

# RAM Reformed At Millstone

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

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*From the* **PASTOR**—

April 23, 2009

*“Continue steadfastly in prayer. . .”* – Colossians 4:2

Dear Members and Friends,

Corrie Ten Boom asked, “Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tire?” Do we pray as a last resort in desperation, or is prayer a way of life for us? By the way, if you are using prayer as a spare tire, God loves you anyway!

You discover as life goes on, that more prayers are answered than we ever know. Often our prayers are like distress flares. We send up the flare which burns out quickly. We move on from whatever crisis besets us, and the flare has long since sputtered out and is no longer seen or remembered by us. By US. But God saw the flare and took care of things.

I wonder how many prayers of our own God has answered? Countless? I believe God always answers prayer. God does not always give the petitioner the thing he or she asks, but God nevertheless answers the prayer. God’s answers are always better than our requests anyway!

*“Ask and it will be given you,”* Jesus promises, *“seek, and you shall find; knock, and the door will be opened to you.”* *“God is love.”* Jesus said that we sinful mortals know how to give good gifts to our children. How much more, he asks, will our heavenly Father give to us, God’s children?(Lk. 11:13)

Be in prayer. Pray for your enemies. Prayer for your church. Pray for people you love. Pray for troublesome people. Pray for yourself. Pray just to praise God. Pray in thanksgiving. Pray with lamentation. Confess sin in prayer. Converse with your God. God is living and wants to relate to you. Imagine that!

Our church has a prayer meeting every Wednesday from seven to eight. The first half hour is spent talking about prayer needs. The second half hour is devoted to prayer. We take turns praying out loud and end our turns with “. . .in Jesus’ name. . .” Sometimes there is just rich silence. Come join us in the Pastor’s Study on Wednesdays or pray from home with us. You can call in prayer requests to the church phone or through the church e-mail.

Miracles happen every day around us. We don’t see them all. But we can thank God for them all – seen and unseen.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Fred



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**NEWS from our HRC COMMITTEES**

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**FELLOWSHIP**

The Fellowship Committee is hosting the Confirmation Reception in Memorial Hall on May 3. Please come and congratulate the confirmands and their families.

Maryanne Devoti and Sue Woods

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**CHRISTIAN SERVICES**

Thank you to all the volunteers who participated in the Habitat Work Day on April 4th, in Somerset NJ. A lot of progress was made at the site and Habitat organizers welcomed all the help! Volunteers participated in painting the inside of one of the homes as well as installing trim. Other volunteers helped to lay the sub slab flooring at one of the homes that was still being built, as well as creating a shed from the foundation up! Please look for future events in the bulletin!



Volunteers: Robert Good, Carol Luidens, Darlene Purcell, Gary Myer, Bill Buczek, Catherine Kinrade, Dan Gross.

Catherine Kinrade and Sue Woods

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**MISSIONS & BENEVOLENCE**

Thank you to all who have given such generous donations for Easter Baskets and Crop Banks (CWS Blankets Program).

Catherine Kinrade and Sue Woods

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**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

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**EDUCATION - CONFIRMATION SUNDAY IS MAY 3**

On Sunday, May 3 at our 10 AM Worship Service, the 2009 Confirmation Class will unite with the church. Refreshments will follow the service in Memorial Hall. Join us in congratulating the Confirmands.

Mike Williams and Colleen Eberhardt

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**BUILDINGS & GROUNDS**

**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

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## MORE HRC ACTIVITIES, EVENTS & UPDATES

### SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

**Children's Sunday** is scheduled for May 17<sup>th</sup>.

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, May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

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 May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Colleen Eberhardt, SS Superintendent

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### 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 31<sup>st</sup>**. The date of the presentation will be **June 14<sup>th</sup>**.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the Scholarship Fund this year. If you haven't made a donation and wish to do so, it is not too late. In these difficult economic times our support is especially valuable to our students.

Julie Kinrade

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### STEPHEN MINISTRY NEWS

During the Easter season, I always enjoy reading the story of Jesus meeting the two strangers on the road to Emmaus. As the strangers recant the day's events, they begin to sense that the Stranger walking with them knows a great deal about biblical truth. Eventually, their spiritual eyes are opened and they realize the risen Christ has been part of their journey. This story demonstrates a basic truth about a path to a deeper faith- we are not meant to walk it alone.

The Stephen Ministry Program works on this principle that no one needs to walk alone when facing difficult or puzzling times. As Christ's representative, a Stephen Minister uses the wisdom and faithfulness of Jesus to bring comfort and healing to those in need.

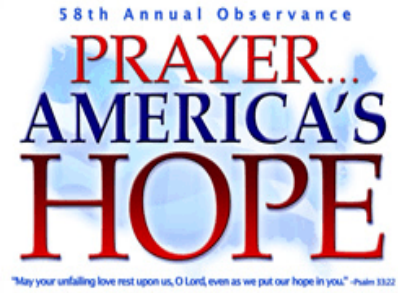
Wouldn't it be a wonderful story if each of us in our Christian community could open the eyes of someone and lead him or her to a deeper faith simply by being there, conversing and listening as Jesus did on the road to Emmaus?

Learning to be a mediator for Christ is easier than you think! Training to be a Stephen Minister will provide you with life-long skills that you can adapt to those who are close to you, acquaintances and even strangers by becoming an instrument of grace.

A new Stephen Minister class will begin next fall and all members are welcomed to join us in this special endeavor. Details and information will continue to flow forth or you may speak with any of our Stephen Leaders or Stephen Ministers.

God bless,

Fred Butler and members of the Stephen Ministry Program



**58<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER - Thursday, May 7**

The 58<sup>th</sup> National Day of Prayer is **Thursday, May 7**, and its 2009 theme is based on Psalm 33:22: *"May your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord, even as we put our hope in you."* As it approaches, learn more about the National Day of Prayer at their web site, <http://www.ndptf.org/home/index.cfm>.

Several opportunities exist to participate in this observance of prayer for our nation. The annual Somerset County observance will be held on the steps of the Somerset County courthouse from 6-7:30 PM. A daytime observance is scheduled for the Christian Community Chapel, 211 US Hwy 206 in Hillsborough between 12 noon-2 PM, and evening services are planned at Grace Community Church, 424 Garretson Road in Bridgewater between 7 and 9 PM.

Penned by Beth Moore, I share the 2009 Prayer for the Nation with you: *Father in Heaven, we lift our eyes toward Your Throne, where You reign in righteousness. Your Word assures us that when Your people cry out in sincerity and humility, You will never turn a deaf ear to us. We call upon You now, seeking your forgiveness and favor. Look over this fevered landscape and heal us, Lord. Drop knees to the floor and raise eyes to the sky, for we know where our help comes from. Unite these States again in devotion to You, and blur every dividing line. Do not give us over to our sins. Give us instead, over to passionate prayer that moves Your heart. "May Your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord, even as we put our hope in You." In the name of our Lord and Savior, Amen.*

Sue Cole

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**HRC BIBLE STUDIES**

The Women's Bible Study will meet on May 6<sup>th</sup> and May 20<sup>th</sup>. We are continuing with the current study "Woman of God".



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

The Tuesday Evening Bible Tour will continue the first and last Tuesday, from 7-8 pm in Memorial Hall; May 5<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. Any questions, please call Pastor Fred.

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**MISSION TRIP**

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

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**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>.

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**MS WALK**

The Multiple Sclerosis Walk was held Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup> in Somerville. I would like to thank everyone for their support. I walk for those who are disabled, blind or otherwise dependent on the care of others. Donations will be accepted anytime before June 1<sup>st</sup>. Please make checks payable to MS Society.

Sincerely, Jayne O'Connor

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**MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFAST**

The Green Team is serving breakfast on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 10 at 8:15 a.m. The cost is only \$3.00. Please sign-up in the vestibule.

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### **CHURCH TIME CARE LIST REMINDERS**

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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

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## **WORDS OF WISDOM**

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A few events within May move us closer to experiencing the Holy Spirit's involvement in our faith and our lives, the primary event being Pentecost—the virtual birthday of the church. Pentecost is important to the Christian Church because it intricately connects Christianity's central image of God as Trinity. Christians have come to understand God in three ways. First, as God the Creator in nature; second, as the Son, in the story of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus; and finally, as Spirit. The Spirit represents God as living and active in the world today. It signifies the fact that the Christian faith is not just about events that happened in the past, rather it concerns the present *and* the future. The Spirit is God's animating presence in the church, and indeed, in life itself. Hence, without its Spirit, the church is dead, and without the Spirit, all that is creative and wonderful in life itself ceases to exist.

The Holman Treasury of Key Bible Words shows some insight on a page entitled **FULL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**. The Greek expression, *pl'tho tou pneumatos* and pronounced *PLAY thoh; TOO; PNEW muhtawss*, is used for describing the “filling” of everything from a sponge to a boat (Matt. 27:48; Luke 5:7). Luke uses this common term to describe how the Holy Spirit influences a person. He uses the expression *pl'tho tou pneumatos*, which means “filled with the Holy Spirit,” eight times in his writings. It is used three times in the first chapter of Luke to describe: John the Baptist (Luke 1:15), Elizabeth when she met Mary (Luke 1:41), and Zechariah when he proclaimed the prophecies about his son, John the Baptist (Luke 1:65).

Being “filled with the Spirit,” according to Acts, is associated with the baptism of the Holy Spirit. At the beginning of Acts, Jesus repeated John the Baptist's prediction that the Messiah would baptize people in the Holy Spirit (Luke 3:16; Acts 1:5). This prophecy was fulfilled on the day of Pentecost, when all the assembled believers were baptized in the Holy Spirit and thereby “filling with the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:4). Once saturated with the Holy Spirit, this Spirit-effusion gave them the boldness to speak out for Jesus. Through the Spirit, the disciples were constantly empowered to speak for Jesus. Acts 4:8 says that Peter, when full of the Holy Spirit, spoke boldly to the rulers and elders. At the end of the same chapter, it says that all the church was filled with the Holy Spirit and thereby “spoke the word of God with all boldness” (Acts 4:31). Later in the book of Acts, we hear of Saul of Tarsus (Paul) being converted to Christ. He was filled with the Spirit and empowered to rebuke false prophet, Bar-Jesus (Acts 9:31; 13:6-12).



In nearly every case, the effusion of the Holy Spirit enables the person to speak or preach for God. Thus, the filling of the Spirit is directly related to the prophetic ministry—the revelation or explanation of God's Word. The Holy Spirit is the gift Jesus gave us to lead us and guide us in truth and understanding of God's Word.

**The Consistory is interested in hearing from you.** Please take a few minutes to respond to any of the questions below - circle your selection from the list or write in the space provided. Then drop your response in the box in the Church vestibule. THANKS!

Are there specific topics that you would be interested in learning more about?

Religion / faith / the Bible / Reformed Church history / the history of our Church

Other topics? \_\_\_\_\_

Any speakers that you would like to hear? \_\_\_\_\_

If you are interested, what is the best time for you to attend a program?

Weekday evening - Saturday morning / afternoon / evening - Sunday afternoon / evening

Are there any books or videos that you would like to be able to borrow from the Church library?

Would you be interested joining a men's bible study or fellowship group? (yes / no)

What type of devotional materials do you find inspirational? \_\_\_\_\_

Are there any movies that you would like to see for dinner and a movie? \_\_\_\_\_

How often should we put on a dinner and a movie night? 2 / 3 / 4 / 6 times each year

Would you be interested in joining in a progressive dinner? (yes / no)

Would you like to provide a meal when a member of the congregation is suffering a loss or experiencing a difficult time? (yes / no)

Have you visited the HRC website? (yes / no)

Did you find the information that you were looking for there? (yes / no)

Did you know the Church calendar is available on the website? (yes / no)

Is there information that you think we should add to the website? (yes / no)

What information? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you know what the Deacon's fund is used for? (yes / no)

Would you be interested in

- sharing how your faith influences your everyday life? (yes / no)

- hearing how faith influences the everyday lives of others in the congregation? (yes / no)

Would you like to know more about a specific Church committee and how you could get involved? Buildings &

Grounds / Christian Service / Congregational Care / Christian Education / Fellowship / Missions &

Benevolence / Outreach & Hospitality / Stewardship & Finance / Worship & Music / Youth Ministry

Please provide your name, phone, and email address if you would like to be contacted.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

# HYMNS 4 HIM

## SPIRIT OF GOD, DESCEND UPON MY HEART

by George Croly (1780-1860)

Spirit of God, descend upon my heart / Wean it from earth; through all its pulses move;  
Stoop to my weakness, mighty as Thou art; / And make me love Thee as I ought to love.

I ask no dream, no prophet ecstasies, / No sudden rending of the veil of clay,  
No angel visitant, no opening skies; / But take the dimness of my soul away.

Hast Thou not bid me love Thee, God and King? / All, all Thine own, soul, heart and strength and mind.  
I see Thy cross; there teach my heart to cling: / O let me seek Thee, and O let me find!

Teach me to feel that Thou art always nigh; / Teach me the struggles of the soul to bear,  
To check the rising doubt, the rebel sigh; / Teach me the patience of unanswered prayer.

Teach me to love Thee as Thine angels love, / One holy passing filling all my frame;  
The kindling of the heaven descended Dove, / My heart an altar, and Thy love the flame.

One of the most significant days in the church year is Pentecost, celebrating the coming of the Holy Spirit to indwell and empower believers.

George Croly, who wrote this hymn, came from Ireland to minister in a small parish church in London. During his twenty-five years of service there he had much time for writing and became known for poems, novels, and biographies, and plays. Then when he was fifty years old, he was asked to reopen a church in one of London's worst slums that had been closed for more than a century. Croly's preaching soon attracted crowds. At the age of seventy-four, he prepared a new hymnal for the congregation, including this hymn under the title, "Holiness Desired."

Croly had spent twenty-five years interacting with culture, and almost the same amount of time dealing with society's ills in London's slums. But to Croly what mattered most was not what a person was on the outside, but what he was on the inside. So in this hymn he shuts the door and asks for a fresh filling of the spirit.

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.*

Galatians 5:22-25, NASB

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

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## **DEADLINE**

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

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## **COMING EVENTS for May**

### Sunday, May 3 – Confirmation Sunday

10:00 a.m. Worship/ Holy Communion

11:00 a.m. Reception in Memorial Hall

### Sunday, May 10 – Mother's Day

8:15 a.m. Green Team Breakfast

10:00 a.m. Worship

### Sunday, May 17 – Children's Sunday

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

11:00 a.m. Church Picnic in Memorial Hall

3:00 p.m. Raritan Valley Choral Society Recital

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

NonProfit Org  
US POSTAGE PAID  
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PERMIT NO. 17

**MAILED TO:**



**Colossians 3:12-17**

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other: just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must also forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude on your hearts sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.