

HURLEY REFORMED CHURCH

THE SPIRE

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 7

SEPTEMBER 2011

Ozymandias

by Percy Bysshe Shelley
(1792-1822)

*I met a traveler from an antique land
Who said: Two vast and trunkless legs of stone
Stand in the desert. Near them, on the sand,
Half sunk, a shattered visage lies, whose frown,
And wrinkled lip, and sneer of cold command,
Tell that its sculptor well those passions read
Which yet survive, stamped on these lifeless things,
The hand that mocked them, and the heart that fed;
And on the pedestal these words appear:
"My name is Ozymandias, king of kings:
Look on my works, ye Mighty, and despair!"
Nothing beside remains. Round the decay
Of that colossal wreck, boundless and bare
The lone and level sands stretch far away*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Recently I spent educational leave time in Turkey, visiting all seven of the ancient cities which the writer John, author of the Revelation, addressed in his magnificent Apocalypse. I also visited Perge, which is not among the seven, but does score a brief biblical reference: It was the first city Paul visited in Turkey, what was then called Asia Minor, after he

began his first missionary journey in Cypress. We also visited several ancient sites, Side and Aphrodisias, which are not mentioned in Scripture.

I traveled with three couples, all about my age or a bit older, and all Christians, three of whom were pastors. Before every meal we held hands and said grace, a somewhat uncommon sight, I imagine, in a land dotted with mosques and minarets. We started in Antalya, a beautiful city which fronts the Aegean Sea, and whose backdrop are pyramidal peaks, reminiscent of the Alps, known as the Taurus range. We traveled in a northeastern direction, mostly inland, heading toward our final destination, Istanbul. We were accommodated in a brand new Mercedes minivan. I've never been more thankful for auto air conditioning, since the thermometer, for the first four days of the journey, never dipped below 105 degrees --in the shade. Along with the downward spiral of American and European economies, the heat proved advantageous, I believe, in one respect: It kept tourists away, particularly from lesser known sites. In Aphrodisias, Perge, Sardis, and Laodicea, we wan-

*Nothing remains
of the rich and
powerful except
marble busts whose
names the world
has forgotten.*

(Continued on page 2)

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dered the great stone cobbled Roman roads alone. In relative solitude it was easy to imagine great sweep of an ancient metropolis, the swarm of voices buying and selling in agoras, the ear deafening, concussive war hoop in amphitheaters, holding 20 or 30,000 fans as Christians were fed to lions or impaled on gladiators' swords. (Early Christians refused to fight in gladiatorial contests, and so were martyred without a struggle.)

Adjacent to a few sites were small museums which were captivating. I've never seen one in which foreign archeologists are acknowledged for the work they've done in excavating, and curating great antiquities. A photo of the scholar accompanies a laudatory biography. Another wonderful wrinkle: The written descriptions of many artifacts stolen by other countries, and then returned -- often after acrimonious law suits -- are spelled out so that the visitor is aware of

the perpetrators; the countries and their museums are both subtly taken to task. What I liked most about these museums, however, is the combination of energy saving and aesthetics. There are some magnificent statues of the gods, particularly Dionysus, Apollo, and Diana. Windows were narrow or lacking in some halls, allowing little natural light. Thus a statue would be veiled in shadow, until one approached. Then lights would click on suddenly, and the statue would be backlit in a way which allowed me to understand the devotion of 1st Century pagan worshipers who often approached their god or goddess in the relative darkness of a temple.

I intend to do a slide show one of these Sundays of my Turkish travel. Let me share a few insights I gleaned from my trip:

First, I have greater appreciation for the religions which Christianity competed. Often in earlier studies, it has been stated that pagan relig-

ion was pro forma and not conducive to the devotion we see in Christianity. You offered a sacrifice at the altars of Apollo or Zeus ritualistically, and then moved on to really important matters. In examining the statuary, mosaics, and ruined temples, it appears to me that there was, seemingly, great love for the various gods, especially those who founded or protected an ancient city. It was interesting to view ancient pagan sarcophagi embossed with the head of Apollo, the god responsible for spiriting dead souls to heaven. Nevertheless the reality of death, and loss was never minimized in these stone coffins which were often decorated with friends, family, and the loves of the deceased. Our native guide, Shanai, kept noting that early Christianity was initially a 'hard sell' in Turkey because a variety of mother goddesses predated Paul's sojourn for more than a millenium. Early Church history states that Jesus' mother, Mary, lived with John, the author of the Fourth Gospel, near Ephesus.

(Continued on page 4)

*Believing in yourself,
is an endless destination.
Believing you
have failed, is the
end of your journey.*

-Sarah Meredith

Contemporary Praise and Worship

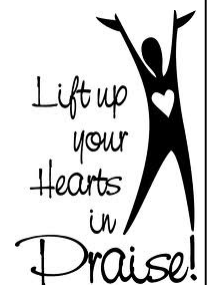
Featuring: **"The Stillwell Project"**

Sunday, October 2, 2011, 6:00pm

Hurley Reformed Church, Schadewald Hall

Held the First Sunday of the Month

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 here and it is beautiful! It compliments the area and feels substantial. We are now in the process of getting the niche covers engraved. Come visit!

It is a quiet place, this place in the garden. A shaded place, where flowers bloom. It is a restful place, touched by the best of earth & peace above. It is a place where you can sit in peace, where God is. He blesses all of those here. Come visit...

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



Rachel Gardner	Sept. 1, '94		Bill & Karen Hogg	4
Lindsay Woodard	2, '94		Ken & Stacy Schoonmaker	7
Bailey Jordan	3, '01		Dennis & Mimi Crowell	11
Jaime Winnie	6, '96		Bill & Jane Merrill	13
Bradley Horvers	6, '94	Phil Greer	John & Debbie Tucker	14
Halie Brennan	6, '96	17	Jay & Kim Burgess	17
Elizabeth Mergl	10, '08	Ron Every	Lori Decker	22
Daniella Helsley	14, '01	19	Tim & Karen Schiff	22
Colin Rowdycz	18, '09	20	Dennis & Donna Horvers	23
Kellen Hauck	19, '94	22	Dean & Bernadette Baker	23
Tessa Hauck	19, '97	23	Thomas & Alice Bell	23
Marissa Rell	20, '06	23	Jean & Henry Dussol	24
Brady Szekeres	24, '03	24	Janet & Bill Briggs	25
Isabella LaFiandra	30, '01	24		
Cody Harder	2	Alice Presti	Kyle Davenport	Oct. 2, '01
Cindy Sumerano	3	24	Thomas Bell	2, '09
Russ Glass	4	Charles Woodard	Sandra Gregory	1
Melinda Herzog	6	26	Lucas Hopper	2
Karen Schiff	7	27	Amy Ryan	2
Wayzeta Stickley-Strouse	9	28	Christa Conlin	3
Fred Horvers	10	28	Janet Briggs	4
Ellen Peters	11	29	Leigh Hill	4
		30	Alissa Sumerano	5
		Mark & Beth Woodard	Sept. 2	

(Continued from page 2)

Her presence may have helped the residents of Asia Minor move toward Christianity, particularly as Mary became divinized in later centuries.

Second, the 1st Century Roman world was much like ours. Bread and circuses reigned, and people needed to be entertained constantly. Sports, plays, gladiatorial contests were stock in trade, and not simply on the weekends. Amphitheaters, arenas, and stadiums were open and packed throughout the week. Gymnasiums, dedicated to physical fitness and well being, were huge structures, dominating the ancient city 'skyline'. People loved water, and the Nymphaeum was a way to worship marine goddesses, along with developing your backstroke. In Hierapolis, one of the cities addressed by the writer of Revelation, Marc Antony and Cleopatra, swam and cavorted in a public pool which is still in use for tourists today.

Third, we share similarities with the Roman world because of our need for community. Isolation was a terrifying word for the ancients as it is for us today. We communicate via Facebook, Twitter, and the ubiquitous cell phone where we can talk, text, send pictures etc. The only thing a cell phone can't do is wash dishes. Give the companies a year, however, and they may indeed create domestic uses for our ubiquitous 'friend'! The ancients did not possess our technology so they resorted to mingling at public baths, large urban courtyards, and forums. In Ephesus, where the apostle Paul resided for two years, there were long rows of public latrines where socializing occurred. Often musicians would play in the bathrooms, encouraging people to stick around and do their 'business', in more ways than one. Community was also stressed in Aesclepium, the forerunner of our hospitals. Aesclepius was the god of healing and health, and many cities provided medical services in his name. In Perga-

mum, another city addressed in Revelation, one of the more famous hospitals took patients from around the Mediterranean world. The approach was indeed community oriented and holistic. One got better by studying and attending lectures in the hospital library, worshipping at the hospital Temple, and taking leisurely strolls on the beautiful column lined hospital road where one could communicate with physicians and other patients. You would enter a hospital tunnel, upon admission, and a variety of priest-doctors, would stand on top of the tunnel, and communicate through square grates that you weren't as sick as you thought, and that the answer for healing was 'mind over matter'. Sounds like Woodstock thinking to me!

Finally, my tour reminded me of the staying power of Christianity. In museums I saw the busts of great men and women. There were huge heads of various gods, as well as Roman emperors who ruled in the period of Jesus and Paul, as well as in the latter part of the 1st Century when John wrote the book of Revelation. Nothing remains of the rich and powerful except marble busts whose names the world has forgotten. They were, like Ozymandius, king of kings, and their works and deeds were known throughout the Hellenistic world. The greatest historical paradox is that itinerant preacher Paul, and the crucified 'criminal' he served have claimed history, although, in the 1st Century of the Christian era, Paul was virtually unknown, and Jesus may have been no more than another name on a police blotter in Rome, one of many who had been executed in the far flung province of Palestine during the reign of Governor Pontius Pilate. What is of eternal value lasts, doesn't it? The words of the prophet Isaiah rings true: "All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades... but the word of our God will last forever" Isaiah 40:6-8.

In Christ's service,
Doc Bob

This is true obedience . . . To obey even when there is no certainty that God will provide an escape.

- Allan Boesak, South African minister

Youth Group

Where did the summer go? It went by very quickly! We are well rested and can't wait to get started!

Back in June we held a car wash at Stage One Auto on Rt. 9W in Lake Katrine. This was a fund raiser for our local ASPCA. We washed cars and sold hot dogs and pop corn. We raised \$566 for the ASPCA. Thank you for your support!

On June 18th we went on a bus trip to Six Flags New England. The weather was great and we all had a wonderful time!

There will be a meeting on Sept. 11th right after church to discuss and plan our upcoming year. It is sure going to be an exciting one. New ideas are ALWAYS welcome.

If you are in grades 5-12 you can join the Youth Group. The Youth Group isn't just for church mem-

bers so bring your friends. All are welcome. Also, parent(s) are asked to attend meetings. Can't wait to see you all there!!

Sandy & Katie Emrich and Lisa Longto

YG Co-Leaders

Upcoming Activities

9/11 Meeting, Room 9



We would like to express our gratitude to our church family for their kindness and support at Athena's passing. To our ministers, present and

emeritus, the ladies who prepared the luncheon, those that sent a note, those that extended their arms in embrace, and those who were simply a reassuring presence, thank you all. The smallest gesture carries great weight at these times, and every act of grace you shared was received with thanksgiving.

The Groelle and Sumerano Families

Thank You from Sojourner Truth -

It is with a heart of gratitude that I thank the people who perform with me during the, "Ain't I A Woman Speech" each year! Shirley Ruth as Mrs. Gage, Pat Baker as a member of the women's coalition, Elizabeth Askue as the announcer, Rev. Gram as the preacher. They do an excellent job! Last year Hal Hauck and I did an interview at one of the Stone houses and this year we did it after the speech. Hal Hauck is just great as Brian Newsworthy! I am truly blessed to have such a crew! I hope all of you enjoy it as much as we do! See you next year!

Debbie Zuill

On-Going Mission Project

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

If you have been to church this summer or in the parking lot you have noticed the usable clothing donation shed in the rear parking lot. Along with our "partner," St. Pauly Textiles, who provided the shed and collect the used clothing, we are providing good clothing to those in the US and throughout the world who need



it. St. Paulys pays us .04/lb and then sells it cheaply (pennies per pound) to relief agencies in the US and other countries who distribute it to people in need.

We are also helping the environment by keeping clothing out of the land fill. The clothing is never shredded or used for rags so be assured that someone will be wearing your donations. We have already received a check for \$204.00 for three pick-ups in July. Thank you for assisting this mission and fund raising effort of the consistory. You are people who "keep on giving."

Linda Dux

Mission Committee Chair

Layman's Ten Commandments

-from the Internet

1. Prayer is not a "spare wheel" that you pull out when in trouble, but it is a "steering wheel" that directs the right path throughout.
2. So a Car's WINDSHIELD is so large & the Rear view Mirror is so small? Because our PAST is not as important as our FUTURE. So, Look Ahead and Move on.
3. Friendship is like a BOOK. It takes few seconds to burn, but it takes years to write.
4. All things in life are temporary. If going well, enjoy it, they will not last forever. If going wrong, don't worry, they can't last long either.
5. Old Friends are Gold! New Friends are Diamond! If you get a Diamond, don't forget the Gold! Because to hold a Diamond, you always need a Base of Gold!
6. Often when we lose hope and think this is the end, GOD smiles from above and says, "Relax,

SUNDAY
CHURCH
SCHOOL



Every
Sunday

10:00am

Classes for all ages:
Pre-K through Senior High

Fall Start-up:
September 11, 2011

Invite your friends!

Weekly Bible Study Resumes

COME JOIN OUR

BIBLE September 13
Tuesday Evening
7:00pm
Study Or



September 14

Wednesday Morning

7:00am

Location: Dutch Room

sweetheart, it's just a bend, not the end!

7. When GOD solves your problems, you have faith in HIS abilities; when GOD doesn't solve your problems HE has faith in your abilities.
8. A blind person asked St. Anthony: "Can there be anything worse than losing eye sight?" He replied: "Yes, losing your vision!"
9. When you pray for others, God listens to you and blesses them, and sometimes, when you are safe and happy, remember that someone has prayed for you.
10. WORRYING does not take away tomorrow's TROUBLES, it takes away today's PEACE.

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)

Beginning in October at the Hurley Reformed Church we are again offering women an opportunity to be part of a wonderful program; our

Woman to Woman Mentoring Ministry.

“Mentoring requires no special talent, or God-given quality. All God asks is for us to take seriously the task of mentoring and building up other women.”
Lucibel Van Atta

Women of all ages are welcome. If you feel God’s nudge to be a mentor and share in another woman’s life by using what God has done in your life to encourage her to walk as a Christian woman...

OR

If you have been feeling the need to talk to another Christian woman who has “been in your shoes” and wants to support and encourage you as a mentee at this time in your Christian life...

Please contact Karen Schiff at 339-4908 or stop by the table at coffee hour to receive more information and to fill out a profile card.

4th Annual Hurley Reformed Church Golf Tournament

A great day on 7/13/11 on the Alapaha Links in spite of the 90 degree temps. Even Dr. Gram had a good time! The winners of the 4th Annual Golf Tournament with a low score of 28, were the team of Terry Conlin, Mark Conlin, Kelly Sims, and Julie Conlin.

Closest to the pin on #1 for the ladies was Jacki Pirro Whipple at 6’3”. The men failed to reach the pin on #2. The longest drive on #6 for the ladies was won by Sonnie Howe and for the men it was won by Gary Brandt.

It was great fun followed by a tasty buffet at the Hurley Mountain Inn with lots of prizes including the Good Sport Award which went to Linda Dido.

Would you be interested in another golf day in the fall? If so, let me know. Thanks for participating!

Natalie Woodard



Women’s Guild

Welcome Fall? Already? It seems like summer just started and now we are in September. How quickly the months go by.



The Guild has been busy with many different activities these past few months. We took part in Stone House Day with a bake sale and a quilt raffle as well as catered a luncheon for 130 people for the Ostrander

Family Reunion. Thank you to everyone that assisted with these events to make them a huge success.

We will hold a kick off meeting on 9/18. Don’t forget to bring your calendars and ideas on what you would like us to do in the upcoming year.

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

Blessings,
Sandy Emrich, President



Come join us for a fun-filled weekend as we learn how to love well. Through video we will hear from best-selling author and teacher Beth Moore, enjoy fun and fellowship with other women, laugh our heads off, shed a few tears, eat, make new friends, and enjoy old friends. This is a weekend you don't want to miss!

SAVE THE DATES

Friday evening, November 4th

&

Saturday, November 5th

at Hurley Reformed Church

Any questions contact Karen Schiff at
339-4908.

Ladies Tea

Saturday, October 1st

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

at Hurley Reformed Church

Fall introduction of :

Loving Well Retreat

Woman to Woman Mentoring

The Significant Woman

Creativity for Christ

Music and Song with Ricky Herb

For additional information contact Karen Schiff.



Hurley Reformed Church, US Holidays

5 Sep 2011 (Eastern Time)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11am - Worship ☼ 5pm - Dog Training ☼ 7pm - Little League ☼ 7pm - US Power 7:30pm - 1st Capital 7:30pm - Albanon ☼	4:30pm - PC 101 ☼ 7pm - Boy Scouts Troop 7pm - Men's Group ☼	8:30pm - Dog Training 7pm - Boy Scouts Troop 7pm - Men's Group ☼	4:30pm - Dog Training 6:30pm - Girl Scout 6:30pm - Half Moon 7pm - Half Moon Lodge	1:30pm - Hurley Senior 4:30pm - Dog Training		10am - Genealogy ☼
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Practice Day	11am - VFW ☼ Church 5pm - Dog Training ☼ 7pm - Consistory ☼ 7pm - Hudson Valley 7pm - US Power 7:30pm - Albanon ☼	9am - Hillside Acres 10am - Warwick Bands 7pm - Boy Scouts Troop	8:30pm - Dog Training 7pm - Men's Group ☼	4:30pm - Dog Training 7pm - NE WoodWorkers		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
10am - Women's ☼ 11am - Women's Guild	10am - Genealogy ☼ 5pm - Dog Training ☼ 6pm - Youth Health 7pm - Cub Scout Pack 7pm - US Power 7:30pm - Albanon ☼	7pm - Boy Scouts Troop	8:30pm - Dog Training 7pm - Hurley Lions ☼ 7pm - Men's Group ☼	4:30pm - Dog Training 7pm - Hurley Heritage		
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
10am - Worship ☼ 5pm - Dog Training ☼ 7pm - US Power 7:30pm - Albanon ☼	10:30am - Genealogy ☼ 5pm - Dog Training ☼ 7pm - US Power 7:30pm - Albanon ☼	7pm - Boy Scouts Troop 7pm - SCLC ☼ Room 12	8:30pm - Dog Training 7pm - Men's Group ☼	4:30pm - Dog Training	9am - Flu Clinic ☼ Hall 4pm - Set Up for	

HURLEY REFORMED
CHURCH

PO Box 328
11 Main Street
Hurley NY 12443

Phone: 845-331-4121
Fax: 845-331-4153

E-mail: admin@HurleyReformedChurch.org

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

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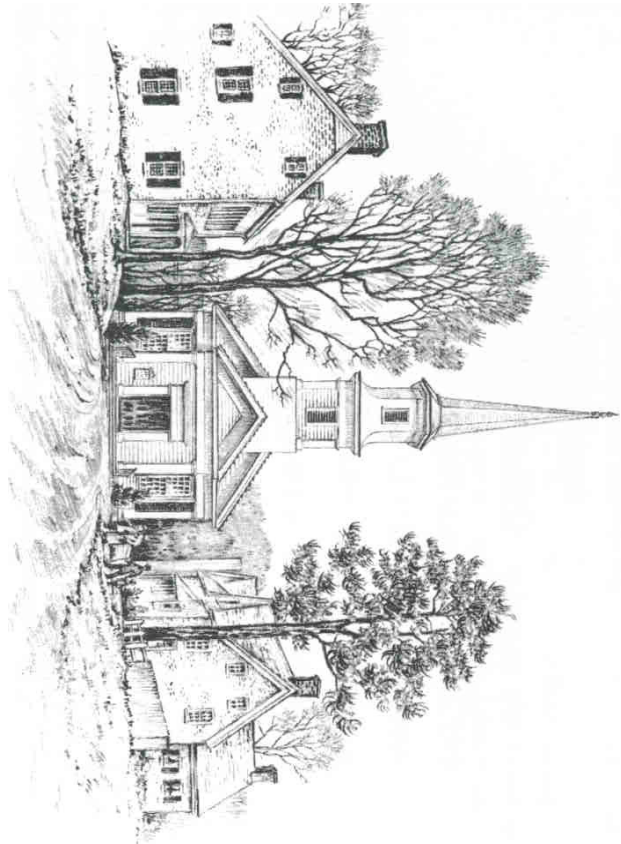
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