

# THE SPIRE

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 9

NOVEMBER 2014



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

A phrase in the Apostle Paul's first Letter to the church at Thessalonika has captured my attention for several months. Paul enjoins his followers to "live quietly, and to mind your own affairs" (4:13). When I returned to graduate school in New York City, several years ago, I lived in a studio apartment on the corner of Riverside Drive and 125th Street, a seemingly quiet neighborhood — at least by Manhattan standards. Nevertheless at all hours I listened to the frenzied orchestra of the Big Apple: the rat-a-tat-tat of jackhammers blended with the steel-on-steel clanking of heavy equipment tearing down or building up. The continuous hum of cars crossing the bridge of Riverside Drive provided "background music." Surrounded by sound, the word "quiet" seemed anachronistic, a quaint notion from a bygone era. When I started to work in mid-town, near Columbus Circle, the noise increased. I learned to accept, and then even to appreciate non-stop sound. There is something enlivening about the auditory overload of city life. Living in Hurley has restored a greater sense of quiet, although I'm sure folks can experience this particular joy apart from a rural or small town setting. I find it easier for me, at least, to touch base with silence, and, perhaps, singular sounds to which one attunes when quiet insinuates itself to a greater extent in the course of a day. This summer I've enjoyed watering the flowerbeds around the parsonage. With the coming of winter, I will miss the muted gurgle from the hose, and the ever so faint patter freshening impatiens and pansies. Although I'm not a fan of winter, I look forward to the muffled sounds of cars

the encompassing tenor of quiet which falls when white blankets our land.

I believe Jesus lived quietly. There is a passage in Isaiah in which the coming messiah is described as one who will not "cry out or lift up his voice in the street" (4:22). When we think of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7), we have a picture of our Lord addressing hundreds, and we wonder how he could get the word out without bullhorn in hand. We forget his instruction was given to his disciples alone, and that Jesus sat as he delivered his message. In other words, the setting was far more intimate, and more conducive to quiet than we normally think, particularly as we live in the era of jacked-up movie extravaganzas about our Lord. Perhaps, Jesus spoke softly so that his disciples would crane forward to hear. Perhaps he whispered, so that silence, and quiet could abet the work of conveying meaning, and the very presence of God's Spirit to ears hungry for meaning and hope.

I pray that you'll find quiet times in the course of your day. We live in a beautiful area. Can you step away from the noise and busyness it invokes in order to view and smell the unique colors and fragrances of Fall? The Psalmist writes: "I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child that is with me" (131:12). May we become like children, indeed infants, in following the writer's advice.

In Christ's Service,

Doc Bob



**Mission News!** Rebecca Masters, Chair

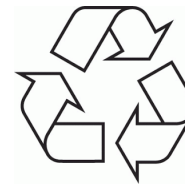
We received two nice thank you notes from the YMCA camp director and Angel Food East for our Mission donations to them in July and August. For November we will be collecting money for a project for the homeless children of the Kingston School District again.

Many people are concerned about the Ebola epidemic in West Africa. We are investigating the best way to give support to those countries. That will be our December Mission.

State's "Clothing and Textile Collection Day", so SHED YOUR CLOTHES on November 15<sup>th</sup>! Our shed takes shoes, clothing, blankets, sheets and stuffed animals. No kitchen linens, household items or any other type of toys.

SO....STOP Global Warming and START People Warming-- Somebody needs your gently used clothing this winter. Drop it off at *Hurley Reformed Church* on America Recycles Day -November 15th.

If you have suggestions for future Mission projects, contact one of the Committee: Rebecca Masters, Linda Caddy, Kathy Jansen, Cindy Sumerano or Debbie Tucker.



## CONSISTORY CORNER

November 2014

Wow! It's November!! That means Turkey Dinner on Election Day; Veterans Day; and Thanksgiving.

Youth Group will be providing Thanksgiving Dinner for 6 families. We are accepting donations of nonperishable items and frozen turkeys. Some suggestions: canned vegetables, stuffing, gravy, potato flakes, pasta etc. Thanks so much!

Thanks to Jim Pirro, Dennis Croswell and Dave Giles and to everyone who worked the Fall clean-up.

The annual congregational meeting is scheduled for November 16 directly after worship service. Make plans to attend and to offer assistance to the church in anyway you can.

Sonnie Howe

## YOUTH GROUP GRADES 6-12

November 7<sup>th</sup> is MOVIE NIGHT! 7 p.m. in Schadewald Hall. "God's Not Dead" with a discussion with Pastor Gram to follow.

"Present-day college freshman and devout Christian, Josh Wheaton (Shane Harper), finds his faith challenged on his first day of Philosophy class by the dogmatic and argumentative Professor Radisson (Kevin Sorbo). Radisson begins class by informing students that they will need to disavow, in writing, the existence of God on that first day, or face a failing grade. As other students in the class begin scribbling the words "God Is Dead" on pieces of paper as instructed, Josh finds himself at a crossroads, having to choose between his faith and his future. Josh offers a nervous refusal, provoking an irate reaction from his smug professor. Radisson assigns him a daunting task: if Josh will not admit that "God Is Dead," he must prove God's existence by presenting well-researched, intellectual arguments and evidence over the course of the semester, and engage Radisson in a head-to-head debate in front of the class. "

Snacks will be provided.

Christine Henning

# Women's Guild

With the holidays quickly approaching the Guild is busy with their annual activities....Pecan Sales, Election Day Bake Sale during the Annual Election Day Dinner, Thanksgiving Alter, Operation Christmas Child, Poinsettia Sales, & the Cookie Walk. Don't miss out on these wonderful annual activities. Be on the lookout for information on them.

Operation Christmas Child which gives a child that is located around the world or right here in the USA a shoe box filled with school supplies, small toys, hygiene items, etc. For some children this will be on the only gift they receive at the holiday season. If you haven't gotten a box to fill please do so quickly as our alter will be adorn

I've gone to the garden just about every day since Palm Sunday to fill the fountain and take care of the flowers. More often than not, I find myself humming the old hymn "In the Garden" ...  
" I come to the garden alone, when the dew is still on the roses, and the voice I hear falling on my ear The Son of God discloses....  
And He walks with me and He talks with me and He tells me I am his own" ....  
Well, the fountain has been covered in anticipation of winter and the flowers will soon fade, but I still find the garden a beautiful place to be still and listen for the whisper of God's voice. In Psalm 46:10, God tells us, "Be still, and know that I am God!" Take time to be still and listen.

## 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 CLINE (338-7276)  
REV STICKLEY, SECRETARY

A SACRED PLACE OF BEAUTY AND CONTEMPLATION

with these boxes on Nov 9 & then they will be delivered to the drop off location. Thank you to Sandie Gregory for chairing this again.

Pecans are coming ...Get your Pecans!! That's right the annual Pecan Sale is going on. The cost is \$9 for a one pound bag. If you haven't already received a call to place your order don't worry. We have ordered extras & when they come in which should be just before Thanksgiving you can pick yours up then. Our flavors this year are a 1 lb bag of plain, a 12 oz bag of chocolate or dark chocolate covered, a 10 oz bag of cinnamon or chocolate clusters and an 8 oz bag of glazed. With the holidays coming up this pecans will come in very handy for cooking & gift giving.

The Annual Election Day bake sale is coming up on November 4. We are asking for your donation of baked goods items that we can sale at this sale. Please see Kathy Hauck with your donation. Thanks for your help & support.

Happy Thanksgiving,  
Sandy Emrich-President

### Our calendar of events:

- 11/4 Election Day bake sale during the Turkey Dinner
- 12/13 Setup for the Cookie Walk at 9:30am
- 12/14 Cookie Walk

*there will  
your heart  
be also.  
Matt. 6:21*

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount \_\_\_\_\_

## 2015 OFFERING ENVELOPES

**T**he 2015 Offering Envelopes will be available for pick up on Sunday, Nov. 16. If you haven't used the envelopes in the past, but would like a box, just let us know or stop by the office and see Dorothy. Using the weekly envelopes is an easy way to keep your offering up-to-date. In addition to your weekly offering, the box also contains monthly specialty envelopes designated for specific budget items. These include a Missions Envelope to support our local missions ([Http://hurleyreformedchurch.org](http://hurleyreformedchurch.org)). There is also a monthly Property and Maintenance Envelope, and those donations go directly to the costs of maintenance and repair projects for the church and parsonage, which, while beautiful and historic, are always in need of some work, and the Property and Maintenance Envelopes help pay for this.

**T**he box also contains envelopes for your Classis Dues, also known as our Denominational Financial Responsibility. The Hurley Reformed Church is a member of the Mid-Hudson Classis, which consists of about thirty Reformed Church in America congregations in this geographic area. The classis has jurisdiction over all matters relating to the work and welfare of the church within its geographic bounds. The finances to support this work are shared among the member congregations. Each year we are assessed an annual Denominational Financial Responsibility, or Classis Dues, based on the number of church members and our total income. For 2015 we will be responsible for paying

\$21,888.84, which comes out to \$118.96 per adult member (Note: This is \$118.96 per member, not per family, but students are not charged.). We must meet this financial obligation, and ask for your assistance in meeting these costs. Your Classis Dues can be paid in full or in installments. A monthly "Classis Dues" envelope is provided in your box of offering envelopes, so the costs can be spread out over the year if you wish (\$9.91/member/month). If you prefer not to use the envelopes, you can simply make your contribution by check or cash and designate it for "Classis Dues." We typically collect less than half of the annual Classis Dues from our members, and must pay out the remainder from our general funds, so we would encourage you to help us meet this responsibility.

**T**he offerings we receive each Sunday provide about 70% of our annual income, although this year through the first three quarters we are collecting about 7.5% less in envelope donations than we did in 2013, which is certainly a bit worrisome. As you consider your pledge for the upcoming year, we would be most grateful for any increase you might be able to make in your 2015 donations. As always we are thankful for all of the generous support you provide, both financially and with your time and talents.

Jim Mayfield  
Finance Committee Chair

# and Medicare

Educational/informational meetings will be held in Schadewald Hall, at the Hurley Reformed Church, on Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm and Saturday, November 15 at 10:00 am. Light refreshments will be served. Topics to be discussed will revolve around understanding your Social Security benefits and understanding how Medicare works. **Please note these are strictly informational and are not sales or enrollment meetings.**

## **Social Security discussions will include:**

- Understanding Your Benefits
- When do I become eligible?
- Should I take my benefits as soon as I'm eligible or wait?
- Understanding Survivors benefits
- How to get the most from your benefits
- Do I qualify for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits?

## **Medicare discussions will include:**

- What is Medicare?
- Who is eligible for Medicare?
- Do I qualify for low-income benefits?
- How and when do I sign up for Medicare?
- What if I have other insurance?
- Understanding Original Medicare, What are Parts A, B, C, D?
- What is Medicare Advantage and can it work for me?
- What are Supplemental plans and how do they work with Medicare?

Please join us even if you are not eligible for Social Security and Medicare. It doesn't hurt to know your options so when the time comes to enroll you're informed. This is open to the public, so invite a friend, relative, or anyone you think would benefit from this seminar.

Hal Hauck



# The Giving Tree

Our annual helping area families in need for Christmas will be up just before Thanksgiving. Please be on the lookout for the Christmas tree. It will be adorned with tags for you to pick a tag, purchase the item listed on the tag & then you return that item unwrapped. If you have any questions please see Lisa Longto or Sandy Emrich. Thank you for helping us make a little Christmas magic for someone.

# Bake Sale

The annual Election Day Dinner and Women's Guild Bake Sale is just around the corner, Tuesday, November 4th, to be exact. The Women's Guild is looking for bakers to show off their favorite dessert recipes and drop them off at Schadewald Hall the day before or the morning of November 4th. Please call Kathy Hauck at 845-532-1925(mobile) or 338-6321(home) for details.

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## Annual Election Day Turkey Dinner



### Tuesday November 4, 2014

**Open Seating:  
4:30 - 6:30 pm**

**Tickets**  
**Adults: \$14.00**  
**Children Under 12: \$7.00**

**Hurley Reformed Church**

**For Tickets  
Call: 331-4121**





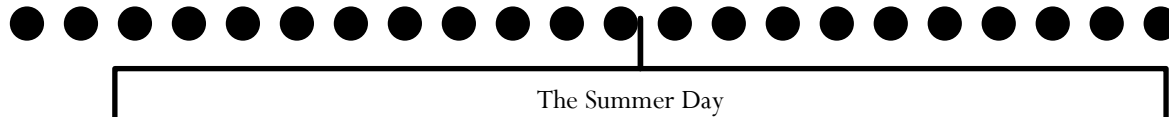
**BIRTHDAYS**

Iris Cordero	3
Natalie Woodard	8
John Henning	10
Peg Baldinger	13
Chloe Dumas	14
William Schaffrick	14
Anne Glass	15
Bill Merrill	16
Daniela Sumerano	16
Drew Milne	17
Julianna Schaffrick	17

Jay Burgess	17
Joe Burns	19
James Gregory	22
Kathy Musialkiewicz	23
Allan Dumas	28
Juanita Bilyou	29
Matthew Crosswell	30
Art Harder	30

<b>ANNIVERSARIES</b>	
Todd & Julie Jordan	9
Leslie & Darryl Shambo	10
Shirley & Ron Burns	13
Mary & Ken Odell	23
Sandie & Jim Gregory	30

**Congregational Meeting**  
**Sunday, November**  
**16**  
**Immediately after**  
**worship**



The Summer Day  
 Who made the world?  
 Who made the swan, and the black bear?  
 Who made the grasshopper?  
 This grasshopper, I mean-- the one who has flung herself out of the grass,  
 the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,  
 who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of up and down--  
 who is gazing around with her enormous and complicated eyes.  
 Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly washes her face.  
 Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away.  
 I don't know exactly what a prayer is.  
 I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down  
 into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass,  
 how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields,  
 which is what I have been doing all day.  
 Tell me, what else should I have done?  
 Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?  
 Tell me, what is it you plan to do  
 with your one wild and precious life?

# News Bytes

Information you should know ; Opportunities for Fellowship.

## YOUTH GROUP NEWS

*Events for November*

November 2 Meeting

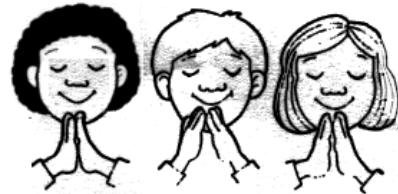
November 4 Turkey Dinner

November 7 Movie Night!!

November 16 Meeting

Christine Henning

I would like to take this time to thank everyone for the cards, phone calls and prayers showered upon me before, during and now in my time of recovery at home. I feel truly blessed and just grateful to have such a wonderful Church Family — Deb Zuill



## Women's Ministries

We held our first meeting this month (October) and we are going full steam ahead! We want to thank Rev. Gram for his support and prayers! Be mindful of the meeting dates and join us in our "Outreach to the

Cleaning out the house and still have sleeping bags no body is using? Please donate them to the Church ( not the shed) as we occasionally have a person or family in need .

Rebecca Masters



Calling All Christian Men!

The Hurley Reformed Church sponsors a Mens' Group to discuss faith topics and encourage fellowship among the congregation. Our Mens' Group meets on the third Wednesday of the month in the Dutch Room at 7-8 PM. If you have any questions, please contact Wally Cook or Jerry Wynkoop.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sa
26 10am - Worship @ 11am - Prayer Chain	27 1pm - Basket 5pm - Dog Training 7pm - Little League 7:30pm - Al-Anon @	28 9:30am - Badminton 4pm - Hurley Purrlers 4:30pm - PC 101 @ 7pm - Bible Study @ 7pm - Boy Scouts	29 7:30am - Bible 5:30pm - Dog 6pm - Cub Scout 6pm - Den 1 Bears @ 6:30pm - Girl Scout 7pm - Boy Scouts 7:45pm - Bagpiper	30 9:30am - Badminton 1:30pm - Hurley 3pm - Quilting @ 4:45pm - Dog 6pm - Overaters 7:30pm - 1st Capitol 7:30pm - Choir	31 6pm - Youth Group	6:30pm - E
9 10am - Worship @	10 11am - VFW @ 1pm - Basket 5pm - Dog Training 7pm - Consistory @ 7pm - Hudson Valley 7:30pm - Al-Anon @	11 <b>Veterans Day</b> 8:30am - Hillside 9:30am - Badminton 4pm - Hurley Purrlers 4:30pm - dog 7pm - Bible Study @ 7pm - Boy Scouts	12 7:30am - Bible 5:30pm - Dog 6pm - Cub Scout 6pm - Den 1 Bears @ 7:45pm - Bagpiper	13 9:30am - Badminton 12pm - little garden 3pm - Quilting @ 4:45pm - Dog 6pm - Overaters 7:30pm - Choir	14 7pm - Motorcycle	10am - Hal'
16 10am - Worship @ 11am - Annual 11am - Women's 1:30pm - Hootenany	17 10am - Genealogy @ 5pm - Dog Training 6pm - Hudson Valley 7:30pm - Al-Anon @	18 9:30am - Badminton 4pm - Hurley Purrlers 4:30pm - dog 6:30pm - Nursery 7pm - Bible Study @ 7pm - Boy Scouts	19 7:30am - Bible 5:30pm - Dog 6pm - Cub Scout 6pm - Den 1 Bears @ 7pm - Hurley Lions 7pm - Men's group 7:45pm - Bagpiper	20 9:30am - Badminton 3pm - Quilting @ 4:45pm - Dog 6pm - Overaters 7pm - NE 7:30pm - Choir	21	
23 10am - Worship @ 11:20am - Stone	24 10:30am - Genealog 12:30pm - basket 5pm - Dog Training 7:30pm - Al-Anon @	25 9:30am - Badminton 4pm - Hurley Purrlers 4:30pm - dog 7pm - Bible Study @ 7pm - Boy Scouts	26 7:30am - Bible 5:30pm - Dog 6pm - Cub Scout 6pm - Den 1 Bears @ 7:45pm - Bagpiper	27 <b>Thanksgiving</b> 6pm - Overaters	28	
30 10am - Worship @	1	2	3	4	5	

November 2014

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

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HURLEY NY 12443

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**THE SPIRE**  
NOVEMBER 2014

**HURLEY REFORMED CHURCH**  
Hurley New York 12443  
The Rev. Dr. Robert L. Gram, LCSW  
Pastor

