

THE SPIRE

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 8

OCTOBER 2016



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I arrived home at 7:00 p.m. on September 2nd. After unpacking I walked around our beautiful church. I do that nearly every evening because for me a most beautiful site is our church steeple. I can't appreciate it unless I view it from a variety of angles. I saw many churches on my three month clergy renewal program, but Hurley Reformed by far is the most beautiful. Our steeple seemed to call me, "Where have you been?" I tried to explain as best I could why I had been absent. The steeple offered forgiveness, but added, "Don't ever let it happen again." I promised to be faithful, and noted that no other steeple had taken her place. Being a spire with a healthy self-image, she responded that no other steeple could supplant her. I mentioned further that she was more famous than she may have thought. "I know", she said. "I graced the cover of a New York State tourist magazine back in the Fifties. The photo was taken on a beautiful snowy day so that I really glistened in the sun. I was glorious". I noted that she was also famous because her slender self served as backdrop for one of Winslow Homer's most famous paintings, "Snap the Whip". She was surprised. I explained that the artist depicted a scene of schoolchildren at play, and lo and behold, behind the simple red school and teachers overseeing recess was Herself. "You're in the background but there you are nonetheless." She beamed and offered greater forgiveness for the prodigal pastor.

I told her that she had always been a beacon of hope, and I believe that's why Homer included her. The artist completed his masterpiece in 1872, and it called a nation weary from the carnage of the Civil War to a new hope of children at play, overseen by the steeple of the Hurley Reformed

Church. I told her that she would always be a pinnacle of hope to everyone in need of what she indeed stands for. "Thank you, thank you for making my evening. May I ask one favor?" "Anything," I replied. "How about a Top Ten of the Joys you discovered on your three month journey without me." "Your wish is my command", I noted.

And then, feeling as if she had been restored to her rightful place in my heart she said I should offer a Top Ten of joys I experienced.

10. Gluttony is a virtue when one cycles most of the day, day after day.
9. Nothing is better than ice cold water when the temperature exceeds 110 on the plains of Kansas.
8. The joy of learning how to walk without tipping since marathon cycling re-calibrates one's equilibrium.
7. Eating and living in silence for most of the day at St. Anselm's monastery, Goffstown, New Hampshire.
6. Worshipping daily at St. Anselm's (6:00 am Vigils and Lauds; Noon worship; Vespers 5:30 Compline 7:30)
5. Hospitality graciously, and unstintingly given by the Benedictine Brothers as well as sizing me up for one of their floor length black robes.
4. Falling asleep during cooking demonstrations at the Stone Wall Cooking School in York, Maine because one eats three course meals during lectures.
3. Celebrating the cross country journey with my children and grandchildren at a special barbecue for all of the cyclists and their families and friends.

(Continued on page 2)



Winslow Homer, Snap the Whip

October Events

2. Spending unstructured time with my grandchildren.

1. Seeing all of you again.

Special thanks to Jon McGrew, our 'tech' genius, for the weekly videos he created outlining my cycling journey. He also visited me at St. Anselm's to celebrate my 25,000 day birthday, which would have slipped by me!

Yours in Christ,

Doc Bob

Doc Bob

| | |
|---------------|--|
| October 2 | Fall Picnic at Parsonage |
| October 4, 18 | Women's Ministries Bible Study |
| October 6 | Hurley Senior Citizens |
| October 7 | Facing Something New: Simple Kitchen Comfort Sponsored by Hurley Library |
| October 7 | Anniversary of Rev. Gram's Ordination |
| October 21 | Movies with Meaning/ Potluck Dinner |
| October 28 | Hurley Heritage Society Ghost Walk |



The Missions committee has been busy shopping. With over \$500 to spend for the supplies for the Pregnancy Support Center, it took three shop-

ping carts and quite a while to check out at the register!

More juice boxes were purchased for the kids in the Shelter Motels. There's a week or two between summer programs for kids and return to school. In addition, while these students qualify for free and reduced lunch and breakfast, the younger kids often do not have anything for their school snack time.

Our September Mission for the Month was to help those communities in southern Louisiana affected by the flooding. This flood is considered to be the *worst natural disaster to strike the United States since Hurricane Sandy* four years ago. We will collect for Second Harvest Food Bank of Southern Louisiana. It is a four star rated Charity. Their supplies have taken a hit during this crisis and will take a long time to recoup.

The Missions committee is working with Sandy Emrich to coordinate our Christmas "Mitten Tree" collection. The October Mission money will be used to supplement items for the mitten tree collection. We need to collect early so the funds will be available when needed.

Rebecca Masters



Prayer Chain meets on the first Sunday of the month directly after worship and fellowship. If you have something to bring to our attention, see Debbie Zuill.

YOUTH GROUP

So we are in October and we have big plans for the youth group this year. We will be participating in Youth Fusion again this year. That is the Youth group collaborative that meets once a month. There are 8 churches participating. We will be hosting an overnight this year in January.

After a lot of research, we have decided to move forward with a mission trip to Whitesburg, KY for July 2017. Kathleen has been in contact with the RCA and it was agreed upon that HOMES (housing oriented ministries for service) would be a good match for our group. This is the link to their website: <http://www.homeseky.com>

We are looking to go in the middle of July. For fundraising, we have started with the Hoffman car wash fundraiser, we get 50% of all proceeds. We are also doing the Brooks BBQ the last Tuesday of February.

The kids wanted to get together before November so we will be going to Kelder's Farms to spend the day having some Fall fun.

I would like to thank Kathleen for all the planning she has done.

Christine Henning and Kathleen Mayfield

The Ever-Changing Garden

As autumn overtakes us and the trees become bursts of multicolored light as if in adoration of the one who created all things. It is Heaven's canvas that is always on display.

Visit Stickley Gardens and allow yourself to see God's handiwork and feel the peacefulness of His love.

Enjoy the Serenity.

STICKLEY GARDENS

FOR MORE INFORMATION - CONTACT ANY OF THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

LISA LONGO (331-1438) CHAIRPERSON
JIM PIRRO (383-0079) TREASURER
ESTHER STICKLEY (331-2919)
SANDIE GREGORY (338-7626)
KATHY JANSEN, CONSISTORY LIAISON
REV STICKLEY, SECRETARY

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

October

BIRTHDAYS

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

ANNIVERSARIES

| | |
|---------------------------|----|
| Pat & Robin Brennan | 3 |
| Kathy & Craig Jansen | 7 |
| Charles & Colette Woodard | 8 |
| Ron & Ann Every | 9 |
| Linda & Dick Shook | 10 |
| Herb & Lois Morehouse | 16 |
| Wendy & Steve Helsey | 19 |
| John & Marianne Mizel | 21 |
| Emily & Art Harder | 26 |
| Betty & Jim Pirro | 30 |



Exercise — Keeping Up with Your Grandchildren!



“My grandchildren run me around a lot,” says Irene, age 66. “I’m not complaining. But to keep up with them, I have to exercise every day. I want to be ready for those guys.”

Irene knows that one of the greatest benefits of exercise is being able to do the things you love. Being active with those special young ones in your life can mean extra time to develop shared interests. Start being active together when your grandchildren are young. Pretty soon, it will be a regular part of your life and theirs!

If you’re the grandparent of a baby or toddler, you can still be active together. Push the stroller around the neighborhood or to the park. Play games that get your bodies moving – rolling a ball on the floor can be fun and active. Sign up for baby yoga or baby-friendly swimming classes.

School-aged children are always on the go. Walk to the park together and push their swing. Go to the pool or ride bikes together. Play catch, kickball, basketball, or soccer. Play a video fitness game together and see who wins!

If you’re not quite sure how to be active with a teen or young adult grandchild, find out what activities they enjoy. Try hiking, fishing, skating, or tennis. Go golfing or swimming. Ask them to help you in the yard or with heavy-duty household chores.

To find out more about how you can be more active, visit the **Go4Life®** website at www.nia.nih.gov/Go4Life. **Go4Life** is an exercise and physical activity campaign from the National Institute on Aging at NIH. It has exercises, success stories, and free materials to help you get ready, start exercising, and keep going.

WOMEN'S GUILD

October is here. The weather is getting cooler, the leaves are changing & the Guild is planning for the holidays already. Yes the 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 21 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, Shirley Burns, & Joyce Pinckney. A HUGE thank you to Jim Gregory for setting up & breaking down our tables for this. Last but not least thank you to the bakers Natalie Woodard, Gretchen Giles, Marilyn Moore, & Alyson Rafferty.

Pecan Sales are going on. 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 by 10/16/16 and would like to place an order please give me a call(Sandy 687-4006) so we can add your order to our pre-sale list. We will be selling Plain, Milk & Dark Chocolate, and Cluster pecans at \$10 per bag. The holidays are coming fast & you don't want to miss out on these great additions! Plus they make great gifts &/or stocking stuffers.

Operation Christmas Child is going on. This 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.

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!

Our calendar of events:

| | |
|-------------|------------------------|
| November 8 | Election Day Bake Sale |
| November 20 | Meeting |
| December 10 | Cookie Walk Setup |
| December 11 | Cookie Walk |

God Bless,

Sandy Emrich-President



Since 1993, more than 100 million boys and girls in over 130 countries have experienced God's love through the power of simple shoebox gifts from Operation Christmas Child. **Shoe boxes are here.** Fill your shoe box with school supplies, hygiene items, toys, or perhaps you could knit a hat. If you prefer someone else do the shopping for you, contact Sandie Gregory, 338-7626. Shoe boxes will be placed on the altar on November 13.



Looking for good fellowship?!

The Men's Group meets the third Wednesday of the month. Next meeting is October 19 at 7 pm. Come hang with us. See Wally Cook for details.

News Bytes

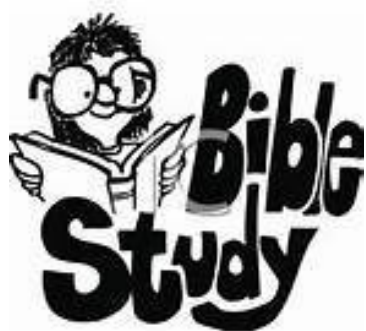
Information you should know ; Opportunities for Fellowship.



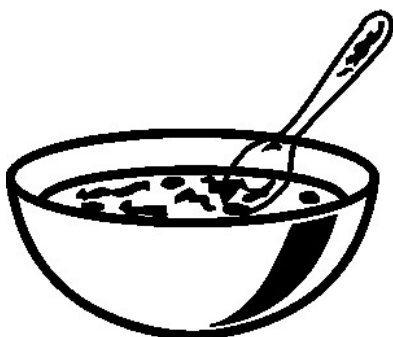
AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support Hurley Reformed Church every time you shop at smile.amazon.com. You'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible purchases. This is an easy way to support the Church while you shop.



Thank you to all that wished me well for my recovery from my recent stroke. The visits, cards and phone calls were appreciated. Thank you all for the prayers and concerns. Ron Every



Women's Ministry Bible Study is studying the book Really Bad Girls of the Bible by Liz Curtis Higgs. Women's Ministry Bible Study meets every other Tuesday at 1pm in the Dutch Room. For more information, contact Nancy Sweeney.



The Soup Elves are back in business. Soup Sunday is October 16. Bring your containers labeled with your name to the kitchen on Saturday, October 15.

Forward 3, Contacts, Hurley Reformed Church

Oct 2016 (Eastern Time

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|--|---|---|---|--------------------|
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 1 |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 10am - Worship @ 11am - Prayer Chain @ 11am - SHD Committee 3pm - party with Rev | 3pm - Quilting @ Dutch 5pm - Dog Training @ 7pm - Little League @ 7:30pm - Al-Anon @ | 9:30am - Guild Quilters 9:30am - Badminton @ 11am - Balance for Life 1pm - Women's Bible 4pm - Hurley Purters @ 4:30pm - PC 101 @ 7pm - Bible Study @ | 7:30am - Bible Study @ 5:30pm - Dog Training 6pm - Cub Scout Den @ 6pm - Den 1 Bears @ 6:30pm - Girl Scout 7pm - Boy Scouts Troop 7pm - Kingston Area | 9:30am - Badminton @ 1:30pm - Hurley Senior 4:45pm - Dog Training 7pm - Sisters in 7:30pm - 1st Capitol 7:30pm - Choir | Ordination 11am - Cooking Class @ 6:30pm - Indian Dance | 10am - Genealogy @ |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 10am - Worship @ 11am - Women's | 11am - VFW @ Dutch 3pm - Quilting @ Dutch 5pm - Dog Training @ 7pm - Consistory @ 7pm - Hudson Valley 7:30pm - Al-Anon @ | 8:30am - Hillside Acres 9:30am - Guild Quilters 9:30am - Badminton @ 9:30am - Balance for Life 4pm - Hurley Purters @ 7pm - Bible Study @ 7pm - Boy Scouts Troop | 7:30am - Bible Study @ 5:30pm - Dog Training 6pm - Cub Scout Den @ 6pm - Den 1 Bears @ 7pm - Local 1582 @ | 9:30am - Badminton @ 4:45pm - Dog Training 7pm - Sisters in 7:30pm - Choir | 3pm - Chapter 7pm - Motorcycle Club | 8am - Chapter |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 10am - Worship @ | 10am - Genealogy @ 1pm - basket class @ 3pm - Quilting @ Dutch 5pm - Dog Training @ 7:30pm - Al-Anon @ | 9:30am - Guild Quilters 9:30am - Badminton @ 11am - Balance for Life 1pm - Women's Bible 4pm - Hurley Purters @ 6:30pm - nursery 7pm - Bible Study @ | 7:30am - Bible Study @ 9am - Finance 5:30pm - Dog Training 6pm - Cub Scout Den @ 6pm - Den 1 Bears @ 7pm - Hurley Lions @ 7pm - men's group @ | 9:30am - Badminton @ 4:45pm - Dog Training 7pm - NE WoodWorkers 7pm - Sisters in 7:30pm - Choir | movie night | motorcycle club |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 10am - Worship @ | 10:30am - Genealogy @ 1pm - basket class @ 3pm - Quilting @ Dutch 5pm - Dog Training @ 7:30pm - Al-Anon @ | 9:30am - Guild Quilters 9:30am - Badminton @ 11am - Balance for Life 4pm - Hurley Purters @ 7pm - Bible Study @ 7pm - Boy Scouts Troop 7pm - SCLC @ Room 9 | 7:30am - Bible Study @ 5:30pm - Dog Training 6pm - Cub Scout Den @ 6pm - Den 1 Bears @ | 9:30am - Badminton @ 4:45pm - Dog Training 7pm - Sisters in 7:30pm - Choir | 5pm - Hurley Heritage | |
| 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | |
| 10am - Worship @ | 3pm - Quilting @ Dutch 5pm - Dog Training @ 7:30pm - Al-Anon @ | | | | | |

October 2016



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

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