

# THE SPIRE

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 4

APRIL 2013



## ON FRUSTRATION

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

A most interesting book I read recently is by Adam Phillips, an English psychoanalyst, who also teaches English at the University of York. His book is entitled: “Missing Out: In Praise of the Unlived Life”. Phillips postulates that alternate visions of who we could have been, and, indeed, wished we were, impinges on our daily existence, so much so, that it modifies personal reality. Thus frustration occurs because there is a gulf between who we are, and who we would like ourselves to be. Phillips believes that being human means that we are frustrated; it is inbuilt in us as much as our DNA. We were born to imagine a life better than what we are given. The symptoms manifest themselves in day-dreams as we reflect on the abundance of missed opportunities which would have made our lives wonderful. We long for our true vocation which we failed to discover; Mr. or Miss Right who would have met and fulfilled our vast and untapped capacity to love ‘if only’—that’s the key phrase—our fates had not been so star crossed.

Phillips writes: “We are always haunted by the myth of our potential... So when we are not thinking, like the character in Randall Jarrell’s poem, that, ‘The ways we miss our lives is life’, we are grieving or regretting or resenting our failure to be ourselves as we imagine we could be. We share our lives with the people we have failed to be.”

The alternate lives we could have lived, and cannot because of the cruel nature of our environment creates in our daily moments a comprehensive state of frustration at the injustices which negate our potential. According to Phillips, the myth of unlimited potential creates continual states

*Phillips believes  
that being human means that  
we are frustrated;  
it is inbuilt in us  
as much as our  
DNA.*

of mourning and complaining, so much so, that mourning and complaining “feel like the realest things we ever do; and makes our frustration a secret life of grudges... We have an abiding sense, however obscure and obscured, that the lives we do lead are informed by the lives that escape us.”

Thus for Phillips our wished-for lives are more important to us than our real lives, and, –taking his understanding to the extreme—indicates that we wouldn’t be fully human without the ongoing frustration these imaginary understandings of self exert. The consequence of such thinking is that frustration pushes us to imagine a future in which we will attain our just rewards, discarding the roads not taken, and finding satisfaction which currently eludes us. The more we are frustrated in the present, the greater we imagine our future satisfactions will be. Like his intellectual mentor, Sigmund Freud, Phillips suggests that ridding ourselves of present frustration would rob us not simply of future hope but, far more elementally, of any conception of a future per se, of any sense of reality beyond the present tense.

*(Continued on page 2)*

(Continued from page 1)

Phillips is not a Christian, but his take has some valence to biblical understandings of self. The apostle Paul notes that we have a choice between following Adam, or following Christ. Although God gives Adam everything he needs, the first human is frustrated by the single item God disallows: Eating the fruit from the tree of Good and Evil. In other words Adam's sense of emptiness invalidates the richness of this God created world, and, in particular, the physical and spiritual blessings provided by the Garden of Eden. From a biblical perspective, the writer of Genesis implies that frustration is a negative because it diminishes our capacity to see and appreciate the God-given wonder of every moment. It is not a part of our nature contrary to what Phillips writes. Rather frustration is an unhelpful adjunct, an intellectual and emotional parasite which robs us of our divine nature. We can either accept or reject frustration. Adam and Eve chose the former. Don't we know individuals who cannot comprehend the beauty of their God-given selves, their unique histories, and their environmental richness? Do we fall into this category, at least on occasion?

In 586 B.C. warlord Nebuchadnezzar destroyed Jerusalem, and exiled much of the populace to his capital city, Babylon. The exiles ask Jeremiah to tell them when God will set them free to return to their homeland. The prophet writes these words on behalf of the One he serves:

*"This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: "Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in mar-*

## Our Mission Project

The Deacons Fund of our own Hurley Reformed Church will benefit from the offerings given in Mission envelopes during April. The Deacons Fund is used at the discretion of the Fund Administrator (the pastor or chairperson of the Deacon's Fund) to assist those in an emergency situation who are not eligible or cannot get help from other sources, for example, Social Services, food banks or other charitable agencies.



Your contribution to the Deacons Fund will help those in our church and community who are in dire need of help, following the Fund's guidelines.

*riage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.'" (Jeremiah 29:4-7)*

We are not called to daydream our lives away about who or what we could have become. God calls us to look at our reality, square in the face, and not only accept ourselves, and our literal as well as figurative locations in God's world, but to pronounce our lives good in any and all circumstances because of our faith in the loving hand who made us in His image. May we affirm ourselves as part of God's almighty yes after He created all in an instant, at the beginning of time, and then pronounced it good.

In Christ's service,  
Doc Bob

**eSpire:** In order to save money and reduce our impact on the environment, you may receive The Spire by Email. Please request electronic distribution by sending your request to [TheSpire@HurleyReformedChurch.org](mailto: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.

## STICKLEY GARDENS

The Columbarium area is showing its beauty adorned with Easter Lilies and White Palm Crosses. The fountain cover has been removed which is a true sign that spring has arrived. We are so very blessed to have many helping hands to make Stickley Gardens a place of peace and tranquility. Soon the garden will come to life with brilliant color as a new season begins. We lovingly remember those who have passed before us. Thanks be to God.

FOR MORE INFORMATION –  
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)

## Spring Breakfast

Ulster Reformed Classical Women's  
Fellowship & the Reformed Classical  
Women of the Hudson Valley

Speaker:

Rev. Kendra Van Houten, Pastor  
Fair Street Reformed Church

April 13, 2013

Schadewald Hall



Registration 9:15

Breakfast 9:30

Meeting 10:15

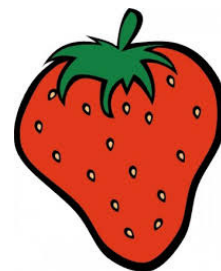
Speaker 10:30

Cost \$6

*ALL Women are invited!*

The Fiddlers are  
coming back!!!

*The Strawberry  
Hill Fiddlers*



Save the date -

Saturday, May 11th

Bring your friends!

## Women's Guild

Happy Spring! The flowers are in bloom and folks are coming out of their homes and enjoying this wonderful weather. Please take a moment and enjoy God's landscape in progress. At least I hope it is and the snow has melted!

On April 13 the Guild will host the Ulster Reformed Classical Women's Fellowship Spring Breakfast. The speaker will be Rev Kendra Van-Houten from the Fair Street Reformed Church. All women are invited. Please see Linda Dux if you would like to attend this great fellowship of area ladies.

Pentecost Sunday is May 19.

We ask you to please bring in a red geranium to adorn the sanctuary during worship. We will then plant them in the flower boxes in front of the church and around the parsonage. The Guild will also hold a pot luck luncheon immediately after worship. This is a time for all of us to get together and enjoy each other's company over a wonderful meal. Please plan on attending.

We welcome and invite all women of the church to be a part of the



Women's Guild. You don't have to be a member of the church to participate. Meetings are announced in the bulletin and we meet right after church in the Dutch Room. So, come and see what we are all about!

Blessings,

Sandy Emrich, President

### Our calendar of events:

4/13/13 URCWF Breakfast

4/14/13 Meeting

5/19/13 Pentecost Sunday—bring a red geranium

5/19/13 Pot Luck Luncheon

7/13/13 Stone House Day

April 27, Saturday

9:00am - 1:00pm

# Church Work Day



See Jim Pirro or call 383-0079

Bring rakes, gloves, pruners

**Rain or Shine!**

Love takes off the masks that we fear we cannot live without and know we cannot live within. I use the word love here and not merely in the personal sense but as a state of being, or a state of grace - not in the infantile . . . Sense of being made happy but in the touch and universal sense of quest and daring and growth.

James Baldwin from *The Fire Next Time*

I add my breath to your breath that our days be long on the Earth, that the days of our people may be long, that we shall be as one person, that we may finish our road together.

Laguna Pueblo Prayer

Our wayside planet bears as its chief treasure one forsaken grave."

Joyce Meyenhall

## April Birthdays



Travis Horvers	2, 98
Molly Salzmänn	12, 94
Zachary Burns	15, 99
Kyle Constant	17, 97
Lauren Shaffrick	20, 01
Emily Waligurski	26, 95
Kendra Rubino	26, 02
Miranda Davenport	27, 98
Cody Baker	27, 04
Molly Shambo	29, 10

Wayne Waligurski	1
Mildred Mattison	4
Trevor Davenport	4
Kathy Hauck	5
Fred Kurtz	6

Jeff Rafferty
Jean Dussol
Shirley Burns
Esther Stickley
Beverly Roosa
Barbara Baker
Christine Beesmer
Helen Lehtonen
Ann Every
Liz Carpinelli
Joan Sutton
Todd Jordan
Lois Morehouse
Esther Keator
Henry Dussol
Karen Waligurski
Julie Jordan
Pat Brennan
Elizabeth Askue

## May

Cole Jordan	May 1, '96
Mikayla Mellin	2, '96
Jonathan Helsley	5, 05

7	George Nekos, Jr.	5, 11
8	Liz Wilson	7, '91
9	Terry Conlin	2
11	Kristen Helm	2
12	Lori Baker	3
12	Gil Hoppenstedt	4
14	Faye Jansen	4
16	Kathy Burns	4

## Anniversaries

20	Allan & Bonnie Dumas	13
22	Nita & William Rockwell	19
24	Carla & Craig Paton	22
25	Dan & Midge Stott	23
27	Gary & Lisa Longto	30
29	Jim & Sheila Craven	May 5
	Debbie & Glenn Decker	6
	Kathy & Bob Pfeiffer	6

### HURLEY REFORMED CHURCH, HURLEY NY

# TREAT YOURSELF! **BIG** TREAT YOURSELF! **BREAKFAST**

**Saturday, May 4, 2013 8-11am**

**Scrambled Eggs • Omelets • Pancakes • Bacon  
Orange Juice • Coffee • Tea • Buffet Style**

**\$8.00** FOR ADULTS **\$5.00** FOR CHILDREN under 12

**Reservations Preferred – Please Call 331-4121**



ENJOY A MEAL WITH US AND WE'LL GIVEBACK.

# Ruby Tuesday

## COMMUNITY GiveBack PROGRAM

100% OF THE GIVEBACK AMOUNT IS DONATED DIRECTLY TO THE ORGANIZATION.

Ruby Tuesday is extremely proud to be part of your hometown and believes in giving back. As a fellow member of the community, we invite you to participate in...

### Ruby Tuesday's Community GiveBack Program.

Grab your family and friends and join us at the

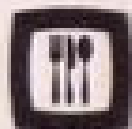
**1266 ULSTER AVE.**

location on the dates listed below. Please

present this flyer to your server, and we

will give back **20%** of your purchase to the organization.

(We apologize but we cannot accommodate coupon usage or other discounts in conjunction with our GiveBack Program.)



To make a reservation, call us at 845-336-0909 or visit us online at [rubytuesday.com](http://rubytuesday.com)

Organization's Name: HURLEY REFORMED CHURCH

Event Name: HURLEY REFORMED CHURCH

Date(s) of Visit: APRIL 16, 17 & 18, 2013

For directions to the restaurant or a peek at the menu,  
visit [rubytuesday.com](http://rubytuesday.com)

# Ruby Tuesday

1266 ULSTER AVE., KINGSTON NY

admin@hurleyreformedchurch.org, Hurley Reformed Church, US Holidays

Apr 2013 (Eastern Time)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
	April Fool's Day 10am - Badminton @ 10am - Tax Aide @ 5pm - Dog Training 7:30pm - 1st Capitol 7:30pm - Al-Anon @	4pm - Hurley Purifiers 4:30pm - PC 101 @ 7pm - Bible Study @ 7pm - Boy Scouts	8am - Bible Study @ 8:45am - Technology 10am - Badminton @ 5:30pm - Dog 6pm - Wolf Den @ 6:30pm - Girl Scout	1:30pm - Hurley 3pm - Quilting @ 4:45pm - Dog 6:30pm - Girl Scouts 7pm - Little League 7:30pm - Choir @	10am - Badminton @ 5pm - Set Up	8am - JWB Band 1pm - Woodworkers
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
10am - Worship @ 11am - Confirmation 11am - Prayer Chain 12:30pm - Eagle 6pm - AA @ Dutch 7pm - ACA @ Room	10am - Badminton @ 10am - Tax Aide @ 11am - VFW @ 1pm - Baskete @ 5pm - Dog Training 6pm - Foundation 7pm - Consistory @	8:30am - Hillside 4pm - Hurley Purifiers 7pm - Bible Study @ 7pm - Boy Scouts 7pm - SCLS @ Room	8am - Bible Study @ 10am - Badminton @ 5:30pm - Dog 6pm - Wolf Den @ 7pm - ACA @ Room 7pm - Men's Group 7:45pm - Bagpiper	3pm - Quilting @ 4:45pm - Dog 5:30pm - Claasis - 6:30pm - Order of 7pm - Order of the 7:30pm - Choir @	10am - Badminton @ 11:30am - Set Up @	7am - Women's 10am - Genealogy @ 1:30pm - Radio Club
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
10am - Worship @ 11am - Confirmation 11am - Women's 11:30am - Parent 6pm - AA @ Dutch 7pm - ACA @ Room	Tax Day 10am - Badminton @ 10am - Genealogy @ 1pm - Baskete @ 5pm - Dog Training 7:30pm - Al-Anon @	4pm - Hurley Purifiers 7pm - Bible Study @ 7pm - Boy Scouts 7pm - SCLS @ Room	8am - Bible Study @ 10am - Badminton @ 10am - HNS 5:30pm - Dog 6pm - Wolf Den @ 7pm - ACA @ Room	3pm - Quilting @ 4:45pm - Dog 7pm - NE 7:30pm - Choir @	10am - Badminton @	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
10am - Worship @ 11am - Confirmation 6pm - AA @ Dutch 7pm - ACA @ Room 7pm - Youth Group	Earth Day 10am - Badminton @ 10:30am - Genealog 5pm - Dog Training 7:30pm - Al-Anon @	4pm - Hurley Purifiers 7pm - Bible Study @ 7pm - Boy Scouts 7pm - SCLS @ Room	8am - Bible Study @ 10am - Badminton @ 5:30pm - Dog 6pm - Wolf Den @ 7pm - ACA @ Room 7pm - Men's Group	3pm - Quilting @ 4:45pm - Dog 7pm - Hurley 7:30pm - Choir @	Warwick Youth Retreat 10am - Badminton @	9am - Spring Clean
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
Warwick Youth 10am - Worship @ 11am - Confirmation 6pm - AA @ Dutch 7pm - ACA @ Room	10am - Badminton @ 5pm - Dog Training 7:30pm - Al-Anon @	4pm - Hurley Purifiers 7pm - Bible Study @ 7pm - Boy Scouts 7pm - SCLS @ Room				

April 2013

HURLEY REFORMED  
CHURCH

PO Box 328  
11 Main Street  
Hurley NY 12443

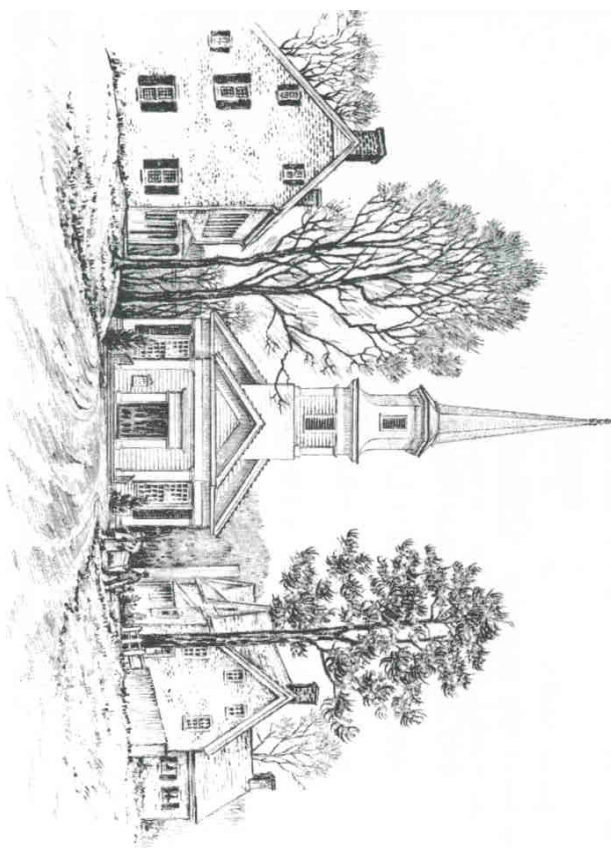
Phone: 845-331-4121  
Fax: 845-331-4153  
E-mail: [admin@HurleyReformedChurch.org](mailto:admin@HurleyReformedChurch.org)

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

WE'RE ON THE WEB:

[WWW.HURLEYREFORMEDCHURCH.ORG](http://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  
APRIL 2013