

THE SPIRE

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 9

OCTOBER 2015



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As you may have already heard from our Senior Elder, Wally Cook, in church this summer, the Hurley Reformed Church has received a grant of 30,000 dollars to enable me to participate in the 2015 National Clergy Renewal Program. Our church is one of 144 congregations across the country selected to participate in this competitive grant program which is funded by Lily Endowment Inc. and administered by Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis. I am the only Reformed Church pastor to receive this award in 2015, although two clergy in our Classis of Mid-Hudson received it previously.

The Lily Foundation Grant is collaborative in nature and implementation, allowing pastors—usually after 7 or 8 years of service—to partner with their congregations for growth experiences which are mutually interactive in nature. Although the grant provides opportunity for time away from the daily demands of ministry in order to engage in reflection, spiritual discernment and renewal for the pastor, the second component provides time to understand the unique needs, goals, and aspirations of the congregation which can go unnoticed during a pastor's presence. Thus it is hoped that my time away next year, from June 2 until September 2, will provide the space for the church to grow into the future while understanding where we have come, particularly during my 8 year pastorate. Indeed

during my time away our congregation needs to embody some of the dreams and goals I have worked for during my tenure with you.

The purpose for pursuing this renewal program is as follows:

To challenge myself physically, developing a muscular faith by road biking across America, from San Francisco to Portsmouth, and from the grist, or should I say grit, return to my writing ministry which has lain dormant because of pastoral exigencies. I plan on maintaining contact with our fellowship as I journey along the way. The ride has pastoral implications when I return. First I hope to affirm senior citizens in the fact that age is no barrier to accomplishing goals which God has set for us. I would like to take my message to nursing homes and assisted living facilities as well as to our congregation to show that God's power overcomes our perceived and often real sense of physical weakness as we age. As the Apostle Paul states, "I can do all things in Christ". I will hold that verse in my heart as I peddle eastward.

Successful completion of the ride also gives me cachet into the cycling community where I intend to do some evangelizing among riders who are unbelievers. Third as a member of the Classis human support committee, I have volunteered my social

(Continued on page 2)

work services to counsel ministers and their families. An extension of this ministry would be to provide lectures, and perhaps a therapeutically led group in order to talk about the importance of exercise, along with diet and sleep. Several years ago JAMA, one of the leading medical journals, noted that Protestant clergy's dubious claim to fame is that, as a profession, they have one of the worst health records. Obesity and high blood pressure, in particular, abounds. This ride will confirm that it need not be, and that physically active pastors have much more to offer their congregation.

The ride will also be a means of raising funds for the charitable causes we support. Beside our Mission of the Month, we tithe to worthy causes at the end of the year. I would like to challenge folks outside our fellowship to contribute a penny a mile as I wend my way across America, donating it to one of our housing shelters or the food pantries we support. Certainly this would save us money from our budget for the tithe we give faithfully—we'd be just doing a little more outsourcing in our funding efforts!

A second congregational purpose for my absence would be to implement what I have been working on since I began my ministry here in 2008. When I first arrived at Hurley, the Senior Elder at the time asked me if I could teach him as well as the congregation how to lead. I have tried to do this by acknowledging congregational gifts which I don't possess, and allowing individual, and God-given initiative free reign to shape congregational trajectories. In other words I believe God called me to initiate a horizontal leadership model in which the pastor sights the future, and goal but allows individuals and groups to assay and work toward the vision in ways which honor the various gifts God has given all of us. My time away will allow the congregation to carry out the dreams and plans which I believe are inherent to our growth as a congregation faithful to the work and witness of Jesus Christ. In my absence, for example, lay leadership will emerge in all aspects of congregational life, more so, I believe, than when I'm on board. This is a good thing. In fact it's profoundly biblical.

One specific project in which I have invested myself since the beginning when on Dec. 25, 2008 I hosted a Christmas Eve party at the parsonage is that, as loving as we are, we do not practice a ministry of hospitality as much as we should given the biblical mandate to do so. What I have tried to model with a host of parsonage parties is the need for fellowship over food and drink. This idea must ramify beyond the parsonage. How do we open the pantry doors of our homes as well as our hearts to one another? Next summer the parsonage will be closed so that you will be 'forced' to make that invitational effort yourselves—along with guidance from a steering committee which is working in this area as I write!

In this line, the foundation grant will provide me time to hone my own cooking skills which have eroded for reasons I cannot explain. Nevertheless I need a refresher course or a dozen in order to do what I have done here and in previous churches—to help the church financially by making gourmet dinners. The foundation has also provided funds so that when I return we'll have a real bash at the parsonage in which I'll cook the recipes (mostly seafood) which I will learn at the Stone Wall Cooking School in York Maine. Thus part of clergy renewal dovetails into what we are known for: Homemade soups, cookie walks, bake sales, big breakfasts, etc. A congregation which eats together meets together—or something to that effect!

I'm sure this is a lot of information to digest. Three months may seem a long time without me, although some detractors may say it's not long enough!

Again, the committee and I are working hard so that next summer promises to be groundbreaking and exciting for all of us.

In Christ's service,

Doc Bob
Doc Bob



Missions Report:

Our young people's trip to New Mexico gave us the idea for the October Mission. We will be collecting money to help buy a new refrigerator for the Jicarilla Reformed Church Kitchen. Like our Church, theirs is often the center of activities and yet they do not have the fully equipped kitchen that we have.

Rebecca Masters
Missions Committee



Construction...

We are making a mess and cleaning it up!

By reworking the fountain,
we are creating a self-maintaining area.
All of our efforts are pointed toward
preserving the beauty of this area
for generations to come.

Please be patient as we get through
the current phase of construction.

Thanks!

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 LAKE OF THE CHURCH)

Thank you

for your support of the Chicken & Pulled Pork BBQ. Because of you we raised \$546 (after expenses). Because of you we collected 56 can goods for the Caring Hands Soup Kitchen. Because of your help we brought new people to the church & showed with the good things that this church can do & does do.

A thank you to the folks that helped make this event possible:

David Kent	Sonnie Howe
Sarah & Lisa Longto	Linda Dux
David & Charles Emrich	Jim Pirro
Jim Mayfield	Marilyn More
Rebecca Masters	Bill Beesmer
Nancy Sweeney	

So, thank you...thank you...thank you!!! I appreciate your support!!!

Sandy Emrich

**BIRTHDAYS**

Sandra Gregory	1
Kyle Davenport	2
Lucas Hopper	2
Amy Ryan	2
Christa Conlin	3
Leigh Hill	4
Alissa Sumerano	5
Muriel Ferraro	6
William Henning	7
Hannah Shambo	8
Charlotte Gill	9

Terry Gaffken	10	ANNIVERSARIES	
Steve Bliss	10	Pat & Robin Brennan	3
Eric Sullivan	10	Kathy & Craig Jansen	7
Stanley Brooks	14	Charles & Colette Woodard	8
Sierra Butler	15	Ron & Ann Every	9
Marilyn More	15	Linda & Dick Shook	10
Diana Cline	17	Herb & Lois Morehouse	16
Lorraine Denis	18	Wendy & Steve Helsey	19
Jasper Fox, Jr.	19	John & Marianne Mizel	21
Nita Rockwell	20	Emily & Art Harder	26
Ryan Milne	20	Betty & Jim Pirro	30
Ron Chrisey	20		
Julia Tucker	21		
Katie Christiana	22		
Sarah Harder	22		
Kelsey Christiana	24		
Linda Cook	25		
Julia Helm	27		
Jordan Cline	28		
Nancy Sweeney	28		



Thank you to David Kent for helping to check on the clothing shed.



I would like to thank everyone that participated in my SPCA drive over the weekend of August 29th. The drive is now finished (Please do not leave any more items) and we have raised over 1000 items for the SPCA, supplying their organization for about a year. Thank you to everyone who participated in my Eagle Scout Project. – Sam Cohen, Life Scout, Troup 20 BSA

Women's Guild

October is here. The leaves are changing & falling. The weather is getting cooler & the Guild is planning for the holidays already...WHAT...you read it right...holidays...they are just weeks away & we are going to help you make them a little easier with Pecan Sales, Poinsettia Sales, & Cookie Walk. We are here to help you out!!

On September 15 we hosted a group of Warwick Conference visitors to the Hurley area to refreshments & desserts while they ate their boxed lunches. This group comes annually this time of year & we are thrilled to be able to host them. Thank you to the ladies that hosted them while they were in our area: Natalie Woodard, Sandie Gregory, Linda Shook, Joyce Pinckney & Barbara Sartorius.

Pecan Sales will be coming. If you haven't received a call in regards to what you would like to order you will be very soon. But, if by chance you don't receive a call for an order and would like to place an order please give me a call(Sandy 687-4006) so we can add you to our calling list. This year we will be selling Plain, Milk & Dark Chocolate, and Cluster pecans. These will make great additions to your baking & gift giving!

Operation Christmas Child is a great organization & we are thrilled that we once again will be able to help children in other parts of the region. See Sandie for information on how to fill your box. Thank you for your help.

Our calendar of events:	10/18/15	Meeting
	11/8/15	Operation Christmas Child boxes due
	11/22/15	Meeting

God Bless,
Sandy Emrich-President

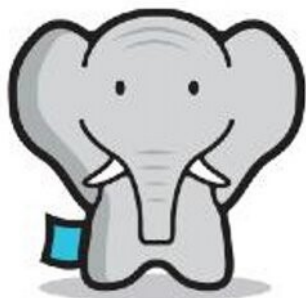
SAMARITAN'S PURSE®



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.

News Bytes

Information you should know ; Opportunities for Fellowship.



remember
the date™

Election Day Turkey Dinner

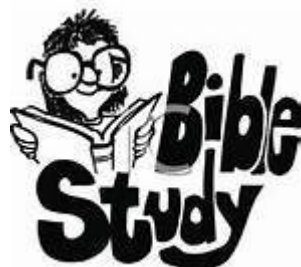
An annual tradition: **November 3, 2015**

4:30 –6:30 Pm

Call for Reservations: 845-331-4121

Fall Clean Up Day, October 24, 2015.

There are lots of projects; something for everyone to do. More information to come. See Dennis Croswell.



October 7, 14, 21, and 28, 2015

CRIMINAL CHRISTOLOGIES: THE NAZIFICATION OF JESUS

The “Classics in Religion” Reading Group will venture into a new area for October. Instead of reading “the best” of a particular tradition, the group will explore a “bent” tradition using Christian language and symbols. On October 7, 14, 21, and 28, gatherings will focus on Jesus' transfiguration by Nazi ideologues into a Teutonic Savior free of Jewish taint. Through the speeches and writings of Joseph Goebbels, Heinrich Himmler, Alfred Rosenberg and Adolf Hitler the series will explore Nazi interpretations of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, and how “Jesus” became useful to Nazi aims. Nineteenth century philosophical and theological underpinnings for a Nazi Christ will also be explored such as Nietzsche's Birth and Genealogy of Morals. The leader of this series will be the Rev. Dr. Robert L. Gram, pastor of the Hurley Reformed Church. Meeting: Kingston Library.



This is the topic of the Tuesday evening and Wednesday morning bible study in October. October 13 and 20, 7:00 pm. Dutch Room.

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 October 21 at 7 pm. Come hang with us. See Wally Cook for details.



To All the Ladies who are a part of the Prayer Shawl Ministry,

I would like to say thank you for the lovely shawls, 3 to be exact, that were given to persons who were in dire need of feeling God's love around them. I personally saw to each one receiving and to see the joy, smile and tears were well worth it. I pray that you ladies continue to be a blessing to all who use your Ministry to let others know how much God loves them and that they are not alone.

Sincerely,
Deb Zuill

Hurley

Hurley

HURLEY AND HURLEY Many of you will remember the Hurley, England, folks who came here in 1994 to help us celebrate the 325th anniversary of the naming of our Hurley after theirs in 1669. In August, Carol Reynolds invited them to a get-together--for me an unforgettable "re-union". Those able to be there: Margaret and Peter Jackson, John and Ann Powell, Sir Brian and Lady Phyllis Smith, Ian Miller, Venetia Worthington, John and Rosemary Slater, and John and Jan Ad-discot. They all said to say "hello" to everybody. "Hello, everybody" from your friends in Hurley, England! --

Don Kent



WOMEN'S Bible Study

The Women's Ministries Bible study group meets October 6 and October 20 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



When I Say I Am A Christian

When I say ... "I am a Christian,"
I'm not shouting "I am saved"
I'm whispering "I was lost!"
That is why I chose this way."

When I say... "I am a Christian,"
I don't speak of this with pride.
I'm confessing that I stumble and need someone to be my guide.

When I say... "I am a Christian,"
I'm not trying to be strong.
I'm professing that I'm weak and pray for strength to carry on.

When I say... "I am a Christian,"
I'm not bragging of success.
I'm admitting I have failed and cannot ever pay the debt.

When I say... "I am a Christian,"
I'm not claiming to be perfect,
My flaws are too visible but God believes I'm worth it.

When I say... "I am a Christian,"
I still feel the sting of pain.
I have my share of heartaches which is why I seek His name.

When I say... "I am a Christian,"
I do not wish to judge.
I have no authority I only know I'm loved.

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October 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
10am - Worship @ 11am - Prayer Chain @ 11am - SHD Committee @ 3pm - daisy girl scout troop	4 1pm - basket weaving class 3pm - Quilting @ Dutch 5pm - Dog Training @ Hall 7pm - Little League @ 7:30pm - Al-Anon @ Room	5 9:30am - Guild Quilters @ 11am - Balance for Life @ 1pm - women's bible study 4pm - Hurley Purfers @ 4:30pm - PC 101 @ Dutch 7pm - Boy Scouts Troop 20	6 9:30am - Guild Quilters @ 11am - Balance for Life @ 1pm - women's bible study 4pm - Hurley Purfers @ 4:30pm - PC 101 @ Dutch 7pm - Boy Scouts Troop 20	7 Ordination 7:30am - Bible Study @ 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 7pm - Men's group @ dutch 7:45pm - Bagpiper Drum	8 4:45pm - Dog Training @ 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @	9 7pm - Motorcycle Club @
10am - Worship @ 11am - Women's Ministry @ 12:30pm - baptism party	11 Columbus Day 11am - VFW @ Dutch Room 1pm - basket weaving class 3pm - Quilting @ Dutch 5pm - Dog Training @ Hall 7pm - Consistory @ Dutch 7pm - Hudson Valley 7:30pm - Al-Anon @ Room	12 8:30am - Hillside Acres 9:30am - Guild Quilters @ 9:30am - Badminton @ 9:30am - card party -- 11am - Balance for Life @ 4pm - Hurley Purfers @ 7pm - Bible Study @ Dutch 7pm - Boy Scouts Troop 20	13 7:30am - Bible Study @ 5:30pm - Dog Training @ 6pm - Cub Scout Den @ 6pm - Den 1 Bears @ Room 7pm - Local 1582 @ Room 9 7:45pm - Bagpiper Drum	14 9:30am - Badminton @ 4:45pm - Dog Training @ 5:30pm - Senior Citizens' 7pm - NE WoodWorkers @ 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @	15 4pm - NWA woodworker	16 8am - NWA woodworker
10am - Worship @ 11am - Women's Guild @ 3pm - daisy girl scout troop	18 9:30am - Flu Clinic -- Ulster 10am - Genealogy @ Rooms 3pm - Quilting @ Dutch 5pm - Dog Training @ Hall 6pm - Hudson Valley 6pm - nursery school board 7:30pm - Al-Anon @ Room	19 9:30am - Guild Quilters @ 9:30am - Badminton @ 11am - Balance for Life @ 1pm - Women's Bible Study 4pm - Hurley Purfers @ 7pm - Bible Study @ Dutch 7pm - Boy Scouts Troop 20	20 7:30am - Bible Study @ 5:30pm - Dog Training @ 6pm - Cub Scout Den @ 6pm - Den 1 Bears @ Room 7pm - Hurley Lions @ Dutch 7:45pm - Bagpiper Drum	21 9:30am - Badminton @ 4:45pm - Dog Training @ 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @	22 5pm - Indian Folk Dance @	23 clean up day 4pm - Boy Scouts Camping
10am - Worship @	25 10:30am - Genealogy @ 3pm - Quilting @ Dutch 5pm - Dog Training @ Hall 7:30pm - Al-Anon @ Room	26 9:30am - Guild Quilters @ 9:30am - Badminton @ 11am - Balance for Life @ 4pm - Hurley Purfers @ 7pm - Bible Study @ Dutch 7pm - Boy Scouts Troop 20	27 7:30am - Bible Study @ 5:30pm - Dog Training @ 6pm - Cub Scout Den @ 6pm - Den 1 Bears @ Room 7:45pm - Bagpiper Drum	28 9:30am - Badminton @ 4:45pm - Dog Training @ 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @	29 5pm - Ghost Walk Hurley	30 Halloween
10am - Worship @	26 10:30am - Genealogy @ 3pm - Quilting @ Dutch 5pm - Dog Training @ Hall 7:30pm - Al-Anon @ Room	27 9:30am - Guild Quilters @ 9:30am - Badminton @ 11am - Balance for Life @ 4pm - Hurley Purfers @ 7pm - Bible Study @ Dutch 7pm - Boy Scouts Troop 20	28 7:30am - Bible Study @ 5:30pm - Dog Training @ 6pm - Cub Scout Den @ 6pm - Den 1 Bears @ Room 7:45pm - Bagpiper Drum	29 9:30am - Badminton @ 4:45pm - Dog Training @ 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @	30 5pm - Ghost Walk Hurley	31 Halloween

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

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