

# RAM Reformed At Millstone

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

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*From the* **PASTOR**—

August 17, 2009

Dear Members and Friends,

September draws near with promises. One promise is longer shadows and a drop in the temperature. Another promise is the bounty of harvest from our gardens and the blooms of summer's last flowers. Other promises include the start-up of school, though to some that is not a promise but a threat! It is always best to view such things not as dark clouds on the horizon, but as challenges we will face and face successfully!

Homecoming Sunday is September 13. That day we will resume worship at ten o'clock in the morning. We will celebrate the Lord's Supper, and little Aiden McKenna will be baptized. After worship we will move over to Memorial Hall for a luncheon. Please come out to worship that Sunday as we start our fall season.

Sunday School starts the following Sunday at 9:00 AM. Confirmation Class will also have its first meeting then.

As we look to the future, we know this – God will be with us. We are not alone. God has also given us a great gift in each other. We are not “Lone Rangers” as Christian people, but a community, a family; the body of Christ with Jesus as the head. We face the future with confidence, knowing God will never desert us.

Please do not underestimate the church. It is not merely another institution. The church is God's chosen vehicle to bring his love, judgment, and grace to the world. God has given us his Word to carry out to the world. God has empowered the church. What happens here is of cosmic importance.

Please be faithful in worship. Every time you walk through the doors of this church on Sunday morning it is a proclamation of the truth of God. With each footstep up the walk you are saying, “God is real and I am devoted to the living God who sent his Son for the whole world.” That is what our world needs more than anything else. You are a witness to Jesus Christ.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Fred

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 NEWS from our HRC COMMITTEES
 

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**EDUCATION**

The Christian Education Committee is planning a series of talks this fall covering a range of topics. Watch the Church bulletin for details on time and place. We have two talks planned so far -

Oct. 4 - **Brent Mulder** on "How to talk with someone in need."

Oct 25 - **Mike Williams** on "Purple petunias and the treatment of human disease"

There will be a pot luck supper at 6 pm followed by the talk at 7 pm. Watch the Church bulletin for more information. If there is a topic or speaker that you would like to suggest for the lecture series, please contact Mike Williams.

Mike Williams

**Sunday School** begins on Sept 20th at 9am in the church basement. All students **MUST** have a new registration form and picture consent form for the year. Please join us in the basement for refreshments on the 20th for the beginning of another exciting year of learning about our Lord. If you have any questions, please contact Colleen Eberhardt.

Colleen Eberhardt

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**FELLOWSHIP**

**Homecoming** is scheduled for Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>. Worship service is back to its regular time of 10:00 a.m. and immediately after service come join us for our annual Homecoming luncheon. Take this opportunity to catch up with old friends and make some new ones.

**Progressive Dinner:** Please mark Saturday, October 17 on your calendar for our Progressive Dinner. Look for sign-ups in the vestibule. If you've never attended one, come to see what the fun is all about. If you have attended one, you know how much fun they can be. If you are interested in hosting one of the courses, sign-up in the vestibule. Thank you!

Maryanne Devoti and Susan Woods

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**SPRUCE-UP COMMITTEE**

The church was extremely busy this summer with all the work that was being done. Come on out to see the updated Memorial Hall bathrooms and all the painting that was done to the classrooms and church office.

**Attention Painters and Carpenters:** Thank you for all the hard work and painting that was done over the summer.

Maryanne Devoti

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**STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE**

The Stewardship Committee would like to extend their gratitude to the Congregation for the wonderful outpouring of giving that came forth during the last several Sundays in response to the needs of the church. As always this wonderful Congregation has responded in a very heartfelt way to support God's work. Yours in Christ, The Stewardship Committee

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**OUTREACH COMMITTEE**

**Stuff the Bus:** There are many Outreach activities that have not taken a vacation this summer. As a result of concerns from the Adult Sunday School and the desire of the Outreach Committee to reach out to our surrounding community, the church has had a very successful "Stuff the Bus" drive to collect school supplies for The United Way of Somerset County. Several busloads of materials were collected in just a few weeks. The congregation deserves a big thank you for their response. We would also like to extend thanks to Christine Fung, Alex Fung, Ginger Butler and her three granddaughters (Kylie, Casey and Sydney) for their part in creating the cardboard bus!

**Hillsborough Food Pantry:** At the same time, we are on our third load of supplies to be donated to the Hillsborough Food Pantry with items that they indicated that are most needed (toilet paper, paper towels, dish soap and laundry soap).

**Website:** All of our committees, ministries and small groups have now submitted articles for our HRC website and are waiting to be added. Next we will work on a Coming Events section and photos for the site. Thank you to Chris Williams and to all those who submitted write-ups for their part in making this happen.

**Brochures:** If you look in the vestibule on the Visitors' table, you will now see our tri-fold brochures for both Education and Hillsborough Reformed Church. Thanks to Mike Williams and Chris Claus for creating the brochures and to our secretary, Joanie Panek, for printing them!

**Name Badges:** Next, our committee will be preparing name badges for all those who regularly attend services. We hope that this will help people in our congregation get to know each other better as well as assist with integrating newcomers.

**Pictorial Directory:** Once again, we will be sitting for photos in October in order to create our church pictorial directory. The last one was in 2004, so we know that we may not look the same, especially our children! The more people who sit for photos by Olan Mills, the more credits we earn to use for activity pages in the directory and for printing of church brochures at a much reduced cost, so we are hoping that everyone that can participate will do so. There is absolutely no obligation to purchase and each family will receive an 8 x 10 portrait for free! See you there and be sure to smile!

Jayne Czaplicki - Chair of Outreach

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## SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

**College Connection** - Fall is on the way and our HRC College Students are preparing to return to their campuses and their studies. The College Connection is a program designed to maintain contact and offer support to our students as they further their educations while living at home or away. Students receive holiday greetings, messages of encouragement and care packages containing homemade cookies baked by members of our HRC Congregation. Please sign your student up today!!! Send your name and school year address to Tori Schryver or fill out the form below and kindly put it in the offering plate during worship. Our first mailing goes out on September 15<sup>th</sup>. Thank You.

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

College \_\_\_\_\_

School Year Address \_\_\_\_\_

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## MORE HRC ACTIVITIES, EVENTS & UPDATES

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### WORSHIP SCHEDULES

**Summer Worship Services** began June 28 at 9:30 a.m. and continue through September 6.

Worship services will return to 10:00 a.m. on **Homecoming Sunday**, September 13.

**Early Services** will resume October 4.

## **HRC BIBLE STUDIES**

The Women's Bible Study will be starting up a new study called "Dust to Glory". It's a DVD study tour the highlights a book of the bible each week. We will be Having a preview night on Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup> from 7-8:30 pm in Memorial Hall. The group will continue to meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month. For questions, call Jayne Czaplicki.



The Wednesday Noon Bible Tour will begin again on Wednesday, September 16<sup>th</sup>

The Tuesday Evening Bible Tours will meet again on Tuesday, September 22 and then September 29.

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## **PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY**

To all you Knitters, Crocheters, and Quilters;

Keep those prayers and fingers flying, our next Prayer Shawl Dedication will be Sunday, Sept 27th during the worship service. Plan to bring your finished shawls to the church to be blessed that Sunday morning, before we offer them to people in need. Thank you in advance for your willingness to be part of this ministry and God's rich blessing both on you and the recipients of your shawls.

Questions about this ministry can be directed to Jeanne Bowlby or Ginger Butler.

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## **CROP WALK**

HRC will be participating in the South Somerset County Crop Walk hosted by St. Charles Borromeo in Skillman on October 18, 2009. Registration begins at 1:00 PM with the walk to start at 1:30 PM. The Crop Walk has been organized to help stop hunger and poverty here in our community and around the world through self-help initiatives. One quarter of the funds raised this year will be split equally between the Food Bank of Somerset County and SHIP. Last year 365 walkers raised more than \$21,000 in the South Somerset County CROP Walk. Please support our effort again this year by walking or sponsoring a walker. Contributions may be made by cash or check (payable to CWS/CROP). We will also be collecting jars of peanut butter for the Food Bank of Somerset County. In 2008 122 jars of peanut butter were collected. Contact Pam Williams for registration forms or for more information.

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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 September. If you are interested in being on the rotation or have any questions, please contact Margo Myer.

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## **AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION WALK**

There will be a walk in Duke Island Park on Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in walking or donating, please contact Margo Myer. As Director of the Hillsborough Mayor's Wellness Program, Margo is looking for anyone who wants to walk with the Mayor's team.

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## **THANK YOU**

Thank you to our HRC family for all your beautiful cards, flowers, and food. Mom and Nana's passing was very sudden and difficult for all of us, & your beautiful bouquet of flowers were here when we came home from Clifton. Mom always felt very welcome at our church. Our faith is very strong thanks to mom's love of God and devotion to others first. Very Sincerely, Jayne, Alyson, Timothy, Jonathan O'Connor and Kiersten and Robert Parks.

## STEPHEN MINISTRY TRAINING

These days it seems like everyone could use a Stephen Minister. But our lives are busy, there doesn't seem time to meet and talk and reflect on our situation. Prayer lifts us, Jesus carries us, we'll get through. That's true.

Compassionate conversation and non-judgmental listening with a believer can soften hurts. Our Stephen Ministry is customized care.

What is your need? We'll help find the appropriate resource. Support groups, counselors, pastors, psychologists, lawyers, physicians, social workers, family & friends make up much of the help community. Stephen Ministry is spiritual support.

Stephen Ministers care about your pain, discouragement, conflicts, feelings of anger, fear, helplessness, or indecision. Telling your story can bring self-revelation, awareness of the depth of the issue, expression of feelings, and the knowledge that Jesus is loving you and in the midst of your meeting.

Training to be a Stephen Minister includes 50 hours of learning about compassionate listening, understanding feelings, applying scripture and modeling the care Jesus showed. It empowers a Stephen Minister to trust in God to help a care receiver and him/herself have meaningful meetings that over time restore wholeness or peace.

A training class will begin as soon as we enlist 5 or 6 participants. This class will be from and for our congregation where there is a need at this time.

Refer someone, ask about having a Stephen Minister, or apply for the next Stephen Minister Training class by calling the church office 908-359-3391 or speaking to a Stephen Minister or Leader.

Jean Thomas 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 ...

BAPTISMS – Our congregation is pleased to have administered the Sacrament of Baptism to Austin William Teague on August 2, 2009. Austin is the son of Jason and Tammy Teague Patrick and Elsie Kirwan on August 30, 2009. Patrick and Elsie are the son and daughter of Shawn and Kim Kirwan and the brother and sister of Kaitlyn and Grace.

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## **DEADLINE**

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

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## COMING EVENTS for September

Tuesday, September 8

7:30 p.m. Consistory Meeting

Sunday, September 13 - Homecoming

10:00 a.m. Worship

11:00 a.m. Homecoming Luncheon

Wednesday, September 9

7:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study "Preview Night"

Friday, September 18 – Saturday, September 19

Women of Faith

Sunday, September 20

Sunday School starts

Sunday, September 27

10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl Dedication

11:00 a.m. Helping Hands meeting

# WORDS of WISDOM

As members and friends of a wonderful traditional mainline denomination, we don't hear the term, "**Born Again**" as often as do evangelical Christians. Yet there are many rich descriptions of its meaning which are applicable in all realms of Christendom. In the paragraphs which follow, our resource this month offers insight into the term, description and application. **Born Again** in Greek expression is *gennaō anōthen*, pronounced *geh NAH oh; AHN oh thehn*.

Have you ever wished that you could start life all over again? Who hasn't? At one time or another, we have all had regrets. But starting over in our physical life will not solve our problems. Our real need is to be born again spiritually. This is why Jesus told the teacher Nicodemus, "You must be born again" (John 3:7). The Greek word *gennaō* means "to be born" and *anōthen*, meaning "again," can also be rendered "from above" or "anew." The birth that Jesus spoke of was therefore a new birth, a heavenly birth, or both. He was most likely speaking of a heavenly birth because He later used an analogy of the wind coming from some unknown, heavenly source, to depict spiritual birth. But Nicodemus clearly understood that Jesus was speaking of a second birth—that is, being born again. Contrasting being born "of the flesh" with being born in "the spirit," Jesus explains this new or heavenly birth in John 3:6-8, <sup>6</sup>*Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.* <sup>7</sup>*You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.'* <sup>8</sup>*The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit*".



The believer possesses a new life from God through the process of spiritual birth. Christians are born of God (John 1:12-13: <sup>12</sup>*Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—*<sup>13</sup>*children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God*"), and it is only through this spiritual birth that one may participate in the Kingdom of God and receive His Spirit. Those born into God's family reflect His righteous character (1 John 2:29: *"If you know that he is righteous, you know that everyone who does what is right has been born of him*), and they are freed from habitual sin (1 John 3:9; 5:18). In James 1:18 (*"He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created"*), this process of birth is attributed to the power of the Word of God. Those who are reborn possess a living hope (1 Pet. 1:3: *"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead"*). Again, this new birth is brought about through the power of the Word of God (1 Pet. 1:23: *"For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God"*). The initial experience for being born again is followed by a continuing renewal in the life of the Christian. The newborn are to desire the pure milk of God's Word to grow (1 Pet. 2:2: *"Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation,"*). Paul encourages an ongoing transformation in all believers by commanding us to renew our thoughts and attitudes in Romans 2:2 (*"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will"*) and in Ephesians 4:23 (*"to be made new in the attitude of your minds"*).

Contrary to what many people think, Christian life is not boring, stagnant, or uneventful. The believer's inner self is renewed daily (2 Cor. 4:16) (*Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day*), and all of us are constantly in the process of becoming the men and women God wants us to be (Col 3:10) (*and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator*). The Lord loves us so much, that He has something exciting for us to know, learn, and experience every day. He wants us to become more like him every day.

**Key passages on BORN AGAIN: John 3:3, 7**

# HYMNS 4 HIM

## JESUS SHALL REIGN

by Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun / Does his successive journeys run;  
His kingdom spread from shore to shore, / Till moons shall wax and wane no more.

To Him shall endless prayer be made, / And endless praises crown His head;  
His name like sweet perfume shall rise / With ev'ry morning sacrifice.

People and realms of ev'ry tongue / Dwell on His love with sweetest song,  
And infant voices shall proclaim / Their early blessings on His name.

Blessings abound where'er He reigns; / The prisoner leaps to loose his chains;  
The weary find eternal rest, / And all the sons of want are blest.

Let every creature rise and bring / His grateful honors to our King;  
Angels descend with songs again, / And earth repeat the loud amen!

Isaac Watts once said that his aim was to see "David converted into a Christian." He meant singing the psalms was good but it would be better if they were infused with the gospel. He felt some psalms were unsuitable for Christian worship because they were written before the Cross of Christ and the completion of God's redemption and revelation.

The great missionary hymn "Jesus Shall Reign" is based on Psalm 72. There was no great mission effort when Watts wrote these words. Not until sixty years later did William Carey—the father of the modern missionary movement—sail for India. Today, by means of radio and literature, as well as through the work of faithful missionaries, Christ's kingdom has "spread from shore to shore," and "people and realms of every tongue dwell on His love with sweetest song."

*He will defend the afflicted among the people and save the children of the needy; he will crush the oppressor. He will endure as long as the sun, as long as the moon, through all generations. He will be like rain falling on a mown field, like showers watering the earth. In his days the righteous will flourish; prosperity will abound till the moon is no more. He will rule from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth.*

Psalm 72:4-8. NIV

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

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### JUST A THOUGHT...

If God brings you to it, He will bring you through it.

-Author unknown

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

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**MAILED TO:**



**All Lands Summoned to Praise God  
A Psalm of Thanksgiving**

**Psalm 100**

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.  
Worship the Lord with gladness;  
Come into his presence with singing.

Know that the Lord is God.  
It is he that has made us, and we are his;  
We are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving,  
And his courts with praise.  
Give thanks to him, and bless his name.

For the Lord is good;  
His steadfast love endures forever,  
And his faithfulness to generations.