

## HURLEY REFORMED CHURCH

# THE SPIRE

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 4

APRIL 2010

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I write on a morning when our wonderful micro climate here in Hurley prevails again. The early weather report for the lower mid-Hudson valley called for rain this morning, followed by heavier doses this afternoon, and evening. I rose early, anticipating a wet day, and no outdoor exercise. I was surprised to discover my surroundings were dry. I decided to walk the rail trail before the imminent deluge, and, lo, against the prognosticating odds emanating from New York City and Albany, the sun peeked through, so much so, that I should have brought sunscreen instead of an umbrella. A friend called late this morning from Westchester, noting the cascade of rain outside his office. He was a bit envious when I told him I had walked for more than an hour in bright sunshine. I'm beginning to think of Main Street Hurley as a bit of heaven on earth. This winter we've avoided the extremes which have knocked out power, and clogged roads in regions near us from all compass points. On certain winter days, unsheltered cars from Stone Ridge, Saugerties and Woodstock rambled into our parking lot caked with snow, sometimes nearly a foot, when, on that very same day, we've had less than a dusting. This has happened

on several occasions, leading me to believe that 17 Main Street is truly holy ground! The parsonage and church have been exceptions to the weather rule.

My climate meditation reminds me of that singular exception which has altered the course of human history. In a snowy world marked by despair, and grim fate, a corpse stirred, and inhaled. Rigor mortis fingers fluttered anew, and soon worked together unpeeling the aromatic soaked linen binding the body. The event occurred two thousand years ago in a cemetery. Because of its location, we infer that the corpse was surrounded by other corpses, a wintry weather pattern, so to speak, which illustrated the tombstone-hard, consistent, and final truth: Death always succeeds life. There are no exceptions, no Hurley like oases in the middle of the harsh, insistent winters of human finitude. The prophet Isaiah put a wintry poetic spin when he wrote: "All flesh is grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field... The grass withers the flower fades" (Isaiah 40: 6,8).

Yet two thousand years ago one flower did not fade. It withered on a torture instrument of unspeakable cruelty, to be sure, but then, unaccountably, bloomed anew three days later. A lily, damp

with morning dew, emerged from ground littered with thistles and thorns, challenging the idea that death is the end. For Christians, the exception becomes the new rule. The apostle Paul puts it well when he writes about that singular death: "But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died" (1 Corinthians 15:20). The apostle adds that as Christ has been raised, we, too, will be raised to new life in heaven. Winter will yield to God's eternal Spring.

May we celebrate the good news of Easter on April 4th. May we celebrate, too, our eternal hope of resurrection with the one who created, redeemed and leads us into life eternal.

In Christ's service,

Dr. Bob

*Our lifelong nostalgia,  
Our longing to be reunited  
with something in the universe  
from which we now feel  
cut off, to be on the inside of  
some door which we have always  
seen from the outside, is  
no mere neurotic fancy, but  
the truest index of our real  
situation.*

\*C.S. Lewis

## Photos Needed - for two different occasions.

First, we are planning a photo montage for our Easter worship service and would like pictures expressing the sorrow of the crucifixion and the joy of the Risen Christ of Easter . . . a barren tree on a stormy day, a sunset, a tombstone, a hug.

Secondly, we would like head shots of mothers for our Mother's Day worship service.

All photos can be dropped off at the church office or emailed to: [photos@HurleyReformedChurch.org](mailto:photos@HurleyReformedChurch.org). Please be sure to include the photographer's name on the Easter pictures. Mother's Day submissions should include the name of each subject.

Please call the church office, 331-4121, with any questions.



## Women's Guild

"Extreme Parsonage Makeover" – During the week that Rev Gram was away "we" redecorated the den of the parsonage. Barbara & Bob Kindt, Debbie Decker, Sandie Gregory, Doris Alden & Albert Hackbarth stripped the wallpaper, removed the carpeting, painted the walls, laid down ceramic tile, had new carpeting installed & hung new curtains and blinds. Thank you to everyone for all of their fine handy work.

The annual Easter Egg Hunt right after church in the Schade-wald Hall is coming up on 3/28/10. The younger children will go first and then the "older" children will

be able to hunt for eggs as well. This is a great time for children of all ages!! Hope to see you there!!

Remember the day when women wore hats to church? We thought it would be fun if all ladies wore a hat on April 18<sup>th</sup>. Join the fun and wear a hat to church.



A pot luck luncheon will be held right after church on 5/16. Please mark your calendars and we hope you will be able to attend this wonderful & appetizing luncheon.

We invite all women of the church to be apart of the Women's Guild. You don't have to be a member of the church to be a part of the Women's Guild. We meet right after church in the Dutch Room. So, come & see what we are all about!

**Women's Guild Calendar of Events**  
 3/28/10 - Annual Easter Egg Hunt  
 4/18/10 - Meeting & Hat Day  
 5/16/10 - Pot Luck Luncheon  
 7/10/10 - Bake Sale, Grandma's Garrett & Quilt Raffle

## Easter Hymn

*Rooted in you, even in death  
 all things remain alive;  
 we see them reborn, transfigured.  
 How then could we doubt  
 our own Resurrection since  
 by your own you gave us proof?*

*Since there is your Resurrection and ours,  
 Truth exists;  
 since there is your Resurrection and ours,  
 Justice triumphs;  
 since there is your Resurrection and ours,  
 suffering accepted has value;  
 since there is your Resurrection and ours,  
 our faith, hope, love, are not in vain;  
 since there is our Resurrection and ours,  
 our lives are not an empty abyss.*

Ku Sang, Korea, 1919-2004  
 Excerpted from "Easter Hymn"

## S T I C K L E Y      G A R D E N S

**Spring** ... we can hardly wait for it to arrive as some of the early flowers are pushing through the cold earth. It is a time of renewal as we celebrate a new season, and the promise of new life in the season of Easter. Flowers will bloom across the patio to remind us of new life in a place that centers it's very being upon resurrection. Here in the "resting place" of the Columbarium loved ones wait for the new life that begins on resurrection day. It is only a temporary place of waiting, with the promise of eternal life that comes from the One who gives us the joy of

Easter early that morning when the women came to the tomb. His resting place was empty and He was alive and now we have the hope that He gives to each of us, the coming of new life and new beginnings in the joy and the wonder of Spring and a day called Easter. He says, "Come to me, all of you who labor and I will give you rest." After the rest comes the promise..." and the earth and sea shall give up their dead and the corruptible bodies of those who sleep in Him will be changed like unto His glorious body." **HAPPY EASTER.**

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)

### Missions Committee

Our mission project for March was the local Salvation Army which provides food for approximately 75 families each month. Thus far our collection for March has totaled \$205.00 with one more Sunday to go.

Our mission for April will be the Flatbush Reformed Church. The 30 very active congregants who worship in this beautiful 200 year old stone church need both financial and labor

help for painting and caulking windows and painting eaves of the sanctuary. You can help our brothers and sisters in Christ at the Flatbush Reformed Church by contributing using your mission envelope. The pastor at Flatbush is Jennifer Bendelius who as a seminary student preached at Hurley several times over the past few years and who is grateful for any help that we can provide.

Mission Chair,  
Linda Dux

*Make no mistake; If he rose at all,  
it was as His body; if the cells  
dissolution did not reverse, the  
molecules reknit, the amino acids  
rekindle, the Church will fall.*

John Updike

**Thank you** to all the people who have recently signed up to bring refreshments for fellowship time after worship. Since the new sign up was posted people have quickly volunteered and filled up March, April and most of May. May 2nd is still available if some one is interested. Remember, it does not need to be fancy, or even home made...some times there are donuts and coffee cakes available at the Freihofer's outlet on Albany Ave. at a very reasonable price. Also, thanks to Jerry Wyncoop and Jim Pirro, you don't even need to brew the coffee. Just bring the treats and put them out on plates. If you need help with setting up you can let me know ahead of time. Thanks again to all!

Bonnie Dumas, Chair, Program and Activity Committee



## Clean Up Day April 24 9:00am

We have several outdoor  
projects to complete.  
Many hands make light work!  
For more info see Jim Pirro.

## Youth Group

On 3/2 we held our annual Brooks BBQ dinner. We sold 860 orders & made \$3,121.88—WOW. We turned no one away. Once again we were worried about how many dinners we were going to have but we shouldn't have, as the majority of these dinners came in the last 2 days. We delivered to: Ulster Savings Bank; Brinnier & Larios; Kingston Insurance; Port Ewen Laundry Mat; & MidValley Cardiology. Kingston Hospital picked up their order. Many thanks go to Alyson & Jeff Rafferty for organizing this event for us. We also thank all of you for supporting us with this dinner. We are now able to go to Camp Warwick the weekend of



4/23 because of your help!! Thanks again!!

On 3/12 we held our Penny Social & what a great success it was. Thank you to everyone for donating items. We had a great turn out. In fact, we ran out of food & baked goods. A special thank you to Amy Sirni & Colleen Phillips for organizing the event, and working all day to make it happen. Thank you to Mrs. Ruth, Mrs. Burns, Mrs. Woodard & Mrs. Roosa who worked in the kitchen for us. We made a total of \$1,880.11. Thank you to everyone!! We really appreciate your support.

Our April food collection is known as the Peanut Butter & Jelly Challenge. What is this?? Bring in as much peanut butter & jelly as you can, and in exchange we will lead a Sunday service. Katie challenged the congregation to 500.... That's the challenge! Bring it on!!

The end date for this will be 4/25/10.

Any child in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade or older is welcome to join the Youth Group at anytime. Please come to our next meeting and check us out.

Sandy & Katie Emrich, Lisa Longto  
Youth Group Leaders

### Youth Group Upcoming Events:

4/3/10 Easter Dawn rehearsal & prep for breakfast at 9am

4/4/10 Easter Dawn Service & Breakfast

4/11/10 Meeting

4/23-25/10 Camp Warwick Retreat Weekend

5/22/10 Relay For Life

6/5/10 Car Wash @ Stage One Auto

**Easter Breakfast**  
**7:30 am**

**Adults \$6.00** **Child 10 and Under \$3.00**

## What's For Dinner?

We're at it again. On May 1st we will be holding a Meatloaf Night. Tickets go on sale on 4/11. What will be served? How does lettuce wedges, rolls & butter, 2 kinds of meatloaf, mashed potatoes & gravy, mac & cheese, green beans & homemade dessert sound? Sound good? Cost: \$10 for adults & \$8 for children under 12. Continuous serving 4:30 - 7:30pm. Call the church at 331-4121 for reservations.

We can't do it without you. We need help in many different areas. Please see Russ Glass or Sandy Emrich to sign up for a job.

See you then!!

Dinner Fund Committee

**My Brother's Workshop**

St Thomas Reformed Church  
Job Training Outreach



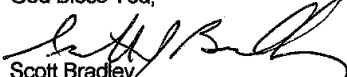
Rev. Bob Gram,

I would like to take this time to thank you and your congregation for your generous gift of love and support. Your gift is both greatly appreciated and at the same time very humbling. I would like to invite you all to be part of our family and share our journey. We will keep you in our thoughts and prayers and I will do my best to keep you up to date with our progress and challenges. Your support of our mission gives us a renewed strength to carry on the struggle against the lack of hope and direction that our youth are facing here in the islands. Your support will be giving hope and a future to kids who are only guilty of being born into poverty, broken homes, and violent neighborhoods.

As you know we provide vocational training and mentoring to "at risk youth" and during the past year we have been able to help 38 young men turn their lives around. The unfortunate part of the story is that current statistics show that there are nearly five thousand "at risk youth" in the Virgin Islands. Our high school drop out rate is nearly 50% and our violent crime rate is 5 times the national average. Our Island has been plagued by ever increasing gang violence and drug related crimes. We target the most in need and in many cases we are the only positive alternative that is available to them. We receive referrals from Juvenile Court system, Probation, Human Services, Dept of Labor, and other community based organizations. The demand for our outreach program far exceeds our resources, but everyday we stretch as much as we can. I hope you realize that your support is true blessing for us and the community we serve.

Thank you again so much for your love and your contribution to our ministry. Please keep our outreach program and "at risk youth" in your prayers.

God Bless You,

  
Scott Bradley  
Project Director

## Holy Week begins . . .

- March 28    Palm Sunday Morning Worship at 10:00am  
                  Contemporary Praise & Worship at 6:00pm  
                  The Stillwell Project  
                  Preaching and Teaching
- April 1      Maundy Thursday Evening Worship at 7:00  
                  Chancel Drama: "I Am Peter"
- April 2      Good Friday Services at noon  
                  Fair Street Reformed Church

## He is Risen . . .

- April 4      Easter Dawn at 6:30am in the sanctuary  
                  Led by the Youth Group  
                  Easter Breakfast at 7:30  
                  Schadewald Hall  
                  Adults: \$6.00; Children (under 10): \$3.00  
                  Easter Morning Worship  
                  9:30am and 11:00am

*Alleluia!*

### APRIL BIRTHDAYS . . .

Travis Horvers	2, 98	Jeff Rafferty	7	Jo Lupton	24
Trevor Davenport	4, 92	Jean Dussol	8	Julie Jordan	27
Molly Salzmann	12, 94	Shirley Burns	9	Chuck Gravina	27
Zachary Burns	15, 99	Esther Stickley	11	Melissa Lasher	28
Sabrina Browning	17, 01	Beverly Roosa	12	Bradley Merrill	28
Lauren Shaffrick	20, 01	Barbara Baker	12	Elizabeth Askue	29
Zachary Mecabe	22, '96	Courtney Johnson	14	Rick Soshensky	30
Emily Waligurski	26, 95	Christine Beesmer	14		
Kendra Rubino	26, 02	Helen Lehtonen	16	ANNIVERSARIES	
Miranda Davenport	27, 98	Ann Every	17		
Wayne Waligurski	1	Joan Sutton	19	Barbara & Chris Zell	7
Mildred Mattison	4	Todd Jordan	19	Allan & Bonnie Dumas	13
Harriet Drake	5	Shirley Tucker	19	Nita & William Rockwell	19
Kathy Hauck	5	Jane Merrill	20	Carla & Craig Paton	22
Fred Kurtz	6	Esther Keator	22	Dan & Midge Stott	23
Jessica Prentice	6	John Kokas	22	Gregg & Linda Moon	26
		Jeff Fredenberg	23	Mary Lou & Mike Christiana	28
		Henry Dussol	24	Gary & Lisa Longto	30

HURLEY REFORMED  
CHURCH

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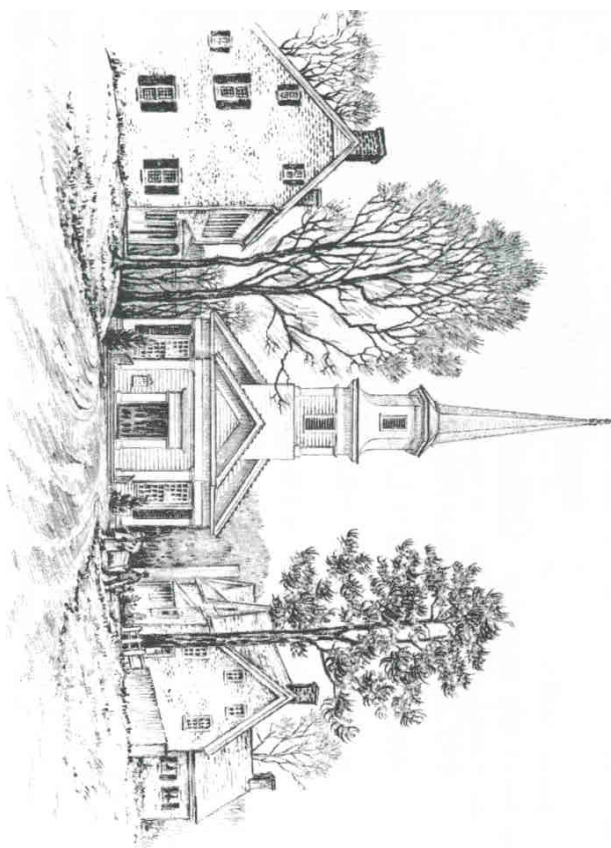
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The Rev. Dr. Robert L. Gram, LCSW  
Pastor

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