

THE SPIRE



VOLUME 9, ISSUE 7

SEPTEMBER 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Some have asked me what I intend to do once I transition to retirement. I say, half-jokingly, that I'll give myself more time to play. Since I'm the last one to retire in my seminary graduating class, I feel my colleagues have had a head start in this area. Thus I need swaths of unstructured time to catch up. I also believe that I may do as much praying as playing. Although prayer has always been integral, I find it more so during this period of change. Fear accompanies the retirement process, and I'm certainly not immune. So I pray for myself. But I also find that I'm praying more for others. If you ask me to pray for you, be assured that I'll do so with more fervor and energy than ever.

Perhaps prayer is the way I can minister best in retirement. Prayer allows me to discover that I'm a human being rather than a 'human doing', and that by invoking Christ's name wonderful things can happen to those for whom I pray. I don't have to be as 'hands on' functionally as I have assumed throughout my ministry in order for people to be healed, or to grow in the image of Christ. I may no longer be able to catch you metaphorically, but God always will. God's in charge, thank God! God's grip is upon us.

It's a joy to pray for others. I know you feel the same way. Then there's you. Make sure you pray for yourself. My favorite 20th Century theologian is Thomas Merton. After graduating from Columbia University he abandoned his

party going ways, and donned the robe of a Trappist monk. I love his insight about how prayer actuates gratitude and joy. He writes:

"We are indoctrinated so much into means and ends that we don't realize that there is a different dimension in the life of prayer. In technology you have horizontal progress, where you must start at one point and move to another and another. But that is not the way to build a life of prayer. In prayer you discover what we already have. You start where you are, and you realize that you are already there. We already have everything, but we don't know it and we don't experience it. Everything has been given to us in Christ. All we need is to experience what we already possess."

Everything indeed has been given to us in Christ. Everything. What an amazing gift it is when we realize, as Jesus once said, "The Kingdom of God is within you."

As retirement and my 70th year creep up, I'm also aware increasingly of my mortality. This is especially true because a number of friends and clerical colleagues have died in the past twelve months. Most were in their early 70's. So I pray that this precious, and diminishing commodity will be spent wisely. How true are the Psalmist's words: "Teach us to number our days that we beget a heart of wisdom." I'm numbering now more than ever! Second to the 'Lord's Prayer', my favorite is one Thomas Merton wrote before his untimely

death at age 53. He says it all:

“My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never part from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.”

May we all face our futures with the understanding that we will be guided and loved by Christ.

Doc Bob



*Crisp Air
is Coming!*

As the soothing waters dance
over the sides of the fountain,
the air feels crisp and
the nights come on earlier,
we experience the change.

The seasons, like life, flows
by us faster than ever.
We all owe it to ourselves to get
quiet and reflect on the past
and all its gifts. It provides us
with strength for the future.

Come sit for awhile, the benches
are waiting ... feel the strength
of those who have passed before us
and the love that God shows us
through their memories.

The seasons may be a time of change
but God's love is constant ...
in the past, with us now, and
blessing us in our futures. Take a few
minutes and enjoy Stickley Gardens.

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)
LINDA DIDO, CONSISTORY LIAISON
REV STICKLEY, SECRETARY

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

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

September 3	Prayer Chain
September 4	Labor Day
September 5	First Day of School, Hurley Nursery School
September 7	Hurley Senior Citizens
September 10	Women's Guild
September 11	Consistory
September 12	Women's Bible Study
September 13	Social Solos
September 20	Men's Group
September 23	Hurley Heritage Society Concert
September 9-16	Dorothy's Vacation

STONE HOUSE DAY 2017

We had, as usual, a very good Stone House Day this year. The weather was good, not too hot and not rainy, and we had 507 visitors, which was up by 50 from last year. I am going to include some of their comments for your information and enjoyment. We made about \$7,500, which is about the same as last year. We did not have as many activities as before, since it is hard to find people to volunteer, whether it is docents for the houses or colonial craft demonstrators. It would be fun to have a town full of craftspeople, like spinners and weavers and blacksmiths and tinsmiths, coopers and butter churners and maybe cookie makers, quilters and sewers, etc. If you have any ideas of how to find these craftspeople, please let me know. We did have our Sojourner Truth, and she did her speech to a large audience. She does a wonderful job. We also had Nancy Anderson and Jane Barsumian who played violin duets outside. We also had two chair caners and 4 spinners and weavers, and people love to watch them. One of them spins from a live angora bunny. We seem to have fewer and fewer children. Any ideas of how to attract families with young children?

Here are some of the comments from our visitors: "I loved the home made strawberry pie" (thanks, Bill), "Everyone was so very friendly to my father and I. I would like to thank all the volunteers for taking the time out of their personal lives to put this together. I loved everything here, and will come back again all the way from Illinois. Thank you again from the Ostrander and Elmendorf Family ". "The food is fantastic". "The guided bus tour was great. No long waits, smooth ride. Guides at the homes were knowledgeable and friendly". "Loved the tour guide down the street. Very good. He had a wealth of information. Busses were great. Selection of food was terrific. Wish there were more colonial crafts demonstrations". "Love the cafeteria, and bake sale, and especially the hospitality. Oh yeah - the houses are great too". "The people were so nice and welcoming. The houses were amazing and the owners so gracious. Thank you for having such a wonderful event". "Very friendly and helpful staff and tour guides. Good comedic relief on the bus (the professor). Great to learn about history in this way".

We are having a special coffee hour arranged by the SHD Committee on September 10 to thank all our WONDERFUL volunteers. We couldn't do it without you.

Sincerely,
Ellen Richards, Chairperson

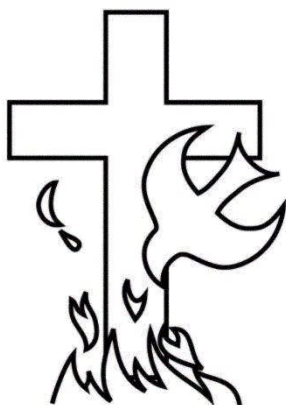


<i>September</i>			
Birthdays			Anniversaries
Lindsay Woodard	2	Tessa Hauck	19
Cindy Sumerano	3	Ron Every	19
Bailey Jordan	3	Kellen Hauck	19
Russ Glass	4	Marissa Rell	20
Halie Brennan	6	Jim Craven	20
Melinda Herzog	6	Bradley Hill	22
Bradley Horvers	6	Helen Sgroi	24
Wayzeta Stickley-Strouse	9	Jim Mayfield	24
Elizabeth Mergl	10	Alice Presti	24
Fred Horvers	10	Charles Woodard	24
Daniella Helsley	14	Wendy Stickley-Ocker	26
Madeline Fox	15	Darrell Nicholas	27
		Christina Longto	28
		Debbie Decker	29
		Sheila Craven	30
		Mark & Beth Woodard	2
		Dennis & Mimi Crowell	11
		Bill & Jane Merrill	13
		John & Debbie Tucker	14
		Jay & Kim Burgess	17
		Lori & John Decker	22
		Dennis & Donna Horvers	23
		Dean & Bernadette Baker	23
		Jean & Henry Dussol	24



LOOKING FOR GOOD FELLOWSHIP?!

The Men's Group meets the third Wednesday of the month. Next meeting is September 20 at 7 pm. Come hang with us.



The Missions committee is working with the Women's Guild to coordinate our Christmas "Mitten Tree" collection. The September 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.

Together let's honor and celebrate the retirement of our pastor

The Rev. Dr. Robert L. Gram, LCSW

October 28, 2017

Stonehedge Restaurant

1694 Route 9W

West Park, New York

Cocktails start at 1:00 P.M., cash bar

Lunch is at 1:30 P.M.

The cost is \$30.00 per person

.....
The favor of your reply, if attending, is

Requested by September 28th

M _____

_____ *Number attending*

Please select one entree per person attending

_____ *Chicken Marsala*

_____ *Baked Filet of Salmon, Herb Crust*

_____ *Sliced Roast Beef w/ Mushroom Gravy*

Please make check payable to "The Hurley Reformed Church" and send your reply to:

Barbara Kindt

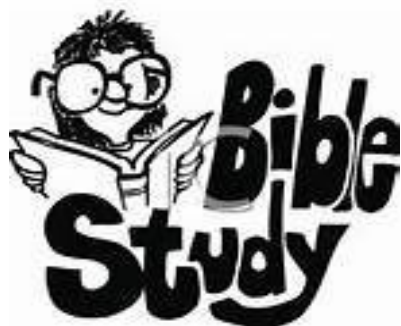
c/o Hurley Reformed Church

P.O. Box 328

Hurley, New York 12443

Women's Ministries

GREETINGS IN THE NAME OF JESUS! We pray that all is well and that the Summer gave you a chance to be with family and friends to fellowship and to have great moments! We will be returning to our meeting date which has not changed: The second Sunday in each month at 11:30 a.m. in the Dutch Room. Ladies, you are welcome to join us and be a part of an organization choosing to do God's Will. The following are members: Nancy Sweeney, Lori Baker, Pat Baker, Midge Stott, Shirley Ruth, Helen Sgroi, Marilyn More, Marilyn Lowe, Andrea Little-Foster, Christie Prentice, Joyce Pinckney, Ellen Richards and Deb Zuill. We welcome additional members: Aileen Helsley and Roberta Falatyn. God bless, Deb Zuill



WOMEN'S MINISTRIES BIBLE STUDY: We are finishing the last chapter of our old book and distributing the new book, *Slightly Bad Girls of the Bible: Flawed Women Loved by a Flawless God* by Liz Curtis Higgs (€55). "A Slightly Bad Girl is simply this: a woman unwilling to fully submit to God. We love him, serve him, and worship him, yet we find it difficult to trust him completely, to accept his plan for our lives, to rest in his sovereignty." Join us on September 12 at 1:00 pm in the Dutch Room. Refreshments will be served. For more information, contact Nancy Sweeney at 845-336-5267



SOCIAL SOLOS We ladies are having so much fun fellowshiping with one another, having good food and just enjoying each other. So far, we have had lunch at Diesing's, Hurley Mtn. Inn, Nine, Mid-Hudson Buffet, Regginato's, Olive Garden, Christina's and Kings Valley Diner! There is a Road Trip in our future! Perhaps in the Fall! Our numbers are growing and we don't have just members from our church! All women who need some laughter, fulfillment, good food and a little TLC; please join us. We meet at a restaurant that we choose the month before and the time is 12 Noon. SO MUCH FUN! It is always the 2nd. Wednesday in each month! Come and have some FUN! Deb Zuill



PRAYER CHAIN: Although we were on hiatus, we were kept busy praying for those who entrust us with their loved ones. We will be resuming our meeting time which is on the 1st. Sunday of every month at 11:30 a.m. in the Dutch Room. Please take notice that we leave folks on for a time of 6 months. There are exceptions. We need to hear from you with updates and please ask if your loved one is still on our lists. The members: Helen Sgroi, Shirley Ruth, Pat Baker, Sandy Emrich, Esther Stickley, Joyce Pinckney, Diana Cline and Deb Zuill.

Thanks! Deb

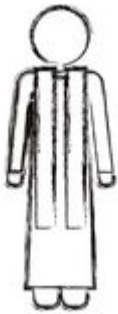
News Bytes

Information you should know ; Opportunities for Fellowship.

FINANCE NOTE: Did you know that when purchasing via **AmazonSmile** you can contribute to the Hurley Reformed Church? Amazon will contribute 0.5 % of the purchase. You can bookmark the link <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/14-1489935> an support us every time you shop.



TRANSITION TEAM UPDATE:



As of the writing of this note, the Transition Team has received twelve (12) applications for the position of Pastor of the Hurley Reformed Church.

The Team has reviewed each of their profiles, resumes and where possible, information made available on social media. As in our lives, even the social media available gives information that makes one's lives a little more public than we might have wanted. It may also provide information which aids in the selection of those one might wish to explore more fully. To this, the Team has been able to narrow the twelve down to three (3) which we are in the process of pursuing further and prepare for interviews, possible visits, or electronic (Skype) reviews.

The Team: Doug Constant, Sonnie Howe, Lisa Longto, Aileen Helsley, Debbie Decker, Doris Alden, Steven Kurtz, Roddy Foster, Bonnie Dumas.



CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp

NO CARL! I SAID "REPENT"!



GOLF TOURNAMENT: It will take place tentatively on Sept. 24th at 3:00pm at Alapaha Golf Course on Sawkill Rd. It is ok with the Hurley Mt. Inn for dinner at 6:00pm. Sign up will be after services on Sundays up until Sept. 17th. Fee for golf is \$40 which includes the buffet. Buffet only is \$16. Let's hope we have enough sign ups this year. Prizes and raffle will be part of the fun. Call Marilyn Lowe with any questions or to make a reservation. Her cell is [845-853-9720](tel:845-853-9720).

Hurley Reformed Church, Contacts, Hurley Reformed Church

Sep 2017 (Eastern Time)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10am - Worship @ 11am - Prayer Chain	9:30am - Guild 3pm - Quilting @ 5pm - Dog Training 7:30pm - Al-Anon @	Parents' Orientation 9:30am - Badminton 11am - balance 4:30pm - PC 101 @ 7pm - Boy Scouts	7:30am - Bible 5:30pm - Dog 7pm - Boy Scouts	9:30am - Badminton 1:30pm - Hurley 4:45pm - Dog 6pm - English as a 7pm - Sisters in 7:30pm - 1st Capitol	7pm - Motorcycle	Dorothy on Vacation 10am - Genealogy @ 2:30pm - wedding
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Dorothy on Vacation @ Cape Cod						
10am - Worship @ 11am - Women's	9:30am - Guild 11am - VFW @ 3pm - Quilting @ 5pm - Dog Training 7pm - Consistory @ 7pm - Hudson Valley 7:30pm - Al-Anon @	8:30am - Hillside 9:30am - Badminton 11am - balance 1pm - Women's 7pm - Boy Scouts	7:30am - Bible 12pm - social solos 5:30pm - Dog 7pm - Local 1582 @	9:30am - Badminton 4:45pm - Dog 6pm - English as a 6pm - nursery 7pm - Choir 7pm - Sisters in		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Dorothy on Vacation						
10am - Worship @ 11am - SHD 1pm - Wayne	8am - safeco fire 9:30am - Guild 10am - Genealogy @ 3pm - Quilting @ 5pm - Dog Training 7:30pm - Al-Anon @	9:30am - Badminton 11am - balance 7pm - Bible Study @ 7pm - Boy Scouts	7:30am - Bible 9am - Finance 5:30pm - Dog 7pm - Hurley Lions 7pm - men's group	9:30am - Badminton 4:45pm - Dog 6pm - English as a 7pm - Choir 7pm - NE 7pm - Sisters in	7pm - Indian Dance	12pm - Hurley
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
10am - Worship @	9:30am - Guild 10:30am - Genealog 3pm - Quilting @ 5pm - Dog Training 7:30pm - Al-Anon @	9:30am - Badminton 11am - balance 1pm - Women's 7pm - Bible Study @ 7pm - Boy Scouts	7:30am - Bible 5:30pm - Dog	9:30am - Badminton 4:45pm - Dog 6pm - English as a 7pm - Choir 7pm - Hurley 7pm - Sisters in		

September 2017

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

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Pastor

The Rev. Dr. Robert L. Gram, LCSW

Hurley New York 12443

HURLEY REFORMED CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 2017

THE SPIRE

