

HURLEY REFORMED CHURCH

THE SPIRE

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 3 MARCH 2011

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, I've been transfixed by what is happening in the Middle East. It seems unthinkable that Hosni Mubarak no longer rules Egypt, the most populous nation in that explosive region. As I write, the people of Tunisia have liberated themselves as well. The greatest theologian of early Christianity, Augustine (354-430), was born and died in that area. On his deathbed he understood that the conquerors of Rome were surrounding his bishopric at Hippo Regium, and that Christian independence would disappear. I wonder what he thinks, now in heaven, as his beloved area is redolent with change, and, perhaps, democratic possibilities? As I write Libya is engaged in a terrible civil war which may topple the 42 year dictatorship of Muommar Khaddafi. The royal family of Bahrain is in trouble also. Not only does that island nation house our Fifth Fleet, it is also a country in which Reformed Church missionaries have served. Let me digress a moment and note that our denomination has sent missionaries to the Mid-

dle East since 1889--before oil was discovered in various locations. Thus the Reformed Church is perceived as a trusted friend by many Arab countries, including Bahrain and its royal family, because we were building hospitals, and tending to basic needs before the onslaught of 'liquid gold' transformed the region economically.

Let me share a biblically based random thought or two on the present state of the Middle East. I begin with pregnant Mary, the future mother of our Lord, who proclaims her joy at being chosen by God to bear the Christ. We are familiar with her gracious words: "... for God has looked upon with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me (Luke 1:48-49). Her innocuous speech, fitting for gentle Christmas celebration, comes to a jarring end when demure Mary, in the next breath, turns unsuspectingly -- and, at that time, somewhat unmotherly -- in taking a harsh, pro-

phetic trajectory. She announces: "God has shown strength with arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He

One wonders whether God is scattering the proud, and sending the rich away in the present conflict.

has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty (Luke 1:51-53).

One wonders whether God is scattering the proud, and sending the rich away in the present conflict. Sadly the latest batch of tin-pot tyrants, having plundered what national resources there were, remain unimaginably wealthy in exile, while their countrymen attempt to restore order, and stanch poverty with little capital. Sadly the rich are rarely sent away

(Continued on page 2)

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").

(Continued from page 1)

empty. In the Hebrew Scriptures, God does indeed 'scatter the proud', but rarely through civil war. The 8th Century prophets like Amos predicted the destruction of Samaria, the capital Israel's northern kingdom because of their social unconcern, and their love of idols. God's punishment was not meted by internal revolt, but rather by His use of an external player, the Empire of Assyria in this instance, which would destroy Samaria, decimate the Northern Kingdom, and march the Hebrew intelligentsia lockstep with hooks through their noses to Nineva, in 721 B.C. The same scenario played out in little more than a century when Babylon ended the corruption of Jerusalem and Judah in 587 B.C. despite Jeremiah's dire warnings.

What we witness is that Jewish Kings, supported by corrupt priestly aristocracies, were able to squash dissent. A subtler biblical inference is that Samaria and Jerusalem, as a whole, shared the immoralities of its leaders. Thus dissent of any sort didn't exist. Everyone was on the take, as it were. In God's eyes, the nation as well its kings, and priests were judged in equal measure. That's why the classic prophets are an amazing group because they stood alone against corrupt society as a whole. They fomented no mass movements, and had no follow-

ing. Indeed, apart from their vertical relationship to God, they had no support. Even Jeremiah's family turned against him, seeking his death! I was moved by the young man in Tunisia, a seller of fruit, whose measuring weight was 'requisitioned' by a woman in government. He was ignored by the authorities when he tried to retrieve his property without bribe. When his efforts failed, he poured gasoline over his head, and set himself ablaze. Before his death several days later, he had sparked a massive following intent on ending the government. This young man shared with the biblical prophets, I think, an understanding that the solitary individual can achieve much to change history even in the passive way of self-immolation.

The young man also represents a change agent which locates itself squarely in Scripture, and ramifies in the first three centuries of the Christian era: Martyrdom. I think even non-Christians can look at the cross of Jesus, and say that, at the very least, the Son of Man was martyred for his love of God. And the death of Stephen in Jerusalem, the first martyr of the faith, had a profound impact on the young man who would later become the Apostle Paul. The self-righteous Pharisee allowed the stone-throwing executioners to lay their cloaks at his feet for safekeeping, I imagine. Scripture notes that Paul approved of Stephen's judicial mur-

der (Acts 7:60-8:1). Perhaps martyrs truly stall tyrannies and galvanize opposition to unjust governments. Post-New Testament writings of the late 1st Century suggest that both Peter and Paul -- known as athletes, a wonderful synonym for martyrs -- met their fate in Nero's Rome in A.D. 66 when a massive city fire, probably caused by the Emperor himself, was blamed on Christians. From there we have accounts teen-agers of both sexes crucified in Africa for their faith, as well as men like ancient Bishop Polycarp who opted to be lion food rather than recant.

Before his death he proclaimed these words in the arena: "Six and eighty years I have served my Lord. How can I deny Him now?"

The ancient North African theologian Tertullian noted in the second century that the blood of the martyrs nurtures the church of Christ. How right he was. I pray that peace, justice, liberty, and democracy will reign some day in the Middle East. I pray for those brave souls whose courage allows them to die for freedom. May we think of our own storied history of individual and group self-sacrifice as we gaze upon the struggles for freedom in the Middle East.

In Christ's service,

Doc Bob

Thank you!

"I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to everyone in the congregation who sent me cards and get well wishes during my recent illness. A special thanks to the Youth Group, Sunday School, and the Women's Guild. I hope to see all of you soon," Friedel Borst

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

Big Changes are Coming!!!!

In our attempt to solve problems with the current columbarium, the manufacturer has offered us this solution. The smaller unit will be replaced with a full size, granite columbarium that does not require the compaction process.

We are excited that this will add an even more elegant look to the area.



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)

To the Prayer Chain, Women's Guild, Youth Group, Sunday School Classes and all my caring friends from the Hurley Reformed Church:

Prayers work, I know. 18 years ago you came through when I was diagnosed with a brain tumor and found a better way with a new non-invasive treatment.

Once again this past year you took up my cause with a bout of cancer. My recent PetScan came back with no cancer cells found.

Thank you seems so little in words for your prayers, cards and encouragement. They have meant so much to me and my family through some of the tough days.

*God bless and thank you,
 Dick Shook*

Welcome New Members!

On February 27, 2011 we welcomed 15 adults into the membership of the Hurley Reformed Church.

The Sacrament of Baptism was administered to: Lauren Arastiqueti, Thomas Bell, Steven Coddington, and Jasper Fox.

Those who made their confession of faith before the elders and who came to publicly confess: Lauren Arastiqueti, Thomas Bell, Steven Coddington, Jasper Fox, and Melissa Ryan.

Uniting with us by reaffirmation of faith: William Beesmer, Alice Bell, Jessica Fox, Joyce Ann Leverenz, Ellie Robinson, and Leslie Shambo.

And joining by Letter of Transfer were: Linda Longendyke, Herb Morehouse, Lois Morehouse, and Matt Ten Eyck.

To each of them we extend our congratulations and welcome as they begin the journey of faith in the family of the Hurley Reformed Church.



"You are dust and to dust you shall return."

(Gen 3:19)

**Ash Wednesday Services . . .
 March 9, 2011 @ 7:30 pm**

The sanctuary will also be open throughout the day for prayer and contemplation.

Youth Group

We have all endured the long, cold winter. Hang in there, spring is just around the corner. It's time to get outside, stretch out those weary bones and let the sun warm your body.

Thank you to everyone who supported our annual Souper Bowl Chili fund raiser. We made 51 containers of chili this year and with your support were able to give \$275 each to Queens Galley and Caring Hands Program at Clinton Ave Methodist Church. We are thrilled that we were able to help our local soup kitchens!! After making chili that afternoon approximately a dozen of us went up to Sawkill Family Ski Center to snow tube. It was a beautiful day & we had a great time.

March is a busy month for the Hurley Reformed Church Youth Group.

March 1st was the Brooks BBQ. Thank you to everyone that came out & supported us by purchasing a chicken or rib dinner. All proceeds will be used towards our annual

Christian retreat. Without your help we wouldn't be able to attend. Thanks again for your support!! This year our retreat will be at the Montrose Bible Camp located in Montrose, PA on April 1 – 3, 2011. This is a departure from the Camp Warwick retreat that we have done in years past. We wanted to do something different this year and boy we will. More on this in a few months.

The Youth Group will sponsor the Coffee Hour on March 13th. Everyone is welcome to stay after the service for great snacks and conversations.

We will be holding a Penny Social on March 25th. We need new and/or gently used items, so start your spring cleaning early. Call Amy Sirni at 338-6701 with questions or if you need assistance in delivering the items to the church. We hope to see you there. You just never know what items we will have and you don't want to miss out. A great time is had by all. Refreshments will be available.

We will be holding an Easter Dawn breakfast on April 24th. The breakfast will be served right after the sunrise service. If you plan to attend the Easter Dawn service or the 9:30am service please come and join us for breakfast. We have the best servers around!!! The early service will be performed by the Youth Group.

We will be collecting lemonade and ice tea for the church's coffee hour for the month of March and April. Please bring your donations to Schadewald Hall. We appreciate your donations.

Do these activities sound fun to you? If you are in the grades 5-12 we would love to have you join us. Contact Sandy, Katie Emrich or Lisa Longto or come to our next meeting on March 13, 2011.

We thank ALL of you for your support and donations; and helping to make our group a success.

Penny Social, March 25, 2011: The Youth Group is starting to collect items, new or gently used. If anyone has anything they wish to donate but cannot get to the church please contact Amy Sirni at 338-6701.



Wanted: Creativity for Christ is seeking a donation of a lockable storage cabinet with shelves. please call (Dahlia 338-0410) if you have one available. Thanks!

Missions: *"He who oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors God."* Proverbs 14:31

Our Mission Project for March is Family of Woodstock's Food Pantries. Family operates several pantries throughout Ulster County in order to assist the increasing number of hungry individuals and families facing poverty. Please help this worthy organization by using your monthly mission envelope or one in the pew. Thank you.

Linda Dux, Mission Committee Chair

WOMEN'S GUILD

This sure has been some start to the New Year. Besides the cold and snow which has hit us so hard this year, we have also lost a number of our church members. One woman in particular is Mary Kent. Mrs. Kent passed suddenly on January 23, 2011. As her family and friends mourn her passing, other people remembered her with smiles as they went to their mail boxes the Monday following her passing and found a note card from her. She touched so many lives with those notes. She will never ever know exactly how many. Also, her many years of teaching people with special needs. When I first started attending the church she came up to me saying, "Is your brother-in-law Walter Emrich?" With a puzzled expression I said, "Yes." She said that she taught him in school. With Walter having Down Syndrome, I was touched. She doesn't know what her kindness towards our family has meant as well as other families. Mrs. Kent has led our Sunshine Committee for many years. She enjoyed and wanted to do it. We thank her for all that she has done for our group and for the church over the years. She will be greatly missed. God blessed us with a great lady.

Calendar of events:

3/20/11--Butterfly Exchange & Meeting

5/1/11--Ladies Hat Sunday

5/1/11--Pot Luck Luncheon

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

Blessings,

Sandy Emrich-President

EASTER PLANTS

_____ Lilies	\$8.00
_____ Mums	\$8.00
_____ Mini Roses	\$6.00
_____ Tulips	\$6.00
_____ Daffodils	\$6.00
_____ Hyacinths	\$6.00
_____ Pansies	\$3.00



Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Please print clearly:

Placed by:

In memory of:

In honor of:

_____ I will be taking my flowers home.

_____ Please plant my flowers on the church berm of the Rail Trail.

Please make checks payable to: HRC Women's Guild.

Mail or give your order by April 3, 2011 to:

Doris Alden
236 East Drive
Hurley NY 12443

Creativity Group Development & Open Call for Art

by Dahlia Soshensky

As the Creativity for Christ group eases into its own, after nine meetings (winter storms reduced our gatherings) we wanted to share with you more specifically the goals we have whittled out for ourselves in hopes that individuals and groups will seek us out, as a helpful resource within the church community.

Everyone, at every level, also has an open invitation to **submit works** for our **interactive art/photo share** during coffee hour **April 17**, as we celebrate on Palm Sunday. Please look for and submit art share guideline sheets with your work or call Dahlia at 338-0410 for details.

Our belief is that we are all made to be "creative beings" and to acknowledge and strengthen our capacities in striving to more fully honor the person God intended for us to be.

Our goals -- our approach

We strive to use creativity -- to stretch our imaginations as we look at things in a way that uses the collaborative thoughts of all involved - to meet the needs for comfort and inspiration for those in our church family. In doing so, we hope to utilize the talents of those involved. Whatever talents one possesses -- knitting, video, drawing, cooking, building, singing, even organizing - we hope to put them to good use in a way that nourishes the Christ-centered connection we all crave.

We seek to offer individuals a satisfying way to channel and transform

expressions that may also benefit the group.

We hope to offer creative ways for church goers to meaningfully connect and start or strengthen spiritually based friendships with those outside their circles or with newcomers. In order to more easily do this, we are working on offering Christ centered items as a venue and connection opportunities to everyone.

What we do

Right now, we are working simultaneously in two ways:

1.) We nourish ourselves through prayer, creative study and artistic expression in its many forms, during our meetings. What we create is transformed into items that can be appropriately used to extend a Christian perspective to the receiver.

Please seek out our table at coffee hours after service. We have set up a table to assist the busy person to more easily fulfill his or her Christian duty in reaching out to others, who may benefit from some spiritual uplifting. At the tables you will find hand made cards, pens and postage. We encourage folks to send cards first to those recovering at home or in hospitals, unable to make it to church. Additional card packs for gifts or your personal use are available for a very reasonable price.

2.) We strive to respond to others in the church community (by invitation or our own assertion) in a personal way with the goal to inspire, comfort or promote growth.

Presently, the Christ-centered art/photo share seeks to promote

growth and connection. Although we are creating some basic art, the focus of the process is really on the sharing of the self, and making connections to those outside your circle. Similar to the cards we have started to make, we ask that each individual have a Bible scripture in mind either before or after creating a simple drawing, painting or photo. Share your scripture. If you'd like, add what it means to you. A blank sheet of paper will be posted next to your image. All viewers will have the opportunity to dialogue on paper by putting in writing to each artist any positive comments on the importance of the artwork/scripture and signing their name. This process may be an ice breaker to deeper conversation, or the start of a friendship. Perhaps you can inspire someone who needs inspiration. On the day of the show, Palm Sunday, we are celebrating the brave trip Jesus took as he anticipated doing a task that would not make Him comfortable, but was for the greater good. I hope this project speaks to you, and you bravely consider stepping outside of the box, taking a risk to know others, and be known, in the spirit of Christian fellowship -- for the greater good!

Creativity for Christ meets Wednesdays, 7:00-9:00, downstairs in room #5. Please call in advance regarding the meeting or for art share show information. Please note: you need not consider yourself artistic to participate. All the artwork done within our meetings is not from professional artists, but just those who have been brave enough to step outside the box. . .

God bless!

Hurley Reformed Church

Fish Fry

prepared by Sea-Deli

March 26, 2011

Hurley Reformed Church – Schadewald Hall

\$10.00 adults / **\$5.00** child under 12

Take-Outs Available

Reservations Required (open seating dinner)
Doors open at 4pm and close at 6:30pm

Tickets/Reservations – Call the Church 331-4121

fresh fried fish

oven browned potatoes

cole slaw

roll

beverage

brownie sundae



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

March Birthdays

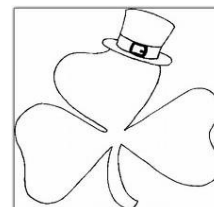
Ireland Sirni	6, '97	Angie Rockwell	19
Sage Arastiqueti	19, '05	Janet Crosswell	19
Justin Nekos	21, '00	Katrina Rubino	19
William Gaffken	23, '98	Lauren Arastiqueti	23
Logan Brennan	31, '98	Jean Marrus	24
		Christine Henning	24
		Gretchen Giles	24
		Phyllis Bliss	24
Lily Gram Collins	1	Gloria Johnson	26
Wynne Stickley-Parker	1	Mark Conlin	27
Richard Alden	2	Cathy McGraw	27
Craig Jansen	2	Jennifer Hinsdale	28
Terry Read	2	Stephen Strouse	29
Kevin Kurtz	3	Ruth Lord	30
Linda Bognar	3	Ellen Morone	31
Jack Gill	5	Bernadette Baker	31
Dennis Horvers	5	Scott DeMicco	31
Dr. Bob Gram	6		
Todd Mangiagli	6		
Marianne Mizel	7		
Elizabeth Askue	8		
Amanda Bliss Rose	9		
Barbara Sartorius	10		
Barry Rell	10		
Kim Burgess	13		
Deborah Zuill	14		
Allan Masters	14		
Ellen Stephano	14		
Frank Warren	17		
Frank Presti	17		
Joyce Pinckney	18		
Dino Sumerano	18		
Rev. Bob Vanderlaan	18		

April

Travis Horvers	2, '98
Wayne Waligurski	1
Trevor Davenport	4
Mildred Mattison	4
Hattie Drake	5
Kathy Hauck	5

Anniversaries

Jean & Jay Marrus	March 9
Emily & Art Harder	16
Charles & Sheila Jansen	25



Hurley Reformed Church

March 2011

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

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat/Sun
10:00am Bedninton (Hall) 5:00pm Dog Training (Hall) 7:00pm First Capital Corvettes 7:00pm US Power Squadron (Room 7) 7:00pm Significant Woman (Room 6) 7:00pm Little League (Room 6) 7:00pm Men's Group (Dutchkm) 7:30pm Al-non (Room 12)	March 1 9:00am Brooke BBQ (Hall) 10:30am HNS (Rm5/Hall) 4:30pm PC 101 (Dutch Rm) 7:00pm Writers Group (Room 12) 7:00pm Troop 20 (Hall) 7:00pm Bible Study (Dutchkm)	2 7:00am Bible Study (Dutchkm) 9:00am Quilting (Dutch Room) 5:30pm Dog Training (Hall) 7:00pm Creativity for Christ (Room 5) 7:00pm Troop 20 Committee (Dutchkm)	3 1:30pm Hurley Seniors (Hall) 4:45pm Dog Training (Hall) 7:00pm GS SU (Room 6) 7:30pm Choir (Dutchkm)	4 7:00pm Boy Scouts RYMC (Hall) 10:00am Skayteller (Hall) 6:30pm English Dancers (Hall)	5 10:00am Bedninton (Hall) 10:00am Genealogy (Rm 12) 1:00pm Basket Class (Hall) 5:00pm Dog Training (Hall) 7:00pm US Power Squadron (Room 7) 7:00pm Significant Woman (Room 7) 7:00pm Men's Group (Dutchkm)
10:00am Bedninton (Hall) 11:00am VFW (Dutch Rm) 5:00pm Dog Training (Hall) 7:00pm Hudson Valley Contesters & 7:00pm US Power Squadron (Room 7) 7:00pm Significant Woman (Room 7) 7:00pm Men's Group (Dutchkm) More Items...	14 10:30am HNS (Rm5/Hall) 7:00pm Writers Group (Room 12) 7:00pm Troop 20 (Hall) 7:00pm Bible Study (Dutchkm)	15 7:00am Bible Study (Dutchkm) 9:00am Quilting (Dutch Room) 5:30pm Dog Training (Hall) 7:00pm Creativity for Christ (Room 5) 7:00pm Lions (Dutch Rm) 7:30pm Overlook Radio (Rm 6) 7:30pm Radio Dvrs (Hall)	16 4:45pm Dog Training (Hall) 7:00pm Woodworkers (Hall) 7:30pm Choir (Dutchkm)	17 9:00am Bedninton (Hall) 10:00am Genealogy (Rm 12) 1:00pm Basket Class (Hall) 5:00pm Dog Training (Hall) 7:00pm US Power Squadron (Room 7) 7:00pm Significant Woman (Room 7) 7:00pm Men's Group (Dutchkm)	18 10:00am Bedninton (Hall) 11:00am VFW (Dutch Rm) 5:00pm Dog Training (Hall) 7:00pm Hudson Valley Contesters & 7:00pm US Power Squadron (Room 7) 7:00pm Significant Woman (Room 7) 7:00pm Men's Group (Dutchkm) More Items...
21 10:00am Bedninton (Hall) 10:00am Genealogy (Rm 12) 5:00pm Dog Training (Hall) 6:00pm Foundation Youth Health 7:00pm US Power Squadron (Room 7) 7:00pm Pack 20 (Hall) 7:00pm Significant Woman (Room 7) More Items...	22 10:30am HNS (Rm5/Hall) 7:00pm Writers Group (Room 12) 7:00pm Hurley Rec (Room 5) 7:00pm Troop 20 (Hall) 7:00pm Bible Study (Dutchkm)	23 7:00am Bible Study (Dutchkm) 9:00am Quilting (Dutch Room) 5:30pm Dog Training (Hall) 7:00pm Creativity for Christ (Room 5)	24 Set Up Perry Social (Hall) 7:30pm Choir (Dutchkm)	25 9:00am Set Up (Hall) 6:00pm Perry Social (Hall)	26 10:00am Bedninton (Hall) 10:00am Genealogy (Rm 12) 1:00pm Basket Class (Hall) 5:00pm Dog Training (Hall) 7:00pm US Power Squadron (Room 7) 7:00pm Significant Woman (Room 7) 7:00pm Men's Group (Dutchkm)
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CHURCH

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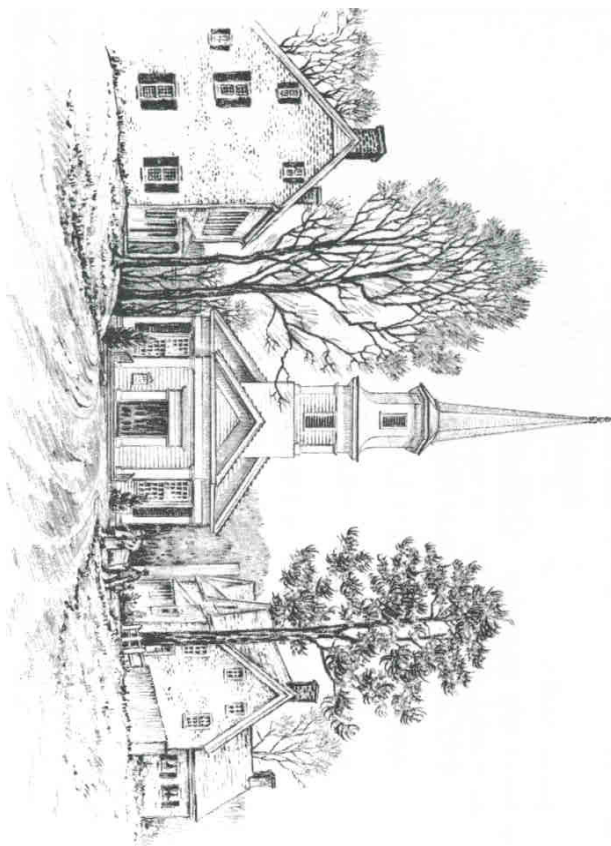
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