

HURLEY REFORMED CHURCH

# THE SPIRE

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2      FEBRUARY 2010

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Recently, I had opportunity to discuss public school education with a teacher who has been in the trenches for 13 years. She lamented the assault on her profession from various sources and speculated whether she possessed enough energy to continue much longer in a vocation she loved. I was interested in her take, having grown up as the son of a 7<sup>th</sup> grade English teacher. My father taught me the value of well wrought sentences and meticulously crafted paragraphs. He loved teaching. Many of my friends had him and they were complimentary of his ability, his humor, and his compassion. My father's love of teaching was compromised by the politics of school administrators, and the parent teacher association. A vice principal, in particular, may have broken my father's spirit although the particulars of my father's retirement were kept from me by both parents. What I knew was that my dad never looked back once he turned in his classroom keys at age 55. He truly loved retirement and seemed happier than I ever remembered when he labored at work. My father's sister, Peg, herself a professor in college, once noted wryly that my father suffered less pressure fighting the Nazis and North Koreans than he

did in the hands of certain school administrators.

When I pressed my young teacher friend about the specific source for her hurt, she mentioned the parents of some students who had given her and the school tons of trouble. In one instance one of her students had done something physically malicious to another child. Although my friend had witnessed this event, the culpable child's parents denied the teacher had seen what she had seen and abrogated all responsibility for their child's behavior. My friend mentioned that on other occasions parents would defend errant children but attack her in ways which would have made political hatchet men blush. My friend speculated whether her classroom experience signified a greater problem in society and whether qualities like civility and morality were on the wane.

It's a tough call. On one hand people have always rued the present, harkening back to an earlier period of higher standards. There is an inscribed lament of a father who questioned whether the world would survive the predations of his son's generation. The lament was written in cuneiform on clay tablets more than 3,000 years before the birth of our

Lord by a man living in what is now Iraq, the ancient city of Sumer. It is easy to say that my teacher friend's fear is unfounded in the

## *Doubt and Faith*

*For every gain in deep certitude  
there is a corresponding growth  
of superficial "doubt."*

*This doubt is by no means  
opposed to genuine faith,  
but it mercilessly examines and  
questions*

*the spurious "faith" of everyday  
life,*

*the human faith  
which is nothing but the  
passive acceptance of conven-  
tional opinion.*

\*Thomas Merton

greater light of history. Yet, I wonder if we are becoming angrier and less tolerant. Civil discourse has sunk to an all time low, I think, and often people seem adrift in rage. This may be good news for the church. We may be offering some-

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

thing within our hallowed walls and halls which is becoming a rarer commodity. We offer hope, understanding, compassion, and fellowship. The Trappist monk, Thomas Merton, once noted that men abandoned the city of Rome in the 4<sup>th</sup> century of the Christian era and founded faith centered communities in the Egyptian desert because Roman society had become, in Merton's terms, "a shipwreck." It may well be that shipwrecks are

blessings because they allow those clinging to spar to see more clearly the islands of Christian compassion and hope which still dot our troubled waters. Increasingly I believe folks are coming to understand the radical difference between the world's moralities and the ethics embodied in Jesus of Nazareth. May we as a church be viewed increasingly as safe harbors and secure havens for those caught in the middle of secular storms. May we as individuals be ports for weary pilgrims, our next door neighbors,

and the folks with whom we share desks and lunch at work.

By the way, my friend won't be leaving teaching. After reporting the negative, God cleared her mind, I believe. She smiled as she recalled former students who returned to tell her that she had made a real difference in their lives. Thanks be to Christ for her work in the world.

In Christ's Service,

Dr. Bob

### Women's Guild

On 1/24/10 we held our Annual Birthday Party during coffee hour.



What a great turn out. The hall looked terrific. The ladies/groups who decorated the ta-

bles came up with wonderful ways to express the month for the table they decorated. Thank you to everyone who helped to make this a fun time.

Our calendar of events:

2/21/10—Meeting

3/14/10—Butterfly Exchange

3/28/10—Annual Easter Egg Hunt

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

Blessings

Sandy Emrich-President

*Strange, this love announced by our Lord turns all of life right.*

*To love others is to fill our own empty spaces.*

\*Thomas A. Becket, c. 1118-1170

### Penny Social

On March 12, 2010 the Youth Group will sponsor a Penny Social in Schadewald Hall. Doors will open at 6pm & drawing will begin at 7:30pm. We are now collecting items (new or used) for this event. Please leave donations in the garage on the left hand side marked "Penny Social". If you have any questions, please contact Amy Sirni at 338-4960. Thanks for your continued support.

The Youth Group

### Annual Italian Night

Seats are filling up & we don't want you to miss out on a great dinner. The Tour of Italy Dinner will be held on 2/13/10 from 4:30pm till 7:30pm. If you like Antipasto, Spaghetti & Meatballs, Pollo Alla Fiorentina, Baked Three Cheese Manicotti and Eggplant Parmigiana Calabrizi Style then you won't want to miss this dinner. This is only a portion of the menu. Tickets are \$10 for Adults

& \$8 for kids 12 & under. Tickets are on sale NOW & are going fast so get yours before we are sold out. This is a fund raiser for the church. Hope to see you there!



### Ash Wednesday Services

February 17, 2010 at 7:30pm . . .

The sanctuary will be open through the day for prayer and contemplation.

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

The air is cold and damp, yet the beauty of the area still shines through. We watch the days become longer and wait in great anticipation for the warmth of springtime. Before we know it, the tulips will be sprouting up and the gardens will be bursting with color as God paints his masterpiece once again. As you go by, think of those who have passed and are at rest in this beautiful area. Stop by, pay your respects, and take time to enjoy the peace. You will feel God's presence and the warm spirit of those at rest.

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
ON THE COLUMBARIUM  
PLEASE CONTACT ANY OF  
THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

LISA LONGTO (331-1438)  
CHAIRPERSON

JIM PIRRO (383-0079)  
TREASURER

JERRY FINK (246-6567)  
SECRETARY

ESTHER STICKLEY (331-2919)

DIANA CLINE (338-7276)  
CONSISTORY LIAISON

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



## February BIRTHDAYS

Doug Woodard	6, '92	Lisa Longto	20
Tanner Sirni	6, '99	Rick Salzmann	22
Angel Martinez	7, '05	Shirley Ruth	27
Alex Sirni	7, '95	Leanne Warren	28
Morgan Schaffrick	7, '96	Jake Croswell	28
Avery Davenport	13, '96	Nikki Cline	29
Amanda Horvers	19, '90		
Drew Soshensky	22, '03	March	

Lily Gram Collins	1, '96
Kevin Kurtz	3, '92
Ireland Sirni	6, '97
Terry Read	2
Richard Alden	2
Craig Jansen	2
Linda Bognar	3
Jack Gill	5
Dennis Horvers	5
Dr. Bob Gram	6

## ANNIVERSARIES

February	
Doris & Bob Alden	17
Tara & Robert Roddy	17

Don't want to cook?  
Pick-up Brooks!

**BROOKS'**  
HOUSE OF BAR-B-Q

"The best BBQ ever!"  
Yummmmmmm!

The Hurley Reformed Church Youth Group is sponsoring

## The Famous Brook's BBQ of Oneonta, NY!

**March 2, 2010**  
**4:00 pm - 7:00 pm**  
WALK-INS - after 5:30 pm

Dinners include:	Adult Chicken: \$11.00
1/2 Brook's famous chicken or rib,	Child Chicken: \$10.00
baked potato, coleslaw, dinner roll,	Adult Ribs: \$12.00
butter, dessert & beverage.	

If your office has more than 10 dinner orders - We Will Deliver!!  
Simply call Alyson to arrange delivery.

To make a reservation call **Alyson** at **338-4469**  
(don't be afraid to leave a message!)

Chris Decker	2
Drew Wonderly	3
Robert Kindt, Sr.	4
June Vanderlaan	4
Ron Burns	7
Stacy Schoonmaker	7
Molly Nicholas	8
Shannon Butler	8
Jim Pirro	8
Elsie Kemble	9
Christie Prentice	10
Joanne Fredenberg	11
John Mizel	12
Steve Helm	12
Colette Woodard	13
Eugene Groelle	13
Todd Rubino	13
Charles Ocker	13
Sherman Richards	13
Friedel Borst	14
Darlene Ross	15
Matt Sirni	16
Jared Wonderly	18
John Tucker	19
Donna Horvers	19





## Youth Group

On 1/24/10 the Women's Guild held their an-

nual Birthday Party during coffee hour. The Youth Group decorated the March table using the theme March Madness. Our table had lots of basketballs plus a write up on our own star - Sarah Longto - and the Kingston Tigers Girl's Basketball team.

Our annual Souper Bowl Sunday Chili Sale is coming up on 2/7/10. Chili will be \$7 for a 32 oz container. Even if you didn't pre-order the chili there will be plenty available after church at the kitchen window. This is a fund raiser for our

local soup kitchens—Queens Galley & Caring Hands Feeding Program at the Clinton Ave Methodist Church. You can also make a cash donation in our soup pots if you prefer.

The Youth Group will be distributing carnations to all the women of the church as they exit on 2/14/10. Hope to see you then so we can wish you a Happy Valentines Day.

Our February food collection will be spaghetti pasta. The last collection date for this will be 2/28/10. Please put your items in the box marked food collection in Schadewald Hall.

Our upcoming events:

2/6/10—Making chili for Souper

Bowl Sunday

2/7/10—Selling chili for Souper Bowl Sunday fund raiser

2/7/10 - Snow tubing at Sawkill Family Ski Center

3/2/10--Brooks BBQ

3/12/10 - Penny Social

4/3/10 - Easter Dawn rehearsal and prep for Easter Breakfast

4/4/10 - Easter Dawn Service and Breakfast

4/23-25/10 - Camp Warwick Retreat

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

Lisa Longto, Sandy & Katie Emrich  
Youth Group Leaders

## STICKLEY GARDENS

The air is cold and damp, yet the beauty of the area still shines through. We watch the days become longer and wait in great anticipation for the warmth of springtime. Before we know it, the tulips will be sprouting up and the gardens will be bursting with color as God paints his masterpiece once again. As you go by, think of those who have passed and are at rest in this beautiful area. Stop by, pay your respects, and take time to enjoy the peace. You will feel God's presence and the warm spirit of those at rest.

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## Winter Weather

If you awaken on a Sunday to a blizzard which appears perilous to life or limb beyond the front door, we suggest discretion and not valor. In most cases there will be a Sunday Church School and worship service in the warm confines of our buildings for the intrepid. But if you're game and want to confirm that classes and services

await you on arrival, here is the way to proceed:

Worship cancellations will be announced Sunday mornings on radio station: WKNY (1490 AM); The second coming of Christ is normally the only reason worship will be cancelled...or if the prospect of injury looms large. Tack this article somewhere convenient to keep in touch with that rare eventuality.

School for Christian Living and Serving Class will be led by Dr. Bob Gram on Saturday, March 6, from 9:00 - 1:00 at the New Paltz Reformed Church. The class, "From Depression to Dependencies: Understanding Common Mental Health Problems from Theological, Pastoral, and Ecclesiastical Perspectives," will cover the topics of Mood Disorders, Anxiety Disorders, Substance Abuse Disorders, and Personality Disorders. Registration forms will be available in the church office.



## Welcome ... Justin Dumas!

Claudia Dumas met her son, Justin and finalized his adoption on Tuesday, January 26th, in Nanjing, China. They flew to Guangzhou, China to finalize the visa process and will fly home to Washington DC on February 5th.

**Congratulations!** We hope to meet Justin when Claudia and he come to Hurley to visit Allan, Bonnie, Chloe and Allan Dumas.

Hurley Reformed Church

# February 2010

February 2010							March 2010						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28							28						

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat/Sun
<b>February 1</b> 12:30pm Basket Class 7:00pm First Capital Conventions (Dutch Rm) 7:00pm Hurley Little League Registration Snow Date (Hall)	<b>February 2</b> 9:00am HHS Conference (DutchRm) 10:30am HHS (Rm12) 4:00pm Hurley Pipers (DutchRm) 4:30pm PC 101 (Dutch Rm) 7:00pm Bible Study (Personage) 7:30pm Little League (Rm12)	<b>February 3</b> 7:00am Bible Study (DutchRm) 9:00am HHS Conference (DutchRm) 7:00pm Bag Pipers (Hall) 7:30pm Troop 20 Committee (DutchRm)	<b>February 4</b> 9:00am HHS Conference (Hall) 1:30pm Hurley Seniors (Hall) 6:00pm Census Testing (Hall) 7:00pm GS 50 (Rm 12) 7:30pm Choir (DutchRm)	<b>February 5</b> 9:00am HHS Conference (Hall)	<b>February 6</b> 9:00am VG Call (Kitchen) 9:00am Significant Woman (DutchRm) 10:30am Music Therapy (Rm 9) 6:30pm English Dances (Hall)
<b>February 8</b> 11:00am VFW (Dutch Rm) 12:30pm Basket Class 6:00pm Dog Training (Hall) 7:00pm Conestoga (DutchRm)	<b>February 9</b> 9:00am HHS Conference (Dutch Rm) 10:30am HHS (Rm12) 1:00pm Census Testing (Hall) 4:00pm Hurley Pipers (DutchRm) 4:30pm Dog Training (Hall) 7:00pm Troop 20 (Hall) 7:30pm Bible Study (Personage) 7:30pm Radio-DVRs (DutchRm)	<b>February 10</b> Book Sale (Room 12) 7:00am Bible Study (DutchRm) 4:30pm Dog Training (Hall) 7:00pm Bag Pipers (Hall)	<b>February 11</b> 12:30pm Little Gardens Club (DutchRm) 4:00pm Dog Training (Hall) 6:30pm Half Moon LEC (Rm 12) 7:15pm Half Moon/RVW Council (Hall) 7:30pm Choir (DutchRm)	<b>February 12</b> 8:00am Prep/Set Up for Dinner (Kitchen/Hall) 9:00am HHS Conference Snow Date (DutchRm)	<b>February 13</b> 9:00am Tour of Italy Dinner (Hall/Kitchen) 10:00am Genealogy (Rm 12) 10:30am Music Therapy (Rm 9)
<b>February 15</b> 10:00am Genealogy (Rm 12) 12:00pm Census Testing (Hall) 4:30pm Dog Training (Hall) 7:00pm Pack 20 (Hall)	<b>February 16</b> 10:30am HHS (Rm12) 4:00pm Hurley Pipers (DutchRm) 4:30pm Dog Training (Hall) 7:00pm Troop 20 (Hall) 7:30pm Bible Study (Personage)	<b>February 17</b> <b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b> 7:00am Bible Study (DutchRm) 4:30pm Dog Training (Hall) 7:00pm Bag Pipers (Hall) 7:00pm Book Group (Rm 12) 7:00pm Lions (Dutch Rm) 7:30pm Overlook Radio (Rm 6)	<b>February 18</b> 4:00pm Dog Training (Hall) 7:00pm Woodworkers (Hall) 7:30pm Choir (DutchRm)	<b>February 19</b> 9:00am Significant Woman (DutchRm) 10:30am Music Therapy (Rm 9)	<b>February 20</b> 9:00am Significant Woman (DutchRm) 10:30am Music Therapy (Rm 9)
<b>February 22</b> 10:00am Genealogy (Rm 12) 6:00pm Dog Training (Hall) 6:00pm Foundation for Youth Health (Dutch Room)	<b>February 23</b> 10:30am HHS (Rm12) 4:00pm Hurley Pipers (DutchRm) 4:30pm Dog Training (Hall) 7:00pm Troop 20 (Hall) 7:30pm Bible Study (Personage) 7:30pm Hurley Rice (Rm12)	<b>February 24</b> 7:00am Bible Study (DutchRm) 4:30pm Dog Training (Hall) 7:00pm Bag Pipers (Hall)	<b>February 25</b> 4:00pm Dog Training (Hall) 7:30pm Choir (DutchRm)	<b>February 26</b> 5:00pm Census Testing (Hall)	<b>February 27</b> 10:30am Music Therapy (Rm 9)
					<b>February 28</b> 10:00am Worship 11:00am Snow House Day Committee (DutchRm)

HURLEY REFORMED  
CHURCH

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11 Main Street  
Hurley NY 12443

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Fax: 845-331-4153

E-mail: [admin@HurleyReformedChurch.org](mailto:admin@HurleyReformedChurch.org)

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

WE'RE ON THE WEB:

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

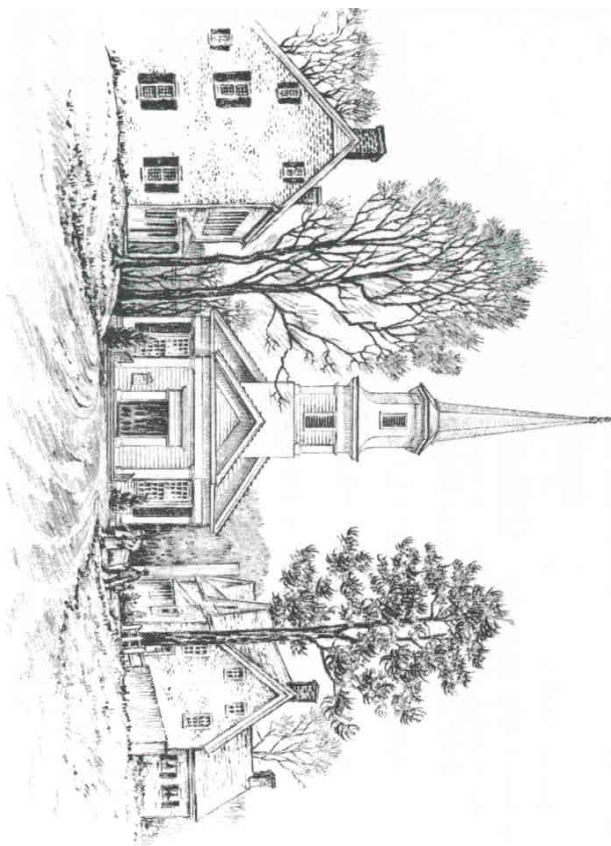
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