



HURLEY REFORMED CHURCH



# THE SPIRE

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 1      JANUARY 2013

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In the December, 2011 issue of Harper's Magazine, Alan Lightman, a physicist and novelist who teaches at MIT wrote a provocative article entitled: "The Accidental Universe: Science's Crisis of Faith". In it he notes that science has thought, until recently, that all seemingly random phenomena in the cosmos--"the hue of the sky, the orbits of planets, the angle of the wake of a boat moving through a lake, the six-sided patterns of snowflakes...the temperature of boiling water, the size of raindrops, the circular shape of the sun"--are the necessary consequences of fundamental laws of nature, and that what once was considered random can be fit, rather neatly, into a monolithic scientific worldview. The comforting idea that the universe can be explained in terms of a few mathematical truths has begun to dissolve in the minds of the best and brightest of theoretical physicists.

One of the problems to the hereto-for scientific hegemony has been the puzzle which the idea of a purposeful God seems to answer. Why is it, the MIT physicist, Alan Guth, asks, that if the nuclear force were a few percentage points stronger than it actually is, all hydrogen atoms would have melded in the infant universe, and converted into helium, thus rob-

bing the universe of life giving water. On the other side, if the nuclear force were substantially weaker than what it is, the complex atomic structure would dissipate, and biology would not exist. A second example is the fine tuned relationships between electromagnetic, and gravitational forces. If they were anything other than what they are--in other words if they were in an infinitesimally small, but different configuration to what we have--then the universe would not have any exploding stars which emit life giving elements necessary for the emergence of life. If fundamental parameters were just slightly off, no life would exist.

Recently theoretical physicists have focused on what is called "dark energy". Although scientists don't know what it is, they believe that it accounts for more than 3 quarters of the energy in the universe. Nevertheless what they can agree upon, also points to Intelligent Design: If the amount of dark energy in our universe was slightly less than what it is, the fledgling universe would implode so quickly there would be no time to form even simple atoms. If there were a bit more of it, the universe would speed up so rapidly that the matter in the young universe would fly apart and dissipate instead of coalescing into

stars and the complex atoms they birth.

Thus "fine tuning" raises hackles among the majority of scientists who decry the idea of Intelligent Design. Nevertheless a few brave souls like Francis Collins, a leading

*You have to see the hands of a creator who set the parameters to be just so because the creator was interested in something a little more complicated than random particles."*

geneticist and director of the National Institutes of Health, are outspoken mavericks in the scientific community. At a recent conference he noted : "To get our universe, with all of its potential for complexities or any kind of potential for any kind of life-form, everything has to be precisely defined on this knife edge of improbability...You have to see the hands of a creator who set the parameters to be just so because the creator was interested in something a little more complicated than random particles."

In order to counter the idea of Intelligent Design, physicists posit

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the multiverse theory which states that different fundamental laws apply to different universes. Thus water might not be essential to life in another universe. Thus why there is life in this universe is simply an accident and one need not posit a creator. The problem with this theory is that science cannot prove the existence of alternate universes. It has become AN ARTICLE OF FAITH for many in the scientific community. Sound familiar? And we are hammered by non-believers that science trumps Christianity because it is based sci-

entific principles and not faith! Baloney! We are now in the post-Christmas season known as the Epiphany. The first manifestation has traditionally been to focus on the magi, Babylonian astrologers most likely, who mapped the stars in order to find the promised messiah. Although pre-scientific, perhaps, in our modern sense of the word, I think they understood more clearly the purpose of the universe, (and to Whom it points) than their 21st Century telescope gazing descendants.

In Christ's service,  
Doc Bob



**MISSIONS:**

Linda Dux, Chair



January - Mental Health Association in Ulster County

As we are all aware, especially lately with tragic results, there is a big emphasis on Mental Health and very little funding for services. The Mental Health Association in Ulster County, Inc. is a nonprofit organization that provides a variety of educational, advocacy and service programs, including mental health education, rehabilitation, residential services, family and youth support services, and therapeutic foster care. By contributing in your Mission envelope you will be assisting this very worthy organization to fulfill their mission to engage all people in optimal mental health by providing innovative programs and services that heal, prevent, educate and advocate.

**Soup Sale**



Sunday, January 20,  
2013

Hearty Minestrone  
with Beef

\$7.00 a quart Or

Stay after worship and enjoy a bowl of soup an a hard roll for lunch for \$5.00

To place an order call Linda Dux, 331-9364

(P.S: We have a very limited supply of containers - please bring a quart container with you.)

**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. 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.

## A Fund Raiser for The Hurley Reformed Church "Handicapped Accessibility Project"



TUPPERWARE Demo  
Sunday, Jan. 27 ~ 11:30 AM



TUPPERWARE Catalogs will be available in Schadewald Hall  
on Sunday, Jan. 13 (Bring all orders to Church on Jan. 27)

Any questions/orders call  
Rebecca Masters 845-338-3556 or Debbie Tucker 845-336-8191

## Handicapped Accessibility Construction Update

David Giles

There has been a great deal of preliminary work accomplished since the Annual Meeting in Schadewald Hall. The consistory heard presentations from William Brinnier, Architect, and Theodore Musialkiewicz, Contractor. Preliminary sketches have been reviewed and alternatives proposed for the second set of sketches to be discussed at the January meeting of the Consistory.

The proposed enclosed lift is large enough to accommodate wheel chairs. The installation area for the lift will be where the left hand stairway goes to the level of Schadewald Hall. The left side stairway will be removed. The lift will be able to stop at all three levels required for access to every level.

The Consistory will review three possible locations for the handicapped bathroom:

- use 50% of the Sunday School Chapel,
- use about 100 square feet of Schadewald Hall near the serving window area, and,
- conversion of the shower area in the downstairs boys room.

Each proposed site will have the appropriate facilities and access for handicapped individuals. The Consistory will discuss the locations and associated costs for each of the three sites.

Preliminary cost estimates are expected to be within the proposed range of \$80,000 to \$100,000. Whether a grant or a loan, each possible lending source will look to our Congregation for 15% to 20% (\$16,000 to \$20,000) of the total cost. Our project did not qualify for funding from the Landmarks Conservancy.

Financing is always a stressful time for our small congregation and the proposed project will be no different; as it is such a large endeavor. The Consistory has started a funding program to help offset the cost of borrowing the full amount. Individuals and organizations have already made contributions with checks made out to HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBILITY FUND. You can be part of this exciting effort to meet the accessibility needs of our membership and community-at-large by submitting your donation. The need is crucial and the effort is necessary as we all consider a donation to the HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBILITY FUND.

The logo for 'The Significant Woman' features the title in a blue, elegant script font. Above the word 'Woman', there are three overlapping, stylized loops in shades of blue and purple, resembling a decorative flourish or a stylized 'W'.

*A Life Changing study that presents Life Principles through Life Coaching!*

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The Significant Women course will be offered for a fourth time at Hurley Reformed Church this February if we have enough interest. We'll need about 6-8 participants to make it a go.

If you are ready to invite meaningful changes in your life and to grow in your relationship with God, this may be just what you're looking for.

In this 12-week Life-Coaching study you will:

- Grow in your relationship with God.
- Discover your personal uniqueness.
- Reconnect with your inner passion.
- Activate your God-given personal mission.
- Refocus priorities and gain direction.
- Create a framework for making life decisions.
- Improve meaningful relationships.
- Take steps to achieve God's unique purpose in your life.

*If interested contact Carla Paton at 514-2682 or [carla.paton@gmail.com](mailto:carla.paton@gmail.com)  
for more information as soon as possible.*

*“For we are God’s workmanship created in Christ Jesus to do good works,  
which God prepared in advance for us to do.”~ Ephesians 2:10*



**BIRTHDAYS  
THIS MONTH**

*January*

Melissa McGraw	11, '95
Ryan Helm	28, '09
Andrew Maxwell	1
Nicole Provenzano	4
Thomas Horvers	5
Carla Paton	8
Joe Ulrich	9
Marcy Rell	10
Allan Dumas	11
Dolores Wyncoop	12
MaryLou Christiana	12

Clarence Jansen	13
Doug Constant	15
Glenn Decker	17
Wally Cook	17
Linda Dux	18
Lee Gable	18
Wendy Helsley	19
Brandon Paton	20
Shannon Tucker	21
Michael Christiana	21
Alex Milne	22
Alma Strickland	24
Doris Alden	24
Kelly Maggiore	24
Kelly Dux More	25
Sheila Jansen	25
Morgan Burgess	26
Tom Harkin	27

Doreen Lyke	28
Mitchell Kurtz	30

*February Birthdays*

Douglas Woodard	6, '92
Morgan Schaffrick	7, '96

Chris Decker	2
Dean Baker	2
Drew Wonderly	3
Robert Kindt, Sr.	4
Molly Nicholas	8

**ANNIVERSARIES**

*January*

Rev & Esther Stickley	2
George & Renee Nekos	4
Ruth & Tom Harkin	6

*When You're Hospitalized*

Help us stand beside you in health challenges:

- 1) Tell the Pastor or an Elder as a hospitalization nears—or afterward in emergencies.
- 2) At admission, check “yes” for pastor to be told.
- 3) Do #1 above no matter the outcome of #2.

Let's stay connected to God and each other—especially when large health issues descend!



Cancellations . . .

Please listen to radio station WKNY 1490AM for cancellations due to winter weather.

Thanks to every who participates in the bottles and cans recycling program we were able to donate \$181.00 to U.C.M.H.A. for the last six months of 2012. Keep up the good work.



Pastoral Need?

In an emergency you may reach Dr. Gram at 845-332-5928 or 845-514-2293.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
Youth Group 10am - Worship 11am - Seese House 6pm - AA @ Dutch 7pm - ACA @ Room	10am - Baptism 6pm - Dog Training 7pm - Little League 7:30pm - 1st Capital 7:30pm - Al-Anon	New Year's Day 8:30am - Hillside 4pm - PC 101 7pm - Bible Study 7pm - Boy Scouts	8am - Bible Study 10am - Badminton 5:30pm - Dog 6pm - Wolf Den 6:30pm - Girl Scout 7pm - ACA @ Room	1:30pm - Hurley 3pm - Quilting 4:45pm - Dog 6:30pm - Girl Scouts 7:30pm - Choir	10am - Badminton 7pm - Youth Group	10am - Badminton 8am - Soup Prep 8:30am - Brandon
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
10am - Ordination 10am - Worship 11am - All Church 11:30am - Parent 6pm - AA @ Dutch 7pm - ACA @ Room	10am - Baptism 11am - YFW 6pm - Dog Training 7pm - Consistory 7pm - Hudson Valley 7:30pm - Al-Anon	7pm - Bible Study 7pm - Boy Scouts	8am - Bible Study 10am - Badminton 5:30pm - Dog 6pm - Wolf Den 7pm - ACA @ Room 7pm - Men's Group	3pm - Quilting 4:45pm - Dog 7pm - NE 7:30pm - Choir	10am - Badminton 8am - Soup Prep 8:30am - Brandon	10am - Badminton 8:30am - Brandon
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
10am - Worship 11am - Soup Sale 6pm - AA @ Dutch 7pm - ACA @ Room 7pm - Youth Group	10am - Baptism 10am - Badminton 10am - Genealogy 6pm - Dog Training 6pm - Foundation 7:30pm - Al-Anon	7pm - Bible Study 7pm - Boy Scouts	8am - Bible Study 10am - Badminton 5:30pm - Dog 6pm - Wolf Den 7pm - ACA @ Room 7pm - Men's Group	3pm - Quilting 4:45pm - Dog 7:30pm - Choir	10am - Badminton 8:30am - Brandon	10am - Badminton 8:30am - Brandon
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
10am - Worship 11am - Tupperware 6pm - AA @ Dutch 7pm - ACA @ Room	Martin Luther King 10am - Baptism 10am - Badminton 10am - Genealogy 6pm - Dog Training 6pm - Foundation 7:30pm - Al-Anon	7pm - Bible Study 7pm - Boy Scouts	8am - Bible Study 10am - Badminton 5:30pm - Dog 6pm - Wolf Den 7pm - ACA @ Room 7pm - Men's Group	3pm - Quilting 4:45pm - Dog 7:30pm - Choir	10am - Badminton 8:30am - Brandon	10am - Badminton 8:30am - Brandon
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
10am - Worship 11am - Tupperware 6pm - AA @ Dutch 7pm - ACA @ Room	8:30am - HNS 10am - Baptism 10:30am - Genealogy 6pm - Dog Training 7pm - SCLB @ Room 7:30pm - Al-Anon	7pm - Bible Study 7pm - Boy Scouts	8am - Bible Study 8:30am - HNS 10am - Badminton 5:30pm - Dog 6pm - Wolf Den 7pm - ACA @ Room	3pm - Quilting 4:45pm - Dog 5pm - Newspaper 7:30pm - Choir	10am - Badminton 8:30am - Brandon	10am - Badminton 8:30am - Brandon

January 2013



HURLEY REFORMED  
CHURCH

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

WE'RE ON THE WEB:

[WWW.HURLEYREFORMEDCHURCH.ORG](http://WWW.HURLEYREFORMEDCHURCH.ORG)

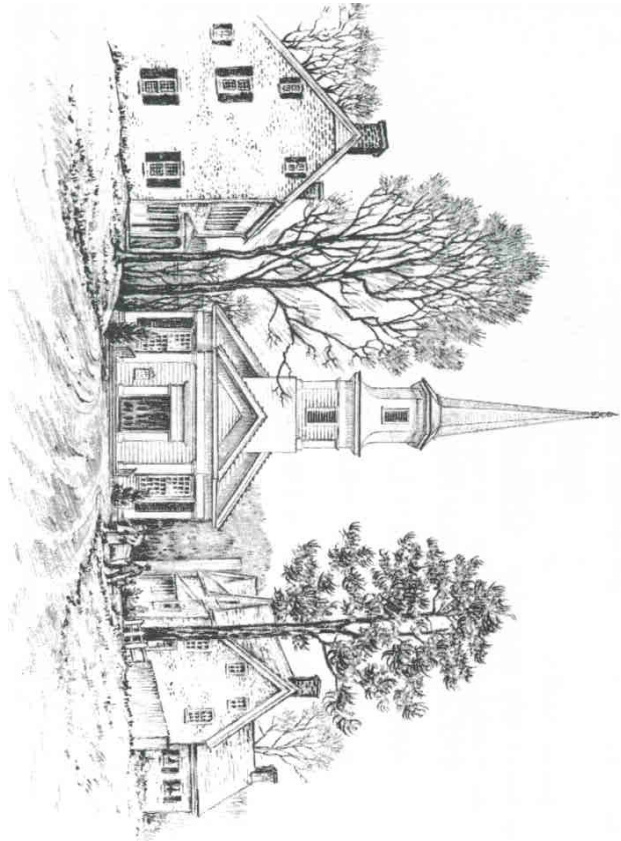
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