



HURLEY REFORMED CHURCH

THE SPIRE

VOLUME 4, ISSUE NOVEMBER 2012

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I write a few weeks before the presidential election. I have studiously tried to avoid political debate personally, and did not watch the first presidential debate, and little of the Vice Presidential follow-up. The second presidential debate occurs tonight, and -- I thought I'd never say this -- but I have a Classis meeting this evening at Saugerties which I hope will extend long into the evening, so I won't feel guilty about missing the second Obama-Romney blabfest. Even without the Classis meeting rationalization, I don't believe I'd feel badly about skipping. I know who will receive my vote; thus I can spare myself several hours of acidulous argumentation, one-upmanship, verbal posturing, and the subtle ad-hominem attacks which are mainstays of the presidential debate mode. What I truly won't miss are the air-head pundits who analyze how each candidate fared, and how it affects the viewers. Both presidential candidates have been accused, and have accused each other of being out-of-touch with middle class folks like me. Whether or not they are, I really can't decide. I

can't read their minds, and I'm not savvy enough to understand policy strengths and weaknesses. (As a Christian, however, I'm far more concerned whether they are out of touch with poor people in our country.) I'm pretty sure that news anchors and commentators don't speak for me or for the public at large, although, sadly, I think we often believe they do, and respond accordingly. In other words I believe they often have undue influence on how we think. It's easy to forget that they come to the task with their own biases, often straying far from reportorial neutrality. We often forget, too, that we have minds which can analyze as well as pampered television princes and princesses.

Another problem with commentators is that policy issues take second place to perceptual understandings. The germane questions focus on form rather than substance: How did Romney's posture compare with Obama's? Physically, who looks more presidential? Did one or the other speak with an air of sincerity, haughtiness, self-righteousness, anxiousness etc.? Who responded more rapidly, and who hesitated in his response? Who looked down to read notes, and what does that tell us about presidential mettle? Whose hair is grayer? (Obama's.)

I could go on. You get the picture. Perhaps it started with the first televised debate between Kennedy and Nixon which, for some, became the vote clincher in the 1960 presidential election. I don't know whether it is true or

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not, but someone noted that Nixon's make-up man was a stooge for Kennedy, so that Nixon looked particularly drawn and older than his Massachusetts rival. What received media play was Nixon's so called Five O'clock shadow; the implication was that he hadn't shaved before the debate, giving him a sinister appearance. Perhaps looks and style did play a part in Kennedy's election. In his 60's groundbreaking book, The Medium is the Message the philosopher Marshall McLuhan maintained that we are far more

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interested in how things look rather than the reality beneath the veneer. Technology, he believed, was the culprit. Thus television was more subversive to our mind, for example, than books because reading teaches us to focus, mine, and go deeper. We are charmed and enchanted by the silver screen and its smaller domestic versions, and can discount easily what lies 'beneath', if anything, the flickering images which dance before our eyes. If this is the case, which I believe it is, we're not too different from those we watch on television.

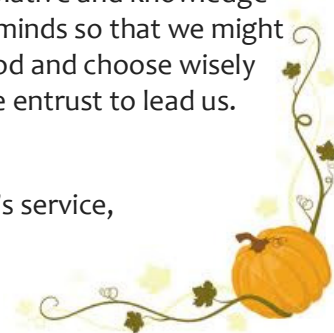
The idea that form trumps substance is as old as Scripture. The

apostle Paul was not a 'looker' as I mentioned in a previous Spire newsletter. One can infer creeping envy when he writes to his Corinthian congregation about Apollos, an apostle, who Paul seems to think was brighter, more articulate, more charismatic and better looking than him. Compared to Paul, Apollos' eyes probably sparkled, since 'our boy' was nearly blind. And one wonders whether Jesus made a striking physical appearance. Was our Lord, in the flesh, as telegenic as our two presidential candidates, or as anyone who graces movie, television, iPad and iPhone screens? Probably not, although the answer waits until we get to heaven.

As Christians our faith calls us to go and grow deeply and to look through external appearances. No doubt this is difficult to do, living in such a media driven society. I love when the psalmist uses the phrase, "deep calls to deep," to describe our encounter with God through nature.

I pray that we will live prayerful, contemplative and knowledge seeking minds so that we might honor God and choose wisely those we entrust to lead us.

In Christ's service,
Doc Bob



SPECIAL THANKS!!!!!!!

A special thanks goes out to Ron Chrisey, Sandie Gregory, Betty Pirro and Jim Pirro along with all other volunteers that help keep the Stickley Gardens grounds and fountain looking beautiful. Your efforts are very much appreciated!

"Classics in Religion"

Dr. Gram will lead the weekly Classics in Religion Reading Group in the Community Room of the Kingston Library every Wednesday in November at 10:30 a.m. The public is invited to any of these sessions and the Library is totally accessible at 55 Franklin St., corner of Prospect in mid-town Kingston.

November 7, 14, 21, and 28, 2012

Creation Epics of the Ancient Near East

The Near East is recognized as "the cradle of civilization," where agriculture, cities, trade, art and religion first emerged. While we may recognize the stories of Genesis, we may need to be refreshed by accounts from Egypt and Mesopotamia, as well as their mutual influences. Such accounts reflect "myths" but provide understandings of human nature, society and natural occurrences. The series will read portions of *The Gilgamesh Epic*, *Enuma Elish*, and Memphite Theology as well as *Genesis* on Wednesdays, November 7, 14, 21, and 28.

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

Welcome to the Fall season. The days are shorter and the nights are cooler.

At Stickley Gardens the flowers have begun to fade.

But as we all know, in the Spring the garden will come to life again.

This is also true of those who have passed on before us.

They still live in our hearts, in our memories, and in our prayers.

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)
SANDIE 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)

Thanksgiving Eve Service

November 21, 2012

7:30pm



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

John Henning	10, '99
Chloe Dumas	14, '98
William Schaffrick	14, '97
Drew Milne	17, '05
Julianna Schaffrick	17, '00
Ernan Tejada	2
Iris Cordero	3
Natalie Woodard	8

Peg Baldinger	13
Bunny Heins	13
Anne Glass	15
Bill Merrill	16
Daniela Sumerano	16
Jay Burgess	17
Joe Burns	19
Joyce Sweeney	19
James Gregory	22
Kathy Musialkiewicz	23
Dick Morone	25
Allan Dumas	28
Juanita Bilyou	29
Matthew Croswell	30
Art Harder	30

December

Micaela Ryan	5, '96
Toni Hedges	2
Coty Burgess	2, '90
Pat Baker	4
Susan Hutton	4
Mary Odell	5

Hal Hauck	6
Caitlin Decker	7

ANNIVERSARIES

Todd & Julie Jordan	9
Leslie & Darryl Shambo	10
Shirley & Ron Burns	13
May & Peter Kowalenko	19
Mary & Ken Odell	23
Sandie & Jim Gregory	30
James & Laura Gregory	Dec. 2

Women Journeying With Cancer

Thursdays, 7:00pm

November 8 and December 13

Room 12

Any woman experiencing a cancer diagnosis for herself or a loved one is invited.

Contact Linda Miles, 845-430-3348
or lindajmiles@yahoo.com, for
more information.

Women's Guild

Upcoming Events:

11/6	Turkey Dinner Bake Sale
11/18	Meeting
12/16	Cookie Walk

With the holidays approaching fast the Guild is busy with their annual activities....Pecan Sales, Thanksgiving Altar arrangement, Poinsettia Sales, & the Cookie Walk. If that makes you tired just reading about it and you think we are, you would be wrong... we are excited and charged to GO!

The Guild has been able to pay for a few repairs around the church that needed to be taken care of ... such as:

- The addition of a helmet to the gutter by the side of the kitchen.

This addition will prevent water from flooding classrooms under the kitchen.

- Repairing six lights in Room 9 and two lights in Room 2.

Thank you to Jim Pirro for overseeing the work for these repairs. He does a great job and we are thrilled to be able to assist in getting them done!

Things we are working on:

- A new church directory - A committee has been formed to look into updating our directory. So, please assist the ladies in updating your mailing address, contact phone number and email address. Thanks for helping us compile this information.
- A church cook book - A committee has been formed to look into a new cook book. If you have

been to a pot luck luncheon or a dinner and thought ...this dish is great, can I have the recipe? Well this cook book will be the answer to that question. So, ladies & gentlemen be prepared to have those "family secrets" shared. Start getting those recipes ready to be added to the cook book when the committee asks for recipes.

If you haven't been to a Guild meeting we would love to have you join us at our next time. All ladies of the church are a part of the Guild so attend and share your talents and ideas with us. Hope to see you there.

We would like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. We do have a lot to be thankful for as God is good all the time...All the time God is good!!

Sandy Emrich, President



Finance Committee

Jim Mayfield, Chair

As we head into the last quarter of 2012 (how did that happen already?), the Finance Committee has begun planning for 2013. As we have done in the past, we will provide an overview of the finances for 2012 and present the proposed 2013 budget at the Congregational Meeting, held on Nov. 11. We did want to take this opportunity to remind you that the main source of income for our church comes from the collection plate offerings we receive each week. We are very grateful for your generosity. The offering envelopes for 2013 will be available at the Congregational Meeting or can be picked up later. If you have-

n't used the envelopes in the past, but would like to receive a set for 2013, just let us know or stop by the office. The envelopes are a great way to keep your offering up-to-date, and also provide envelopes for monthly support for our local missions, our Classis Dues, also known as our Denominational Financial Responsibility, and our Building Fund, which supports the maintenance and repair projects necessary for the church and parsonage. We would also encourage you to consider returning your 2013 pledge card after you decide on your offering for 2013, as this helps in planning the budget, and we would be very thankful for any increase you might be able to make in your 2013 donations. As always, we thank you for the generous support you provide to our church, both financially and with your time and talents.

It's That Time Again!!!

Once again it's time to place your orders for poinsettia plants to adorn the sanctuary for the Holiday season. Plants are one size, one color, and one price: red at \$10.00 each.



POINSETTIAS

Number of plants: _____ @ \$10.00 each: Total due _____

Name: _____

Phone: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

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 2, 2012

Congregational Meeting Sunday, Nov. 11, 2012

after worship in Schadewald Hall. Members and friends of the Hurley Church are invited and encouraged to join us as we summarize the events of the last year, vote on the upcoming budget and elect one new Consistory member. Refreshments will be served.

November mission

contributions will be used to support the Food Bank of the Hudson Valley. The Food Bank, a member of Feeding America, provides food to 360 charitable agencies in the fol-



lowing six counties; Orange, Ulster, Dutchess, Sullivan and Putnam. By using your mission envelope you will be helping to supply food to soup kitchens, pantries, shelters, senior centers and other local food banks. Thank you for sharing your bounty with the many hungry people in these communities. Remember to use your Mission envelope.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Linda Dux. Mission Chair

Thanksgiving Food Collection!

The Hurley Reformed Church Youth group is supporting 5 families in need in our area by providing complete baskets containing all the makings of a traditional Thanksgiving Dinner. We ask you to support our efforts by donating any of the following: canned beans, corn, peas, veggies; stuffing cubes; canned cranberry sauce; canned gravy; Jiffy corn bread; chicken broth; black olives; pickles; marshmallows; Juicy Juice; crackers; coffee; tea. If you wish to donate a turkey please contact Christine Henning at 339-0509 or eeyorelovesclouds@yahoo.com. The Youth Group will

purchase these items: white potatoes, yams, celery, carrots, onions, dinner rolls, pumpkin pies, cookies, Ready Whip, butter, oranges, apples and turkeys.

Please place all items in the marked boxes in Schadewald Hall. We thank you very, very much!

Exploring Spiritual Direction

will continue to meet on Sundays at 9 am in Room 5 on October 21, 28, November 4 and 18. All are welcome to join in whether you have attended previously or not. For information contact Linda at 845-430-3348 or lindajmiles@yahoo.com.



November 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>28</div> <div>Daylight Saving</div> <div>9am - Spiritual</div> <div>10am - Worship</div> <div>11am - Prayer Chain</div> <div>6pm - AA @ Church</div> <div>7pm - ACA @ Room</div> <div>7pm - Youth Group</div>	<div>29</div> <div>10am - Badminton</div> <div>5pm - Dog Training</div> <div>7pm - Little League</div> <div>7:30pm - 1st Capitol</div> <div>7:30pm - Al-Anon</div>	<div>30</div> <div>Election Day</div> <div>4:30pm - PC 101</div> <div>4:30pm - Turkey</div> <div>7pm - Bible Study</div> <div>7pm - Boy Scouts</div>	<div>31</div> <div>8am - Bible Study</div> <div>10am - Badminton</div> <div>5:30pm - Dog</div> <div>6pm - Wolf Den</div> <div>6:30pm - Girl Scout</div> <div>7pm - ACA @ Room</div> <div>7pm - Boy Scouts</div>	<div>1</div> <div>1:30pm - Hurley</div> <div>3pm - Quilting</div> <div>4:45pm - Dog</div> <div>6:30pm - Girl Scouts</div> <div>7:30pm - Choir</div>	<div>2</div> <div>10am - Badminton</div> <div>12pm - Private</div>	<div>3</div> <div>8am - Unitarian</div> <div>10am - Genealogy</div>
<div>4</div> <div>Daylight Saving</div> <div>9am - Spiritual</div> <div>10am - Worship</div> <div>11am - Prayer Chain</div> <div>6pm - AA @ Church</div> <div>7pm - ACA @ Room</div> <div>7pm - Youth Group</div>	<div>5</div> <div>10am - Badminton</div> <div>5pm - Dog Training</div> <div>7pm - Little League</div> <div>7:30pm - 1st Capitol</div> <div>7:30pm - Al-Anon</div>	<div>6</div> <div>Election Day</div> <div>4:30pm - PC 101</div> <div>4:30pm - Turkey</div> <div>7pm - Bible Study</div> <div>7pm - Boy Scouts</div>	<div>7</div> <div>8am - Bible Study</div> <div>10am - Badminton</div> <div>5:30pm - Dog</div> <div>6pm - Wolf Den</div> <div>6:30pm - Girl Scout</div> <div>7pm - ACA @ Room</div> <div>7pm - Boy Scouts</div>	<div>8</div> <div>3pm - Quilting</div> <div>4:45pm - Dog</div> <div>6:30pm - Order of</div> <div>7pm - Order of the</div> <div>7pm - Women's</div> <div>7:30pm - Choir</div>	<div>9</div> <div>10am - Badminton</div> <div>8am - Unitarian</div> <div>10am - Genealogy</div>	<div>10</div>
<div>11</div> <div>Veterans Day</div> <div>10am - Worship</div> <div>11am - Congregation</div> <div>11:30am - Parent</div> <div>6pm - AA @ Church</div> <div>7pm - ACA @ Room</div>	<div>12</div> <div>10am - Badminton</div> <div>11am - VFW</div> <div>1pm - Basket</div> <div>5pm - Dog Training</div> <div>7pm - Consistory</div> <div>7:30pm - Al-Anon</div>	<div>13</div> <div>6:30am - Hillside</div> <div>7pm - Bible Study</div> <div>7pm - Boy Scouts</div> <div>7pm - SCUBA</div>	<div>14</div> <div>8am - Bible Study</div> <div>10am - Badminton</div> <div>5:30pm - Dog</div> <div>6pm - Wolf Den</div> <div>7pm - ACA @ Room</div> <div>7pm - Men's Group</div>	<div>15</div> <div>9:30am - Federated</div> <div>3pm - Quilting</div> <div>4pm - Hurley</div> <div>4:45pm - Dog</div> <div>7pm - NE</div> <div>7:30pm - Choir</div>	<div>16</div> <div>10am - Badminton</div> <div>6pm - Wine &</div>	<div>17</div> <div>RCA Discovery Toy</div>
<div>18</div> <div>9am - Spiritual</div> <div>10am - Worship</div> <div>11am - Women's</div> <div>1:30pm - Heritage</div> <div>6pm - AA @ Church</div> <div>7pm - ACA @ Room</div> <div>7pm - Youth Group</div>	<div>19</div> <div>10am - Badminton</div> <div>10am - Genealogy</div> <div>1pm - Basket</div> <div>5pm - Dog Training</div> <div>7:30pm - Al-Anon</div>	<div>20</div> <div>7pm - Bible Study</div> <div>7pm - Boy Scouts</div>	<div>21</div> <div>8am - Bible Study</div> <div>10am - Badminton</div> <div>5:30pm - Dog</div> <div>6pm - Wolf Den</div> <div>7pm - ACA @ Room</div> <div>7pm - Hurley Lions</div> <div>7pm - Men's Group</div>	<div>22</div> <div>Thanksgiving</div>	<div>23</div> <div>10am - Badminton</div>	<div>24</div>
<div>25</div> <div>10am - Worship</div> <div>6pm - AA @ Church</div> <div>7pm - ACA @ Room</div>	<div>26</div> <div>10am - Badminton</div> <div>10:30am - Genealogy</div> <div>5pm - Dog Training</div> <div>7:30pm - Al-Anon</div>	<div>27</div> <div>7pm - Bible Study</div> <div>7pm - Boy Scouts</div>	<div>28</div> <div>8am - Bible Study</div> <div>10am - Badminton</div> <div>5:30pm - Dog</div> <div>6pm - Wolf Den</div> <div>7pm - ACA @ Room</div>	<div>29</div> <div>3pm - Quilting</div> <div>4:45pm - Dog</div> <div>6pm - Foundation</div> <div>7pm - Woodworkers</div> <div>7:30pm - Choir</div>	<div>30</div> <div>10am - Badminton</div>	<div>1</div>

HURLEY REFORMED
CHURCH

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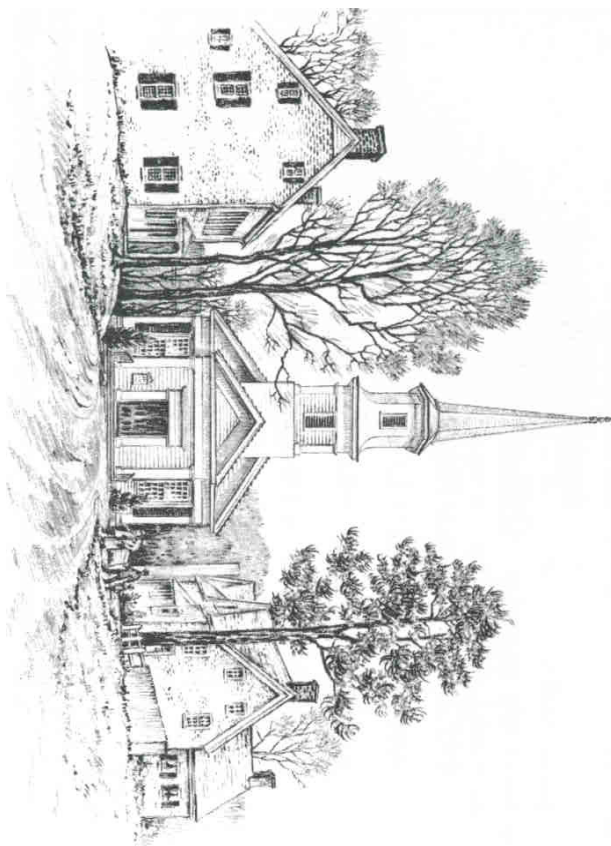
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Pastor

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