



THE SPIRE

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 3

MARCH 2015

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Recently, I attended the 40th ordination anniversary of a Lutheran colleague in ministry. I worshipped at his church in Kingston and participated in the Lutheran liturgy which is a bit more elaborate than ours. It's always – or almost always – a pleasure to listen to another's sermon. The preacher's message touched not only the honoree, who was greatly moved, but also a host of ministers who had gathered to celebrate the occasion. We were reminded again about the wonderful and irresistible nature of God's call, and the blessings and joys of ordained life. For me this is particularly true because I serve such a loving congregation. After the service the clergy "talked shop". I received a gracious hug from the pastor whose anniversary we were celebrating, and met friends who attended his church, while downing meatballs, tuna sandwiches, and chocolate chip cookies. I almost missed this special event. Usually after Sunday morning worship, I'm spent. I wondered if I had the energy to attend, and thought about watching the Giants, and napping at halftime instead. Fortunately, I didn't.

Perhaps some of you feel that way on Sunday morning. Weekends can become as busy as weekday life. The thought of one more event can be overwhelming. People share these concerns with me after worship. The feeling is always, "I'm glad I made the effort to come." The good news is that God blesses us when we drag ourselves through the narthex

doors, wondering if our dwindling energy reserve will manifest itself in a sleeping bout during the sermon! In the Temple of the Lord, the Old Testament prophet Isaiah responds to the Lord's question, "Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?", with a resounding, "Here am I; send me!"

The Bible tells us that Isaiah had a vision of the Lord before his response, and that his time in the Temple was transformative. So it can be for us in worship. Scripture doesn't tell Isaiah's back story, but wouldn't it be interesting if it were like ours? Perhaps he too contemplated a "Sabbath skip" because he was beat. If he had yielded to inertia, he would have missed his divine calling. He would have missed the challenging life God offered him. What a shame it would have been for Isaiah, and for us, who are blessed richly by the writing of this great prophet.

A fellow minister was telling me about a man in his parish who attended worship sporadically. On one of the rare Sundays he graced the sanctuary, he sat next to a young woman who had joined the church a few weeks earlier. They struck up a conversation at coffee hour, and subsequently married less than a year later. Now he never misses a Sunday! He wonders what future surprises the Lord in store. May you too find the miracle in our corporate worship experience.

In Christ's service,

Dr. Bob Gram



Mission News:

Our March Mission is the FAMILY HOUSE Adolescent shelter for Teens of Ulster county run by Family of Woodstock. FAMILY House is a safe, temporary (up to 60 days) shelter for up to fourteen young people ages 12–18. The facility is drug and alcohol free and is staffed 24 hours a day. Residents go to school, participate in groups, and share house chores. FAMILY House regularly performs group community service projects as well. In the summer, there is a recreation program, including outdoor, art, computer and other activities. Last year we were able to help them with the purchase of a van.

We gave \$500 from our January Mission collection to the Clinton Avenue Warming Shelter. This winter was certainly longer and colder than usual, and the shelter has been used much more than originally anticipated.

Juice Box collection will be extended through March. There is a box in Schadevald Hall for juice boxes. This is an on-going need for children in the shelter motels, particularly when there is no school. So the next time you are shopping, buy a pack and bring it in!

Suggestions for Missions? If you have any ideas for organizations that are in need and provide direct service, let one of the committee know: Rebecca Masters, Linda Caddy, Kathy Jansen, Cindy Sumerano or Debbie Tucker.

Rebecca Masters, Chair



Monthly Soup Sunday.

The next Soup Sunday is scheduled for **March 8th.**

The soup will be a fish or clam chowder. 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



To our Church Family in New York.

How can we thank you? We heard that the whole Church prayed for us after

the stroke. You can't imagine how blessed we feel to have friends praying for us at this time. God has answered those prayers. Tim is improving daily and we hope today to get a possible discharge date. We are truly blessed to have you as our Church family even though we have moved away. Hurley will always be home. Thank you again for the cards and prayers. In Christ,
Tim and Karen Schiff



Hurley Reformed Church

Lenten Fish Dinner

March 27, 2015
Hurley Reformed Church – Schadewald Hall

\$12.00 per dinner
Walk-Ins Welcome
Take-Outs Available

Reservations Suggested (open seating dinner)
Doors open at 4:30 pm – close at 7:00 pm

Tickets/Reservations – Call the Church 331-4121

oven fried fish
roasted potatoes
coleslaw
roll
beverage
dessert

Have Faith...

Long, cold, bleak days may continue,
yet winter always turns to spring.

No matter how hopelessly bitter and
gray things appear, the moment always
comes when suddenly our spirit revives,
and hope is reborn.

Spring is coming...

wait for it, be patient and watch how
God will again transform our world.

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)
JIM CRAVEN, CONSISTORY LIASON
REV STICKLEY, SECRETARY

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

Property and Maintenance

A big thank you goes out to Craig Jansen and Jeff Rafferty for volunteering their time and expertise in completing some much needed electrical and plumbing repairs at the church.

If anyone is interested in joining the Property-Maintenance committee or any of our monthly work parties, please contact Dennis Croswell at 331-5944. The monthly work party normally takes place on a weekday afternoon.



News Bytes

Information you should know ; Opportunities for Fellowship.

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY!



Women's Guild

Happy Birthday to all!! The annual Birthday Party is coming up on March 1 during coffee hour. 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 sing Happy Birthday to each other!! Thanks to Ellen Richards for chairing this annual event.

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:

3/8/15	Meeting
4/12/15	Meeting
5/16/15	Set up for pot luck luncheon
5/17/15	Pot Luck luncheon

Mark your calendars for a pot luck luncheon to be held after church. More information on this to come soon.

God Bless,



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.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

The purpose of this ministry is to bring comfort and a warm embrace to the person in need.

The knitter of a shawl provides loving thoughts that are put into the making of the shawl.

Please contact Lee Gable, 246-3751, if there is a need of a shawl or if you would like to knit or crochet one.



BIRTHDAYS

Lily Gram Collins	1
Craig Jansen	2
Terry Read	2
Linda Bogнар	3
Dennis Horvers	5
Dr. Bob Gram	6
Marianne Mizel	7
Susan Benz	9
Barbara Sartorius	10
Barry Rell	10
Julia Wolf	10

Danielle Wolf	10	Justin Nekos	21
Kim Burgess	13	David Kent	23
Alan Masters	14	Herb Morehouse	23
Deborah Zuill	14	William Gaffken	23
Jace Provenzano	17	Jean Marrus	24



Frank Presti	17	Gretchen Giles	24
Frank Warren	17	Christine Henning	24
Joyce Pinkney	18	Deidre Sills	25
Dino Sumerano	18	Cathy McGraw	27
Katrina Rubino	19	Bernadette Baker	31
		Logan Brennan	31

ANNIVERSARIES

Jay & Jean Marrus	9
Charles & Sheila Jansen	25

A Flash from the Past:

13 HOUSES OPEN FOR SHD (1967)

It's hard to believe any visitors could have toured thirteen houses in the six hours homes were open for Stone House Day 48 years ago. And it's doubtful anyone did.

Even eight houses seem to be a challenge. Once visitors have been through five or six, probably many, or possibly most sightseers, have seen enough.

In 1967, the most distant open home, the Captain Newkirk House, dating to about 1769, is on the knoll at the corner of Dug Hill Road and Hurley Mountain Road,

The information comes from a 1967 SHD program Natalie Woodard provided. We always appreciate such tid-bits from the past.

Other homes open that day were the parsonage, the TenEyck House across the street, and up the street the Spy House, Polly Crispell Cottage, Jonathon Elmendorf House, VanDeusen House, the Nieuw Dorp diagonally across the street (and so named by two sisters of a certain age who opened a tea room there in the mid 1940's)

Also, the Houghtaling Tavern, (the George Washington house), the Houghtaling House (the first stone house on the left past the Hurley Mountain Inn), Johannis DuBois House the next stone House on the right, the TenEyck Bouwerie to the right on Hurley Mountain Road.

Another, the Colonel Gerardus Houghtaling House (past Myer School on School House Lane.) At the time, it was said to be the birthplace of Sojourner Truth because she said she was born in the Hardenburgh's home in Hurley. Later research found it was another Hardenburgh home in the Town of Esopus which at the time was part of the Town of Hurley.

The Women's Guild initiated Stone House Day in 1951 and offered it till 1994 when the Consistory took over. The Guild also offered the Cafeteria and Country Fair. the only two other events of the day.

Eight houses are expected to be open again this year and the Committee hopes folks will volunteer to act as guides for two or three hours--or more.

--Don Kent

Don't want to cook?
Pick-up Brooks!



"The best BBQ ever!"
Yummmmmmm!

The Hurley Reformed Church Youth Group is sponsoring

The Famous Brook's BBQ of Oneonta, NY!

March 3, 2015 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm at the Hurley Reformed Church

Dinners include:
1/2 Brook's famous chicken or
ribs, baked potato, coleslaw,
roll, butter, dessert & beverage.

Chicken
or Ribs: **\$12.00**

If your office has more than 10 dinner orders - We Will Deliver!!
Simply call Kathy to arrange delivery.



Reservations call **Kathy Burns at 845-399-1884**
(don't be afraid to leave a message)!

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>10am - Worship @</div> <div>11am - church</div> <div>11am - Prayer Chain</div> <div>1</div>	<div>1pm - Basket Class</div> <div>5pm - Dog Training</div> <div>7pm - Little League</div> <div>7:30pm - Al-Anon @</div> <div>2</div>	<div>9:30am - Badminton</div> <div>4pm - Hurley Purlers</div> <div>4:30pm - PC 101 @</div> <div>6:30pm - Classis Old</div> <div>7pm - Bible Study @</div> <div>7pm - Boy Scouts</div> <div>3</div>	<div>7:30am - Bible</div> <div>9am - AARP Tax</div> <div>5:30pm - Dog</div> <div>6pm - Cub Scout</div> <div>6pm - Den 1 Bears @</div> <div>6:30pm - Girl Scout</div> <div>7pm - Boy Scouts</div> <div>4</div>	<div>9am - AARP Tax</div> <div>9:30am - Badminton</div> <div>1:30pm - Hurley</div> <div>3pm - Quilting @</div> <div>4:45pm - Dog</div> <div>6pm - Overeaters</div> <div>7:30pm - 1st Capitol</div> <div>5</div>	<div>9am - quilters @</div> <div>6pm - Chinese New</div> <div>6</div>	<div>7</div>
<div>10am - Worship @</div> <div>11am - Women's</div> <div>3pm - daisy girl</div> <div>8</div>	<div>11am - VFW @</div> <div>1pm - Basket Class</div> <div>5pm - Dog Training</div> <div>7pm - Consistory @</div> <div>7pm - Hudson Valley</div> <div>7:30pm - Al-Anon @</div> <div>9</div>	<div>8:30am - Hillside</div> <div>9:30am - Badminton</div> <div>4pm - Hurley Purlers</div> <div>6:30pm - Classis Old</div> <div>7pm - Bible Study @</div> <div>7pm - Boy Scouts</div> <div>10</div>	<div>7:30am - Bible</div> <div>9am - AARP Tax</div> <div>5:30pm - Dog</div> <div>6pm - Cub Scout</div> <div>6pm - Den 1 Bears @</div> <div>7:45pm - Bagpiper</div> <div>11</div>	<div>9am - AARP Tax</div> <div>9:30am - Badminton</div> <div>3pm - Quilting @</div> <div>4:45pm - Dog</div> <div>6pm - Overeaters</div> <div>7:30pm - Choir</div> <div>12</div>	<div>7pm - Motorcycle</div> <div>13</div>	<div>9am - quilters snow</div> <div>10am - Genealogy @</div> <div>3pm - Boys Scout --</div> <div>14</div>
<div>10am - Worship @</div> <div>15</div>	<div>10am - Genealogy @</div> <div>5pm - Dog Training</div> <div>6pm - Hudson Valley</div> <div>7:30pm - Al-Anon @</div> <div>16</div>	<div>9:30am - Badminton</div> <div>4pm - Hurley Purlers</div> <div>6:30pm - Classis Old</div> <div>7pm - Bible Study @</div> <div>7pm - Boy Scouts</div> <div>17</div>	<div>7:30am - Bible</div> <div>9am - AARP Tax</div> <div>5:30pm - Dog</div> <div>6pm - Cub Scout</div> <div>6pm - Den 1 Bears @</div> <div>7pm - Hurley Lions</div> <div>7pm - Men's group</div> <div>18</div>	<div>9am - AARP Tax</div> <div>9:30am - Badminton</div> <div>3pm - Quilting @</div> <div>4:45pm - Dog</div> <div>6pm - Overeaters</div> <div>7pm - NE</div> <div>7:30pm - Choir</div> <div>19</div>	<div>5pm - Nursery</div> <div>20</div>	<div>12pm - Baby Shower</div> <div>4pm - Birthday</div> <div>21</div>
<div>10am - Worship @</div> <div>11:20am - Stone</div> <div>1:30pm - John</div> <div>3pm - daisy girl</div> <div>22</div>	<div>10:30am - Genealog</div> <div>5pm - Dog Training</div> <div>7:30pm - Al-Anon @</div> <div>23</div>	<div>9:30am - Badminton</div> <div>4pm - Hurley Purlers</div> <div>6:30pm - Classis Old</div> <div>7pm - Bible Study @</div> <div>7pm - Boy Scouts</div> <div>24</div>	<div>7:30am - Bible</div> <div>9am - AARP Tax</div> <div>5:30pm - Dog</div> <div>6pm - Cub Scout</div> <div>6pm - Den 1 Bears @</div> <div>7:45pm - Bagpiper</div> <div>25</div>	<div>9am - AARP Tax</div> <div>9:30am - Badminton</div> <div>3pm - Quilting @</div> <div>4:45pm - Dog</div> <div>6pm - Overeaters</div> <div>7pm - Hurley</div> <div>26</div>	<div>fish dinner</div> <div>27</div>	<div>28</div>
<div>10am - Worship @</div> <div>29</div>	<div>5pm - Dog Training</div> <div>7:30pm - Al-Anon @</div> <div>30</div>	<div>9:30am - Badminton</div> <div>4pm - Hurley Purlers</div> <div>7pm - Bible Study @</div> <div>7pm - Boy Scouts</div> <div>31</div>	<div>1</div>	<div>2</div>	<div>3</div>	<div>4</div>

March 2015

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

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