

# THE SPIRE

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 6      JUNE 2010

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Before the Benediction on Pentecost Sunday, I introduced the newest member of my family. Her name is Katie. She is a Huskie-Spitz mix puppy who was discovered roaming an Illinois cornfield, half starved, with a frayed collar hanging barely from her neck. Apparently she gave the Illinois Valley Animal Rescue Squad a run for its money. They finally secured her when she darted into a post office—perhaps she wanted to send a distress letter if she had been humanly able. Chris, the head of the shelter in northern Illinois, described Katie as “a complete mess” when she arrived to safety. Apparently Katie had manifested cowering behaviors, and other signs of physical abuse. I’ve yet to ask Chris for more details of my adoptee’s turbulent past. I probably won’t.

I met Katie in Waltham, Illinois after preaching for Rev. Howard Smith, former supervisor of our church, at his service of installation at the 1st Presbyterian Church. She had been fostered by a couple who rescues Greyhounds after their commercial use expires because of age, and/or illness. Katie was the odd girl out because she shared her domain with six recovering Greyhounds. She was fostered, wonderfully so, but isolated nonetheless. She needed a

home, and one-to-one attention. Against my better judgment— or so I thought at the time— I said “yes” to adoption. Rev. Howard and his wife Patti came out East to visit and brought Katie with them. I met her on May 17th. For a day after her arrival, I thought I had made a stunningly huge mistake. How could I care for a puppy, a rambunctious one at that, and manage the requirements of my profession? My fears lasted less than 24 hours. And then love, the sheer unadulterated, starry-eyed kind, restructured my soul, as love always does.

“If temporality is held  
to be invalidating,  
then nothing succeeds  
under heaven.”

John Updike

A few thoughts predicated from this new relationship. First, God provides us with ample opportunities to love. Sometimes we are called to love people, and sometimes we are called to love the Katies of our world, and sometimes we are called to love a parcel of sentient beings both great and small simultaneously! Don’t

pass on these ‘God-givens’ when they come your way. Less and less do I believe in coincidences, happenstances or serendipities. Meeting Katie in Waltham, as she ran circles around me in a fenced back yard, was sheer providence, a gift from God, and part of my Lord’s providential, and prevailing plan to bring more joy into my life. When God provides a love connection, understand the divine intention behind it, and seize the opportunity!

Second, be aware that we are often afraid to love because we’ve suffered for love in the past. In a variety of ways we’ve all paid the price for opening our hearts unconditionally to another. If we have been broken because a loved one has died, or has mistreated us, or divorced us, or abandoned us, our human tendency is to steel our hearts, and proclaim that we will never love again. The price, we say to ourselves, if not to others, is far too costly; love’s consequences are more than we can bear. My brief period of ‘Katie waffling’ was motivated, in part, by losing mutt Andy back in 2003 after a 14½ year relationship. I did not want to risk falling in love again, knowing that I would experience the sad valedictions some time in the future. In the introduction to his masterful col-

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lection of short stories about the dissolution of a marriage, the writer John Updike noted, "If temporality is held to be invalidating, then nothing succeeds under heaven." He's right, of course, hard as that is for any of us to admit. At least on earth, relationships don't last forever. The book of Ecclesiastes says the same, and then notes the importance of appreciating simple daily pleasures with loved ones, while we still have time. Ditto, Jesus. It seems we trap ourselves by anticipating the pain of love's endings rather than the often dramatic and surprising joys of its beginnings, and the day-to-day satisfactions of its hopefully extended middles. With Katie I

forget finalities, and embed myself in the slip stream of daily pleasures: The scraping sound of a rawhide bone well chewed; the sight of God's beautiful creature bounding after a tennis ball, her white fur incandescent in a Hurley sun spray; the aroma of dog--Eau de Canine--the redolence of one who nears me with love. Forget endings, sisters and brothers in Christ. Or at least put them on a backburner. Be brave, and embrace new relational beginnings.

A third and final thought. I'll be brief. We are called to experience the depth of our emotions. We are called to live our lives not in an intellectual bubble but in the craggy geography of the human heart. We are called to praise

loudly, laugh raucously, and grieve deeply. We are called to dance like dervishes in our joy and cry rivers in our griefs, if rivers are what it takes to connect to our own hearts as well as the heart of God who grieves with us. Throughout Scripture--from Genesis to Revelation--people express profound feeling, and are healed because of it. As a therapist as well as a minister, I understand the power of tapping into our emotional base, and learning from it. And now I know anew the power of a God who has brought me to a new relationship in which my heart pants for joy.

In Christ's service,

Dr. Bob

## Women's Guild

A pot luck luncheon was held right after church on 5/16. Approximately 40 people attended this wonderful time of fellowship. The food was delicious! It is always great to try a new dish. Thank you to everyone who helped with this event and especially to Sonny Howe.



Have you noticed the carpeting in the on the landing and ramp? We had it cleaned recently and it looks great. Thank you, Linda Dux, for making arrangements.

The Friendship Heart Quilt is finished and on display in Schadewald Hall. Five very dedicated ladies worked weekly throughout the winter months: Natalie Woodard, Shirley Burns, Shirley Ruth, Helen Sgroi and Jean Dussol. This hand-stitched quilt is queen sized. Tickets have been mailed and additional chances are available from any of the quilters. The lucky winner will be drawn on Stone House Day.

Stone House Day is approaching. If you have jewelry, crafts, or items to donate to Grandma's Garrett, please contact Shirley Ruth at 338-9066. We will also be holding a bake sale that day. Please contact Joyce Pinckney at 338-5253 to let her know you can bake a

cake, cookies, brownies, pies, breads, etc. and then bring it in the morning of Stone House Day. Thank you for your help in making this a successful fund raiser for us.

We hope that everyone has a wonderful summer. Please join us at our next meeting in September. All are welcomed.

Blessings, Sandy Emrich-President

### Calendar of Events

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| 6/6/10  | Golf Tournament & Plant Swap                |
| 7/10/10 | Bake Sale, Grandma's Garrett & Quilt Raffle |
| 9/19/10 | Meeting                                     |

## S T I C K L E Y      G A R D E N S

The Columbarium Committee has been very busy over the past months, getting the planters ready for Spring and doing some "spring cleaning" in the area. Planning is also an important part of what we do, trying to share the work that is needed along the way. We now have a few ladies of the church who will be assisting us in some long range design, upkeep and planting of the gardens. We are happy to have Lee Gable, Linda Clarke Dido and Gay Gravina assisting in that area. We are in the planning stages of Phase II as we look at what we can do to develop the project in various phases. We are in the process of acquiring the necessary approvals from the Town of Hurley and the Ulster Co. highway department.

Also, new plates to commemorate the donations of the Nekos Family, Doc and Flo Harder and Matt Sirni will be in place in the coming weeks to designate the various contributions they have made. The Columbarium is an on going project to beautify this segment of the property of the church and to make a place of welcome, serenity and peace for all who seek to find those parts of their lives. Stop in for a visit and some quiet time and if you are interested in any phase of the project, simply contact any of the Committee members. We would be happy to hear from you and to share our dreams for The Hurley Church and Stickley Gardens.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE COLUMBARIUM, PLEASE CONTACT ANY OF THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS.  
LISA LONGTO (331-1438) CHAIRPERSON • JIM PIRRO (383-0079) TREASURER • ESTHER STICKLEY (331-2919)  
JERRY FINK (246-6567) SECRETARY • DIANA CLINE (338-7276) CONSISTORY LIAISON

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

*The Rev'd William H. Hunter*

64 Garden Street, Kingston, New York 124014640 tel (845) 338-2069 e-mail [billhunter@juno.com](mailto:billhunter@juno.com)

Wednesday, May 05, 2010

The Women's Guild  
Hurley Reformed Church  
PO Box 328  
Hurley NY 12443

Dear Ladies

Thank you for the assurance of your continued prayers. By the look of things, I will be ready to again offer Christ in Word and Sacrament beginning next month.

It all started with snow shoveling in January that led to operations that in turn led to a diagnosis of multiple myeloma (just learned how to spell it.) We go to Boston for a clinical review on the 17th of this month, then chemotherapy. Prognosis is a functional life for five to seven years, but since we live in the Apostolic Hope anyway, time is forever in the Savior's hands.

Please continue us in your prayers. Don't forget my wife, Shirley. As is usually the case, the spouse often bears more of the emotional burden than the patient.

Gratefully yours,

William H. Hunter  
100505 Hurley Women

## Youth Group

### Youth Group Upcoming Events:

6/5/10 Car Wash @ Stage One Auto

6/19/10 Six Flags New England

9/12/10 Meeting

On April 23-25 22 youth and 10 adults along with 154 people from 12 churches attended the Camp Warwick Spring Youth Retreat weekend. Our message for the weekend was "I AM" - I am Accepted, I am Secure, I am Significant. We witnessed a child from another church accept Christ into his life. It was a blessing for us all to be a part of this life changing experience for him. Thanks again for your support throughout the year, enabling us to participate in another memorable trip at Camp Warwick.

Our June collection is for the Ronald McDonald house in Albany, NY. We are collecting plastic food storage containers (Gladware or Ziploc) as well as aluminum foil & plastic wrap. Please put your donation in the bin in Schadewald Hall. We appreciate all of your support. The last collection date for this will be 6/13/10.

Come out to Stage One Auto on June 5 between 10 and 2 and enjoy a hot dog and popcorn while the Youth Group washes your car. Proceeds will go to the Relay for Life team for the American Cancer Society.


We have rented a coach bus and will head to Six Flags New England on 6/19/10. We look forward to a dry, warm & fun filled day.

Sandy & Katie Emrich, Lisa Longto  
Youth Group Leaders


## To the Holy Spirit

*Leaving your fragrant rest on the summit of  
morning calm,  
Descend, Bird of Paradise, from the high  
mountain,  
And, plumed with glowing iris along each  
curving wire,  
Visit in time our regions of eucalypt and  
palm.  
Dance, prophetic bird, in rippling spectrums  
of fire,  
Ray forth your incandescent ritual like a  
fountain;  
Let your drab earthly mate that watches in  
morning calm  
Unseen, be filled with the nuptial splen-  
dours of your desire.  
Engender upon our souls your sacred  
rhythm: inspire  
the trembling breath of the flute, the exul-  
tant cosmic psalm,  
The dance that breaks into flower beneath  
the storm-voiced mountain;  
Array in your dazzling intricate plumage  
the swaying choir.*

James McAuley, Australian  
From Collected Poems, 1930-1970.




**HURLEY REFORMED  
CHURCH  
YOUTH GROUP**



# Car Wash

# 6-5-10





## at Stage One Auto on Rt 9W

## 10:00 am -2:00 pm

Proceeds go to The American Cancer Society

**Please come  
and see us!**

## Missions

Our Mission Project for May was the Ulster County Chapter of the American Red Cross. Thanks to your sharing spirit we contributed \$415 to assist our local Red Cross and Ulster County residents in need.



Family of Woodstock's Food Pantry is our June mission. This is Family's 40th year providing human services throughout Ulster and surrounding counties. Family is the lead agency in the areas of homelessness, domestic violence, emergency services, child and adolescent programs and in providing emergency food to those in need. Your contribution in the June mission envelop will help to provide 3 days of food per month to those in need; a number which increases every month.

Thanks for caring and sharing -  
Linda Dux, Chair



### STONE HOUSE DAY 2010

Our 60th (or is it 61st) Stone House Day is coming upon us quickly - July 10th. This is the biggest fund raiser the HR Church has, and a wonderful opportunity for everyone to volunteer. We will have 8 stone houses open this year, so we need hosts and hostesses. The hours are from 10 am to 1 pm, or from 1 - 4 pm. Of course, if you have your heart set on working all day, that can be arranged too!!

One of the new activities this year will be for children; we will have tinsmithing, candle making, cross stitch embroidery and also the chance to make corn husk dolls, just like they used to do in

"the olden days". Indian dancers and children's games will take place in Don Kent's yard.

A blacksmith and spinners and weavers will demonstrate their skills in the Parsonage and in the Parsonage yard. There will also be a Militia encampment with the men and women wearing their colonial outfits and showing off some of the things they needed to bring with them when they were called out to fight.

Grandma's Garrett and jewelry will be downstairs in the Sunday School rooms, along with a bake sale. We will raffle off our Heart Quilt around 4 o'clock in the afternoon, maybe you'll be the lucky winner this year!! And of course

our "famous" kitchen upstairs, with a wonderful dining room and lots of food and snacks for lunch and for those "in between" moments.

Sojourner Truth will make her famous speech in the Sanctuary and also an interview with Brian, the local news reporter outside, on the porch of the Bevier House on Main Street. Organ recitals will be given throughout the day. People will dress up in Colonial outfits, and if you need one for the day we have them available at the Church.

Please do sign up to volunteer for an hour or for the day at one of the houses, in the kitchen or dining room, to help with the busses or the parking, to help prep the food the day before, put up signs etc. on the Friday before or to help with miscellaneous other things. There will be sign-up sheets for your convenience in Schadewald Hall after Church Service on Sundays, please see Christa Conlin or Ellen Richards or call the Church Office at 331-4121. You'll be glad you did!! You will have a lot of fun meeting old friends and also make new ones on the most fun day of the year in Hurley, New York.

-Ellen Richards

## Congratulations

**Doris Alden** was recognized as Ulster County's (EMT) Educator of the Year. She also received the Regional Award for her work as an EMT educator. **Shirley Ruth**, was chosen Town of Hurley Senior Citizen of the Year.

Thank you, Doris and Shirley, for your valuable contributions to all of us in the community!

We are seeking workers for set-up on Friday evening-June 11, and tear-down Saturday June 12, following the break-fast. If you are available for either of these, please contact Doug Constant at 338-8538 or cell at 901-7501.

Hurley Reformed Church  
Hurley, NY

# JUNE BREAKFAST!

Hash Brown Patties Cinnamon Buns  
No Nuts

Pancakes **Omelets Made to Order!**  
1) Ham & Onion Omelet  
2) Cheese Omelet  
3) Western Omelet

French Toast Bacon Scrambled Eggs  
Ham

OJ - Coffee - Tea - Choco Milk

**6-12-10**  
**Adult: \$8.00**  
**Child: \$5.00**  
Under 12 Yrs  
**8:00 am - 11:00 am**  
**Call 331- 4121**  
**for reservations!**



*Too many people come into community to find something, to belong to a dynamic group, to find a life which approaches the ideal.*

*If we come into community without knowing that the reason we come is to discover the mystery of forgiveness, we will soon be disappointed.*

Jean Vanier  
Community and Growth

## Homecoming Sunday

September 12, 2010!

We would like a picture of your family on vacation. Your photo will be included in a montage during worship on Homecoming Sunday, Sept. 12.

Mail, drop off, or better yet, email pictures to the church:

[photos@HurleyReformedChurch.org](mailto:photos@HurleyReformedChurch.org).

Please be sure to include your name with your picture.

Graduates will be recognized on Sunday, June 20th. If you have a graduate in the family please convey that information to the church office as soon as possible.

## Church School News

The last day of church school will be June 13. Attendance pins will be awarded during worship.

Make Your Own Sundae fellowship will follow services. The senior high class will provide the ice cream and we are asking others to bring in one of the favorite ice cream toppings.

Is the Lord is calling you to share your caring and teaching gifts with our children? If you can serve weekly or on a substitute basis, please contact Barb Hornbeck, 336-7910, or Sherm Richards, 626-7344.



**June**

Joseph Orlando	5, '07
Sarah Longto	14, '93
Bobby Ryan	15, '99
Kyla Burns	18, '01
Christina LaFiandra	19, '04
Allan Dumas IV	19, '00
Brandt Kurtz	21, '03
Shawn Hinsdale	24, '03
Cailin Ryan	24, '95
Elizabeth Salzmann	25, '96
Gregory Merrill	27, '95
Dakota Butler	27, '96
Gordon Kent	1
Julie Johnson	1
Su Wonderly	2
Julie Lasher	6
Larry Herzog	7
Rebecca Masters	8
Bobbi Checksfield	8
David Giles	8
Dennis Croswell	9
Mimi Croswell	11
Robert Alden	13
Annemarie Kurtz	15
Emily Horvers	20
Marilyn Lowe	21
George Nekos	21
Patti Gilpatric	23
William Mergl	23
Aaron Ulrich	24
Bev Chrisey	24
Aileen Helsley	25
Charles Woodard	26
Steven Kurtz	26
Helen Mackey	26
Dolores Wolven	27
James Gregory	28

Rich & Angie Rockwell	4
Barbara & Dick Baker	7
Drew & Su Wonderly	12
Wally & Linda Cook	14
Barbara & Bob Kindt	17
Bobbi & Don Checksfield	21
Frieda & Doug Constant	23
Harriet & Wesley Drake	26
Terry & John Gaffken	26
Paul & Cheryl LaFiandra	27

Steve & Phyllis Bliss	27
Christie & Jim Prentice	28
Valerie & Steve Nekos	29
Todd & Katrina Rubino	30

Happy  
Birthday!

**July**

Kacey Gardner	6, '93
Teagan Helsley	6, '08
Nicholas Rockwell	13, '94
Alyssa Kurtz	14, '01
Brayden Horvers	24, '98
Katherine Emrich	25, '90
Daniel Nekos	25, '04
Spencer Herzog	28, '92
Caitlin Cox	28, '91
Paul LaFiandra	1
Kathleen Kurtz	2
John Browning	2
Bonnie Dumas	3
Rachel Cline	4
Nancy Salzmann	5
Kenneth Odell	5
Athena Groelle	6
Debbie Tucker	6
Mark Woodard	9
Roger Vogt	14
Bryan Hill	15
Barbara Mayfield	16
Lori Decker	16
Sandra Emrich	19
Win Morrison	20
Virginia Suppies	22
Fred Kurtz, Jr.	23
Dan Stott	24
Pat Manley	24
Gay Gravina	25
Midge Stott	27
Ronald Burns	28
Donald Briggs	30
Helen & Gil Richter	2
Joyce & Frank Pinckney	6

Roger & Mary Lou Vogt	11
Gerard & Dolores Wyncoop	22
Rebecca & Allan Masters	27

**August**

Reid Jordan	3, '99
Baylee Szekeres	4, '01
Aubrey Horvers	16, '96
Alison Cline	22, '94
Charles Emrich	23, '94
William Hutton	24, '01

Roberta Falatyn	1
Kevin Hill	1
Betty Pirro	2
Donna Harder	10
Frank Pinckney	12
Rev. Charles Stickley	13
Kathleen Jansen	15
Gregg Moon	16
Roslie Gilpatric	19
Audrey Frost	20
David Emrich	20
Jim Macarille	22
Jennifer Macarille	27
Barbara Kindt	28
Gary Longto	28
Richard Rockwell	29
Helen Richter	30
Dick Baker	31
Joel Lasher	31

Bryan & Leigh Hill	1
Barry & Marcy Rell	2
Sheila & Terry Read	6
David & Gretchen Giles	6
Hal & Kathy Hauck	6
Annemarie & Fred Kurtz	15
Kathy & Ted Musialkiewicz	16
Leanne & Frank Warren	16
Jim & Roslie Gilpatric	19
Gene & Athena Groelle	22
Melinda & Larry Herzog	22
Jeffrey & Alyson Rafferty	24
Dahlia & Rick Soshensky	24
David & Sandra Emrich	29
Cindy & Dino Sumerano	30
John & Elsie Kemble	30

HURLEY REFORMED  
CHURCH

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

WE'RE ON THE WEB:

[WWW.HURLEYREFORMEDCHURCH.ORG](http://WWW.HURLEYREFORMEDCHURCH.ORG)

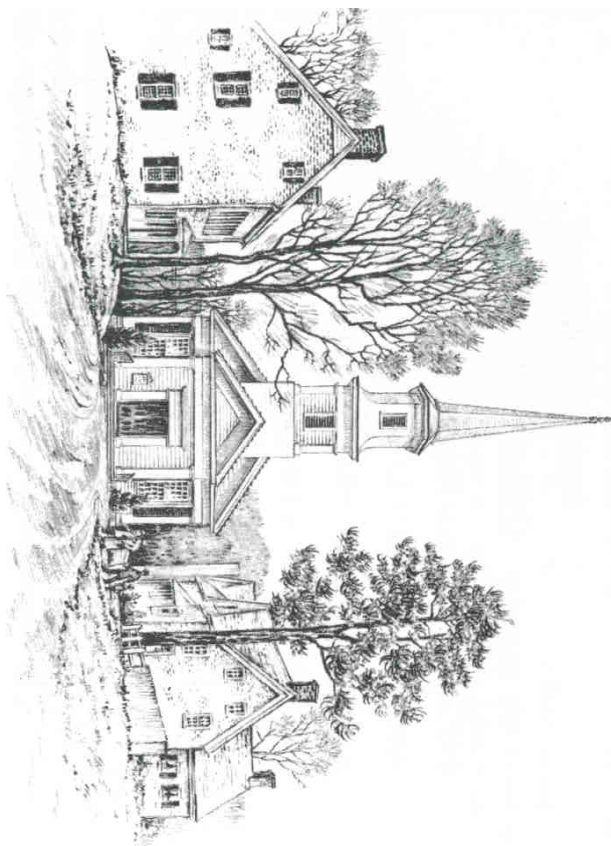
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THE SPIRE  
SUMMER 2010