

Property and Maintenance: (getting ready for the cold)

As it gets colder outside (and inside) we'd like to ask you to keep the inside doors closed in the church so we don't have to heat the whole church when parts of it are not in use. Thank you.

Lastly, if anyone is handy with engines the church's snow blower could use a tune up. Contact Joe if you can take a look at it to get it ready for the snow.

Thanks
Joe and Gretchen



Congregational Meeting was held on November 16, 2008. In addition to committee reports, budget discussion and subsequent vote, candidates were presented to fill elder and deacon positions of the consistory. Elected to the office of Elder are Sandra Gregory and Douglas Constant. Deacons elected are James Macarille, Diana Cline, Joyce Sweeney, and Dan Stott. Cindy Sumerano who is currently serving as a deacon will be ordained Elder.

Those completing their terms on Consistory are: Frank Pinckney (E), Gretchen Giles (D), Lisa Longto (E), Carla Paton (D), Scot Stelter (D) and Hans Vought (E). We thank each of them for their dedicated service, especially in light of our time of transition. THANK YOU!!!

Wanted

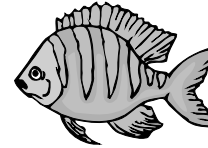
Writers/Authors- to produce short articles that tell a story about selected stone houses in Hurley, their owners and their place in history. Apply: Jim Craven, Stone House Day Committee

BABYSITTING



Need a night out without the kids to do holiday shopping or just have a quiet dinner?? Well, we can help you with that on 12/5/08 from 6pm till 9pm. This babysitting event will benefit the AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY. Just drop off your child(ren), go out and have a fun night. We will watch your child(ren) and provide them with a snack. Any questions or to sign up for this activity please do so after church. Thank you.

Maritime Aquarium



It isn't too late to sign up for this great sleepover at the Maritime Aquarium in Norwalk, CT on 2/21/09. The cost of this great experience to sleep with the fish is \$56 per person. This trip is open to everyone of all ages. To sign up please do so after church or contact Amy Sirni at 338-4960. A down payment of \$28 is due as soon as possible to reserve your spot. Hope to see you there!

THE STICKLEYS SAY THANKS

To all of you from Hurley Church who joined us at our Open House for Rev.'s sister, Bonnie. It was great to have you in our home and have a time to visit with all those who turned out to meet Bonnie and to share some goodies too....

Bonnie said. "There are a lot of good people in the world and I have met a lot of them in NY over the past two weeks." Thanks to all of you who joined us... it was fun and it was great....

Rev., Esther, and Bonnie

Youth Group

On 10/3 we had our first babysitting event. We had a great group turn out for this. Please mark your calendars for our next babysitting on 12/5 from 6pm till 9pm. This is a great time to shop or have a quiet dinner before all of the hustle & bustle starts.

On 10/17 we held a Youth Group sleepover at the church. During this event we sang songs from Camp Warwick & assisting us with the melody was Wayne Waligurski on his electric guitar. We also broke the kids into 2 groups & gave them a task. How would you change someone's life if you were given money & the opportunity to do so? After a half hour of discussion the groups came up a benefit walk to raise money for Habitat for Humanity a pancake breakfast to raise money for mosquito nets for people in Africa. Look for these fund raisers in the spring of 2009.

We put together 4 Thanksgiving baskets for area families. We were able to put \$50 Target gift cards in each basket as a little something extra. We also received from Adams 4 turkeys for these baskets. Thank you to everyone that donated food items for these baskets.

We are 24 note cards for \$5.00. Calendars are sold out. We thank you for your support; pick up your note cards before they are gone as well.

We baked & sold our annual Pumpkin & Cranberry breads for Thanksgiving. We thank everyone that purchased bread. We had a great time making it & we hope that you enjoyed eating it.

The mitten tree is up & we are collecting adult hats/gloves/warm socks. Please place these items on the tree on the landing. The last collection date for this is 12/21/08.

We will be going caroling on Dec. 12. If you live within a 3 miles radius of the church & would like us to come to your house to sing a few carols please let Shannon Butler know.

Our upcoming events: Dec 5 Babysitting; 12th Caroling in the Hurley area; Jan 31 Make chili and Feb 1 Sell chili for Souper Bowl Sunday.

We look forward to seeing you at one or all of the above activities.

The Youth Group would like to wish you & your family a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year.

Sandy & Katie Emrich, Lisa Longto - Youth Group Leaders

Women's Guild

Pecans are here & ready for pick up. If you didn't put an order in but would like some pecans they are \$7.50 a bag. We have a few extra but hurry as they are going fast. If you have already picked up your pecans we thank you for your support.

Below is our calendar of activities:

12/14/08	Cookie Walk & Executive Committee meeting
1/18/09	Annual Birthday Party
2/14/09	Sweetheart Spaghetti Dinner-fund raiser for a commercial refrigerator for the kitchen
2/15/09	Meeting
3/15/09	Meeting & butterfly exchange
4/5/09	Easter egg hunt for the kids
4/19/09	Meeting
5/17/09	Pot Luck Luncheon

Have an idea for a new fund raiser or activities please let us know as we are always looking for new things to do.

We wish you & your family a Merry Christmas & a happy 2009!
Sandy Emrich-President

Dear Church Family,

We are truly blessed to have you in our lives. Appreciation and heartfelt thanks to all who have sent cards, phone messages and food. It is good to know that we all believe that God is good and will continue to bless and heal. This does make our lives a little easier to bear during this rough time.

**We remain,
Sincerely yours,
Neil and Debbie Zuill**

Dear Rev. Vanderlaan

It was lovely to find a letter from your board of elders in the mail. Actually amazing, since Tsumeb is in Namibia and the letter was addressed to South-Africa! I also did not receive it in Tsumeb, but Windhoek Namibia , where we now live. I guess the postal service must have had some divine help??

We are members of our local church here in Windhoek, the Afrikaans version of the Dutch Reformed church.

We still think and remember fondly our stay in Hurley, Hillside Ave, the lovely church family and Rev. Stickley. My daughter, Esmarie was christened there and I will never forget how Rev Stickley held her high in the air, walking up and down the isle introducing her to the congregation!!

When we left the USA, I was pregnant with our 3rd child. Time has flown by and the children are now 6, 8 and 10 yrs old.

We lived in Tsumeb-- northern Namibia -- for 4 years and then went to work in Angola, living in Luanda for 2 years-- an adventure and story of it's own...there we held house church, kids went to International school...

We are now, hopefully, settled in Windhoek, Namibia, got the house, 3 dogs and two budgies. I am a physiotherapist/ Physical therapist, working from home and Victor is purchasing manager at a large Namibian company.

Thank you for the interest in our well-being. I can just tell you that the Lord is ever faithful and very good to us! Living in Africa is not always easy, but it is the best place to be!!!

God Bless,
Elodie and Victor Boshoff and kids Louis, Esmarie and Christo

REMINDER

To all Junior Choir members and Parents,

Junior Choir sings during church service on the 4th Sunday of each month as well as Christmas & Easter. It is necessary for the children to come to warmup/rehearsal by 9:15am on those Sundays they sing. Jr. Choir also meets for rehearsal every Sunday after church for approx. ½ hour.

Thanks for your Co-operation
Lonnie Kulick, Choir Director

"Virginia Dumas and her family are very thankful to the congregation for all their calls, cards and prayers during her recovery"

missions missions missions missions missions missions

Shoe Box Christmas Project: A huge "thank you" to all who participated in Operation Christmas Child. We collected 57 shoe boxes filled with all sorts of goodies for children of all ages. These gifts are now on their way to share God's love with children all around the world. Together we can make a difference!

The 2008 Sr. High Coat drive was a success. We collected over 75 coats and jackets which have already been distributed to our neighbors in need. The recipients were so grateful to receive warm coats just in time for the chilly weather. Thank you to all who took the time you support this effort!

"Turn your old cell phones into CASH". Don't know what to do with your old cell phone when you get a new one? You don't want to throw it away and add to the waste stream. Bring it to the church hall for our RECYLCING program. Old working cellphones will be recycled and the church will receive money for them. Look for the CELLPHONE RECYCLE box in Schadewald Hall in November.

Any questions call Bonnie Dumas 339-4758.

CHURCH 2009 OPERATING BUDGET

2009

INCOME

Budget

Envelopes	120000
Loose Plate	12000
Envelope-Spec	4200
Building Fund	6500
Estates	5600
Investment Div/Interest	13300
Building Usage	12400
Church School	1400
Women Guild/Quilters/Youth	0
Stone House Day	9500
Misc. Dinners	4600
Misc./Classis/Ref	29747
Cell Tower Income	13800
Miscellaneous	800

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Operating Income	233847
Transfer from Savings	35755

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269602

EXPENSES

Pastoral & Personnel	124230
Finance & Administration	45977
Worship	2130
Property & Maintenance	58235
Program & Activity	1450
Education	1800
Mission	28000
Fund Raising	7780

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Operating Expenses	269602
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The above budget for 2009 was presented at our congregational meeting on November 16th. Following discussion the budget was voted on and approved

Joseph F Ulrich

P.O. Box 84
Hurley, NY, 12443

November 10, 2008

Hurley Reformed Church
Hurley, NY, 12443

Dear members of the Consistory:

I'd like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the Hurley Reformed Church Consistory for allowing me to live in, and take care of, the parsonage over the past few years. From the moment I moved in I considered it a joy, an honor and a privilege to be able to live in such a historic and important house. I also considered it my obligation to be as accessible and responsive to the church's needs as possible. I tried my best to serve as much as I could while living here. As you can imagine, being this close to the church allowed me the "pleasure" of being the first point of contact for many events, natural and man-made, that happen in our buildings. I've come to realize that water/rain is not our friend but I certainly have found that all the people that work in and use the building are our friends. We're lucky to have many people in this church that are involved and help out as much as they do. I've met many of these people while living here and am happier for it.

Change is good and I know the arrival of our new minister will enhance that spirit of change. I know we've focused much attention on the needs of the church buildings within the last two years. We now realize that it's appropriate to see a new focus on the needs of the parsonage. Work we do on the parsonage will only enhance the Hurley church's overall charm.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to live in, and take care of, the parsonage. If you can believe it, all the leaks, drafts, creaks, and visitors (mice) made the parsonage a special place to me. Aaron and Jayne were scared of the house when we first moved in. Along with me, they've grown to love it and living here will forever be a great memory for us.

Sincerely,



Joe Ulrich

The annual Cookie Walk, sponsored by the Women's Guild, will be held on December 14, 2008, right after the worship service. Most of you know the routine.... bake a lot of cookies (several batches of the same recipe works well). Then bring them to the kitchen on the morning of the 14th. There will be ladies in the kitchen to arrange the cookies on platters, or you may do this at home and just bring them in. Then, after church, you enter Schadewald Hall, get a cookie box, and proceed down the tables to fill your boxes. The more you bake, the more we have to offer for sale. You do not have to bake to be a buyer. Let's make this a record Cookie Walk. (We got snowed out last year, remember?!?!?)

Thank you,
Joyce Pinckney and Christa Conlin, co-chairs

PARSON TO PERSON: “The Last-Chance Column”



This will be my final “Spire” article. I’ve appreciated your feedback on the things I’ve tried to share in them over the past two years. Since the 1st day of my arrival as your “S.I.M.” (Specialized Interim Minister), you folks have continued to extend to me warm and sincere words of welcome, encouragement, and support for which I’m deeply grateful.

Thank you for letting me enter your lives; for hearing me as God’s ambassador; for being open to changes and being so co-operative which helped us move forward; for forgiving my mistakes, failures, and false starts; for letting me barge in when you were at your best and sometimes when you weren’t; for your honesty; for the honor of being with you in times of illness, tragedy and sorrow, those fun times like baptisms, wedding receptions, as well as including us in so many of your personal social activities. I’m even grateful for the daily commute that gave me time to ponder, plan, cool off, sing along with the radio, and even pray (with my eyes open, of course).

As I now “gird my loins” (to use a Biblical term), take my “walking stick” in hand, and step out for whatever new challenge God has for me, please know that the past two years have been a great time of learning, sharing, growing and living the faith. It’s been a distinct honor and privilege to have been invited to serve among you. (June joins me in the sentiments contained in these paragraphs). We plan to continue to receive the “Spire because we will certainly be interested in knowing what’s happening at the church that we’ve poured two years of our lives into. On rare occasions we’ll find a say to stop in to say “hi” and catch up with what’s happening in your lives.

My final words of love and admonition are these: Give your new pastor, your Consistory, and other church leaders your time, prayers and help. Discover and use your spiritual gifts. Love one another. Be open, flexible, forgiving, and willing to compromise and change. Be present at worship. Expect good things from God to happen at Hurley Church, and through the poser of the Holy Spirit they will.

“Shalom”, (Hebrew word meaning God’s peace and Blessings).

Pastor Bob

November 15, 2008

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Thank you for your support on October 5th. It was a very special Sunday for me, one which I shall treasure always. I so look forward to November 30, the first Sunday of Advent, when I begin my ministry among you. In the meantime, I’ve been saying good-bye to clients and clinicians at the Addiction Institute as well as the congregation at the Kinnelon Reformed Church. This morning I leave for a short mountaineering stint. It seems as if I’m packing on more than one front. Lately my pace has been non-stop. How I long to settle at 17 Main Street, and embrace the Advent Season with you, and the unhurried sense this holy time conveys. Isaiah 11 reminds us that the “leopard will lie down with a young lamb” when the Messiah comes. What a wonderful image of rest as well as reconciliation. In the Gospel of Luke, we are told that the greatest event in history occurred in a manger where Mary gave birth. Certainly the busyness of Bethlehem was lost as a family quietly coalesced in that stable, surrounded, perhaps, by God’s tethered creatures. I think our creche scenes are helpful because magi, shepherds, and proud parents are locked in place. Can you imagine an automated creche scene where the celebrants are in constant movement? The Psalmist writes: “Be still and know that I am God ” (46:10). That’s what we’re called to do. May we slow down during Advent so that we can anticipate Christ’s birth anew in our hearts and minds.

See you soon.

In Christ’s Service,

Bob G.

Thank you!

Pastor Bob and June Vanderlaan wish to thank the congregation for the wonderful potluck farewell held after worship on November 23rd. The variety of foods was almost overwhelming, and s-o-o-o good! The parting gifts were very special and so appropriate. We spent the better part of the afternoon reading the cards and other notes. But most of all we have been so thankful for you folks being the special people that you are. We couldn't have served a better congregation.

Pastor Bob and June

Mark the Date: Christmas Pageant presented by the Church School will be held on Sunday, December 21.

Covenant Players

The visit with us by Jamie and Jason Eash was well received. They enjoyed staying with Don and Mary Kent, taking part in the farewell potluck, and remarked how generous a congregation Hurley Reformed was. (Almost \$750 was contributed to further the ministry of "Covenant Players.") Perhaps a return visit will happen in the future.

"I would like to convey my thanks to all who sent cards, called, and offered prayers for me during my recent hip surgery. Thank you all!

Helen Webber"

Come join us for our "Annual Christmas Open House",
Saturday, December 20, 2008, 2:00 – 5:00 pm
at the Vanderlaan's
23 Buist Road, Rhinebeck NY