



HURLEY REFORMED CHURCH

THE SPIRE



VOLUME 4, ISSUE 8 OCTOBER 2012

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Olympics in London highlighted my television watching summer. The athletic performance I appreciated the most was Oscar Pistorius' effort in the 400 meter race. He didn't make the podium; in fact he finished last in his semifinal heat. His performance amazes, however, because he ran with prosthetics below the knee. His physical disability did not hinder him from competing at the highest level of track. Mr. Pistorius may be the first athlete to transition from the para-olympics to its full body neighbor. His effort reminds that one can be heroic, and a champion without garnering a gold, silver, or bronze medal. In a society which believes that even second placers are losers, it was comforting to see that the medalists were asking the South African runner for his autograph.

The Apostle Paul wrote to his beloved congregation in Philippi, "I can do all things in him who strengthens me" (4:13). I'm not sure whether Mr. Pistorius is religious, but certainly that quote pertains to his courage, stamina, and willingness to test himself to his physical limits. Almost daily I see heroes in his mold. The only difference is that they lack the recognition he so richly deserves. I work

out at my fitness center three times a week; that's where I encounter the unheralded hall of famers, those who exercise, although terribly weighted by physical disability. There are seniors burdened with osteoarthritis to such a degree that their permanent stoop resembles a question mark. There are others who limp from one nautilus machine to the next, those partially paralyzed, I imagine, from a stroke or accident. There are fellow travelers on the nautilus machines and treadmills who possess genetic deformities; a withered hand here, a club foot there. I always see the grossly overweight who have the courage to squeeze into ill fitting gym garb, and, with extraordinary consistence, sweat and grunt themselves down to a reasonable size. And I have talked to the cancer survivor and the multiple sclerosis bearer as they seek to restore themselves amidst the driving rock and roll soundtracks, betokening health, which blare from an endless number of televisions, outfitted on beams and walls throughout the fitness area. All are my heroes. As they cross my path, I say a prayer for each.

In 2011 I strolled up Fifth Avenue from Washington Square. Around 23rd Street I encountered a former client who

examined a dress in a store window. I'd forgotten her name. Our eyes met, and I blurted out a 'Hi-how-are-you?' in the effusive overcompensating manner we do when a name escapes us. I doubted that she remembered me, but I offered her the opportunity. She said simply, "I know who

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you are. You're Bob Gram." At that she turned and walked away. The anonymous young woman was part of a TBI Group (Traumatic Brain Injury) I helped facilitate four years earlier. When I first encountered her in group, she could barely remember her own name. Obviously physical disability didn't stand in her way. In fact her memory was far better than her former non-TBI therapist! She, too, is one of my heroes, along with her comrades in arms. I remember one young man, who had survived a horrific car accident. In group, when his turn came to

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(Continued from page 1)

speak, he bent down from his chair and tied his shoe. "No need for velcro anymore!" he shouted as we laughed and applauded. He had just won his own gold medal.

One of the reasons I love the Apostle Paul is that he never let physical disability stand in his way, as he transformed the Mediterranean world with the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ. Paul was nearly blind. He dictated his letters to the churches, in part, because he couldn't see well enough to write himself. We also know that he suffered from "a thorn in the flesh" (2Corinthians 12:7), most likely a physical malady which he implored God to heal. Paul doesn't relate specifics, so we are left to guess, or to insert our own disability in Paul's descriptive gap. I doubt his thorn was blindness. My sense is that he was born partially blind, and that the illness he describes in 2

Corinthians 12 grasped him at mid-life. For reasons which escape me, I believe he suffered from a recurrent rather than chronic illness, perhaps something like Dengue fever in which he would have spells. Combined with blindness, and the literal beatings he sustained regularly from enraged crowds, Paul experienced great physical hardship. At one point he compared his body to an earthly tent in which he groaned, longing to exchange its tattered nature for his heavenly body (2 Corinthians 5:1-5). In spite of physical disability the great Apostle soldiered on as we, too, are called to do.

May we understand that the Holy Spirit makes us overcomers, and that nothing need stand in our way, not even bodily disability. May we use even our fleshly thorns to honor and glorify Christ.

In Christ's Service,

"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.

Golf

A beautiful sunny day on Sept. 9th and 31 golfers enjoyed the Hurley Reformed Church's 5th Annual Golf Outing followed by a buffet at the Hurley Mountain Inn with 41 people.

The winning team with a 29 was David Giles, Glenn Decker, and Mike and Donna Dilling.

The longest drive on #6 was by Mike Dilling for the men and by Mikayla Mellin for the ladies. Mikayla is the granddaughter of Jim and Betty Pirro.

The closest to the pin on #2 was won by Craig Jansen. The ladies had no winner on #1.

Natalie Woodard

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.

As the soothing waters dance over the sides of the fountain, the air feels crisp and the nights come on earlier, we experience the change. The seasons, like life, flows by us faster than ever. We all owe it to ourselves to get quiet and reflect on the past and all its gifts. It provides us with strength for the future. Come sit for awhile, the benches are waiting ... feel the strength of those who have passed before us and the love that God shows us through their memories. The seasons may be a time of change but God's love is constant ... in the past, with us now, and blessing us in our futures. Take a few minutes and enjoy Stickley Gardens.

BIRTHDAYS

Kyle Davenport	2, '01
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

Nancy Sweeney

Eric Sullivan 10

John & Marianne Mizel 21

28



7:00pm

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

Women's Guild

Another summer has come & gone. That sure went by quickly. But, the Guild kept moving.

We held a bake sale, a quilt raffle & fulfilled many other duties during Stone House Day. Congratulations to Linda Kent, the daughter of Mary & Don Kent, who was this year's winner of the Tumbler quilt raffled at the close of Stone House Day. Thank you to each & every one of you that helped out to make this day such a

success. We couldn't have done it with you!

Our first meeting will be held on September 30. We will be planning our events & activities for the upcoming year. Hope you will be able to attend & don't forget your calendars. Hope to see all of you ladies there!!

On a personal note, I've decided to stay on as Guild President. After much thought, reflection & a husband that just went through 2 months of severe back pain & then surgery; I've had a lot of time for thought, prayer

& reflection. I am happy to say that my husband's pain is less & less every day & he is walking more & more. But, what a journey to reach this point. There were many days that we didn't think we would see the light at the end of the tunnel but he/we are getting there. Thank you to everyone for their prayers as we felt them. So, I will still be around leading the Guild through the great things that we do. Also, a HUGE thank you to the "A-Team". They are invincible!!!

Sandy Emrich

President

Ahh, Nuts!

Back By popular Demand

PECANS

16oz. Bag of plain Pecans: \$9.00

Also available:

Cinnamon
Dark Chocolate
Chocolate
Clusters
Glazed

Don't miss out on this opportunity to support the Women's Guild. Order yours after church or call Jean Dussol @ 246-6027.



Youth Group!

Kick Off the New Year
With Us!

5th - 12th graders join us
for fun, games, and fellow-
ship.

Refreshments too!!!!

October 21, 2012

7 p.m - 8 p.m.

Feel free to bring your friends!

Youth Group Leaders

Christine Henning ceyorelovesclouds@yahoo.com

Shannon Butler butlerj10@yahoo.com



Missions

Our Mission for October will be the Swart family from Saugerties. Eleven year old Zachary Swart is suffering with Leukemia and the family has numerous financial burdens, many not covered by their health insurance, and a plea has come from their pastor at the Saugerties Reformed Church for assistance and prayers. (Please see the letter from Rev. Terry O'Brien.)

Please use the Mission envelope in your box or one in the pew to assist Zachary and his family at this critical time in their lives, they will be forever grateful and you will feel good knowing that you are helping a local family.

Linda Dux, Mission Chair

September 6, 2012
Dear Colleagues,

This is the first time in my ministry that I have reached out to my associates for help. And I do so, only now, due to extenuating circumstances. Zachary Swart is an 11 year old boy who lives in Saugerties. His parents Tom and Nancy have been members of our church for nearly 18 years. In 2007 Zach was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. He underwent chemotherapy, struggled, and overcame the disease. He was in remission for nearly a year and a half. Unfortunately, Zach has had to start chemotherapy once again and now has to fight blood clotting as well; a side effect of his chemo treatment.

Tom and Nancy Swart were able to meet the financial burdens associated with Zach's first battle with cancer. This reoccurrence, though, has placed a financial strain on the

Swart family. Traveling expenses to and from Albany Medical Center numerous times a week, are mounting. The anti-clotting medication is not covered by their insurance carrier and copayments for the bulk of his treatment have reached insurmountable amounts.

On behalf of the church I am asking for any assistance that you or your church might be able to offer.

There are any one of four ways in which your support can help Zach and his family "beat the beast". First, we are looking for sponsor donations of goods that can be raffled off. All proceeds will go solely for the purpose of assisting the Swart family. One of our members has started the drive by donating a new Professional Series Spector Bass guitar. Your generous donation of *any substantial item* would be greatly appreciated. Secondly, we are accepting any monetary donations on behalf of the family.

Third, the raffle will be at 1:00pm on Saturday, November 17, 2012 at the Reformed Church of Saugerties. Tickets cost \$5 each or three for \$10. Last, we ask that you keep Zach Swart and his family in your prayers.

The Swart family has always given through volunteer work in the community, their church, and their advocacy and fund raising for other children fighting similar battles. Cancer is a horrible disease that affects millions of people each year, but when cancer threatens to take away the dreams of a child before he is even old enough to realize them, I feel compelled to take action. I hope you do too.

With Blessings & Thanks for Your Prayers and Generosity,

Rev. Terry O'Brien, Pastor
Reformed Church of Saugerties
173 Main St, Saugerties, NY 12477
845-246-2867 refsaug@yahoo.com

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.

*A reminder from the Finance
Committee . . .*



Is your pledge up to date?



ANNUAL ELECTION DAY TURKEY DINNER

With all the homefixin's!

November 6, 2012 (remember to vote!)

HURLEY REFORMED CHURCH

Seating Times: 4:30 5:30 6:30

Take out any time from 4:30 up to 6:30

MENU

Roast Breast of Turkey

Stuffing

Mashed Potatoes

Smothering Gravy

String Beans with Bacon

Cranberry Sauce

Rolls

Pumpkin Pie (of course!)

COST PER PLATE:

Adults: \$12.00 (per plate)

Children: \$5.00 (per plate)

Take-out: same pricing per container



Reservations Call:

(845)331-4121

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>30</div> <div>10am - Worship @</div> <div>11am - Prayer Chain @</div> <div>6pm - AA @ Dutch Room</div>	<div>1</div> <div>10am - Badminton @ Hall</div> <div>5pm - Dog Training @ Hall</div> <div>7pm - Finance Committee</div> <div>7pm - Little League @</div> <div>7:30pm - 1st Capital</div> <div>7:30pm - Al-Anon @ Room</div>	<div>2</div> <div>4:30pm - PC 101 @ Dutch</div> <div>7pm - Bible Study @ Dutch</div> <div>7pm - Boy Scouts Troop 20</div> <div>7pm - SCLS - Sermon Prep</div>	<div>3</div> <div>8am - Bible Study @ Dutch</div> <div>10am - Badminton @ Hall</div> <div>11am - Kingston Hospital</div> <div>5:30pm - Dog Training @</div> <div>6:30pm - Girl Scout</div> <div>7pm - ACA @ Room 3</div> <div>7pm - Boy Scouts Troop 20</div> <div>7pm - Men's Group @ Dutch</div>	<div>4</div> <div>1:30pm - Hurley Senior</div> <div>3pm - Quilting @ Dutch</div> <div>4pm - Retreat Set Up @</div> <div>6:30pm - Girl Scouts @</div> <div>7:30pm - Choir @ Dutch</div>	<div>5</div> <div>8am - Set up Retreat @</div>	<div>6</div> <div>7am - Ladies Retreat @ Hall</div>
<div>7</div> <div>10am - Worship @</div> <div>11am - Prayer Chain @</div> <div>6pm - AA @ Dutch Room</div>	<div>8</div> <div>Columbus Day</div> <div>10am - Badminton @ Hall</div> <div>11am - VFW @ Dutch Room</div> <div>5pm - Dog Training @ Hall</div> <div>7pm - Consistory @ Dutch</div> <div>7pm - Hudson Valley</div> <div>7:30pm - Al-Anon @ Room</div>	<div>9</div> <div>8:30am - Hillside Acres</div> <div>7pm - Bible Study @ Dutch</div> <div>7pm - Boy Scouts Troop 20</div> <div>7pm - SCLS - Sermon Prep</div>	<div>10</div> <div>8am - Bible Study @ Dutch</div> <div>10am - Badminton @ Hall</div> <div>5:30pm - Dog Training @</div> <div>6pm - Wolf Den @ Room 3</div> <div>7pm - ACA @ Room 3</div> <div>7pm - Men's Group @ Dutch</div>	<div>11</div> <div>3pm - Quilting @ Dutch</div> <div>6:30pm - Order of the Arrow @</div> <div>7pm - Order of the Arrow @</div> <div>7pm - Women's Journey</div> <div>7:30pm - Choir @ Dutch</div>	<div>12</div> <div>10am - Badminton @ Hall</div> <div>12pm - Woodworkers Set</div>	<div>13</div> <div>8am - Woodworkers Show</div> <div>10am - Genealogy @ Room</div>
<div>14</div> <div>9am - Spiritual Direction @</div> <div>10am - Worship @</div> <div>11:30am - Parent Group @</div> <div>6pm - AA @ Dutch Room</div>	<div>15</div> <div>10am - Badminton @ Hall</div> <div>10am - Genealogy @ Rooms</div> <div>5pm - Dog Training @ Hall</div> <div>7pm - Hurley Rec @ Dutch</div> <div>7:30pm - Al-Anon @ Room</div>	<div>16</div> <div>7pm - Bible Study @ Dutch</div> <div>7pm - Boy Scouts Troop 20</div> <div>7pm - SCLS - Sermon Prep</div>	<div>17</div> <div>8am - Bible Study @ Dutch</div> <div>10am - Badminton @ Hall</div> <div>5:30pm - Dog Training @</div> <div>6pm - Wolf Den @ Room 3</div> <div>7pm - ACA @ Room 3</div> <div>7pm - Hurley Lions @ Dutch</div> <div>7pm - Men's Group @ Dutch</div>	<div>18</div> <div>3pm - Quilting @ Dutch</div> <div>7pm - NE Woodworkers @</div> <div>7:30pm - Choir @ Dutch</div>	<div>19</div> <div>10am - Badminton @ Hall</div> <div>3:30pm - Library Halloween</div> <div>6pm - Wine & Cheese:</div> <div>6pm - Youth Group @ Hall</div>	<div>20</div> <div>12pm - Private @ Hall</div>
<div>21</div> <div>10am - Worship @</div> <div>11am - Women's Guild @</div> <div>6pm - AA @ Dutch Room</div> <div>6pm - NYICA @ Hall</div>	<div>22</div> <div>10am - Badminton @ Hall</div> <div>10:30am - Genealogy @</div> <div>5pm - Dog Training @ Hall</div> <div>7pm - Sewing Class @ Hall</div> <div>7:30pm - Al-Anon @ Room</div>	<div>23</div> <div>7pm - Bible Study @ Dutch</div> <div>7pm - Boy Scouts Troop 20</div> <div>7pm - SCLS - Sermon Prep</div>	<div>24</div> <div>8am - Bible Study @ Dutch</div> <div>10am - Badminton @ Hall</div> <div>5:30pm - Dog Training @</div> <div>6pm - Wolf Den @ Room 3</div> <div>7pm - ACA @ Room 3</div> <div>7pm - Men's Group @ Dutch</div>	<div>25</div> <div>3pm - Quilting @ Dutch</div> <div>6pm - Foundation for Youth</div> <div>7pm - Hurley Heritage</div> <div>7pm - Women's Journey</div> <div>7:30pm - Choir @ Dutch</div>	<div>26</div> <div>10am - Badminton @ Hall</div> <div>6pm - Ghost Walk</div>	<div>27</div> <div>8:30am - Brander Quilters</div>
<div>28</div> <div>10am - Worship @</div> <div>6pm - AA @ Dutch Room</div>	<div>29</div> <div>10am - Badminton @ Hall</div> <div>5pm - Dog Training @ Hall</div> <div>7:30pm - Al-Anon @ Room</div>	<div>30</div> <div>7pm - Bible Study @ Dutch</div> <div>7pm - Boy Scouts Troop 20</div> <div>7pm - SCLS - Sermon Prep</div>	<div>31</div> <div>Halloween</div> <div>8am - Bible Study @ Dutch</div> <div>10am - Badminton @ Hall</div> <div>12:30pm - NHS Parade</div> <div>5:30pm - Dog Training @</div> <div>6pm - Wolf Den @ Room 3</div> <div>7pm - ACA @ Room 3</div> <div>7pm - Men's Group @ Dutch</div>	<div>1</div>	<div>2</div>	<div>3</div>

October 2012

HURLEY REFORMED
CHURCH

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Pastor

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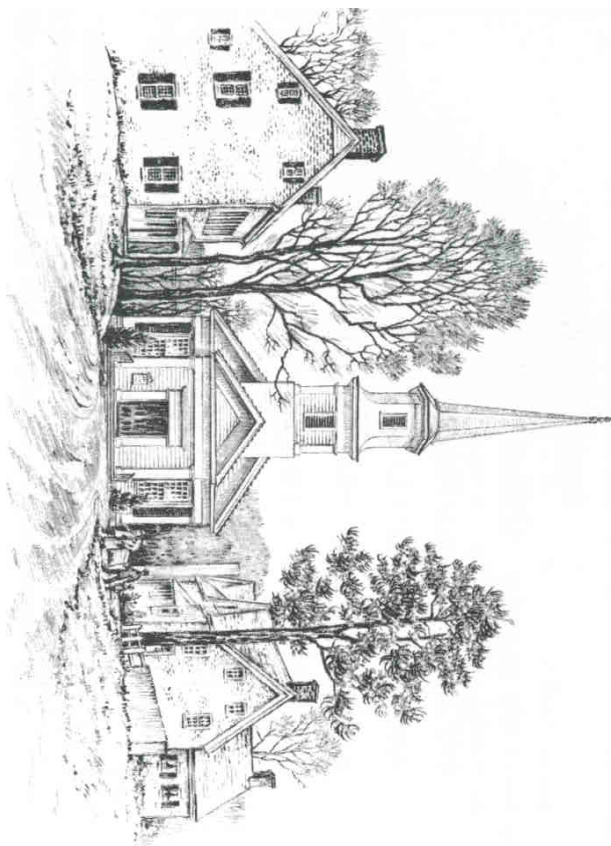
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