

# THE SPIRE

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2015



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Our new year has been plagued by catastrophe after catastrophe as terrorists, hiding behind the façade of Islam, have done terrible things in the name of Allah, and their prophet Muhammad. All religions have followers who, I believe, disgrace the love-your-neighbor ethics which form the heart, breath and soul of all the major religions. It is easy to believe that Islam is inherently evil, and that monsters, thinly disguised as human beings, are dutiful disciples of the teachings of their god and prophet. I was sickened to hear the name of Allah and Muhammad shouted triumphantly by two armed-to-the-teeth villains after their massacre of 11 cartoonists in Paris: The magazine artists' pencil wielding could not match the 30 round Kalashnikov clips emptied at them at point blank range.

It's easy to forget that Islam's Prophet Muhammad, who was born in 570, had admiration and respect for Christianity, particularly its ascetic forms – hermits and coenobitic monks who served our Lord by living simply, and lovingly in the caves and deserts of Arabia. It's also easy to forget that, although Muhammad stands above all others in the Q'ran, his religion holds Jesus and John the Baptist in great esteem.

The Q'ran contains passages about charity, peace, and love – even for those who do not embrace Islam. In that vein, it's interesting to reference Jesus' place in the holy book of Islam. We are told that Jesus is second only to Muhammad, and

he is one of God's intimates (3:45). Jesus' miracles are acknowledged (3:48; 5:110), and his resurrection is affirmed (4:157). Our Lord's preaching and miracle working are rejected

by his contemporaries as "manifest sorcery" (61:6) – that certainly fits with the accusations which Jesus' enemies leveled against him.

Jesus finds pride of place in post Q'ranic writing as well. Here is a sampling:

1. "Jesus said, 'Son of Adam, if you do a good deed, try to forget it, for it abides with Him who will not forget it.'"
2. "Jesus was asked, 'Which of your deeds is the best?' Jesus answered, 'leaving alone that which does not concern me.'"
3. "Jesus said, 'He who speaks without mentioning God is merely babbling. He who reflects without self-admonition is merely heedless. He who is silent without reflecting is merely wasting time.'"
4. "In truth I say to you, if you were to find a lamp lit with tar on a dark night, you would make use of its light, notwithstanding the evil smelling tar. So also you should take wisdom from whoever you find possessing it."
5. "Christ said, 'Be in the middle but walk to the side.'"
6. "Christ said, 'You will not commit adultery as long as you avert your eyes.'"
7. "Blessed is he who sees with his heart but whose heart is not in what he sees."

(Continued on page 2)

8. "Christ said, 'The world is a bridge. Cross this bridge but do not build upon it.'"
9. "Christ passed by a group of people who hurled insults at him, and he responded with blessings. He passed by another group who insulted him, and he responded likewise. One of his disciples asked, 'Why is it that the more they insult you, the more you bless them, as if inviting this upon yourself?' Christ said, 'A person can bring forth only what is within him.'"
10. Satan passed by while Jesus was reclining his head upon a stone. "So, then, Jesus, you have been satisfied with a stone in this world?" Jesus removed the stone from beneath his head, threw it at him, and said "Take this stone, and the world with it: I have no need of it either."
11. Jesus and his disciples passed by a dog's carcass. The disciples said, "How foul is his stench!" Jesus said, "How white are his teeth!" He said this in order to teach them a lesson – namely, to forbid slander.
12. A pig passed by Jesus. Jesus said, "Pass in peace." He was asked, "Spirit of God, how can you say this to a pig?" Jesus replied, "I hate to accustom my tongue to evil."

My prayer is that all religions might lead their followers in the paths of love, charity and forgiveness. We worship a God whose "Peace passes all understanding." (Philippians 4:7) May we be ambassadors of that peace, which the angels trumpeted at the birth of Christ in Bethlehem.

Yours In Christ,

*Doctor Bob*

Doctor Bob



In January we collected for the Clinton Avenue Warming Center, which was open several times due to the cold. The February Mission of the month is The Deacon's Fund. This money is collected for use directly by people in our Church and community who have immediate one-time needs. People come to Dr. Gram confidentially with needs and he can access this money to help them out in emergencies.

The shed continues bring in over \$100 a month. Please remember to use it only for clothing, shoes, pocketbooks, sheets and blankets. No household items, rags, rugs, or toys. (basically, if it isn't cloth, don't donate –except shoes)

Mission News:

Rebecca Masters, Chair

## Consistory Update

At the January Consistory meeting the following responsibilities were assigned:

Wally Cook, Senior Elder and Classis Delegate

Dennis Croswell, Property & Maintenance, Alternate Classis Delegate

Jim Craven, Columbarium Liaison

Hal Hauck, Program and Activity

Sonnie Howe, Consistory Clerk

Jim Mayfield, Finance/Stewardship

William Beesmer, Finance

Christine Henning, Youth Ministries

Rebecca Masters, Missions

Marilyn More, Information Technology

Kathleen Musialkiewicz, Preservation Committee

Dino Sumerano, Worship Committee

**Watch** for Fish Dinner date during Lent.

**Soup** Sales will continue once a month.

Sonnie Howe  
Clerk

*Winter*... Cold harsh temps,  
slick icy roads, bone chilling winds, bitter  
cold nights, depressing overcast days.

*Spring*... is just around the corner.

Have faith God never let's us down.  
Our world will again be filled with the  
warmth and beauty of His love for us.  
He is with us always, in all weather,  
and in all of life's ups and downs.  
Feel His love even in the icy cold days.

## **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)

## **YOUTH GROUP NEWS**

We have been meeting regularly weather permitting. We are getting prepared for the spring fundraisers. We will be selling chili for Souper Bowl on February 1<sup>st</sup>. The proceeds will be going to Caring Hands Pantry. We will also be having a Penny Social in March to raise money for the Relay for Life in June.

Our biggest fundraising event is:

Brooks BBQ

March 3

4:00-7:00

Cost \$12.00

(includes: ½ Brooks famous chicken or ribs, baked potato, coleslaw, roll, butter, dessert & beverage.)

Come support our youth group. Funds will be used for mission trips/retreat.

Christine Henning



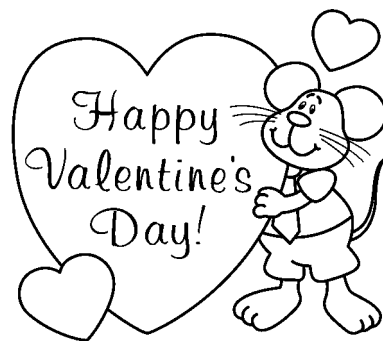
## BIRTHDAYS

Christopher Decker	2	Steve Helm
Dean Baker	2	Collette Woodard
Drew Wonderly	3	Eugene Groelle
Robert Kindt, Sr	4	Avery Davenport
Morgan Schaffrick	7	Todd Rubino
Ron Burns	7	Friedel Borst
Molly Nicholas	8	Matt Sirni
Shannon Butler	8	John Tucker
Betty Pirro	8	Leslie Shambo
Elsie Kimble	9	Donna Horvers
Christie Prentice	10	Amanda Horvers
John Mizel	12	Lisa Longto
		Rick Salzman
		Shirley Ruth
		Leanne Warren
		Jake Croswell

12	Raymond Croswell	28
13	Nikki Cline	29
13	Lisa Rowdycz	29

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## He is With Us

He knows our journey

And our purpose on Earth,

For He's known about us,

Even before our birth.

Through prayer He hears us;

Through the Bible we learn,

He's always there for us

For all life's twists and turns.

It's our faith and trust,

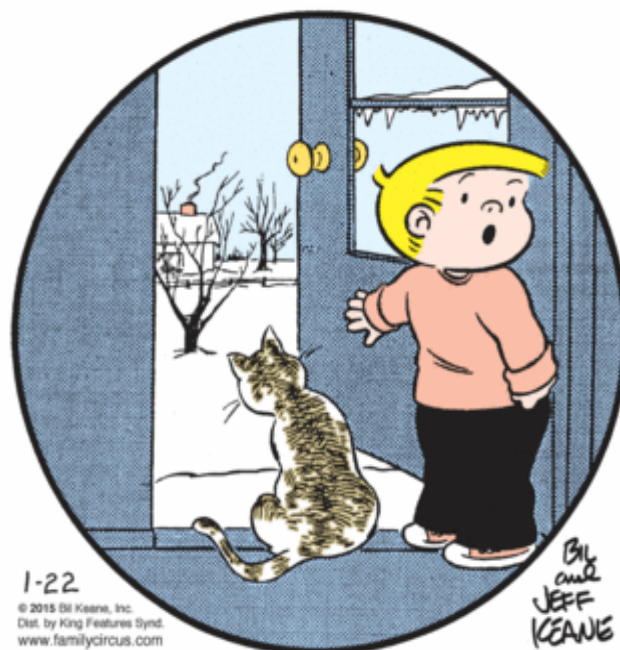
In Him, need never fail,

For He died for us all,

His love will always prevail.

Lori Baker

Written 1/8/15



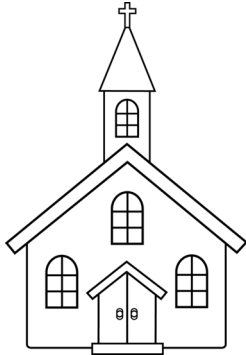
"How long do I have to hold the door while Kitty cat decides if it's too cold to go out?"

# News Bytes

Information you should know ; Opportunities for Fellowship.

## Property and Maintenance

**I want to thank** everyone for their continued support of repairs to the church property and grounds through the monthly property maintenance envelopes. For the month of February your property maintenance donations will be allocated to much needed and long standing plumbing repairs. – Dennis Croswell



## Property and Maintenance

We are looking for a few good tradesmen to assist us in maintaining the church

property and grounds. If you have any specific talents and are willing to help on small projects, especially plumbing and electrical work, please see/call Dennis Croswell at 331-5944



## Monthly Soup Sunday.

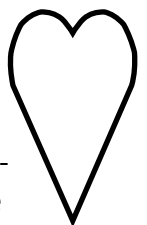
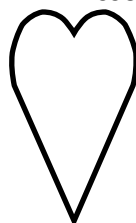
The next Soup Sunday is scheduled for **February 15<sup>th</sup>**.

The soup will be Cheddar Cheese with broccoli and beer. As in the past you may bring your own container. Make sure it is labeled with your name. Drop it off in the kitchen before church.

## Thank you

To everyone who participates in the recycling program. We were able to donate \$144.00 to the Ulster County Mental Health Association. A special thanks to Ron Chrissey for all his help.

Terry Gaffken



News Bytes

Information you should know ; Opportunities for Fellowship.



Looking for good fellowship?!

The Men’s Group meets the third Wednesday of the month. Next meeting is February 18th at 7 pm.

Come hang with us.

See Wally Cook for details.

HRC Preservation Fund

The Fund has been established to provide necessary improvements to the Church and the parsonage. The dedicated funds will be used specifically to undertake needed work to these historic and iconic buildings for which the Hurley Reformed Church has stewardship. Much work has been deferred over the years and extensive repair or replacement is required. Anticipated work areas include: sanctuary window restoration, parsonage bathrooms, parsonage kitchen, and parsonage exterior work such as repointing masonry and brick and replacement of rotted wood. In order to move forward, look for future fundraisers.

EASTER PLANTS

_____ LILIES	\$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: \_\_\_\_\_

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 13, 2015 to:

Doris Alden  
236 East Drive  
Hurley NY 12443

A Gram Gourmet Fundraiser  
Dinner for Two at the Parsonage  
of the Hurley Reformed Church  
Friday, February 20, 2015, 6:00 pm

Starter

Pear-Parsnip Soup  
Orange Mango Chutney Dollop

Salad

Romaine Lettuce,  
Sliced Strawberries macerated in navel orange juice and Triple Sec  
Homemade Sauterne-Roquefort Vinaigrette

Main Course

Braised Pork Loin Fillets with a prune cream sauce  
Macerated port wine Cantaloupe Slices and Grilled Portobello Spears  
Roasted Garlic Mashed Potatoes  
Chives wasabi creme  
Homemade "lump" Applesauce  
with cinnamon, dark rum and black cherry jam

Dessert

Homemade Lemon Tart Topped with Whipped Cream Puffs  
and Dark Chocolate Drizzle

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>10am - Worship @</div> <div>11am - Prayer Chain @</div>	<div>7pm - Little League @</div> <div>7:30pm - Al-Anon @</div>	<div>9:30am - Badminton @</div> <div>4pm - Hurley Purters @</div> <div>4:30pm - PC 101 @</div> <div>6:30pm - Classis Old</div> <div>7pm - Bible Study @</div> <div>7pm - Boy Scouts Troop</div>	<div>7:30am - Bible Study @</div> <div>5:30pm - Dog Training</div> <div>6pm - Cub Scout Den @</div> <div>6pm - Den 1 Bears @</div> <div>6:30pm - Girl Scout</div> <div>7pm - Boy Scouts Troop</div> <div>7:45pm - Bagpiper</div>	<div>9:30am - Badminton @</div> <div>1:30pm - Hurley Senior</div> <div>3pm - Quilting @ Dutch</div> <div>4:45pm - Dog Training</div> <div>6pm - Overeaters</div> <div>7:30pm - 1st Capitol</div> <div>7:30pm - Choir</div>		<div>10am - dog training @</div>
<div>Scout Sunday</div> <div>10am - Worship @</div> <div>11am - Fundraising</div> <div>11:30am - safe church</div> <div>3pm - daisy girl scout</div>	<div>11am - VFW @ Dutch</div> <div>5pm - Dog Training @</div> <div>7pm - Consistory @</div> <div>7pm - Hudson Valley</div> <div>7:30pm - Al-Anon @</div>	<div>8:30am - Hillside Acres</div> <div>9:30am - Badminton @</div> <div>4pm - Hurley Purters @</div> <div>4:30pm - dog training</div> <div>6:30pm - Classis Old</div> <div>7pm - Bible Study @</div> <div>7pm - Boy Scouts Troop</div>	<div>7:30am - Bible Study @</div> <div>9am - AARP Tax Prep @</div> <div>5:30pm - Dog Training</div> <div>6pm - Cub Scout Den @</div> <div>6pm - Den 1 Bears @</div> <div>7pm - Local 1582 @</div> <div>7:45pm - Bagpiper</div>	<div>9am - AARP Tax Prep @</div> <div>9:30am - Badminton @</div> <div>3pm - Quilting @ Dutch</div> <div>4:45pm - Dog Training</div> <div>6pm - Overeaters</div> <div>7:30pm - Choir</div>	<div>7pm - Motorcycle Club</div>	<div>10am - Genealogy @</div>
<div>10am - Worship @</div>	<div>10am - Genealogy @</div> <div>5pm - Dog Training @</div> <div>7:30pm - Al-Anon @</div>	<div>9:30am - Badminton @</div> <div>4pm - Hurley Purters @</div> <div>4:30pm - dog training</div> <div>6:30pm - Classis Old</div> <div>7pm - Bible Study @</div> <div>7pm - Boy Scouts Troop</div>	<div>7:30am - Bible Study @</div> <div>9am - AARP Tax Prep @</div> <div>5:30pm - Dog Training</div> <div>6pm - Cub Scout Den @</div> <div>6pm - Den 1 Bears @</div> <div>7pm - Hurley Lions @</div> <div>7pm - Men's group @</div> <div>7:45pm - Bagpiper</div>	<div>9am - AARP Tax Prep @</div> <div>9:30am - Badminton @</div> <div>3pm - Quilting @ Dutch</div> <div>4:45pm - Dog Training</div> <div>6pm - Overeaters</div> <div>7pm - NE WoodWorkers</div> <div>7:30pm - Choir</div>		<div>10am - dog training</div>
<div>10am - Worship @</div> <div>11:20am - Stone House</div> <div>3pm - daisy girl scout</div>	<div>10:30am - Genealogy @</div> <div>5pm - Dog Training @</div> <div>6pm - Hudson Valley</div> <div>7:30pm - Al-Anon @</div>	<div>9:30am - Badminton @</div> <div>4pm - Hurley Purters @</div> <div>6:30pm - Classis Old</div> <div>7pm - Bible Study @</div> <div>7pm - Boy Scouts Troop</div>	<div>7:30am - Bible Study @</div> <div>9am - AARP Tax Prep @</div> <div>5:30pm - Dog Training</div> <div>6pm - Cub Scout Den @</div> <div>6pm - Den 1 Bears @</div> <div>7:45pm - Bagpiper</div>	<div>9am - AARP Tax Prep @</div> <div>9:30am - Badminton @</div> <div>3pm - Quilting @ Dutch</div> <div>6pm - Overeaters</div> <div>7:30pm - Choir</div>		<div>set up for church</div>

February 2015



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

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