

THE SPIRE

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 1

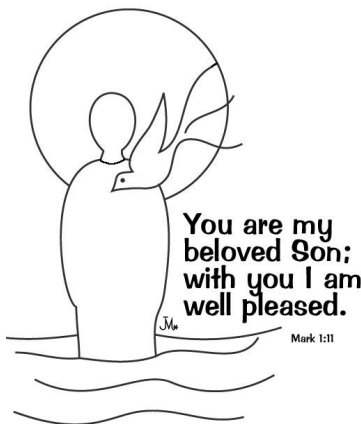
JANUARY 2015



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 Day 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 sputtering 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 being 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 the 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 people, 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,

Doctor Bob



Mission News! We collected close to \$500.00 in November for the children in the homeless shelters. Linda Caddy, Cindy Sumerano and Debbie Tucker shopped, and the supply closet for the kids is well stocked! In addition, we partnered with Lisa Longto and Sandy Emrich in finding some families to “adopt” for the Giving Tree. Those two and their families did a

wonderful job organizing and getting everything ready to deliver.

We’ve got some new projects for next year, as well as some old “traditional” ones. For January we will be collecting for the Clinton Avenue warming shelter. The warming center, at 122 Clinton Avenue in Midtown Kingston, will open when there is projected to be three or more consecutive days with an average temperature of 10 degrees or lower. It will be activated by the Ulster County Executive Michael Hein and the Ulster County Office of Emergency Management in coordination with the National Weather Service. The warming center will provide homeless adults, ages 18 and above, regardless of gender, with a warm shelter, a hot evening meal and breakfast and related services between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m. There will be separate areas for men and women to sleep.

Rebecca Masters, Chair

Compost Candy Recipe

As Dorothy Requested

Hi Dorothy,

The joke is that the recipe is NO RECIPE! It's one of those assemblages that you make based on 'what's on hand'. The main needed items are: semi sweet choc. bits, Chinese fried noodles(preferably fine not fat), and nuts.

The original idea was from Scouts in the 70's - it was called Chocolate Covered Ants! Those were made with peanuts. I just eliminated the peanuts, and added a couple extra nuts - Pecans(from church sale), Walnuts, & Almonds - all chopped.

It helps if one nut is salted - better flavor. Otherwise use unsalted nuts and then sprinkle a coarse salt onto the candies before the Chocolate sets!! Kind of like 'Salted Caramels'... which you could snip and add to the mix.

All is done in Microwave. Nestle bits are melted first, the rest of ingredients are mixed into chocolate, stirring to coat well. The candies are formed by dropping teaspoonfuls onto waxed paper or parchment. Cool in frig. or freezer. They pop right off paper. Store in tight closing container away from heat.

Go Nuts!!

All Best,

Linda Cook



Women's Guild

Thank you to everyone that purchased pecans. We are sold out. We couldn't have done that without your help. Thanks!

Thank you for everyone's help with the Cookie Walk. If you made cookies...thank you for that. If you purchased cookies...thank you for that. If you ate cookies....thank you for doing that. We couldn't have raised \$560 without all of the above being done. Wow & thanks to everyone!

We welcome & 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 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!

Our calendar of events:

January 11, 2015 Meeting

March 2015 Annual Birthday Party

God Bless,

Sandy Emrich-President



THE
Giving
TREE

The Giving Tree

THANK YOU!!!! THANK YOU!!!! THANK YOU!!!!

A tree was put up, wishing tags placed on it, wonderful folks picked those wishing tags & purchased the wish, brought the item back & a WISH was fulfilled. We made wishes come true for 2 needy families in the area plus a local warming shelter with new pillows & blankets. This is a great way to spread some holiday cheer. Thanks for making our wish come true by helping families. What a Merry Christmas a lot of individuals will have because a wish was granted by you.

God Bless,

Lisa Longto & Sandy Emrich

Happy New Year!
Blessings to all for 2015!

THE STICKLEY GARDENS COLUMBARIUM COMMITTEE

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 CUNE (338-7276)
REV STICKLEY, SECRETARY

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



BIRTHDAYS

Nicole Provenzano	4
Thomas Horvers	5
Carla Paton	8
Joe Ulrich	9
Marcy Rell	10
Allan Dumas	11
Dolores Wyncoop	12
MaryLou Christiana	12
Clarence Jansen	13
Doug Constant	15

Glenn Decker	17
Wally Cook	17
Linda Dux	18
Lee Gable	18
Wendy Helsley	19
Brandon Paton	20
Shannon Tucker	21
Michael Christiana	21
Alex Milne	22
Alma Strickland	24
Doris Alden	24
Kelly Maggiore	24
Sheila Jansen	25
Morgan Burgess	26
Tom Harkin	27
Ryan Helm	28

Doreen Lyke	28
Mitchell Kurtz	30

ANNIVERSARIES

Rev. Charles & Esther Stickley	2
George & Renee Nekos	4
Ruth & Tom Harkin	6



News Bytes

Information you should know ; Opportunities for Fellowship.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Events for December

January 4	Meeting
January 18	Meeting
January 31	Cook Chili

Christine Henning

Bible Study

“A Dewy Epistle of Straw” is how Martin Luther (1483-1546), the great 16th Century Reformer, referred to the Epistle of James. Yet the letter provides a helpful Corrective to Christians who believe they can “talk the talk of faith” without “walking the walk of service.” Dr. Gram will discuss James in a 2 part series.

When: Tuesday evenings January 20 & 27

Where: Dutch Room

Time: 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Hurley Stone House Day

A Banner Year

Stone House Day continues to attract visitors and to raise funds for the Hurley Reformed Church. We had 602 paid visitors this year and had a net income of approximately \$11,500. This is a new high and included our first tour bus in many years. We also had a new high in cafeteria income of \$3,000. Our net gain for the day was \$7,600.

Several things contributed to this year's success. The tour bus added 27 visitors. A \$2 coupon for the Cafeteria was repeated again this year and a selection of higher priced plates contributed to cafeteria income.

A major improvement this year was the replacement of the Stone House Day sign on Route 209. With a donation from the Hurley Lions Club, we were able to replace the single sign that had served us well for many years, with a double sign facing the North and South lanes on Route 209. Many thanks to the Lions for their donation.

Our local historic homes continue to be the main attraction and this year we had eight homes open including five on Main Street and three on the bus tour. In addition to the historic homes there were other attractions including: The Third Ulster Militia, Sojourner Truth, Music, Re-enactors, Colonial Crafts, and the Red Feather Dancers. The replacement of the "green bridge" on Wynkoop Road impacted our bus tour. However, we were able to include the former Paul residence and added the Opdahl (Tootsie House) residence to the tour.

Our comment cards were very positive again this year with high praise for the cafeteria, the historic homes, the events and our welcoming attitude. There were some suggestions as well, mostly to add more Hurley history. The primary question on the comment card was "How did you hear about Hurley Stone House Day? Friends and relatives again topped the responses, followed by newspapers, highway signs, Wade Tours and the Stone House Day website.

As always, Stone House Day is made possible by the historic home owners, the church volunteers and other participants - in particular: The Hurley Lions Club, Ulster County Transportation and the friends and relatives that promote Stone House Day.

Jim Craven

Forward 3, Birthdays, Hurley Reformed Church

Jan 2015 (Eastern Time)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
				6 pm - Overeaters 7:30pm - 1st Capitol		9 am - soup making @
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10 am - Worship @ 11 am - Prayer Chain @	5 pm - Dog Training @ 7 pm - Little League @ 7:30 pm - Al-Anon @	9:30am - Badminton @ 4 pm - Hurley Purliers @ 4:30pm - PC 101 @ 7 pm - Boy Scouts Troop	7:30am - Bible Study @ 5:30pm - Dog Training 6 pm - Cub Scout Den @ 6 pm - Den 1 Bears @ 6:30pm - Girl Scout 7 pm - Boy Scouts Troop 7:45pm - Bagpiper	9:30am - Badminton @ 3 pm - Quilting @ Dutch 4:45pm - Dog Training 6 pm - Overeaters 7:30pm - Choir	7 pm - Motorcycle Club	10 am - Genealogy @ 10 am - Isabella 2 pm - boy scouts
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
ordination and	11 am - VFW @ Dutch 5 pm - Dog Training @ 6 pm - Hudson Valley 7 pm - Consistory @ 7 pm - Hudson Valley 7:30pm - Al-Anon @	8:30am - Hillside Acres 9:30am - Badminton @ 4 pm - Hurley Purliers @ 4:30pm - dog training 7 pm - Boy Scouts Troop	7:30am - Bible Study @ 5:30pm - Dog Training 6 pm - Cub Scout Den @ 6 pm - Den 1 Bears @ 7:45pm - Bagpiper	9:30am - Badminton @ 3 pm - Quilting @ Dutch 4:45pm - Dog Training 6 pm - Overeaters 7 pm - NE WoodWorkers 7:30pm - Choir		11:30am - birthday
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
10 am - Worship @ 11:20am - stone House	10 am - Genealogy @ 5 pm - Dog Training @ 7:30 pm - Al-Anon @	9:30am - Badminton @ 4 pm - Hurley Purliers @ 4:30pm - dog training 6:30pm - Elders 7 pm - Boy Scouts Troop	7:30am - Bible Study @ 5:30pm - Dog Training 6 pm - Cub Scout Den @ 6 pm - Den 1 Bears @ 7 pm - Hurley Lions @ 7 pm - Men's group @ 7:45pm - Bagpiper	9:30am - Badminton @ 3 pm - Quilting @ Dutch 4:45pm - Dog Training 6 pm - Overeaters 7 pm - Hurley Heritage 7:30pm - Choir		10 am - dog training @
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
10 am - Worship @ 3 pm - daisy girl scout	10:30am - Genealogy @ 5 pm - Dog Training @ 7:30pm - Al-Anon @	9:30am - Badminton @ 4 pm - Hurley Purliers @ 4:30pm - dog training 6:30pm - Classis Old 7 pm - Bible Study @ 7 pm - Boy Scouts Troop	7:30am - Bible Study @ 5:30pm - Dog Training 6 pm - Cub Scout Den @ 6 pm - Den 1 Bears @ 7:45pm - Bagpiper	9:30am - Badminton @ 3 pm - Quilting @ Dutch 4:45pm - Dog Training 6 pm - Overeaters 7:30pm - Choir		

January 2015

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

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Hurley New York 12443
The Rev. Dr. Robert L. Gram, LCSW
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