

HURLEY REFORMED CHURCH

THE SPIRE

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 5

SEPTEMBER 2009

Earlier this month I attended the Willow Creek Conference on church leadership. Founded by Bill Hybels, the Willow Creek Church, north of Chicago, was the fastest growing church in the nation. Twelve years ago I traveled to Illinois to see firsthand how this congregational phenomenon "did church". This time around I journeyed to the Walnut Creek Church in Bethel, Connecticut for a live feed of the two day event.

A special presentation involved a follow-up interview which Dr. Hybels conducted with Bono, the lead singer of the Irish rock band U-2. In the initial session, taped a few years earlier, Bono criticized Christian churches for not caring for the poverty driven, and AIDS ridden plight of many African nations. U-2 donates enormous sums from their concerts to aid the poorest of the poor on that continent. Critical of church non-response, Bono challenged Christians to make

HOMECOMING SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 13, 2009

10:00 AM WORSHIP SERVICE

Mr. Brian Clark joins Dr. Gram with his remarkable story of survival on 9/11
Photo Montage of our church family on vacation
Church School begins with classes for every age

a difference. The Church Universal responded. In the recent interview Bono said that Christian congregations throughout the world are in the forefront to eradicate poverty and disease in Africa. Christian churches have given more materially than governments, and other charitable organizations combined. Not only did Bono apologize for his earlier skepticism, but he noted his recent church attendance whenever he locates a sanctuary during band tours.

Wow! Empowered by the Holy Spirit we can make a difference in the world as well as in our beautiful corner of it. Beginning September

20th we launch a Stewardship Campaign to enhance and expand vital ministries of giving. This is glorious work. Also important is our responsibility to maintain church and parsonage. Visitors' first impressions of our fellowship come visually as they view the care in which sanctuary, hall and parsonage are maintained. Through dedicated hands-on efforts of many congregants, the parsonage has been restored to a home of beauty. Folks who visited the parsonage during Stone House Days were impressed with our collective effort and the strength of purpose behind it. The parsonage has become the home of Bible study, fellowship,

and consistorial groups. It serves also as a haven for those in our midst who need pastoral counseling. Yet the parsonage boiler, which has done yeoman's service for nearly 35 years, is in dire need of replacement.

Then there's the church proper. Dedicated volunteers have done so much. Stewardship involves sharing your skill-sets as well as your monetary blessings. We can always use the hands-on gifts God has given you! Nevertheless even the nimblest of our Christian brothers and sisters have not offered to dangle from a rope to paint our beautiful steeple! I believe a white coating is long overdue. During this coming church year, may our beautiful spire shine ever more brightly to weary Route 209 travelers, many of whom need a tangible sign of God's hope and purpose. May we be invitational, not

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only by our response to prospective members, but by the way we are accountable for the property where we worship and serve.

Our gifts also benefit our Reformed Church denominationally. The greater Reformed Church is representational and connectional. This means that we elect parishioners not simply to serve as leaders at a local level. We are called to

serve higher judicatories which do the work of the church in geographic regions throughout our country and, indeed, throughout the world. In order to fund the greater church, each active member is assessed a sum, and the church sends the congregational total upward and onward. In 2009, the assessment per active member is \$ 84. It is my hope that you will pay your individual assessment apart from your plate and/or offering envelope.

Through sacrificial giving during the coming months, I pray that our faith will mature, and Christ will become increasingly the center of our life together. The present economic crisis affords us the opportunity to step out in faith to make a difference locally, nationally, and globally. Let's not take our fellowship for granted. In our country, 3500-4000 churches close their doors annually because of material want. Since 1990, those who call them-

selves atheists have quadrupled in number in our country. Less than 17% of Americans attend church, or think it is relevant. In order to turn things around we must be spiritually strong, and economically viable. May the Gospel be proclaimed, and lived out in our congregation throughout the coming century and beyond. It's up to us. Let our faith be unleashed by giving which is daring and God-honoring.

In Christ's Service,
Dr. Bob Gram

Plant and Garden Club



The Hurley Reformed Church has a Plant and Garden Club. We get together for the fun of it, but we do work and learn new things both to benefit our church and ourselves.

This summer we have been planting and watering the flower boxes in front of the church, as well as the flowers along Schadewald Hall, the side of the Parsonage, the 4 flower boxes in front of the Parsonage and the 2 hanging plants. The boxes in front of the Church look beautiful, but the window boxes in front of the Parsonage

have not done quite so well. If you have any ideas or knowledge about window boxes, and can help us do a better job next year, please let us know.

We meet once a month, about 11:30, right after church services. Our next event is "Tea in the Garden" at my house on Sept. 13. We will carpool from church after services. On Oct. 11th Linda Cook will demonstrate the dying art of cornhusk dolls. The first Sunday of November we will make centerpieces for our Turkey Dinner. On Dec. 13 we will make Christmas arrangements, both for church and ourselves. The Jan. 10th and Feb. 13th meetings are open for guest gardeners and/

or speakers. The winter is the best time to dream about and discuss gardening, it "melts" some of that winter chill in our hearts, and it's so much fun to look forward to spring and summer. On March 14th we will probably discuss spring gardening, and start to plan our gardens for the following summer, along with how to best take care of the flowers around church and the Parsonage. Our April 11 and May 2nd, 2010 meetings are open for discussion and/or planning. On June 6th we will have our 3rd annual plant swap. This agenda is not final and we would be very happy to receive input and help.

The group is open to everyone, and you do not

have to have any expertise to attend. We do a lot of plant sharing and learning from each other, and we all have a love of gardening in common.

Sometimes we venture out on "field trips". We made a trip to the New York State Bo-



tanical Gardens in the spring, to see their orchid show. A couple of us went to the Mohonk Garden Tour and Luncheon, and the Cornell Garden Workshops in April.

Please join us,
Ellen C. Richards

STONE HOUSE DAY ATTRACTS 3 COUNTRIES, 19 STATES

This year folks from three countries (Ireland, Germany, and England) signed in the Spy House visitors book. Ireland probably shouldn't be counted because Don & Mary Kent's son from Ireland visited for a month. David and his son, Leon, also acted as host guides.

There were visitors from 18 states who took the time to register: California, 8; Texas, 5; Florida, 5; New Jersey, 4; Pennsylvania, 4; Massachusetts, 4; North Carolina, 3; New Hampshire, 2; Vermont, 2. One each came from Delaware, Utah, Illinois, Missouri, District of Columbia, Maryland, Tennessee, Virginia.

There were 36 lines of non-local New York visitors (Grahamsville, is

"local"; "lines" may include more than one name): Utica, Lockport, Freehold, Great Neck, Selkirk, Troy, Albany, Astoria, Lyle, Scarsdale, Rochester, Flushing, Bloomingburg, Schenectady, Forest Hills, Sleepy Hollow, Tarrytown, Cornwall, Whitesboro, Caroga Lake; Hartsdale, Stony Point, Rockville Center, New York City, Pattersonville, Babylon, Beacon, Elizabethville, Wynantsville, Canandaigua, Fishkill, Port Jervis, Endicott, Newburgh, Forestburgh, and Brooklyn.

Altogether there were 58 lines of "local" visitors (counting Catskill as "local").

There were many expressions of gratitude offered to the volunteers and homeowners. Stone House Day is a lot of work for many--but a lot of fun for everybody!

Church School



September 13 will be the start of the 2009-2010 church school year. We start at 10am. Church school is available for all kids ranging from

age 2 (we ask that the child be potty trained) all the way up to 12th grade. We have a great group of teachers that are eager to teach your child the many different stories in the bible. The classrooms grades & teachers are:

2 & 3 yr olds	Kacey & Rachel Gardner
Pre-K & Kindergarten	Shannon Butler, Michelle McCabe
Grades 2 & 3	Marianne Mizel, Geri Gardner
Grades 4 & 5	Katie Emrich
Grades 6 & 7	Ellen Richards
Grade 8	Debbie Zuill, Christine Henning
Grades 9-12	Jennifer Macarille, Carla Paton

We could use some additional teachers as substitutes. If you are able to spend your Sunday getting to know these great group of kids we would love to add you to our list. Please see Sherman Richards & he will get you started.

See you on the 13th!!
Education Committee



Youth Group

With the summer over...over??? We are planning for a fun and rewarding year. We plan to help our community in many different ways. If you are in the 5th grade & up you are welcome to join the Youth Group!! Our first meeting is September 13 right after worship. Parents will meet in the Dutch Room. The kids are asked to go to Room 6 downstairs as Katie & Spencer Herzog will run that meeting. Don't

miss it! Our whole year will be planned at this meeting.

We will be collecting macaroni and cheese for our local food pantries. The last collection date for this will be September 27th.

See you on the 13th!!!

God Bless,

Lisa Longto, Sandy & Katie Emrich

Youth Group Leaders

- 9/13 Meeting
- 10/1 Set up for Penny Social
- 10/2 Penny Social at 6pm
- 10/23 Sleepover & Gill's Corn Maze

If a dog were your teacher . . . You would learn stuff like . . . When loved ones come home, always run to greet them.

Never pass up the opportunity to go for a joy ride.

Allow the experience of fresh air and wind in your face to be pure ecstasy.

When it's in your best interest - practice obedience.

Let others know when they're invading your territory.

Take naps and stretch before rising.

Run, romp, and play daily.

Thrive on attention and let people touch you.

Avoid biting, when a simple growl will do.

On warm days, stop to lie on your back on the grass.

On hot days, drink lots of water and lie under a tree.

When you're happy, dance around and wag your entire body.

No matter how often you're scolded, don't buy into the guilt thing and pout . . . Run right back and make friends.

Delight in the simple joy of a long walk.

Eat with gusto and enthusiasm. Stop when you're had enough.

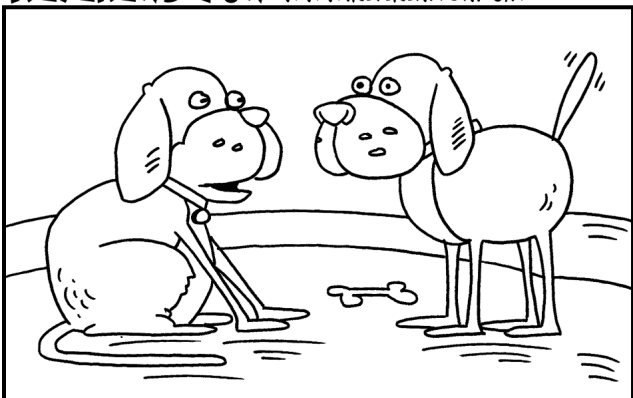
Be loyal.

Never pretend to be something you're not.

If what you want lies buried, dig until you find it.

When someone is having a bad day, be silent, sit close by and nuzzle them gently.

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MY OWNER JUST INFORMED ME THAT I AM NO LONGER HIS BEST FRIEND ... SEEMS HE'S MET SOME CHAP BY THE NAME OF "GOD"

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OUR NEWEST CHURCH MEMBER

On August 23, Mary Lyke joined our congregation. At age 98, she is our oldest as well as newest member. Mary has lived in Hurley since 1953. The night of August 7th, she dreamt about finding herself in our beautiful, historic sanctuary. She told her daughter, Doreen, that she had never been happier when she awoke, and that she wanted to join our church ASAP! A Roman Catholic from birth, Mary told Dr. Gram that she felt the Pope had too much power, and that her Protestant Reformation mindset loves the idea that Scripture is the center of church life. She also sought to join a church which ministers to the poor.

Although she doesn't cook, or bake anymore, these were favorite activities. Her signature appetizer was roasted green peppers, peeled, hand sliced, and combined with fresh garlic and extra virgin olive oil. Often she would bake lemon squares and cream puffs for Rev. Stickley. She loves Bingo, and Tiger Woods. Mary taught herself to drive at age 60. She continued to transport herself until the age of 94. We welcome Mary to our fellowship.

Men's Group

The Men's Life Group was formed in the spring of this year for the purpose of starting a shared dialogue among those participating with the goals of deepening our faith, strengthening our fellowship, and reaching out to others. The meetings open and close with prayer and include discussion of issues pertaining to men's experience in their daily walk of faith. Topics vary and we invite new members to bring questions, stories, scripture and writings that inspire or perplex them in their daily walk.

The group meets at the church on Thursday mornings at 8:00am during the summer. This schedule is subject to change in the fall to accommodate schedules of those participating. The group has been steadily growing and all men are welcome. Please come and join with us!

Jim Veith/Wally Cook

Next month, Russ Glass will write about his special relationship with a special cat.

Has someone ever asked, “Why do you go to Church”? Have you asked yourself the same? These are important questions in my life as a Christian, and as a member of our Hurley faith community.

My family has always attended church. I was involved as a youngster in Rosendale in the Rosendale Reformed Church. After my marriage and early personal family history I attended the Redeemer Lutheran Church where my wife Frieda was a member. Sunday was, and is, the day I spend quality time with my God and Christ. My family moved to Hurley. My wife and four children did not relish attending a church in Kingston when the beautiful spire of the Hurley Reformed Church was less than ¾ of a mile away. It helped, too, that our children’s friends attended the Hurley Reformed Church. Later we joined the choir and participated in most of the church dinners. We worked on Stone House Day for more than 30 years, and participated in the Couples Club – then known as the Rainbow Club. We continue to golf at Natalie’s tournament and presently I am Vice President of Consistory, our local governing body. Every facet of our church life gives us a fuller under-

standing and desire for the Love of God.

We grow among God’s creatures and the rest of creation, and the Church is where we grow too. This hallowed sanctuary is where we can express our love for God



through our prayers, our singing, our listening to, and wrestling with the Word of the God. Receiving the teachings of the Word increases one’s faith and spiritual strength, which in turn strengthens us to face the devil if and when approached, and gives us understanding of why we are tempted.

I can’t go on without saying that a very important factor in our life is the sense of fellowship with other Christians, whether at church, or socially on the street, at a picnic, having a cup of coffee with friends, or traveling to PA for a pig roast, or wherever we might gather. Having love for my friends helps me follow through with love for my God, and vice versa. One of the most important reasons we

attend church is to practice love toward our brothers and sisters in the form of fellowship. Frieda and I have always volunteered in church activities, so we might give back some of that love that was granted us in our everyday living.... a loving family, a nice home, steady employment, and some of the nicer things in life which many others can’t enjoy.

Remember that when two or three are gathered in his name, Jesus is among us. When we pray together, we add to our spiritual strength. Thus we add meaning to our prayers and greater spiritual gains can be achieved. When we sing together we voice our love for God through common expressions of thanksgiving and praise.

Briefly, this is how we show our obedience to God’s Word and help to motivate and encourage others. How do you do your part? Why do you go to church? Why the Hurley Reformed Church?

In Christ’s service,
Doug Constant
Vice President of the Hurley
Reformed Church



The drawing for the 2009 Tulip Time Quilt was held on Stone House Day and the winner was Wendy Stickley-Ocker.

Thank you to all who contributed to our Hurley Reformed Church project year after year.

As a frequent visitor to our local rail trail I would like to thank the tireless Hurley Reformed Church 'bermers' who have made our little mound of dirt easily the prettiest one out

there. Thank you for helping us have a positive and attractive presence in the community, and thank you for making me smile every time I pass by it. ~Cindy Sumerano



With much appreciation for the support, cards and prayers from our Hurley Church family during this most difficult time.

Thank you,
Pat Manley and family

People to People Student Ambassador, Nick Rockwell, Returns from China

Dr. Gram asked me to share some of my journal from my China Trip this summer. It is hard to pick and choose what to include because every day was so filled with activities. I have gone many different places, but this was the most awe inspiring trip of all and the longest away from my family. I've included two of my journal entries - one from the day we ascended the Great Wall and the other from one day of my home stay.

July 18, 2009: Today we climbed the Great Wall of China. It was pretty exhausting. The climb up the steep steps made my legs ache, but it was all worth it. The views were absolutely amazing. This wall that served as protection from foreigners now provides a place for us to take in the panoramic landscapes of the country. You could see for miles around. When I decided to head back down with the others, we were bewildered to see the Harlem Globetrotters in such an out of context scene. We thought maybe we were having a hallucination! - but not! Going down the Wall was much easier than the climb up. I hope I brought enough extra memory for my camera, because I



couldn't stop taking pictures. This is my delegation at the base of the climb. I'm row 1, 4th from right.

July 22, 2009: Today we arrived to stay with our host family in Donghan Village. I was kind of worried and nervous when I got here about how they would treat us and what we would do. They were



very nice. Our mama's name as Zhang Mama. She made the most delicious Chinese food that I ever tasted. Her nephew, Daniel, who spoke English, is with us and he's really nice. He made us feel a real part of his family. We became friends and I'm glad we can email each other. The night is really warm and huge

bugs are tapping at the screens to our bedroom window. Our room is small, but we have our own beds that are comfortable. The TV is really an old model. They obviously do not have as much materially as we do back home, but they show great hospitality and friendship. Tomorrow we will be meeting and playing with the village children at their park. There is supposed to be a basketball game against the locals. That will be fun. This is Daniel and "Mama".

Nicholas Rockwell

Women's Guild

Hope everyone had a great summer.

Thank you to everyone that came out and supported us during Stone House Day. If you purchased something from Grandma's Garrett . . . that was us. If you bought a baked good item . . . that was us. If you purchased a quilt raffle ticket . . . that was us again. Thank you to all of the ladies that helped out during Stone House Day and worked on the handmade quilt.

For the past few months a



group of dedicated volunteers have been working on the parsonage kitchen renovation.

Thank you to:

Jerry Wyncoop, Terry Conlon, Craig Jansen, Christopher Giles, Bob & Barbara Kindt, Dave & Gretchen Giles, and Glenn & Debbie Decker. We — the Guild — were blessed to be able to fund this renovation. What was done --- a new sink, faucet, bead board, ceiling light, dish washer, plaster for the walls, paint, a counter top & wallpaper for the

hallway. Herzog Supply Co. was very generous in helping this project become a reality.

Just a reminder that all women of the church are a part of the Women's Guild. You don't have to be a member of the church to be a join. Our first meeting will be September 20th right after church in the Dutch Room. We will be making plans for the upcoming year. So, come & see what we are all about!

Blessings,

Sandy Emrich-President

The will of God will never take you where the grace of God will not protect you."



Our third Annual Golf Tournament is history and with 39 golfers, 55 participants for a buffet and prizes at the Hurley Mountain Inn, and a beautiful sunny day, we all had a great time.

The winning team was: Brian Donnelly, Terry Conlin, David Giles and Wally Cook.

Closest to the pin: On #1, Nancy Johnson, and on #8, Jim Pirro

Longest drive on #6: Ellen Morone and Frank Pinckney

Good sports awards went to: Craig Jansen and Annemarie Kurtz

SHD - Country Fair

Congratulations, Ladies! You did it again! We made a grand total of \$784.50. A big thank you to the following for all your hard work and expertise in setting up and sell-

ing at the Country Fair:

Baked Goods: Joyce Pinckney, Alyson Rafferty

Crafts: Dolores Wyncoop, Dolores Woven

Jewelry, Tiles & Tees: Friedel Borst, Joyce Sweeney

Grandma's Garrett: Annemarie Kurtz, Melissa Mannello, Anna McGinnis and Helen Sgroi

Shirley Ruth, Chairman

FINANCE COMMITTEE

We are now more than half way through our financial year 2009. We have posted the financial income and expenses as of 7/31/2009. To be on target to our projected 2009 budget, the percentages to the right of each are posted to show where we are in relation to our approved budget. The percentage we need at the end of July is 59%. Income above 59% would be a blessing. Income categories that I would like to address are our transfers from savings and Classis Responsibilities. First let's review the transfers from savings.

The approved 2009 budget reflects that we will need to transfer \$35,755 from our savings by years end. As of 7/31, withdrawals have totaled \$30,000. This amount is offset to \$26,730 after using earned interest and dividends against out total withdrawal. All funds that have been withdrawn have gone to assist in operational expenses. The transfer from savings category was added last year to show that we would not be able to keep our doors open without tapping into our savings. This will also affect future interest and dividends that is a budgeted \$13,300 to an earned \$3,270.00. This is also impacted by the economic conditions all of us face. If we continue to operate in this fashion, our security blanket will disappear and our doors will close. This is harsh but we need to understand the fiscal implication. Continuing to deplete

our savings and investments takes away our ability to secure our future as the congregational family we have grown to love and cherish.

Our largest shortfall is the Classis Responsibilities. The Classis of Mid Hudson is composed of elders and deacons from our geographical area. The Classis sets policy and does the work of the denomination. Classis payments are paid on quarterly bases. For 2009, our total obligation is \$29,747 making a



\$7,437 quarterly payment. This amount is calculated by using the Classis approved budget and the number

of communicant members in our Church. These payments must be paid to the Classis of Mid-Hudson even if our members do not assist in this responsibility. Each member is assessed \$84.51 for 2009. This amount can be found on top of your offering envelope box as Classis Responsibility. As of 7/31, \$4,449 was received. This amount accounts for only 15% of the 59% expected so far for the year. There are many ways to send in your Classis Responsibility. This can be broken down weekly, monthly or all in one payment. It's your choice how this is handled. When Classis funds are given, please ensure the envelope used is marked as such for proper accounting. Now, many of you might be saying, "What is this responsibility we are being told we have? Where are the funds going

and why?" I will try to explain by saying the funds support the three levels of our denominational governing body. They are Classis of Mid-Hudson, Regional Synod and the General Synod. The breakdown for each of the judicatories is listed below:

General Synod 47% (\$39.91),
Regional Synod 48% (\$40.50)
Classis of Mid-Hudson 5% (\$4.10).

Now that's were it goes, but what is it used for? Additional breakdown information on the General Synod numbers:
Women's Ministry = \$1.30
(New for 2010)
Disability Ministry = \$0.23
Board of Benefit Services = \$1.50
(for retired ministers in need)
Theological Education = \$4.71
General Synod operations = \$33.72
(General Synod meets once a year to do the work of the denomination)
Totaling \$41.46 for 2010

Classis typically allocates 15% to some special project, of which Migrant Ministries has been the recipient in the past several years; the balance of 85% goes to operations (committee expenses, meetings, etc.).

A change in your offering envelopes for 2010 will include a monthly envelope for the Classis Responsibility. Breaking down the total responsibility of \$84.51 per communicant member into 12 envelopes is \$7.05 a month.

God Bless,
Dennis Horvers, Finance Chair



Church Directories . . . Have you picked up your copy of the new church directory? If not, go to Schadewald Hall after the service, find your name, and take your copy. A separate box has a limited number of additional unassigned copies for those who may need an extra copy.

JULY/HURLEY REFORMED CHURCH

<i>Income</i>	2009 Budget	May'09	Jun'09	Jul'09	YTD2009	YTD%
Envelopes	120,000	11,906	8,590	6,843	64,893	54.08%
Loose Plate	12,000	1,190	971	1,019	10,490	87.42%
Envelope Spec Mission	4,200	291	279	304	2,084	49.62%
Building Fund	6,500	464	446	420	3,867	59.49%
Estates	5,600	0	0	195	2,859	51.05%
Invest/Div & Interest	13,300	3,270	0	0	3,270	24.59%
Bldg. Usage	12,400	1,011	1,611	946	8,274	66.73%
Church School	1,400	138	39	0	459	32.79%
Women's Guild/Quilter	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Stone House Day	9,500	0	128	8,149	8,325	87.63%
Misc. Dinners	4,600	0	330	0	330	7.17%
Classis	29,747	859	255	0	4,449	14.96%
Miscellaneous	800	2	180	0	957	119.63%
Cell Tower Income	13,800	1,100	1,100	1,100	6,700	48.55%
Operating Income:	233,847	21,031	13,929	18,976	116,957	50.01%
Transfer From Savings	35,755	-3,270		10,000	26,730	
Total	269,602	17,761	13,929	28,976	143,687	

<i>Expenses</i>	2009 Budget	May'09	Jun'09	Jul'09	YTD2009	YTD%
Pastoral & Personal	124,230	12,036	10,708	10,836	74,983	60.36%
Fin & Admin	45,977	8,310	195	6,565	27,987	60.87%
Worship	2,130	0	0	65	3,140	147.42%
Prop/Maint Bas	58,235	1,300	2,373	1,783	6,376	10.95%
Prog & Act	1,450	206	0	158	1,871	129.03%
Education	1,800	88	0	57	492	27.33%
Mission	28,000	580	0	1,248	4,168	14.89%
Fund Raising	7,780	511	1,120	2,507	4,822	61.98%
	269,602	23,031	14,396	23,219	123,839	45.93%

Property and Maintenance

There has not been much to report for property and maintenance for the summer. I will say that with all the rain we have not had that much water trickle into our buildings. The gutters and gutter guards we purchased last year have kept the nursery school area bone dry and keeping the gutters clean on Schadewald Hall has kept the classrooms dry as well.

The Sheetrock expert and his right hand man

The sheetrock project in the men's and women's bathrooms is moving along. Getting people's schedules together to work on them has been a challenge. Many thanks go to Mr. Dick Shook (the expert) and Bob Pfeiffer (the right hand man) who put multiple days into the sheetrock work. The spackling will be done soon and paint soon after that. Thanks gents!

Joe Ulrich and Jerry Wyncoop

Letter to the Editor
August 2, 2009

Sunday Freeman

Reprinted with permission

Dear People Editor,

This spring, the Youth Group of the Hurley Reformed Church had the privilege of witnessing first hand just how terrific our community can be.

Adams Fairacre Farms donated many items over the course of the year for projects that benefited our area. The Youth Group asked the management if there was anything that it could do to thank it in kind, and Adams requested that the group plant a flower garden at its Route 9W location in return. The kids met at Adams and spent a

morning planting begonias under the supervision of Steve Adams.

What a great lesson for these kids about the community. A business helped them to help others, and they, in turn, helped the business. This, of course, was a wonderful gesture from Adams. The garden, while beautiful, was not essential and probably cost Adams a great deal of money. Money was not the point. The point was to share with our youth the value of community service. Businesses like Adams, and volunteer organizations like the Hurley Reformed Church Youth group, are working together to improve the lives of others.

Other area businesses have reinforced this community ethic. Recently, Stage 1 Auto hosted a car

wash for the church's Youth Group to raise money for the American Cancer Society. It donated time, space and cleaning supplies for the endeavor. Todd's Gymnastics donated hot dog and popcorn machines. Angela's Pizza heard about the event and sent pizza and soda for everyone in the Youth group working that day.

Talk about a win-win. The American Cancer Society received a sizeable donation. The kids in the Youth Group received another valuable lesson in how a community can work together to make the world a better place.

It takes a village.

Melinda Herzog
 Saugerties

As we begin our new church year together . . .

“The more genuine and the deeper our community becomes, the more everything else between us will recede, and the more clearly and purely will Jesus Christ and his work become the one and only thing that is alive between us. We have one another only through Christ, but through Christ we really do have one another. We have one another completely and for all eternity.”

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer, (Life Together), 1906 - 1945
 Pastor and leader of the Confessing Church which opposed Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Regime, Bonhoeffer was executed at Flossenburg Concentration Camp on April 9, 1945

Columbarium Committee

The phase I phase of the Columbarium is now almost complete.

The Dedication ceremony was wonderful and with the completion of the fountain installation, and the discreet landscape lighting for nighttime, the only thing left for completion of Phase I is the engraving of memorial stones and their placement to recognize those

who donated memorial funds and/or labor.

At this time approximately 1/5 of the niches have been bought, by both families and individuals.

The Committee does have some thoughts as to the Phase II projects which will be forthcoming.

For more information on the Columbarium, please contact any of the Committee members.

Lisa Longo, Chairperson (331-1438)

Jim Pirro, Treasurer (383-0079)

Jerry Fink, Secretary (246-6567)

Joe Ulrich, Consistory Liaison (331-5139)

Esther Stickley (331-2919)

FAREWELL . . .

Once again the time has come for us to say farewell to one of our leaders. Our longtime choir director, organist and friend, Lonnie Kullick will be leaving us shortly to accept another position. This is an exciting venture for Lonnie, and we wish him well in his new position. Lonnie has directed the junior and senior choirs for the past 14 years,

as well as supplied us with organ music for church services, weddings and funerals. He has provided music for Stone House Day and other church events, and organized special events and concerts for the enjoyment of all. He will be greatly missed. As difficult as we know it will be to replace Lonnie, the personnel committee has begun the search for a new

choir director / organist. We are prayerfully optimistic that we will be led to the man or woman intended to lead us as we continue to raise a joyful noise to the Lord.



September Birthdays

Rachel Gardner	1, '94
Lindsay Woodard	2, '98
Bailey Jordan	3, '01
Jaime Winnie	6, '96
Bradley Horvers	6, '94
Halie Brennan	6, '96
Maggie Kokas	7, '93
Elizabeth Mergl	10, '08
Daniella Helsley	14, '01
Kellen Hauck	19, '94
Tessa Hauck	19, '97
Marissa Rell	20, '06
Brady Szekeres	25, '03
Isabella LaFiandra	30, '01

Cody Harder	2
Cindy Sumerano	3
Russ Glass	4
Melinda Herzog	6
Wayzeta Stickley-Strouse	9
Fred Horvers	10
Phil Greer	17
Ron Every	19
Jim Craven	20
Bradley Hill	22
Anna Goetchius	23
Amy Sirni	23
Jim Mayfield	24
Alice Presti	24
Charles Woodard	24

Helen Sgroi	24
Wendy Stickley-Ocker	26
Darrell Nicholas	27
Christina Longto	28
Debbie Decker	29
Sheila Craven	30

Anniversaries

Dennis & Mimi Crowell	11
Bill & Jane Merrill	13
John & Debbie Tucker	14
Jennifer & Bill Hinsdale	15
Jay & Kim Burgess	17
Dennis & Donna Horvers	23
Henry & Jean Dussol	24

*What life have you if you have not life together?
 There is no life that is not in community
 And no community not lived in the praise of God . . .
 And now you live dispersed on ribbon roads,
 And no man knows or cares who is his neighbor
 Unless his neighbor makes too much disturbance;
 But all dash to and fro in motor cars.
 Familiar with the roads and settled nowhere . . .
 And the wind shall say: 'Here were decent godless
 people:
 Their only monument the asphalt road
 And a thousand lost golf balls.'*

-T.S. Eliot

Hurley Reformed Church Youth Group
Main Street, Hurley, NY 12443

Penny Social

Friday, October 2nd, 2009
Doors Open at 6:00 pm
Calling at 7:30 pm

50/50 Raffle

Refreshments Available

Also accepting donation, please contact Amy at 338-4960 for information.

AV Equipment Fund Drive: We are pleased to inform you that the fund drive for the purchase of the AV projector and required lens has been successful, and an order has been placed. However, ours is on back-order, as of the printing of the Spire. We are hopeful that the equipment will be received and at least temporarily installed prior to Homecoming Sunday.

Stone House Day 2009

www.StoneHouseDay.org

Attendance improved this year. We were fortunate to have good weather, more houses on tour and the celebration of Henry Hudson's voyage of discovery. This year we had two houses on the bus tour and seven on the Main Street walking tour. Added to the walking tour this year was the Houghtaling house, better known as the George Washington house, at the head of Main Street. The big event, however, was Dr. Gram's personal tour of the parsonage.

Chef Russ Glass created an authentic Dutch plate in recognition

of the 400th anniversary of Henry Hudson's voyage.

Debra Zuill and the Stone House Players presented the Sojourner Truth "Ain't I A Woman" speech better than ever. Lonnie Kulick provided three musical interludes. The 3rd Ulster militia provided Colonial and Indian re-enactors. And, new this year, six ladies performed Indian dances and chants.

A comment card was provided and we had many favorable comments and a few suggestions for



improvement. The important question, however, was how did you hear about Stone House Day? The top four, of 11 suggested, responses were relatives, friends, signs and newspaper advertisements. This information will help in directing our publicity dollars and, most enlightening, shows the importance of personal contact in the success of Stone House Day.

Of course, there would be no Stone House Day without the continued support of the historic homeowners and the many volunteers from the church community.

Jim Craven



New Study Group Begins in October

By Carla Paton

Last Spring Reverend Dr. Gram asked me if I would consider forming a women's group at Hurley Reformed Church. With an already packed schedule, I initially thought I would have to decline. Along with my responsibilities as wife, mother and grandmother, I also balance a full-time career plus a part-time life/business coaching practice. So my life, like most women, is very busy. I wondered if I could find the time and make the commitment. After prayerful consideration, I was reminded how blessed I have been by the small groups which have supported my spiritual growth and relationship with Christ. So I decided it was im-

portant to explore the possibilities. It was then that I stumbled upon The Significant Women material and felt that God was calling.

The Significant Woman is a Christian discipleship course designed to create awareness of who God created us to be, so we can fully live the life He purposed for us. Living a life of significance is not about aiming toward perfection. It's about making progress on the journey, loving God and doing what He lovingly calls us to do. God gives no guarantee for a smooth or easy journey but He does promise to be with us each step of the way.

We will be looking at 6 biblical life principles referred to as PEARLS. With PEARLS you will learn to Pursue your uniqueness, Embrace your

source, Activate your mission, Refocus your life, Live intentionally and Sustain for Life. The material is facilitated within group and peer coaching environments, so as a certified life coach I'm very excited to lead this group. Through creative and fun exercises we will discover our God-given strengths, gifts and values and learn to recognize the ways that God is directing our lives.

Come join me and other women on this journey of faith and discovery. Beginning October 3rd, we will meet the 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month from 9-11am, continuing through February. Fee is \$30, payable to Hurley Reformed Church to cover the cost of the participant book. Please contact me at carla.paton@gmail.com or 845-514-2682 to reserve your spot. You can find more information about The Significant Woman material at www.thesignificantwoman.com.

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

WE'RE ON THE WEB:

WWW.HURLEYREFORMEDCHURCH.ORG

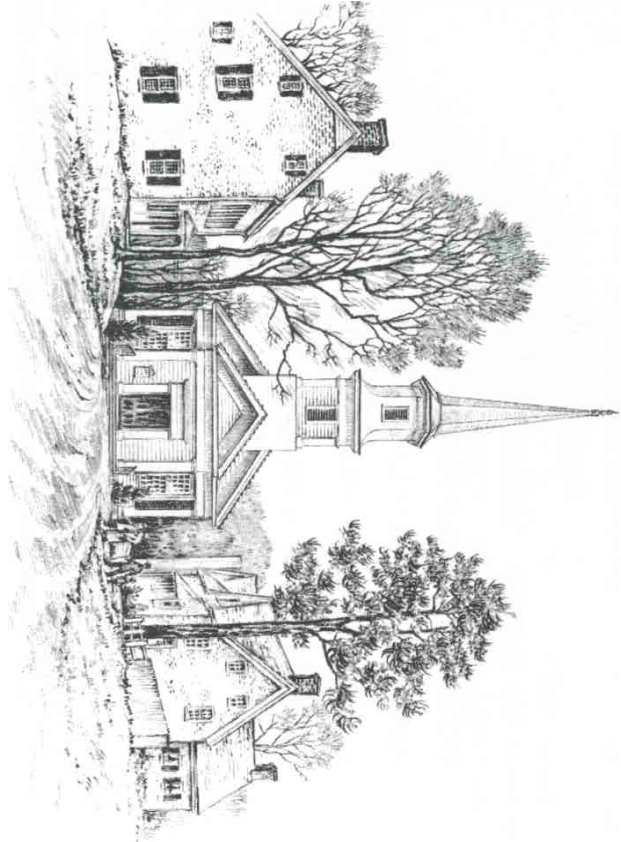
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HURLEY REFORMED CHURCH

Hurley New York 12443

The Rev. Dr. Robert L. Gram, LCSW

Pastor

THE SPIRE

SEPTEMBER 2009