

RAM

Reformed At

Millstone

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

From the **PASTOR—**

November 2010

Dear Members and Friends,

“The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof. . .” Psalm 24

The principle of Christian Thanksgiving is that God owns it all. Everything we have is on loan from God. We have been entrusted with our possessions. We are mere stewards of someone else’s stuff – God’s!

So we give thanks. Thank you, God, for the air we breathe. Thank you, God, for the water we drink. Thank you, God, for the food we eat. Thanks for it all!

But are we “mere” stewards? From what Jesus showed us, we are more – far more – than servants of God. We are children of God! Sons and daughters of the most high. We are heirs of all God’s possessions. He gives them to us because he loves us.

God expects us to use our gifts as he would use them. How does God use them? He gives them freely. We are at our best when we are oriented outward – loving neighbor as self. One advantage of belonging to a church like ours is that there are a host of ways of giving ourselves in service to others, and thus honoring the God who freely bestows his gifts upon us all.

I hope your Thanksgiving is beautiful and full of light and love and hope. At the end of this month Advent begins. Advent is the season of expectation.

God has showered us with bounty. What might the future hold? It will be a God-filled future. With you, I look forward to the weeks ahead to “give thanks to the Lord, for he is good” (Psalm 136) on Sunday mornings and to the joy and expectation of the Advent season.

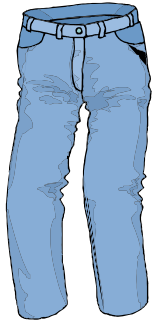
The Lord be with you!

Pastor Fred



HRC HAPPENINGS
NEWS from our HRC COMMITTEES

Buildings and Grounds



SAVE THE DATE!!! BLUE JEAN SUNDAY IS COMING SOON!!!

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2010, 11:00 A.M.
FAMILY FUN AND GREAT EXERCISE!

PLEASE BRING RAKES, LEAF BLOWERS AND TARPS IF YOU HAVE ANY.

THANK YOU IN ADVANCE TO ALL WHO ARE PLANNING TO HELP.

THANK YOU AGAIN TO THOSE WHO HAVE HELPED IN THE PAST.



Audrey Fredericks and Bill Nardone

The College Connection

The Scholarship Committee is pleased to offer The College Connection to student members of our congregation while they continue their studies either away or while commuting from home. Designed to maintain contact with our HRC students, The College Connection sends holiday greeting cards, homemade cookie gift packages and words of encouragement and messages from the congregation to our students throughout the academic year.

Tori Schryver organizes and implements The College Connection program. You may contact her at peschryver@comcast.net. Please include student name, birthday, college name and academic year mailing address. Sign your student up today!

Congregational Care Committee

Happy Birthday! Do you know an HRC member who is 80 or more years young? If you do, please send their name, address and date of birth to the Hillsborough Reformed Church in care of the Congregational Care Committee or Kathy Falcone. We would love to add them to our Birthday list and send a card on their special day!

Thank you, Kathy Falcone, Chairperson

Fellowship Committee – Millstone Café



After Worship on **Nov 21**, The Millstone Café Luncheon will take place saying THANKS to all Committee Members. Come and join us.

Also, please look for the sign-up sheet to host Millstone Café for December and January. Feel free to make a “theme” out of your Sunday Coffee Hour.

Maryann Devoti

First Steps – Class



A new class this fall called First Steps is intended for parents and their kids up to age 3. The class will be meeting the **first and third Sunday mornings at 9:25 in the basement**. Songs, games, and activities will be led by the parents with the aid of cards specially prepared for the class. There will also be time for the parents to enjoy fellowship, share joys, and provide each other support during this very exciting time in their lives. For more information, contact the Church office.

Nursery during worship

We are hoping to offer a nursery during worship for kids younger than preschool age. The nursery would be held in one of the basement classrooms, separate from Church-time Care. We are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to take care of the nursery during worship. Please contact the Church office if you are interested in caring for the little ones.

Special Fall 2010 Lecture Series

The Christian Education Committee is hosting a Special Lecture Series this fall. Please join us for a potluck supper and fellowship followed by an informative talk and discussion on topics of interest.

Pot-luck supper at 5:00 PM and lecture from 6:00-7:00 PM

Sunday, November 14 - Dr. David Haddorff, Associate Professor of Theology and Religious Studies at St. Johns University and HRC Liturgist, has recently published a book titled "*Christian Ethics as Witness: Barth's Ethics for a World at Risk*" and will discuss the theological ethics of Karl Barth, while addressing current issues in Christian social ethics including the market economy and globalization, work and leisure, church and state, politics and war, and social and environmental justice. **Copies of the book signed by the author will be available at cost. Please contact the Church office if you are interested in a copy.**

THANK YOU to Phyllis Marganoff for her presentation on Oct 17 and all who participated for the great food and fellowship.

CPR/AED Training Opportunity

You never know when you might be the only one who could save the life of a loved one. If you are interested in learning Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) or how to use the new Automated External Defibrillators (AED) that have been installed in the Church, this is a great opportunity. Jim Barry is a certified American Red Cross instructor who teaches classes in CPR and AED operation. If there is sufficient interest, he will teach the course at HRC. The complete class includes CPR/AED certification, and first aid certification, Infant and child first aid. In addition to course materials, class participants will receive a CPR pocket mask. The class will take about four hours but could be shorter if there is interest in limiting the topics covered. The cost is \$68.75. **Please contact the Church Secretary if you are interested in taking this course.**

Mike Williams

Scholarship Committee



Thanks to all who contributed to the latest collection for the Scholarship Fund. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Nancy Dawson, Eric Kraehenbuehl

Small Groups Continuing

Small Groups - Grace, Truth, and Time: How unbinding works. We are moving forward with plans for small group meetings this fall. Signup sheets are up in the vestibule. If you were involved previously, you will be getting an email to see if you are interested in meeting with the same group as before.

Continuing with the Unbinding theme from the spring, our goal is to create an environment within the group where people can find grace, hear the truth spoken in love, and experience spiritual growth and freedom over time. We will be following a study guide to lead the discussion, probably something from Max Lucado or John Ortberg, along with some carry over material from the Unbinding series.

If you haven't been involved before, now is a good time to join, especially if you are interested in exploring and deepening your faith.

We started the small group meetings in October, and you are welcome to join at any time. This is a good opportunity to share your faith, questions, and struggles within a safe and caring community of believers.

It can be a life changing experience.

Please contact Bill Nardone if you have any questions (nardone.family@comcast.net).

Worship and Music

The Worship and Music committee is planning a service led by the congregation. **Use your Spiritual Gifts** and help out with this service – lead the prayer, preach, or participate in any way your gifts direct you. If you are interested, please see Chris Russoniello or leave a note in his mailbox.

Chris Russoniello

Outreach and Hospitality

2010 Fall Outreach Potluck Dinner--Please save **Saturday evening, November 13th**, from 5pm to 7:30pm for a potluck dinner hosted by the Elders, Deacons, Outreach Committee and other ministry leaders of the church and their families. Invited are the members & their families who joined in the last year or so and those who may be joining in the future. The goal is to get to know one another a little better and for newer and prospective members to learn a little more about our church activities/ministries. Anyone in the church who wishes to attend this event may do so as long as they sign up in the vestibule and bring a potluck dish. Babysitting will be provided as needed. Note that newer/prospective members do not need to bring anything, just themselves. We hope that this will be well-attended and will begin an annual tradition to welcome new members.

Please contact Jayne Czaplicki with any questions: funafloat@aol.com or phone 908-359-5717(H) and please be sure to sign up on the sheet in the vestibule. We realize that there is another potluck the following day, but you can always work off those calories by participating in the Blue Jean Sunday event after church! Plus, you won't have to do much cooking for the weekend!

Thank you, Jayne Czaplicki, chair of Outreach & Hospitality

Women Walking With God (www.GOD) upcoming events

www.God will hold its meeting on the **3rd Monday, November 15, 2010, at 7 PM** in Memorial Hall. A.C.E. certified Personal Trainer & Lifestyle Fitness Coach, Margo Myer has volunteered to help the women who attend HRC just how easy it is to improve your muscle tone and increase your metabolism with little time and even less equipment. Come join with other women that evening for devotions, Margo's instruction and tons of fun. Please wear comfortable clothing and sneakers. Margo suggests that if you wish to bring any simple equipment (i.e., ball, light weights, etc) she will be happy to show us the best ways to get the most from them! If you have questions, please e-mail Margo at mrgmyr@earthlink.net and check out her website www.fitnessbymargo.com. Light refreshments will be served.

Also, save the date: **Saturday, December 4th** for a Christmas brunch.

Ladies' Bible Study--We will be meeting on the **2nd and 4th Wednesdays** of the month, but will not meet on 11/24. The study is on John Ortberg's book, "*If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat.*" We will meet in the Pastor's Study from 7pm to 8:30pm. If you have not already signed up to participate, please contact Jayne Czaplicki at funafloat@aol.com or call (H) 908-359-5717.

Jayne Czaplicki and Sue Cole

Meet Future Stephen Ministers



Since September 23rd, four women of our church have been meeting faithfully twice a week with the Stephen Ministry Leadership team for Stephen Ministry training.

Karen Kraehenbuehl has been a member of the church the longest of the group. Perhaps some of you remember her as Karen Shaffer, growing up and being baptized and confirmed in our church. Married to Eric, they are parents of a boy and two girls. Karen works as a nurse in the Pediatric Intensive Care at Princeton Medical Center.

Although new to Hillsborough Reformed Church, the others have been actively participating in the life of their new church home.

Mary Ann McCarty came in the fall of 2009 from the Hillsborough Presbyterian Church where she served as a Deacon. Prior to that, she was also active as an Elder and Deacon in a Presbyterian Church. Mary Ann was raised in Hannibal, Missouri and is the mother of a boy and a girl.

Darlene Purcell is not new to Stephen Ministry as she has been serving as a member of the Leadership Team since she became our church secretary. Darlene is married to Bob and came to us from North Branch Reformed Church where she was ordained as a Deacon and an Elder and was a leader in the women's programs. She is currently involved in planning and organizing the regional Crossroads Women's Retreat.

Dot Simmons lives in Hillsborough and has been an active participant in the life of the Hillsborough Reformed Church since she joined in 2009. Also from Missouri, she is married to Bill and the mother of three children. Dot was formerly affiliated with the Roman Catholic Church. She considers finding HRC and Bible Study Fellowship among her blessings.

Upon completion of training in December, these four women will be commissioned as Stephen Ministers during a Service of Worship. Please pray for them as they continue to meet, study, worship together and prepare to be caregivers to those needing care within our church and community, always remembering that God is the cure giver.

Nancy Dawson for the Stephen Ministry Leadership Team
Fred Butler, Fred Mueller, Jean Thomas and Darlene Purcell

People We Know

Marlanna and Bill Pierce announce the birth of their son – **Colin James Pierce** – on September 7th, 2010. His proud Grandma Anita Daw-Pierce and his proud Great Grandma Roberta Wynings are two EXCITED people. We pray for the life of this new Child of God.

Pledge Reminder

As can be seen in the weekly Capital Fund Campaign update, we are very excited with our Church's generosity and fund-raising success to date. We have received \$47,350 in pledge payments and gifts in since the kick-off of the Campaign, with total pledges (through 2012) and gifts received totaling \$118,048 (47% of total goals). If you have already provided a pledge amount for 2010, it would be greatly appreciated if you could forward your payment to the church at your earliest convenience.

Christian Service - IHN (Interfaith Hospitality Network)



We wish to thank everyone who helped our four families feel welcome by preparing meals, staying overnight and spending time with them. We are hosting IHN again the week of January 16, 2011.

CROP WALK 2010



Thanks to ALL who gave to and participated in the Crop Walk. The weather was perfect. Hope you can be involved again next year.

From the Capital Fund Committee and Property Opportunities Committee:

A continued call to prayer: There is much involved in the improvements to the parsonage, acquisition of the property adjoining the church and issues of achieving our goals with regards to 11 Amwell Road. We are investigating possible ways to proceed and are in discussions with the leaders of the Millstone Borough. Please pray for the members of committees charged with this ministry. Please pray for the consistory as ideas are considered and possibilities explored. Please pray for the leaders of our borough and our community as they work with us in exploring what is best for our church and neighborhood. We ask that you lift these concerns to our Lord daily in your prayers.

WORDS of WISDOM

Thanksgiving is just around the corner and it makes me think about blessings in general, therefore, **BLESSING** is the word which came to mind. Its Hebrew expression is *berakah*, pronounced *beh raw KAWH*. “And the Lord blessed them” (Gen. 1:28). This was and is the normal state of people before God. Everyone wants a blessing, to be blessed or to bless others. God is portrayed as the God of blessing for His people in the Old Testament, just waiting to pour out His benefits upon His people. But in Scripture, the word means much more than just “being happy.” Above all, it means having God’s approval and his goodwill directed toward persons—then the covenant blessings can be granted.

The Hebrew word is accurately rendered “blessing” most of the time. It comes from the verbal root *barak*, “to kneel, to bless.” The noun *berek* meaning “knee” is built upon the same root and is used to indicate “kneeling in worship” to bless God (1 Kgs. 8:54; Ezra 9:5) and the congregation of Israel. Elijah put his face between his knees to pray to God—a form of blessing God (1 Kgs. 18:42).

In the Old Testament, many people granted blessings to others—parents (Gen. 49:28), Moses (Deut. 33:1). But, God is presented as the *source* of all blessing (Gen. 1:28; Exod. 32:29). He set before His people Israel the way of blessing and the way of cursing (Deut. 27:28) and let them know that He was the one who dispensed blessings for trusting and obeying Him, or curses, the opposite of blessings, to those who did not trust Him (Deut. 30:1, 19). The Israelites simply had to choose the path they would take—the path to blessings or the path to cursing (Deut. 30:19).

The famous priestly blessing, the placing of the Lord’s Name upon the people to bless them by the High Priest, shows the importance of the Lord’s blessing of His people. And it shows how closely tied to the blessing of His people His Name was.



In Isaiah, the goal for God’s people was to be a blessing, *berakah*, upon the earth (Isa. 19:24). Isaiah envisioned a time when God’s blessing would be not only a future reality, but also a present reality for those serving God faithfully. God’s blessing of His people in the Old Testament is tied to His placing His Spirit on them (Isa. 44:3). He could withdraw His blessing, but His desire was to bless His people profusely at all times (Jer. 16:5). The Lord blessed the Israelites with rain, security, the law, health, and many other things. In the future, God promised to bless them even more, more than they could hold (Mal. 3:10).

Blessing is available to God’s people in Christ now. What was given to Abraham is now available to Christians (Gal. 3:14) through His Spirit. Not physical, but spiritual blessings are the special inheritance of God’s people now (Eph. 1:3, *eulogia* in Greek). As we act as God’s blessed people, we are now encouraged by Peter to return blessings upon our friends *and* our adversaries (1 Pet. 3:9).

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

**Blessings in the city, Blessings in the field . . .
Blessings when you come in, Blessings when you go out.**

Deuteronomy 28:3-6 TLB

TOP SHELF READS FROM OUR LIBRARY . . .

Highlighting Author, W. Phillip Keller



An “ordinary man” and a “child of God,” W. Phillip Keller shares with you what scriptures have meant to him. W. Phillip Keller, rancher, agrologist, author, lecturer, and photographer, is active in a lay ministry of sharing in Bible study groups around the world. Some of his books include: [A Shepherd Looks at the Good Shepherd](#), [Lessons from a Sheep Dog](#), [What Makes Life Worth Living](#), and in 2010 he wrote, [God is My Delight](#). We are lucky enough to have in our HRC Library two of his most popular books, and a very brief description follows.

From the unique perspective of firsthand experience, Mr. Keller presents a lively, interesting devotional commentary on one of the best-loved Bible passages in [A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23](#). Equipped with a shepherd’s experience and insight, Mr. Keller leads and prods the reader to the greenest pastures of discovery and the coolest waters of fulfillment hidden in this “shepherd Psalm.” Experience Psalm 23 in a new way: see with the Shepherd’s eyes, touch with His hands, feel with His heart through this intimate look into the full life of our Lord—the Great Shepherd, and “the sheep of His pastures.” Check this book out of our library for new insight on an old favorite Psalm.

Our second book is [A Layman Looks at the Lord’s Prayer](#). There is inherent in this prayer all the strength and compassion of our Father in heaven. There moves through it a beauty and serenity which no mortal man can explain. It reassures our hearts, strengthens our resolve, and leads us into personal contact with “God, our Father.” In this book, W. Phillip Keller shares what The Lord’s Prayer means to him. Here, W. Phillip Keller goes verse by verse with a small chapter about each. His insight is unique and brings historical relevancy to these words we know so well. Next to the 23rd Psalm, perhaps the most beloved and certainly the best-known passage in Scripture is the Lord’s prayer. The profound, eternal concepts compressed into its few, concise phrases shine with enduring brilliance. But despite its brevity, it has been an enormous benefit to many. One may not look at the Lord’s Prayer the same again.

Sue Cole

REFLECTIONS and RECOLLECTIONS

I Will Give Thanks

From Luke 17:11-19: *Ten Healed of Leprosy:*

As Jesus continued on toward Jerusalem, he reached the border between Galilee and Samaria. As he entered a village there, ten lepers stood at a distance, crying out, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" He looked at them and said, "Go show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were cleansed of their leprosy. One of them, when he saw that he was healed, came back to Jesus, shouting, "Praise God!" He fell to the ground at Jesus' feet, thanking him for what he had done. This man was a Samaritan. Jesus asked, "Didn't I heal ten men? Where are the other nine? Has no one returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?" And Jesus said to the man, "Stand up and go. Your faith has healed you."

We read here how Jesus healed ten men with leprosy. They cried out to Jesus as He was passing by. Jesus healed all ten – but only one returned and gave thanks to Jesus.

Like the other nine, do we remember to give thanks and praise to God when we receive answers to our prayers, or when He comes through in some miraculous way to provide for a particular need?

Sometimes we can take for granted what God does in our lives. We must have the same attitude that this man had when he saw that he was clean. He didn't hesitate to give thanks to Jesus – but praised and worshiped Him. There is so much we can think of in our lives to be thankful for. All we need to do is look around and see how God has blessed us. God has poured out His blessings in abundance. May we indeed have thankful hearts, and live in an attitude of thanksgiving – everyday.

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all you lands! Serve the Lord with gladness! Come before His presence with singing! Know (perceive, recognize, and understand with approval) that the Lord is God! It is He who has made us, not we ourselves [and we are His]! We are His people and the sheep of His pasture. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and a thank offering and into His courts with praise! Be thankful and say so to Him, bless and affectionately praise His name! For the Lord is good; His mercy and loving-kindness are everlasting, His faithfulness and truth endure to all generations.

Psalm 100

Lord may we have thankful hearts
No matter what comes our way
May we see the many blessings
In our lives today.

© By M.S.Lowndes, <http://www.heavensinspirations.com/thanksgiving.html>

**Thou hast given so much to me,
Give one thing more, - a grateful heart;
Not thankful when it pleaseth me,
As if Thy blessings had spare days,
But such a heart whose pulse may be Thy praise.**

~George Herbert



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

9:25 a.m. First Steps – for parents and children age 0 – 3 (First and Third Sundays)

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

11:05 a.m. Millstone Café

7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal

Important Dates:

Daylight Savings Time ends

Early Service 8:15

Youth Group Meeting - baskets, drop shop, soup kitchen

Consistory Meeting

November 11 – Junior Leaders Meeting

November 13 – Fall Outreach Potluck

November 14 – Blue Jean Sunday

November 15 – www.God

November 21 – Healing Service

November 21 – Youth Group meeting assemble baskets

November 24 – Thanksgiving Eve Service

November 25 – Thanksgiving

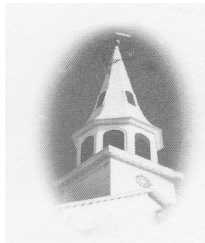
November 28 – First Sunday of Advent

December 5 – Youth Group Meeting - put up tree in memorial hall

Note: There will be no December RAM. Watch for the **Advent Schedule**, coming up soon.



Whatever happened to the pictorial directory?? Hmm
Answer: *It will be made available soon. Watch the bulletin for updates.*



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

PLACE MAILING LABEL HERE



Psalm 136:1-9

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good.
His love endures forever.
Give thanks to the God of gods.
His love endures forever.
Give thanks to the Lord of lords:
His love endures forever.
to him who alone does great wonders,
His love endures forever.
who by his understanding made the heavens,
His love endures forever.
who spread out the earth upon the waters,
His love endures forever.
who made the great lights—
His love endures forever.
the sun to govern the day,
His love endures forever.
the moon and stars to govern the night;
His love endures forever.