

## HURLEY REFORMED CHURCH

# THE SPIRE

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 9      NOVEMBER 2010

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

What I look forward to most during the mid-term elections is our Annual Turkey Dinner. As I write, the politics of character assassination blooms once again. In the Connecticut senatorial race Linda McMahon notes that her opponent, Richard Blumenthal, never served in Viet Nam although he refers to himself as a veteran. On his part, Blumenthal attacks Ms. McMahon as an uncaring employer who cut jobs and benefits in her company – The Worldwide Wrestling Federation. Rand Paul, the Republican senatorial candidate in West Virginia has been accused by his Democratic opponent of being part of an anti-Christian cabal when he attended college. The organization forced a co-ed or two to bow before the image of the god Aqua-Buddha. In response to this charge, Mr. Paul left his opponent without shaking his hand after a debate. The Delaware Republican senatorial candidate, Christine O’Connell, is accused of holding witchcraft beliefs she espoused on Bill Maher’s television show 9 or 10 years ago. In California a gubernatorial candidate who is for strict immigration policy was discovered by her opponent to have employed an ille-

gal alien for several years, a charge which the defendant pleads innocent, claiming ignorance of her employee’s status. Often policies or character is not the issue. Gubernatorial candidate Carly Fiorina noted off camera that her opponent had a mousy 50s hairdo which did her no favor among the electorate. I could go on about the gutter sniping ads which make for hilarious political theater. The risibility factor increases in the wake of homespun campaign ads showing the candidate surrounded by beves of smiling senior citizens or hard hat factory workers on the job, touting all the candidate has done or will do when elected. I don’t believe the present political season is any worse than times past. In newspapers Abraham Lincoln, perhaps our greatest president, was caricatured as having the look and intellect of an ape. In an area of incivility one can’t do much better than cracking chairs, and canes on the pates of fellow congressional leaders during the 1800s. Indeed the nutty political campaigns are as old as our Republic.

Scripture states that we are called to pray for those in power. God states in the book of Jeremiah that Israel, which has been exiled

to Babylon, should pray for the safety and well being of the Babylonian government, a truly radical understanding of politics (Jeremiah 29:7). Certainly we know how critical prayer is for those in power since we are often served by an assortment of nincompoops; fear mongers; unabashed narcissists; power-above-

*“I’m happier when I try to imitate Jesus by finding good elements in people whose policies I find distressing.”*

all brokers, and the garden variety huckster awash in avarice and greed. At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century one of our greatest novelists, Henry James, noted that there is a “preponderance of idiots in high places” which may have been a reason he decamped to England. Not only are we called to pray for those in power because they need all the prayers they can get; we are also called to discover the goodness resident in even the tackiest pol. Certainly Jesus could look beneath Peter’s bluff, cowardice and rash impulsivity, for example, and state that the

*(Continued on page 2)*

(Continued from page 1)

disciple could be and would be the rock of the church (Matthew 16:18). Jesus could see the goodness in the heart of a dishonest tax collector and change him because of the confidence and love Jesus had for him (Luke 19:1-10). I'm happier when I try to imitate Jesus by finding good elements in people whose policies I find distressing. As a child of the 60s sometimes it is hard for me to do. I was raised on the adage that my generation should never trust anyone over 30 which leaves little leeway for finding the best in people with whom we disagree. Lately I seek to find admirable qualities about recent presidents. Here's a partial list: I admire George H. W. Bush for understanding the need for a quick exit strategy after Desert Storm. I admire Bill Clinton who, it seems, never demonized his opponents or detractors and whose sunny temperament could find goodness in everyone. I admire

George W. Bush for taking the lead in fighting the AIDS crisis in Africa. To me, Barack Obama gave the greatest political speech I have heard when, in Philadelphia in 2008, he addressed the issue of race and religion in our country. If I were president – which is truly a frightening thought – I would want Richard Nixon to advise me in foreign affairs and domestic health care. My spiritual advisor would be Jimmy Carter with whom I'd pray on a daily basis. Woodrow Wilson would be my choice to bandy about great ideas and Teddy Roosevelt would be my Secretary of the Interior. In downtime moments I would sit with Ronald Reagan whose steady and relaxed nature could salve any jangled soul. When I think about the good qualities people have I find myself happier not only during this political season but all year round.

In Christ's Service,  
Doc Bob

## Missions

The Mission for November is The Food Bank of the Hudson Valley, a Feeding America partner who last year provided over 8 million pounds of food to more than 370 charitable organizations feeding those in need in the Hudson Valley. We are a thankful people

who can show our thanks by using our Mission envelope to help those in need this Thanksgiving season.

Thank you,  
Mission Chair, Linda Dux



## Women's Guild

Thank you for all of your donations to the Sunshine Club. Mrs. Kent uses the blank note cards, extra calendars, jewelry, & small knick-knacks. She appreciates your help & support.

Did you order your pecans? Hope you didn't miss out on them. Thanks to Jean Dussol for chairing this fund raiser & to all of the ladies who made the calls to get the orders. We will have a few extra so, if you didn't get your order in, be sure to get to the table first thing to purchase them before they are

all gone. Thanksgiving just isn't the same without that pecan pie!!!

The cold nights are just around the corner and wouldn't your bed be warmer with a quilt on it? Why not give the ladies some help the annual quilt making. They meet Monday mornings at 9am in Room 4.

The quilt is raffled on Stone House Day. The ladies would love to have you in their creative fellowship.

The cookie walk is approaching. What is this you might be asking... well let me fill you in. The ladies of the church bake their favorite

cookies & bring them to church on 12/12. After church you come to the hall, pick up a box & go around the table filling up your box with wonderful cookies. We sell out every year so, please be sure to get your box & start filling it up as soon as church is over.

The Guild would like to wish you & your family a blessed Thanksgiving. Blessings, Sandy Emrich-President

### Calendar of Events

11/2 Turkey Dinner Bake Sale  
11/21 Meeting  
12/12 Cookie Walk

SNACK

CRAFTS

6-9 PM

FUN!

GAMES!

## Hurley Reformed Church Youth Group

# Babysitting 12/10/10

Please drop off your kids of **all ages**  
at 6:00 pm and pick them up at 9:00 pm.

We will supply drinks and a snack,  
so they should have already had dinner! Thanks!

**Please call Sandy at 845-687-4006  
to reserve a space for your child(ren)  
as soon as possible as space is limited.**

**All donations will go to the American Cancer Society**

SNACK

CRAFTS

6-9 PM

FUN!

GAMES!

The annual Hurley Reformed Church Christmas Pageant will follow worship on December 19, 2010. It will be produced, directed, written by the dynamic duo of Geri Gardner and Marianne Mizel with help from Junior Choir Director Kathy Burns. Pageant practice and set designing will occur Saturday, December 18, from 9am until 12 noon (a good time for parents to shop) and during church on the day of the pageant. Casting will occur the two Sundays before the pageant, Dec. 5 and 12 and costumes will be

**the  
Best Christmas  
Pageant Ever**

tion, so please encourage your children to participate. If there are any questions, please feel free to call Marianne Mizel (331-3929) or Geri Gardner (246-3609).

## HRC Garden Club

The Hurley Reformed Church has a Garden (and plant) Club, as well as many other activities. The Garden Club meets every 1st Sunday of the month, with few exceptions. We will not meet in November. We will gather on Dec. 5th to make Christmas centerpieces. Bring Christmas greens, if you have any, a knife or scissors and a water tight container (could be a basket with a plastic liner). Our January meeting will be on the 2nd. Our speaker will talk on either butterflies or daylilies. Our Feb. 6 meeting will also have a speaker. On March 6 we will discuss spring gardening, and on April 4th we will talk about



organic gardening. On May 1 we will talk about preserving flowers - drying, pressing or hanging them to dry. June 5 will be our 3rd annual plant exchange. We do not meet in the summer, but since we help take care of the flowers around the Parsonage and the Church, we do need to help with watering. You are welcome to come to just one or all of the meetings. You do not need to sign up; just show up! See you there.

Ellen Richards

handed out then. Children may participate both in the Junior Choir and the pageant. If Saturday's practice poses a conflict for a particular participant, we will make accommodations. Despite groans and grumbles, we usually have a good time! We want to impress all with our produc-

## Youth Group

**Can you believe it? Another summer has passed, school has started, the leaves are falling and the air is crisp. This past year saw the HRC Youth group taking on many community projects, raising funds for local charities, and, along the way, finding time to come together as a group to have fun.**

**The Youth Group had a sleepover at the church planned for Sat, October 23<sup>rd</sup> from 4:30pm till 9:30am. We went to the Corn Maze. November is a busy month.**

**We will be holding a Clothing Drive from 10/30 through 11/1. We are collecting wearable & usable clothing, shoes, belts, handbags, linens, stuffed animals, and bikes. Please put all donations in well tied plastic bags and leave them in the garage to the rear of the church parking lot. Any questions please contact Colleen (845)234-0003.**

**"Coping through the Holidays" is a free seminar presented by the Bereavement Service of Hospice. If you have experienced the loss of a loved one you are invited to attend this seminar on Tues., Nov. 9 from 5:30pm - 7pm in the Health Alliance Auditorium located in the Administration Building at Benedictine Hospital.**

**We will be making and selling two breads this year, Pumpkin and Apple breads!!! Pre-Orders will start in early November and will be on sale 11/21/10 for \$5 each. Quantities are limited so pre-orders are recommended. So, get yours before they are all gone.**

**We are continuing our food collection for our Thanksgiving Baskets that we will be putting together for some special Families so they may also enjoy a wonderful Thanksgiving Dinner. We need everything that you find on your own Thanksgiving table. The last collection date will be 11/21/10. Thanks for helping us make these families Holiday a little brighter.**

**Babysitting Night will be held on 12/11/10 from 6pm until 9pm. We will watch your children while you have a great night out! The kids**

**will get a snack, play games or create a masterpiece, so mark your calendars, make dinner plans or start that holiday shopping, leave the kids and enjoy !**

**We are going Caroling on 12/03/10. If you live in the Hurley/Kingston area & would like us to come to your home to carol, please see Sandy Emrich to sign up. What a wonderful way to start the holidays.**

11/14/10 Youth group meeting  
11/21 Bread Sale - Last Day for Thanksgiving donations  
12/11 Babysitting

October 2010

To Dr. Gram and the congregation of Hurley Reformed Church,

Thank you so much for the opportunity to minister with you folks on Saturday afternoon and again during your Sunday worship service. The Ladies' Tea seemed to be a great way to kick off some of the new church programs. I know a lot of hard work goes into a function like that and it was wonderful to see everyone work together. It will be exciting to see God's plan unfold.

I sincerely appreciate the generous honorarium

and the provision of housing for Melodie and me during our stay. Thanks, too, for the warm welcome you extended to us; the congregation of Hurley Reformed is indeed kind and very hospitable. It was a joy to be with you!

I pray God's continued blessing on you as you continue to serve Him at Hurley Reformed.

In His Love, Ricky Herb

*Thank You!*

## *We Wish You A Merry Christmas*



With the holidays approaching the Youth Group will be holding their annual caroling on 12/3/10. If you live in the Hurley/Kingston area & would like our Youth Group carolers to come to your home & sing you a few caroling then, please give Sandy Emrich a call at 687-4006 & we will be more than happy to spread some holiday cheer to you & yours.

### *It's That Time Again!!!*

Once again it's time to place your orders for poinsettia plants to adorn the chancel for the Holiday season.

All profits will benefit the Boys and Girls Club of Kingston. Plants are one size, one color, and one price: red with four blossoms at \$11.00 each.



Number of plants: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$11.00 each: Total due \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

I will pick up my plant:

12/24 7:00 Service \_\_\_\_\_

12/24 9:30 Service \_\_\_\_\_

We are requesting that you take your plant home or deliver it to someone special.

Make Checks Payable to: **HRC Women's Guild**

Give to Shirley Ruth after worship or mail to:

215 Grandview Terrace, Hurley NY 12443

***Payment must be received by December 5, 2010***

# The Significant Woman

## Pursue God *and* His Unique Design *for* Your Life

- Are you a busy mom who barely has time to breathe...or an empty-nester asking, "What now?"
- Maybe you're a young woman seeking direction and purpose...or a seasoned senior wondering, "What else do I have to offer?"

Well ladies, there's good news. God created you for a purpose and He has a unique plan for your life! Join us as we begin on a journey of faith and discovery.

**The next Significant Woman Course begins on Monday January 10<sup>th</sup>.** Classes will be held weekly, through April, at Hurley Reformed Church from 7-9pm.

### **In this life-coaching study you will...**

- grow closer in your relationship with God
- discover more of who He created you to be
- realize where your personal value really lies
- discover God's unique purpose for your life
- take steps toward more meaningful and purposeful living

The Significant Woman course is a group study for women of ALL ages and ALL stages of life. Take advantage of this opportunity to join in a group learning environment where you can be authentic and real.

Join with a friend or come to make new ones. The course involves group and peer partner coaching, so attendance is important.

Group facilitators are Carla Paton and Maureen Keehn. Cost is only \$35 to cover workbook and materials.

Space is limited so sign up early. Contact Carla at (845) 514-2682 or [carla.paton@gmail.com](mailto:carla.paton@gmail.com).

**"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."  
(Ephesians 2:10)**

## Spic and Span!

Thanks to the efforts of 17 people who came out on Saturday, Oct. 23, several property and maintenance jobs were completed: tree trimming, painting, brush clean up, and storm window coverings installed, to name a few. There are several on-going projects you can work on at your own pace. Contact Jim Pirro, Russ Lewis or Dave Giles for more information. Look for our next Clean Up Day in April!



**NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

Chloe Dumas	14, '98
William Schaffrick	14, '97
Drew Milne	17, '05
Julianna Schaffrick	17, '00
Emelia Tegeler	18, 09
Lois Charlton	2
Natalie Woodard	8
John Henning	10
Gladys Byrne	11
Joyce Fink	12
Peg Baldinger	13
Bunny Heins	13
Bill Merrill	16
Jay Burgess	17
Joe Burns	19
Joyce Sweeney	19
James Gregory	22
ShirleyAnn Moxham	25
Wayne Johnson	23

Kathy Musialkiewicz

23

Dick Morone

25

Dahlia Soshensky

26

Allan Dumas

28

Juanita Bilyou

29

Matthew Crosswell

30

**December**

Coty Burgess

2, '90

Micaela Ryan

5, '96

Bryan Weaver

7, '89

Toni Fisher

2

Carolyn Cranfield

3

Pat Baker

4

Fran Hofler

4

Susan Hutton

4

Mary Odell

5

Hal Hauck

6

Caitlin Decker

7

Callie Rockwell Ashby

8

**ANNIVERSARIES**

Todd &amp; Julie Jordan 9

Leslie &amp; Darryl Shambo 10

Shirley &amp; Ron Burns 13

May &amp; Peter Kowalenko 19

Mary &amp; Ken Odell 23

Sandie &amp; Jim Gregory 30

James &amp; Laura Gregory Dec. 2



**STEWARDSHIP:** At this time of the year, the Stewardship program for Hurley Reformed Church has a two fold approach:

For 2010, there is a need for those members and adherents who have made their commitment to the church through a pledge, to be sure that pledge is up to date for the year, and then completed, as the consistory of the church is relying on those committed funds, to fulfill their obligation to the congregation for operations and maintenance.

For 2011, each of you should have received a pledge card and literature. If you have not, PLEASE contact Debbie in the office and one will be provided to you. From this the consistory formulates its projection of the incoming funds in order to develop and present the proposed budget to the congregation at the annual Congregational Meeting held on the second Sunday in November, according to the Church By-Laws. We ask that these 2011 pledges be turned into the church in the enclosed return envelopes so the information can be kept confidential.

**SINGLES/COUPLES - MYSTERY RIDE / SOCK HOP**

This year's Mystery Ride was a great success, in more ways than one. First, it was a success in that 51 people attended, participated, and enjoyed friendships and fun, while they experienced the beautiful foliage and then a great meal at the Land and Sea Grill and Steak House on Route 212 in Saugerties. Secondly, the committee was successful in creating a course which 7 out of 12 car groupings completed successfully. For a total trip of 46.8 miles and approximately 1 hour and 35 minutes of driving and riding, one car traveled 104 miles and arrived 1 hour late for

dinner. They enjoyed the days o much that they took a side trip to the Tannersville area, driving up Platte Clove Road, the most dangerous thoroughfare in New York State!

This is the first of our planned events to foster greater community than can be achieved than the short time on a Sunday morning affords. We are planning an old 'Sock Hop', with music from the 50's, 60's and 70's. While watching for a calendar date, look in your closets for those pooodle skirts and bobby socks.



**MARK YOUR CALENDAR** and Participate in the Annual Congregational Meeting.

The annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 14<sup>th</sup> immediately following the church service. A light snack will be provided. This is the time when you have an opportunity to hear of the accomplishments of each of our church committees and groups; ask questions of the consistory; and to hear of some great things to happen in the future. Please plan to stay and participate.

**2011 Proposed Budget**

To be Voted on at the Congregational Meeting, November 14, 2010

Income

Envelopes	142,800
Loose Plate	12,000
Env. Special - Missions	5,100
Building Fund	5,300
Estates	6,500
Invest. Div & Interest	0
Bldg. Usage	12,400
Church School	600
Women's Guild / Quilters	0
Stone House Day	9,600
Misc. Dinners	7,100
Denominational Fees	7,000
Misc	800
Cell Tower Income	<u>13,200</u>
Transfer from Savings / Investments	14,998
Total Income	237,398

Expenses

Pastoral and Personnel	128,690
Finance & Admin	39,288
Worship	2,180
Property & Maint. Basics	36,150
Program & Activity	1,250
Education	1,500
Missions	22,240
Fund Raising	<u>6,100</u>
Total Expenses	237,398