

THE SPIRE

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 7

SEPTEMBER 2014

Good
News

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Each year, for more than a decade, my college roommate and I meet at his home on Goodyear Lake, north of Oneonta, to celebrate his birthday. I take Bruce, and his wife Sharon, to dinner after spending the a day or two out on their pontoon motorboat. Sharon is often busy, so it's usually Bruce and I who lay anchor in the middle of the lake, this simple bulge of the Susquehanna River. We swim, and watch for bald eagles which grace the area. As I say to Bruce, it is one of the happiest two or three days on my annual calendar. Part of my joy is that I've always loved to splash in water, and the brief moments at Goodyear Lake remind that certain loves never change. Indeed a plunge immerses me in childhood, when Mom and Dad dragged me from ocean, lake, and pool, my lips blue, my frame trembling, while, all the time, I assured them that, indeed, I was warm as toast — thank you very much — and that pulling me from my watery playground was a gross miscarriage of justice, and grounds for a charge of child abuse or neglect. Umbrage was mitigated by a trip to the Good Humor ice cream truck located close to watery venues. Next to water, ice cream is king!

Perhaps we are called to thank our God for loves which do not fade with age, and which remind us that there is something wonderfully consistent about our makeup. We are defined by our passions, which, as a Christian I believe, were implanted at our beginning, when God formed our inward parts, knitting our individual selves in our mother's womb (Psalm 139:13-14). My parents retired to Ocean Grove, New Jersey, and my mother would often say, after hearing the adult me voice some problem, that all I

needed was, as she put it, "a nice swim in the ocean." Some mothers recommend chicken soup. Mine knew better. The ocean worked every time.

Perhaps, too, my watery romps in upstate New York remind me that God loves us when we play as well as work. In our Job-is-God society, we often guilt trip ourselves when we take a

. . . Thank God for loves which do not fade with age, and which remind us that there is something wonderfully consistent about our makeup.

timeout. The existentialist, Jean Paul Satre, once wrote that humans are only free at play. There's truth to that. I love the passage in Scripture when God notes that the sea teems with creatures great and small, and that the biggest fish in the world was created to "sport in the sea" (Psalm 104:24-26). If God delights in seeing His non-human populations play, how much more does he countenance the splish-splash of human sporting?

Unfortunately, I can't make it upstate this year because of continuing education commitments at Ocean Grove. The philosopher Paul Ricoeur noted that it is possible to enter "a second naiveté", a child-like state of wonder and curiosity. I hope to find it on a well body-surfed wave.

In Christ's service,

Doc Bob

CONSISTORY CORNER

I hope everyone has been enjoying this beautiful summer. We wanted to let you know of some of the happenings in Consistory. Sunday school is being revamped! There will be a new curriculum introduced this year. The numbers have been dwindling over the past few years so it was felt that a new approach would be better. The new curriculum will have material for up to 12 years of age. The high school will have a separate format. Rev. Gram will be acting Superintendent for the time being. The first day of Sunday school will be 9/14/14!

The Property/Maintenance Committee is currently working on the church windows. The windows are in need of repair and the storm windows need to be more efficient. Dennis Crosswell has been working incredibly hard on getting estimates from contractors. As you can imagine this is an expensive but necessary undertaking.

Stone House Day was a huge success. 603 people attended which is 5% more than last year. The net income was \$7928.

The Technology Committee has also been busy installing computers and being trained on the new Toshiba copier.

Next month we will have a budget summary for you.

Christine Henning



SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES!

Sunday School resumes on September 14 with a new curriculum for ages 3-12. The high school will have a separate format. Invite your friends and neighbors to come along to experience what's new.



Local Missions

Rebecca Masters, Chair

Mission news:

The Mission of the month for September is Washbourne House. The Washbourne House, is a 17-bed shelter for women and their children, located in a confidential location in Ulster County. Residents receive individual and group support-counseling, case management, parenting and children's services, advocacy and extensive referrals.

Missions updates

On July 16, Cindy Sumerano, Linda Caddy, Debbie Tucker and Rebecca Masters served lunch to 40 children aged 3 to 7 in the School's Out program at Edson School. This included the children who live in the homeless motels, as well as others in need. Thanks to the people who baked cookies and bars- they had snack to last the rest of the week!

We still have money left from the March mission for these folks, so in August we will stock up on some more snack supplies for the kids' back to school.

Our June mission was for the Mental Health association of Ulster County and in July we collected for Camp scholarships. That money will go to the after-school program.

We continue to collect a good amount of clothing at the shed.

Women's Guild

Thank you to everyone that brought red geranium back in June!! Appreciate it. The altar looked great & now they look great around the church.

The quilt is done, raffle has been complete & the winner has received it. Congratulations to Theresa Ancona for winning this year's quilt. Thank you to ALL of the ladies that worked on the quilt!! A great group of ladies that are dedicated & talents are immeasurable!! Next year's quilt will be started in September. So if you always wanted to learn to quilt or can quilt & would like to share your talents please see Barbara Kindt & she will be more than happy to have you join in. The more the merrier!!

Operation Christmas Child is just around the corner again this year. Sandie Gregory will be chairing this activity. What is Operation Christmas Child? It is simply giving a child that is located around the world a shoe box filled with school supplies, small toys, hygiene items, etc. (there will be a more detailed listed coming soon) and watching their faces light up as they receive that shoe box is priceless. So, please see Sandie Gregory or watch the bulletin for more information on how you can brighten a child's holiday season. Thank you for support!!

Just a reminder to bring a mum to church on 9/14. The mums will adorn the altar & then they will be planted around the church & parsonage. Any color. Any size. We appreciate all donations. Thanks for your help

Come visit ... sit for a while ... enjoy the beauty of the area. Feel the serenity ... feel God's presence ... feel the warmth of the sunlight and the peace that surrounds our church. When the beauty of nature fills our hearts we know God is speaking to us. Let Him fill your heart with peace and love. Visit those who have passed and contemplate the serenity of his blessings upon us forever.

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)
 DIANA CLINE (338-7276)
 REV STICKLEY, SECRETARY

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

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:

9/14	Meeting
9/14	Bring a mum to church
10/19	Meeting

Blessings,
 Sandy Emrich
 President



BIRTHDAYS

Rachel Gardner	1	Fred Horvers	10
Lindsay Woodard	2	Daneilla Helsey	14
Cody Harder	2	Madeline Fox	15
Bailey Jordan	3	Phil Greer	17
Cindy Sumerano	3	Colin Rowdycz	18
Russ Glass	4	Ron Every	19
Halle Brennan	6	Tessa Hauck	19
Melinda Herzog	6	Kellen Hauck	19
Bradley Hovers	6	Marissa Rell	20
Wayzeta Stickley-Strouse	9	Jim Craven	20
Elizabeth Mergl	10	Bradley Hill	22
		Helen Sgroi	24
		Jim Mayfield	24
		Alice Presti	24
		Charles Woodard	24
		Wendy Stickley-Ocker	26
		Darrell Nicholas	27
		Christina Longto	28

Debbie Decker	29
Sheila Craven	30

Anniversaries

Mark & Beth Woodard	2
Dennis & Mimi Croswell	11
Bill & Jane Merrill	13
John & Debbie Tucker	14
Jay & Kim Burgess	17
John & Lori Decker	22
Dennis & Donna Horvers	23
Dean & Bernadette Baker	23
Henry & Jean Dussol	24

SENIOR CHOIR

Rehearsals Thursdays at 7:30 starting Sept. 11.
New voices are always welcome.

P RAYER CHAIN did not meet for the months of July and August. We will resume our meetings on September 7, 2014. Hope you all had a safe and wonderful summer. —Deb Zuill

Bring a mum to church on September 14. They will adorn the altar and then be planted around the church.



Chrysanthemum



STONE HOUSE DAY 2014

This year's Stone House Day was a great success. The committee would like to thank each one of you for participating and making it the wonderful day that it was. The weather was on our side, and we had a good turnout; 605 visitors this year compared to 576 the last two years. This year we had a bus tour, Wade Tours, that came down from Schenectady. We made about \$10,000 altogether, which is about the same as last year.

Our Comment Cards, which are placed on each table in the Dining Room, gave us an insight into our visitors' favorite events. The stone houses and the docents received a lot of praise, along with Sojourner Truth, with our own Debbie Zuill, as well as the violin concert by Nancy Anderson, which took place on the Bevier House Porch, and also the Indian Dancers in Don Kent's yard. The Cafeteria/Kitchen received great accolades with great food and reasonable prices and friendly people.

This year Viola Updahl's house, the Wynkoop House, was on the tour, after having been off for around 20 years. A lot of people were interested in seeing it and loved it. The Ten Eyck Bouwerie, formerly owned by Mrs. Paul and now owned by Michael Rogers was also open. Since the bridge across the Esopus was down, our tour busses had to take "the long way around", which was a little bit of a problem, but worked out well in the end.

As usual our Bake Sale was wonderful. We had a lot of homemade items and sold them all. Also, Granny's Garrett and the Jewelry sales were good, and we thank all those ladies who spent the whole day downstairs tending to our customers.

The old Stone House Day sign on Rt. 209 was finally

The old Stone House Day sign on Rt. 209 was finally taken down this year and replaced with a new one. The old one was in very bad shape and had been there since before I came (32 years ago). It could hardly be read even up close. So the SHD committee decided to try to get a new one, which first meant investigating restraints and regulations with both the town of Hurley and Kingston Highway Department. Then we went to work to see who might be able to make it for us with the smallest possible expense and best quality and longevity. Next came trying to find financing for it. We tried out several venues, and finally the Lions Club here in Hurley came through and gave us \$800 toward the sign that Artcraft did for \$856. Artcraft was wonderful to work with and we think they did a superb job. We thank both the Hurley Lions Club and Artcraft so much for all the help they gave us. The sign will have interchangeable numbers, so that the date can be changed easily every year. Also thank you very much to our committee members, who worked very hard and spent many extra hours designing and planning it. Let's hope this one will last as long as the "old" one did, or even longer!!!

We are already working on next year's Stone House Day. We hope to have a luncheon in October for all the area's stone house owners. We think that Hurley is a very unique place, with most of the old houses still lived in. We think they should be shown off to the public, and people love them. Thank you again very much for all your efforts in this endeavor.

Stone House Day Committee

Ellen Richards, Chair

News Bytes

Information you should know ; Opportunities for Fellowship.

GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Church will have its annual golf tournament on Sunday afternoon, September 21st at Alapaha Golf Course on Sawkill Road. Get your foursomes together (or we will) and sign up in Schadewald Hall. If you aren't interested in playing golf, come join us for a fellowship meal afterwards. There will be prizes for longest drive, closest to the pin and, of course, best foursome score. We will play "Captain and Crew" format, so if you don't consider yourself a "golfer", you can still come and play – you never know, your putting may be "hot" that day!! Cost for playing and dinner is \$40. Dinner only is \$16. Dinner is at the Hurley Mountain Inn.



A LEARNING OPPORTUNITY

Classics in Religion coming in September at the Kingston Library presented by Dr. Gram:

"Darwin's Dilemma: The Impact of Evolutionary Theory on Christian Theology". The lectures will focus on Darwin's understanding of evolution as well as the contributions of later theorists. The course will also explore seminal theological approaches to evolutionary thought, and how incorporation has served as springboard for deeper philosophical inquiry. Of particular interest will be the issue of natural selection as it applies to primates. Selections from Darwin's books "Origin of Species", and "The Descent of Man" will be read along with writings from several 'evolutionary' theologians.

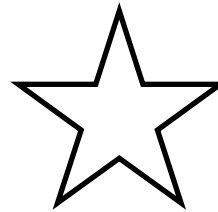
Starts September 3 at 10:30. Additional dates are September 10, September 17 and September 24.

THANK YOU!!

To the Congregation of the Hurley Reformed Church,

I want to thank you for your prayers, cards, flowers, and visits. I look forward to returning to church in the near future. A special thank you to Reverend Gram, Reverend and Esther Stickley for cards and visits. I hope to see you all soon.

Betty Pirro



KUDOS

TO 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!!

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 Pastor on vacation	1 Labor Day	2 4pm - Hurley Purriers 4:30pm - PC 101 @ 7pm - Boy Scouts	3 7:30am - Bible 5:30pm - Dog 6pm - Cub Scout 6pm - Den 1 Bears @ 6:30pm - Girl Scout 7pm - Boy Scouts 7:45pm - Bagpiper	4 9:30am - Badminton 1:30pm - Hurley 3pm - Quilting @ 4:45pm - Dog 7:30pm - 1st Capitol 7:30pm - Choir	5 7pm - motorcycle	6 1pm - DXrs @ Hall
7 10am - Worship @ 11am - Prayer Chain	8 11am - VFW @ 5pm - Dog Training 7pm - Consistory @ 7pm - Hudson Valley 7:30pm - Al-Anon @	9 8:30am - Hillside 9:30am - Badminton 4pm - Hurley Purriers 7pm - Boy Scouts	10 7:30am - Bible 5:30pm - Dog 6pm - Cub Scout 6pm - Den 1 Bears @ 7:45pm - Bagpiper	11 9:30am - Badminton 3pm - Quilting @ 4:45pm - Dog 7:30pm - Choir	12 10am - Genealogy @ 1pm - Wedding @	13
14 10am - Worship @ 11am - Women's	15 10am - Genealogy @ 5pm - Dog Training 7:30pm - Al-Anon @	16 9:30am - Badminton 4pm - Hurley Purriers 7pm - Boy Scouts 7pm - SCLS @ Room	17 7:30am - Bible 5:30pm - Dog 6pm - Cub Scout 6pm - Den 1 Bears @ 7pm - Hurley Lions 7:45pm - Bagpiper	18 9:30am - Badminton 3pm - Quilting @ 4:45pm - Dog 7pm - NE 7:30pm - Choir	19	20
21 10am - Worship @ 11:20am - Stone	22 10:30am - Genealog 5pm - Dog Training 6pm - Foundation 7:30pm - Al-Anon @	23 9:30am - Badminton 4pm - Hurley Purriers 7pm - Boy Scouts 7pm - SCLS @ Room	24 7:30am - Bible 5:30pm - Dog 6pm - Cub Scout 6pm - Den 1 Bears @ 7:45pm - Bagpiper	25 9:30am - Badminton 3pm - Quilting @ 4:45pm - Dog 6:30pm - Hurley 7:30pm - Choir	26 7pm - dance @ hall	27 9am - Classis @ Hall
28 10am - Worship @	29 5pm - Dog Training 7:30pm - Al-Anon @	30 9:30am - Badminton 4pm - Hurley Purriers 7pm - Boy Scouts 7pm - SCLS @ Room	1 7:30am - Bible 5:30pm - Dog 6pm - Cub Scout 6pm - Den 1 Bears @ 6:30pm - Girl Scout 7pm - Boy Scouts 7:45pm - Bagpiper	2	3	4

September 2014

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Pastor

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Pastor

The Rev. Dr. Robert L. Gram, LCSW

Hurley New York 12443

HURLEY REFORMED CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 2014

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