

# THE SPIRE

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 3      MARCH 2010

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I love Sundays. I write two days after inaugurating the Season of Lent by preaching on the temptation scene in Luke's Gospel. Luke's version is one of my favorite passages in Scripture. After the service I had my picture taken with the Consistory, and, mercy of mercies, the camera didn't break! My visage often elicits shudders from shutters, but this time the lens came through unscathed, because of the resplendent faces surrounding, and mitigating my own. Next I had a wonderful class—at least it was for me—with my bright confirmation class, followed by a second opportunity to preach, this time at the Golden Hill Nursing Home. I do love leading worship there. Before the service, I visited members of our fellowship who are residents. Then I plunked away at the piano as well as preached, since Golden Hill is piano player shy. After my performance, one of the worshipers suggested the group should have sung Accopella! Sunday was wonderful, largely because I followed a schedule. The day was vocationally scripted. It was also beautiful, and, after pastoral duty, I sauntered down the macadam path at the Ashokan reservoir, cataloguing shades of blue-gray ice hiding water.

And then tragedy struck. Liberated from my schedule I was forced to make a decision—one which was terribly inconsequential. Should I attend the Foreigner concert at UPAC that evening? The week previous I decided not. There are only two original

*Jesus brought us a new life in ultimate vulnerability.*

*As a child he was dependent on the care and protection of others; he lived as a poor preacher without any political, economic, or military power; and he died nailed on a cross as a useless criminal.*

*It is in the extreme vulnerability that our salvation was won.*

Henri Nouwen

members of the group left, so I thought the music would be compromised. Then there was the price. Did I want to spend \$60 on a band which could be a husk of its former self? And then vocation

reared. I don't think folks mind seeing the pastor at a Judy Collins concert which I attended shortly after my arrival in Hurley. How about a cleric who enjoys head banging rock and roll? I thought, too, about the penitential season of Lent, a time for reflection. Foreigner connotes Mardi Gras, and exuberant celebration, something incongruent to the ecclesiastical mood. I decided to go to a restaurant instead of the concert. While I was eating I overheard a couple tell the waiter that they had to rush because they had UPAC tickets. The concert was underway by the time I decided to race into Kingston to catch the rest. I had a wonderful evening.

A few thoughts. It seems to me that our greatest joy comes in planning our day along God's schedule. When it comes to worship and Christian service, decision making becomes easier because we are a bit clearer about what Christ would do. We know Jesus' priorities, and because we know them we are better able to see the big picture of our lives and plan accordingly. One of the scriptural texts for the second Sunday of Lent comes from Luke 13:32-33. Jesus states, "Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

today and tomorrow and on the third day I finish my work." He knows the direction His life will take. He has the greater road map so that smaller decisions are of little concern. We don't know what kind of music Jesus liked nor the particular foods which pleased

his palate. We do know that he followed God's grand plan to a T and thereby was unfazed by the small and time consuming decisions which are of little importance to the greater kingdom. During this Lenten season may we celebrate the unequivocal determination of our Lord as he "set His face" (Luke 9:51) to go to Jerusa-

lem and the cross. And may Lent be a time of not sweating the small stuff. The great theologian Augustine (354 – 430 AD) once stated, "Love God and do what you will." May we follow his advice during this holy and penitential season.

In Christ's service,  
Dr. Bob

### Women's Guild

Did you know—the Women's Guild sends out 20 cards every other week to the sick & shut in that we are made aware of? If you receive any blank note cards in the mail or



as a gift & you don't know what to do with them we could use them. Please give them to Mary Kent or leave them on

the glass case, addressed to Mary's attention.

Did you know—the Women's Guild collects items for Golden Hill for the residents to use as bingo prizes? These items would be calendars, trinkets, knick knacks & other items of that nature. Give them to Mary Kent or put them in the hall & mark them for Mary Kent and she will deliver to Golden Hill.

Did you know—the Women's Guild is sending out cards to colleagues during their first year away from home? Please give addresses to Ellen Richards. We want the children to know we are thinking of them during this time away.

Women's Guild Calendar of Events  
3/14/10—Butterfly Exchange  
3/28/10—Annual Easter Egg Hunt  
4/18/10—Meeting  
5/16/10—Pot Luck Luncheon

Did you know—the Women's Guild is working on a quilt to be sold during Stone House Day? If you can quilt or would like to quilt join the ladies on Monday's in Room 4 at 9am & we will be more than happy to teach you. See Natalie Woodard or Shirley Burns for more information.

Did you know—the Women's Guild has quilt & church note cards for sale? Please see Shirley Ruth to purchase a packet or two.

Did you know—since 1997 the Women's Guild has provided 54 funeral luncheons for our church family? This outreach ministry comes at a time most needed by grieving families.

Did you know—the Women's Guild will be holding their annual Easter Egg Hunt right after church in the Schadewald Hall on 3/28/10? The younger children will go first &

then the some of the "older" children will be able to hunt for eggs as well. This is a great time for children of all ages!!

If you didn't know any of the above then you need to join us & be in the "know". We would love to have you. At our last meeting we had 2 new ladies join us. So, now they are in the "know"... why aren't you?

Blessings

Sandy Emrich, President

### Palm Sunday Praise

Contemporary Praise and  
Worship Service

Featuring Bobby Stillwell  
and Musical Guests

Sunday, March 28th, 6:00pm

Preaching and Teaching

By Dr. Bob Gram

A free will offering will be taken.

Please join us!

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

As the days become longer and warmer, spring is just ahead. Soon the beauty of God's work will again bring beautiful flowers, green grass and green leaves upon the tree. These will beckon singing birds to adorn this serene and solemn place. With nature set to burst forth, come and sit a moment. You will feel the tranquillity of a new spring and the spirit of those who are here. You will also feel the peaceful presence of the Lord.

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)



## Missions Committee

This year our main focus on mission giving will be to Hudson Valley Programs that provide food/meals to the many who are hungry in the area.

January Missions funds were designated to Haiti Relief due to the devastating earthquake. Due to your generosity we donated \$2,745.00.

February Mission monies went to the volunteer program, Angel Food East, a program which delivers meals

to Ulster County residents with HIV and AIDS. Our mission envelopes totaled \$ for this worthwhile program which uses the kitchen at St. John's Episcopal Church in Kingston.

March Mission envelope proceeds will go to our local Salvation Army Food Pantry which provides nutritious food for approximately 75 families each month.

Please use the monthly mission envelope in your envelope box or one found in the pews to contribute to God's people in need. Thanking you in advance for your continued generosity and love in following God's command "Feed My Sheep."

Linda Dux  
Mission Chair

## **Refreshments, anyone?**



We are looking for sponsors (individuals, families, groups) for our weekly after services fellowship coffee hour. It can be fruit, cheese, cookies, pastry, donuts, breads, etc. - homemade, store bought - it's up to you. Keep it simple, or not. Why not team up with a couple of families? To get the ball rolling the consistory will take the first Sunday in March.

Sign up (near the coffee pot, where else?) in Schadewald Hall. Questions - see Bonnie Dumas.

## The Knots Prayer

Dear God:

*Please untie the knots that are in my mind, my heart and my life. Remove the have nots, the can nots and the do nots that I have in my mind.*

*Erase the will nots, may nots, might nots and may find a home in my heart. Release me from the could nots, would nots and should nots that obstruct my life.*

*And most of all, Dear God, I ask that you remove from my mind, my heart and my life all of the 'am nots' that I have allowed to hold me back, especially the thought that I am not good enough. Amen.*

Author Known to God



## Youth Group

Our Annual Souper Bowl Sunday Chili Sale was held on 2/6/10. We made 63 containers of chili & we sold out. With your help we raised \$670 for Queens Galley & Caring Hands Program at Clinton Ave Methodist Church. We made \$120 more than last year!! WOW!!! We all should be proud of the work that we done!!



We went snow tubing on Feb. 6 at the Sawkill Family Ski Center. We had a great time!! We shared a sub for lunch & then hit the mountain. Two hours of snow tubing, sun & fun!

The Youth Group handed out 4 dozen carnations to all the women

of the church as they exited on Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> to thank our parents & you for your support. Hope everyone had a Happy Valentines Day.

Our March/April food collection will be peanut butter & jelly challenge. The last collection date for this will be 4/25/10. What is this?? Bring in as much peanut butter & jelly as you can during these 2 months & then stay tuned. That is the challenge. Will you expect it?? We sure hope so!!

We are running a Penny Social on March 12<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to make a donation please call Amy Sirni at 338-4960. We also hope that you can attend. Doors open at 6pm & the drawing starts at 7:30pm. Refreshments will be served. Hope to see you there!! It is a great time!!

Any child 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.

Sandy & Katie Emrich, Lisa Longto  
Youth Group Leaders

### Youth Group Upcoming Events:

3/2/10 Brooks BBQ—hope you didn't miss it!

3/12/10 Penny Social

4/3/10 Easter Dawn rehearsal & prep for breakfast at 9am

4/4/10 Easter Dawn Service & Breakfast

4/11/10 Meeting


4/23-25/10 Camp Warwick Retreat Weekend

5/22/10 Relay For Life


*Many find Jesus' teaching on enemy love and forgiveness a stumbling block to faith. Because we find it too difficult to practice, we dismiss it as unrealistic and utopian. We should think again, and we should pray that it is not unrealistic, because this congruence of Jesus - the consistency between his teaching on forgiveness and his action on the cross - is really our only hope.*

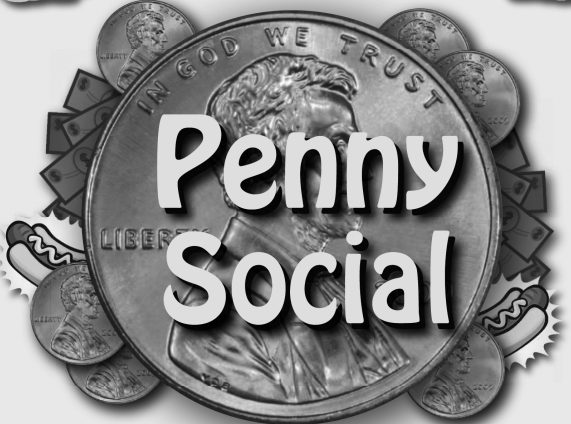
*It is all that stands between us and the consequences of our monumental frailty. Thank God today that Jesus died as he lived, because with those words, "Father, forgive . . . " he forgives us all,  
and he forgives us still.*

Peter Storey  
Listening at Golgotha:  
Jesus Words from the Cross




**Hurley Reformed Church Youth Group**  
Main Street, Hurley, NY 12443






**Friday, March 12th, 2010**  
**Doors Open at 6:00 pm**  
**Calling at 7:30 pm**



**50/50  
Raffle**

**Refreshments Available**



Also accepting donations, please contact  
Amy at 338-4960 for information.

**Holy Week**

Palm Sunday:

10am Worship Service

6:00pm Contemporary Praise &amp; Worship Service

Maundy Thursday:

7:00pm Evening Worship

Good Friday:

Ecumenical Service by the Kingston Area Council of Churches (location to be announced)

EASTER:

6:30am Easter Dawn Service in the Sanctuary presented by the Youth Group

7:30am Easter Breakfast

9:00am and 11:00am Easter Morning Worship

*Bring your family and celebrate life, yours and His!***EASTER PLANTS**

Please print clearly:

Placed by:

In memory of:

In honor of:

_____	Lilies	\$8.00
_____	Mums	\$8.00
_____	Mini Roses	\$6.00
_____	Tulips	\$6.00
_____	Daffodils	\$6.00
_____	Hyacinths	\$6.00
_____	Primroses	\$3.00

Total Amount Enclosed: \$\_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to:

HRC Women's Guild.

Mail or give your order by March 14, 2010 to:

Doris Alden  
236 East Drive  
Hurley NY 12443

\_\_\_\_\_ I will be taking my flowers home.

\_\_\_\_\_ Please plant my flowers on the church berm  
of the Rail Trail.

**Hurley Reformed Church • Hurley, NY**

# MEATLOAF NIGHT!!!

**Lettuce Wedges  
Rolls & Butter  
2 Kinds of Meatloaf  
Mashed Potatoes & Gravy  
Mac & Cheese  
Green Beans  
Homemade Desserts**

**May 1<sup>st</sup> 2010**

**Adult: \$10.00  
Child: \$8.00 Under 12 Yrs**

**4:30 pm – 7:30 pm**

**Call 331-4121  
for reservations!**



More than 300 people enjoyed a variety of foods at our Taste of Italy Dinner on February 13<sup>th</sup>. The food was great & a good time was had by all. Our heartfelt thanks to the many hard working volunteers: in the kitchen – from cooking, cutting, washing or whatever your task . . . thank you; in the dining room -- the servers, especially the Youth Group members . . . you did a great job, so many compliments; at home – baking the divine desserts . . . delicious!!

We set up the hall a little differently for this dinner so we were able to serve 151 people at once. Thank you to everyone that set up & broke down all the

table & chairs. Beautiful roses decorated the tables, thanks to the church Garden Club.

We raised approximately \$1900.



What's next? Meatloaf! Join us on May 1<sup>st</sup> for a good down-home meal. On June 12 come for breakfast. So, mark your calendars & watch for more information on these upcoming meals! Hope to see you there!

Dinner Fund Committee

## BIRTHDAYS

### March

Kevin Kurtz	3, '92
Ireland Sirni	6, '97
William Gaffken	23, '98
Wynne Stickley-Parker	1
Richard Alden2	
Craig Jansen	2
Terry Read	2
Linda Bognar	3
Jack Gill	5
Dennis Horvers	5
Todd Mangiagli	6
Marianne Mizel	7
Elizabeth Askue	8
Barbara Sartorius	10
Barry Rell	10
Kim Burgess	13

Deborah Zuill	
Allan Masters	
Ellen Stephano	
Frank Warren	
Frank Presti	
Joyce Pinckney	
Dino Sumerano	
Rev. Bob Vanderlaan	
Angie Rockwell	
Janet Crosswell	
Katrina Rubino	
Jean Marrus	
Christine Henning	
Gretchen Giles	
Phyllis Bliss	
Gloria Johnson	
Mark Conlin	
Cathy McGraw	
Jennifer Hinsdale	
Stephen Strouse	
Ruth Lord	

14	Ellen Morone	31
14	Alice Dumond	31
14	Scott DeMicco	31

### April

17	Travis Horvers	2, '98
18	Trevor Davenport	4, '92
18	Wayne Waligurski	1
19	Mildred Mattison	4
19	Hattie Drake	5
19	Kathy Hauck	5

## ANNIVERSARIES

26	Jean & Jay Marrus	March 9
27	Emily & Art Harder	16
27	Charles & Sheila Jansen	25
28	Fred & Virginia Suppies	27
29		
30		

Hurley Reformed Church

# March 2010

March 2010							April 2010						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	25	26	27	28	29	30	

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat/Sun
--------	---------	-----------	----------	--------	---------

<b>March 1</b> 12:30pm Basket Class 5:00pm Dog Training (Hall) 7:00pm Men's Group (DutchRm) 7:30pm First Capital Convetties (Hall)	<b>2</b> 9:00am Brooks BBQ (Hall) 10:30am HEMS (Rune/Hall) 4:00pm Hurley Purlers (DutchRm) 4:30pm PC 101 (Room 12) 7:00pm Writers Group (Room 3) 7:00pm Troop 20 (Hall) 7:00pm Bible Study (DutchRm) 7:30pm Little League (Rm12)	<b>3</b> 7:00am Bible Study (DutchRm) 4:30pm Dog Training (Hall) 7:30pm Troop 20 Committee (DutchRm)	<b>4</b> 11:30pm Hurley Seniors (Hall) 4:45pm Dog Training (Hall) 7:00pm GS SU (Rm 12) 7:30pm Choir (DutchRm)	<b>5</b> 8:30am Significant Women (Hall) 10:30am Music Therapy (Rm 9) 6:30pm English Dances (Hall)	<b>6</b> 10:00am Worship 11:00am Garden Club (Rm 12) 11:15am Prayer Chain (DR)
--	--	---	---	---	---

<b>8</b> 11:00am VFW (Dutch Rm) 6:00pm Dog Training (Hall) 7:00pm Consistory (DutchRm) 7:00pm Men's Group (DutchRm)	<b>9</b> 9:00am HACC (Dutch Rm) 10:30am HEMS (Rune/Hall) 4:00pm Hurley Purlers (DutchRm) 4:30pm Dog Training (Hall) 7:00pm Writers Group (Room 3) 7:00pm Troop 20 (Hall) 7:00pm Bible Study (DutchRm) 7:30pm Radio-Dix (DutchRm)	<b>10</b> 7:00am Bible Study (DutchRm) 4:30pm Dog Training (Hall) 7:00pm VNCA (Hall)	<b>11</b> 12:30pm Little Garden's Club (DutchRm) 4:45pm Dog Training (Hall) 6:30pm Half Moon LEC (Rm 12) 7:15pm Half Moon/VNW Council (Hall) 7:30pm Choir (DutchRm)	<b>12</b> 8:00am Set-up 6:00pm Penny Social	<b>13</b> 10:00am Genealogy (Rm 12) 10:30am Music Therapy (Rm 9)
---	--	---	--	---	--

<b>15</b> 10:00am Genealogy (Rm 12) 5:00pm Dog Training (Hall) 7:00pm Men's Group (DutchRm) 7:00pm Pack 20 (Hall)	<b>16</b> 10:30am HEMS (Rune/Hall) 12:00pm Utaler Garden Club (Hall) 4:00pm Hurley Purlers (DutchRm) 4:30pm Dog Training (Hall) 7:00pm Writers Group (Room 3) 7:00pm Troop 20 (Hall) 7:00pm Bible Study (DutchRm)	<b>17</b> 7:00am Bible Study (DutchRm) 4:30pm Dog Training (Hall) 7:00pm Book Group (Rm 12) 7:00pm Lions (Dutch Rm) 7:30pm Overlook Radio (Rm 6)	<b>18</b> 4:45pm Dog Training (Hall) 7:00pm Woodworkers (Hall) 7:30pm Choir (DutchRm)	<b>19</b> 8:30am Significant Women (Dutch) 9:00am Half Moon Training (Hall) 10:30am Music Therapy (Rm 9)	<b>20</b> 10:00am Worship 11:00am YG (DutchRm) 11:30am Stone House Day (Room 3)
---	--	---	--	---	--

<b>22</b> 10:00am Genealogy (Rm 12) 6:00pm Dog Training (Hall) 6:00pm Foundation for Youth Health (Room 3) 7:00pm Men's Group (DutchRm)	<b>23</b> 10:30am HEMS (Rune/Hall) 4:00pm Hurley Purlers (DutchRm) 4:30pm Dog Training (Hall) 7:00pm Writers Group (Room 3) 7:00pm Troop 20 (Hall) 7:00pm Bible Study (DutchRm) 7:30pm Hurley Ric (Rm12)	<b>24</b> 7:00am Bible Study (DutchRm) 4:30pm Dog Training (Hall)	<b>25</b> 4:45pm Dog Training (Hall) 7:30pm Choir (DutchRm)	<b>26</b> 10:30am Music Therapy (Rm 9)	<b>27</b> PALM SUNDAY 10:00am Worship
---	---	---	---	---	---

<b>29</b> 6:00pm Dog Training (Hall) 7:00pm Men's Group (DutchRm)	<b>30</b> 10:30am HEMS (Rune/Hall) 4:00pm Hurley Purlers (DutchRm) 4:30pm Dog Training (Hall) 7:00pm Writers Group (Room 3) 7:00pm Troop 20 (Hall) 7:00pm Bible Study (DutchRm)	<b>31</b> 7:00am Bible Study (DutchRm) 4:30pm Dog Training (Hall)			
---	---	---	--	--	--

HURLEY REFORMED  
CHURCH

PO Box 328  
11 Main Street  
Hurley NY 12443

Phone: 845-331-4121  
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)

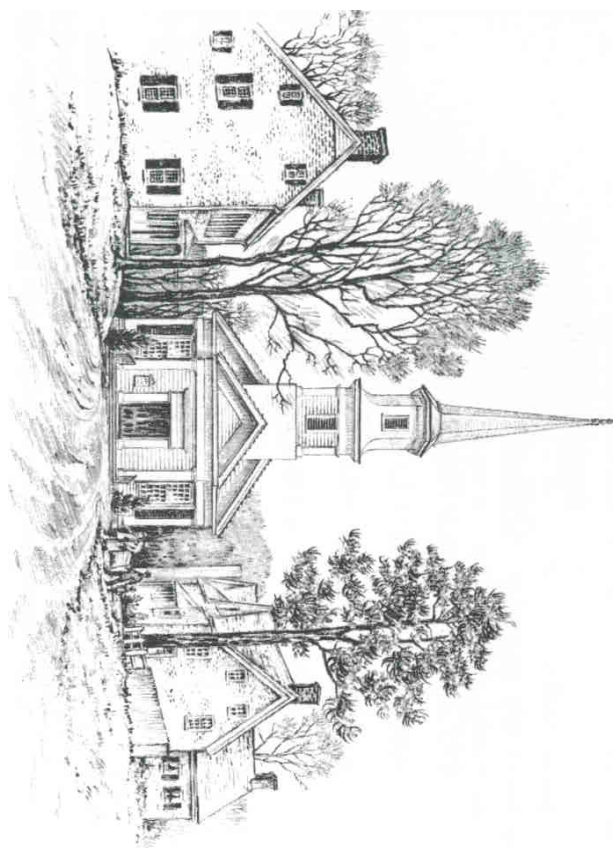
NON-PROFIT ORG.

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

HURLEY NY 12443

PERMIT #44301



HURLEY REFORMED CHURCH

Hurley New York 12443

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

THE SPIRE  
MARCH 2010