

THE SPIRE

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JUNE 2017



Freedom For Yvonne Germany's Runaway Cow

The search for Yvonne, the six-year-old cow that dashed to freedom just before she was to be transported to a slaughterhouse in southern Germany, has been called off. The cow has become a star, drawing international attention to Zangberg, the Bavarian commune where she made her escape.

Yvonne has been at large since May 24. But she made headlines in late July, when she ran across a highway and nearly collided with a police car. That led authorities to deem her a threat — and they issued a call for hunters to shoot the cow on sight.

That order was later suspended, partly due to a public outpouring of support for Yvonne. But Monday, the local government made the suspension permanent — and forbade anyone to hunt her with deadly force.

From npr.org
August 29, 2011



(Yvonne the Cow)

May 17, 2017

Dear sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The article is taken from a local newspaper which published the account of Yvonne's escape in the summer of 2011. What a brave cow! She understood that she didn't want to be turned into steak, and therefore made a daring break, and, in the process, drew worldwide attention to herself. After reading this account I stopped eating hamburgers for a while. Even now whenever I eat meat I say a little prayer thanking God for allowing the cows in my life to provide the sustenance I need to carry on my work. I recall that Native Americans expressed gratitude to their gods when they brought down a buffalo. They understood, better than most, the sanctity of the non-human lives they took. At this time of year, I appreciate the catch and release trout fishers who populate the Esopus and other streams.

I'm limiting my meat intake in part because of Yvonne's story, and in part because I traveled through Garden City, Kansas last summer. The name of the town seems an oxymoron, given that the air lacks the fragrance of flowers, but rather the noisome fumes spouting from slaughterhouses and rendering factories. The odor permeates restaurants with air conditioners as well as life on the outside. I won't become a vegetarian, but I try to eat more fish than mammals, although this has become tricky for me. Recently I read a book entitled, "The Soul of an Octopus". The author claims that these invertebrates are far smarter, and more affectionate than we give them credit. One aquarium creature, Octavia, wrapped a tentacle around the author's arm to discover, according to its keeper, whether the author was friendly or not. A bond-

(Continued on page 2)

ing formed soon after. Now whenever I go to a sushi restaurant, I avoid that bite sized tentacle resting on rice.

Wild animals in a desert provided the social matrix Job needed to survive his staggering losses. That's why God took him on a nature tour in which he learned about wild ostriches, bears, "swift" mountain goats, untethered donkeys and oxen among other creatures deemed unimportant to the polite city of Uz where Job was unceremoniously booted because his losses were deemed unacceptable in that fun loving metropolis. Jesus rode a donkey into Jerusalem, and, in the Old Testament, Balaam's ass saw God way before his master. I could go on. Suffice it to say that animals play an important part in Scripture, and visions of heaven include animals in Isaiah, and fish in Ezekiel.

Soon after Yvonne article appeared, she was tranquilized with a dart rifle and brought home where her cow family celebrated her return. A reporter speculated that Yvonne wanted to be caught, because you can be alone for just so long. She needed companionship, the reporter thought.

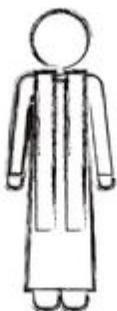
One of the lessons this story may teach is the importance of balancing solitude and community. In the early morning Jesus went to mountains to pray by himself before returning to his community. How are you doing maintaining that delicate balance?

Peace,

Doe Bob

TRANSITION TEAM UPDATE

The profile for our church has been completed by the Team and presented to the Consistory for its review. On Sunday, May 21st, the Consistory approved that profile and it has now been submitted to the RCA in Michigan.



Following this, the RCA will match up our profile with applications received from ministers seeking pastoral assignments. The Transition Team now anxiously awaits those applications.

Watch the weekly bulletins and the Spire for future updates and progress. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact any of the Team (see following).

A special thank you from Doug Constant, Chairman, to the Team, for all their time, talents and input in creating the Profile. (Team members: Rev. Eric Titus, Supervisor, Lisa Longto, scribe, Bonnie Dumas, Sonnie Howe, Debbie Decker, Doris Alden, Aileen Helsley, Steven Kurtz, and Roddy Foster.)

JUNE EVENTS

June 1	Senior Citizens Meeting
June 3	Town of Hurley Yard Sale Blood Drive in Memory of Rebecca DeBroskie and Leeanne Warren
June 3	
June 4	Pentecost Prayer Chain
June 4	
June 12	Consistory
June 14	Social Solos
June 16	Nursery School Graduation
June 18	Happy Father's Day
June 20	Classis meeting at Hurley Reformed Church
June 21	Men's Group
June 22	Hurley Heritage Society Lecture
June 25	Women's Guild



Hurley Reformed Church
Main Street, Hurley, NY 12443 • HurleyReformedChurch.org

YARD SALE SATURDAY 6-3-17

Space Rental in Parking Lot

Space Only = \$15 Space With 1 Table = \$25

To rent a space – call *Sandy* at 845-687-4006

Spaces are on a first come basis.



Town of Hurley Yard Sale is the Same Day

*Spring has come to
the Columbarium!*

New plants planted; shrubs and trees
trimmed; new mulch all in place.

IT'S A PLACE OF BEAUTY & LIFE.

You are invited to appreciate
the quiet and drink in the
splendor of Stickley Gardens.

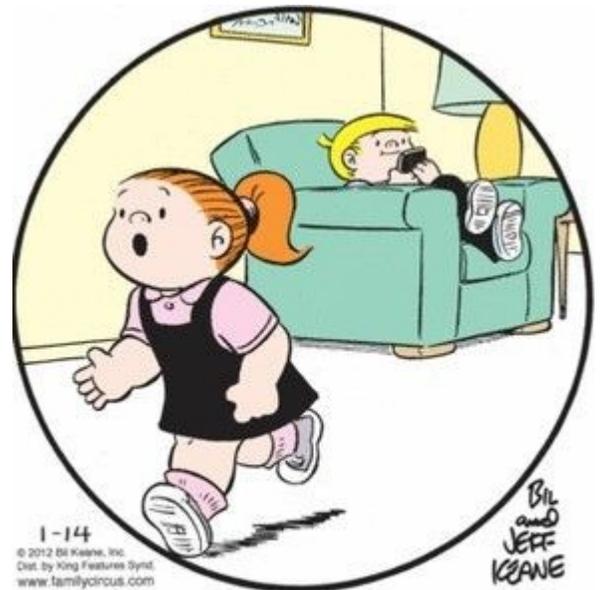
Sit and relax as the wonder
of God embraces you in
the quiet serenity of His love.

STICKLEY GARDENS

FOR MORE INFORMATION – CONTACT ANY OF THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

- LISA LONGTO (331-1438) CHAIRPERSON
- JIM FIRRO (383-0079) TREASURER
- ESTHER STICKLEY (331-2919)
- SANDIE GREGORY (339-7626)
- LINDA DIDD, CONSISTORY LIAISON
- REV STICKLEY, SECRETARY

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



1-14
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Bill
and
JEFF
KEANE

“Billy says he doesn’t hafta go to church anymore ’cause his phone has an app for that!”

<i>June</i>			ANNIVERSARIES
	Birthdays		
Abigail Conlin	1	Kyla Burns	18
Su Wonderly	2	Allan Dumas, IV	19
Joseph Orlando	5	Luke Helm	19
Julie Lasher	6	Marilyn Lowe	21
Dorothy Draper	7	Brandt Kurtz	21
Makenzie Rell	8	Patti Gilpatric	23
Rebecca Masters	8	William Mergl	23
Bobbi Checksfield	8	Aaron Ulrich	24
David Giles	8	Shawn Hinsdale	24
Steven Coddington	8	Cailin Ryan	24
Dennis Crosswell	9	Bev Chrisey	24
Mimi Crosswell	11	Aileen Helsley	25
Matthew Moon, Jr	12	Elizabeth Salzmman	25
Bob Alden	13	Charles Woodard	26
Sarah Longto	14	Steven Kurtz	26
Bobby Ryan	15	Ella Rowdycz	27
Annemarie Kurtz	15	Gregory Merrill	27
		Dolores Wolven	27
		Dakota Butler	27
		James Gregory	28

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES!!!

The following are graduating from Kingston High School:

- Allison Breithaupt
- Zachary Burns
- Sierra Butler
- John Henning
- Mackenzie Schoonmaker
- Will Gaffken

Taylor Robey is graduating from Kingston High School and will be attending Nazareth College to pursue a degree in music education. Taylor is the daughter of Beth Alden and granddaughter of Doris Alden.

Rachel Wyncoop, granddaughter of Jerry and Dee Wyncoop graduated from Seton Hall University on May 14, 2017.



News Bytes

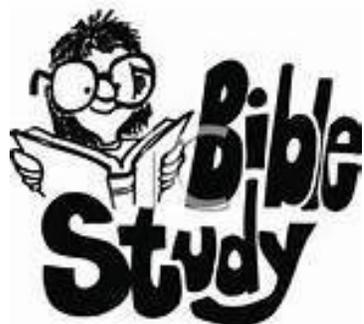
Information you should know ; Opportunities for Fellowship.



Blood Drive

A **BLOOD DRIVE** will be held on June 3 from 9 am to 2 pm in Schadewald Hall in memory of Rebecca DeBrosky and Leanne Warren. Walk-ins encouraged.

OUR YOUTH GROUP is going to Kentucky this July. They are leaving on July 15, arriving July 17 and will be heading for home on July 22. They are to serve with HOMES, Housing Oriented Ministries Established for Service. HOMES is located in Whitesburg, Kentucky and they “strive to provide affordable housing solutions to families in our service area.” The group will take direction from HOMES staff and work on home improvements, or demolition. The neighborhood we will be serving is very poor and in need of help with affordable housing and home maintenance. We will be given our assignment closer to the trip.



WOMEN’S MINISTRIES BIBLE STUDY: We are starting a new book, *Slightly Bad Girls of the Bible: Flawed Women Loved by a Flawless God* by Liz Curtis Higgs. “A Slightly Bad Girl is simply this: a woman unwilling to fully submit to God. We love him, serve him, and worship him, yet we find it difficult to trust him completely, to accept his plan for our lives, to rest in his sovereignty.” Join us on alternate Tuesdays at 1:00 pm. Watch the bulletin for dates.



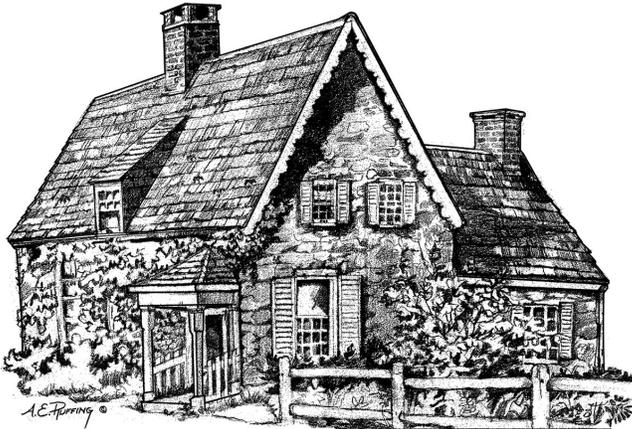
LOOKING FOR GOOD FELLOWSHIP?! The Men’s Group meets the third Wednesday of the month. Next meeting is June 21 at 7 pm. Come hang with us. See Paul Vonderheide for details.



SOCIAL SOLOS will meet for our monthly lunch date on June 14 at 12 noon. Lunch is at a Slice of Italy (used to be Friendly’s).

News Bytes

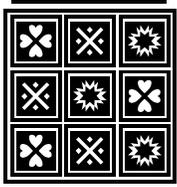
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STONE HOUSE DAY AGAIN?

Yes, it's true. Stone House Day is coming up again – soon. It is our biggest (and most fun!!) fundraiser of the year and it takes place on July 8, 2017, rain or shine. And it won't happen without **you!!** We need docents in houses; we need kitchen and cafeteria help. We also need help with parking and baking. Please let me know what you'd like to do, or sign up in Schadewald Hall. We need **you!**

Ellen Richards, Chair



THE QUILT IS COMPLETE.

And can be seen on the church's website. It will be on display in Schadewald Hall during this month. You will be receiving raffle information in the mail shortly.



Mission of the Month

THE MISSION COMMITTEE HAS "GONE A'SHOPPING" to purchase \$700 worth of juice boxes and cereal bars for the summer bag program and three carloads of goodies have been delivered to the People's Place. Christine Hein, the director, was so elated, she took a picture of us gals standing outside People's Place with the pallets of food on display. What a great feeling we all had knowing what the congregation of our church has donated toward alleviating hunger in our community. A big thank you to Deb Tucker, Lee Gable and Linda Caddy for all their help. **PLEASE REMEMBER OUR YOUTH GROUP'S TRIP IS THE MAY MISSION** and needs your help to meet the expenses that will be incurred. Marilyn Lowe

*Thank
you*

THANKS TO ALL FOR YOUR HELP. The bottle and can recycling program raised \$116.00 for the youth group relay for life team. It was donated to the American Cancer Society at their recent Relay for Life. Thank you for your continued support. A special thanks to Ron Chrisey for all his support. – Terri Gaffken

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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

JUNE 2017

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