

HURLEY REFORMED CHURCH

THE SPIRE

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 5 MAY 2010

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On Sunday, April 18, I participated in the service of installation for Rev. Howard Smith. It occurred at the 1st Presbyterian Church in Waltham, Illinois. Waltham is a township rather than a town, and is known for imponderable stretches of cornfields, broken only by an occasional farmer's home, surrounded by windbreak pines. It has a beauty quite unlike the wonderfully mountainous geography we appreciate here. Waltham is an hour and a half southwest of Chicago by car.

Howard and I have known each other for 20 years. We met in Kingston. I was serving the Fair Street Reformed Church, and he was the pastor of the 1st Presbyterian. Most recently he served the High Woods Reformed Church in Saugerties for 8 years. On January 25, '09, he preached at my installation service. He asked me to return the favor. At the service I delivered what is called, "The Charge to the Minister". In both Presbyterian and Reformed Churches, 'the Charge' is a pep talk of sorts in which 'the Charger' reminds the minister of his gifts, strengths, and the miraculous nature of God's calling. Indeed it was miraculous that Howard accepted the call. He had served the Lord in Kingston for two decades. He had spent

more time here than any other location; the mid-Hudson Valley was truly his home. He owned his residence in Lake Katrine, and he and his wife had put time and creative effort into making it a warm and welcome haven. Although Howard had begun to circulate his curriculum vita to other churches, neither he nor Patty expected ever to move--especially to the Midwest!

*God must feel very much alone:
for is there anyone besides God*

*Who believes in the salvation of the
world?*

*God seeks among us sons and
daughters . . .*

*Who love the world enough . . .
to save it.*

Louis Evely
from "In the Christian Spirit"

Shortly after the 1st Presbyterian Church began dialogue about the possibility of service there, Howard and Patty took their first trip to Illinois. After driving through cornfield after cornfield in the bleak midwinter, both decided that God was not calling them to

what they perceived as forsaken territory. At one point, Patti noted that "over her dead body" would she ever 'consent' to leave their home. Nevertheless God's hand was at work. They met the Search Committee and Consistory of the church, and were very impressed by the kindness and generosity which were extended. At a restaurant, their server introduced them to a couple who shared their passion for dogs. An instant and life-long friendship was forged. Other signs were forthcoming. Having missed their flight from LaGuardia to visit relatives in South Carolina, they happened into a restaurant, strangely deserted at dinner hour. There was but one customer, an older woman named Jewel. She asked about their destination, and where they had come from. Howard and Patty told her about their trip to the Midwest. Jewel said, "What more do you need to know that God is calling you to Waltham." After the words were spoken, the restaurant began to fill with customers. It appeared God had placed Jewel where she needed to be, and then provided a barrier from customer noise so that Howard and Patty could truly hear God's word.

In my charge, I compared Howard and Patty to Abraham, and Sarah. In Genesis 12, the Lord calls

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the couple to leave the safety of their home in Haran in order to journey through the wilderness to a promised land. What Genesis doesn't describe are the bouts of indecision and fear which, I believe, Abraham and Sarah must have experienced. How difficult for them to leave all that had become familiar and joyful. Add the fact that Abraham was 75 when he heard God's urging, and you understand how gut wrenching the

thought of saying good-bye must have been. As a clinician I understand that a geographical move is one of the greatest stressors folks can face, exceeded only by job loss, familial death, and divorce. In witnessing Howard and Patty's wrestling with call, I could fill in the emotional gaps of Abraham and Sarah. At the end of my charge, I affirmed that listening to God's voice trumps all perceived obstacles. When the King summons, our response is simply to follow.

Howard and Patty have never been happier. Waltham is big sky country, and you can see fully God's canopy in the evening, salted with stars. Their two dogs, Great Dane Chester, and Black Lab Gracie can walk for miles. Thus the animals too are experiencing new joy. And the church has already begun to grow and thrive. Thanks be to God for moving us where we need to be.

In Christ's service,
Dr. Bob

Mission Committee

Our mission project for April was the Flatbush Reformed Church to assist them in their painting and work projects around the church. Thanks to your generosity we collected \$387 in our "mission envelopes."



Our Mission for May is the Ulster County Chapter of the American Red Cross. During floods, fires and other local emergencies they are there to feed, clothe, and provide shelter. Let's be there for them with a contribution using your Mission Envelope.

Thank you for your continued generosity.

Linda Dux, Mission Chair

Women's Guild

Our annual Easter Egg Hunt was held in Schadewald Hall on 3/28/10. Kids of all ages had a great time. A few of the younger kids brought their own Easter baskets to fill. We loved watching them collect their eggs as much as they loved collecting them. Thank you to Anne Glass for chairing this event.



The kitchen is better organized thanks to Natalie Woodard, Shirley Burns, and Russ Glass. Unused items were removed. We now have more space in the cabinets;

they are labeled and have new shelf paper. We thank them for all of their hard work!

Ladies Hat Day was held on April 18. The sanctuary was dotted with an array of hats. It was a great conversation starter. We will be doing this again next year so if you missed out this time you can join us in the future.

Ellen Richards has been sending cards to our collegians who have moved away from home to let them know they aren't far from our hearts and we are thinking of them. If you would like us to send your child a card, please give the address to Ellen.

A pot luck luncheon will be held right after church on May 16.

Please mark your calendars. We hope you will be able to join us for a wonderful and appetizing luncheon. Reservations begin May 2nd.

We invite all women of the church to be a part of the Women's Guild. You don't have to be a member of the church. Meetings are after worship in the Dutch Room. So, come and see what we are all about!

Blessings, Sandy Emrich-President

Women's Guild Calendar of Events	
5/16/10	Pot Luck Luncheon
6/6/10	Golf Tournament & Plant Swap
7/10/10	Bake Sale, Grandma's Garrett & Quilt Raffle

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

God's delicate flowers have blossomed in their magical colors.
 God's precious bees and birds are singing their grand symphonies.
 God's warm sun is hugging us like the comfort of a mother's arms.
 God's people are blessed with power and new strength, it's Spring!

The committee is working on our next phase of beautification. We have many approvals to attain and then we will be able to share the plans with everyone. Anyone interested in gardening, please contact us!

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE COLUMBARIUM PLEASE CONTACT ANY OF THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

LISA LONGTO (331-1438)
 CHAIRPERSON

JIM FIRRO (383-0079)
 TREASURER

JERRY FINK (246-6567)
 SECRETARY

ESTHER STICKLEY (331-2919)

DIANA CLINE (338-7276)
 CONSISTORY LIAISON

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

Birthdays

Cole Jordan	May 1, '96	Charles Jansen	11	Jean & Kevin Quenzer	17
Ashby Johnson	2, '96	Wesley Drake	14	Wayne & Karen Waligurski	20
Mikayla Mellin	2, '96	Barbara Hornbeck	14	Christine & Bill Henning	22
Victoria LaFiandra	5, '99	May Kowalenko	15	Virgil & Cathy Winnie	22
Jonathan Helsley	5, '05	Kathleen Mayfield	15	Donna & Peter Harder	30
Kathleen Hutton	15, '05	Les Frost	16		
Taylor Robey	21, '99	Ruth Harkin	16	Rich & Angie Rockwell	June 4
Ricki Maggiore	27, '94	Dave Baker	22		
Mackenzie Schoonmaker	28, '99	Gilbert Richter	22		
Terry Conlin	2	Linda Shook	26		
		Esther Peters	26		
		Brian Donnelly	28		
		Mark Cranfield	29		
		Jerry Wyncoop	30		
		Debbie Seche	31		



Kristen Helm	2	Anniversaries	
Neil Zuill	2		
Lori Baker	3	Jim & Sheila Craven	May 5
Faye McLane Jansen	4	Glenn & Debbie Decker	6
Gil Hoppenstedt	4	Kathy & Bob Pfeiffer	6
Kathy Burns	4	Gay & Chuck Gravina	9
Ross Johnson	5	Christa & Terry Conlin	9
Elizabeth Wilson	7	Marilyn & John More	9
Isabel Mizel	8	Alice & Frank Presti	10
Dolores McGoldrick	8	Mary & Don Kent	12
Jayne Ulrich	10	Janet & Jake Crosswell	13
Marilyn Cox	11	Joe & Kathy Burns	15

Prayer Chain

1. The Prayer Chain wishes to welcome two new members. They are Diana Cline and Sandi Gregory. Thank you, ladies.

2. Neil and I wish to take this time once again to thank our church family for all the loving thoughts and prayers we've received during this last bout with cancer. We are blessed to know that no matter how many times this ugly disease surfaces, there is no slacking off of prayer warriors who are there when they are needed. Recuperation is a bit slower this time, but we are hopeful this too shall pass.

With grateful hearts,

Neil & Debbie Zuill

Youth Group

We had a beautiful morning for our annual Easter Dawn Service and Breakfast. The play this year was entitled "Survivor of the Characters." The kids did a great job leading the service. After the service we went into Schadewald Hall for breakfast. We thank Russ Glass for helping us out in the kitchen. Also, a big thank you to everyone who came and supported us.



Thank you to everyone who brought in peanut butter and jelly

for our challenge. Our collection for May/June will go to the Ronald McDonald house in Albany, NY. We will be collecting plastic food storage containers (Gladware or Ziploc) as well as aluminum foil and plastic wrap. Please put your donation in the bin in Schadewald Hall. We appreciate all of your support.

On June 19th we are taking a bus trip to Six Flags New England. The cost is \$38 per person for admission to the park and a buffet luncheon. The Youth Group has rented a coach bus. This trip is not limited to church members so please bring your friends. If you would prefer to drive yourself to the park, you may still purchase your ticket & buffet lunch through us. Space is

limited as please call Sandy Emrich at 687-4006 to reserve your spot. Hurry before the seats are all gone.

Any child in the 5th grade or older is welcome to join the Youth Group at anytime. Please come to our next meeting and check us out.

Sandy & Katie Emrich, Lisa Longto
Youth Group Leaders

Youth Group Upcoming Events:

- 5/22/10 Relay For Life
- 6/5/10 Car Wash @ Stage One Auto
- 6/19/10 Six Flags New England

Golf Tournament

Start warming up for our 4th Annual Hurley Reformed Church Golf Tournament which will be held at 3:30pm, Sunday, June 6th at Alapaha Golf Links on Sawkill Road.

The tournament will be a 9-hole Scrambles format with prizes for the Longest Drive and the Closest to the Pin for men and women.

There will be a \$35 charge which includes a \$20 entry fee and \$15 for a buffet at the Hurley Mountain Inn. If you need a cart, there will be a small charge. Anyone needing clubs, a bag or a pull cart, call Natalie at 338-5909.

Sign up after church and come and enjoy an afternoon with friends of the Hurley Reformed Church.

Natalie 338-5909 or
Joyce 338-5253

Stone House Day

Stone House Day preparations are underway. Committee members have been diligently working on publicity and planning for some new attractions. Russ Glass will be cooking up some new dishes in the cafeteria, "Sojourner Truth" will be visiting, the 3rd Ulster Militia will be camping and colonial crafts people will be demonstrating. Also, there will be new activities for children. We are working on the list of Houses that will be open, more on that later.

The big day this year is Saturday July 10. However, there is a need for volunteers to do some publicity work before the opening. If you can help, please contact Jennifer Macarille, Christa Conlin or Jim Craven.
- Jim Craven, Chair

Bermers

The daffodils and tulips are in bloom on the berm and I'm sure the weeds are not too far behind. We will be meeting the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month so come out and join us about 8:30am. We have had lots of compliments on our berm so let's keep them coming.

Many thanks to all of those who have helped us in the past.

Our church sponsored berm is the 3rd one from the Hurley Overpass with an Eagle Scout bench by it. We could use your help - please join us on May 4th. Bring tools and gloves for weeding.

- Natalie Woodard

HURLEY REFORMED
CHURCH

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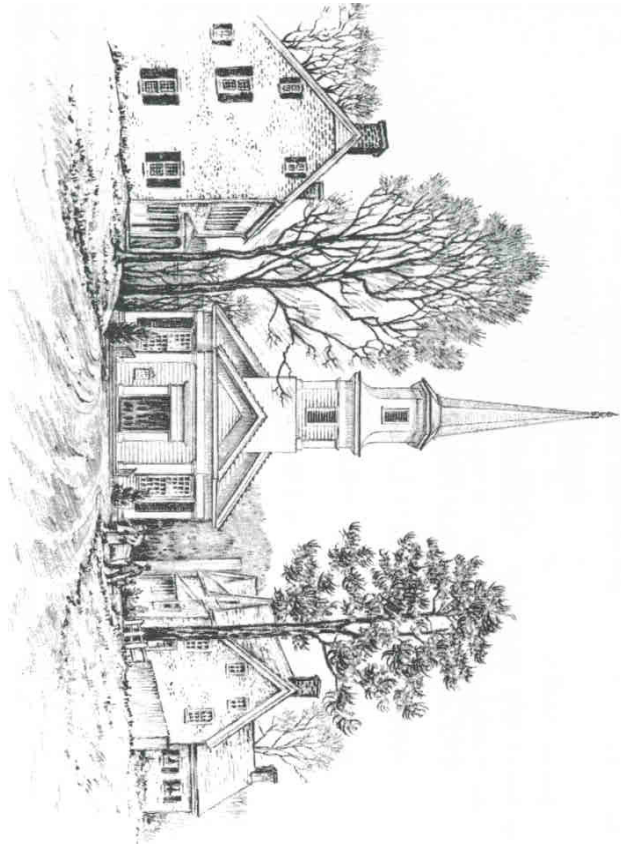
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The Rev. Dr. Robert L. Gram, LCSW
Pastor

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