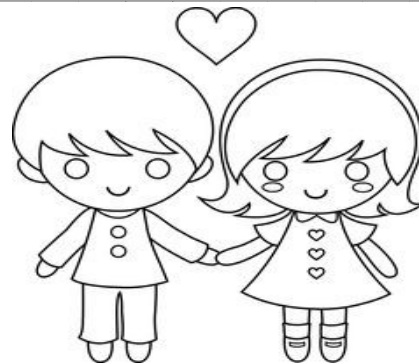


THE SPIRE

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2017



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Recently I attended the 30th ordination anniversary of a Lutheran colleague in ministry. I worshiped at his church in Kingston and participated in the Lutheran liturgy which is a bit more elaborate than ours. It's always — or almost always — a pleasure to listen to another's sermon. The preacher's message touched not only the honoree, who was greatly moved, but also a host of ministers who had gathered to celebrate the occasion. We were reminded again about the wonderful and irresistible nature of God's call, and the blessings and joys of ordained life. For me this is particularly true because I serve a loving congregation. After the service the clergy "talked shop". I received a gracious hug from the pastor whose anniversary we were celebrating, and met friends who attended his church, while downing meatballs, tuna sandwiches, and chocolate chip cookies. I almost missed this special event. Usually after Sunday morning worship, I'm spent. I wondered if I had the energy to attend, and thought about watching the playoffs, and napping at halftime instead. Fortunately I didn't.

Perhaps some of you feel that way on Sunday morning. Weekends can become as busy as weekday life. The thought of one more event seems overwhelming. People share these concerns with me after worship. The feeling is always, "I'm glad I made the effort to come." The good news is that God blesses us when we drag ourselves through the narthex doors, wondering if our dwindling energy reserve will manifest it-

self in a sleeping bout during the sermon! In the Temple of the Lord, the Old Testament prophet Isaiah responds to the Lord's question, "Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?", with a resounding, "Here am I send me."

The Bible tells us that Isaiah had a vision of the Lord before his response, and that his time in the Temple was transformative. So it can be for us in worship. Scripture doesn't tell Isaiah's back story, but wouldn't it be interesting if it were like ours? Perhaps he, too, contemplated a 'Sabbath skip' because he was beat. If he had yielded to inertia, he would have missed his divine calling. He would have missed the challenging life God offered him. What a shame it would have been for Isaiah, and for us, who are richly blessed by the writing of this great prophet.

A fellow minister was telling me about a man in his parish who attended worship sporadically. On one of the rare Sundays he graced the sanctuary, he sat next to a young woman who had joined the church a few weeks earlier. They struck up a conversation at coffee hour, and subsequently married less than a year later. Now he never misses a Sunday! He wonders what future surprises the Lord has in store. May you too, find the miracle in our corporate worship experience.

In Christ's Service,

Doc Bob

Doc Bob

FEBRUARY EVENTS

February 2	Senior Citizens
February 5	Youth Group Chili Sale
February 5	Super Bowl
February 12	Seminar at the Parsonage
February 13	Consistory meeting
February 15	Men's Group
Beginning February 8	AARP Tax Preparation

TAX PREPARATION

Did you know that the Hurley Reformed Church provides space for AARP Foundation Tax-Aide?

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide offers free tax preparation help to anyone and if you're 50 and older, and can't afford a tax preparation service, we were made especially for you. We understand that retirement or other life changes may mean your taxes are a little more complicated now. With the help of our team of IRS-certified volunteers we make it easy for you. Taxes will be done by appointment beginning February 1 on Wednesdays and Thursdays until April 12, 2017.

Call for an appointment: 845-255-0791

*A time of transition...
waiting between winter
and spring. In a hushed
silence the patio is quiet,
the fountain is covered,
and yet, there is a beauty
in transition for those
who wait for the coming
of Spring and the
New Life in Christ...
hushed... quiet... waiting...
Stickley Gardens...
a place of serene waiting.*

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)

LINDA DIDO, CONSISTORY LIAISON

REV STICKLEY, SECRETARY

A SACRED PLACE OF BEAUTY AND CONTEMPLATION.

(LOCATED ON THE SOUTH LAWN OF THE CHURCH)

February

BIRTHDAYS

Chris Decker	2
Drew Wonderly	3
Robert Kindt, Sr.	4
Ron Burns	7
Morgan Schaffrick	7
Molly Nicholas	8
Shannon Butler	8
Betty Pirro	8
Elsie Kemble	9
Christie Prentice	10
John Mizel	12
Steve Helm	12
Colette Woodard	13
Eugene Groelle	13
Todd Rubino	13
Friedel Borst	14

John Tucker	19
Leslie Shambo	19
Donna Horvers	19
Amanda Horvers	19
Lisa Longto	20
Shirley Ruth	27
Jake Croswell	28
Nikki Cline	29

ANNIVERSARIES

Doris & Bob Alden	17
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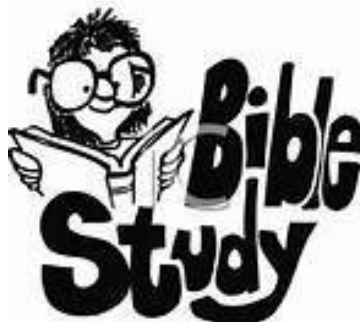


Looking for good fellowship?!

The Men's Group meets the third Wednesday of the month. Next meeting is February 15 at 7 pm. Come hang with us. See Paul Vonderheide for details.



Prayer Chain meets on the first Sunday of the month directly after worship and fellowship. If you have something to bring to our attention, see Debbie Zuill.



Women's Ministries Bible Study is on hiatus until March 21, 2017. They are continuing their study of the book Really Bad Girls of the Bible by Liz Curtis Higgs. We are currently studying Herodia. (You can read ahead!)

Women's Ministry Bible Study meets every other Tuesday at 1pm in the Dutch Room. For more information, contact Nancy Sweeney.

CONSIDER A CHURCH COMMITTEE A REQUEST FOR PARTICIPATION

It's the beginning of a new year. Consider participating in a committee within the Church. There are 8 standing committees and the newly formed Pastoral Search Committee.

Below are descriptions of each committee. If you are interested in being a member of one of these committees, contact Dennis Croswell, Senior Elder.

The eight standing committees are:

1. Personnel: Overall mission is to ensure adequate church staff.
2. Finance and administration: Overall mission is to oversee financial matters of the church.
3. Worship: Overall mission is to ensure that all amenities are provided at all worship services that make for an orderly and meaningful service.
4. Property and Maintenance: Overall mission is to ensure that the properties of the Hurley Reformed Church are maintained and improved in accordance with good business practices and in a manner consistent with the standards of the Reformed Church of America and the Town of Hurley.
5. Program and Activity: Overall mission is to organize and implement special events within the life of the church in order to enhance its social structure and financial wellbeing.
6. Missions: Overall mission is to encourage a mission program for the church.
7. Youth Ministries: Overall mission is to ensure a religious education and youth activities take place in the church.
8. Technology Committee: Overall mission is to ensure that the audio-visual, internet communications, and office equipment of the Hurley Reformed Church are maintained and improved in accordance with good business practices and support the core activities of the church



A new committee is forming with a new consistory member at its helm. Many thanks to Rebecca Masters for her hard work with this committee. Welcome Marilyn Lowe as the chair of the missions committee. Anyone interested in being on this committee should contact Marilyn. If you have any ideas for the Missions committee, please contact Marilyn. January's mission was the Food Bank of the Hudson Valley. February's mission will be our Deacon Fund. March will be Water Mission.

HELP!! THE STONE HOUSE DAY COMMITTEE NEEDS YOUR HELP

Stone House Day has taken place in our community for 66 years. It was started by the Women's Guild, but when it got large it was taken over by the Consistory, and they created a committee. The SHD is now reaching out to all of you to say that if we don't get more help from our congregation, the SHD will be in danger of becoming extinct (like many of our large and small animals). I am very proud of the way "we" come together at the end (right before the day), and always end up with just about enough help, and a welcoming and helpful community. We have added a lot of activities and entertainments to attract people, since there are a lot of "happenings" in the surrounding area on that day and we need to be competitive. However, since we have a smaller congregation and not many young people, we all need to come together to help out.

Specifically, we need help with our committee. We have lost some people lately, whether to moving or other reasons, and we need to replace them. We meet once a month in the winter time, and in May and June we meet more often, depending on what is needed at the time. We are a friendly bunch of people, no one bites that I know of (maybe behind my back). We do need to find someone who can be in charge of getting and training docents, and we would love to have a photographer to take pictures on SHD. And if you would like to come and just "sin in and listen" and maybe come up with a few helpful ideas, that would be welcome too. Hope to see you at our next meeting, February 12, in the Dutch Room.

Sincerely,

Ellen C. Richards

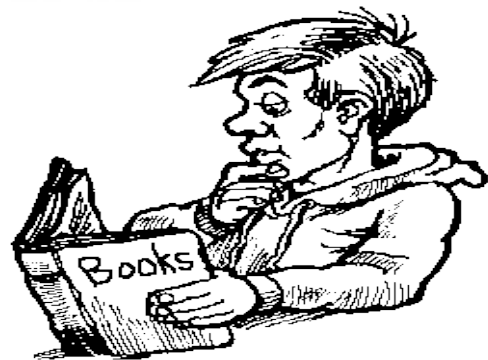


Seminar at the Parsonage

Soup, Sandwich, and Soul-work

February 12 from 1 p.m. to 2:15 p.m.

The Rev. Dr. Bob Gram will lead a 30-minute comparative analysis on the religious themes that permeate Luis R. Perez's newly released novel, *Catharsis: Maldonado's* journey through Grief. Dr. Gram will serve one of his signature, gourmet soups, a sandwich and a beverage. After breaking bread, Dr. Gram will lead a discussion on how religious themes have influenced *Catharsis* and other novels, and how religious motifs can fuel imagination and provide a redemptive message. A brief question and answer session with the author will be built into the format. Admission is free, but reservations are required and limited to 20.



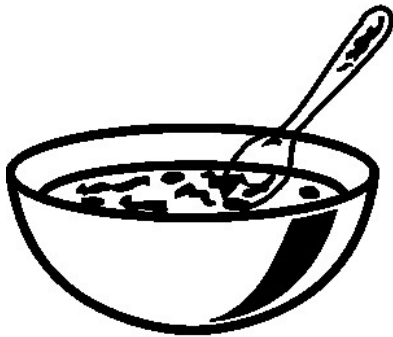
Register at admin@HurleyReformedChurch.org or sign up in Schadewald Hall.

Rev. Luis R. Perez is pastor at the Rhinebeck Reformed Church in Rhinebeck, New York. This is his debut novel.

No pre-reading is required, but a copy of the book is highly recommended. 10 copies of the book will be available on a first come, first serve basis at the church's office. Or, a copy of the book can be secured through Amazon (available on Kindle) or Oblong Books in Rhinebeck, N.Y.

News Bytes

Information you should know ; Opportunities for Fellowship.



The Soup Elves are industrious. Soup Sunday is February 16. This month's soup is Tuscan Soup.

Leftovers are available from last month. See Dennis or Sonnie on Sunday.



Three Questions To Ask Your Doctor About Exercise

Are you considering adding exercise to your daily routine? Or do you want to increase your exercise level significantly? There's a safe way for almost everyone to be more active. Even if you have a health condition, there are exercises you can do that offer great health benefits.

One way to get started is to talk with your doctor about the exercises and physical activities that are best for you. If you have a specific health issue that you are concerned about, ask your doctor for some tips to help you exercise safely. Here are some questions to consider:

Are there any exercises or activities I should avoid?

Your doctor can make recommendations based on your health history, keeping in mind any recent surgeries and ongoing health conditions such as arthritis, diabetes, or heart disease.

This would be a great time to check with your doctor about any unexplained symptoms you've been experiencing, such as chest pain or pressure, joint pain, dizziness, or shortness of breath. Your doctor may recommend postponing exercise until the problem is diagnosed and treated.

Is my preventive care up to date?

Your doctor can tell you if there are any tests you might need. For example, women over age 65 should be checked regularly for osteoporosis.

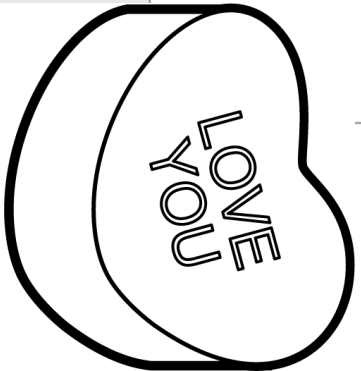
How does my health condition affect my ability to exercise?

Some health conditions can affect your exercise routine. For example, people with arthritis may need to avoid some types of activity, especially when joints are swollen or inflamed. Those with diabetes may need to adjust their daily schedule, meal plan, or medications when planning their activities. Your doctor can talk to you about any adjustments you need to make to ensure that you get the most out of your new exercise routine.

To find out more about how to exercise safely, visit the **Go4Life**[®] website at www.nia.nih.gov/Go4Life. **Go4Life** is an exercise and physical activity campaign from the National Institute on Aging at NIH. It has exercises, success stories, and free materials to help you get ready, start exercising, and keep going.

February 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
			7:30am - Bible 5:30pm - Dog 7pm - Boy Scouts 7pm - Kingston Area	9:30am - Badminton 1:30pm - Hurley 4:45pm - Dog 7pm - Sisters in 7:30pm - 1st Capitol 7:30pm - Choir		1pm - birthday party
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Super Bowl Sunday 10am - Worship @ 11am - Prayer Chain	9:30am - Guild 3pm - Quilting @ 5pm - Dog Training 7:30pm - Al-Anon @	9:30am - Badminton 11am - Balance for 1pm - Women's 4:30pm - PC 101 @ 7pm - Bible Study @ 7pm - Boy Scouts	7:30am - Bible 8:30am - AARP tax 5:30pm - Dog 7pm - Local 1582 @	8:30am - AARP tax 9:30am - Badminton 4:45pm - Dog 7pm - Sisters in 7:30pm - Choir	7pm - Motorcycle	Chinese new year @ 10am - Genealogy @
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
10am - Worship @ 11am - Women's 1pm - Soup,	9:30am - Guild 11am - VFW @ 3pm - Quilting @ 5pm - Dog Training 7pm - Consistory @ 7pm - Hudson Valley 7:30pm - Al-Anon @	8:30am - Hillside 9:30am - Badminton 11am - Balance for 7pm - Bible Study @ 7pm - Boy Scouts	7:30am - Bible 8:30am - AARP tax 9am - Finance 5:30pm - Dog 7pm - Hurley Lions 7pm - men's group	8:30am - AARP tax 9:30am - Badminton 4:45pm - Dog 7pm - NE 7pm - Sisters in 7:30pm - Choir	Kosco boiler 5pm - nursery	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
10am - Worship @ 11am - SHD	9:30am - Guild 10am - Genealogy @ 3pm - Quilting @ 5pm - Dog Training 7:30pm - Al-Anon @	9:30am - Badminton 11am - Balance for 1pm - Women's 6:30pm - nursery 7pm - Bible Study @ 7pm - Boy Scouts	7:30am - Bible 8:30am - AARP tax 5:30pm - Dog	8:30am - AARP tax 9:30am - Badminton 4:45pm - Dog 7pm - Sisters in 7:30pm - Choir		
26	27	28	1	2		
10am - Worship @	9:30am - Guild 10:30am - Genealog 3pm - Quilting @ 5pm - Dog Training 7:30pm - Al-Anon @	9:30am - Badminton 11am - Balance for 7pm - Bible Study @ 7pm - Boy Scouts				



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

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Pastor

The Rev. Dr. Robert L. Gram, LCSW

Hurley New York 12443

HURLEY REFORMED CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2017

THE SPIRE

