

From the **PASTOR**

May and June 2011

Dear Members and Friends,

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. . . Let not your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.” - John 14:27

Dear Members and Friends,

Easter has not come and gone. Easter is here. Every day is Easter. Jesus is risen.

We have been liberated from death. Say that over again slowly. We have been liberated from death.

Christians are all about life and love. The past is finished and gone. Everything has become fresh and new. That's how the Apostle Paul put it.

That does not mean we are not still subject to fear, worry, depression and mourning. These are feelings that still come to us. What the resurrection does mean is that we have a way out. The door of the tomb is open and we can emerge from the shadows of our undesirable feelings, when they assail us, into the light of day with the help of God.

We are Easter people. We know our Redeemer lives and we have been set free. It is that freedom that defines our lives, not the grave. Death is not the end, it is the step on the destination to our true homes with God in heaven.

But we need to be reminded, because we forget. A hiker in the woods may know his way for w a while but become lost. At that point, if he is prepared, he can pull out his compass and map (or GPS) and get back on the right path. That is what Easter is for us – our compass, or better yet, our Global Positioning System! Maybe we can call it our CPS – our “Cosmic” Positioning System.

When life crowds in on us, we remember who we are and whose we are. We are God's children, bound for glory! With Christ we have died and we have been raised with him to life eternal. Throughout the Bible we are told by God the Father and by Jesus Christ, “Fear not!” “Do not be afraid!” May God enable us to put aside our fears and sadness and to emerge from our tombs into the daylight and sing God's praises.

Yours in Christ,

Fred

Celebrate! The King James Bible has a Birthday!

The King James Bible (KJV) turns 400 years old this year. It was first published in 1611 and is the greatest of all English translations of the Bible and a cultural icon. You simply cannot understand western history and culture without it. The KJV has given us countless everyday idioms that people use having no idea they are quoting the Bible, such as sour grapes; "fatted calf; salt of the earth; drop in a bucket; skin of one's teeth; apple of one's eye; girded loins; feet of clay; whited sepulchers; filthy lucre; pearls before swine; fly in the ointment; fight the good fight; eat, drink and be merry." For a wonderful brief article about the power of this excellent Bible still beloved by many, go to <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/04/24/weekinreview/24mcgrath>. The Bible translation we use in worship, the New Revised Standard version, traces itself right back to the King James Bible.



Pastor Fred

Christian Education



Vacation Bible School

Inside Out & Upside Down on Main Street

Where Jesus makes a difference every day!

August 1-5, 2011 from 9:00 am - 11:30 am

Children preschool to entering 5th grade are invited to join us for a week of **Inside Out & Upside Down on Main Street!** The children will explore Jesus' parables, taking a new look at what the Bible says about gratitude, compassion, forgiveness, grace, and faithfulness. There will be singing, crafts, snacks and games. Volunteers 6th grade to adult are needed to make this a great week for the children. Look for registration forms and volunteer signup in the vestibule or call the Church office at 908-359-3391. Bring a friend and join the fun.

Pam Williams

Fellowship

Many thanks to all of the volunteers who made the Maundy Thursday pot luck dinner, Confirmation Sunday and the Organ Anniversary Receptions great successes. The attendance to all three events was high and there was great food and fellowship too!

Millstone Cafe will continue in June on the 5th and 12th skipping Father's Day then the summer schedule begins. Sign up in the vestibule to host the Cafe.

Christine Fung

Church Retreat

The consistory would like to plan for a church wide retreat. If you are interested in attending one please signup. If you would like more information or would like to share some of your ideas, you may contact Chris Russoniello or the church office (908)-359-3391.

Chris Russoniello

Outreach and Hospitality Committee

The Outreach & Hospitality Committee is organizing our participation in the 2011 sale on **June 11th, from 8 am to 4 pm**. We will be having several tables to sell household items as well as some baked goods. We hope to raise money for several missions: Habitat for Humanity, Youth Mission Trips and to purchase Hipporollers (a large barrel-like container to transport water) for women in Kenya. We will also provide access to our bathrooms in Memorial Hall and staff an information table with shopping bags, maps of the yard sale, literature about our church and free water.

We will be looking for you to donate items (clean, unbroken, usable household items). There will be **specific drop off times** in Memorial Hall:

Thursday evening June 9th from 4pm--8pm
Friday morning, June 10th from 10am--2pm
Friday evening June 10th from 4pm--8pm

Someone will be there to accept only what we feel is sellable & to apply price tags on each item. **Please do not leave items at the church at any other time.**

We are not accepting clothing or large items that would be difficult for us to move. Leftover items will be available to be taken back home by the donor by 1pm on Sunday afternoon or purchased by members of our church. The remaining items will be donated to Highland Park Reformed Church for their thrift shop.

If you are interested in helping in any part of the yard sale preparation and/or selling, please sign up in the narthex. We need people to help with making posters, receiving merchandise on Friday and pricing items, setting up and staffing all tables on Saturday (we will set up shifts) & clean up. We would love to see those of all ages involved in this fund-raising effort for mission.

If you are still interested in helping, please contact Jayne Czaplicki.

We are also planning a *potluck gathering for our newest members*. Those of you who participated in our last event will recall that we held the dinner "Bunco style", which means we switched seats for each course in order to get to know everyone present. Many positive comments were received about the dinner, so we are continuing this event by popular demand!

We are pleased that we were able to purchase an *additional Easter banner* with Memorial Funds. This gives us the ability to have banners at two intersections as well as in front of the church. This has been one of our most successful ways to advertise services and church events.

The committee would like to thank Wayne Domkowski for responding to the request for a **church photographer**. Wayne has excellent photography skills and has already begun by photographing the Palm Sunday Procession. Thanks, Wayne! We are grateful to have our church events captured on film so that we can place them on our website, submit them to newspapers and to the RCA Today magazine/online publication.

Another big thanks goes to Matt Kulcsar who is redesigning our *Hillsborough Reformed Church refrigerator magnets* that we offer on our Welcome Table. We have been in short supply of late and the original template is no longer available. Thanks, Matt!

We would like to have a *Hillsborough Reformed Church t-shirt/sweatshirt* and would love your ideas on this. It would be something for us to wear as individuals or groups in order to initiate conversations with people outside of our church about our church and our faith. Let's do a bit of praying and brainstorming on this!

Our goal is to reach out into the community with a message of hope--that all can be a part of our community of believers in Jesus Christ. We are responsible for sharing information about the life of our church with the surrounding community as well as warmly welcoming visitors into our congregation. Anyone interested in participating with Outreach and Hospitality can contact Jayne Czaplicki or the church office at 908-359-3391. Whatever your God-given giftedness is, please consider sharing it by serving on one of our committees (even if it isn't Outreach!).

Jayne Czaplicki, chair of Outreach & Hospitality

Youth Group

Warwick will again offer many great **Summer Camps** this year beginning in June. One and two week camps are available (ages 7-17). They all look like a lot of fun. New for 2011, Camp Warwick will be leading a mission trip for high school students July 16 - 23. Brochures with more information and registration forms are available at the Youth Group bulletin board in the basement of the church. More information is also available online at www.campwarwick.com.



Barbeque/Pool Party - The Youth Group will be having a Barbeque/Pool Party Sunday June 12th. All 5th through 12th graders are invited to join us for **FOOD, FUN and ACTIVITIES.**



Kurt Benson

Confirmation in the Christian Faith

The following young people were confirmed on May 1, 2011



*Kieran Christopher Claus
Troy Daniel Gacek
Andrew Wesley Heddy
Katie Marie Lonsdorf
Alexandria (Alex) Rae Medawar
Julie Lynn Meisterich
Nolan Gary Myer
Allison Jane Neu
Emily Rae Quast*

Their Confirmation Sponsors were:

<i>Lisa Medawar</i>	<i>Tricia Heddy</i>
<i>Gary Myer</i>	<i>Stacie Devoti</i>
<i>Rae Quast</i>	<i>Tony Cole</i>
<i>Nancy Mest</i>	<i>Maryanne Devoti</i>
<i>Chris Russoniello</i>	

Baby News



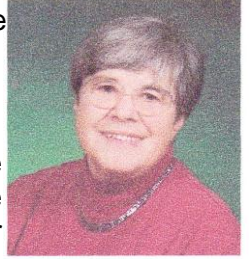
Congratulations to Brent and Leah Mulder, the proud parents of Eloise Charlotte, born 18 inches, 7 lbs, 6 oz!

We also offer congratulations to Paul and Jennifer Glenbocki on the birth of their first child, Austin Joseph.

Remembering Nancy Dawson

On April 30 we celebrated the life of Nancy Dawson who passed away after her battle with cancer on April 23.

“The Church was a big part of Nancy's life. Involved in the Hillsborough Reformed Church for over 50 years, she was ordained as an elder and a deacon. Nancy led the church as vice-president after the pastor retired in 2001, was an integral part of the choir and led numerous committees. Nancy received training as a Stephen Leader and was one of two primary teachers in this ministry of lay caring for people. She also served as a delegate to the Classis of Delaware Raritan and was the clerk of the Candidates and Exams Committee with oversight of men and women training for ordained pastoral ministry. Her humble and loving service to Jesus Christ in the church can only be described as devoted, faithful, untiring and an enormous inspiration for others. Her wisdom and faith was a tremendous asset to all.”



Taken from her obituary

Scholarship Committee

We welcome Deacon Kathy Falcone to the Scholarship Committee. This year, the committee would like to honor the memory of committee member Nancy Dawson by dedicating this year's Fund in her Name. It is not too late to apply for the Scholarship. All applications must be submitted by May 31st. See form below:



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, please fill in this form with your Name, School Name, Course of study/major, and status (high school/ college junior, etc.) and place in offering plate, OR please contact Eric Kraehenbuehl with this information. **All applications must be submitted by May 31st**. The date of the presentation will be June 12th.

Name _____

Status (Junior, etc) _____

School _____

Study/Major _____



There is still an opportunity to contribute to this worthy cause. Please make all contribution to the Reformed Church of Hillsborough with a memo note that it is for the Scholarship Fund. Thank you

Reaching Out to Others

Mission and Benevolence

Thank you from the M&B & Deacons for the Japan Relief Collection – The collection was \$2862, and the Deacon Fund sent a check to Church World Services (CWS) for \$5,724.00. The following Thank You note was received from the Church World Service.

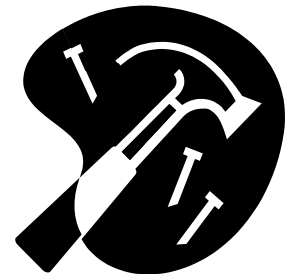


Dear Rev. Mueller,
Heartfelt thanks to your congregation for your continued outstanding generosity to our Blankets Program. Your membership clearly reveals the enormous support for this program. I love the "baskets" too as the vehicle for collection!
Thanks again,
Peace,
Kae Kusterbeck

Volunteers currently needed

Mission Trip

We are planning a Mission Trip the week of August 13. We will be going to Cumberland, MD where we will be making repairs and improvements to the homes of needy homeowners in Allegany County, Maryland and surrounding areas. The homes will be updated to enable the homeowner to stay in the home as long as possible. The work includes one story roofing, building stairs and wheelchair ramps, interior work, and more.



So, we are looking for people who might be interested in helping do those renovations. We'll be staying at a nearby church that has a kitchen so we will also be looking for cooks to help us out preparing dinners and getting food ready for lunches.

Youths (ages 14-18) are also invited, and must be accompanied by one adult for every three youths. So, come and share your love with others, being part of this special opportunity. *Come help us show the glory of the Lord to some people who are having trouble making ends meet.*

If you are interested contact Carol Luidens or the church office at 908-359-3391. There is also a sign up sheet in the vestibule.



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

THANKS to those that were able to assist hosting IHN guests the week of May 15. The majority of the participants were from St Jo's as they had a new sign up and we were trying to revitalize the participants. AND, it STILL requires a small village to support ALL that is needed. And, as always, you were there.

THANK YOU

Stephen Ministry Today



You won't hear much about the work of Stephen Ministry, it's largely confidential. The whole congregation is a part of it. Prayer shawls, prayer, devotional materials are available to all of us, and the support and leadership of Pastor Fred. When the pain of a situation seems to separate us from God or isolate us from family & friends, Stephen Ministry is an option. Motivated and trained to give compassion and love as Jesus does, our Stephen Ministers travel the painful road with you, calling on the healing power of the Holy Spirit through Jesus as we lean on Him. We offer this gift of a personal Christian presence to those that will accept it.

To continue the ministry we need a regular supply of trained Stephen Ministers willing to serve for two years. Our next training session is planned for September 17th with twenty 2½ hour meetings for 50 hours total. We especially need men. It is not too early to begin thinking about your commitment to this Ministry as a path to personal growth in faith and service. If you are in a sad or painful place in your life, we are ready to talk with you about meeting with a Stephen Minister. As long as we focus on Jesus, both care receivers and Stephen Ministers benefit in this ministry. Thank you for your support.

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

TOP SHELF READS (or VIEWING!) FROM OUR LIBRARY . . .

GIFTED HANDS - The Ben Carson Story

Gifted Hands is the true story of ground-breaking neurosurgeon, Benjamin S. Carson, and taken from the book of the same name by Ben Carson with Cecil Murphey. Oscar® Winner, Cuba Gooding, Jr. stars in this true story about the renowned brain surgeon who overcame obstacles to change the course of medicine forever. This is not a story of rags to riches, but rather a story of circumstantial despair to personal confidence.



Young Ben Carson didn't have much of a chance. Growing up in a broken home amongst poverty and prejudice, his grades suffered and his temper flared. And yet, his mother never lost her faith in him. It is very interesting to watch the steps Mrs. Carson used to begin his upward spiral to change Ben's (and his brother's) self image from "dummy" to one of confidence. Insisting he follow the opportunities she never had, she helped to grow his imagination, intelligence and, most importantly, his belief in himself. That faith would be his gift—the thing that would drive him to follow his dream of becoming one of the world's leading neurosurgeons.

Born in 1951, the real Benjamin S. Carson, M.D. is internationally recognized as a pioneer in his field. In his operation on the Binder Siamese twins in 1987, he succeeded where all predecessors had failed, in separating twins joined at the head. After watching this DVD, I was truly interested in seeing the real Dr. Carson, and found interviews, his profile, photographs and more on the following very enlightening web site, <http://www.achievement.org/autodoc/page/car1pro-1> which is also well worth the viewing. Through his books and lectures, Dr. Carson eagerly shares the story of his success with young people. In his own words: "You do have the possibility of controlling your own destiny if you are willing to put in the appropriate amount of time and effort." Or, as he tells young people everywhere, "Think Big."

This is a unique, heart-tugging, yet heartwarming film for entire family viewing; it is honest in its portrayal of poverty and the risks, coping with many difficulties, a mother's deep love and faith in her sons, and the outcome of this young man—therefore uplifting. I hope you enjoy this film and learning about Dr. Carson as much as I have.

Sue Cole

REFLECTIONS and RECOLLECTIONS

ARE WE A *LIVELY* CHURCH?

A *lively* church has lots of “noisy” children and young people.
A dead church is fairly silent.

A *lively* church often asks for more program and mission money.
A dead church tries to keep plenty of money in the treasury.

A *lively* church asks people to open up and risk involvement.
A dead church plays it safe and never risks.

A *lively* church sees challenges and opportunities.
A dead church sees problems and dangers.

A *lively* church uses its traditions and facilities to serve people.
A dead church uses people to preserve facilities and traditions.

A *lively* church believes in God’s future and “let’s go” with faith.
A dead church clings to the past and “holds on.”

A *lively* church is filled with committed givers.
A dead church is filled with tippers.

A *lively* church dares to dream great dreams for God’s kingdom.
A dead church has nightmares.



–author unknown

Adoration . . .

To adore is to be drawn away from my own preoccupations and into the presence of Jesus. It means letting go of what I want, what I desire, and what I have planned; it means fully trusting Jesus and his love.

Suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the
rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house
where they were sitting – Acts 2:2



Stewardship & Finance

The Deacons presentation on May 15th reviewed the summary of the operating budget and the capital campaign along with supporting details. Reviewed where we are year-to date in completing the Lord's work in our church. After the presentation the Deacons and Elders were available in Millstone Café in memorial hall next door for Questions and Answers.

The next page is a summary of the operating budget. The Deacons have lumped fixed expenses for a total of \$209,897 for items such as insurance, utilities, and salaries. Together those represent long-term commitments that cannot be changed significantly.

- What we have broken out in detail for you is the discretionary programs where we spend the funds the Lord provides us with to serve the congregation and the community we live in here and abroad.”
- Discretionary Programs total \$17,850 a year.”
- Missions and Benevolences total \$38,805 a year. We contribute to support four missions, two in the US and two overseas. The details of those missionaries are on the board in the church Narthex. The details about our benevolences are available.
- It was noted that traditionally offerings have been strong during the spring and then decline 23% over the summer. The fall offerings in the past were stronger than in spring and that made up for some of the summer shortfall. The last five years fall offerings have been steadily declining and this year we expect fall offerings to be similar to spring offerings.
- Currently through April offerings are \$5,916 below last year.
- The Deacons are concerned if this trend continues that we will fall short \$19,316 of meeting our budget for 2011.
- It was noted that the Lord's work continues even when we are away. If you are going to be away this summer, we ask that you pray on how you can support the church's work in your absence.
- The Deacons have discussed ways to make the offering process less of a burden. We noticed that some members contribute once a month instead of weekly and we encourage you to do so if it is convenient for you. A few members have set-up their offering to the church electronically through their checking accounts as automatic monthly contributions using a bill payer feature (include envelope #). If you have an interest in the Deacons providing you with information on how to make your offering electronically please let us know.”

Capital Campaign

The capital campaign's goal is to raise \$250,000 over three years. The Church has **received generously** from the congregation \$79,284 in paid pledges and gifts. The purchase of Hazel's house (11 Amwell Road) to make way for a parking lot, planning and demolition has cost \$127,350.00. The church has borrowed \$48,066.00 from its trust fund to pay for the project funding shortfalls. We need \$170,716 in paid pledges and gifts to finish the projects by our goal of 2012. Along with the parking lot, the Capital Campaign fund will be used to complete a large amount of maintenance work on the Parsonage.”

The Deacons would ask that you include us in your prayers and ask that the Lord might grant us guidance in fulfilling the church's role in God's work in this community.

The presentation closed with a prayer:

“Lord, we are thankful for all that you have provided us. During times of economic hardship and natural disasters such as the recent Tsunamis and earthquakes we feel especially blessed that our community has been spared the worst of these recent events. Lord the Deacons ask your guidance as we seek to provide good stewardship of what you have provided. We ask that you speak to the hearts of each of us in this congregation and lead us in doing your work in this community. In your blessed name we pray, Amen.”

Deacon's Summary of Church Funds and Property

Church Budget

Fixed expenses (Salaries, Insurance, Utilities, etc.) \$209,897

Church Programs:

Worship Life	\$3,225
Christian Education	\$1,500
Fellowship	\$750
Youth Fellowship	\$1,000
Outreach	\$1,400
Buildings and Grounds	\$7,000
Music Supplies	\$1,500
Camperships	\$225
Special Programs	\$250
Women's Group	\$200
Stephen Ministries	<u>\$800</u>
Sub-total Programs	\$17,850

Missions & Benevolences \$38,805

Total: \$266,552

Offering Summary

January to April 2010 offering: \$89,471
January to April 2011 offering: \$83,555
Year over year decrease: \$5,916

Budget shortfall projected to 12 months: \$19,316

Capital Campaign Summary (5/4/11)

Three year goal 2010 – 2012: \$250,000
Sixteen months into 36 month campaign period: 44%

Pledge payments and gifts: \$79,284
Outstanding pledges: \$50,093
Campaign expenditures: \$127,350
Borrowed from church endowments: \$48,066

Paid pledges and gifts required the final 20 months: \$170,716

If you have any questions on the meeting or anything else relevant to the church's finance, please contact one of the Deacons:

Katherine Falcone
Eric Kraehenbuehl

Christine Fung
Bill Simmons

Susan Woods



WORDS of WISDOM

Pentecost Sunday, which marks the end of the Easter season in the Christian calendar, celebrates the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles, is celebrated 50 days past Easter, and falls on Sunday, June 12, 2011. Therefore, the Word of Wisdom for May is **SPIRIT**, the Hebrew expression for which is *ruach*, pronounced *ROO ah*.

Moses expressed his wish that the Lord would put His "Spirit" upon all of His people, making them prophets (Num. 11:26-30). He had not wanted the gift of prophecy to be his alone. It was the Lord's will to fulfill Moses' wish and His own sovereign plan. Joel the prophet announced in his day, ninth century B.C., that in the Day of the Lord, God would indeed pour out His Spirit upon all people (Joel 2:28-29). The sex, age, nationality, language, or the social status of a person would not make any difference. The figurative expression "to pour out my Spirit" emphasizes the abundance of the Spirit's presence and activity that would be granted by the Lord. "Spirit" is a translation of the Hebrew word *ruach*, a feminine noun that means "spirit," "wind," or "breath." The word can refer to the natural spirit of a man, the wind as it blows or, most importantly, to the Spirit of God. God shared His image with people (Gen. 1:26-28), part of that image was His spirit. He sent His Spirit upon persons to cause them to prophesy in the Old Testament, but in the Messianic era all of His children would be able to prophesy. The Messianic King himself would have the Spirit of the Lord rest on Him permanently (Isa. 11:2). Therefore He would be wise, understanding, full of counsel for His people and filled with power (Isa. 11:2). The Servant of the Lord would be filled with the Spirit of God (Isa. 42:1).

God's gift of His Spirit shows His kindness and love for us. The Spirit of God imparted Bezalel with the skill to build the Tabernacle (Exod. 31:3; 35:30) and even gave him the ability to teach others (Exod. 35:39). God's Spirit imparted life to the dead nation of Israel and brought it back from the Babylonian exile (Ezek. 37). In the era of the Messiah, the Lord gave His people a new spirit by means of His Spirit so that they could follow Him faithfully (Ezek. 11:19; 36:26). We are transformed by His Spirit (Isa. 59:21). It is the Spirit who writes the Law of God upon the heart of Christians today in fulfillment of Jeremiah's new covenant (Jer. 31:31-34).

It is reassuring to know that we live in the day spoken of by Joel of God's outpouring of His Spirit (*pneuma* in Greek) upon His people (Acts 2:39). The gift of the Holy Spirit makes it possible for all of us to have a direct relationship with God. The nearness of God to His people is through His Spirit, the presence of His Spirit has sealed us forever as His children (Eph. 4:30). While our spirits may languish in our frail flesh and blood bodies, God's Spirit is the breath of renewal in every time of sorrow or blessing.

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

IMPORTANT DATES and *TIMES TO REMEMBER*



JUNE 5, 12 and 19

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

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

June 5 – Healing Service

June 8 – Ladies Bible Study

June 9 – Archive Committee Meeting

June 12 – Worship and Music Meeting –
End of Year Youth Group Barbeque

June 14 – Consistory Meeting

June 19 – Holy Communion and Deacon's
Fund Collection

**Summer Worship Schedule begins
June 26 Service will be at 9:30 a.m.**

VBS – August 1 – 5 (see article)

DEADLINE

The **July RAM** submission deadline is **June 15**. Kindly send information, articles, etc for *July and beyond* to Darlene Purcell via email

(hrcsecretary@comcast.net), regular mail or leave it in the church office on Darlene's desk.

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

NonProfit Org
US POSTAGE PAID
NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ
PERMIT NO. 17

MAILED TO: Current Resident or



*Church Information:
908-359-3391 – FAX: 908-359-8311
www.hillsborougrefomedchurch.org*