

HURLEY REFORMED CHURCH

THE SPIRE

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 1 JANUARY 2011

The Spire Goes High Tech! In order to save money and reduce our impact on the environment, we can now send you The Spire by Email. Please request electronic distribution by sending your request to TheSpire@HurleyReformedChurch.org. (note that it is ".org", NOT ".com").

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, I write a day after the tragedy which occurred in Tucson, Arizona. In recent years it seems that that target practice is no longer confined to rifle and pistol ranges. Mayhem and assassination occur in places of learning, be they college campuses, or, surrealistically, elementary and junior high schools. Malls and the fronts of supermarkets have become killing fields. No one was safe at Safeway last Saturday morning. I appreciated what the presiding sheriff of Tucson had to say about the massacre. He noted, in effect, that the waning of civil discourse nationally, with the concomitant rise of hate speech, increased the instability of the shooter. He speculated that uncivil discourse nationally would continue to fuel local violence.

I agree. At this sad time, it is helpful to draw upon the wisdom of Scripture with regard to hate speech, and its violent aftermaths. In the Fourth Chapter of Ephesians, Paul notes the evils of

angry speech, and its cause. He encourages his readers not to “let the sun go down on your anger” (vs. 26). Paul understands that anger is a part of life. His concern is that when it is held overnight or longer, hate speech boils forth. Paul writes, too, that we are called to put away, “all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice...” (vs 31). The apostle seems to have covered all bases! Note that some of the words describe an internal state—‘bitterness’, and ‘malice’. The majority of words, however, reflect the activity of a murderous tongue. The question is whether we can refrain from speaking evil if our hearts are hardened by anger? In order to walk the walk of faith, this question needs our reflection on a daily basis.

In the letter of James, the author notes: “How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire” (James 3:5-6). He goes on to say that “no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison” (3:8). Per-

haps a helpful new year’s resolution is that we try to manage this independent part of our bodies. It may be far more important for our well being, and the spiritual health of our loved ones and neighbors if we place greater priority on what we don’t say instead of people’s number one priority for the new year—focusing on what we shouldn’t eat. I am reminded of Jesus’ words: “Listen and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles” (Matthew 15:10-11). I’m all for eating less, when it comes to health. Let’s just add a non-caloric dollop of verbal self control along with the fat free yogurt we spoon on our organic oatmeal!

God calls us to say less. Anger is managed better when we understand that the more we talk, the angrier we get. Jesus is skeptical of long windedness particularly with regard to oath taking. In his day swearing an oath often meant an elaborate and lengthy speech. In his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus

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states: "Let your word be 'Yes', 'Yes', or 'No', 'No'; anything more than this comes from the evil one" (Matthew 5:37). What would happen to our neighborhood, and what internal changes would we ourselves derive if we said less? (What a hard concept for a minister to grasp!). Today we are awash in televised talking heads. I am guilty as the next of listening to the Glen Becks, Bill O'Reillys, and Keith Olbermans, although a resolution of mine is to abandon the vapid morality and thinking of such in our new year. Whether the pundit is conservative or liberal, they all share the propensity to ramp up angrily as their verbal tide rises. So do we. May we have the wisdom to count to ten, or twenty, or one hundred in order to mitigate or abandon our own angry natures.

Finally, I think we need remind ourselves that uncivil discourse, and out-and-out hate speech is lucrative in our society. Verbal meanness is amazingly profitable. It may seem as if the rants of a Rush Limbaugh ride ideological currents alone, and it may to some extent. I'm sure Rush Limbaugh believes what he spews on the radio. But hateful ideology is sweetened by the millions he earns. My prayer is that we become kinder and gentler in our assessment of others particularly those who disagree with us politically, religiously, philosophically. May we speak in tones which betoken the hope, the passion, and the courage of Jesus in Nazareth. May this year be special in your walk of faith.

In Christ's service,
Doc Bob

BIRTHDAYS

January

Keelan Tucker	10, '94
Melissa McGraw	11, '95
Blake Soshensky	18, '08
Ryan Helm	28, 09
Hatherly Tucker	29, '96
Samantha Bostic	30, '94

Andrew Maxwell	1
Nicole Provenzano	4
Thomas Horvers	5
Russ Lewis	7
Fred Suppies	7
Carla Paton	8
Joe Ulrich	9
Cheryl Lafiandra	10
Marcy Rell	10
Dolores Wyncoop	12
MaryLou Christiana	12
Clarence Jansen	13
Shawn Haran	13
Doug Constant	15
Glenn Decker	17
Wally Cook	17
Tim Cook	17



Linda Dux	18
Lee Gable	18
Helsley, Wendy	19
Brandon Paton	20
Shannon Tucker	21
Michael Christiana	21
Alex Milne	22
Cathy Winnie	23
Alma Strickland	24
Doris Alden	24
Kelly Maggiore	24
Kelly Dux More	25
Sheila Jansen	25
Morgan Burgess	26
Tom Harkin	27
Doreen Lyke	28
Mitchell Kurtz	30

February

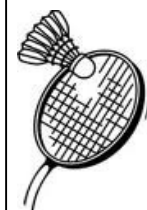
Kayley Jansen	3, '96
Douglas Woodard	6, '92
Morgan Schaffrick	7, '96
Chris Decker	2
Dean Baker	2
Drew Wonderly	3
Robert Kindt	4
Stacy Schoonmaker	7
Molly Nicholas	8

ANNIVERSARIES

January

Rev & Esther Stickley	2
George & Renee Nekos	4
Donna & Bill Brundage	3
Ruth & Tom Harkin	6

Badminton anyone!



Interested in joining a team at church?
Contact Terry Conlin at 339-5648 for details.

S T I C K L E Y G A R D E N S

We hope you made some very special memories with your family and spent lots of time celebrating our Saviour's birth. Family is what keeps us glued together, add in some special friends and life doesn't get any better than that. We give thanks for those who have

past before us and keep their presence alive in our hearts. We hope that you feel the warmth of family each day throughout 2011. Please stop and visit Stickley Gardens, a place where our church family is remembered forever.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE COLUMBARIUM, PLEASE CONTACT ANY OF THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS.
LISA LONGTO (331-1438) CHAIRPERSON • JIM PIRRO (383-0079) TREASURER • ESTHER STICKLEY (331-2919)
JERRY FINK (246-6567) SECRETARY • DIANA CLINE (338-7276) CONSISTORY LIAISON

A SACRED PLACE OF BEAUTY AND CONTEMPLATION. (LOCATED ON THE SOUTH LAWN OF THE CHURCH)

Youth Group

Winter is definitely here! As it gets colder the Hurley Reformed Church's Youth Group would like to thank those who donated their hats, scarves and blankets, and other presents to those in need. The gift tags were flying off the giving tree and more gifts were coming in. We were able to collect and wrap many presents for five families in need.

On December 3 we went caroling in the community. This year we went to 16 homes & sang a few carols. Thank you to all of the homeowners who we serenaded. We had a great time & from the feed back we have received you did as well. We ended our night with hot cocoa at the Stickley's. Thank you Rev and Esther for doing this for us year after year. It was a wonderful start to the holidays.

The Youth Group held its babysit-

ting annual night on December 11th. Once again it was a huge success. Parents were able to get out and Christmas shop or just relax while their children were taken care of by Youth Group members. We were able to raise \$65 for the American Cancer Society. After babysitting we held a sleepover. Even though the hall was a little cold we had a great time.

As we look forward to the New Year, we have many activities planned which include the following:

The annual "souper bowl" chili sale will be held on February 6th. The Youth Group will be preparing chili on Saturday, February 5th. Please sign up for your quart of chili after church at one of the tables in Schadewald Hall.

On February 6 we will be going snow tubing. This activity is opened up to EVERYONE so, if you would like to do this with us please contact/see Melinda Herzog.

The Youth Group will once again participate in a retreat weekend this Spring. The Youth Group has decided to seek out a new venue for our retreat. We are looking at a retreat in Pennsylvania for April. The camp will provide us with many church related activities, as well as rock climbing, and paint ball. We will be doing all of these activities while learning about ourselves, our team, and our God. The Brooks BBQ that will be held on March 1st will help us pay for our retreat.

As a reminder to all those interested in joining the Youth Group or are already members, there will be a meeting on January 9 and February 6. Anyone who is from grade 5th and up is welcome to come.

Hope everyone has had a great holiday and an even better New Year.

Youth Group of the Hurley Church

The youth group is once again sponsoring the **Brook's BBQ: Tuesday March 1st ...** watch for more information, and don't miss out—YUM!

From the Finance Committee ...

	2010	2010
<u>INCOME</u>	Budget	Actuals
Envelopes	140,000	132,200
Loose Plate	12,000	16,574
Env. Special - Missions	3,500	7,626
Building Fund	6,500	5,331
Estates	5,600	7,006
Invest. Div & Interest	8,500	6,600
Bldg. Usage	12,400	16,765
Church School	1,400	636
Women's Guild / Quilters	0	1,000
Stone House Day	9,500	9,592
Misc. Dinners	4,600	7,919
Denominational Fees	19,422	8,313
Misc	800	1,661
Cell Tower Income	13,800	13,200
Operating Income	<u>238,022</u>	<u>234,423</u>
Transfer from Savings / Investment:	6,500	0
Total Income	244,522	234,423

EXPENSES

Pastoral and Personnel	127,715	127,183
Finance & Admin	38,002	41,796
Worship	2,130	1,401
Property & Maint. Basics	45,075	28,860
Program & Activity	1,900	1,468
Education	1,500	1,439
Missions	23,000	23,442
Fund Raising	6,600	6,099
Total Expenses	245,922	231,688

Missions News

As you know our Mission focus this past year has been to support local organizations/groups who provide food, clothing and shelter to those in need in our community. We will continue that needed mission in 2011 by using our January Mission envelope (or one in the pew) to assist Ulster County Habitat for Humanity, an organization which provides resources and materials to build homes so that people can lift themselves out of poverty housing. Ulster County Habitat for Humanity has built 9 homes in Ulster County and recently accepted delivery on a 10th to be built on Codwise Street in the town of Ulster.

Linda Dux

First Reformed Church of Boonton

Pastor Andrew J. Topp

“... Consolation Center is now caring for and raising 25 girls! ... When we are finished with the project, this number will hopefully be able to grow to 50 girls.”

“Our main housing construction is about 85% complete. We have converted six shipping containers into comfortable housing as a kitchen, dining room/office, shower room, and distribution center. Currently there is a good water supply with a solar-powered well pump. Extra water tanks have been added to provide adequate supply if they go several days without sunshine. And we have been able to install a complete solar system providing

Benevolences 2010

A word about benevolence giving. It has been a long standing practice of the Consistory to tithe 10% of our income at the end of each year to worthy mission causes. This year 60% will be given locally and the other 40% to two very deserving agencies:

\$3,500 Queens Galley Feeding Program, Washington Avenue, Kingston

\$3,500 Caring Hands Soup Kitchen, Clinton Avenue Methodist Church, Kingston

\$2,500 Church World Service

through the RCA - Clean Water and Blankets Program

\$2,500 First Reformed Church of Boonton, NJ Consolation Center - construction of housing in Haiti to meet the needs of homeless girls (see excerpts below)

Thanks to your generosity we were able to give to God’s people through monthly mission envelopes and benevolences approximately \$19,500. When Jesus commanded “feed my sheep” you certainly responded with a banquet!

Thank you,
Linda Dux, Mission Chair

Consolation Center is a ministry seeking to meet the needs of homeless girls and other needs in the local area. It was begun by Edouard and Djeune Constant using only their own resources. The girls’ new home has been built by and is largely supported by donations through International Humanitarian Aid Foundation, Inc., www.ihaf.us and the First Reformed Church of Boonton, www.FRCBoonton.org. We hope and pray that many will hear the call that we have heard . . . To help all those in need living in Haiti, especially the children.

light, 120 volt power, and a refrigerator and freezer.”

“... Our ongoing projects are as follows:

- Cut windows and doors on composting bathroom, add the ventilation system, fixtures, etc.
- Finish the work on one 40-foot container to fit another 12 to 14 girls
- Purchase more mattresses and make bed frames
- Run water and some electric lines to the kitchen container and elsewhere
- Create gravel or concrete path-

ways to reduce the otherwise constant mud that seems to spread everywhere when its wet, and

- Most importantly, we need to raise ongoing sponsorship support for up to 50 girls, which, costs about \$2,000 per child per year for all expenses”

“Our next big project is the building of a Christian school. A church in Iowa has already donated the funds to help us purchase 10 acres of property right next to the Center. For now, we are farming this land but we are at work with plans to build our school on this property.”

Women's Guild

Now that the holidays are over & all of the baking is done you might be saying to yourself "... pecans ... I don't think I eat any ... I wonder if the Guild has any left." Well, I am happy to tell you that we do. We still have chocolate covered, cinnamon glaze, & pecan clusters. But, we have no more plain left... sorry about that. So, please purchase yours after church before they are gone for the season.

Even though the morning was a little icy, that didn't stop the wonderful smells, tastes & the bountiful amounts of cookies that just kept coming in for the cookie walk. Thank you to Shirley Burns & Natalie Woodard for chairing this annual event. Thank you... thank you to all of the bakers, cookie servers & the check out ladies that helped with this event. Also, a HUGE thank you to everyone who purchased cookies. We made a little over \$800 with this fund raiser. It was a wonderful addition to the holidays.

We will be holding our Annual Birthday Party on 1/23/11 during coffee hour. Please go to the table that has the month that you were born in & see who else

shares your same month. It is fun to see who is the oldest/youngest at your table. Please stay so we can sing and wish each a Happy Birthday!! Thank you to Karen Schiff & Sandy Emrich for chairing this event.

We won't be having a meeting for a few months but if you have a need or an idea don't wait till a meeting to share it with us. Let us know right away.

Calendar of events:
 1/23/11--Annual Birthday Party
 3/20/11 - Butterfly Exchange

We invite all women of the church to be apart of the Women's Guild. You don't have to be a member of the church to be a part of our group. We meet right after church in the Dutch Room. So, come & see what we are all about!

Wishing you & your family a Happy New Year,
 Sandy Emrich,
 President



Upcoming Garden Club Activities

The HRC Garden Club itinerary for the rest of the winter/spring is as follows:

- February Guest speaker, the topic is Butterflies. Everyone is welcome.
- March Spring gardening: how to make good soil and use compost
- April 3 How to preserve flowers
- May 1 How to make a container gardens; a hands on/get dirty workshop to be held outside, weather permitting
- June 5 Our Annual Plant Exchange in Schadewald Hall



Anyone interested in plants and flowers is welcome to join us any time. We meet downstairs in Sunday School Room 12 at 11:30. Bring a cup of coffee and a snack with you.

Sincerely, Ellen Richards

Food Item for January and February—
 COFFEE (regular and decaf)



Hurley Reformed Church

January 2011

January 2011							February 2011						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31											

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat/Sun
<p>6:00pm Dog Training (Hall)</p> <p>7:00pm First Capital Corvettes</p> <p>7:00pm US Power Squadron (Room 7)</p> <p>7:00pm Significant Woman (Room 6)</p> <p>7:00pm Little League (Room 6)</p> <p>More Items...</p>	<p>10:30am HNS (Rm9/Hall)</p> <p>4:30pm PC 101 (Dutch Rm)</p> <p>7:00pm Writers Group (Room 12)</p> <p>7:00pm Troop 20 (Hall)</p> <p>7:00pm Bible Study (DutchRm)</p>	<p>7:00am Bible Study (DutchRm)</p> <p>9:00am Quilting (Dutch Room)</p> <p>5:30pm Dog Training (Hall)</p> <p>7:00pm Creativity for Christ (Room 5)</p> <p>7:00pm Troop 20 Committee</p>	<p>1:30pm Hurley Seniors (Hall)</p> <p>4:45pm Dog Training (Hall)</p> <p>7:00pm Boy Scouts Leaders Meetin (Hall)</p> <p>7:00pm GS SU (Room 6)</p> <p>7:30pm Choir (DutchRm)</p>	<p>8:00am Set Up for Funeral Luncheon</p>	<p>10:00am Worship</p> <p>More Items...</p> <p>10:00am Generology (Rm 12)</p> <p>12:00pm BSOA Family Banquet (Hall)</p> <p>10:00am Worship</p> <p>More Items...</p>
<p>11:00am W/P/W (Dutch Rm)</p> <p>6:00pm Dog Training (Hall)</p> <p>7:00pm US Power Squadron (Room 7)</p> <p>7:00pm Significant Woman (Room 7)</p> <p>7:00pm Men's Group (DutchRm)</p> <p>More Items...</p>	<p>9:00am HMG (Dutch Rm)</p> <p>10:30am HNS (Rm9/Hall)</p> <p>7:00pm Writers Group (Room 12)</p> <p>7:00pm Troop 20 (Hall)</p> <p>7:00pm Bible Study (DutchRm)</p>	<p>7:00am Bible Study (DutchRm)</p> <p>9:00am Quilting (Dutch Room)</p> <p>5:30pm Dog Training (Hall)</p> <p>7:00pm Creativity for Christ (Room 5)</p>	<p>4:45pm Dog Training (Hall)</p> <p>6:30pm Half Moon/RVW Council (Hall)</p> <p>6:30pm Half Moon LEC (Room 6)</p> <p>7:30pm Choir (DutchRm)</p>	<p>Set up for Birthday Party (Hall)</p>	<p>11:00am Memorial Service Andrea Schrick (Sanctuary & DutchRm)</p> <p>10:00am Worship</p>
<p>10:00am Generology (Rm 12)</p> <p>6:00pm Dog Training (Hall)</p> <p>6:00pm Foundation for Youth</p> <p>7:00pm US Power Squadron (Room 7)</p> <p>7:00pm Book 20 (Hall)</p> <p>More Items...</p>	<p>10:30am HNS (Rm9/Hall)</p> <p>7:00pm Writers Group (Room 12)</p> <p>7:00pm Hurley Rec (Room 5)</p> <p>7:00pm Troop 20 (Hall)</p> <p>7:00pm Bible Study (DutchRm)</p>	<p>7:00am Bible Study (DutchRm)</p> <p>9:00am Quilting (Dutch Room)</p> <p>5:30pm Dog Training (Hall)</p> <p>7:00pm Book Group (Rm 12)</p> <p>7:00pm Creativity for Christ (Room 5)</p> <p>More Items...</p>	<p>4:45pm Dog Training (Hall)</p> <p>7:00pm Woodworkers (Hall)</p> <p>7:30pm Choir (DutchRm)</p>	<p>Set up for Birthday Party (Hall)</p>	<p>10:00am Worship</p> <p>11:00am Birthday Party/Coffee Hour</p>
<p>6:00pm Dog Training (Hall)</p> <p>7:00pm US Power Squadron (Room 7)</p> <p>7:00pm Significant Woman (Room 7)</p> <p>7:00pm Men's Group (DutchRm)</p> <p>7:30pm Al-non (Room 12)</p>	<p>10:30am HNS (Rm9/Hall)</p> <p>7:00pm Writers Group (Room 12)</p> <p>7:00pm Hurley Rec (Room 5)</p> <p>7:00pm Troop 20 (Hall)</p> <p>7:00pm Bible Study (DutchRm)</p>	<p>7:00am Bible Study (DutchRm)</p> <p>9:00am Quilting (Dutch Room)</p> <p>5:30pm Dog Training (Hall)</p> <p>7:00pm Creativity for Christ (Room 5)</p>	<p>4:45pm Dog Training (Hall)</p> <p>7:30pm Choir (DutchRm)</p>	<p>Set up for Birthday Party (Hall)</p>	<p>10:00am Worship - Bibles</p> <p>4:00pm Private (Hall)</p>

HURLEY REFORMED
CHURCH

PO Box 328
11 Main Street
Hurley NY 12443

Phone: 845-331-4121
Fax: 845-331-4153

E-mail: admin@HurleyReformedChurch.org

The Rev. Dr. Robert L. Gram, LCSW
Pastor

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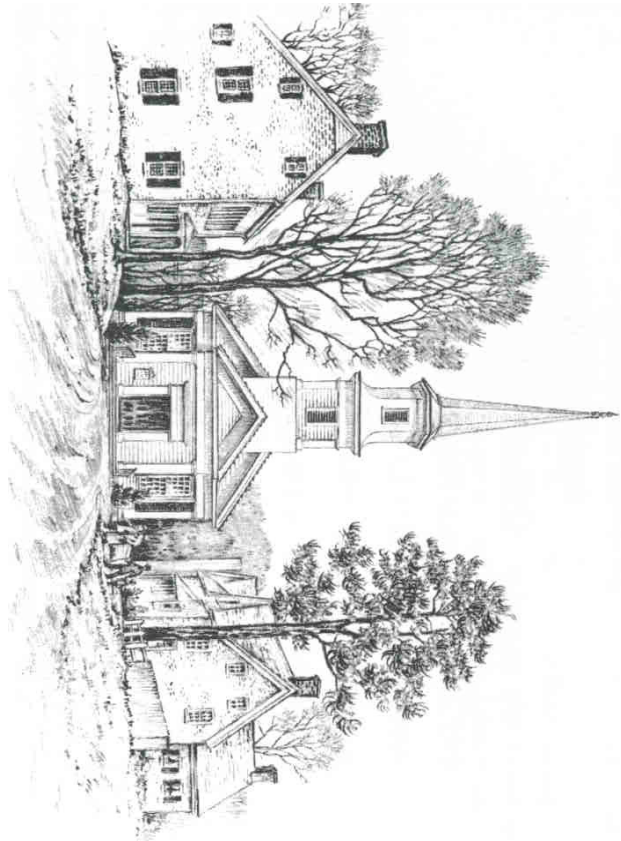
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JANUARY 2011