

## HURLEY REFORMED CHURCH

# THE SPIRE

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 8      OCTOBER 2010

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

A phrase in the Apostle Paul's 1st Letter to the church at Thessalonika has captured my attention for several months. Paul enjoins his followers to "live quietly, and to mind your own affairs" (4:13). When I returned to graduate school in New York City, several years ago, I lived in a studio apartment on the corner of Riverside Drive and 125th Street, a seemingly quiet neighborhood – at least by Manhattan standards. Nevertheless at all hours I listened to the frenzied orchestra of the Big Apple: The rat-a-tat-tat of jackhammers blended with the steel-on-steel clanking of heavy equipment tearing down or building up. The continuous hum of cars crossing the bridge of Riverside Drive provided "background music". Surrounded by sound, the word 'quiet' seemed anachronistic, a quaint notion from a bygone era. When I started to work in mid-town, near Columbus Circle, the noise increased. I learned to accept, and then even appreciate non-stop sound. There is something enlivening about the auditory overload of city life. Living in Hurley has restored a greater sense of quiet, although I'm sure folks can experience this particular joy apart from a rural or small

town setting. I find it is easier for me, at least, to touch base with silence, and, perhaps, singular sounds to which one attunes when quiet insinuates itself to a greater extent in the course of a day. This summer I've enjoyed watering the flowerbeds around the parsonage. With the coming of winter, I will miss the muted gurgle from the hose, and the ever so faint patter freshening impatiens and pansies. Although I'm not a fan of winter, I look forward to the muffled sound of cars moving slowly down our snowy main street, and the encompassing tenor of quiet which falls when white blankets our land.

I believe Jesus lived quietly. There is a passage in Isaiah in which the coming messiah is described as one who will not "cry out or lift up his voice in the street" (42:2). When we think of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7), we have a picture of our Lord addressing hundreds, and we wonder how he could get the word out without bullhorn in hand. We forget his instruction was given to his disciples alone, and that Jesus sat as he delivered his message. In other words, the setting was far more intimate, and conducive to quiet than we normally think, particularly as we live

in the era of jacked-up movie extravaganzas about our Lord. Perhaps Jesus spoke softly so that his disciples would crane forward to hear. Perhaps he whispered, so that silence, and quiet could abet the work of conveying meaning, and the very presence of God's Spirit to ears hungry for meaning and hope.

*Perhaps Jesus spoke softly so that his disciples would crane forward to hear.*

I pray that you'll find quiet times in the course of your day. We live in a beautiful area. Can you step away from the noise and busyness it invokes in order to view and smell the unique colors and fragrances of Fall? The Psalmist writes: "I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with its mother; my soul is like the weaned child that is with me" (131:12). May we become like children, indeed infants, in following the writer's advice.

In Christ's Service,

Doc Bob

## MYSTERY RIDE

Singles-Couples Club: We are trying to re-establish the old "Couples Club", but with a twist... singles as well as couples are more than welcome. Our first event will be a 'Mystery Ride' on Saturday, October 16, 2010 at a cost of \$20.25 per per-



son which includes tax and gratuity. We will provide the directions, and you need to bring a \$5.00 (per pair/couple) wrapped gift for our famous exchange---remember "Last is first!". See Doug Constant after church to sign up before 10/10.

*"I thought that being faithful was about becoming someone other than who I was, in other words, and it was not until this project failed that I began to wonder if my human wholeness might be more useful to God than my exhausting goodness."*

Barbara Brown Taylor

Leaving Church

## Missions

Our mission "project" for October will be Joe Emrich, the 60 year old brother of our congregation member, David Emrich. Joe was diagnosed with ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease) 3 years ago. He cannot work, is on a ventilator, and is cared for at home. The expenses (approximately \$12,000), as you can imagine, are overwhelming for his wife. Most are not covered



by medical insurance. It is our hope that the money we contribute in the October mission envelope will assist this family in some of their everyday needs. Thank you,

Mission Chair,  
Linda Dux

## Women's Guild

Mary Kent is in charge of our Sunshine Club. What is this you ask? She keeps in touch with the sick and shut-ins on a regular basis. Mrs. Kent is wonderful in doing these bi-weekly mailings.



But, she has a need. If you have any blank note cards that you could please donate, she would greatly appreciate it. Place them in the box marked Sunshine Club. Also, she is in need of Bingo items for the Infirmary. What items would

be good for that? A few examples are: jewelry, calendars, or small knick-knacks, would greatly be appreciated.

Holiday baking will be coming up soon & you know what that means....Pecans. They are back. You will be receiving a call soon to place your order. Remember to order more than one bag as quantities are limited. Thank you for your support.

A new quilt has begun. It will be raffled off during Stone House Day. This year the ladies are making an Ohio Star Quilt. If you know how to quilt, or would like to learn, please

come down to the church on Monday mornings at 9am and add a few stitches.

Please come to our next meeting as we have a lot of exciting things coming up and we would love you to be a part of it.

Blessings, Sandy Emrich-President

Calendar of Events	
10/17	Meeting
11/2	Turkey Dinner Bake Sale
11/21	Meeting
12/12	Cookie Walk

## S T I C K L E Y      G A R D E N S

Summer has passed and autumn is here, soon the leaves will be bright. The garden is still beautiful with the colorful mums and begonias showing their assorted colors. The new paver walkway to the columbarium has been completed, and

"thank you" to those who kept the garden and the fountain looking so good. The committee is continuously working on future projects to enhance the columbarium area. Please come and visit this peaceful place.

**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)**

### Why a Creativity for Christ Group?

By Dahlia Jarrett-Soshensky

In the time that our interim pastor was here, one thing that was a delightful surprise for me was to be a witness to the outpouring of handsome work done anonymously by members of our church in the Spring. He had called for us all to create handmade crosses for one another. There were so many that Pastor Bob divided them into different materials – wood, beads, paper, clay, crocheted yarns, etc. The volume and variety were astounding. Most were very good and of high quality, displaying a meticulous skill. This was a real eye opener, especially in that I would have no idea whom (expect maybe less than a handful of people) I could really identify as an artist or who has professed having any artistic skills. Perhaps, even if it was revealed to me who created my favorites, the creators still would not consider themselves artistic, or "artists." So, then, how is it possible to have this miracle of such beautiful artwork? I am pondering the adage that we must,

as Christians, do our work not for anyone else, but "for the Lord." Also, in art college, my first drawing teacher spoke of the quality which makes a good artist; basically it is what a person says to himself or herself while creating. I am certain that many artists were meditating on the Lord and how their efforts could bring comfort to another person. The Godly spirit inside, is translated in the caring and careful approach which infuses the work. Spurred on by the knowledge that one was creating a spiritual gift, the work took on a life of its own, and was manifest in an outward product of inner spiritual reflection, a wel-



coming sight for the eyes of the beholder.

Indeed, one thing I have observed, is that a belief in God, and creating

from the imagination have this in common: Both rely on trusting something you cannot see, and believing confidently that what you imagine will materialize. What has inspired me to start a creativity

group is you – all of you. The words of Rev. Dr. Gram finally hit it home to me on May 23, when he spoke to this year's confirmation class. He urged us all to use our talents to reach souls for Christ. He went on to describe a story in which a young man used his shyness to present the gospel in a winning way. I am sensing that perhaps anything about us can be a reason to bring others to faith. If our personalities and strengths are designed for a purpose, we must continually ask ourselves how does God intend us to use our innate abilities?

A Christian writer who pioneered a course format for self exploration, creativity and Christianity, Janice Elsheimer, was my pick for the first portion of the group as a guide from her book: *The Creative Call: An Artist's Response to the Way of the Spirit*. She allows participants to "take stock" of their strengths by writing, thus uncovering their true talents. We will take time for group prayer and devotionals from the book and spontaneously.

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Youth Group

**10/10/10** Youth group Meeting  
**10/23/10** Youth group sleepover  
 Paul's Corn maze  
**11/14/10** Youth group meeting

We're beginning youth group once again! Can you believe that it's already October?! We held our first meeting and started to plan

the new exciting activities for this year. We had many returning members and hope to make this year as fun as possible!

We would like to thank you for bringing in the tuna fish for Queens Galley. All of your donations were greatly appreciated!

In October and November we will be collecting Thanksgiving items for four Thanksgiving baskets for needy families. We need anything that you would find on

your table on Thanksgiving Day! Also if you have any extra turkeys you don't know what to do with, you could donate them. We are collecting until 11/21/10 and all donations can be put into the box marked food collection in Schadewald Hall. Thank you for making holidays a little bit brighter!

If you are in 5<sup>th</sup> grade or higher and would like to join, you are welcome to come to any of the listed activities.

*(Continued from page 3)*

### You're Invited to a **Ladies' Tea**

**Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup>**  
**1:00 - 3:00 pm**  
**Hurley Reformed Church**  
**Schadewald Hall**



**Join us for Food, Fun and Friendship**  
**Cost \$5.00**

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**Guest Musical Performance by**  
**Ricky Herb**

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#### **Introducing New Fall Programs**

**Woman to Woman Mentoring - Karen Schiff**  
**Creativity for Christ - Dahlia Jarrett-Soshensky**  
**The Significant Woman - Carla Paton**

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**Woman of All Ages are Invited**

**Open to the Public**

**Child Care provided**

**Contact Karen Schiff 339-4908 to reserve your tickets**

The second portion of the group is a communal creativity circle. It is a scheduled time to make sure we all have enough time to practice our creativity. It is a time to bring your knitting projects, notes, poems, paintings, whatever you are creative in, and share quiet productive time with like minds. In being a facilitator of that circle, my aim will be to encourage others non-judgmentally in an emotionally supportive environment. In sharing my experience as an artist and an art therapist I will use my awareness of the creative process to encourage growth, experimentation and expansion in every member, with the driving force being our religious beliefs. Although my undergraduate education is from the school of fine arts at Pratt in New York, my master's degree is from New York University in art therapy, and I have encouraged children and adults to grow in their creativity, for over 13 years, and now feel the most important focus as an artist is where you align your personal growth and what it glorifies.

As we grow individually, my hope is that as people evaluate who they are, and tap into their gifts, everywhere they will compassionately see opportunities to use their creativity to spiritually reach out to others close to them and in distant communities. My hope is that each creative

deed will be an outward meditation on God.

The Creativity for Christ group will begin on Wednesday, October 13 at 7pm. Men and women of all ages are invited to join.

## HOW TO GET INVOLVED IN THE



### ***Mentoring Program***

Fill out a Profile Card at Coffee Hour  
Attend Kickoff Night on Monday, October 18<sup>th</sup>  
Commit to the Mentoring Covenant

### ***Mentoring Covenant***

- We will make a six month commitment to the mentoring relationship.
- We will contact each other once a week and meet a minimum of twice a month.
- We will pray for each other and ask the Lord to deepen our bond of friendship.
- We will do things together like work on spiritual disciplines, learn a new skill, attend church functions (retreats, seminars, or women's activities), we will take walks together, go out for a meal or coffee together and spend time in each other's home.
- We will make an attempt to make keep our relationship ongoing, consistent and fun; we will always ask God to be part of it and bless it.
- We will take our relationship seriously and make time for it in our schedules.
- We will keep our sharing confidential--just between the two of us-- unless we agree it is OK to share with someone else.

Please contact Karen Schiff at 339-4908 or stop by our table at coffee hour to receive more information about this one-on-one Woman to Woman Mentoring Program.

## Woman to Woman Mentoring Ministry

By Karen Schiff

When my husband Tim and I left Georgia for New York last spring, I felt very strongly that God wanted me to introduce a women's mentoring ministry here at Hurley Reformed Church. This church has always been special to me. I had been a member since childhood, up until my husband and I moved to Kentucky, in 1976, where he was stationed in the Army. Now after 34 years and many more moves, I'm happy to be back in the church where I was confirmed, married and had my children baptized.

Over the years I have been blessed to be part of several mentoring relationships, all of which have enriched my life. When I first moved to Kentucky, there was a big God-sized hole in my heart and I knew there was something missing in my life. Even though I was involved in church my entire life, I had not yet developed a personal relationship with Christ. That changed, when I

met a friend who wasn't afraid to share her faith with me. As my friend shared about the things God was doing in her life, I knew I wanted that kind of relationship with God. And my faith grew stronger.

Shortly thereafter, while living in Pennsylvania, I met my best friend and mentor, Ricky Herb. Both of us were young mothers at the time. Ricky was a mature Christian, and as our friendship grew I began to watch her as a parent and a Christian. Through this mentoring friendship, I was able to grow in my own walk as a Christian and also as mother.

Years later, I became very involved in the women's ministry group at our church in Georgia, where we offered a Woman to Woman Mentoring program. Through this ministry I once again witnessed and experienced the blessings of a mentoring relationship. I initially joined this program as a "mentee", thinking that I wasn't mature enough to be a "mentor". But I soon realized that God had a differ-

ent plan. In the next session I became a mentor.

I was delighted to learn that being a mentor didn't mean I had to have all the answers. I learned a lot from my mentee as well. The mentoring relationship is meant to hold hands and walk together on this journey.

"Two are better than one, if one falls down her friend can help her up... A cord of three strands cannot be broken." (Ecc 4:9,10,12b). I would not have become the mother I was or the Christian I am today without God's help and the support and encouragement I received through my mentoring relationships.

It is my passion to see women, both mentors and mentees, grow in Christ through a mentoring relationship. I'm very excited the Woman to Woman Mentoring ministry begins at Hurley Reformed this month. This is a great ministry. Contact me if you want to learn more (845) 339-4908. God bless.

## CHRISTMAS EVE LUMINARIES

The Hurley Church Consistory would like to thank the Youth Group members and their parents who have been setting up and lighting the luminaries on Christmas Eve for the past several years.

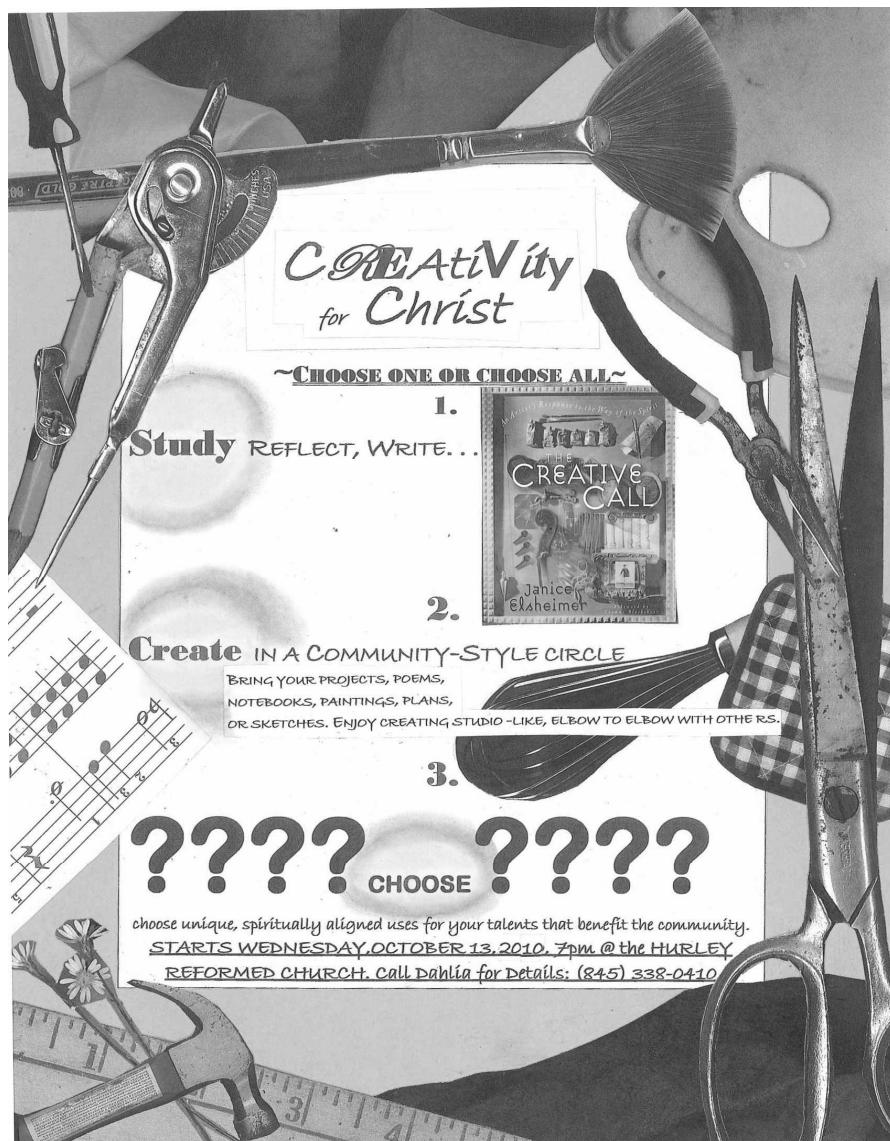
We are now looking for some new volunteers to help with this tradition. Please call the church office if you are interested in helping us light the way to the sanctuary for this very special evening.

Bonnie Dumas, Chair  
Program & Activity

## STEEPLE PAINTING

The Consistory has approved the painting of the steeple at a cost of \$10,800 by Gokey Brothers. This effort is scheduled for sometime in October. If anyone wishes to make a special donation toward this capital improvement project, you may send or drop off to the church, identifying your contribution for the Steeple Painting, on the memo line of your check. All proceeds are welcomed to help defray the cost.





## CLEAN UP DAY

SAT., OCT. 23, 2010

9:00 - ?

## ASSORTED PROJECTS

Julia Tucker	21
Katie Christiana	22
Sarah Harder	22
Linda Cook	25
Marilyn Voigtlaender	25
Helen Webber	26
Nancy Sweeney	28
Ashley Prentice	29
Emily Coogan	31

## ANNIVERSARIES

## October

Pat & Robin Brennan	3
Mark & Julie Conlin	6
Kathy & Craig Jansen	7
Sheryl & Howard Delano	8
Charles & Colette Woodard	8
Ron & Ann Every	9
Linda & Dick Shook	10
Jennifer & Jim Macarille	11
Wendy & Charles Ocker	12
Deborah & Neil Zuill	14
Jack & Charlotte Gill	15
Wendy & Steve Helsey	19
Joyce & Jerry Fink	20
John & Marianne Mizel	21
Bill & Peg Baldinger	22
Terry & John Gaffken	23
Emily & Art Harder	26
Robert & Colleen Conklin	27
Betty & Jim Pirro	30

## BIRTHDAYS

## October

Kyle Davenport	2, '01	Leigh Hill	4
Matthew McGraw	13, '93	Alissa Sumerano	5
Sierra Butler	15, '98	Muriel Ferraro	6
Ryan Milne	20, '06	Jerry Fink	7
Kelsey Christiana	24, '95	William Henning	7
Julia Helm	27, '02	Joshua Moon	8
Jordan Cline	28, '96	Patrick Tucker	8
		Charlotte Gill	9
		Terry Gaffken	10
		Steve Bliss	10
		Stanley Brooks	14
Sandra Gregory	1	Marilyn More	15
Lucas Hopper	2	Diana Cline	17
Megan Quenzer	2	Lorraine Denis	18
Amy Ryan	2	Nita Rockwell	20
Christa Conlin	3	Ron Chrisey	20
Janet Briggs	4		

*I wish to thank all who  
sent cards and prayed for my  
speedy recovery from my re-  
cent surgery -*

*Tom Harkin*

**Annual Election Day  
Turkey Dinner  
Tuesday**

**November 2, 2010**

**Seatings:**

**4:30, 5:30, 6:30**

**Tickets**

**Adults: \$11.00**

**Children Under 12: \$5.00**

**Hurley Reformed Church**

**For Reservations**

**Call: 331-4121**

**Take Out Available**

2011 STEWARDSHIP DRIVE: This is the



time of the year when the Church begins its planning for the following year's

operating budget. An individual Stewardship packet is either available at the church office, or will be mailed to families in the next week or so. Please review the materials and either consider a Forward Step, or a Step of Faith, as explained in the literature. To have a budget prepared and Consistory approved for presentation at the November 2010 Congregational Meeting, please return your Faith Card in the return envelope provided, such that it is received by 10/31.

*Prophets are, by their nature, inconvenient party-poopers. It is a mistaken notion that prophets can see the future. Rather, they tell us what is true right now.*

Thomas Cahill  
In "Hey You, Listen Up!",  
Sojourners, March-April 2003

**Golf**

On a drizzly Sunday afternoon (Sept. 12th) we were finally able to have our annual HRC Golf Tournament at Alapaha Golf Links on Sawkill Rd. This year's winning team was: Ron



and Ann Every, Barb Mayfield & Tim Bellora.

Ladies closest to the Pin on #1 was Natalie Woodard. For the men on #2 it was Wally Cook. Longest drive on #6 for men and ladies,

the winners were Marilyn Lowe and Ron Every.

Join us next year for a fun afternoon with friends of the Hurley Reformed Church. Any level of play is welcome.





HURLEY REFORMED  
CHURCH

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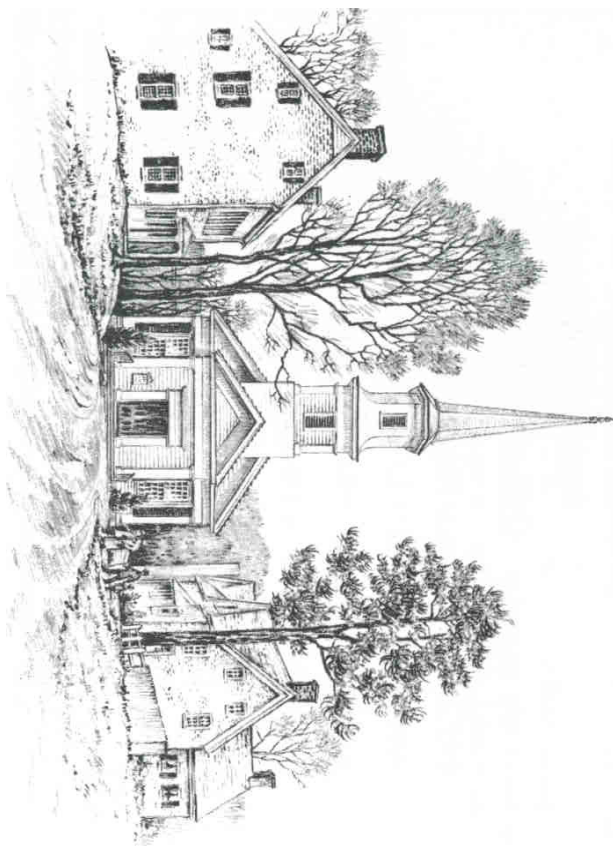
E-mail: [admin@HurleyReformedChurch.org](mailto:admin@HurleyReformedChurch.org)

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

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