

THE SPIRE

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 5 MAY 2012

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In late March I spent nine days in Turkey, my second junket there in less than a year. Turkey is a vast and beautiful country; its seaside coast winds around mountainous terrain, and the food, particularly in southern Turkey, is the best. The Turks call natural what we call organic; the soil is so rich in southern coastal areas near the city of Antalya that fertilizer and chemicals are simply unnecessary. Local village squares often display huge statues of tomatoes, cucumbers, squash, oranges etc. to alert tourists that nothing beats home-grown vegetables and fruit. Farms are expanding vacant land to grow pomegranate trees because of the health food demand in England and America. Recently Turkey has become the second largest exporter of this anti-oxidant champ.

I went to explore two areas which I had missed on my trip last August. I had spent time in the southern coastal city of Antalya whose old city, back-dropped by the grand vertical cliffs of the Taurus mountains and overlooking the blue Aegean, is one of the most beautiful places on earth. I wanted to explore several ancient cities which were off the beaten track, and find the remains of ancient

churches, unheralded in tourist brochures. One day my guide, driver and myself visited Termessos, an ancient city perched high on a mountain. It was one of the few cities which Alexander the Great could not conquer on his march eastward. The highest theater in the ancient world is found at Termessos, at nearly 7500'. One has to do some hiking to arrive at the upper city, but the views more than justify the effort. There were few visitors the day we arrived, and we had time to walk around the lower city which is dominated by cemeteries, and a vast gate to the Temple of Artemis. My guide and I discovered the remains of a 4th Century Byzantine church, disguised in a tangle of vines, and small deciduous trees. In late afternoon we descended the mountain to the silent city of Olympos whose greatly diminished estuary once flowed into the Aegean. As dusk approached we discovered the ruins of another ancient 4th Century church covered with ivy, and lost in a thicket of shrubs and overhanging trees. Today Olympos is interesting because you can buy or rent a tree house where people can and do retire!

Making our way West along the southern coast, we explored a number of ancient cities where

tourist buses were never seen: We wandered around Patara, a major player in what was once called the Lycian League where democracy began on a regional basis. Towns would send repre-

We need far
less than we
think to be
happy.

sentatives to Patara to discuss the issues of the day, and vote for a common future. We visited Xanthos, which the Persians conquered on their way West to a showdown with ancient Greece. The warriors of Xanthos fought the invaders to the very last man, and when the upper city was about to be taken, every woman, some clutching their children, dove from great heights into the river, and drowned. We explored Letoon, the birthplace, in some accounts, of both Artemis and her brother Apollo. Once a thriving worship center Letoon holds the bare foundations of the pagan god, goddess, and their human mother Leto. There is now a lake surrounding the foundations. We

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

traveled as far West as the city of Fethiye. It is a resort area, aside one of the largest harbors in Turkey. The city is ringed by snow covered mountains.

Before traveling to southern Turkey I landed in the central region of the country, an area known as Cappadocia. Geographically it is one of the most fascinating places on earth, and has been designated a World Heritage Sight by UNESCO. More than 10 million years ago three volcanoes erupted, dropping lava, mud and ash over the region. Tufa, the soft porous rock, which the volcanoes left in their wake, was sculpted by wind and water to create astounding needles, spires and cones, some as high as five stories. Some look like long stemmed mushrooms because harder basalt stone seems to have magically rested on top of the spires. Initially Hittites, who lived 4000 years before the birth of Christ, created caves in which to live. They also tunneled into the soft earth, and founded underground cities, which were maze-like, and resemble the switchback labyrinths of ant colonies. At a later date early Chris-

tians also occupied these underground cities, and it was fascinating to find the subterranean ruin of a 3rd Century church three hundred feet below the surface in the ancient city of Kaymakli.

Most exciting for me were the hermit caves of the Goreme and Soganli Valleys which eventually morphed into stone churches where sarcophagi about ancient altars and beautiful frescoes grace the sides and ceilings of these small, ancient areas of worship. In one interesting fresco, Jesus has gray hair; in another he is androgynous, displaying both male and female parts. We know very little about the 3rd and 4th Century hermits because they left no written record, unlike the contemporary Egyptian hermits whose later followers, with stylus always at the ready, wrote down the sometimes wacky aphorisms of the desert mothers and fathers. The hermits of Cappadocia left no records. They secluded themselves in caves to escape persecution, and did... what? Pray and meditate, I suppose. One afternoon my guide and I hiked one side of the Soganli Valley, a narrow rift between two 4000' mesas. The sky was a deep blue. We were alone. We ex-

plored several stone churches, some no larger than my church office, and all vacated 2000 years ago. One finds sarcophagi in these small turret-like dwellings, the last earthly dwelling of its early inhabitants. It was a splendid day, one of the best days of my life. I felt steeped in the Christian tradition which I love. I felt joined to nameless brothers and sisters who kept faith alive so that I might inherit it. The empty spaces of the churches, and their location reminded me that happiness can truly be discovered in solitude, and melding with the natural beauty which surrounds. We need far less than we think to be happy. The Soganli Valley, and their ancient, and anonymous Christian occupants, whose names are written in the book of life, just as mine and yours will be, reminds me that we are a an infinitesimal speck of a wonderful ongoing movement which is steeped in history, and which, one day, will transcend history. May we understand that we, too, are important in the ongoing continuum of Christianity.

In Christ's service,

Doc Bob



New Members will be taken in on June 3rd. If you are interested in membership please see Dr. Gram.

Please save your baskets (any size) and vases (any size) to be used for Hurley Corn and Craft Fair and give to Ellen Richards. If you are spring cleaning, or planning to move, please keep her in mind.

eSpire: In order to save money and reduce our impact on the environment, you may now receive The Spire by Email. Please request electronic distribution by sending your request to TheSpire@HurleyReformedChurch.org. If you no longer wish to receive the Spire please let us know at the same email address and we will remove you from our mailing list.

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

HE DOES IT ONCE AGAIN.... God gives us all kinds of reminders as the trees bud, the flowers are in bloom, the songs of birds fill the air... **Re-creation!** God touches His creation and new life springs forth all around us but also in His promise to us. Take a moment at the Columbarium to sit and reflect upon all that He shares with us... in life and in the promise of new life.

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)
SANDI GREGORY (338-7626) • DIANA CLINE (338-7276) CONSISTORY LIAISON • REV STICKLEY SECRETARY

A SACRED PLACE OF BEAUTY AND CONTEMPLATION. (LOCATED ON THE SOUTH LAWN OF THE CHURCH)

Birthdays

Cole Jordan	May 1, '96
Mikayla Mellin	2, '96
Jonathan Helsley	5, '05
George Nekos, Jr.	5, '11
Ricki Maggiore	27, '94
Mackenzie Schoonmaker	28, '99
Terry Conlin	2
Kristen Helm	2
Lori Baker	3
Faye McLane Jansen	4
Gil Hoppenstedt	4
Kathy Burns	4
Elizabeth Wilson	7
Dolores McGoldrick	8
Jayne Ulrich	10

Marilyn Cox
Charles Jansen
Robin Brennan
Barbara Hornbeck
May Kowalenko
Kathleen Mayfield
Les Frost
Ruth Harkin
Jo Sullivan
Dave Baker
Linda Shook
Brian Donnelly
Jerry Wyncoop
Gordon Kent
Su Wonderly
Joseph Orlando

Anniversaries

11	Jim & Sheila Craven	May 5
11		
14	Glenn & Debbie Decker	6
14		
15	Kathy & Bob Pfeiffer	6
15	Elaine & David Szekeres	8
15		
16	Christa & Terry Conlin	9
16	Marilyn & John More	9
17	Alice & Frank Presti	10
22	Janet & Jake Croswell	13
26	Joe & Kathy Burns	15
28	Wayne & Karen Waligurski	20
30	Christine & Bill Henning	22
June 1	Donna & Peter Harder	30
2	Rich & Angie Rockwell	June 4
5, '07		

Missions

"What you have done for the least of these you have done for me." Matthew 25:40

Rural & Migrant Ministry's 23rd Anniversary Summer Camp: RMM's Summer Camp, funded entirely through private donors and foundations, began in 1989 for rural and migrant children, many of whom were either in summer school, working or migrating and would not have had such an opportunity. Day

camps in three communities and a one week over-night camp, welcomes over 200 campers, age 8-18. Along with the usual camping activities of games, arts, crafts, music and sports, all campers take an exciting trip annually to a place the children would otherwise not experience, such as the beach, an aquarium or water park. You can help make this summer an unforgettable experience for these children by contributing in your mission envelope or one in the pew.

Thank you,
Linda Dux, Mission Committee Chair

Youth Group

Our Easter dawn service and breakfast was wonderful. The Youth Group did a great job leading the service and the breakfast was delicious. Thank you to the Maggiore Family, the Hauck Family, the Butler Family and the Herzog Family for working the kitchen. Great job to everyone who helped make the morning a special one.

Our May and June food pantry collection is coffee, lemonade or iced tea for our coffee hours. Please help us support our coffee hours as our stock is getting low. Thank you for your support.

Next - a few weeks ago 25 youth and adults attended the annual Spring Fling at Camp Warwick. We were part of the largest group they have had with a total of 210 in

attendance for the weekend. During the weekend we explored what our fears are, what makes us afraid and what the love of God means to us. We had a good time singing songs, participating in many different activities and hanging out with each other. The weather held out so we were able to do all of the activities. We thank Dennis Horvers for once again obtaining a van from another church so we could get there!! Thank you to all the other chaperones for attending and making the weekend a success: David & Katie Emrich, Shannon Butler, Christine Henning, and Stacey Schoonmaker.

Lisa, Katie & myself (Sandy) would like to thank everyone for all of



their support over these past 8 years that we have led the Youth Group. We have enjoyed this time doing all the many different things and being able to touch so many lives. As we step down from being co-leaders we would like to say THANKS!! We couldn't have done any of these things without your help, support and your prayers over the years. We are grateful that the new leaders (Shannon Butler and Christine Henning) will be taking over the reins as you read this. They will do a wonderful job!!

Blessings,
Sandy & Katie Emrich & Lisa Longto, YG Co-Leaders

YG Upcoming Events

6/2 SPCA Fundraiser Car Wash at Stage One Auto, Route 9W, Lake Katrine - 10am-2pm

Dr. Gram and friends, I would like to thank all those who were kind enough to say a prayer, send a card, give a call, pay a visit to the hospital or our home during my recent illness. Thank You Bev Chrisey

From the Finks:

Joyce and I like it here in our new place but are still getting settled. We have been attending the Wapping Community Church, a Congregational Church associated with the United Church of Christ (UCC) - very friendly and community focused. We feel very comfortable here at this church, very much like the Hurley Church - no RCA churches in this part of CT that we can find. We really appreciated the plaque and the honor given to us at our last service.

*Jerry & Joyce Fink
11 Watson Farm Dr
South Windsor, CT 06074
jffink11@att.net*



Benefit Concert

Roberta Falatyn and Jane Barsumian represented the Hurley Reformed Church on April 29th, traveling to the First Reformed Church of Scotia for "Notes of Renewal," a concert

to benefit the rebuilding of the Prattsville Reformed Church. Choir, Brass, Bells, Piano-Organ duets, Organ solos, and Violin (played by Jane) were featured on this delightful and varied program which was conceived, organized, and produced by Scotia church organist, Justan Foster. Contributions can still be made to the Reformed Church of Scotia.

Women's Guild

Upcoming Activities:

5/20 Pot Luck Luncheon
7/14 Stone House Day

Thank you to all of the ladies who wore hats on April 15 for Ladies Hat Sunday. Everyone looked great.

On May 20 right after church there will be a pot luck luncheon. Bring a dish to share, your own place setting and a drink. You will have a great time fellowshiping with everyone and you can spend some time with someone that you have seen in church but haven't had a chance to get to know. If you have any questions please see Ellen Richards, chair of the event.

Stone House Day is just around the corner. We are still in need of jewelry—donations can be given to



Shirley Ruth. Also, the Guild will hold their annual bake sale on Stone House Day. If you are able to bake something for this please see Alyson Rafferty or Joyce Pinckney. Last but not least - our quilt. This year's quilt is a queen size "Tumbler Quilt" to celebrate

GRADUATES

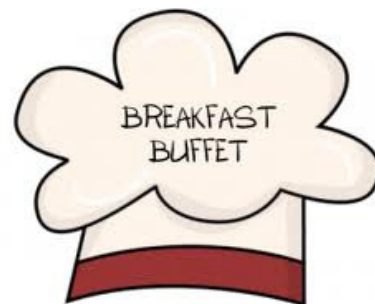
If you have a graduate in the family we would like to know so we can recognize them in June. Please call the office, 331-4121.

the Town of Hurley's 350th anniversary and the commemoration of the Civil War 150 years ago. It will be on display in Schadewald Hall until Stone House Day, July 14th, when we will select a winner. Please check your mail for the raffle tickets or purchase them after church in the upcoming weeks. Thank you for your support in so many areas!!!!

Update---I haven't stepped down as the President of the Guild... well at least not yet. Alyson Rafferty and I will co-chair this position until the end of September. So, if you would like to become the President of the Guild and weren't able to attend our last meeting please let me know as the position can be yours.

Sandy Emrich-President

Men: don't forget to bring refreshments for coffee hour on May 13th.



The **BIG BREAKFAST** is back by popular demand. Saturday,

May 11, 8:00 - 11:00am:

Serve yourself buffet of scrambled eggs, pancakes, bacon, juice, coffee and tea and of course our famous HRC omelets! Tickets are \$8.00 and available after worship or by calling 331-4121.

Women's Guild Pot Luck Luncheon

on Sunday, **May 20.** Everybody is welcome to attend, bring a friend. Please also bring a place setting for yourself and a dish to share.



Strawberry Hill Fiddlers
Saturday, May 19, 2012, 7:00 p.m.
Schadewald Hall
Bring your friends!!

Tickets on sale today!

Adults

\$15

Students

\$10

A Gram Gourmet Fundraiser
Dinner for Two at the Parsonage
of the Hurley Reformed Church
Friday, June 15, 2012, 6:00pm

Starter

Dr. Loosen Reisling Wine

Pear-Parsnip Soup bedded on organic granola topped with fresh chives

Salad

Romaine Lettuce, Toasted Walnuts, and
Sliced Strawberries macerated in navel orange juice and Triple Sec
Homemade house dressing

Main Course

Grilled Prawn Indochine

Poached Salmon in a Citrus Sauce

bedded on wilted greens with sautéed sliced garlic in extra virgin olive oil

Basmati Rice in Indian Spice Base

topped with honey and raisins

Baked Tomato Slice and Asiago Cheese with apple smoked bacon lardoons

Main Course will be paired with Wine

Dessert

Homemade Custard Tart Topped with Seasonal Fruit

Dinner for ten prepared and served by Rev. Dr. Robert Gram, Pastor of the Hurley Reformed Church.

Five winners will be selected on June 10th. Take a chance for \$30 each or two for \$50. Call 331-4121.

Endorsement: "Dr. Bob makes really great pear & parsnip soup! So I hope I win one of the meals he's preparing in his raffle offer. And the income all goes to the church. Wow!" ~Don Kent

Editor's note: "I second that endorsement. And you have five chances to win!" ~Debbie Decker

The monthly calendar can be found on our website: www.hurleyreformedchurch.org and going to the calendar page. We hope to have a direct link for our next issue.

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

WE'RE ON THE WEB:

WWW.HURLEYREFORMEDCHURCH.ORG

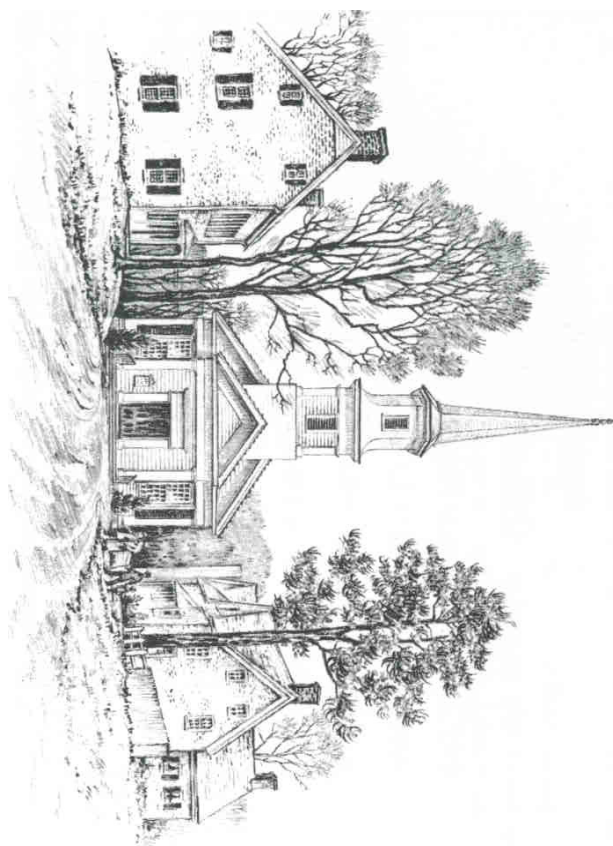
NON-PROFIT ORG.

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

HURLEY NY 12443

PERMIT #44301



HURLEY REFORMED CHURCH

Hurley New York 12443

The Rev. Dr. Robert L. Gram, LCSW

Pastor

THE SPIRE
MAY 2012