our adult helpers so generously give their time for the evening and provide guidance and help. It is wonderful fellowship for all involved. It is with these combined efforts that we were able to once again provide a wonderful dinner to the many folks who visited the Wednesday night soup kitchen this past year.

There were familiar faces and many new faces too. We served dinner to over 100 people and kept scooping seconds until our food was gone. It is like a miracle sometimes, because we always seem to have just enough and it all comes together. Everyone ends the evening feeling blessed to have had fun, fellowship and contributed to making a brighter evening for others. Thank you to everyone in whatever way you helped the Youth Group. **YOU** are appreciated and you are a blessing to others!

Carey Erdman

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## WOMEN'S MINISTRY: [www.God](http://www.God)

Our women's ministry, will be hosting a **potluck dinner on March 4th @ 6pm**

in Memorial Hall. The Lenten Service will follow at 7pm in the Sanctuary. You are invited to participate by bringing either a salad, main course, side dish or dessert.

There is a **sign-up sheet** in the vestibule of the church. We are encouraging everyone

to come to the Wednesday services at 7pm, beginning on Ash Wednesday and continuing

through Lent. Pastor Fred will be presenting the "Seven Last Words" of our Lord from the cross at the Wednesday services. **We will not be having the Ladies' Bible Study or [www.God](http://www.God) meetings during Lent**, so please come out for these other programs. There will be another potluck on March 25th and a Maundy Thursday dinner on April 9th, hosted by other groups in the church.

Also, watch for more information regarding the Crossroads Retreat at Harvey Cedars, April 17-18th (registration deadline is April 1st).

## EDITOR'S NOTES

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Sue Cole for all the hard work and dedication she has put into the RAM for the last number of years. We have truly been blessed. She has passed the torch onto me. I only hope I can fill her shoes.

## **DEADLINE**

The **April 2009 RAM** submission deadline is **Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup>** (tax day). Kindly send information, articles, etc for **April** events to Joanie Panek via email to [jepanek77@aol.com](mailto:jepanek77@aol.com), regular mail or leave in church office on Joanie's desk.

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## PLEASE MEET YOUR 2009 CONSISTORY

Pastor – Fred Mueller  
Vice President – Tony Cole  
Clerk of Consistory – Sue Hasner  
Clerk of Elders – Jayne Czaplicki  
Recording Secretary – Nancy Dawson  
General Treasurer – Bob Koch  
Co-Treasurer – Nancy Buczek  
Trust Fund Treasurer – Dave Mest  
Financial Secretary – Sue Cole  
President of Deacon's – Mike Williams  
Deacon's Fund Treasurer – Eric Kraehenbuehl  
Classis Delegate – Nancy Dawson and Barry Graziano (alternate)  
Auditors – Fred Butler and Arlene Dickerson

The 2009 Consistory Members are:

Elders: Kurt Benson  
Jeanne Bowlby  
Tony Cole  
Jayne Czaplicki  
Maryanne Devoti  
Susan Hasner

Deacons: Colleen Eberhardt  
Catherine Kinrade  
Eric Kraehenbuehl  
Rae Quast  
Mike Williams  
Sue Woods

The 2008 Consistory Committee Chairpersons are:

Building & Grounds – Tony Cole and Maryanne Devoti  
Christian Service – Catherine Kinrade and Sue Woods  
Congregational Care – Sue Hasner  
Christian Education – Mike Williams and Colleen Eberhardt  
Fellowship – Maryanne Devoti and Sue Woods  
Missions & Benevolence – Catherine Kinrade and Eric Kraehenbuehl  
Outreach & Hospitality – Jayne Czaplicki  
Stewardship & Finance – Eric Kraehenbuehl  
Worship & Music – Jeanne Bowlby  
Youth Ministry – Kurt Benson and Rae Quast

Meet and greet your church consistory and feel free to share any church concerns with the church office or an appropriate committee chair.

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## JUST A THOUGHT...

The will of God will never take you where the Grace of God will not protect you.

- Author unknown

## **LATEST STEPHEN MINISTRY NEWS**

On Feb. 5th our Stephen Leaders met with the leaders of Stephen Ministry at the nearby Montgomery Evangelical Free Church to get acquainted and to explore areas of networking beneficial to both groups.

Discussion has begun for a cooperative Stephen Minister training program for Fall of '09. Since both congregations are registered with SM, and follow the same training program, it would allow a larger class and shared leadership & resources. Trained SM would serve the congregations where they are members.

In April, we will offer our congregation a meeting to inform the details of the SM training process and describe how the over all program works.

On Feb. 7th several Stephen Ministers from MEFC joined us for a continuing education program proposed by Brent Mulder who completed SM training in our last class. Brent is in the chaplaincy training program at Albert Einstein Medical Center in Philadelphia, he presented us with insight concerning the challenges faced by someone with illness and hospitalization. We learned what "not to say" as well as ways to make a meaningful and appropriate visit.

An idea we're discussing is to ask Brent to prepare a program for all in the congregation who want to improve their skills and comfort level in visiting those with illness and hospitalization. We treasure your prayers for SM and support of its mission.

We realize the benefit of the SM training in our personal lives and want to provide it to as many as possible. The power of a spiritual outlook during difficult times opens up possibilities for Christ to take away the darkness in the light of His ways. The 2 year commitment passes quickly, we need to carry on SM by regularly training men and women to serve.

Our Stephen Ministers have a wonderful gift to give in meeting one on one with a care receiver. It is a call and not a burden.

A Stephen Minister or Leader is happy to answer questions about whether or not a Stephen Minister would fit a situation of concern.

Active Stephen Ministers are Jeannie Bowlby, Ginger Butler, Sue Cole, Bill Nardone, Rae Quast, Rose Villiere and Roberta Wynings

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written by: Jean Thomas for the Leadership Team: Pastor Fred, Fred Butler, Nancy Dawson, and Joanie Panek.

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### **ABOUT FOLKS WE KNOW ...**

**NEW MEMBER** – Sandra Volonnino were received into membership at the Hillsborough Reformed Church on January 25, 2009. The congregation extends a warm welcome to Sandra.

**BAPTISMS** – Our congregation is pleased to have administered the Sacrament of Baptism to Nicholas Joseph Volonnino and Daniel Jeremy Volonnino on January 25, 2009. Nicholas and Daniel are the sons of Sandra and Anthony Volonnino.

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### **COMING EVENTS for MARCH**

#### Sunday, March 1

8:15 a.m. Early Worship Service

10:00 a.m. Worship and Holy Communion

#### Saturday, March 14

Elder's/Deacon's Workshop

#### Sunday, March 29

10:00 a.m. Worship and Healing Service

# REFLECTIONS AND RECOLLECTIONS

## A Few Thoughts for the Season of Lent

A holy man was having a conversation with the Lord one day and said, "Lord, I would like to know what Heaven and Hell are like."

The Lord led the holy man to two doors.

He opened one of the doors and the holy man looked in. In the middle of the room was a large round table. In the middle of the table was a large pot of stew, which smelled delicious and made the holy man's mouth water.

The people sitting around the table were thin and sickly. They appeared to be famished. They were holding spoons with very long handles that were strapped to their arms and each found it possible to reach into the pot of stew and take a spoonful. But because the handle was longer than their arms, they could not get the spoons back into their mouths.

The holy man shuddered at the sight of their misery and suffering.

The Lord said, "You have seen Hell."

They went to the next room and opened the door. It was exactly the same as the first one. There was the large round table with the large pot of stew which made the holy man's mouth water. The people were equipped with the same long-handled spoons, but here the people were well nourished and plump, laughing and talking. The holy man said, "I don't understand."

"It is simple," said the Lord. "It requires but one skill. You see they have learned to feed each other, while the greedy think only of themselves."

–Internet



### A Prayer for Grace to Honor God

Dear Lord, in weak moments, I want to hoard all my blessings to enjoy by myself.  
But Your commandment, Lord, is that I become a humble servant  
sharing with those who need my encouragement, my help, and my love.

Instill in me the same generous spirit that fills Your heart.  
Make me willing to give so that my life may bring praise and honor to You.  
Amen

–from The Heart of God, by Woodrow Kroll

# HYMNS 4 HIM

## AH, HOLY JESUS

by Johann Heermann (1585-1647); Translated by Robert Seymour Bridges (1844-1930)

Ah, holy Jesus, how hast Thou offended, / That man to judge Thee hath in hate pretended?  
By foes derided, by Thine own rejected, / O most afflicted.

Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon Thee? / Alas, my treason, Jesus, hath undone Thee!  
'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied Thee: / I crucified Thee.

Lo, the good Shepherd for the sheep is offered; / The slave hath sinned, and the Son hath suffered;  
For man's atonement, while he nothing heedeth, / God intercedeth.

For me, kind Jesus, was Thy incarnation, / Thy mortal sorrow, and Thy Life's oblation;  
Thy death of anguish and Thy bitter passion, / For my salvation.

Therefore, kind Jesus, since I cannot pay Thee, / I do adore Thee, and will ever pray Thee,  
Think on Thy pity and Thy love unswerving, / Not my deserving.

We have all asked, "Why is this happening to me?" Johann Heermann could have asked this question with just cause. In 1611 he became the Lutheran pastor in Koben, Germany, and during his years there, the village suffered numerous disasters. During the Thirty Years' War, plunder by both Catholic and Protestant armies and devastation by fire and plague decimated the population. More than once Heermann narrowly escaped with his life, and several times he lost everything he owned. During these years of horror, he turned to hymnwriting for consolation, especially after throat trouble forced him to stop preaching.

Heerman drew inspiration for this hymn from a Latin text attributed variously to Augustine (354-430) and Jean de Fécamp (c. 1000-1079). But his own years of personal suffering injected the hymn with a genuine depth and clarity. As we look toward the Cross this Easter season, we might well ask, "Why did Jesus have to suffer?" This hymn pronounces the simple answer: "for me . . ."

*He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did not esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.*

Isaiah 53:3-4, KJV

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

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### LESSON FOR LENT

"Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning."  
- Joel 2:12

This Lenten season, help us, O God, to turn to you in faith confessing our sins and receiving your forgiveness, for the sake of Jesus. Amen.  
- Mark Zimmerman (Lessons of LENT)

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

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**Luke 4:1-13**

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, <sup>2</sup> where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over he was famished. <sup>3</sup>The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” <sup>4</sup>Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’ “

<sup>5</sup>Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. <sup>6</sup>And the devil said to him, “To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I will give it to anyone I please. <sup>7</sup>If you, then, will worship me, it will be all yours.” <sup>8</sup>Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only Him.’ “

<sup>9</sup>Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, <sup>10</sup>for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,’ <sup>11</sup> and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’ “

<sup>12</sup>Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ “ <sup>13</sup>When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.