

# THE SPIRE

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 5

MAY 2014



## PENTECOST

Pentecost is the festival celebrating the fiery, windy Spirit of God. In ancient Israel it was known as the Feast of Weeks. Celebrated 50 days after Passover—the holy period when Jesus died—pilgrims gathered in Jerusalem from the Mediterranean world to thank God for the Spring harvest and His bounteous care throughout the year. Pentecost represented Moses' reception of the 10 Commandments on Mount Sinai. Two thousand years ago, in Jesus' day, a growing universalism pervaded the Feast. Jews perceived that God's stone-inscribed law blessed the world as well as Israel.

In the Gospel of John, and the Book of Acts, we encounter disciples in hiding. They were afraid of arrest and persecution. In spite of Christ's resurrection, they may have wondered whether a cross awaited them. Jesus had predicted such when he said, "Servants are not greater than their master. If they persecuted me, they will persecute you" (John 13:20). I imagine their whispering huddle. I imagine collective eyes darting from wall to wall wondering how much neighbors knew. Decades ago I visited the home in Amsterdam where Anne Frank and her family hid, trying to avoid the Nazi roundup of Jews during the Second World War. I remember darkness and narrow space; the floorboards still creaked. I believe a similar claustrophobic fear grasped the disciples causing them to move slowly, and lightly in their confine. Before the crucifixion, Peter was nearly caught. He escaped by denying Jesus three times (Luke 22:54-

62). He even cursed and swore an oath that he had no knowledge of his Lord. Did Peter's Near Death Experience" influence the others? Certainly. Terror reigned among Jesus' disciples.

Everything changed at Pentecost. God gave the Spirit instead of the Mosaic Law, and birthed the Church we serve and love. The Spirit came

*If we are open, God's Spirit, the Holy Spirit, will alight on each of us, providing the courage to meet the challenges of each day.*

upon them like a "rush of violent wind" (Acts 2:2), in that room where anxiety once ruled. Suddenly the disciples ran to the streets, proclaiming good news in languages they didn't understand. Fulfilling the role of Moses, once again God's love was proclaimed to the world by untutored Galileans. Men and women from various nations gathered in Jerusalem, and heard God's saving hope in their native tongue. Just as important, the Spirit empowered the disciples to stand tall and speak God's truth. They were unconcerned about consequences. Fear relinquished its grip. If we are open, God's Spirit, the Holy Spirit, will alight on each of us, providing the courage to meet the challenges of each day. Let us pray that God's Spirit will allow us to preach good news, and embody Christ's hope. The world needs what we at the Hurley Reformed Church have to offer.

Yours in Christ,

Doc Bob



### CAFE CHOCOLAT RETREAT

On Saturday, April 5, 2014, the Women's Ministries held their Annual Retreat. The Theme this year was Cafe Chocolat. Chocolate being a metaphor for God's Grace!

We started at 8 a.m. and ended at 4:30 pm.

The women were introduced to 6 Sessions led by our own committee members, Carla Paton, our Worship Leader, Pat Baker, Lori Baker, Nancy Sweeney and Deb Zuill. We learned about the abundance of God's Grace and how to use HIS Grace in all areas of our lives.

We, for the first time, were entertained by Myrna Rivera, a Praise Dancer, who danced to the song, "The Alabaster Box". It was truly inspiring! How appropriate for the Lenten Season since Jesus was anointed with the oil, and the events that followed.

The food was delicious, the games were fun, the songs were exhilarating and the getting to know other women from the area was well worth it!!!

Thank you to Rev. Gram for blessing the food and having breakfast with us! Thank you to Linda Dux who was in charge of the Publicity and Midge Stott who put together our God's Grace Bracelets and Marilyn More who is treasurer and computer whiz when it comes to decorating and Pat Baker for a culinary delight! Also to Shirley Ruth and Harriet who took care of Registrations!

I am thankful to my committee for all the love and support they showed to me in helping to put this all together!!!

Well done!

Deb Zuill, Chairperson



### Local Missions

Rebecca Masters, Chair

The March donations for the food for the homeless kids of the Kingston school district was \$600.

Our Mission for the month for May is our local Habitat for Humanity. They are just finishing up their 12th house, which is in Kingston. It is going to a single mother and her family. Families are chosen based upon demonstrated need and a steady source of income to repay the zero-interest mortgage. Families invest 250 hours of their own "sweat-equity" labor into the houses. Habitat also operates the RESTORE on Route 28. 100% of the profits support Ulster County Habitat for Humanity and help build homes and hope right here in Ulster County.



Angel Food East is pleased to announce an expansion in our mission. If you or anyone you know in Ulster County is chronically-ill and essential-

ly home-bound, we will deliver five hot, fresh nutritious meals to your home each week, free of charge. We know nutrition is critical as bodies heal and, since 1992, our all-volunteer organization has focused on helping the sick and the frail in our community. There are no income thresholds or complex forms. If you're in need, we're here. For more information - or to join us as a volunteer - please call 845-331-6538.

Winter has passed, the Lord has fulfilled his promise. The earth has come to life once again. Come visit the Columbarium and see what's new. Come and see the changes that have been made. We have worked very hard to create a peaceful place of tranquility. Come sit and let the sun warm you as you ...

**Welcome Spring!!!**

### **STICKLEY GARDENS**

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)

REV STICKLEY, SECRETARY

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

## Strawberry Hill Fiddlers (Cranberries too!)



Saturday

May 10, 2014

7:00 p.m.

Schadewald Hall

Bring your friends!

Get your tickets May 4th

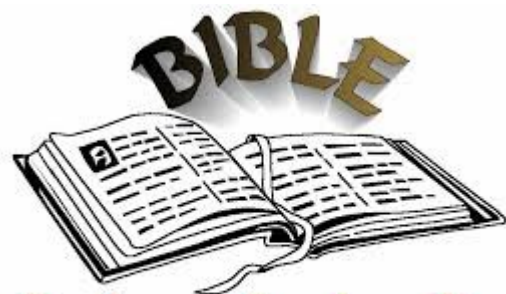
Adults \$15

Students \$10



The Woodstock Playhouse will be presenting "Jesus Christ Superstar" in July. We have an opportunity to purchase tickets at a slightly discounted price for the week-end of July 17-20. A date will be decided

and depending on how many people sign up, we will reserve tickets. Kathy Musialkiewicz will be taking names and handle the reservations. Watch weekly bulletins for more information.



**B**asic **I**nformation **B**efore **L**eaving **E**arth

*"Loving Selflessly: Insights from 1st John"*

Tuesday Evening

May 13 and 20

7:00—8:30 p.m.

Dutch Room

(repeated the following

Wednesday mornings at 7:30 a.m.)

**MOM**  
Happy Mother's Day



**S**tone House Day 2014 is coming up on July 12 this year. For those of you who have newly joined our Church, Stone House Day is our main fundraiser, and a wonderful opportunity to participate and meet new people. We will need lots of help; docents in all the houses, help in the cafeteria, kitchen and dining room, Grandma's Garrett in the basement, parking and lots of other things. We will need all of you to make this a successful and wonderful day.



We will have about 6 old stone houses open this year. They are open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and the docents work in 3 hour shifts.

We also have Children's Colonial Crafts on the Parsonage Porch, where we make corn husk dolls, tinsmith candleholders, and we dip candles. Along with that we usually make small potpourri bags. This year we are hoping to demonstrate how to make herb and cornhusk wreaths. If you enjoy working with children and their families, this would be a perfect opportunity for you to help.

Spinners, weavers and a blacksmith will demonstrate their skills on the Parsonage grounds. We are also hoping to have a woodworker and quilters. If you know of anyone who has a skill that would be appropriate to demonstrate as a colonial craft, please let us know. Maybe it is You!!

Along with all this we have a colonial militia encampment with men and women in colonial outfits who show some of the items they needed to bring with them when they were called out to fight. Their women might demonstrate how to cook over an open fire, and the soldiers will march and show their weapons.

Granny's Garret, a jewelry sale, and church commemoratives will occupy the lower level of Schadewald Hall, along with the Women's Guild Bake Sale. A quilt, made by the Hurley Quilters, will be raffled off at 4 p.m. This is the 20th quilt they have. Be sure to buy tickets before it is too late. The kitchen will be busy preparing lots of food and snacks for lunch and those "in between" moments. Sojourner Truth will present her famous speech in the Sanctuary. Organ recitals will feature period music, and our violinist will perform on the Bevier Porch. There might also be a few more plays or one-man (woman) performances (we're still working on that). There is a small bus (actually two) that will take people out to the houses on the outskirts of town.

Please let us know if you will be available and what you would prefer to do. We also need help to sell raffle tickets, distribute pamphlets and posters ahead of time (during the month of May and June), prepping food the Friday before, putting up signs and, of course, cleaning up at the end of the day. Lots of things to do to keep small and big hands busy. Don't forget that children can be involved in a lot of these activities. And, of course, bake for the Bake Sale.

Ellen Richards, Chairperson

## Birthdays

		Jayne Ulrich	10
		Marilyn Cox	11
Finn Sullivan	May 1, 13	Charles Jansen	11
Jonathan Helsley	5, '05	Robin Brennan	14
George Nekos, Jr.	5, '11	Barbara Hornbeck	14
Taylor Robey	21, '99	May Kowalenko	15
Lily DeKoskie	27, '11	Kathleen Mayfield	15
Mackenzie Schoonmaker	28, '99	Les Frost	16
		Ruth Harkin	16
Cole Jordan	May 1	Jo Sullivan	17
Terry Conlin	2	Dave Baker	22
Kristen Helm	2	Ricki Maggione	27
Mikayla Mellin	2	Brian Donnelly	28
Lori Baker	3	Jerry Wyncoop	30
Faye McLane Jansen	4		
Gil Hoppenstedt	4	Gordon Kent	June 1
Kathy Burns	4	Su Wonderly	2
Elizabeth Wilson	7	Joseph Orlando	5, '07
Dolores McGoldrick	8		



## Anniversaries

Jim & Sheila Craven	May 5
Glenn & Debbie Decker	6
Kathy & Bob Pfeiffer	6
Elaine & David Szekeres	8
Christa & Terry Conlin	9
Marilyn & John More	9
Alice & Frank Presti	10
Jennifer & Thomas Mann	11
Janet & Jake Croswell	13
Joe & Kathy Burns	15
Kevin & Jeanne Quenzer	17
Wayne & Karen Waligurski	20
Christine & Bill Henning	22
Donna & Peter Harder	30

**HURLEY REFORMED CHURCH, HURLEY NY**

TREAT  
YOURSELF!

# BIG BREAKFAST

TREAT  
YOURSELF!

**Saturday, May 17, 2014 8-10am**

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

**\$9.00** FOR ADULTS **\$5.00** FOR CHILDREN under 12

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

Pentecost Sunday

June 8

Please bring a  
geranium to  
church



### God and Science

"Let me explain the problem science has with religion." The atheist professor of philosophy pauses before his class and then asks one of his new students to stand.

'You're a Christian, aren't you, son?'

'Yes sir,' the student says.

'So you believe in God?'

'Absolutely '

'Is God good?'

'Sure! God's good.'

'Is God all-powerful? Can God do anything?'

'Yes'

'Are you good or evil?'

'The Bible says I'm evil.'

The professor grins knowingly. 'Aha! The Bible! He considers for a moment. 'Here's one for you. Let's say there's a sick person over here and you can cure him. You can do it. Would you help him? Would you try?'

'Yes sir, I would.'

'So you're good...!'

'I wouldn't say that.'

'But why not say that? You'd help a sick and maimed person if you could. Most of us would if we could. But God doesn't.'

The student does not answer, so the professor continues. 'He doesn't, does he? My brother was a Christian who died of cancer, even though he prayed to Jesus to heal him. How is this Jesus good? Can you answer that one?'

The student remains silent. 'No, you can't, can you?' the professor says.. He takes a sip of water from a glass on his desk to give the student time to relax. 'Let's start again, young fella. Is God good?'

'Er..yes,' the student says.

'Is Satan good?'

The student doesn't hesitate on this one.. 'No.'

'Then where does Satan come from?'

The student falters. 'From God'

'That's right. God made Satan, didn't he? Tell me, son. Is there evil in this world?'

'Yes, sir.'

'Evil's everywhere, isn't it? And God did make everything, correct?'

'Yes'

'So who created evil?' The professor continued, 'If God created everything, then God created evil, since evil exists, and according to the principle that our works define who we are, then God is evil.'

Again, the student has no answer. 'Is there sickness? Immorality? Hatred? Ugliness? All these terrible things, do they exist in this world?'

The student squirms on his feet. 'Yes.'

'So who created them?'

The student does not answer again, so the professor repeats his question.. 'Who created them?' There is still no answer. Suddenly the lecturer breaks away to pace in front of the classroom. The class is mesmerized. 'Tell me,' he continues onto another student. 'Do you believe in Jesus Christ, son?'

The student's voice betrays him and cracks. 'Yes, professor, I do.'

The old man stops pacing. 'Science says you have five senses you use to identify and observe the world around you. Have you ever seen Jesus?'

'No sir. I've never seen Him.'

'Then tell us if you've ever heard your Jesus?'

'No, sir, I have not.'

'Have you ever felt your Jesus, tasted your Jesus or smelt your Jesus? Have you ever had any sensory perception of Jesus Christ, or God for that matter?'

'No, sir, I'm afraid I haven't.'

'Yet you still believe in him?'

*(Continued on page 7)*

*(Continued from page 6)*

'Yes'

'According to the rules of empirical, testable, demonstrable protocol, science says your God doesn't exist.... What do you say to that, son?'

'Nothing,' the student replies.. 'I only have my faith.'

'Yes, faith,' the professor repeats. 'And that is the problem science has with God. There is no evidence, only faith.'

The student stands quietly for a moment, before asking a question of His own. 'Professor, is there such thing as heat? '

' Yes.

'And is there such a thing as cold?'

'Yes, son, there's cold too..'

'No sir, there isn't.'

The professor turns to face the student, obviously interested. The room suddenly becomes very quiet. The student begins to explain. 'You can have lots of heat, even more heat, super-heat, mega-heat, unlimited heat, white heat, a little heat or no heat, but we don't have anything called 'cold'. We can hit down to 458 degrees below zero, which is no heat, but we can't go any further after that. There is no such thing as cold; otherwise we would be able to go colder than the lowest -458 degrees. Everybody or object is susceptible to

study when it has or transmits energy, and heat is what makes a body or matter have or transmit energy. Absolute zero (-458 F) is the total absence of heat. You see, sir, cold is only a word we use to describe the absence of heat. We cannot measure cold. Heat we can measure in thermal units because heat is energy. Cold is not the opposite of heat, sir, just the absence of it.'

Silence across the room. A pen drops somewhere in the classroom, sounding like a hammer.

'What about darkness, professor. Is there such a thing as darkness?'

'Yes,' the professor replies without hesitation. 'What is night if it isn't darkness?'

'You're wrong again, sir. Darkness is not something; it is the absence of something. You can have low light, normal light, bright light, flashing light, but if you have no light constantly you have nothing and it's called darkness, isn't it? That's the meaning we use to define the word. In reality, darkness isn't. If it were, you would be able to make darkness darker, wouldn't you?'

The professor begins to smile at the student in front of him. This will be a good semester. 'So what point are you making, young man?'

'Yes, professor. My point is, your philosophical premise is flawed to start with, and so your conclusion must also be flawed.'

The professor's face cannot hide

his surprise this time. 'Flawed? Can you explain how?'

'You are working on the premise of duality,' the student explains. 'You argue that there is life and then there's death; a good God and a bad God. You are viewing the concept of God as something finite, something we can measure. Sir, science can't even explain a thought.' 'It uses electricity and magnetism, but has never seen, much less fully understood either one. To view death as the opposite of life is to be ignorant of the fact that death cannot exist as a substantive thing. Death is not the opposite of life, just the absence of it.' 'Now tell me, professor. Do you teach your students that they evolved from a monkey?'

'If you are referring to the natural evolutionary process, young man, yes, of course I do.'

'Have you ever observed evolution with your own eyes, sir?'

The professor begins to shake his head, still smiling, as he realizes where the argument is going. A very good semester, indeed.

'Since no one has ever observed the process of evolution at work and cannot even prove that this process is an on-going endeavor, are you not teaching your opinion, sir? Are you now not a scientist, but a preacher?'

The class is in uproar. The student remains silent until the commotion has subsided. 'To continue the point you were making earlier to

*(Continued on page 8)*

(Continued from page 7)

the other student, let me give you an example of what I mean.' The student looks around the room. 'Is there anyone in the class who has ever seen the professor's brain?' The class breaks out into laughter. 'Is there anyone here who has ever heard the professor's brain, felt the professor's brain, touched or smelt the professor's brain? No one appears to have done so... So, according to the established rules of empirical, stable, demonstrable protocol, science says that you have no brain, with all due respect, sir.' 'So if science says you have no brain, how can we trust your lectures, sir?'

Now the room is silent. The professor just stares at the student, his face unreadable. Finally, after what seems an eternity, the old man answers. 'I guess you'll have to take them on faith.'

'Now, you accept that there is faith, and, in fact, faith exists with life,' the student continues. 'Now, sir, is there such a thing as evil?' Now uncertain, the professor responds, 'Of course, there is. We see it Everyday. It is in the daily example of man's inhumanity to man. It is in the multitude of crime and violence everywhere in the world. These manifestations are nothing else but evil.'

To this the student replied, 'Evil does not exist sir, or at least it does not exist unto itself. Evil is simply the absence of God. It is just like darkness and cold, a word that man has created to describe the absence of God. God did not create evil. Evil is the result of what happens when man does not have God's love present in his heart. It's like the cold that comes when there is no heat or the darkness that comes when there is no light.'

The professor sat down.

Kingston Relay for Life

Dietz Stadium

Saturday, May 17, 2014

11:00 am.



Be sure to see a Youth Group member or  
donate online to  
Team Hurley Hurricanes!

GOD SPEAKS TO EACH OF US

AS HE MAKES US,

THEN WALKS WITH US

SILENTLY OUT OF THE NIGHT.

These are the words we dimly hear.

You, sent out beyond your recall,

Go to the limits of your longing,

Embody me.

Flare up like flame

And make big shadows I can move in.

Let everything happen to you,

Beauty and terror.

Just keep going. No feeling is final.

Don't let yourself lose me.

Nearby is the country they call life.

You will know it by its seriousness.

GIVE ME YOUR HAND.

•Rainer Maria Rilke



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
				9:30am - Badminton 1:30pm - Hurley 3pm - Quilting @ 4:45pm - Dog 7:30pm - 1st Capitol 7:30pm - Choir		12pm - Private @
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10am - Worship @ 11am - Prayer Chain 7pm - Youth Group	5pm - Dog Training 7pm - Little League 7:30pm - Al-Anon @	9:30am - Badminton 9:30am - Quilters @ 4pm - Hurley Purlers 4pm - PC 101 @ Hall 7pm - Boy Scouts	7:30am - Bible 5:30pm - Dog 6pm - Cub Scout 6pm - Den 1 Bears @ 6:30pm - Girl Scout 7pm - Boy Scouts	9am - HNS - flower 9:30am - Badminton 3pm - Quilting @ 4:45pm - Dog 7:30pm - Choir	7pm - Motorcycle	10am - Genealogy @ 1pm - Set Up @ Hall 7pm - Fiddlers @
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
<b>Mothers' Day</b> 10am - Worship @ 11am - SHD @ Dutch	11am - VFW @ 1pm - Baskets @ 5pm - Dog Training 6pm - FYH @ Room 7pm - Consistory @ 7pm - Hudson Valley	8:30am - Hillside 9:30am - Badminton 9:30am - Quilters @ 4pm - Hurley Purlers 7pm - Boy Scouts	7:30am - Bible 5:30pm - Dog 6pm - Cub Scout 6pm - Den 1 Bears @ 7pm - Men's Group 7:45pm - Bagpiper	9:30am - Badminton 3pm - Quilting @ 4:45pm - Dog 7pm - NE 7:30pm - Choir	8:30am - HNS	8am - Breakfast @
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
10am - Worship @ 11am - Women's 3pm - Order of the	8:30am - HNS @ Hall 10am - Genealogy @ 1pm - Baskets @ 5pm - Dog Training 7:30pm - Al-Anon @	9:30am - Badminton 9:30am - Quilters @ 12pm - HNS @ Hall 4pm - Hurley Purlers 7pm - Boy Scouts	7:30am - Bible 5:30pm - Dog 6pm - Cub Scout 6pm - Den 1 Bears @ 7pm - Hurley Lions 7pm - Men's Group	9:30am - Badminton 3pm - Quilting @ 4:45pm - Dog 7:30pm - Choir		
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
10am - Worship @ 11am - SHD @ Dutch	<b>Memorial Day</b> 10:30am - Genealog 5pm - Dog Training 7:30pm - Al-Anon @	9:30am - Badminton 9:30am - Quilters @ 10am - Classis @ 4pm - Hurley Purlers 7pm - Boy Scouts	7:30am - Bible 5:30pm - Dog 6pm - Cub Scout 6pm - Den 1 Bears @ 7pm - Men's Group 7:45pm - Bagpiper	9:30am - Badminton 3pm - Quilting @ 4:45pm - Dog 7:30pm - Choir		

May 2014

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

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THE SPIRE  
MAY 2014  
HURLEY REFORMED CHURCH  
Hurley New York 12443  
The Rev. Dr. Robert L. Gram, LCSW  
Pastor

