

# THE SPIRE



VOLUME 6, ISSUE 8

OCTOBER 2014

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I write shortly before Reformation Sunday, October 26. 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 Scrip-



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 Hohn Tetzel could fund raise by pronouncing that sould 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

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

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## CONSISTORY CORNER

October 2014

Fall has arrived. School has begun and the leaves are changing colors! A beautiful time in the Hudson Valley. Hope you are all enjoying it.

Dennis Croswell continues to work diligently on getting bids/proposals for repairing the windows in the church.

The By-laws have been revised and updated. The By-Laws committee did a great job on them. The Consistory approved them.

Fundraising is always a hot topic everywhere you go. The Consistory is always looking for new ways to raise money. If you have a fundraising idea please let a consistory member know about it.

Christine Henning



## Local Missions

Rebecca Masters, Chair

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me," Matthew 25:35

The Mission used the last of the money for kids in the motels to stock up on some juices, milks and other snack supplies for the kids. There is a small box in Schadewald Hall for donations of small bottles of shampoos, lotions, and other grooming items. Soap is NOT needed!

The Mission for October will be The Food Bank of the Hudson Valley. According to their website, "The Food Bank of the Hudson Valley is dedicated to alleviating hunger, while preventing the waste of wholesome food. It is a branch of the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York and a member of Feeding America, the national food bank network.... Working in partnership with the food industry, the Food Bank collects large donations of unmarketable but still edible food, and distributes it to charitable agencies feeding hungry people."

Our clothing shed continues to be successful. That income becomes part of the stream which will be used to evaluate our yearly tithing. Please remember: clothing, shoes, stuffed animals, sheets and blankets only. No household items books or toys. Thanks to Linda Dux and Diana Cline for their help in maintaining the shed.

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

# Women's Guild

Operation Christmas Child is in full swing. Sandie Gregory will be chairing this activity. What is Operation Christmas Child? It is simply giving 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. So, please see Sandie Gregory to get your box & fill it up. Thank you for help & support!!

Thank you so very much for everyone that brought in a mum for the altar on 9/14. The plants will now be planted around the church & it will look just as beautiful as the altar did. Thanks for your help.

Thank you to Barbara Kindt for organizing the making of 7 new curtains for downstairs as well as the purchase of 7 new blinds. Thank you to

everyone that helped sew those curtains. Thanks Bob Kindt for putting up the blinds. Another job well done!

On September 10 approximately 32 folks from Warwick Conference Center toured our town of Hurley. This is an annual event. They bring their own lunches & we give them beverages & desserts. Thank you to Shirley Burn & Natalie Woodard for being hostess this group. Thank you to everyone that baked a dessert. They mentioned that they might come twice a year in the future. Wow...what a great way to show off our church & town.

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!

Blessings,

Sandy Emrich-President

## Our calendar of events:

10/19 Meeting

11/16 Meeting

The seasons come and go...

come enjoy the beauty of the Columbarium

while the garden is still in full bloom.

Soon enough the leaves will start to fall

and autumn will be upon us.

This is the miracle that GOD gives to us –

for HE is everywhere – in the garden,

in our homes, and in our hearts.

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## STICKLEY GARDENS

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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.

(LOCATED ON THE SOUTH LAWN OF THE CHURCH)

# 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

# OCTOBER

## BIRTHDAYS

Sandra Gregory	1	Charlotte Gill	9
Kyle Davenport	2	Sierra Butler	15
Lucas Hopper	2	Marilyn More	15
Amy Ryan	2	Diana Cline	17
Megan Quezer	2	Lorraine Denis	18
Christa Conlin	3	Jasper Fox , Jr	19
Leigh Hill	4	Ryan Milne	20
Alissa Sumerano	5	Nita Rockwell	20
Muriel Ferraro	6	Ron Chrissey	20
William Henning	7	Julia Tucker	21
Hannah Shambo	8	Katie Christiana	22
Terry Gaffken	10	Sarah Harder	22
Steve Bliss	10	Kelsey Christiana	24
Eric Sullivan	10	Linda Cook	25
Stanley Brooks	14	Helen Webber	26
		Julia Helm	27
		Jordan Cline	28
		Nancy Sweeney	28

## Anniversaries

Pat & Robin Brennan	3
Kathy & Craig Jansen	7
Charles & Collette Woodard	8
Ron & Ann Every	9
Linda & Dick Shook	10
Jack & Charlotte Gill	15
Herb & Lois Morehouse	16
Wndy & Steve Helsey	19
John & Marianne Mizel	21
Bill & Peg Baldinger	22
Terry & John Gaffken	23
Emily & Art Harder	26
Betty & Jim Pirro	30



## GOLF TOURNAMENT

The annual HRC Golf Tournament was held on Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup>. 26 golfers took to Alapaha for a fun afternoon followed by a buffet at the Hurley Mountain Inn (35 attended). Prizes were awarded to Joy O'Connor for women's closest to the pin; Marilyn Lowe for women's longest drive; Eric Mellin for men's longest drive; (none of the men landed on the green for closest to the pin!). And for the lowest score overall on the par 30 course, the winning team with 30 was Marilyn Lowe, Helen Sgroi, Dennis Crosswell and Gary Brandt. Second place with a 32 was Doug Constant, Freida Constant and Terry Conlin. Thanks from the Committee for everyone who took part. It was a great afternoon of fellowship.



# News Bytes

Information you should know ; Opportunities for Fellowship.

## YOUTH GROUP NEWS

The first youth group meeting will be at the church on October 5 from 7-8:30. This will be a planning meeting for the upcoming year. (There will also be fun games too).

The HRC Youth **Group** is looking forward to providing fellowship, community, and God's message to children in grades 6-12 (**please note: it will no longer be from grade 5**).

**Parents: please make sure to fill out contact information when dropping your child off.**

We will be meeting the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month from 7-8:30 at the HRC.

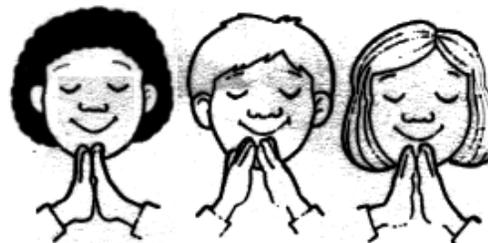
Hope to see you there!

Christine Henning

## WOMEN'S MINISTRY:

The Women's Ministries is going to be meeting on Sunday, October 5, 2014 after service to begin to do what the LORD intended for us to do. Our Mission Statement is: "To serve God by being a shining beam of light extending hope to women from all walks of life and by sharing His love". All women from our church are invited to this meeting as we plan how we are going to go about our Father's business.

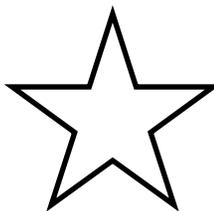
Deb Zuill  
Chairperson



## KUDOS

**T**

O Christine Henning.



Christine is has been chosen and is being honored by the YWCA as Youth Advocate for the year 2014 as part of their Tribute to Women. Congratulations, Christine!!

**P**

ayer Chain will not meet in October because of the Women's Ministries meeting.

# October 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sa
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
10am - Worship @ 11am - Prayer Chain 1pm - Hal's Social	1pm - basket 5pm - Dog Training 7pm - Little League 7:30pm - Al-Anon @	<b>Ordination</b> 9:30am - Badminton 4pm - Hurley Purlers 4:30pm - PC 101 @ 7pm - Bible Study @ 7pm - Boy Scouts 7pm - SCLS @ Room	7:30am - Bible 5:30pm - Dog 6pm - Cub Scout 6pm - Den 1 Bears @ 6:30pm - Girl Scout 7pm - Boy Scouts	9:30am - Badminton 1:30pm - Hurley 3pm - Quilting @ 4:45pm - Dog 7:30pm - 1st Capitol 7:30pm - Choir	<b>myer school</b> 1pm - Woodworkers	8am - Wood
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10am - Worship @ 11am - Prayer Chain 1pm - Hal's Social	1pm - basket 5pm - Dog Training 7pm - Little League 7:30pm - Al-Anon @	<b>Ordination</b> 9:30am - Badminton 4pm - Hurley Purlers 4:30pm - PC 101 @ 7pm - Bible Study @ 7pm - Boy Scouts 7pm - SCLS @ Room	7:30am - Bible 5:30pm - Dog 6pm - Cub Scout 6pm - Den 1 Bears @ 7pm - Local 1582 @ 7:45pm - Bagpiper	9:30am - Badminton 3pm - Quilting @ 4:45pm - Dog 7:30pm - Choir	<b>myer school</b> 5:30pm - Wedding @ 7pm - Motorcycle	8:30am - F 10am - Gen 3pm - Wed
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
10am - Worship @	11am - VFW @ 1pm - Basket 5pm - Dog Training 7pm - Consistory @ 7pm - Hudson Valley 7:30pm - Al-Anon @	8:30am - Hillside 9:30am - Badminton 9:30am - Hospital 4pm - Hurley Purlers 7pm - Bible Study @ 7pm - Boy Scouts 7pm - SCLS @ Room	7:30am - Bible 5:30pm - Dog 6pm - Cub Scout 6pm - Den 1 Bears @ 7pm - Hurley Lions 7pm - Men's Group 7:45pm - Bagpiper	9:30am - Badminton 3pm - Quilting @ 4:45pm - Dog 7pm - NE 7:30pm - Choir	<b>2pm - Wedding setup @ Hall</b>	11am - Wed
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
10am - Worship @ 11am - Women's 12:30pm - Stone	10am - Flu clinic @ 10am - Genealogy @ 5pm - Dog Training 7:30pm - Al-Anon @	9:30am - Badminton 4pm - Hurley Purlers 6:30pm - Nursery 7pm - Bible Study @ 7pm - Boy Scouts	7:30am - Bible 5:30pm - Dog 6pm - Cub Scout 6pm - Den 1 Bears @ 7:45pm - Bagpiper	9:30am - Badminton 3pm - Quilting @ 4:45pm - Dog 7:30pm - Choir	3pm - Children's	4pm - Kick
26	27	28	29	30	31	
10am - Worship @ 2pm - Wedding	10:30am - Genealog 5pm - Dog Training 7:30pm - Al-Anon @	9:30am - Badminton 4pm - Hurley Purlers 7pm - Bible Study @ 7pm - Boy Scouts 7pm - SCLS @ Room	7:30am - Bible 5:30pm - Dog 6pm - Cub Scout 6pm - Den 1 Bears @ 7:45pm - Bagpiper	9:30am - Badminton 3pm - Quilting @ 4:45pm - Dog 7:30pm - Choir		

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

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OCTOBER 2014  
HURLEY REFORMED CHURCH  
Hurley New York 12443  
The Rev. Dr. Robert L. Gram, LCSW  
Pastor

