

HURLEY REFORMED CHURCH

THE SPIRE

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 4 SUMMER 2009

HOMECOMING SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 13, 2009

10:00 AM WORSHIP SERVICE

Special Guest: Mr. Brian Clark

On September 11, 2001, Brian Clark was on the eighty-fourth floor of the World Trade Center's South Tower when the second hijacked airplane slammed into the building six floors below him. Brian is one of only four individuals who survived from above the point of impact. During his descent he heard cries of help from within the eighty-first floor and successfully rescued a stranger who was trapped by debris.



Sixty-one of Brian's co-workers were killed that day. For the next five years, until his retirement in August 2006, Brian served as President of 'The Euro Brokers Relief Fund,' a public charity that continues to financially support the families of his company's sixty-one victims.

Brian currently serves as President of the Deacons at The Wyckoff (New Jersey) Reformed Church and is on the Board of Trustees at New Brunswick Theological Seminary where he also chairs the Investment Advisory Council. In addition he is on the Board of Governors of Opportunity International, a global enterprise that provides micro business loans to the poorest of the poor in twenty-nine developing countries. In 2004, Brian was recipient of the 'Norman Vincent Peale Award For Positive Thinking.'



South of the World Trade Center in April 1993
(just after the February 26, 1993 bombing)

Brian and his wife Dianne live in Mahwah, New Jersey where they raised four children and now enjoy seven grandchildren.

PLEASE JOIN US . . .

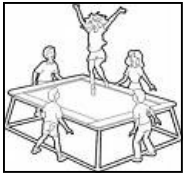
Here We Grow Again!

On May 31st, Pentecost Sunday, we welcomed 12 confirmands and 15 adults for a total of 27 new members of the Hurley Reformed Church family. Look for our group photograph in the upcoming Church Herald.

Last month several were featured in the Spire and we continue here with more . . .

Dakota Butler

I am Dakota Butler. I'm 12 years old and in 7th grade. I live with my mother, sister and cousin. I have a curious cat named Jackson and my dog, Zoe. I like jumping on my trampoline, dancing, and swimming.



When I grow up I want to be . . . Well, I'm not sure yet. I hope one day though that I can travel and see other countries and stop along the way to study in Paris.

MY FAITH: Most people think of the Bible as a book. The bible is actually a home to 66 different books. The Bible contains stories about the lives of Christians and their faith, their belief in God and in themselves. The Bible is history, but more like a conversation throughout history about religious doings, issues of wrong and right, and sometimes even trying to understand the unknown up until this day.

When I think of the Bible I think of a way to be. That is what the Bible means to me.

Faith to me is believing in something bigger than us. It is one of the things that each and every

single one of us have complete control over. We turn to faith when we feel we cannot turn to anyone else. Faith is something that no one can explain. When there is something that we need God the most, He will help. When I think Faith I think of believing in the one who believes in us.

That is what Faith means to me.

Morgan Schaffrick

My name is Morgan Schaffrick. I am 13 years old and go to Bailey Middle School. I like to play lacrosse and was on the girls modified lacrosse team. I am in band and play the clarinet.



When I grow up I want to practice the culinary arts.

To me faith is what makes you believe in God and Jesus. Also how much you believe in them.

Elaine and David Szekeres

Natives of Hurley and Stone Ridge, Elaine and David are the parents of two children, Baylee (8) and Brady (5). Both children attended the Hurley Nursery

School so they have been in and out of the church for several years.

David is a detective for the NYS Park Police and Elaine currently works at home. She enjoys writing books and stories for children and teens. Both enjoy volunteering their time, particularly at their children's school.

Our church school program is one of the things that attracted Elaine and David to the Hurley Church.

Joanne Chapman

The Kingston area has been home to Joanne all her life. Most of her time is spent working with children. She is a teachers assistant at Miller Middle School, Camp Director for the Hurley Summer Program, and helps with coaching the Hurley Little League. Joanne has also taught gymnastics for many years. She also enjoys hiking, swimming, writing and reading.

Joanne and husband Mark are parents of three children, Jesse, Kalli and Casey.

Thank God for Spring!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

A few Spires ago, I complained about our never-ending winter. Now I'm thankful that a smidgen of the season lingers. What a glorious Spring! Days are warm, and cool evenings afford great sleep opportunity. Some years we move directly from Winter to Summer. Spring is little more than a meteorological hyphen, a glitch in the winter-summer continuum. Without a real Spring, there is cognitive jarring: In less than 24 hours, it seems, our complaints of cold pivot to regret about a malfunctioning air conditioner. Not this year. Spring is truly Spring! We've been buoyed by length which preserves the redolence of things in bloom. Several weeks ago I went to a nearby sporting goods store to purchase athletic socks. Instead I walked out with a tubby tired mountain bicycle. Since then I have ridden the Rail Trail in my spare time. It has been an exceptional treat for my nose. Cycling condenses the aromas of lilac, honeysuckle, mown grass, and the faint sweetness of flowers I can't identify. In the woods, particularly at dusk, I'm greeted with the cellar scent of ancient leaves in

mulch, and the boggy aroma of swamp. Kicked up by previous riders, the complexity of the dirt path anatomizes into wind borne dust for olfactory consumption.

During this Spring let's take Jesus at his word, and consider the lilies of the field and everything which presents as sheer gift from our Creator. If we take time, and pay attention, we will be overwhelmed with beauty. Riding my bike has been wonderful, too, because it evokes memories of a boyhood in which God nestled in nature. Way back I sensed His presence in the rasp and thrum of crickets blanketing late August evenings. I still do. God also became a pursuing presence in the foamy rivulets from spent ocean waves which seemingly followed my zig-zag movements on hardened sea slick sand. Whenever I remember holy moments at the Jersey shore, I am reminded of a verse of Psalm 139: "Where can I go from your Spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?" No, we cannot escape our God who loves us, nor the beauty of His intricate creation which lifts us continually toward Him.

"Where can I go from your Spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?"

Psalm 139

In this issue, I've asked a few members of our congregation to write on their experience of God in natural surroundings. May you be blessed by the insight of your brothers and sisters in the faith.

In Christ's Service,

Doc Bob

PRAYER CHAIN

There will be no meetings during the months of July and August for the Prayer Chain. Our next meeting will be September 6, 2009. This does not mean a halt to what God has commissioned us to do! We will always keep everyone in prayer. We continue to solicit for new members! Have a great summer and be blessed.



Getting to Know You -

Jim and Christie Prentice

The Prentices come to us from the New Hurley Reformed Church in Walkkill. They have been worshipping with us for several years and have decided to make it official and transfer their membership to Hurley.

Jim is a correction officer and Christie works as an executive assistant. In her spare time Christie enjoys all types of crafts and craft shows.



They have two daughters, Ashley and Jessica and reside in Kingston.

George and Renee Nekos

Both George and Renee are pharmacists at Nekos-Dedrick's Pharmacy. George grew up in Kingston and Renee spent her childhood in Clintondale, in the southern part of Ulster County. They now reside in Hurley with Justin (9) and Jada (5 months).

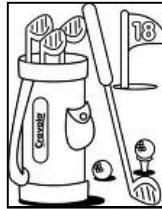
In his spare time George likes to spend time outdoors, especially 4-wheeling, biking and golfing.

Spending time with family and friends is how Renee likes to relax.



Steve and Kristen Helm

Residents of old Hurley, Kristen currently works from home as a financial analyst which allows her to work and play with new baby, Ryan. An official at school track meets, Kristen also enjoys golf and running. Steve is a technician servicing bank alarms. He enjoys snowboarding, home improvements and golf.



Spending time with family is most important to the Helms. Julia, 6, completes the family.

Volunteer Opportunities

Youth teams are needed during July/August to help the Claryville Church maintain the garden, gather produce, clean and package it for the unemployed and poor in the area.

The Claryville Church needs a youth or adult team during the summer to help the church members and community folk to paint the one room schoolhouse next to the fellowship hall. The schoolhouse was given to the church by the community to be developed as a museum. For more information and/or to volunteer, contact Paul Nulton, 845-598-1407.

Property and Maintenance

Yeah, I know it's nice out but let's talk heating oil

Many months ago I reported that the installation of the new furnace at the church will save us money. I realized that I never shared just how much we are actually saving. This is a good news story. The records show that we reduced our oil consumption by 47%! At a constant rate of \$2.15 a gallon we'll save enough money to have the new furnace pay for itself in 3 years. At a constant rate of \$3.00 a gallon we'll save enough money to have the new furnace pay for itself in 4 years. This indicates that it was money well spent!

Speaking of furnaces... I also reported previously that a crack was found in the furnace at the parsonage so it will need to be replaced this year. Thanks to those that throw a few dollars into the building fund envelope. These infrastructure updates aren't pretty but certainly are needed.

OK, back to enjoying the nice weather!

Joe Ulrich and Gerry Wyncoop

Women's Guild

Our church hosted the June classis meeting and dinner on June 16th. Natalie Woodard, Shirley Ruth and Shirley Burns coordinated the dinner.

We are in need of hand made craft items for our Country Fair during Stone House Day. If you can make a few items and donate them to us to sell during Stone House Day we would appreciate it. Also, baked goods to sell at our

Freshly Baked Goods table would also be appreciated. Items should be delivered the day before Stone House Day. If you have any questions please see Shirley Ruth or Joyce Pinckney.

The tulip quilt, currently on display in Schadewald Hall, is being raffled off. Raffle tickets have been mailed. If you didn't receive yours or you need more see



Natalie Woodard . The drawing for the quilt will take place on Stone House Day.

Our next meeting will be held on September 20th. Please plan to attend as we will be planning our event calendar for the upcoming year.

Have a great summer.

Blessings,

Sandy Emrich - President

Stone House Day July 11

This year we celebrate the 60th annual Stone House Day and the 400 years of Hudson River history. But this will not be the same old Stone House Day. Chef Russ Glass is working on some authentic Dutch recipes for the cafeteria. The Elmendorf house is un-



dergoing restoration and visitors can observe the process. The Kool house has been restored and is now operating as a Bed and Breakfast. Also, the Houghtaling house, often referred to as the George Washington house, will be open for the first time in many years. The Bevier house and other houses that are traditionally open, will make a total of nine houses on the walking and bus tours.

In addition to the houses, there will be the 3rd Ulster Militia, stitchers, spinners,

weavers, a colonial artillery demonstration, Indian dancers, Sojourner Truth and a period music program. It is difficult to see it all in one day, so come early and stay late. Activities start at 10am and end at 4pm.

Stone House Day is a major undertaking and the volunteers ensure its success. There are many ways to participate. Please sign up for your favorite activity.

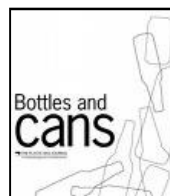
Jim Craven

All good things come to an end . . .

We would like to thank everyone who has supported the can and bottle returns collection for our Relay for Life team these past 2 years. We have collected

over 5,500 cans and bottles. Thank you all! This has been a great way to support a great organization.

The Emrich Family



To the Members of the Women's Guild:

The Hurley Heritage Society wishes to thank you for letting our docents borrow the colonial dresses for our May 2nd opening day celebration. Everyone felt that they made the day even more special.

Sincerely, Barbara Sartorius

Youth Group

On May 23rd we went to Adams in Kingston to plant flowers in a flower bed that we made.

Thank you to everyone that came out and helped us. We wanted to show our thanks for the many ways in Adams has supported us.

On April 24, eight adults and 21 kids in our Youth Group went to Camp Warwick for a Youth Rally for the weekend. We were 1 of 11 churches that attended this great weekend of worship. This year's message was Blessed Are. We revealed a secret of ourselves that other's wouldn't know about. The next morning we broke into groups to discuss the Beatitudes. We then broke into groups to do 3 different rotations. We played kick ball, went on a hike in the woods, and played Frisbee. After lunch we gathered in the chapel for worship and singing. During this time we were told what activities that we would be working on towards a church having their name put on the Warwick Camp trophy. Our first activity was to come up with a group

name and act it out in silent interpretive dance. Our group name was the Hurley Arks. We acted out waves and animals coming onto the arks. The camp leaders for the weekend as-



signed points to the different groups for each activity and at the end of the weekend the team with the most points from all of the activities got their name put on the Warwick Iron Coffee Cup trophy. For the next activity, each team got a balled-up frozen t-shirt that needed to be opened up and placed on a person. We had to do this activity as a group. We were the first to complete this very hard and very cold task. Our next task was a camp hunt to try and find 56 different items such as a battery, a blue feather, and a 1984 nickel. We were able to find 38 items. After all of the tasks were completed and the points totaled the winner of the Warwick Cup for 2009 was

THE HURLEY ARKS!!!!

Only 13 points separated the top 3 church groups and we

were lucky enough to win this year!! After a full weekend of praise, worship and reflection we headed home. We were able to get down to Warwick with the help of a van from the Hopewell Reformed Church that Mr. Horvers obtained for us. We would like to thank the parents that were with us for this weekend. Without you we wouldn't have been able to do this. Also, thanks to the congregation for purchasing the chicken that paid for us to attend this wonderful weekend. Without your help of this wouldn't have happened.

We hosted a successful Car Wash at Stage One Auto on Rt. 9W on June 6. This was a Relay for Life fund raiser.

We will resume our pantry item collection in September. Thank you for your generosity.

Our upcoming events:

9/13/09 Meeting

10/2/09 Penny Social

God Bless,

Lisa Longto, Sandy and Katie Emrich - Youth Group Leaders

Dear Women's Guild,

Thank you all for the many cards you sent me. They brightened my days and helped me keep a positive outlook.

See you all soon,

With love, Dolores McGoldrick

Missionaries to Visit:

Sunday Evening, July 26

Jeremy & Susan Beebout

Missionaries to Niger

Watch the bulletin for time.

Spire deadline August 20th. Items can be dropped off or emailed to the church office.



Stickley Gardens

The Columbarium Dedication Day was held on May 31st, 2009 with over 150 in attendance. This project started over three years ago and because of the devoted efforts of the committee, this day was a complete success. God blessed us with a beautiful sunny day and made his presence known with some strong gusts of wind during the ceremony. Dr. Bob Gram and Rev Stickley lead the service with litany, readings and joyous song. The area was officially named "Stickley Gardens" in honor of Rev and Esther's thirty-plus years of devotion to our church. The families of Doc &

Flo Harder and Stephan Nekos both were in attendance and we celebrated the memories of these wonderful people. The donation of memorial funds by these families made this project possible and we thank them dearly. Also honored was Matt Sirni for his donation of labor and ongoing advice and expertise in construction, lighting and fountain installation.

The Columbarium is dedicated to serving many families who find this their final resting place. May all who come here, discover the dignity of God's love, and a place of peace

and rest, in the tranquility of their surroundings.

For more information on the Columbarium, please contact any of the committee:

Lisa Longto, Chairperson
(331-1438)

Jim Pirro, Treasurer (383-0079)

Jerry Fink, Secretary (246-6567)

Joe Ulrich (331-5139)

Esther Stickley (331-2919)



Congratulations to our graduates!

Kingston High School:

Bradley Merrill will attend Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Jayne Ulrich will attend Penn State University College of Agriculture

Liz Wilson will attend Goucher College

Kevin Hill will attend Albany College of Pharmacy

Katie Christiana will attend SUNY Oswego

Jessica Nicholas (granddaughter of Molly and Darrel Nicholas) will attend Ulster County Community College

Rondout Valley High School:

Cody Harder will attend Ulster County Community College

Salisbury School, Salisbury, CT:

Coty Burgess will attend **Hobart College**

Dutchess County Community College

John Reynaud, A.S. in Telecommunications (while continuing to work full time)

Hudson Valley Community College

Bradley Hill, AS. in Radiological Technology

McGill University, Montreal, QC, Canada

Caitlin Decker, B.Ed. Education and B.Mus. Music

SUNY Albany

Mike Schneller, B.A. History and Communications

East Carolina University

Courtney Johnson, B.FA. Photography

SUNY College at Oneonta

Shannon Tucker, B.S. Psychology

College of St. Rose

Jamie Hopper, B.A. Communications

Marist College

Katherine Kent (granddaughter of Don and Mary Kent) heading to work in Swaziland, South Africa

We congratulate you and wish you well as you continue your life's journey!

“New 300 Year Old Home Open for Stone House Day”

A “new” home, built 300 years ago, will greet visitors for the first time in fifty years for our 60th Stone House Day, Saturday, July 11.

Purchased a few months ago by artist Nina Isabelle, the home - one of Old Hurley’s many National Historic Landmark homes - is nearest to its original condition and the owner in renovating is trying to keep the venerable house in character.

“A three-quarter inch rope still serves as a handrail up the narrow stairs and it’s likely the massive beams, wide floorboards, Dutch

doors, and forged hardware will still be around for our 60th Stone House Day,” Jim Craven, SHD chairman said.

If you or friends in the are haven’t visited the homes recently, now is the time to do it. Two others homes have been lovingly renovated - the former home of Town Historian Olive Clearwater and the Bevier house just before the 209 overpass and the parsonage. The Bevier house, owned by Barbara Paul, is up for sale, and the other has become Hurley’s first Bed and Breakfast. Jim Decker, a specialist on restoring old homes has bought Ruth Lord’s Elmendorf House and it’s a “work in progress” for sight-

seers on the tour. Of course, you should see the 200-year-old parsonage now, too.

Nine homes are open this year to celebrate the 400th Anniversary of the Half Moon’s trip up the Hudson for the Dutch East Indies Company.

Numerous other events will be featured throughout the day, including the Library Fair, the authentic Revolutionary War re-enactors, performances by Native Americans in costume, Sojourner Truth, the Women’s Guild’s Country Fair, and demonstrations.

And, check out the menu for the Stone House Day cafeteria!

STONE HOUSE DAY 2009

CAFETERIA MENU

Dutch Plate Special	\$6.50
Gevulde Pannekoek (meat-filled pancake)	
Hutspot (puree of potato, carrot and onion)	
Cucumber Salad	
Pulled Chicken BBQ Sandwich	\$4.50
Chef’s Salad	\$5.00
Stuffed Tomato (Tuna Salad or Chicken Salad)	\$4.00
Sandwiches	\$4.00
Turkey, Roast Beef, Ham, Tuna and Egg Salad	
White, Wheat or Rye Bread	
Hot Dog	\$1.50
Baked Beans	\$1.50
Salads	\$1.50
Potato, Macaroni and Cole Slaw	
Fruit Salad	\$2.00
Home Baked Desserts	\$1.50
Hot and Cold Drinks	\$1.00

Neil and I would like to take this time to thank all of our church family for the mountain of cards, positive thoughts, prayers and great dishes that have been sent our way! We feel truly blessed and supported by all of you! The road is a little easier to travel knowing that so many are rooting for us. Especially for Neil! We really feel loved! God's blessings upon each of you!

Neil and Deb Zuill

With Our Thanks: To Debbie Decker for the time and effort putting together our Prayer Chain Lists and for getting our meeting times into the bulletins. We so appreciate her with all the other duties that she has. Thank you so much!

A Spin Story

I have been cycling since I was 4. Who knew that something so simple would not only become part of my vocation, but also the very thing that brings me closest to communion with God. The really big moments in life for me have been decided often on long climbs on my Cannondale. There is something about having to weigh the pro's and cons of a weighty decision while pedaling away on a steep incline that quiets me. I become aware of the things that matter- the light that passes through the leaves on the trees, the scent of the outdoors that Glade has yet to match, and the immensity of the sky that reminds me that if I can get quiet and still enough in my soul, I may be able to hear God's voice in the weighty matter at hand. Clarity seems to come

when I am about three quarters up one of those climbs. As the last quarter of the road lies in front of me, I sometimes sense God chuckling at me. (I believe I provide Him with a lot of laughs.) I get the feeling that He is pushing me up that hill, letting me know He was waiting for me to get it. His chuckle stems from me finally "getting it". It is always the same exact answer to all the other important issues in life. My God is always there beside me, helping me get to the other side regardless of whether it is over a mountain-top or a decision to be made. I moved to Hurley from Florida a little over a year ago. I had worked for the Y and partnered with the Olympic Training Cen-



ter there for several years. I was looking for a change, but the recent move ended up being the hardest transition I've had to make since college. I thought perhaps I was getting an opportunity to put away my helmet and Cannondale and give my body some well needed rest. It had taken quite a beating over 20 years. I saw myself tackling a new career. I plowed away at different ideas yet nothing seemed to click. My first spring here I finally could take out my bike to see if I could hear a little insight from God. I went out and climbed up Dug Hill Road. I didn't get any answers that day, just a flat. However, I got pulled in a direction almost immediately. I was back at the Y teaching cycling classes and coaching a bunch of fun loving women into doing Triathlons.

Colleen Conklin

3rd Annual Golf Tournament

Sunday, July 19th at 3:30 at Alapaha Golf Course on Sawkill Road. It will be a Captain and his crew so new golfers are welcome. Buffet will follow at the Hurley Mountain Inn. For more information see Natalie Woodard.



Dear Rev. Gram and all church members,

I want to thank everyone for the cards, phone calls and especially prayers over the last few weeks during this difficult time. I have felt so comforted knowing you have all been offering your thoughts and prayers. I am truly blessed to be a part of such a wonderful congregation. May God bless each of you,

Sincerely,

Angie Rockwell and family

Every picture tells a story . . .

We would like a picture of your family on vacation. Your photo will be included in a montage during worship on Homecoming Sunday, September 13.

Mail, drop off, or better yet, email pictures to the church office:
PO Box 328, Hurley or
admin@HurleyReformedChurch.org



KUDOS

Fred and Virginia Suppies celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on March 27th.

Four Kingston High School juniors in our Church family have been named to the National Honor Society, according to the Kingston Freeman. Honorees were **Kevin Kurtz, Emily Loughran, Brandon Paton and Alissa Sumerano**.

Jayne Ulrich was named by the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County Master Gardener Program as the recipient of the 2009 Dominic Parise Master Gardener Scholarship. She also was the recipient of the Kingston Area Council of Churches Christian Service Award and a scholarship from the Hurley Fire Co.

Kevin Hill received the Kingston Area Council of Churches Christian Service Award, and scholarship awards from the Town of Ulster Kiwanis Club and the Ulster Hose Fire Company. **Liz Wilson** received a New York State Theater Award and

“Service Above Self” from the Rotary.

Chloe Dumas was among 8 fifth grade students selected to work with artist-in-residence and art teacher to complete a 5 by 36 foot mural in the cafeteria of Ernest C. Myer Elementary School. They met twice a week over six months.

Emily Waligurski, an 8th grader on the Onteora Varsity Track Team, qualified for the State Championship Meet at Syracuse by placing 1st in her division for the 800 meter run. She set a new record for Onteora High School for the 800 meter run @ 2:20.2 seconds. She will also receive High Honors for her academic success this year.

Brandon Paton and **Kevin Kurtz** have been selected to the American Legion Boys State, June 27 - July 3 at SUNY Morrisville.

Nicholas Rockwell received the honor of an academic nomination to participate in a student ambassador program to go to China from July 14th thru Aug.

1st. He will be in Hong Kong, Beijing, Xi'an, Shanghai, Donghan Village, and Sushou. He will be working toward academic elective credits for his first hand study of Chinese history and culture. His trip involves two home stays with the families of local Chinese officials and he is excited that the trip involves meeting with the people on a personal and not just a tourist involvement. This program is supported through a special fellowship program created by Dwight D. Eisenhower and carried on by his family to promote better world understanding.

Named to the Honor Roll of Kingston High School:

Kevin Hill, Jayne Ulrich, Bradley Merrill, Alissa Sumerano, Brandon Paton, Grace Schneller, Kasey Stelter, Sarah Longto, Matthew McGraw, Kellen Hauck, Bradley Horvers, Keelan Tucker, and Molly Salzmann

Congratulations! AND, IF WE MISSED ANYONE, PLEASE LET US KNOW.

NEW LOOK AND NEW FEATURES

FOR OUR WEBSITE . . . The newest feature is our Audio Sermons. You can now listen to past sermons with the simple click of a button. We expect to go “live” in July. Check us out at: www.HurleyReformedChurch.org



[Audio Sermons](#)

Chancel Flowers

Dates in August are available to place flowers on the Chancel in memory or in honor of friends, family or loved ones. See Sheila Read after worship or call her at 331-7715. Remember, flowers need not come from a florist, plants or bouquets from your garden work equally as well and are lovely. For those new folks who have never placed flowers, it's an easy process - just speak to Sheila for details.

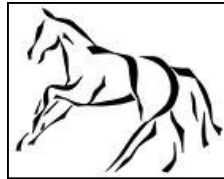
He Reigns!

“We must be willing to let go of the life we have planned, so as to have the life that is waiting for us.” (Joseph Campbell)

My grandfather, Reverend Herbert A. Haslam, talked about the concept of being born again or born anew. He gave this talk in the 1940’s to an audience of people who had just been devastated by World War II and still felt the effects of the Great Depression. Grandfather shared with them the need for all of us to experience a change in environment many times over the course of a lifetime in order to learn our full potential as human beings, in order to see all of the glorious possibilities. It is our fear of change or that which we cannot control that holds us back from truly living our lives to the fullest. He offered hope by pointing out it is ultimately our fear of the unknown that holds us back from learning our greatest life lessons and keeps us from living the life God intended.

My best friend in middle school asked me to ride her horse back following a show in which she competed. I impulsively jumped at the chance to venture off with her dark chestnut horse alone. And so began our long journey together. We made our way through the ancient woods of

Philadelphia—evergreens and pines towered over, protecting us like a mother’s warm embrace. Heavy branches ready for release hung over our path as the horse made her way adeptly down short slippery hills and areas of rocky terrain. Darkness arrived quicker than I had anticipated and the veil of trees blocked the stars and moonlight, casting a shadow over our path of dirt and stone. Worried that I might lose my bearings or lose sight of the path, I nudged the horse with my foot asking her to pick up speed. Suddenly, I felt her misstep and lose her balance. The left side of the horse’s body



seemed to collapse. And then the right. Her hooves were scraping and sliding resulting in her loss of sure footing. As I looked down to figure out what was happening, I saw that we were standing on something not of the natural world. A sort of pipeline—just wide enough for the body of the horse—that reached over a chasm. As I looked down into the darkness I understood it was at least a fifty foot drop below onto rock formed sometime during the Ice Age. My impulse was to pull back on the reins, but my instincts told me this would lead

us to peril. Forward was the only option. So, I listened to that inner voice, and let go of the reins completely turning all control over to the shaken horse. I leaned down and rubbed her chest, letting her know I trusted her to get us across the abyss safely. I felt my body relax and my fear vanish. Step by small step we walked over this empty crevasse, into the unknown and slowly, carefully the horse guided us to the other side.

When I initially looked back on this experience I questioned why I did not steer the horse toward the path that made its way around the chasm. I questioned my inability to see what was ahead. I came to think of it as a metaphor of my journey through life. By walking into a new environment I was able to find a new inner strength. I have often learned the most about myself when allowing myself to let go of what I perceive as control, and walk the path in front of me rather than the one I think I should be walking. The challenge occurs during those moments when I’ve felt most afraid, when my life seemed devoid of light. To truly see all that is in front of me, I am able to let go of fear and simply trust God. For this I am truly grateful.

~Lisa Schneller

My granddaughter, Abby, and I decided to go camping together - just one night - up in the Catskills at our family campsite. We packed up our sleeping bags, some food, matches and our pajamas. It was going to be a great adventure!

After setting up camp, we decided to take a hike. Taking Abby by the hand, we ventured into the woods, collecting twigs and small sticks for our fire as we went. As we walked, we saw a small turtle by the stream. "Why does the turtle hide itself in its shell?" Abby asked. "That is God's way of protecting the turtle," I answered.

We walked along the stream, watching the sunlight reflect off the water in an array of sparkling light. We saw a small brook trout jump up to catch an insect, its sides covered in beautiful speckles of color. We watched

Camping with God

a caterpillar inch its way along a small branch lying in our path. We hid behind a tree and silently watched a doe with her fawn grazing in the field on the other side of the stream.

Abby was full of questions. "Why does the fish jump?" "Why does the caterpillar crawl like that?" "Why does the baby deer have spots?"

Abby and I found a small field full of pink, yellow and purple wild flowers. She gathered a handful to take home to her mother. She found pretty white rocks rubbed smooth by the rushing water.

That evening, after a cookout of hotdogs, baked beans and burnt marshmallows, Abby and I watched the sun go down over the

mountains. Abby was strangely silent as we stared at the vast array of colors outlining the clouds and blending one into another in a show of glorious splendor. As we curled up in our sleeping bags, listening to the night sounds, talking about all the things we saw during the day, darkness descended and the stars began to twinkle in the sky. It was a dark night, with only a sliver of a moon. (My Grandmother used to tell me that it was God smiling down from heaven.) I pointed out the few constellations I knew and then we made up our own pictures in the stars.

Abby slept by my side as I pondered the beauty of God's creation. With thanks in my heart and surrounded by his glory, I slept in peace.

Roberta Falatyn



Walkway Over the Hudson

Suzanne Stokes is the artist representing the Town of Hurley for the Walkway Over the Hudson project. She will hold a community workshop to create 25 30" x30" flags which will represent Hurley in the Grand Opening Parade. She is looking for people who can sew the flags and also those who would like to create an image from cloth to go on the flags. All of those involved in the making of the flags are also

invited to take place in the Walkway Grand Opening Parade. All ages and levels of experience are welcome! Please join us for this wonderful event!

Walkway Over the Hudson is a place to enjoy the river and a place to appreciate the wonder of an engineering feat unprecedented in its time with a beauty unsurpassed in our generation.

It's going to take thousands of folks to open this bridge! We hope YOU will be one of them! The flags will be displayed during the Walkway's October 3, 2009 (10am) "Walking On Air" grand

opening celebration, which will serve as the mid-Hudson Valley's signature event for the statewide Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadracentennial Celebration.

We will meet at The Hurley Reformed Church on July 13th from 9am-4pm. If you want to primarily sew, please come in the morning. If your more interested in decorating the sewn flags (all ages) please come around 12 noon.

Contact Suzanne Stokes at stokess@newpaltz.edu or call 845-334-9918 to register for the workshop. It is free of charge.

Living with Jesus

Rev. Dr. Gram asked if I would write a 100 word article about Jesus in our daily activities. 'Sure' I replied. How hard could it be? 'Everything we do is to be done with love.' All I need is a little time to reflect on some examples. The more I reflected the more I realized keeping Jesus in our daily lives is not always meant to be easy. If it were, what would we have to learn or teach each other? Neither is it easy to whittle this down to 100 words.

I wanted to say it would be. How hard is it to remember Jesus in our daily activities? My job is rewarding in knowing I am helping someone in the long run. My hobby teaches awareness of cultures and breaks prejudicial barriers. My personal love of the arts grants me an appreciation for what God has

given us. However, this is more of a reflection than a remembering.

Remembering and keeping Jesus in our daily tasks is another story. Confronted with a difficult problem or an unforeseen obstacle, which God presents, can be truly difficult. We become frustrated and sometimes angry and it becomes harder to see the end result of keeping Jesus in our tasks. However, if it weren't for these challenges would we learn anything? Learn that we need to try harder. How many of us truly stop and reflect on the days events? *'The day went well. I handled that better than I did the last time'*, or perhaps *'That was horrible. I did not do well in that at all. What must I do next time?'* Many of us do not reflect at all and sometimes live in the self-pity of it all. *'Why me God? What do you want from me?'* The real question is: Are we listening?

Are we paying attention to what God wants us to do?

Jesus was challenged from day one. The older he grew, the tougher the challenge. How many of us can say we are truly challenged? I know I haven't been persecuted for my love of others; I have not felt the disappointment of my friends deserting me in my hour of need. I certainly have not looked down on a mob screaming that I be crucified. Through it all, Jesus forgave. Every time, he forgave. Don't get me wrong. He had human emotions: Anger, fear, and disappointment. But, in the end, he looked up and asked his Father to forgive us for in the end he still loves us all. That is our challenge, every day, every task and every obstacle. If, at the end of the day, we conclude, "I still love," then we have kept Jesus in our tasks.

~Jennifer Macarille



4 years: My Daddy can do anything.

7 years: My Dad knows a lot.

9 years: Dad doesn't quite know everything.

12 years: Dad just doesn't understand

14 years: Dad is old-fashioned.

21 years: That man is out of reach.

25 years: Dad's okay.

30 years: I wonder what Dad thinks about this.

35 years: I must get Dad's input first.

50 years: What would Dad have thought about that?

60 years: I wish I could talk it over with Dad once more.



Birthdays

June

Julie Johnson
 Gordon Kent
 Julie Lasher
 Scot Stelter
 Bobbi Checksfield
 David Giles
 Rebecca Masters
 Dennis Crosswell
 Mimi Crosswell
 Kaitlin Winnie
 Lonnie Kulick
 Annemarie Kurtz
 Robert Ryan III
 Kyla Burns
 Christina LaFiandra
 Emily Horvers
 Robert Roddy
 Brandt Kurtz
 Marilyn Lowe
 George Nekos`
 Cian Ryan
 Amalia Martinez
 Patti Gilpatric
 William Mergl
 Elaine Szekeres
 Bev Chrisey
 Shawn Hinsdale
 Cailin Ryan
 Aileen Helsley
 Maxx Mecabe
 Elizabeth Salzmman
 Steven Kurtz
 Dakota Butler
 Gregory Merrill
 Dolores Wolven
 Sheila Read

July

Paul LaFiandra
 John Browning
 Bonnie Dumas
 Nancy Salzmman
 Teagan Helsley
 Deborah Tucker

Thomas Roddy
 Sam Fisher
 Owen Conlin
 1 Alyssa Kurtz
 1 Roger Vogt
 6 Bryan Hill
 7 Lori Decker
 7 Barbara Mayfield
 8 Jay Marrus
 8 Sandra Emrich
 9 Win Morrison
 11 Brayden Horvers
 11 Patricia Manley
 14 Dan Stott
 15 Gay Gravina
 16 Daniel Nekos
 18 Heather Williams
 19 Midge Stott
 20 Caitlin Cox
 20 Matthew Horvers
 21 Don Briggs
 21 **August**
 21 Roberta Falatyn
 22 Betty Pirro
 23 Reid Jordan
 23 Baylee Szekeres
 23 Donna Harder
 24 Florence Kurtz
 24 Ryan Willis
 24 Frank Pinckney
 25 Rev. Charles Stickley
 25 Kathy Jansen
 25 Jacob Browning
 26 Aubrey Horvers
 27 Gregg Moon
 27 Liam Burke-Roddy
 27 Roslie Gilpatric
 28 David Emrich
 Jim Macarille
 Jacob Crantz
 Jennifer Macarille
 1 Barbara Kindt
 2 Gary Longto
 3 Rich Rockwell
 5 Richard Baker
 6 Joel Lasher
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Anniversaries

June

Rich & Angie Rockwell 4
 Richard & Barbara Baker 6
 Pastor Bob & June Vanderlaan 13
 Wally & Linda Cook 14
 Barbara & Bob Kindt 17
 Bobbi & Don Checksfield 21
 Frieda & Doug Constant 23
 Hattie & Wesley Drake 26
 Terry & John Gaffken 26
 Steve & Phyllis Bliss 27
 Paul & Cheryl LaFiandra 27
 Jim & Christie Prentice 28
 Val & Steve Nekos 29
 Todd & Katrina Rubino 30

July

Frank & Joyce Pinckney 6
 Mary Lou & Roger Vogt 11
 Matt & Amy Sirni 17
 1 Jerry & Dee Wyncoop 22
 2 Rebecca & Allan Masters 27

August

Bryan & Leigh Hill 1
 David & Gretchen Giles 6
 Hal & Kathy Hauck 6
 Terry & Sheila Read 6
 Fred & Annemarie Kurtz 15
 Kathy & Ted Musialkiewicz 16
 Frank & Leanne Warren 16
 Roslie & Jim Gilpatric 19
 Gene & Athena Groelle 22
 Melinda & Larry Herzog 22
 Jeff & Alyson Rafferty 24
 Dahlia & Rick Soshensky 24
 Sandy & David Emrich 29
 Dino & Cindy Sumerano 30

HURLEY REFORMED
CHURCH

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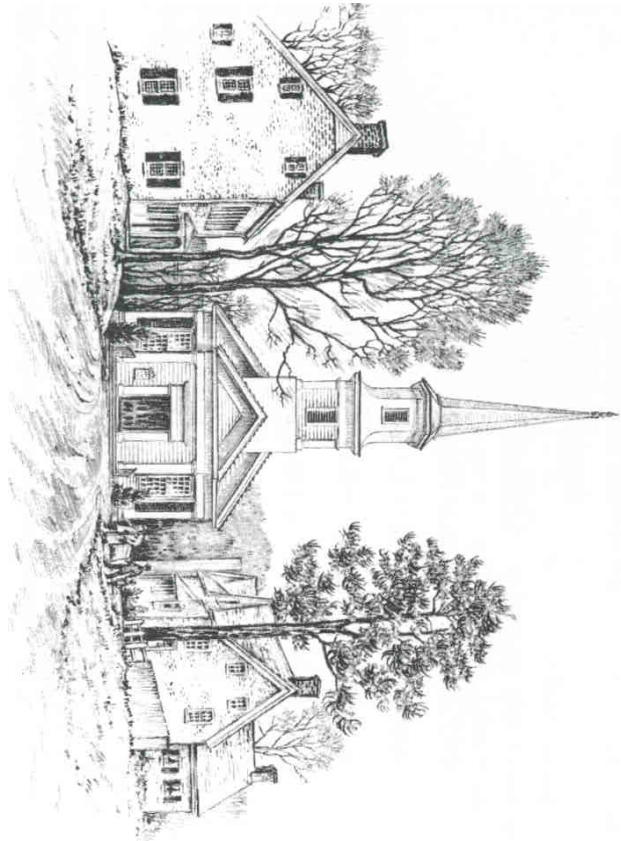
E-mail: admin@HurleyReformedChurch.org

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

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Pastor

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