

# RAM Reformed At Millstone

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

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*From the* **PASTOR**—

October 22, 2009

Dear Members and Friends,

When you are canoeing or kayaking on a river, you go through some placid spots, places where the water is calm. Up ahead, you can see the rapids coming – there is usually a line across the river in the distance where the water drops. You paddle along at a slow pace. Then you notice the water moving more quickly, when you reach the rapids, you look down through the clear water and see the bottom flying underneath your canoe. You are committed!

That's what it feels like right now in the church. The pace is slower in the summer, but with the fall comes programs and meetings overlapping each other and all kinds of activity. The days race by like the gravel on the river bottom in white water. Whew!

The frenetic pace is one reason worship is so important. When God finished creating the world, he rested. We need that too. I have in mind right now our Thanksgiving Eve service. One of my favorites! The Thanksgiving holiday in November is both American and Christian. The Thanksgiving Eve service (7:30 PM this year) is a time to lean back, stop the boat, and just be grateful. We are blessed and we owe God our gratitude.

Climbing back in the boat and pushing off from shore, there are numerous opportunities for ministry and service. We have more Care Receivers than Stephen Ministers. We need some more. Could that be you? Blue Jean Sunday is coming up (11/15) and we all join in raking leaves and cleaning our church grounds. A sub-committee of Building and Grounds is scraping and painting Memorial Hall. There is a Green Team breakfast scheduled for November 29. Our youth are active and busy. A healing service will take place after worship on November 8. These are just a few things going on. Before we know it, we will be in Advent.

This is a dynamic church because so many of our members are committed. There is lots to do! But we start with worship. And we end with worship.

God rested when he had finished creation. The Bible also says God saw what he had done and it was good. One of the distinctive beliefs of our faith is that God made the physical world good. The land is good, the seas are good, the mountains and fields are good and the human body is good. As the days grow shorter and shorter and temperature drops near freezing, and your furnace clicks on, it is a good thing to thank God. We owe it all to God. Come to church on Sundays and Thanksgiving Eve and tell God how you feel. Thank you, Lord, for Jesus and for all you have made. Amen.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Fred

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




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**NEWS from our HRC COMMITTEES**


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**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Please look for information about Christmas Pageant in December. We will have additional practices and begin practice singing during Sunday School. Anyone interested on helping, please contact Colleen. Thank you for your support of Felicia, our Compassion child in Sunday School.

Colleen Eberhardt

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**FELLOWSHIP**

**Millstone Café** is open every Sunday, immediately after service come join us in Memorial Hall for a time of fellowship.

Maryanne Devoti and Susan Woods

**Progressive Dinner:** We had our Progressive Dinner on Saturday, October 17. It was a huge success. A good time was had by all. We would like to thank the Butlers, the Myers, the Kraehenbuehls and the Purcells for hosting the dinner and desserts at their homes.

Maryanne Devoti and Susan Woods

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**OUTREACH COMMITTEE**

Our committee is wrapping up its 2009 year after a full year of activities. We were able to gather information from all of the church committees, ministries and programs to include on our website. Thanks to Chris Williams, the site is looking better than ever. If you are having problems opening the site @ <http://www.hillsboroughreformedchurch.org>, you may need to upgrade your browser.

On Homecoming Sunday, we handed out name badges to the congregation. If you have not received one yet, please check the box in the vestibule. If you do not have one there, please notify the church office and we will have one made up for you. They come in clip-on or hang around the neck styles and can be stored at the church if you cannot remember to bring it back to wear each week.

Recently, we helped to organize the Olan Mills pictorial directory photos. About 75 families participated in this event and will be receiving a photo directory for 2010 along with their free 8 x 10 photo. We hope to have enough "picture credit" to obtain 1000 copies of our church brochure for free.

We now have our revised Hillsborough Reformed Church brochure available along with the education brochure as part of our visitors/information table in the vestibule. The church office is now able to print both of these brochures to keep a ready supply for newcomers. We also provided a table of information along with free bottled water at the W3R (Millstone Rochambeau historic festivities) in September.

Over the summer, we held a "Stuff the Bus" campaign, collecting school supplies for United Way of Somerset County—it was a huge success and will be repeated next summer. In addition, we began collecting toilet paper, paper towels, dish & laundry soaps for the Hillsborough Food Pantry based on their need for these specific items. Four full loads of supplies have been delivered to them thus far.

Our committee will be meeting to evaluate what we have done this year and to plan out next year's activities. If you are interested in finding out more about Outreach, please call the church office for contact information.

Jayne Czaplicki - Chair of Outreach

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**SPRUCE UP COMMITTEE**

on November 15, the Spruce-Up Committee will meet at the Millstone Café at 11:00 to discuss future projects.

Maryanne Devoti

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## **YOUTH GROUP**

We had 23 attend “Fright Fest” on Friday, October 9<sup>th</sup>. Everyone had a “frighteningly” good time.

The youth group will put together the Thanksgiving Baskets on November 22. Please look for specific details on food items needed.

Kurt Benson and Rae Quast

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## **BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS**

“Blue Jean” Sunday is scheduled for Sunday, November 15 (rain date is November 22). Work will begin immediately after worship. Please bring rakes, tarps, pickup trucks and leaf blowers.

Maryann Devoti and Tony Cole

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## **CONGREGATIONAL CARE**

There will be a Committee meeting on November 22 at 11:00 a.m. at the Millstone Café.

Chris Russoniello

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## **MISSION & BENEVOLENCE**

There will be a Committee meeting on November 1 at 11:00 a.m. at the Millstone Café to discuss the budget and the Christmas Stockings.

The Christmas Stockings will be available in the vestibule on Sunday, November 15.

Catherine Kinrade and Eric Kraehenbuehl

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## **MORE HRC ACTIVITIES, EVENTS & UPDATES**

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### **CHURCH TIME CARE**

We are looking for volunteers to sign up for church time care. There is a sign-up sheet in the vestibule for every Sunday through the rest of the year. If you are interested in being on the rotation or have any questions, please contact Margo Myer.

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### **HRC BIBLE STUDIES**

The Women’s Bible Study will be the study called “Dust to Glory”.

It’s a DVD study tour the highlights a book of the bible each week. We will meet Wednesday, November 11 and ?? from 7-8:30 pm in Memorial Hall. For questions, call Jayne Czaplicki.



The Wednesday Noon Bible Tour will meet on Wednesday, November 4, 11, 18 and 25.

The Tuesday Evening Bible Tours will meet on Tuesday, November 6 and 24 at 7:00.

### **Note From a Friend**

If you've wondered what the adult Bible classes are like but nervous that you would be intimidated because of your knowledge of the Bible, think again. Pastor Fred is so knowledgeable and enthusiastic about the Bible that he will make it come alive and give you new understanding. The people that attend have knowledge of the Bible that runs the whole spectrum from beginner to very scholarly and there is an open exchange and good fellowship that is shared by all. I invite you to join one of the groups and expand your horizons. Church isn't just for Sunday anymore!

Thank You, Al Meyer

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### **JUST A THOUGHT ...**

Peace starts with a smile.

Author unknown - Internet

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## STEPHEN MINISTERS NEEDED

*"In Christ we who are many form one body and each member belongs to all the others"*  
*Romans 12:4*

People need people. At times all of us need help from others. Sometimes this is for support during a short time and sometimes long term. The Stephen Minister serves our congregation by being an interested Christian caregiver who provides a listening ear and a partner in prayer to those who express the need. No one will be asked to become a minister without training which will bring with it a strong Christian community of other Stephen Ministers. The rewards are many which include profound relationships with caregivers as well as their own families, friends and co-workers. Along with the personal growth comes increased faith in God, dedication to Jesus, and enjoyment of one's religious life.

Perhaps you are new to the congregation and are looking for a place to serve or maybe you have been waiting for just the right time to become a Stephen Minister. Please prayerfully consider this opportunity. As you are feeling these nudges from the Holy Spirit, please consider this excerpt from a Stephen Ministry publication, "Noah probably had no idea he was going to build an ark, James and John were minding the nets and their own business when Jesus surprised them with 'Follow me,' and Saul certainly didn't expect to see a blinding light on the road to Damascus and to have his name changed to Paul. God is full of surprises and he delights in calling us to ministry in surprising ways."

In any case, please pray for us in Stephen Ministry as we seek to care for one another.

Nancy Dawson for the Stephen Ministry Leadership Team  
Pastor Fred, Fred Butler, Nancy Dawson, Jean Thomas and Joanie Panek

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## ABOUT FOLKS WE KNOW ...

**NEW MEMBERS** – Our congregation is pleased to welcome the following new members to our church family:

Al and Mille Bieber  
Donald and Susan Decker with Alexis, Connor and Donald  
Mike and Katie Kondratiuk with Michael, Jr. and Nathan  
Troy and Maria Lipani with Milena  
Michael and Tammy Margelis with Kayla, Lexie, Dain and Tyler  
Darlene Purcell  
Bill and Dot Simmons  
Nathan and Melissa Steele

We are thankful that you have blessed us and chosen us to walk with you on your spiritual journey with the Lord. May God be with you!

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## GREEN TEAM BREAKFAST

There will be a Green Team Breakfast on Sunday, November 22 at 8:15 a.m. The sign-ups will be in the vestibule.

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## THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE

The congregation will gather on Wednesday, November 25, at 7:30 p.m. for a service thanking God for God's bounty. Please join us to hear the Word of God, sing the great Thanksgiving hymns of our church and nation, and simply say "Thank You" to a God whose bounty never ends.

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## COMING EVENTS for November

### Sunday, November 1 –

- 8:15 a.m. Early Service
- 10:00 a.m. Worship
- 11:00 a.m. Missions & Benevolence Committee

### Sunday, November 8

- 10:00 a.m. Worship –Welcome New Members
- 11:00 a.m. Healing Service
- 11:30 a.m. Outreach Committee

### Sunday, November 15

- 11:00 a.m. Spruce-Up Committee
- 11:15 a.m. Blue Jean Sunday

### Sunday, November 22

- 8:15 a.m. Green Team Breakfast
- 11:00 a.m. Congregational Care Committee

### Wednesday, November 25

- 7:30 p.m. Thanksgiving Eve Service

### Sunday, November 29 – December 5

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## CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS – Available on November 15th

You may pick up a Christmas Stocking in the vestibule beginning on November 15<sup>th</sup>, and fill it with the gifts for a child or adult. A suggested gift list is enclosed in each stocking for different agencies in our area. Please return the stockings on Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>.

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## ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTERS

Volunteers are needed to light Advent candles during the 10 a.m. worship services on November 29, December 6, 13, 20 and during the 5:00 p.m., 7:30 p.m. 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve services. Please sign-up in the vestibule or contact the church office.

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## **DEADLINE**

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

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# WORDS of WISDOM

We recognize the fact that Thanksgiving is approaching, it's a time in which we acknowledge our own material and spiritual blessings. November is also the time we are completing pledge cards to help our church budget its funds for the coming year. And thinking along those lines, the biblical definition of **RICHES** is worth the exploration, though it may just surprise us. The Greek expression for **RICHES** is *ploutos*, pronounced *PLQQ tawss*."

In the Bible, the word "riches" describes two opposing ideas. Sometimes riches, or material wealth, is a sign of God's blessing and approval. At other times, the word virtually identifies the rich with the wicked. Let's look closer.

The Bible clearly states that God made all things for people to enjoy (1 Tim. 6:17: "*Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.*") Every possession that a person can possibly own comes from the Creator, so all wealth can rightly be counted as a blessing from God. Nowhere, then, does the Bible say that having possessions and becoming wealthy are wrong in themselves. However, Jesus warned that *ploutos*, which means "riches," could keep a person out of the kingdom. "How hard it will be for those who are wealthy to enter the kingdom of God" (Mark 10:23, NASB). Affluence, Jesus taught, can: destroy peace (Matt. 6:24-34), blind people to the needs of others (Luke 16:19-31), stand between individuals and the gateway to eternal life (Mark 10:17-27), and even bring God's judgment (Luke 12:16-21). He told His disciples not to accumulate personal wealth and praised those who gave up their possessions (See Matt. 6:19: "*Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal,*" and Matt. 19:29: "*And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life*").



Jesus' warnings against wealth are not, in fact, directed against "riches" in themselves. What He condemns is the wrong attitudes many people have toward acquiring wealth and the wrong ways in which they use it. Longing for riches chokes the spiritual life like weeds in a field of grain (Matt. 13:22). The greedy desire to have more wealth doomed the unforgiving servant (Matt. 18:23-35). And the rich man's selfishness, not his wealth, sealed his fate (Luke 16:19-26). Paul captured the main theme in these parables when he said "the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil" (1 Tim. 6:10).

The greatest danger of all arises when riches master a person's life. The whole Bible warns against this idolatrous attitude to material things (Luke 15:15-24). Satan tempted Jesus to put material wealth and power in place of worshiping God (Matt. 4:8-9), and Jesus delivered the clearest warning against making money one's master (Matt 6:24: "*No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.*") In this light Jesus instructs the rich young ruler to sell everything (Mark 10:17-22). Here was a wealthy man who had allowed his possessions to possess him. Jesus' aim was to make him recognize his bondage so he could enter the kingdom. In Jesus' view, the truly rich are those whose main aim in life is to serve Him as King (Matt. 13:44-46).

**Key verses: Matthew 13:22; Luke 8:14; 1 Timothy 6:17.**

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

# HYMNS 4 HIM

## FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH

by Folliot Sandford Pierpoint (1835-1917)

For the beauty of the earth, / For the glory of the skies,  
For the love which from our birth / Over and around us lies:

***Lord of all, to Thee we raise / This our hymn of grateful praise.***

For the beauty of each hour / Of the day and of the night,  
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, / Sun and moon, and stars of light:

For the joy of ear and eye, / For the heart and mind's delight,  
For the mystic harmony / Linking sense to sound and sight:

For the joy of human love, / Brother, sister, parent, child,  
Friends on earth, and friends above; / For all gentle thoughts and mild:

For Thy church, that evermore / Lifteth holy hands above,  
Offering up on every shore / Her pure sacrifice of love:

For Thyself, best Gift Divine! / To our race so freely given;  
For that great, great love of Thine, / Peace on earth, and joy in heaven:

Folliot Sandford Pierpoint—that's the unlikely name of the author of this great hymn. Folliot was born October 7, 1835, in Bath, England. After graduating from Cambridge, he taught at Somersetshire College in his home area of Bath.

One day when he was 29, Folliot found himself walking in the countryside on a beautiful Spring day. He saw the ocean of green, the blue dome of heaven, and the winding Avon River cutting through the flowery landscape. Overwhelmed with God's creative brilliance, he wrote this poem. He intended it primarily for Communion services in the Anglican Church, but when it jumped the Atlantic, it quickly became associated with the American Thanksgiving holiday.

In Folliot's original version, each verse ended with: "Christ, Our God, to Thee we raise / This our sacrifice of praise." That line was eventually changed to, "Lord of all, to Thee we raise / This our hymn of grateful praise."

Little else is known about Folliot Sandford Pierpoint. He resigned from his position at Somersetshire, and apparently moved from place to place, teaching some, writing hymns, and publishing his poetry. He died in 1917. But this hymn about gratefulness is contagious.

Why not take time to sing this hymn to the Lord right now?

*"Therefore You are great, O Lord God. For there is none like You, nor is there any God besides You, according to all that we have heard with our ears."* 2 Samuel 7:22

Morgan, Robert J. Then Sings My Soul (Vol 1) Thomas Nelson: 2003

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

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**Thanksgiving For God's Goodness**

**Psalm 103:1-5**

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits-who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like eagle's.

**Psalm 103:19-22**

The Lord has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all.

Bless the Lord, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, obedient to his spoken word.

Bless the Lord, all his hosts, his ministers that do his will.

Bless the Lord, all his works, in all places of his dominion.

Bless the Lord, O my soul.