

# RAM Reformed At Millstone

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

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*From the* **PASTOR**—

March 2011

Dear Members and Friends,

With great joy I report that the Board of Adjustment of Millstone Borough has approved our application for variances to allow us to develop parking for the church at 11 Amwell Road – Hazel Dickinson's property. The theme of our Capital Campaign to raise the funds for this is Preserving the Past and Preparing for the Future. With the acquisition of this property and the permission of the Borough, we are offering generations to come the extra space we need to accommodate our congregation and to provide safe, accessible parking adjacent to the church.

This has long been a goal and dream of our leaders and congregation. Every year we submit a report to the denomination which includes a list of things accomplished during the preceding year and hope and dreams and needs of the church for the future. Every year for decades the need for parking has been noted on these reports. An older couple in the church recently told me how wonderful it will be to be able to get out of their car without having to worry about traffic on the busy streets around the church. Young families with little ones and strollers can get their families safely out of their vehicles on Sundays and get into our buildings without having to cross streets.

The current plan calls for the demolition of the northern and western additions to the house. The Historic District Commission wants us to preserve the original rectangular house. We will do that, making the exterior waterproof and presentable to preserve the "street-scape." No work other than stabilizing will be done to the interior of the house. We will offer the preserved house to the Borough of Millstone. We do not yet know if the Borough will accept it. Neighbors of the property, however, like our plans and are grateful to the church for what will be a tremendous improvement to our neighborhood.

When some more details are worked out, work can begin. As funds become available, the work on the exterior of the parsonage, including installing new windows will commence.

People have made generous offerings and pledges to these projects. Money is still needed. If you have not pledged, we ask that you pledge.

Yours in Christ,

Fred

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One Amwell Road, Millstone, NJ 08844

  
**HRC HAPPENINGS**  
**NEWS from our HRC COMMITTEES**

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### Buildings and Grounds



The Building and Grounds Committee needs motivated individuals who are passionate about keeping our church property in pristine condition. Our work schedule is flexible. We work alone; in small groups; and in large groups. We work during the week and on weekends. No matter what your experience, there is always a variety of work on every level of difficulty and time required from which to choose.

This Spring Dot Simmons will once again head our "Pick a Pew" effort, and we will have a hands on workshop for those interested in learning how to install screening material on screens which need improving. Check the "To Do" List for many more opportunities to help and give a gift of time. For further information contact Audrey Fredericks, Bill Simons or the church.



PS If it seems as if we're bending over backward to reassure everyone and anyone that they are needed, wanted and appreciated, WE ARE!! PLEASE, come join us!!!



Audrey Fredericks co-chair

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### Christian Education



Mark your calendar for August 1-5 for VBS

Watch for more information and ways to help out!

Pam Williams

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### Fellowship

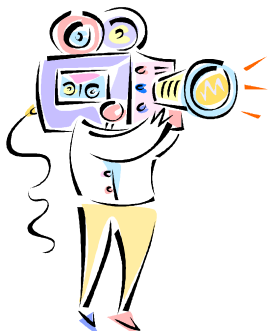


We are always looking for people to host the Millstone Café' after service. If you would like to host, please see the sign-up sheet in the vestibule. This is a great opportunity for the members of our church and visitors to get to know one another.

Christine Fung

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### Outreach and Hospitality



**Lights! Action! Cameras!** The Outreach & Hospitality Committee is looking for someone who loves to take pictures and would be willing to photograph various events in our church life. Currently our website needs photos of people and we would like to have interesting events in our church submitted to area newspapers. Also, we are also looking for a good used or new digital camera. If you would like to volunteer or have a camera to donate, please contact Jayne Czaplicki..

Thank you,

## Youth Group

This year's Youth Group Winter Retreat at Warwick entitled "Changed by Grace" was a fun time for all. For the 2nd time in three years our Youth Group took 1st place in the weekend competitions and had their church name added to the "Iron Coffee Cup" Trophy which is kept at the Warwick Center.



Kurt Benson

Once again this year "Super Bowl Hoagie Sale" was a great success thanks to all the hard work of our kids and leaders as well as the support of our congregation. 62 Hoagies were prepared and \$341 was raised. A special thanks to "Tastee Subs" (Franklin Park) who donated sub rolls.

## Women Walking With God (www.GOD) upcoming events



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.

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



Please mark your calendar for **April 15th and 16th** for the annual **Crossroads Retreat** which will be held at Harvey Cedars on Long Beach Island. Several women from the church are planning to attend overnight and some are planning on going just for the day. Carpools will be arranged later. The deadline for registering is April 1. If you would like a Registration form, please contact Darlene Purcell at 908-359-3391 or Jayne Czaplicki.

The theme for this retreat is **uffering and Joy: Our Journey with Christ** with Rev. E.J. Emerson as the keynote speaker. The retreat begins on Friday night at 7:30 p.m. There are many good things planned for Friday evening. The **OCEAN COMMUNITY PRAISE TEAM** will lead us in singing old hymns and new praise songs both Friday evening and Saturday.

If you choose to arrive on Saturday, there are 7:00 am prayers on the beach, 8:00 am breakfast in the Dining Hall, and the Program begins at 9:00 am in the Chapel.

The workshops this year are very diverse as you can see from the list below:

Crossroads Choir  
Ethnic Networking  
Free Time  
Making Room for the Other

All the Single Ladies  
Discerning God's Will as a Way of Life  
Hope Amidst Oppression

Christian Marriage 101  
Forgiveness  
Sara's Laughter Out of Tears  
The Lives We Carry with Us

I have always found joining others in the prayer tower on Friday evening and praying on the beach moving experiences. Spending time with other Christian women (especially the ones from our church) is **very rewarding**. It is a time for laughter, sharing, reflecting and growing with one another.



**Join us for Fat Tuesday on March 8 for a feast of Jambalaya, breads and king cake, hosted by Jim and Audi Nelson.** Jambalaya is a traditional Creole dish from Louisiana. Hear the story of Fat Tuesday and the king cake. We need a definite head count. *Please sign up on the signup sheet in the vestibule.*

## Reaching Out to Others

### Christian Service - IHN (Interfaith Hospitality Network)



#### 2010 IHN Annual Report

*To deal your bread to the hungry and bring the poor who are cast out into your house, then shall your righteous go before you and God will guide you continually . . . Isaiah 58:7*

During the year of 2010, IHN served 15 families, made up of 47 individuals with 3,914 nights and 11,742 meals. HRC and St Joseph's, in supporting IHN, served families 3 weeks of the year. We provided shelter and meals for 9 families, comprised of 9 adults and 13 children. The children ranged from 8 months to 11 years old. Each week, 50 to 60 volunteers make this work.

While in the IHN Emergency Shelter, 5 adults secured employment and 25 individuals moved to their own permanent housing. All families were from Somerset County.

Also, IHN had 3 families in the Sunrise House of which 3 parents were employed part time, and 2 parents matriculated as full time college students. There were 12 families in Phase 2, of which 11 parents were employed. And there were 2 families in Phase 3, which provides permanent affordable housing.

None of this could be accomplished without the support of each of you. *GOD BLESS and GUIDE you, continually.*

Peace,

The IHN Team

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**Our church will be hosting IHN the week of March 13 with St. Joseph's.** At this time our guests will include 4 adults and 6 children under the age of 10. A sign-up sheet has been posted in the vestibule. If you would like to help, but not sure how, please contact Carol Luidens or the church office.

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**An IHN volunteer training session** has been scheduled for Friday March 18 at Temple Beth-El. All who are interested should talk to Carol Luidens.

Carol Luidens, Coordinator

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**Prayer Shawl Ministry** is looking for more shawls to give to those who are going through a difficult time. It is wonderful to be able to share the warmth of God's love by giving a prayer shawl to a woman or man who is ill, grieving and/or is experiencing a difficult situation in their life. If you are able to knit or crochet, please consider making one or more prayer shawls to donate to this ministry. Information about this ministry and sample patterns for prayer shawls are available in the narthex of the church. Questions may be directed to Jeanne Bowlby or to Jayne Czaplicki. Your help in supporting this ministry is very much appreciated.

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## Stephen Ministry Training



**MEN WANTED!** Yes, Men are wanted and needed to become part of the Stephen Ministry of our church. Since Stephen Ministry is one on one ministering anonymously to others, we need men to minister to men and women to women. We are blessed to have very dedicated men and women serving as caregivers at this time but there is a special need for more men. Following is a sampling of comments written by men who have been involved in Stephen Ministry nationwide.

*"I trained as a Stephen Minister eight years ago and have found ways to apply that training every day since then. I cannot begin to describe the impact it has had on my life"*

David from Florida

*"Men are constantly called on to be fixers. Stephen Ministry has taught me the importance of just listening and caring, allowing God to be the Fixer!"*

William from Virginia

*"The training component on Christian assertiveness didn't just help me to become a much better caregiver—it benefitted me in all aspects of my life."*

Mark from Illinois

*"I feel empowered and humbled to be part of a team of people who can minister to needs of our fellow people. There is no greater joy than this for me."*

George from Virginia

*"Being a Stephen Minister has been a great step forward in my faith journey. It has given me a way to live the life that God wants me to live, it has been a wonderful experience."*

Donald from Massachusetts

Many more could be cited on ways Stephen Ministry has changed and enriched lives. As we celebrate our fifth anniversary of being a part of Stephen Ministry we are grateful to God and give thanks to those men and women who are and have been Stephen Ministers in our church. If you feel called to this ministry or would like to have more information, please speak to one of us.

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

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## TOP SHELF READS/DVDs FROM OUR LIBRARY . . .

### A SONG FROM THE HEART



This is what exactly 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 Pava (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 slightly more suited to women, and somewhat predictable, yet definitely suited to a Valentine theme . . . therefore, it's what I chose to review for this month, and for ALL viewers during the month of February. I hope you enjoy both the movie and Amy Grant's included music CD. It is definitely a family oriented performance.

This version also includes a bonus music CD, called, "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. I'm sure both are enjoyable and appropriate for all viewers and listeners, regardless of sex or age.

Sue Cole

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# WELCOME

On February 27, we received 14 adults into membership of the church. We welcome them and we ask that you take the time to introduce yourselves to them.

Rev. John de Velder and Linda Wavoord de Velder

Steve and Toni Hancox

Matthew and Shannon Kulscar  
(parents of Brianna, Madison and Gabrielle)

John and Meg Neu  
(parents of Allison and Christine)

Peter and Lisa Passalague  
(parents of Liliana, Marco, Jake)

Edna Shanok

Joe and Diane Tenore

Diane Wisneski

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We would also like to welcome John C.K. Chen. John has joined the church staff as a student minister. He earned a bachelor's degree in art from Brooklyn College and then attended Pace University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in public accounting. John has been serving US Treasury for 23 years, where he specializes in examining the corporate tax returns of Fortune 500 companies.

John and his family joined Grace Christian Church, a reformed Church in Staten Island, in 1999. He served on the consistory for eight years, including six years as one of the elders overseeing the caring ministry. He also served as the elder delegate to the Classis of New York for three years and in 2006 was elected treasurer for the classis of New York, a position he still holds. He also service on the congregational relations committee of Classis and has been a delegate to General Synod.

In September 2008, John enrolled at New Brunswick Theological Seminary to begin preparing for his second career as an ordained minister and joined Reformed Church of Prince Bay. In July 2008, he was elected as an elder for the ministry of stewardship.

John made a Tres Dias weekend in 2000 and has served on several teams. He is married to Louise and they have two children, Joanna, an accountant, and Daniel, a junior at Baruch College. John enjoys cooking and photography. He especially enjoys photographing buildings and natural scenery and taking portraits.



SAVE The DATE

May 1 at 4:00 p.m

Organ Anniversary Concert

Watch for more information in coming months.



Worship and Music Committee



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**College Connection** and [www.God](http://www.God) working together to send Valentine wishes. Eight boxes filled with homemade cookies, candies, granola bars, popcorn, hot chocolate and Valentine activity sheets were sent off to HRC students who joined College Connection this school year. Tori and Liz Schryver would like to send a BIG Thank You to the members of [www.God](http://www.God) who baked, donated goodies and wrapped the packages at their last meeting. Our college students will surely enjoy these special care packages!

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## WORDS of WISDOM

Throughout the season of Lent leading into Holy Week, we find ourselves confronted with the word, **CONFESS** or confession. Our source gives us more insight into this word with numerous uses. "Confess, confess!" Sounds like an interrogation scene, doesn't it? The word does have this negative connotation, but it also has a positive one! Confess means to declare affirmatively what one believes in. The Greek word "*homologeō*" literally means "saying the same thing" - that is, affirming one's agreement with a particular spiritual reality. We confess that we are sinners, and we confess (affirm) that Jesus is the Savior. These two kinds of confession occur in the Bible. First, individuals confess that they have sinned and are therefore guilty before God. Second, they confess that Jesus is Lord. One confession often leads to the other.

In the first kind of confession, one agrees or acknowledges that he has broken God's law and therefore deserves punishment (Rom. 6:23). Those who were baptized by John the Baptist publicly confessed their sins and repented (Mark 1:4-5). All Christians, in fact, must agree with God that they are sinners (1 John 1:8), and they are encouraged to confess their sins to God (1 John 1:9). James said that when a Christian is sick, the elders are to visit that person and give him an opportunity to confess any sins. In the same passage, James urged Christians to confess their sins to one another (Jas. 5:13-16).



The second, more positive meaning of the word, occurs frequently in the New Testament with respect to affirming one's faith in Christ. When Christians confess, they declare as a matter of conviction and allegiance that Jesus is the Christ and that they belong to Him. Jesus said, "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven" (Matt. 10:32, KJV). Refusal to confess Christ is the same as denying Him (Matt. 10:33; Luke 12:8; 2 Tim 2:11-13; Rev. 3:5). The Christian life therefore, begins with a confession of faith, a public declaration before witnesses (Rom. 10:9-10; 1 Tim 6:12). An additional dimension of the Christian's confession is provided in 1 John 4:2. One must confess that "Jesus Christ has come in the flesh". A person must not only acknowledge that Jesus "has come" and confess belief in Jesus' divinity and preexistence as the Son of God, but also that He has come "in the flesh" - that is, confess belief in Jesus' incarnation.

In the world today there are religions based on false prophets, the Bible tells us this is so, but some believers find it difficult to ascertain truth when the values and morals being taught by these religions soon to be in accordance with the Bible. However, as shown above, we can discern whether people have the spirit of God or not depending on their ability to proclaim that Jesus is indeed the Son of God (1 John 4:15).

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



We will never comprehend what it cost our Lord  
in physical agony to offer His forgiveness  
to everyone - no exceptions.  
--Anne Graham Lotz

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# HYMNS 4 HIM

## O for a CLOSER WALK with GOD

by William Cowper (1731-1800)



O for a closer walk with God, / A calm and heav'nly frame,  
A light to shine upon the road / That leads me to the Lamb.

Where is the blessedness I knew / When first I saw the Lord?  
Where is the soul-refreshing view / Of Jesus and His Word?

Return, O holy Dove, return, / Sweet messenger of rest;  
I hate the sins that made Thee mourn / And drove Thee from my breast.

The dearest idol I have known, What e'er that idol be,  
Help me to tear it from Thy throne / And worship only Thee.

So shall my walk be close with God, / Calm and serene my frame;  
So purer light shall mark the road / That leads me to the Lamb.

Martin Madan, the unsung inserter of *alleluias* in the hymn "Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise," had an interesting part in this hymn as well. Madan's cousin, the poet William Cowper, had tried suicide three times and had been hospitalized twice for insanity. Through Madan's influence, Cowper became a Christian and recovered his sanity.

Cowper soon became friends with John Newton, author of "Amazing Grace." Besides their mutual love of poetry, they both had a sense of humor and both loved to take long walks. It was the best therapy possible for Cowper. Cowper walked at a fast pace with Newton but also loved to stroll slowly through the little town of Olney, where he visited the poor and chatted with the children.

One morning at the Newton's house, Cowper was reading the passage in Genesis that says, "Enoch walked with God." It inspired him to write this hymn.

*Submit yourself therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you men of double mind. Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to dejection. Humble yourselves before the Lord and he will exalt you.*

James 4:7-10, rsv

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

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### REFLECTIONS AND RECOLLECTIONS

To coincide with this serious time beginning with Ash Wednesday on March 9, the following may offer some thoughts on the Lenten preparatory time leading us next month to the Passion of Christ.

#### Lenten Thoughts from Old

For many Christians, Lent is a time for fasting and penitential sorrow over sins. But an early church saint, John Climacus (649 A.D.) Spoke of Lenten disciplines as a "joy-creating sorrow" leading to the joy of Easter. "God," he wrote, "does not insist or desire that we should mourn in agony of heart; rather it is His wish that out of love for Him, we should rejoice with laughter in our soul."

(continued on page 9)

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## Lent Quotes – Ash Wednesday’s Double Meaning

So the imposition of ashes has a double meaning, one despairing, because it describes the reality of what we have made ourselves; the other hopeful, because it describes the new reality God has made for us. For the Christian, hope trumps despair. “In Adam all die” and “In Christ shall all be made alive” are both true, but Christ has conquered death.

But this is not a reason to feel good about yourself on Ash Wednesday. That would be to presume upon God’s good will and take the Lord’s death for granted. Ash Wednesday is a fast day given us to remember what we have done and to try to learn how much of the old Adam remains in us. And of course the more you see what Jesus did for you, the more you will want to face your sins, to track them down to the places they have hidden, drag them into the light, and with God’s help drive them away. From David Mills’ wonderful essay on Ash Wednesday, published in Touchstone Magazine in March 2004

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### A New Approach to Lent

Writing in *The Arkansas Churchman*, Betty Rowland suggests that many of us might be well advised to “Listen for Lent.” “How hard it is to listen—really listen”—she writes. “It’s a habit, a ministry, a way of life. But it needs cultivating. Listen to your children, your spouse, your grandchildren, to an elderly person, to your pastor’s sermon, to music, to the sounds of nature. Listen for God.”

Why not give up talking for Lent?



O Lord,  
The house of my soul is narrow;  
enlarge it that you may enter in.  
It is ruinous, O repair it!  
It displeases Your sight.  
I confess it, I know.  
But who shall cleanse it,  
to whom shall I cry but to you?  
Cleanse me from my secret faults, O Lord,  
and spare Your servant from strange sins.

*St. Augustine of Hippo (AD 354-430)*

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## Lenten Schedule

**Fat Tuesday, March 8 at 6:30 p.m.**

**Ash Wednesday Worship Service – March 9 at 7:30 p.m.**

**First Sunday in Lent Worship Service with Communion – March 13**

**Palm Sunday – Pony Rides for the Sunday School – April 10**

**Maundy Thursday Pot Luck Dinner at 6:30 p.m.  
Followed by Communion at 7:30 p.m. – April 21**

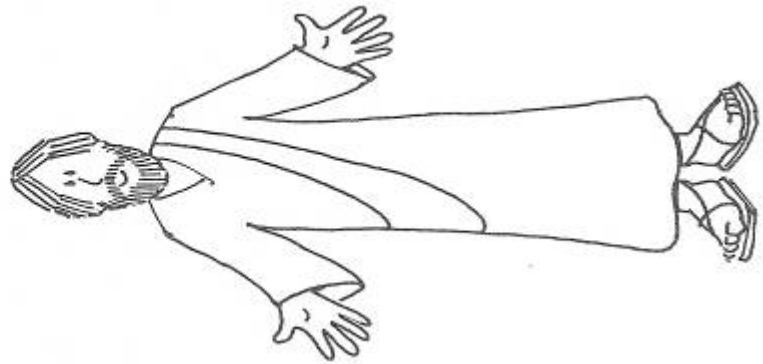
**Tenebrae Service – Friday, April 22 at 7:30 p.m.**

**Easter Sunrise Service – April 24 at 7:30 a.m.  
Green Team Breakfast – April 24 8:15 a.m.  
Traditional Easter Worship Service – April 24 at 10:00 a.m.**

Jesus came to testify to the ....

Write the beginning sound using these letters:

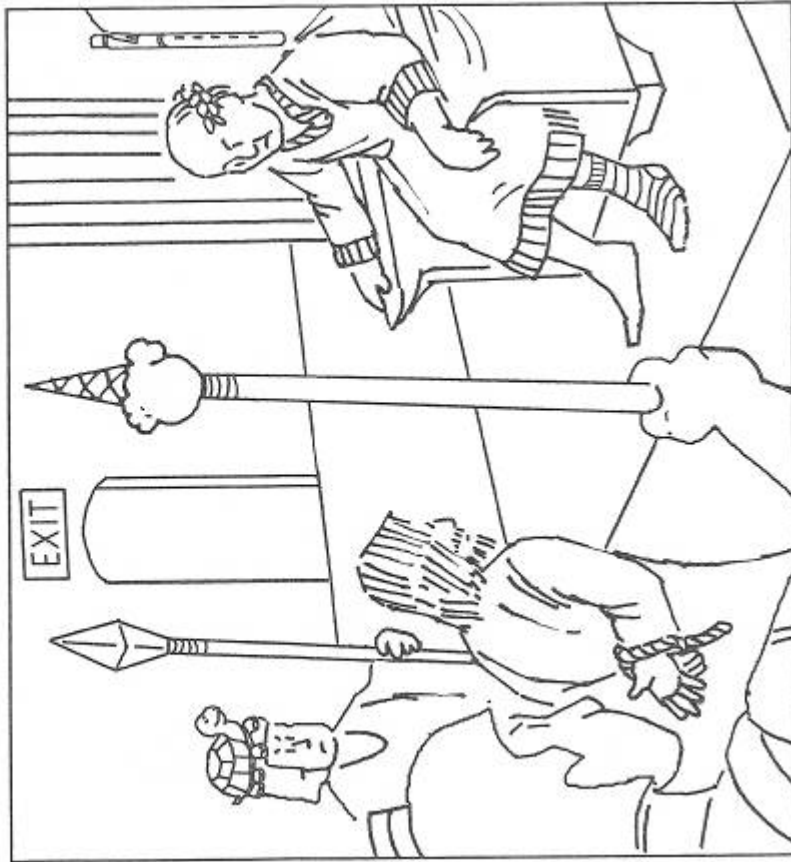
U R H T T



### Pilate Questions Jesus

Pilate asked Jesus,  
"Are You the King of the Jews?"

Circle 5 things wrong in the picture.



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## 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  
7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal (resumes on March 13)

### Every Wednesday

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

### Every Thursday

- 7:30 a.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal

### Other Important Dates:

March 6

Early Service at 8:15 a.m.  
Compassion Sunday and Bring a Friend  
Youth Group Meets at 6:30 p.m.

March 1, 22 and 29

Bible Tour at 7:00 p.m.

March 8

Fat Tuesday Dinner  
Consistory Meeting at 7:30 p.m.

March 9

Ash Wednesday Service at 7:30 p.m.

March 10

Archive Committee Meeting at 7:00 p.m.  
Jr. Leaders Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

March 12

Classis Leaders Retreat

March 13 - 20

Hosting IHN Guests with St. Joseph's  
Worship and Music Committee

March 20

Youth Group Meets at 6:30 p.m.

March 21

[www.God](http://www.God) – Baby Shower at 7:00 p.m.

March 23

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

March 15

## DEADLINE

The **April RAM** submission deadline is **Tuesday, March 15, 2011**. Kindly send information, articles, etc for *April and beyond* to Darlene Purcell via email to [hrcsecretary@comcast.net](mailto: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***

***Meet John C. K. Chen – Student Minister***

***Top Viewing Review – A Song From the Heart***

***Lenten Schedule***

***Activity page for the young***

