

## HURLEY REFORMED CHURCH

# THE SPIRE

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1      JANUARY 2010

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

A story circulates among the German Baptist Brethren of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. It concerns a man who resists God's call most of his life. Finally he sees the light and requests baptism from the minister of his congregation. Baptism was usually performed among the German Baptist Brethren on Christmas Day. That Christmas was terribly cold. The pastor walked out on the frozen pond until he spotted what he perceived to be the thinnest section of the ice layer. He grabbed an axe and chopped a hole. Then he took a long pole and measured the depth of the water. The minister dunked the man three times in the frozen water, baptizing him in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The baptismard sprung from the water spluttering and gasping "At last it's over," he said. The minister looked at him and replied, "No brother, it's just beginning."

Jesus' baptism at the hands of his kinsman, John, signaled the beginning of his ministry. In that baptismal experience Jesus heard God saying, "You are my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased." I think the affirmative nature of the Father's words gave Jesus the strength and hope to begin his public ministry. God's verbal expression sustained him

when he fasted and experienced wilderness testing for 40 days. It provided strength as he dealt continuously with hungry crowds and those in need of spiritual and physical healing. His Father's consolation comforted as he dealt with unruly disciples who jockeyed for positions of power and influence. The words abided as he stood fast against the power of Pontius Pilate and the predations of those who mauled and nailed him to a cross. As Christians we are called to affirm others as they begin significant pilgrimages in their lives. You truly offer a cup of cold water to someone dying of spiritual thirst when you tell him or her that he or she is God's beloved Child.

The baptism of Jesus has deeper significance. In the book of Romans (6:3-4) the apostle Paul writes "Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death. We were buried therefore with him in baptism into death so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of God we too might walk in newness of life." Baptism is, in part, a metaphor for the dying and rising, the ebb and flow, of our journeys. Sometimes bad things happen to good peo-



ple. Indeed, bad things have happened to us. Baptism symbolizes the fact that Christ is with us when we submerge in the watery seas of despair, confusion, and fear. Throughout the Old and New Testaments water connotes the forces of overwhelm in our lives which seek to, as the Elizabethan writer so quaintly puts it, "undo us." Baptism reminds us that God continually lifts us out of icy waters. Our lives, our hopes, our dreams, are renewed and restored. As Christians, new beginnings are both legacy and future. Let us rejoice in new beginnings as we embrace fully this New Year.

In Christ's Service,

Dr. Bob

### *Listening to Our Lives*

*The circumstances of our lives are another medium of God's communication with us. God opens some doors and closes others...Through the wisdom of our bodies, God tells us to slow down or reorder our priorities. The happy coincidences and frustrating impasses of daily life are laden with messages. Patient listening and the grace of the Spirit are the decoding devices of prayer. It is a good habit to ask, "What is God saying to me in this situation?" Listening to our lives is part of prayer.*

Marjorie J. Thompson  
From *Soul Feast*

**Women's Guild**

Thank you to everyone who purchased pecans. We sold out!! Hope you enjoyed them this holiday season. Thank you to Jean Dussol & all the callers who worked on this fund raiser. We couldn't do this without everyone's help.

The snow held off, the cookies came in & with your help the cookies were a sell out. Another great Cookie Walk is done for another year. We are so thankful to everyone for their support. Thank you to Joyce Pinckney &

Christa Conlin for chairing this event.

Last month the executive committee of the Guild met to discuss our annual benevolences. Below is a list of the wonderful organizations that we were able to donate to this year:

- \$100 Warwick
- \$100 Queens Galley
- \$100 Hospitality House
- \$100 People's Place
- \$100 Hospice
- \$200 Salvation Army
- \$200 Family of Woodstock - Domestic Violence
- \$200 Hurley Rescue Squad

\$1,100 Total donated

Once again we will be holding our Annual Birthday Party on 1/24/10 during coffee hour. Please go to the table that has the month that you were born in & see who else shares your same month. It is fun to see who is the oldest/youngest at your table. Please stay so we can wish each a Happy Birthday!!

Upcoming events:

1/24/10 Annual Birthday Party

2/21/10--Meeting

We invite all women of



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

Blessings

Sandy Emrich-President




Tour of Italy Dinner will be held on 2/13/10 from 4:30pm till 7:30pm. If you like Antipasti, Spaghetti & Meatballs, Pollo Alla Fiorentina, Baked Three Cheese Manicotti, & Eggplant Parmigianino Calabrizi Style then you won't want to miss this dinner. Tickets are \$10 for Adults & \$8 for kids 12 & under. Tickets go on sale on 1/17/10. This is a fund raiser for the church. Mark your calendars for this great Tour of Italy. Amore'.

**Announcement Deadlines**

*Spire: 20th day of the month*

*Weekly Bulletin: Tuesday*



**Ulster County**  
Department of Social Services

*Making a Difference Every Day  
For Children and Families*

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MICHAEL P. HEIN  
County Executive

1091 Development Court, Kingston, NY 12401  
(845) 334-5400 Fax (845) 334-5199  
**Roberto Rodriguez, Commissioner**  
Barbara Sorokin, Deputy Commissioner  
Patricia Jelacic, Deputy Commissioner

December 3, 2009

Ms. Sandy Emerick  
Hurley Reformed Church  
Hurley, NY 12443

Re: Thanksgiving Drive Donations

Dear Sandy and the Congregation at the Hurley Reformed Church:

We would like to thank you and the congregation for the generous contributions for our Thanksgiving food drive this year. We were able to provide meals to many needy families in the area by our drive this year.

We greatly appreciate your support this holiday season and your service in the community.

Thank you and Happy Holidays.

Sincerely,

*Laura Walzer*

Laura Walzer, Chairperson  
Kristy Granger/Rachel Hunter, Co-Chairpersons  
Holiday Committee/Children and Family Services

CDS of past sermons are available weekly in the church narthex as well as by download from our website: [www.hurleyreformedchurch.org](http://www.hurleyreformedchurch.org).

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

"Over the ground lies a mantle of white." Even the columbarium area is covered with the gentle flakes that have fallen from the sky to blanket the quiet area beside the Hurley Church. It gives it a mystic kind of setting as you drive by at night and see the soft light that illuminates the niche area and the patio now covered with snow. In the snow you can see the prints of several people who have gone to spend some time on the patio, standing or sitting on the benches to reflect and remember. It is a place of serenity, a place of peace and tranquillity in all of the seasons of the year as well as in the seasons of our lives. Maybe you need to stop and spend a few minutes or remember as you drive by and see a very special place in many of our lives. It is open twenty four hours a day... Rev. Stickley

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

LISA LONGTO (331-1438)  
CHAIRPERSON

JIM FIRRO (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)

**January Birthdays**

Keelan Tucker	10, '94	Wayne Mengel	15	Chris Decker	2
Melissa McGraw	11, '95	Kyle Harjes	16	Dean Baker	2
Blake Soshensky	18, '08	Glenn Decker	17	Drew Wonderly	3
Brandon Paton	20, '92	Wally Cook	17	Robert Kindt	4
Morgan Burgess	26, '92	Tim Cook	17	June Vanderlaan	4
Ryan Helm	18, '09	Linda Dux	18	Annette Mayone-Briggs	5
Hatherly Tucker	29, '96	Alexandra Browning	18	Stacy Schoonmaker	7
Samantha Bostic	30, '94	Lee Gable	18	Molly Nicholas	8
Virgil Winnie	1	Wendy Helsley	19		
Andrew Maxwell	1	Shannon Tucker	21		
Nicole Wonderly Provenzano	4	Michael Christiana	21		
Kyle Winnie	5	Alex Milne	22		
Thomas Horvers	5	Cathy Winnie	23		
Russ Lewis	7	Alma Strickland	24		
Fred Suppies	7	Doris Alden	24		
Carla Paton	8	Kelly Maggiore	24		
Joe Ulrich	9	Kelly Dux More	25		
Cheryl Lafiandra	10	Sheila Jansen	25		
Marcy Rell	10	Tom Harkin	27		
Kerri Weber	12	Doreen Lyke	28		
Mary Lou Christiana	12	Mitchell Kurtz	30		
Dolores Wyncoop	12				
Clarence Jansen	13				
Shawn Haran	13				
Sharon Bouleris	14				
Sheryl Delano	14				
Doug Constant	15				

**ANNIVERSARIES**

**January**

Rev & Esther Stickley	2
Donna & Bill Brundage	3
George & Renee Nekos	4
Ruth & Tom Harkin	6

*HRC FAMILY... We want to thank you for your many cards and notes in the Christmas season. It was great to hear from so many of you and to share the holiday in that way. We extend our best wishes for the New Year and pray that it may be filled with much love, joy, happiness and good health. Rev. and Esther Stickley*

**February Birthdays**

Kayley Jansen	3, '96
Douglas Woodard	6, '92
Tanner Sirni	6, '99
Alex Sirni	7, '95
Angel Martinez	7, '05
Morgan Schaffrick	7, '96

### Youth Group

Thank you to everyone who supported The Giving Tree this year. With your assistance we almost needed 2 cars to get everything to Queen's Galley. You donated: 57 Hats/Earmuffs, 49 Scarves, 69 Pairs of Gloves/Mittens & 88 Personal Products (Shampoo, Razors, Toothpaste, etc.) We thank you so very much, and so do the patrons of Queen's Galley!!!!

On 12/4/09 we held our annual babysitting night. We were able to raise \$144 for the American Cancer Society. During the night Ireland Sirni led the children in a craft for her Girl Scout project. She did a great job & the children had a wonderful time making her edible snowmen. Thank you to everyone that came out & supported us.

On 12/11/09 we went caroling in the neighborhood. We visited 12 homes singing Christmas Carols & spreading some holiday cheer. We thank everyone who let us come to their homes. We even had snow falling which added a wonderful holiday

feel to the night. We ended the evening at Rev & Mrs. Stickley's home. They had hot chocolate ready for us. What a great way to end the evening.

The Youth Group adopted 4 families this holiday season. Each family adopted a child from these families & purchased items to brighten their holiday season. Two of these



families have a person who has cancer. During these difficult times we

tried to assist in making their holiday's a little brighter. We also had some help from the congregation. Thank you to Gay Gravina & the Gregory's for your wonderful assistance. We all helped to spread the meaning of the season.

Our annual Souper Bowl Sunday Chili sale is coming up on 2/6/10. We will be taking pre-orders on 1/24 & 1/31. Sign ups after church or

see Karen Waligurski if you have any questions. This is a fund raiser for our local soup kitchens— Queens Galley & Caring Hands Feeding Program at the Clinton Ave Methodist Church.

Our January/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:

1/10/10—Meeting

2/6/10—Making chili for Souper Bowl Sunday

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

3/2/10--Brooks BBQ

3/12/10 - Penny Social

Any child who is in the 5<sup>th</sup> & 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

### What You Do . . .

*What you do, may you [always] do  
and never abandon.*

*But with swift pace, light step,  
Unswerving feet,*

*So that even your steps stir up no  
dust,*

*May you go forward*

*Securely, joyfully, and swiftly,*

*On the path of prudent happiness,*

*Not believing anything,*

*Not agreeing with anything*

*That would dissuade you from this  
resolution*

*Or that would place a stumbling  
block for you on the way,*

*So that you may offer your vows to  
the Most High*

*In the pursuit of that perfection*

*To which the Spirit of the Lord as  
called you.*

*\*Saint Clare of Assisi  
From her second letter to  
Blessed Agnes of Prague*

### Can you smell it???

**It's in the  
air....that  
wonderful  
Brook's BBQ  
smell**



That's right...the Youth Group is sponsoring a Brook's BBQ here at the church.

**March 2, 2010** Mark your calendars now and watch for more details.

**Sanctuary Flowers** - Kathy Jansen is coordinating the weekly Chancel flowers. Please call her (331-2695) or speak to her if you wish to place flowers on the altar during the next year.

**Kudos to one of our own**

Many of us were part of Lia Sumerano's "growing up" years and Lia has always been very grateful for all the support she received from the Church, especially Jeanne Hattersley and Lonnie Kulick. Both had a major influence on her career. Lia has been living in NYC and doing regional theater and Off-Broadway gigs. She was selected recently to be part of the "Jesus Christ Superstar" North American Tour as the "middle Soul Singer" and Mary Magdalene understudy.

Rehearsals took place in NYC, tech week was in St. Louis, and opening night was 12/26 in Bismarck, ND. The starring role of Jesus is played by Ted Neeley who also played Jesus in the movie, over three decades ago. The show itinerary is not complete yet, but at present the nearest shows will be in Utica, 2/14/10 or New Brunswick, NJ 2/20/10. The JCS tour will be on the road crisscrossing the USA and Canada until July.

*Break a leg, Lia!*

**When You're Hospitalized**

**Help us stand beside you in health challenges:**

- 1) **Tell the Pastor or an Elder as a hospitalization nears—or afterward in emergencies.**
- 2) **At admission, check "yes" for pastor to be told.**
- 3) **If you cannot give permission, do #1 above.**

**Let's stay connected to God and each other—especially when large health issues descend!**

*See what no eye can see,  
go where no foot can go,  
Choose that which is no choice -  
Then you may hear what makes no sound -  
God's voice.*

*\*Angelus Silesius*

[weblogcartoons.com](http://weblogcartoons.com)



**OUR EARTH IS BEING ORBITED  
BY ONE THOUSAND BILLION  
ITEMS OF UNDELIVERED E-MAIL**

**If Sunday's Weather Is Rotten**

If you awaken on a Sunday to a blizzard that 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.

**More Peace**

Ultimately, we have just one moral duty:  
to reclaim large areas of peace in ourselves,  
more and more peace,  
and to reflect it towards others.  
And the more peace there is in us,  
the more peace there will also be in our troubled world.

*\*Etty Hillsum*

Who died in Auschwitz in 1943 at the age of 29



## **2009 Church Benevolences**

In addition to the regular monthly mission programs which are announced through the Sunday morning bulletins and the Spire, included in the budget for the Church, is a specific category for benevolences; the Consistory ties this level of contributions to the total income from the congregation and the church programs, which also includes the receipts from the donation received from the cell tower for placement of the equipment in the church steeple. It was decided by the consistory to devote the majority of these funds (\$10,000) to organizations / programs which are local to us, and one new program (\$2,000) which we hope to be able to partner with through the friendship of Dr. Gram.

For the year ending December 2009, the following programs received the denoted donation and we have included a brief description of that specific program, as several of them may sound new to you, but actually have been in existence for a number of years:

“Portal Program” - \$3,000: This donation was provided through St. John’s Episcopal Church, which is in partnership with the Kingston Area Council of Churches, providing low-cost housing and support to individuals reestablishing their self sufficiency.

“Caring Hands” - \$3,000: This program is administered by the

Clinton Avenue Methodist Church as a Soup Kitchen which serves lunches, Monday through Friday. Over the past year they prepared nearly 17,000 lunches for children (1200), adults (12,000) and seniors (4,000). With the close of St. Simon’s soup kitchen, “Caring Hands” expects a spike in need during 2010. The Youth Group has also donated funds raised through the Souper Bowl of Caring.

“Queens Galley” - \$2,000: We all know Queens Galley as a Soup Kitchen. In addition to providing meals, they also provide awareness, education, relief and prevention of food insecurity. The Youth Group has donated funds, goods, and services throughout the year. The Women’s Guild also includes



the Queens Galley on their list of recipients for 2009.

“Ulster County Habitat for Humanity” - \$2,000: The local group in Ulster County was organized in 1996, and, together with partners, has rehabilitated or built homes in Ulster County. If you recall, the UCHH was the recipient of the former Liquidated Furniture building on Rt.28 (from the Wiedy family). Their mission now is to create that facility into a ReStore facility for materials purchased or donated for their local rehabilitation programs.

*If I cannot listen to all of life,  
then any part that I do hear  
will be only partial or distorted.  
If I am listening only in chapel,  
if I am listening only to my peers,  
if I am listening only to my profession,  
if I am listening only to my routine,  
then I have cut out the poor,  
the children, the needy, the holy  
where it is calling me to be present.*

Joan Chittister

“My Brother’s Workshop” - \$2,000: Through Dr. Gram’s friendship with Rev. Jeff Neeval, we were introduced to a program on the island of St. Thomas, which was created to assist disadvantaged adults 18-25 years of age. The program provides vocational training and career guidance for the young people most in need or the most at risk. They train in a simulated environment with professional volunteers from the community in areas of plumbing, electrical, carpentry...with the goal of sending them back into the community for career oriented trades. It is hoped that Hurley will be able to partner with the St. Thomas Reformed Church in the future also with this program. Go on the internet at the following link, and look at their video or photos of the projects that have already been accomplished: <http://mybrothersworkshop.com> .

Hurley Reformed Church

# January 2010

January 2010							February 2010						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28						

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat/Sun
<p>4:30pm Dog Training (Hall)</p> <p>7:00pm First Capital Conventes (Dutch Rom)</p>	<p>10:30am Census Testing (Room 6)</p> <p>10:30am HHS (Rm6)/Hall</p> <p>4:00pm Hurley Puppers (DutchRom)</p> <p>4:30pm PC 101 (Dutch Rom)</p> <p>7:00pm Troop 20 (Hall)</p> <p>7:00pm Bible Study (Personage)</p> <p>7:30pm Little League (Rm12)</p>	<p>7:00am Bible Study (DutchRom)</p> <p>4:30pm Dog Training (Hall)</p> <p>7:00pm Bag Pipers (Hall)</p> <p>7:30pm Troop 20 Committee (DutchRom)</p>	<p>1:30pm Census Testing (Hall)</p> <p>4:45pm Dog Training (Hall)</p> <p>6:30pm Half Noon LEC (Rm 12)</p> <p>7:00pm GS SU (Rm 12)</p> <p>7:15pm Half Noon/RVW Council (Hall)</p> <p>7:30pm Choir (DutchRom)</p>	<p>January 1, 2010</p>	<p>10:30am Music Therapy (Rm 9)</p> <p>6:30pm English Dancers (Hall)</p> <p>10:00am Worship</p> <p>11:00am Garden Club (Rm 12)</p> <p>11:15am Prayer Chain (DR)</p> <p>9:00am Half Noon Banquet</p> <p>9:00am Significant Woman</p> <p>More Items...</p> <p>10:00am Worship</p> <p>11:00am All Church Birthday Party</p> <p>More Items...</p> <p>10:30am Music Therapy (Rm 9)</p> <p>10:00am Worship</p>
<p>11:00am VFW (Dutch Rom)</p> <p>5:30pm Dog Training (Hall)</p> <p>7:00pm Consistory (DutchRom)</p>	<p>9:00am HACC (Dutch Rom)</p> <p>10:30am HHS (Rm6)/Hall</p> <p>4:00pm Hurley Puppers (DutchRom)</p> <p>7:00pm Troop 20 (Hall)</p> <p>7:00pm Bible Study (Personage)</p> <p>7:30pm Radio-Dixie (DutchRom)</p>	<p>7:00am Bible Study (DutchRom)</p> <p>4:30pm Dog Training (Hall)</p> <p>7:00pm Bag Pipers (Hall)</p>	<p>4:00pm Census Testing (Room 6)</p> <p>4:45pm Dog Training (Hall)</p> <p>7:00pm RVW Boy Scouts (Hall)</p> <p>7:30pm Choir (DutchRom)</p>	<p>January 1, 2010</p>	<p>10:00am Music Therapy (Rm 9)</p> <p>10:00am Worship</p>
<p>10:00am Genealogy (Rm 12)</p> <p>4:30pm Dog Training (Hall)</p> <p>6:00pm VHF (DutchRom)</p> <p>7:00pm Pack 20 (Hall)</p>	<p>10:30am HHS (Rm6)/Hall</p> <p>4:00pm Hurley Puppers (DutchRom)</p> <p>7:00pm Troop 20 (Hall)</p> <p>7:00pm Bible Study (Personage)</p>	<p>7:00am Bible Study (DutchRom)</p> <p>4:30pm Dog Training (Hall)</p> <p>7:00pm Bag Pipers (Hall)</p> <p>7:00pm Book Group (Rm 12)</p> <p>7:00pm Lions (Dutch Rom)</p> <p>7:30pm Overlook Radio (Rm 6)</p>	<p>4:45pm Dog Training (Hall)</p> <p>7:00pm Woodworkers (Hall)</p> <p>7:30pm Choir (DutchRom)</p>	<p>January 1, 2010</p>	<p>8:30am Significant Woman</p> <p>10:30am Music Therapy (Rm 9)</p> <p>11:00am Set up for birthday party</p> <p>10:00am Worship</p> <p>11:00am All Church Birthday Party</p>
<p>10:00am Genealogy (Rm 12)</p> <p>4:30pm Dog Training (Hall)</p> <p>6:00pm Foundation for Youth Health (Dutch Room)</p> <p>7:00pm Hurley Little League Registration</p>	<p>10:30am HHS (Rm6)/Hall</p> <p>4:00pm Hurley Puppers (DutchRom)</p> <p>7:00pm Troop 20 (Hall)</p> <p>7:00pm Bible Study (Personage)</p> <p>7:30pm Hurley Rec (Rm12)</p>	<p>7:00am Bible Study (DutchRom)</p> <p>4:30pm Dog Training (Hall)</p> <p>7:00pm Bag Pipers (Hall)</p>	<p>4:45pm Dog Training (Hall)</p> <p>7:30pm Choir (DutchRom)</p>	<p>January 1, 2010</p>	<p>10:30am Music Therapy (Rm 9)</p> <p>10:00am Worship</p>

HURLEY REFORMED  
CHURCH

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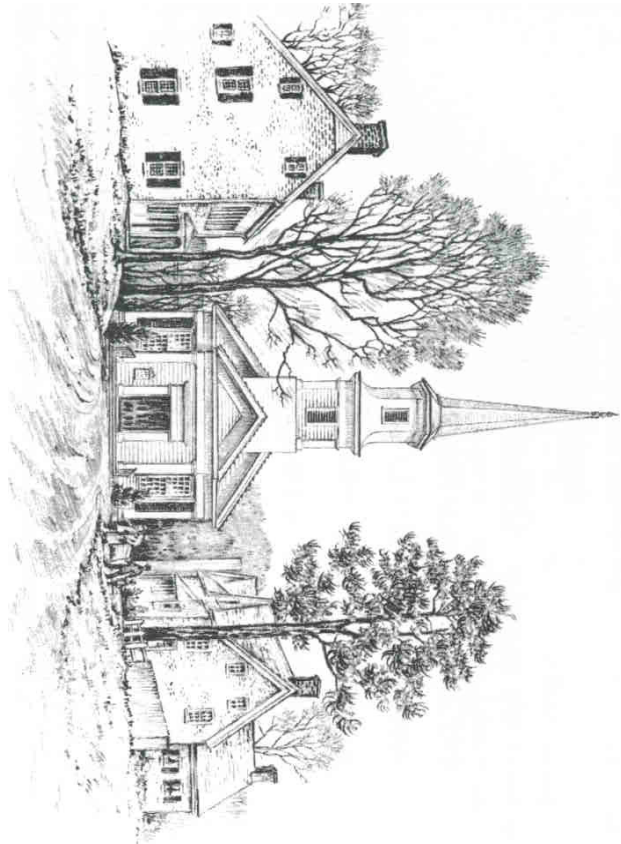
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The Rev. Dr. Robert L. Gram, LCSW  
Pastor

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HURLEY REFORMED CHURCH

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The Rev. Dr. Robert L. Gram, LCSW  
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THE SPIRE  
JANUARY 2010