

THE SPIRE

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 3 MARCH 2012

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Frans de Waal is a professor of psychology at Emory University and director of the Living Links Center at the Yerkes National Primate Center in Atlanta. In his book, *Primates and Philosophers*, he writes about Georgia, his “naughtiest chimpanzee”, who is fascinated by her own reflection in the camera lens and has the habit of hurrying to a spigot to collect a mouthful of water before visitors arrive at the Yerkes Field Station. She then mingles casually with the rest of the colony in their compound, blending with her fellow apes. She bides her time and, when visitors approach the mesh fence, she will spew water onto her unsuspecting human admirers. Following this “welcoming ceremony” the other gorillas will shriek with laughter and cavort. Georgia performs predictably and de Waal finds himself thinking that there is premeditation behind what she does. In other words, Georgia enjoys being the mischievous class clown.

This scientist’s attitude toward this beloved animal differs philosophically from many animal researchers who believe that chimpanzees and apes do not display intention as we humans do. In fact, many researchers believe that imposing human understandings onto non-human creatures,

anthropomorphism, weakens scientific enterprise. de Waal understands the concern, but suggests that scientists like himself, who work face to face with apes and chimpanzees, increasingly find themselves believing there is much humans have in common with non-human life, particularly with elephants and dolphins, as well as chimpanzees. He believes we cannot explain certain animal actions through minimalist interpretations to the effect that animals have no cognitive or emotional capacity whatsoever. He calls forth several examples to illustrate his point. One striking report concerns a bonobo female empathizing with a bird at a zoo in England. The ape, named Kuni, captured a starling. Out of fear that Kuni might molest the stunned bird, which appeared undamaged, the keeper urged the gorilla to let the starling go. Kuni lifted the bird with one hand and climbed to the highest point of the highest tree where she wrapped her legs around the trunk so she had both hands free to hold the bird. She meticulously unfolded its wings and spread them open, one wing in each hand, before throwing the bird as hard as she could toward the barrier of the enclosure. Unfortunately, her toss fell short and the bird landed onto the bank of the moat where the ape guarded it for a long time

against a curious adolescent. It appeared that Kuni not only displayed sympathy but had rudimentary understanding of what would make the bird happy: Flight. A more famous example happened

She meticulously unfolded its wings and spread them open, one wing in each hand, before throwing the bird as hard as she could toward the barrier of the enclosure.

in the Chicago Zoo where a gorilla rescued a small child who had fallen into the compound, caressed and held it until human support continued the rescue.

de Waal suggests that animals are empathic as we are called to be and that the fact that apes and chimpanzees respond with compassion almost immediately would indicate that it is hardwired into their nature. In many ways this philosopher goes against thinkers like Sigmund Freud, as well as behaviorists in our era, suggesting that the immediacy of moral emotions such as sympathy and compassion, leaves no room for cogni-

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tive contortions. The site of another's pain is an impulse over which we exert little or no control. It grabs us instantaneously like a reflex. We have no time to weigh the pros and the cons. de Waal believes this is what humans and simpler primates share, although one wonders whether non humans are more consistent in their caring capacity. Increasingly there are reports of the self-sacrificing nature of animals and even of in-



Save the Date!

Our famous

Fish Fry Dinner,

prepared by John from

The Sea Deli,

will be available for sit-down or
take out on

Saturday

April 28

4:00-7:00pm

Tickets: \$10.00 each

On sale starting April 1st.

sects. Scientists in Wales recently concluded that a male cricket willingly sacrifices its life for its female counterpart. If this is the case then it seems understanding animals' willingness to die for another is wonderfully Cristological in light of Jesus' death on the cross.

I suppose I'm interested in animal behavior during Lent, because the season begins and ends with animals. In the gospel of Mark Jesus is tempted by Satan. The earliest evangelist knows nothing or purposely excludes the drama which both Matthew and Luke record about Satan tempting Jesus three times. In the gospel of Mark we are told only that Satan tempts Jesus. Unlike Matthew and Luke we know nothing about the nature of temptation. What is clear in examining the grammar of the two verses which comprise Mark's short temptation scene is that Satan is subordinated to Jesus' interaction with the angels who minister to him as well as the animals. It appears that Jesus is more interested in fellowship than in dealing with Satan. Throughout most of Christian history the animals in the wilderness were thought to be instruments of Satan. It is only recently that scholarship has suggested that the animals may represent a force for good which, like the angels, provided comfort and hope to Jesus at a difficult period before he began his public ministry. I like this latter interpretation because it is consonant with Biblical understandings of the relation-

ship between humans and all creatures. They are our allies and friends. Eden is truly Eden because of their presence in the Garden. The Bible goes much further than de Waal in the story of Balaam's ass who sees an angel blocking its rider's path whereas the prophet does not. It appears that the ass is truly God's messenger to Balaam. (Numbers 22:21-41)

Most notably we see the importance of animals in the Book of Job. The eponymous sufferer has lost everything – children, livelihood, home, social standing and health - and is healed only when God takes him on a nature tour in the wilderness, far from polite society. Like Jesus Job encounters beasts who have no instrumental purpose save that they were created by God for the Almighty's delight. Job observes the ostrich, the mountain goat, and wild horses and donkeys. In seeing these animals up close he forgets about the profound tragedies which have shaken his life and which constitute the majority of the book.

It seems as if the issue of why bad things happen to good people recedes in the background. It is no longer important to his relationship with God. I believe Job was supported by and felt an alliance with all these creatures who were beyond the pale of society and yet were called precious because God describes them so lovingly. Exiled Job finds that he is at home with

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S T I C K L E Y G A R D E N S

*There is a heavenly garden
in which God takes great
pleasure, because He's
placed within it the loved
ones that we treasure.*

The melody of springtime falls sweetly on your ears as you step into the garden. Soon the trees will give blessed shade, soon the fragrance of the flowers will fill your nose with sweetness. The song of birds above in the trees will fill your heart with praise, for God's melodies of springtime. In this special place, you will feel the peace and love of the Lord.

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)
JERRY FINK (246-6567) SECRETARY • DIANA CLINE (338-7276) CONSISTORY LIAISON

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

CLEAN UP DAY

SATURDAY, APRIL 21

WATCH FOR DETAILS . . .



March BIRTHDAYS

Ireland Simi	6, '97	Elizabeth Askue	8	Phyllis Bliss	24
Sage Arastiqueti	19, '05	Barbara Sartorius	10	Deidre Sills	25
Justin Nekos	21, '00	Barry Rell	10	Cathy McGraw	27
William Gaffken	23, '98	Kim Burgess	13	Jennifer Hinsdale	28
Logan Brennan	31, '98	Deborah Zuill	14	Ellen Morone	31
Lily Gram Collins	1	Allan Masters	14	Bernadette Baker	31
Craig Jansen	2	Ellen Stephano	14	April	
Terry Read	2	Frank Warren	17	Travis Horvers	2, '98
Linda Bogнар	3	Frank Presti	17	Wayne Waligurski	1
Jack Gill	5	Joyce Pinckney	18	Mildred Mattison	4
Dennis Horvers	5	Dino Sumerano	18	Trevor Davenport	4
Dr. Bob Gram	6	Angie Rockwell	19	Hattie Drake	5
Marianne Mizel	7	Janet Croswell	19	Kathy Hauck	5
		Katrina Rubino	19		
		Lauren Arastiqueti	23	ANNIVERSARIES	
		Jean Marrus	24	Jean & Jay Marrus	March 9
		Christine Henning	24	Charles & Sheila Jansen	25
		Gretchen Giles	24		

Reformed Church Services in Colonial Times

The Voorleser: was a precentor, (sic) serving a role halfway between that of chorister and liturgist. He conducted the first part of the service and assisted the minister (Domine) in the second half of the service.

The singing of the Psalms was led by the Foresinger. The first verse of each Psalm was led line by line, as unfamiliar hymns would have been taught to the congregation. Generally only Psalms were sung since hymns were thought to be too worldly.

Since few churches possessed an organ at that time, there was no Prelude. The Service began with a Reader or Clerk (the Voorleser) reading from the Scriptures until the ringing of the main church bell, indicating the Lord's Day Worship Service was about to begin. The Voorleser, standing in the Baptistry

under the Pulpit, began the Service by reading a few verses of Scripture, the Ten Commandments, a Chapter, and then announced the opening Psalm, reading it. The Psalm was then sung a capella.

The Minister, the Domine, then appeared. He shook the hands of the Consistory, stood a few moments at the foot of the Pulpit stairs in silent prayer and entered the Pulpit, making a few remarks bearing on the subject of the Sermon to be delivered. This was called "Exordium Remotum." This was followed by Prayer, the singing of a Psalm, and then the Sermon.

The Sermon was always very long - an hour or more. After the Sermon, the Foresinger again led the congregation in the singing of a Psalm, during which the offering was received.

Special prayer requests were received in a cleft stick, which were then handed to the Domine to in-

clude in his prayers.

The Service concluded with the Benediction, after which the Domine left the Pulpit and again shook hands with the Consistory. The withholding of a handshake indicated Elder or Deacon did not approve of the Sermon.

During the Service there was always a Monitor standing among the congregation, with a long pole, at the end of which was a feather to awaken sleeping worshipers and admonish restless children.

The congregation was segregated with the men and boys and the women and girls sitting on opposite sides of the church. The Consistory sat inside the Chancel in front of the congregation.

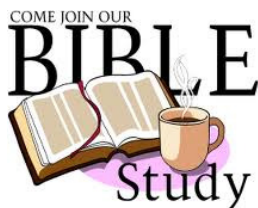
At the close of the Service, the men and boys left the Sanctuary first.

(From notice to New Paltz Reformed Church on upcoming October 17, 1957 anniversary.)

Weekly Bible Study

Tuesday Evening @ 7:00pm

Wednesday Morning @ 7:30am



"Ecclesiastes"

Where: Dutch Room



Watch this space . . . Save the date: May 19, 2012



Missions

"What you have done for the least of these you have done for me." Matthew 25:40

March Monthly Mission: Deacon's Fund of the HRC

In March you have the opportunity to support our own Deacons Fund. The Deacons Fund is used to assist those in our church/community who are facing financial hardships. The policy of the Deacons Fund provides guidelines for distribution of monies and insures that the funds are used in a wise and compassionate manner. Your contribution this month will be added to the \$500 already in our budget for this important work.

Thank you,
Linda Dux, Mission Committee Chair

The Women's Guild has been busy - baking cookies, making lunches for the workers cleaning the floors of the church and much, much, more.

In January we held our annual Birthday Party during coffee hour. Thank you to Ellen Richards for chairing this event and to all of our table decorators. It was a wonderful event.

We have a meeting coming up March 18. After this meeting we will hold our annual Butterfly Reveal & Exchange. What is this you ask? Someone thinks of you for a whole year and they do a little something for you on your birthday, holiday or just because. This is a wonderful connection that we make with each other. If you can't attend please see Natalie Woodard and she will make sure you are included.


April 15 is our annual Ladies Hat Sunday. Ladies are encouraged to wear a hat that was worn for a special occasion many years ago or a sun hat that you love wearing during the summer or maybe one you love to wear while gardening. No matter what it looks like don't forget to wear it on April 15.

Sandy Emrich, President


WINE & CHEESE PARTY




SUNDAY
MARCH 18, 2012
4:00 - 6:00
AT THE PARSONAGE




Hurley Reformed Church Youth Group
Main Street, Hurley, NY 12443






Penny Social

Friday, March 23rd, 2012
Doors Open at 6:00 pm
Calling at 7:30 pm
at the Hurley Reformed Church



50/50 Raffle

Refreshments Available
Also accepting donations, please contact
Diana at 338-7276 for information.



Youth Group

On Feb. 5 we held our annual Souper Bowl of Caring chili sale. We made 50 containers & raised \$500 for 2 local food pantries. We were able to send \$250 each to Queens Galley & St James Methodist Church Caring Hands. We also thank Shannon Butler & Christine Henning for chairing this event.

We also went snow tubing on Sunday 2/5. About a dozen of us went to Sawkill Family Ski Center & had a lot of fun!! Even though we haven't had a lot of snow this year we were able to enjoy our annual trip. Thank you to Melinda Herzog for chairing this for us.

On Feb. 12 the altar was decorated with carnations for Valentine's Day. We gave carnations to all the ladies who attended church that day. Thank you to Shannon Butler & Adams for their help. Please don't forget to support our local businesses as they support us in so many ways!

By time you read this it will be over...our annual Brooks BBQ. This fund raiser assists us in our upcoming retreat to Camp Warwick in April. Thank you to Jeff & Alyson Rafferty for chairing this event.

Penny Social anyone? It is coming up on March 23. Doors open up at 6pm & the calling starts at 7:30pm. We are still expecting donations of new & used items. Please call or see Diana Cline for information at 338-7276.

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the wild animals who support him in a way which we may not fully understand but of which we can identify. Often in our day petting a dog or holding a cat or watching fish swim in a fish tank can be profoundly healing. I see the difference a canine makes when it enters a nursing home and provides unconditional support and love to people who truly need it. Similarly I think that Jesus was comforted by the wild beasts and that what we see is a recapitulation of the final wilderness scene in the Book of Job.

Near the end of Lent at the beginning of Holy Week Jesus rides a donkey into the city. I often ask myself how did the donkey feel supporting the Son of God. I love the poem by G.K. Chesterton who speculates about the animal's feelings:

THE DONKEY

*When fishes flew and forests walked
And figs grew upon thorn,
Some moment when the moon was blood
Then surely I was born;*

*With monstrous head and sickening cry
And ears like errant wings,
The devil's walking parody
On all four-footed things.*

*The tattered outlaw of the earth,
Of ancient crooked will;
Starve, scourge, deride me: I am dumb,
I keep my secret still.*

*Fools! For I also had my hour;
One far fierce hour and sweet:
There was a shout about my ears,
And palms before my feet.*

During this Lenten season may we understand that Christ came to dignify all of creation as well as humankind, its crown jewel.

In Christ's service,

Doc Bob



Easter Flowers

_____ Lilies	\$8.00
_____ Mums	\$8.00
_____ Mini Roses	\$6.00
_____ Tulips	\$6.00
_____ Daffodils	\$6.00
_____ Hyacinths	\$6.00
_____ Pansies	\$3.00
_____ Primroses	\$3.00

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Please print clearly:

Placed by: _____

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

____ I will be taking my flowers home.

____ Please plant my flowers on the church berm of the Rail Trail.

We encourage you to take your flowers home. The church garden and the rail trail berm are getting full.

Please make checks payable to: HRC Women's Guild.

Mail or give your order by March 25, 2012 to:

Doris Alden
236 East Drive
Hurley NY 12443

Hurley Reformed Church, US Holidays

Mar 2012 (Eastern Time)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10am - Worship ☺ 11am - Prayer Chain 1pm - Boy Scouts ☺ 6pm - AA ☺ Dutch	10am - Badminton ☺ 10am - Tax Aide ☺ 6pm - Dog Training 6:30pm - Significant 7pm - Little League 7:30pm - 1st Capital 7:30pm - Al-Anon ☺	Brooks BSB ☺ Hall 9am - Quilters ☺ 4:30pm - PC 101 ☺ 6:30pm - Old 6:30pm - Tiger 6:30pm - US Power 7pm - Boy Scouts	9am - Quilting ☺ 10am - Badminton ☺ 5:30pm - Dog 6pm - Baskets ☺ 6:30pm - Girl Scout 7pm - Boy Scouts 7pm - Men's Group	4:30pm - Dog 6:30pm - Half Moon 7pm - Half Moon 7:30pm - Choir ☺	10am - Badminton ☺ 7pm - BS Venture	9am - Consistory 10am - Genealogy ☺
Daylight Saving 10am - Worship ☺ 11am - Youth Group 11:30am - Parent 6pm - AA ☺ Dutch	10am - Badminton ☺ 10am - Tax Aide ☺ 11am - VFW ☺ 6pm - Dog Training 6:30pm - Significant 7pm - Consistory ☺	6:30am - Hillside 9am - Quilters ☺ 6:30pm - Old 6:30pm - Tiger 6:30pm - US Power 7pm - Bible Study ☺	7:30am - Bible 9am - Quilting ☺ 10am - Badminton ☺ 5:30pm - Dog 6pm - Baskets ☺ 7pm - Men's Group	4:30pm - Dog 7pm - NE 7:30pm - Choir ☺	10am - Badminton ☺	St. Patrick's Day 8am - OA Leadership
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
10am - Worship ☺ 11am - Women's 6pm - AA ☺ Dutch	10am - Badminton ☺ 10am - Genealogy ☺ 10am - Tax Aide ☺ 6pm - Dog Training 6:30pm - Significant 6pm - Foundation	Turkey 9am - Quilters ☺ 6:30pm - US Power 7pm - Bible Study ☺ 7pm - Boy Scouts	7:30am - Bible 9am - Quilting ☺ 10am - Badminton ☺ 5:30pm - Dog 6pm - Baskets ☺	4:30pm - Dog 7pm - Hurley 7:30pm - Choir ☺	8am - Set Up Penny 10am - Badminton ☺ 6pm - Penny Social	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Turkey 10am - Worship ☺ 6pm - AA ☺ Dutch	10am - Badminton ☺ 10am - Tax Aide ☺ 10:30am - Genealog 12:30pm - Baskets 6pm - Dog Training 6:30pm - Significant	9am - Quilters ☺ 6:30pm - Old 6:30pm - US Power 7pm - Bible Study ☺ 7pm - Boy Scouts	7:30am - Bible 9am - Quilting ☺ 10am - Badminton ☺ 5:30pm - Dog 6pm - Baskets ☺ 7pm - Men's Group	4:30pm - Dog 7:30pm - Choir ☺	10am - Badminton ☺	4pm - 3rd Usher

HURLEY REFORMED
CHURCH

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E-mail: admin@HurleyReformedChurch.org

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

WE'RE ON THE WEB:

WWW.HURLEYREFORMEDCHURCH.ORG

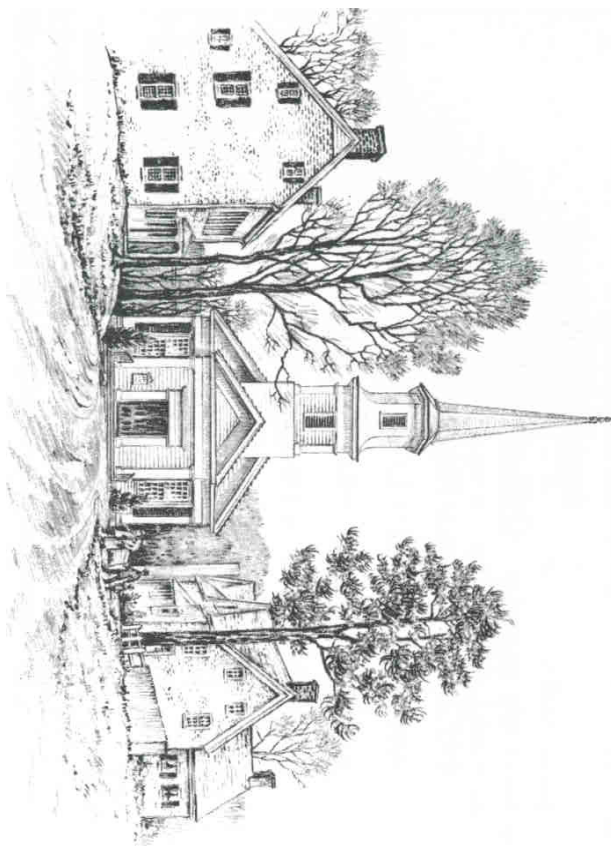
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MARCH 2012