

HURLEY REFORMED CHURCH

THE SPIRE

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 7 NOVEMBER 2009

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, I write shortly before Reformation Sunday, November 1st. On this day we remember what separates us theologically from our Roman Catholic brothers and sisters. Much of my religious work has been done on Roman Catholic theologians, and I am profoundly grateful for their thought. My faith has been enriched by medieval thinkers like Thomas Aquinas, and Meister Eckhart, as well as 20th Century masters like Thomas Merton, and Gustavo Gutierrez, to name just a few. We are all Christians, and diversity should be cherished. Nevertheless I am deeply grateful to have been raised in a Protestant home. My father was the son of a Lutheran pastor, and my mother grew up in the Reformed Church of Spring Valley. Dad was co-opted into our denomination, although, as a concession to paternal sisters, I attended a Missouri Synod Lutheran Junior College.

The Reformation began in the 16th Century, although its seeds were sown earlier as certain monastic orders tried to bring biblical knowledge to folks who didn't understand Latin--which meant

99% of the European population. What Reformed theologians like Luther and Calvin accomplished was to translate Scripture into languages people could understand if not read. Up to that point Scripture had been the monopoly of the clergy. The Reformers also believed that certain Roman Catholic doctrines were unscriptural, and could be used as avenues for abuse. Thus the idea of purgatory was questioned, especially when the church used this concept-- which in its developed form is unscriptural-- to obtain money for the church. Thus someone like John Tetzel could fund raise by pronouncing that souls of the dearly departed could fly from purgatory to heaven if substantial sums from the families found their way into church coffers.

The Reformers also proclaimed the priesthood of all believers. They reacted against the idea that the Christian faith was hierarchical, and that some people had more of an "in" with God than others. The Pope came under scrutiny, the young movement proclaimed that he had no more access to God's ear than any other Christian. As a corollary, the Reformers felt that every vocation was sacred, and that God had called his people to be butchers,

bakers, and candlestick makers as well as priests and archbishops. In my case I was called to be a minister of word and sacrament because I would pose a clear and present danger to the Christian cause had I been an auto mechanic, builder, or mathematician. All vocations are holy, particularly if they are used as instruments of love and service to advance God's kingdom in the world.

Finally, the Reformers stressed the primacy of the spoken word. God's message for God's people is liberated when the preacher preaches. In most Roman Catholic Churches, the sermon is ancillary to the Mass. In Protestant Churches we celebrate the Lord's Supper and the Sacrament of Baptism. But we also believe God's living presence is transmitted through the power of the spoken word.



My prayer is that we see the value of our Reformation faith as it is expressed and lived out in the Hurley Reformed Church.

In Christ's Service
Dr. Bob Gram

Operation Christmas Child

We will once again be participating in Operation Christmas Child this year. This is a worthy cause - just to see the look on the children's faces makes you smile.

All you have to do is fill a shoebox with hygiene items, school supplies, small toys, etc. There is a pamphlet with guidelines. If you did not receive one, please let me know.

If there are any questions, call Anne Glass at 338-7437 or call the church office.

Please drop off the filled boxes at the church the week of November 16 - 23.

Thank you all very much. I hope you will all be able to participate.

Anne Glass

Dear Hurley Church family,

Thank you for all your prayers and thoughtfulness during my hospital stays. A kind word is like water for a flower. It makes the heart bloom.

Thanks for planting a garden in my heart.

Meta Brown and family



Youth Group



We are currently selling 2010 wall calendars for \$7 each & blank note cards for \$5 each. We are almost sold out of calendars so if you haven't picked one up yet please do so soon. Both of these items have been in high demand over the years.

The Penny Social was held on 10/2. Thank you to everyone that donated. We are blessed to say that we received a lot of great items. We used every long table & every card table in the church!! Thank you so much for making this a success. We raised \$1,236. We are truly blessed.

Our food collection this month is Thanksgiving items. We put together 4 baskets for needy families. We need everything that you

find on your Thanksgiving table. The last collection date for is 11/15/09. Please put your items in the box marked food collection in Schadewald Hall.

Back by popular demand are the Youth Group Pumpkin & Cranberry breads. Pre-Orders start on 11/8/09 as we only bake a limited amount of breads. The breads will be ready for you to pick them up on 11/22/09 & for only \$5 each.

Our babysitting night will be held on 12/4/09 from 6pm till 9pm. It is open to children of all ages. We have lots of activities planned and provide a snack. Mark your calendar, make dinner plans or start that holiday shopping, leave the kids with us & enjoy a quiet evening!! Fun time for all!!

We will be going caroling on 12/11/09. If you live within a 3 mile radius of the church & would like us to come to your house & sing a few carols please call Amy Sirni at

338-4960 or see the sign ups after church.

God Bless,

Sandy & Katie Emrich, Lisa Longto

Youth Group Leaders

Youth Group Events

11/8/09—Pre-Order Thanksgiving Breads

Meeting

11/15/09—Pre-Order Thanksgiving Breads

11/22/09—Thanksgiving Breads on sale

12/4/09—Babysitting at church 6pm till 9pm.

12/11/09—Caroling in the area 5:30pm

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

I come out to the garden every Sunday after worship to visit with my grandson Sam. It is so peaceful and quiet here. The sun is warm on my back, the mums are in full bloom and the tree that shades us in the summer is now dropping its leaves of red, yellow and orange on the patio and in the fountain. Soon the flowers will be bare and we will celebrate Thanksgiving, Christmas and the New Year. The snow will cover the ground but the garden will come to life again in the spring with bright colored tulips and leaves on the trees. It truly is a sacred place of beauty and contemplation. -- Betty Pirro

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

SNACK CRAFTS 6-9 PM FUN! GAMES!

**Hurley Reformed Church
Youth Group**

**Babysitting
12/4/09**

Please drop off your kids of **all ages** at 6:00 pm and pick them up at 9:00 pm. We will supply drinks and a snack, so they should have already had dinner! Thanks!

Please call Sandy at 845-687-4006

All donations will go to
American Cancer Society Relay for Life 2010

SNACK CRAFTS 6-9 PM FUN! GAMES!

Coffee Hour

Following worship each Sunday we gather in Schadewald Hall for a time of fellowship. If you would like to provide refreshments for one of our coffee hours - donuts, cookies, cake, bagels, etc - contact Bonnie Dumas, 339-47458. Coffee donations are always welcome if you happen to see a good sale!

Let's do lunch!

It is difficult for several of our formerly active members and friends to attend church and participate in related activities. We miss them! Therefore, we have formed a group, **Lunch Bag Ladies**, who visit and have lunch with these folks. We meet at the church on the second Thursday of each month. If you'd like to participate in this outreach program you just need to provide your own lunch and meet at the church around 11:00 where we will make some sandwiches for those we are visiting.



If you are interested in joining the **Lunch Bag Ladies** see Joyce Pinckney or call her at 338-5253. Going in pairs is fun for us and for those we visit. We look forward to this monthly outing.



The Kingston Hospital Auxiliary Board thank you for giving us the opportunity of using your facilities for our Luncheon Card Party on October 6th. The room and parking were accessible and the kitchen ideal.

We look forward to using it again in the future.

Sincerely,

The Kingston Hospital Auxiliary Board

Annual Congregational Meeting

The annual congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, November 15th, immediately following the morning church service. Committees will be reporting on the past years events, the consistory will be reporting on activities of the church, such as building maintenance and future projects or projections; financial reports and budget projections; consistory changes will be announced and requires your vote for completion. The meeting is important to the operation and understanding of the operations of our church, so the consistory requests that you mark your calendar, attend the meeting, and participate with us... while we all enjoy a cup of coffee and a bagel.

FREE

Bone Density
 Screening
 And Breast Cancer
 Information
 Wednesday
 November 11, 2009
 1:30 - 3:30 pm
 Hurley Reformed
 Church
 Schadewald Hall
 Any questions:
 Call Judy @334-3099 or
 Mary @ 334-2712
 Health Alliance of
 the Hudson Valley

It's That Time Again

Once again it is time to place your order for poinsettia plants to adorn our sanctuary for the Christmas season.



All profits will benefit the Boys and Girls Club of Kingston. Plants are one size, one color, and one price: red with four blossoms at \$11.00 ea.

Number of plants: _____ @ \$11.00 ea: Total due: _____

Name: _____

Phone: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

I will pick up my plant:

12/24 7:00pm service _____ 12/24 9:30pm service _____

We are requesting that you take your plant home or deliver it to someone special.

Make checks payable to:

HRC Women's Guild

Give to Shirley Ruth after worship or mail to:

215 Grandview Terrace, Hurley NY 12443

Payment must be received by December 6, 2009

Recycling for Relay

Returns!

We are collecting clean deposit bottles and cans for our Relay for Life Team. You will find a collection box in Schadewald Hall.

We thank the Emrich family for initiating this fundraiser. They faithfully returned bottles and cans for several years with all proceeds going to our Relay for Life Team.

Terry and William Gaffken have offered to continue the project. Please support them in their efforts!

COOKIE WALK

On December 13 don't be late

Just bring lots of cookies on a pretty plate.

Drop dozens off in the kitchen, please

And the elves will arrange them in a breeze.

Come to Schadewald Hall around "eleven"

And enter the world of cookie heaven.

Pick up a box and begin the walk

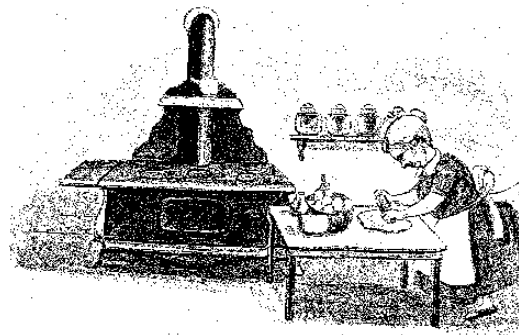
Enjoy the aroma and the holiday talk.

Now follow the line to the weigh-in scale.

Where the cashier elves will complete the sale.

I'm sure you'll agree that at \$5.00 per pound

You've just found the best bargain around!



NOVEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

Chloe Dumas	14, '98
William Schaffrick	14, '97
Julianna Schaffrick	17, '00
Alexandra Alteio	24, '94
Lois Charlton	2
Natalie Woodard	8
John Henning	10
Hunter Cranfield	11
Joyce Fink	12
Peg Baldinger	13
Bunny Heins	13
Anne Glass	15
Bill Merrill	16
Daniela Sumerano	16
Jay Burgess	17
Susan Williams	17
Joe Burns	19
Joyce Sweeney	19

James Gregory	22
ShirleyAnn Moxham	25
Wayne Johnson	23
Kathy Musialkiewicz	23
Dick Morone	25
Dahlia Soshensky	26
Allan Dumas	28
James Roosa	29
Juanita Bilyou	29
Matthew Crosswell	30
Sarah Alteio	30

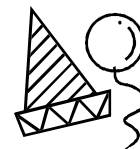
December

Micaela Ryan	5, '96
Isabel Martinez	8, '97
Toni Fisher	2
Coty Burgess	2
Carolyn Cranfield	3
Pat Baker	4
Fran Hofler	4

Susan Hutton	4
Mary Odell	5
Hal Hauck	6
Caitlin Decker	7

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Todd & Julie Jordan	9
Leslie & Darryl Shambo	10
Shirley & Ron Burns	13
May & Peter Kowalenko	19
Hunter & Paige Cranfield	21
Mary & Ken Odell	23
Sandie & Jim Gregory	30
James & Laura Gregory	Dec. 2



New Organist/Choir Director

On November 8th we welcomed Jane Barsumian as our new organist Choir Director.

Jane Barsumian was born into a musical family. Her father was a virtuoso violinist, her mother a pianist/organist. While Jane holds a B.S. in Education degree from Millersville University, and an M.Ed. in the field of counseling from Shippensburg University, all of her musical training has been in the form of private study.

She has studied piano and pipe organ with Frank McConnell, piano with Edgar Roberts, and recently continues with An-toinette Lind. She studied violin with Norman Black of the Philadelphia Orchestra, and in Amsterdam with Henk Schram of the Concertgebouw Orchestra. Jane has played violin with numerous community orchestras and professionally with the Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra where she was privileged to play under guest conductor, Aaron Copeland. She has played violin with the Woodstock Chamber Orchestra.

Jane has played piano for productions at the Rhinebeck Performing Arts Center, was accompanist for the Hudson Valley Youth Chorale on one of their trips to Vienna, and has been a featured performer for a concert sponsored by the AAUW in Kingston. She has been the organist for the premier of Robert Starer and Gail Godwin's original work, "Magdalen in the Garden," for the first Woodstock Cycle in 1998, and is also the organist on the CD. She conceived and composed the script, music, and text for the Cantata, "Healing," part of the 2002 Woodstock Cycle scored for violins, flute, clarinet, cello, organ, chorus and soloists.

In 2007, "Jane Barsumian and Friends" with Jane as pianist, violinist, and vocalist, and with flautist Lynn Peck and accompanist Jean Hattersley presented one of the concerts of the Saugerties Pro Musica series. She has also appeared in the Old Dutch noon concert series: in 2008, as soloist and 2009, as accompanist. She has accompanied virtuoso cellist Garfield Moore in recital at Columbia-Greene Community College, and was accompanist for the spring, 2009 concert given by the chorus of UCCC.

Jane is the 2006 winner of the Hymn Competition, of the Eastern North Carolina Religious Arts Festival, and has written service music recently in use by St. Gregory's Episcopal Church, Woodstock, where she was organist for eleven years.

She recently studied music composition privately with Grammy Award winning composer Joan Tower. In 2008, she conducted the Onteora String Ensemble in several concerts playing a portion of her original composition: "Gifts" for string orchestra.

Jane has sung and recorded with Ars Choralis, locally, for many years, and in 2009, at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, and in Berlin, Germany. She is a performing member of the Musical Society of Kingston and a member of the Hudson-Catskill Chapter of the, American Guild of Organists.

A past practitioner of family and child therapy, as well as the published author of the book: Necessary Steps: a family's journey, Jane currently teaches piano and violin at her home studio near Saugerties, New York.



Thanksgiving Eve . . . The Sanctuary will be open throughout the day and evening on Wednesday, November 23rd for prayer and meditation.



HURLEY REFORMED
CHURCH

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Phone: 845-331-4121
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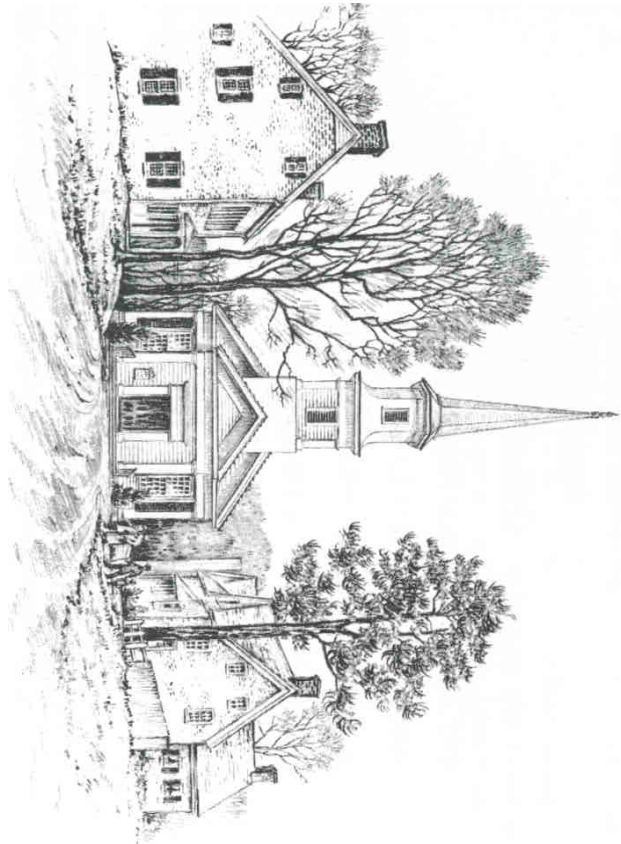
E-mail: admin@HurleyReformedChurch.org

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

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