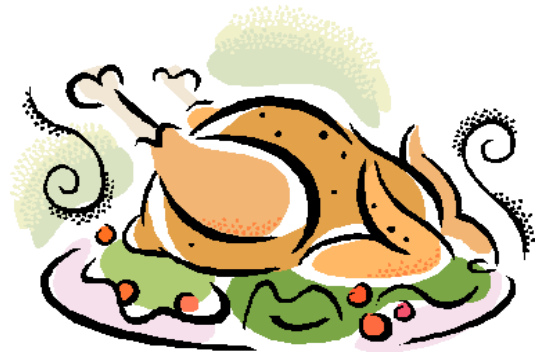


THE SPIRE

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 10

NOVEMBER 2015



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I write shortly after Pope Francis left our shores. I'm sure he won't have as much fun as he did over here where we have less cardinals, and less regimental pomp than one finds, I imagine, in Vatican city. The People's Pope was accorded more populist, and wonderfully messy receptions here as the crowd roar equaled if not surpassed the decibel status of rock star concerts. In the same vein I was reminded of the First Woodstock concert where my peers surged like waves against chain linked fences, and makeshift barriers in paroxysms of joy. What a pleasant change from recent history where we've become accustomed sadly to long wooden and metal saw horses designed to keep warring factions at bay in some of our major cities. How wonderful it was to witness crowds enthralled by someone other a movie star, sports figure, or politician. The Pope satisfied for many a hunger for God, and for an individual who could represent our Creator. In like manner I pray that we, too, in our own ways may help satisfy people's longing for Jesus when they encounter us, and the Gospel of hope and good news we embody.

Folks were excited to see a man of God—and it seems a simple man at that. Pope Francis took the name of St. Francis who founded one of two mendicant (begging) orders in the 13th Century. The 'original' St. Francis once said, “We are called to

preach—if you must use words!” It seems the present Pope preached by his impromptu jaunts outside his Pope-mobile, allowing numerous 'selfies' to be taken with him, and caressing, blessing and bussing those physically contorted and misshapen individuals who were thrust to him—those who often in back of the crowd in our society. I could not help thinking of our Lord who made it a point to touch individuals—the lame, the leprous, the blind those with open sores and wounds—in ways that nursed them in to the human fold, although it was thought in Jesus' day that such physical contact tainted morally the person who did the touching. And yet we know ourselves that one embrace or kiss is far more comforting than a thousand phrases of love. To those broken by life. The Pope demonstrated as much. And our Lord calls us to do the same.

I also like Pope Francis' smile. It's somewhat impish. There was a scene in which he met a family who had traveled from his home country, Argentina, in a well worn VW Minivan. When they told him what they had done, he smiled and said something to the effect: “Are you crazy?” His response betokens humility as well as humor. Maybe what the world hungers for is just that: Humility. When I look at Scripture, it seems that God chooses those to serve him who'd rather be in the wings instead of center stage: Moses and Jeremiah come to mind. In fact those two didn't want to be in the

(Continued on page 2)

theater at all! Nevertheless God uses people not infatuated with their importance; an 'under-inflated ego', unlike a professional football, is a beautiful thing to behold. I think that's what we witnessed in Pope Francis: A man who did not aspire to be a pope.

Finally I liked that Pope Francis spoke in specifics instead of generalities when it came to pressing social issues. For instance he is a vocal critic of those who would pollute our atmosphere; he is a believer in global warming. I'm not a scientist but I've been on a number of high mountains in which the glaciers are disappearing. Having climbed Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania Africa, I'm convinced that Hemingway, who wrote that wonderful short story, "The Snows of Kilimanjaro," would not recognize the mountain since only gla-

cial slivers on or near the summit remain. He also spoke against capital punishment asking state governments to blend mercy with judgment. He even appealed for the life of a woman who was executed in Georgia, the day before I write. Thus he exemplifies a Christian's responsibility to face social issues head on, a tough task indeed.

Having witnessed a bit of Pope Francis' time here, I'm reminded that being a country pastor is challenge enough. How indeed he manages his schedule at 78 beggars my imagination!

Doc Bob

Doc Bob



In September we collected over \$450 to donate to our local Habitat for Humanity Chapter. This organization does direct hands on work here in our area. Currently, there are 12 homes in Kingston and Ellenville that have been built by volunteers and the new owners, using "sweat equity".

In November, we will be doing a collection for The Clinton Avenue warming shelter, so they have funds at the beginning of the winter season. Another thing we learned is that, according to the Salvation Army, "socks are the No. 1 most requested item among homeless people." There are several reasons for this.

Homeless people tend to be walking more so their socks wear out faster. Secondly, families want their children to appear well cared for and dressed for school, so when the budget gets tight, they will buy outer clothes and therefore not have enough socks and underwear. Finally, while people do think of donating used clothing, these items must be new.

To help address this need, we will have a box in Schadewald Hall for a collection of new socks and underwear. The best type of sock is tube socks. We will be focusing on adult sizes at this time, but will accept children's sizes, as well. If your budget allows, warm non-cotton socks will also be appreciated. Again, these need to be new items.



Thanks!

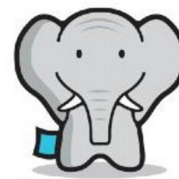
This is the season to give thanks.
Families gather around the table laden
with a bounty of food and give thanks.
But what about the rest of the year?
We need to give thanks to the Lord
for his love and many blessings.
The seasons may change but
the Lord is ever present.

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

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the date™

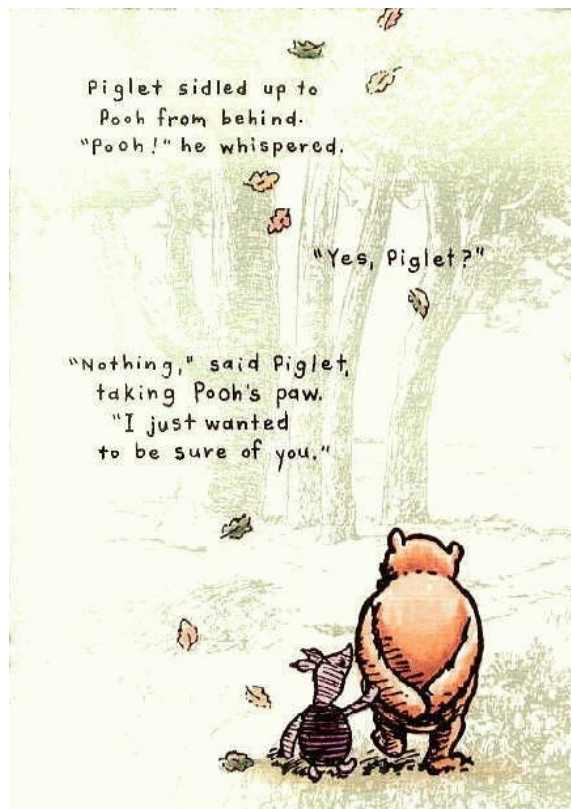
Annual Congregational Meeting

November 15, 2015

directly after worship service.

Celebrate 2015 and organize for 2016.

Light Refreshments



Women's Guild

November is here & that means...PECANS!!! Yes!! Pre-orders are done but we ordered extra!! They will be arriving soon so be on the lookout for them!! This year we have Plain, Milk & Dark Chocolate, and Cluster pecans. They are \$10 a bag. Be on the look out for them during coffee hour. Thanks to all of the ladies that did the calling for orders & Jean Dussol for organizing this!! Appreciate all of your support!!

We will be holding our annual Election Day Bake Sale on 11/3/15. We are in need of bakers. If you are available to assist please see Sandie Gregory to sign up or just drop off your baked good item on Tuesday 11/3/15. Thank you for your support & help!

Thank you to everyone for all of their support for Operation Christmas Child!! We still have a few more boxes available for folks to help fill them up by the 11/8/15 due to. Please see Sandie Gregory for information on this.

We will be decorating the alter for Thanksgiving in honor & memory of the ladies of our church. All of the fruits & vegetables that the alter will be full of will be donated to the local soup kitchen after the holiday. Thank you to Shirley Ruth & Helen Sgroi for assisting in getting this done.

Cookies...Cookies... Cookies... yes our annual Cookie Walk is just weeks away. More information on this in a few weeks. Please mark your calendars!

Our calendar of events:

- 11/3/15 Bake sale during Election Day Dinner
- 11/8/15 Operation Christmas Child boxes due
- 12/13/15 Cookie Walk

Wishing you & your family a Happy Thanksgiving,
Sandy Emrich-President

Youth Group News

Our group continues to thrive even though attendance has been low as a lot of our kids are band members and they are rehearsing at youth group meeting times. But we still have 4-5 kids that have been able to participate.

Our youth group has joined a Youth Group Collaborative. The purpose behind this group is, "gathering together to provide a high quality high-energy faith filled youth group for our teens surrounding the areas of education/worship, service, and fellowship."

This Collaborative has about 8 different youth groups that are meeting the 3rd Sunday of each month. Each church takes a turn hosting. We have participated in 2 meetings and the kids have had a great time. We will be hosting in April.

The youth group is working on fundraising for our mission trip this year.

Check out Kathleen's Guided Painting on November 14th!!

We do not have a destination as of yet but we are working on it. The kids are pretty open and excited about the opportunities that we are talking about. We were also blessed with an invitation from the The Living World Chapel to their movie night. The movie was Do You Believe. Their congregation was welcoming and we had a great time.

Thanksgiving is just around the corner so the youth group will be asking for donations to provide meals for families in the area that are in need. Last year we provided meals for 5 families.

We are blessed to have such great kids! Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers. Thanks so much for your continued support!

Christine Henning

November

Birthdays

Iris Cordero	3
Natalie Woodard	8
John Henning	10
Chloe Dumas	14
William Schaffrick	14
Anne Glass	15
Bill Merrill	16
Daniela Sumerano	16
Jay Burgess	17
Drew Milne	17
Julianna Schaffrick	17
Joe Burns	19

James Gregory	22
Kathy Musialkiewicz	23
Allan Dumas	28
Juanita Bilyou	29
Matthew Crosswell	30
Art Harder	30

ANNIVERSARIES

Todd & Julie Jordan	9
Leslie & Darryl Shambo	10
Shirley & Ron Burns	13
May & Peter Kowalenko	19
Mary & Ken Odell	23
Sandie & Jim Gregory	30



SAMARITAN'S PURSE®



Operation Christmas Child shoebox collection is underway. Back to school sales have hit the stores. Now is a great time to find bargains on crayons, pencils, markers, sharpeners, rulers, notepads, paper, etc. If you'd like someone to shop for you, contact Sandie Gregory at 338-7626.



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.

News Bytes

Information you should know ; Opportunities for Fellowship.



Join the Hurley Reformed Church Youth Group on Saturday, November 14, 2015 at 3:00pm in Schadewald Hall for a guided painting class! No experience necessary. The instructor will take you step by step through the process to paint your own masterpiece! The cost of the class is \$50 with proceeds going directly to the youth group. See or email Kathleen Mayfield (kathleen.e.mayfield@gmail.com) for more information or to sign up.



Looking for good fellowship?!

The Men's Group meets the third Wednesday of the month. Next meeting is November 18 at 7 pm.

Come hang with us.

See Wally Cook for details.



Prayer Shawl Ministry update....

Some of our dedicated needle workers are starting to fill up a basket in the Narthex with "Prayer Squares". Prayer squares, like the prayer shawls, are prayerfully knitted, crocheted, quilted, and embroidered by members of our congregation. If you feel the need of some extra prayer energy, please take a prayer square to carry with you in your pocket.



WOMEN'S Bible Study

The Women's Ministries Bible study group meets the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 1PM in the Dutch Room. Our continuing study is on the lives of women in the Bible and how their stories still speaks to us today. Light refreshments are served. For further information, call Nancy Sweeney at 336-5267 or e-mail her at sweeney.n11@gmail.com

Social Security and Medicare

Educational/informational meetings will be held in Schadewald Hall, at the Hurley Reformed Church, on Sunday, November 8th at 1:00 pm. 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

**Annual Election Day
Turkey Dinner**

**Tuesday
November 3, 2015**



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

**Tickets (Pre-event)
Adults: \$14
Children Under 12: \$7**

Tickets at the Door \$15/\$8

**Hurley Reformed
Church
For Reservations
Call: 331-4121**



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>10am - Worship @ 1</p> <p>11am - Prayer Chain @</p> <p>11am - SHD Committee</p> <p>2pm - baby shower @</p> <p>3pm - daisy girl scout</p>	<p>12:30pm - Basket</p> <p>3pm - Quilting @ Dutch</p> <p>5pm - Dog Training @</p> <p>7pm - Little League @</p> <p>7:30pm - Al-Anon @</p>	<p>9:30am - Guild Quilters</p> <p>9:30am - Badminton @</p> <p>11am - Balance for Life</p> <p>4pm - Hurley Purters @</p> <p>4:30pm - PC 101 @</p> <p>7pm - Bible Study @</p> <p>7pm - Boy Scouts Troop</p>	<p>7:30am - Bible Study @</p> <p>5:30pm - Dog Training</p> <p>6pm - Cub Scout Den @</p> <p>6pm - Den 1 Bears @</p> <p>6:30pm - Girl Scout</p> <p>7pm - Boy Scouts Troop</p> <p>7pm - Kingston Area</p>	<p>9:30am - Badminton @</p> <p>1:30pm - Hurley Senior</p> <p>4:45pm - Dog Training</p> <p>7pm - Sisters in</p> <p>7:30pm - 1st Capitol</p> <p>7:30pm - Choir</p>	<p>5pm - nursery school</p>	<p>6:30pm - English</p>
<p>10am - Worship @ 8</p> <p>11am - Women's</p>	<p>11am - VFW @ Dutch</p> <p>3pm - Quilting @ Dutch</p> <p>5pm - Dog Training @</p> <p>7pm - Consistory @</p> <p>7pm - Hudson Valley</p> <p>7:30pm - Al-Anon @</p>	<p>8:30am - Hillside Acres</p> <p>9:30am - Guild Quilters</p> <p>9:30am - Badminton @</p> <p>11am - Balance for Life</p> <p>1pm - Women's Bible</p> <p>4pm - Hurley Purters @</p> <p>7pm - Bible Study @</p>	<p>Veterans Day</p> <p>7:30am - Bible Study @</p> <p>5:30pm - Dog Training</p> <p>6pm - Cub Scout Den @</p> <p>6pm - Den 1 Bears @</p> <p>7:45pm - Bagpiper</p>	<p>9:30am - Badminton @</p> <p>10am - Little Garden</p> <p>4:45pm - Dog Training</p> <p>7pm - Sisters in</p> <p>7:30pm - Choir</p>	<p>7pm - Motorcycle Club</p>	<p>Youth Group</p> <p>10am - Genealogy @</p> <p>3pm - youth group</p> <p>6pm - rotarian dinner</p>
<p>10am - Worship @ 15</p> <p>11am - Annual</p> <p>3pm - daisy girl scout</p>	<p>10am - Genealogy @</p> <p>3pm - Quilting @ Dutch</p> <p>5pm - Dog Training @</p> <p>6pm - Hudson Valley</p> <p>7:30pm - Al-Anon @</p>	<p>9:30am - Guild Quilters</p> <p>9:30am - Badminton @</p> <p>11am - Balance for Life</p> <p>4pm - Hurley Purters @</p> <p>6pm - nursery school</p> <p>7pm - Bible Study @</p> <p>7pm - Boy Scouts Troop</p>	<p>7:30am - Bible Study @</p> <p>5:30pm - Dog Training</p> <p>6pm - Cub Scout Den @</p> <p>6pm - Den 1 Bears @</p> <p>7pm - Hurley Lions @</p> <p>7pm - men's group @</p> <p>7:45pm - Bagpiper</p>	<p>9am - 3rd District</p> <p>9:30am - Badminton @</p> <p>4:45pm - Dog Training</p> <p>7pm - NE WoodWorkers</p> <p>7pm - Sisters in</p> <p>7:30pm - Choir</p>		<p>9am - Woodworkers</p>
<p>10am - Worship @ 22</p> <p>11am - Women's Guild</p> <p>1pm - library</p>	<p>8:30am - library</p> <p>10:30am - Genealogy @</p> <p>1pm - Basket weaving</p> <p>3pm - Quilting @ Dutch</p> <p>5pm - Dog Training @</p> <p>5pm - library</p> <p>7:30pm - Al-Anon @</p>	<p>8:30am - library</p> <p>9:30am - Guild Quilters</p> <p>9:30am - Badminton @</p> <p>11am - Balance for Life</p> <p>1pm - Women's Bible</p> <p>4pm - Hurley Purters @</p> <p>5pm - library</p> <p>7pm - Bible Study @</p>	<p>7:30am - Bible Study @</p> <p>5:30pm - Dog Training</p> <p>6pm - Cub Scout Den @</p> <p>6pm - Den 1 Bears @</p> <p>7:45pm - Bagpiper</p>	<p>9:30am - Badminton @</p> <p>7pm - Sisters in</p> <p>7:30pm - Choir</p>		
<p>10am - Worship @ 29</p> <p>3pm - daisy girl scout</p>	<p>1pm - Basket Weaving</p> <p>3pm - Quilting @ Dutch</p> <p>5pm - Dog Training @</p> <p>7:30pm - Al-Anon @</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>

November 2015

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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

NOVEMBER 2015

THE SPIRE

