

HURLEY REFORMED CHURCH

THE SPIRE

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 8

OCTOBER 2011

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I've become a baseball fan in the past two years. It may have something to do with Hurley water or the peaceful pace of our little village. It may be a recessive gene which has suddenly surfaced, although no one on my father and mother's side of the family were interested in the game. I never knew my father's father, a Lutheran Pastor, whose hobby was reading theological literature. He lived very near Yankee Stadium, the Polo Grounds and Ebbet's Field, and never attended a ball game. Until recently I could understand his point of view. For most of my life I've hated baseball--particularly on television. What a slow-poke sport, I'd say to myself, and little more exciting than watching grass grow. It seems players have all the time in the world to chew tobacco, spit it out, eat crackerjacks and popcorn, and spit the husks out, look at an ump after a bad call, and spit on the turf.

Things do enliven, in those rare instants when a player does a 'Jerry Springer' and spits on the ump. And indeed there are those bench-clearing brawls which cause one's heart to beat more quickly than its usual sullen, lugubrious pace in the middle of a dull, dull game. I've always disliked the television angle of pitcher to batter. You really don't get a sense of the pitch velocity. I'd much rather have the television cameras in place behind the batter and umpire with wide angle footage thrown in on the third base line so one can witness the 90' spread be-

tween pitcher and batter as well as the speed of the ball. I'll have to take this up with Brian Cashman, the General Manager of the Yankees when we have lunch together next week!

There are other things I've always disliked about baseball. In football, and boxing, every game and every round is important. Not so in professional baseball. You play a little less than 200 games, I believe, so that, it seems, there are

throw away games. The ideal is not a knockout, as in boxing, but a time slowing, osmotic paced war of attrition. You take two steps forward and two steps back: a Texas Two Step with progress barely perceived. And yet here I am today rooting for the Yankees in a way which my younger self questions. Have I lost my marbles? Not really. In fact my baseball interest is a return to childhood. When I was a boy I loved baseball. I played Little League for as long as I could, and watched my love, the New York Giants beat the tar out of the Brooklyn Dodgers, and New York Yankees on rare, rare occasions. Disenchantment came when the Giants broke

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my heart and moved to San Francisco in the late 50's.

Now when I have spare moments, I watch baseball as well as pro football. I've become a Yankees fan, largely because their games are accessible on their own channel. I also like the 'Pinstripers' because of one player in particular, Mariano Rivera. When I was attending graduate school in uptown Manhattan several years ago, I had the opportunity to hear the greatest relief pitcher in history speak at a Hispanic church on Broadway. The subject was Jesus Christ rather than baseball. He arrived, Bible in hand, along with his wife and children. He expressed his love of Jesus, and commitment he felt to spread the Gospel. He noted that his faith was far more precious than his sterling baseball career, and that, indeed, he could not have attained the latter without the former.

I write the day after he threw his 602 save, the most in baseball history. One announcer

stated that since his arrival to the Yankees back in 1995, no player has been more valuable to this storied franchise. At the press conference yesterday, Mo, as he is called, downplayed his accomplishment. He was more concerned that his team make the playoffs, and noted that he's more comfortable below rather than above the radar. It appears he's not a spotlight seeker. Most significant for me was his refrain when asked about the reasons for his remarkable 15 year career in the majors. "By the mercy of God" he repeated again and again. Flanked by his children, he expressed matter of factly the source of his strength and brilliance. By the mercy of God. There were many reporters in the room, and commentators outside it. Not one asked him to say more about his faith. God's mercy was ignored, overlooked, cast aside as, perhaps, the one unappealing aspect of the great pitcher, and a source of embarrassment to the mavens of the secular media. Stick to baseball, Mo!

It's a sad state of affairs when Christian belief has become

an issue one shouldn't discuss in polite society. Writing in the late 50's English sociologist, Geoffrey Gorer noted that people in his era treated death and dying the way Victorians treated the subject of sexuality: It was swept under the rug. In the 50's and 60's people dared not mention the word 'cancer' in polite society. It, too, was vacuumed from social consciousness. Now a social faux pas if not a sin is to say one is a Christian--except if you're a politician on the national stage--and to attribute whatever success one has to the grace and mercy of a loving God, and his Savior Son, Jesus.

The apostle Paul was not an athlete, but he employs athletic metaphors in his letters. But I think he may have touched what Mo experiences, but which cannot be expressed fully for fear of being laughed off stage. "Athletes exercise control in all things; they do it to receive a perishable wreath; but we an imperishable one." 1 Corinthians 9:25

In Christ's service,
Doc Bob

Contemporary Praise and Worship

Held the First Sunday of the Month



Featuring: **"The Stillwell Project"**

Schadewald Hall, Hurley Reformed Church

6:00pm

Our mission is to bring the life-changing message of the Gospel to people in our local area who seek to know God. We will do this through contemporary music and biblical teachings which are relevant to a modern generation.

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

The new Columbarium is stunning. The black panels simulate the windows of the church and it's stature represents the solid foundation we have in God. It is for all to enjoy. Visit the area and feel God's love.

Step-by-step the finishing touches are being completed. The selection of final resting places is done, and the engraving of the black granite plates is in the works. Our committee is dedicated to serving your needs. Stickley Gardens is a place to remember, a place to get quiet, a place to be comforted, a place to feel God's love.

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)

BIRTHDAYS

October

Kyle Davenport	2, '01
Thomas Bell	2, '09
Hannah Shambo	8, 03
Sierra Butler	15, '98
Jasper Fox, Jr.	19, '10
Ryan Milne	20, '06
Kelsey Christiana	24, '95
Julia Helm	27, '02
Jordan Cline	28, '96
Sandra Gregory	1
Lucas Hopper	2
Amy Ryan	2
Christa Conlin	3
Leigh Hill	4
Alissa Sumerano	5
Muriel Ferraro	6



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
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
Betty & Jim Pirro	30
Jerry Fink	7
William Henning	7
Patrick Tucker	8
Charlotte Gill	9
Terry Gaffken	10
Steve Bliss	10
Eric Sullivan	10
Stanley Brooks	14
Marilyn More	15
Diana Cline	17
Lorraine Denis	18
Nita Rockwell	20
Ron Chrisey	20
Julia Tucker	21
Katie Christiana	22
Sarah Harder	22
Linda Cook	25
Helen Webber	26
Nancy Sweeney	28



Youth Group

We're beginning Youth Group once again! Can you believe that it's already October?! We held our first meeting and started to plan new and exciting activities for the year.

In October and November we will collect Thanksgiving items for the six Thanksgiving baskets we make for needy families. Donations can be any food item you would find at your table on Thanksgiving Day! Grocery stores often give away turkeys during this season. We would be happy to have them. Collection is ongoing through 11/13/11. All donations should be put in the

food collection box in Schadewald Hall. Thank you for helping families' holidays a little bit brighter!

To help off set the cost of these Thanksgiving baskets we will bake and sell Thanksgiving Breads. Please watch for the pre-order sale as we do sell out very quickly and wouldn't want you to miss out.

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

Hurley Reformed Youth Group

Upcoming Activities

10/2/11 Youth group Meeting right after church

10/15/11 Youth Group only sleepover 6pm till 9am

11/6/11 Youth group meeting right after church

11/13/11 Last collection day for the Thanksgiving Baskets

11/19/11 9am Bake Thanksgiving breads; assemble Thanksgiving Baskets; erect Giving Tree

11/20/11 Thanksgiving Bread Sale right after church

Weekly Bible Study

Tuesday Evening @
7:00pm

Or

Wednesday Morning @
7:00am

Discussing the Apostle Paul's 1st Letter to the church at Thessalonica

Where: Dutch Room



Local Mission Projects

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

Thanks to everyone who answered the call when asked. In September you generously contributed more than \$1,500 to the Mid-Hudson Valley American Red Cross to be used to help our neighbors devastated by Hurricane Irene.

You also contributed clothing which was taken to the Phoenicia/Margaretville area, toilet articles (lots of toothpaste, toothbrushes, body soap, deodorant, shampoo and lotions) toilet paper, and paper towels. All these items were delivered to Prattsville and Schoharie, two extremely hard hit communities. Your love, concern prayers and donations are making a difference in these peoples lives.



October Missions

The money collected in the October mission envelopes will go to the Hurley Fire Department Women's Auxiliary Loan Closet Fund. The community benefits from the home care equipment loaned out to those in need and the ladies would like to update their inventory and replace outdated items for your use. Thanks for assisting them in this project.

Linda Dux, Mission Committee Chair

Have you signed up yet? The Ladies Tea is this Saturday, Oct 1st. Enjoy the music of special guest Ricki Herb and hear what's new for woman at Hurley this year. Tickets are just \$5. Sign up today at coffee hour.

Woman of all ages are invited to take part in the Woman to Woman Mentoring ministry. If you have felt a nudge to be a mentor in another Christian woman's life, or have been feeling a need to talk with another woman who will encourage and support you, then

WOMEN & FAITH

this program is for you. Stop by our table at coffee hour or contact Karen at 339-4908 to complete a profile card. Program begins on October 24th @7:00 at the church

Are you "Loving Well"? Join us for first Loving Well retreat, featuring a DVD series by Beth Moore. It will be Friday Nov 4th 5:30PM - 9:00PM

and Sat Nov 5th 8AM - 2:00PM. The cost is \$35. Continental breakfast and lunch is included. Tickets available at coffee hour; last date for sign up is Oct. 23rd. See Karen Schiff for details or call 339-4908.

Women's Guild

We held our first meeting in September and are off and running. We are a busy group of ladies.

The Guild is making a donation to the church to purchase 12 tables & 10 card tables for Schadewald Hall plus a stand up freezer for the kitchen. We are so thrilled to be able to do this for the church. Thank you for supporting our activities to help make these purchases possible.

At our September meeting we also voted to give \$500 to the Caring Hands Soup Kitchen in Kingston to assist them in their diminishing supplies. Due to the recent storms more and more people have been going to them for food and they are wiped out. We are thrilled that we could help them continue to help others.

Calendar:

10/23/11—General Meeting and Executive Committee meeting to discuss benevolence giving

11/8/11—Turkey Dinner bake sale

11/20/11--Meeting

2/11/11—Cookie Walk



We are in need of jewelry—more specifically jewelry that you have haven't worn in months or years or don't really like. Please give these items to Shirley Ruth. We sell jewelry several times a year and our supplies are running low.

Due to the rising cost of pecans we decided to discontinue our Pecan Sale fundraiser.

We invite all women of the church to be apart of the Women's Guild. Church membership is not a requirement. We meet right after church in the Dutch Room. Come see what we are all about!

Blessings,
Sandy Emrich, President

Annual Election Day

Turkey Dinner

Tuesday

November 8, 2011

Seatings:

4:30, 5:30, 6:30



Tickets

Adults: \$12.00

Children Under 12: \$5.00



Hurley Reformed Church

For Reservations

Call: 331-4121



Clean Up Day

October 22, 2011

9:00am - 12:00noon

Needed: Painters - Rakers - Leaf Blowers

General Clean Up

See Jim Pirro for more information.

HURLEY REFORMED
CHURCH

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

WE'RE ON THE WEB:

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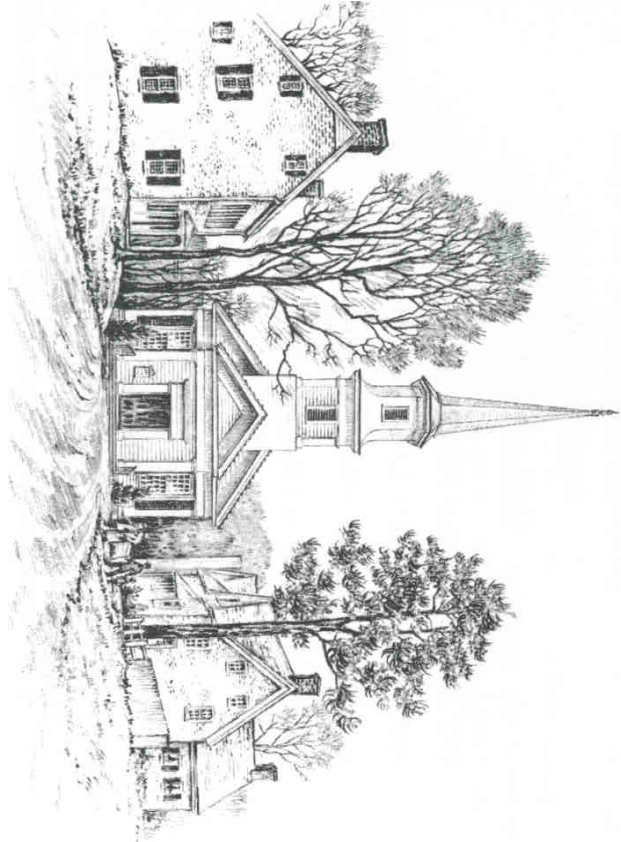
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