

# THE SPIRE

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VOLUME 8, ISSUE 3

MARCH 2016



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I write on a morning when our wonderful micro climate here in Hurley prevails again. The early weather report for the lower mid-Hudson valley called for rain this morning, followed by heavier doses this afternoon, and evening. I rose early, anticipating a wet day, and no outdoor exercise. I was surprised to discover my surroundings were dry. I decided to walk the rail trail before the deluge, and lo, against the prognosticating odds emanating from New York City and Albany, the sun peeked through, so much so, that should have brought sunscreen instead of an umbrella. A friend called late this morning from Westchester, noting the cascade of rain outside is office. He was a bit envious when I told him I had walked for more than an hour in bright sunshine. I'm beginning to think of Main Street Hurley as a bit of heaven on earth. This winter we've avoided the extremes which have knocked out power, and clogged roads in regions near us from all compass points. On certain winter days, an unsheltered car or truck from Orange or Westchester County rambled into our parking lot caked with snow, when, on that very same day, we've had less than a dusting. This has happened on several occasions, leading me to believe that 17 Main Street is holy ground! The parsonage and church have been exceptions to the weather rule.

My climate meditation reminds me of that singular exception which has altered the course of human history. In a snowy world marked by despair, and grim fate, a corpse stirred, and inhaled. Rigor mortis fingers fluttered anew, and soon worked together unpeeling the aromatic soaked linen binding the body. The event occurred two

thousand years ago in a cemetery. Because of its location, we infer that the corpse was surrounded by other corpses, a wintry weather pattern, so to speak, which illustrated the tombstone-hard, consistent, and final truth: Death always succeeds life. There are no exceptions, no Hurley-like oases in the middle of the harsh, insistent winters of human finitude. The prophet Isaiah put a wintry poetic spin when he wrote: "All flesh is grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field... The grass withers the flower fades" (Isaiah 40:6,8).

Yet two thousand years ago, one flower did not fade. It withered on a torture instrument of unspeakable cruelty, to be sure, but then, unaccountably, bloomed anew three days later. A lily, damp with morning dew, emerged from ground littered with thistles and thorns, challenging the idea that death is the end. For Christians, the exception becomes the new rule. The apostle Paul puts it well when he writes about that singular death: "But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died" (1 Corinthians 15:20). The apostle adds that as Christ has been raised, we, too, will be raised to a new life in heaven. Winter will yield to God's eternal Spring.

May we celebrate the good news of Easter on March 27. May we celebrate, too, our eternal hope of resurrection with the one who created, redeemed and leads us into life eternal.

In Christ's service,

*Doc Bob*

Dr. Bob



### Missions news

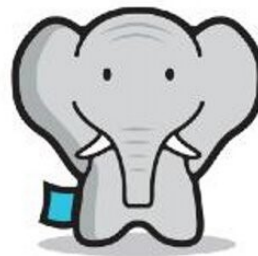
Our Benevolence for 2015 was distributed evenly to the Reservoir Food Pantry and Family of Woodstock. Both are highly reliable local organizations.

For the month of March, we are focusing on water. In much of the developing world, the average distance to gather water is 3.5 miles and the water may not even be clean, by our standards. As some members join a “Walk for Water”, sponsored by Grace Community Church, the rest of us can donate to the Mission of the Month which will go to Water Mission, a highly rated charity. Their website explains, “We are a nonprofit Christian engineering ministry providing sustainable safe water solutions, through a Christian world view perspective, to people in developing countries and disasters... Molly and George Greene ran an environmental engineering company in Charleston, South Carolina when they heard about the devastation in Honduras caused by Hurricane Mitch. After receiving a request for multiple water treatment systems in Honduras, his team of engineers took action to build such a system – and thus the idea for Water Missions International was born. When the Greenes arrived in Honduras, they were shocked by what they found.” The water was brown and filled with toxins. In 2001, the Greenes founded Water Mission.

Rebecca Masters

## March Events

March 1	Brooks BBQ
March 1	Tuesday Bible Study: Pilgrimage
March 2 March 8	Women's Bible Study Tuesday Bible Study Pilgrimage
March 13	Past Pastors of HRC
March 14	Consistory Meeting
March 15	Tuesday Bible Study Pilgrimage
March 16	Women's Bible Study
March 18	Movies With Meaning
March 20	Palm Sunday
March 22	Tuesday Bible Study Pilgrimage
March 23	Walking the Labyrinth
March 24	Maundy Thursday
March 25	Good Friday
March 27	Easter, Easter Egg Hunt



remember  
the date™

## Financial Notes, RMDs and QCDs

Recent changes in the federal tax code can provide tax benefits to charitable donors. If you are 70 ½ and are required to take a minimum distribution (RMD) from your IRA you have the option to make that distribution tax free. This capability is now permanent, in the past it was temporary, irregular and typically approved late in the year. These "Qualified Charitable Distributions" or QCDs can be a convenient way to support your charity.

The Hurley Reformed Church is an approved charity and by donating directly to the charity, you can meet your contribution goals while your income is reduced. QCDs must be made directly from the financial institution to the charity and not to the charity via the donor. By going directly to the charity, the donation is not counted as income.

One of the benefits of reduced income can be: a lower marginal tax, i.e. \$150 saved per \$1000 donated in the 15% tax rate. Other potential benefits are based on keeping your taxable income below certain thresholds to avoid taxes on social security, higher Medicare premiums, surtaxes and the deduction of dividends and capital gains.

There are some qualifiers and restrictions. Additional information is available at [admin@HurleyReformedChurch.org](mailto:admin@HurleyReformedChurch.org).

The information provided is intended to be general and educational in nature and is not substitute for legal and tax advice.

Jim Craven

## *The Ides of March* will soon

be upon us, but I never figured out what they really were. Whatever they may be, the love of God will be greater than anything that this new month can share with us.

I drive past the columbarium and it is a quiet witness to the strength and promise of Christ that tells me once again, "I am with you, always, even to the end of the age." That promise goes beyond March into the eternal gift that Stickley Gardens share with all of us. Stop in for a visit, sense it and find His promise, given to us in life and death. Welcome Spring!!!

## 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 LIAISON

REV STICKLEY, SECRETARY

A SACRED PLACE OF BEAUTY AND CONTEMPLATION.

(LOCATED ON THE SOUTH LAWN OF THE CHURCH)

# March

## BIRTHDAYS

<i>Lily Gram Collins</i>	1
<i>Craig Jansen</i>	2
<i>Linda Bognar</i>	3
<i>Dennis Horvers</i>	5
<i>Dr. Bob Gram</i>	6
<i>Marianne Mizel</i>	7
<i>Barbara Sartorius</i>	10
<i>Barry Rell</i>	10
<i>Julia Wolf</i>	10
<i>Danielle Wolf</i>	10

<i>Kim Burgess</i>	13	<i>Gretchen Giles</i>	24
<i>Deborah Zuill</i>	14	<i>Phyllis Bliss</i>	24
<i>Allan Masters</i>	14	<i>Deidre Sills</i>	25
<i>Ellen Stephano</i>	14	<i>Cathy McGraw</i>	27
<i>Frank Warren</i>	17	<i>Jennifer Hinsdale</i>	28
<i>Frank Presti</i>	17	<i>Ellen Morone</i>	31
<i>Joyce Pinckney</i>	18	<i>Bernadette Baker</i>	31
<i>Dino Sumerano</i>	18	<i>Logan Brennan</i>	31
<i>Angie Rockwell</i>	19		
<i>Katrina Rubino</i>	19		
<i>Justin Nekos</i>	21		
<i>William Gaffken</i>	23		
<i>Jean Marrus</i>	24		
<i>Christine Henning</i>	24		

## ANNIVERSARIES

<i>Jean &amp; Jay Marrus</i>	9
<i>Emily &amp; Art Harder</i>	16
<i>Charles &amp; Sheila Jansen</i>	25

**Hurley Reformed Church**

prepared by  
**Sea-Deli**

# Fried Fish Dinner

**April 2, 2016**

**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 6:30 pm**

**Tickets/Reservations – Call the Church 331-4121**

**fried fish**  
**roasted potatoes**  
**coleslaw**  
**roll**  
**beverage**  
**dessert**

## PAST PASTORS

Have you ever wondered about the names  
on our roster of ministers who served the Hurley Reformed Church?

What were their stories?

Now, you have a chance to find out... items such as:

- Which Minister fought in the Revolutionary War?
- Who played tennis with Don Kent?
- Who was Hurley's youngest minister?
- First pastor to preach totally in English
- Who served the longest at Hurley?
- Who served the shortest?
- Who had the longest tenure in ministry? (hint: 72 years)
- Which minister was grandfather to a NYS Governor?
- Which minister took a second job as a milkman?
- Who was our first "homegrown" minister?

**SUNDAY. MARCH 13 AFTER SERVICE**

### **Educational Opportunity: "Classics in Religion" at Kingston Library**

#### **March 2, 9, 16, 30, 2016 Zoroastrianism    *The Avesta* and Its Influences upon Abrahamic Traditions**

For over a thousand years - from about 500 BCE to 500 CE- the Zoroastrian religion was among the most widespread and powerful in the ancient world. It was predominant during the Babylonian exile of ancient Israel, and in recent years scholars have begun to investigate Zoroastrian influences on notions of monotheism, messianism, and eschatology in Second Temple Judaism, early Christianity and Islam. On March 2, 9, 16, and 30, the reading group will be introduced to the primary text of that faith, the Avesta, and the role the tradition played in the great Abrahamic faiths. The group will not meet on March 23 (Holy Week in the Western Christian calendar).

The Rev. **Ruth Kent** of Hurley, recently retired from 10 years as Director for Spiritual Life in an Interfaith community, will lead the series. She has often taught classes on world religions, the ancient Near East, the Dead Sea Scrolls, archaeology and ancient texts. She served on committees of the Interfaith Conference of Washington DC and on the board of the Washington Theological Consortium, which sponsors certificate programs in interfaith dialogue. She also worked on an archaeology project in Jordan for eight seasons.



# News Bytes

Information you should know ; Opportunities for Fellowship.

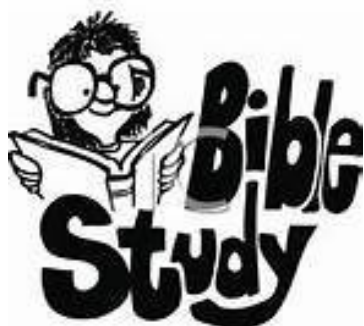


Looking for good fellowship?!

The Men's Group meets the third Wednesday of the month. Next meeting is March 16 at 7 pm.

Come hang with us.

See Wally Cook for details.



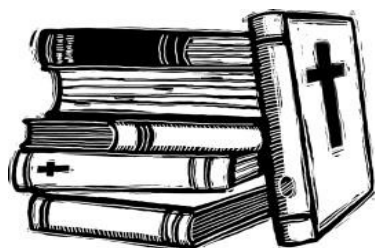
## *Tuesday Bible Study in March*

March 1st **Christian Pilgrimage** from the Second to the 13th Century (Doc Bob)

March 8 **Christian Pilgrimage:** What does it mean to you? Part one (Rev. Ruth)

March 15 **Christian Pilgrimage** from the 14th Century to Today (Doc Bob)

March 22 **Christian Pilgrimage:** What Does it Mean to You? Part 2 (Rev. Ruth)



## WOMEN'S Bible Study

**The Women's Ministries Bible study group** will meet March 8 and 22 at 1 PM in the Dutch Room. We continue our study of women in the Bible focusing on the "bad girls" who the Lord used to achieve His work. A delightful book is available as part of the study. Light refreshments are served. For further information, call Nancy Sweeney at 336-5267 or e-mail her at [sweeney.n11@gmail.com](mailto:sweeney.n11@gmail.com)



Thank you to everyone who supports our can and bottle recycling program. Thanks to your support we were able to donate \$117.00 to the Ulster County Mental Health Association. A special thanks to Mr. Ron Chrissey for all his help.

The can and bottle recycling program will continue in 2016. The proceeds will be donated to our own Youth Group to support their Relay for Life team. This will benefit the American Cancer Society. Thank you for your continued support.

Terry Gaffken

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## MOVIES WITH MEANING:

### SHOWING "THE WAY"

MARCH 18, 5:30 PM POTLUCK DINNER

### MOVIE TO FOLLOW

### BRING A DISH TO PASS

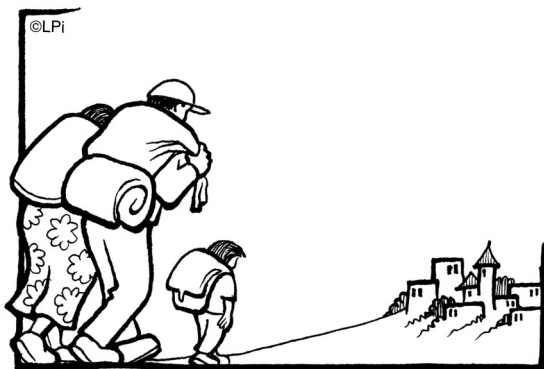
*You Don't Choose a life . You live one.*

THE WAY is a powerful and inspirational story about family, friends and the challenges we face while navigating this ever-changing and complicated world. Martin Sheen plays Tom, an irascible American doctor who comes to France to deal with the tragic loss of his son (played by Emilio Estevez). Rather than return home, Tom decides to embark on the historical pilgrimage "The Way of St. James" to honor his son's desire to finish the journey. What Tom doesn't plan on is the profound impact this trip will have on him. Through unexpected and oftentimes amusing experiences along "The Way," Tom discovers the difference between "the life we live and the life we choose."

Inexperienced as a trekker, Tom soon discovers that he will not be alone on this journey. On "The Way," Tom meets other pilgrims from around the world, each with their own issues and looking for greater meaning in their lives: a Dutchman (Yorick van Wageningen), a Canadian (Deborah Kara Unger) and an Irish writer (James Nesbitt), who is suffering from a bout of writer's block.

From the unexpected and, oftentimes, amusing experiences along "The Way," this unlikely quartet of misfits creates an everlasting bond and Tom begins to learn what it means to be a citizen of the world again. Through Tom's unresolved relationship with his son, he discovers the difference between "the life we live and the life we choose."

THE WAY, written and directed by Emilio Estevez, was filmed entirely in Spain and France along the actual Camino de Santiago.



*Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate.  
Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure.  
It is our Light, not our darkness, that most frightens us.*

*We ask ourselves, who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented and fabulous?  
Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God.  
Your playing small doesn't serve the world.  
There's nothing enlightened about shrinking.  
So that other people won't feel insecure around you.*

*We were born to make manifest the Glory of God that is within us.  
It's not just in some of us; it's in everyone.  
And as we let our Light shine,  
We unconsciously give others permission to do the same.  
As we are liberated from our own fear,  
Our presence automatically liberates others.*

From A Course of Miracles by Marianne Williamson  
Immortalized in Nelson Mandela's freedom speech

## PILGRIM'S PRAYER

Although I may have traveled all the roads,  
Crossed mountains and valleys from East to West,  
If I have not discovered the freedom to be myself,  
I have arrived nowhere.

Although I may have shared all my possessions  
With people of other languages and cultures;  
Made friends with Pilgrims of a thousand paths,  
Or shared albergue with saints and princes,  
If I am not capable of forgiving my neighbor tomorrow,  
I have arrived nowhere.

Although I may have carried my pack from beginning to  
end  
And waited for every Pilgrim in need of encouragement,  
Or given my bed to one who arrived later than I,  
Given my bottle of water in exchange for nothing;  
If upon returning to my home and work,  
I am not able to create brotherhood  
Or to make happiness, peace and unity,  
I have arrived nowhere.

Although I may have had food and water each day,  
And enjoyed a roof and shower every night;

Or may have had my injuries well attended,  
If I have not discovered in all that the love of God,  
I have arrived nowhere.

Although I may have seen all the monuments  
And contemplated the best sunsets;  
Although I may have learned a greeting in every language  
Or tasted the clean water from every fountain;  
If I have not discovered who is the author  
Of so much free beauty and so much peace,  
I have arrived nowhere.

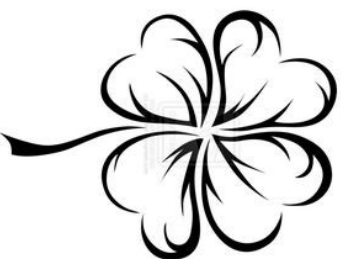
If from today I do not continue walking on your path,  
Searching and living according to what I have learned;  
If from today I do not see in every person, friend or foe,  
A companion on the Camino;  
If from today I cannot recognize God,  
The God of Jesus of Nazareth  
As the one God of my life,  
I have arrived nowhere.

Fraydino



# March 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25	26	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
10am - Worship @ 11am - Prayer Chain @ 11am - SHD Committee @ 3pm - daisy girl scout troop	1pm - basket class @ 3pm - Quilting @ Dutch 6pm - Dog Training @ Hall 7pm - Little League @ 7:30pm - Al-Anon @ Room	8:30am - Guild Quilters @ 8:30am - Badminton @ 11am - Balance for Life @ 4pm - Hurley Purlers @ 4:30pm - PC 101 @ Dutch 7pm - Bible Study @ Dutch 7pm - Boy Scouts Troop 20	7:30am - Bible Study @ 9am - Tax Preparation by 5:30pm - Dog Training @ 6pm - Cub Scout Den @ 6pm - Den 1 Bears @ Room 6:30pm - Girl Scout 7pm - Boy Scouts Troop 20 7pm - Kingston Area Soccer	9am - Tax Preparation by 9:30am - Badminton @ 1:30pm - Hurley Senior 4:45pm - Dog Training @ 7pm - Sisters in Solution @ 7:30pm - 1st Capital	7pm - Motorcycle Club @	9am - quilters @ 10am - Genealogy @ Room 3:30pm - Camp Trimount
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
10am - Worship @ 11am - Women's Ministry @ 11:15am - Pastors @	11am - VFW @ Dutch Room 3pm - Quilting @ Dutch 6pm - Dog Training @ Hall 7pm - Consistory @ Dutch 7pm - Hudson Valley 7:30pm - Al-Anon @ Room	8:30am - Guild Quilters @ 8:30am - Badminton @ 11am - Balance for Life @ 4pm - Hurley Purlers @ 6pm - nursery school board 7pm - Bible Study @ Dutch 7pm - Boy Scouts Troop 20	7:30am - Bible Study @ 9am - Finance Committee 9am - Tax Preparation by 5:30pm - Dog Training @ 6pm - Cub Scout Den @ 6pm - Den 1 Bears @ Room 7pm - Hurley Lions @ Dutch 7pm - men's group @ Dutch	9am - Tax Preparation by 9:30am - Badminton @ 4:45pm - Dog Training @ 7pm - NE WoodWorkers @ 7pm - Sisters in Solution @	Movie Night @ Schadeveld	Clean up from movie nite @ 9am - snow day quilters @
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
10am - Worship @ 11am - Women's Guild @ 11:15am - Easter Egg Hunt 3pm - daisy girl scout troop	10am - Genealogy @ Room 3pm - Quilting @ Dutch 6pm - Dog Training @ Hall 7:30pm - Al-Anon @ Room	8:30am - Guild Quilters @ 8:30am - Badminton @ 11am - Balance for Life @ 1pm - Women's Bible Study 4pm - Hurley Purlers @ 7pm - Bible Study @ Dutch 7pm - Boy Scouts Troop 20	7:30am - Bible Study @ 9am - Tax Preparation by 6pm - Cub Scout Den @ 6pm - Den 1 Bears @ Room 7pm - Sisters in Solution @	9:30am - Badminton @ 4:45pm - Dog Training @ 7pm - Hurley Heritage 7pm - Sisters in Solution @		
27	28	29	30	31		
10am - Worship @	10:30am - Genealogy @ 3pm - Quilting @ Dutch 6pm - Dog Training @ Hall 7:30pm - Al-Anon @ Room	8:30am - Guild Quilters @ 9:30am - Badminton @ 4pm - Hurley Purlers @ 7pm - Bible Study @ Dutch 7pm - Boy Scouts Troop 20	7:30am - Bible Study @ 9am - Tax Preparation by 5:30pm - Dog Training @ 6pm - Cub Scout Den @ 6pm - Den 1 Bears @ Room	9am - Tax Preparation by 9:30am - Badminton @ 4:45pm - Dog Training @ 7pm - Sisters in Solution @		



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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

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