

## HURLEY REFORMED CHURCH

# THE SPIRE

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

APRIL 2009

### COMING IN FROM THE COLD TO RESURRECTION WARMTH

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I celebrate my first Easter with you. How excited I am to be your minister during this special period in the church calendar. Resurrection Sunday occurs on April 12 this year. By then I hope Spring warmth will match the fire in our hearts as we herald an empty tomb, and a living Lord. It has been a cold, cold winter hasn't it? A friend from New Hampshire once said that there are two seasons in his town: Winter, and three months of rough sledding. Could his saying apply to us? I write the day before Spring; the weather is raw and weighty rain drops thump my umbrella. This morning I met an optimist who said, "Well, at least it's not snowing." Not yet. The forecast calls for a temperature dip. Where's my aluminum shovel?

Cold is an apt metaphor for the Lenten season, and Holy Week. Jesus' minis-

try in Galilee began with opposition from the religious leaders of his day. Their hearts grew colder as our Lord moved south toward his destiny in Jerusalem. By the time Jesus reached the Holy City, wintry spirits had crystallized into ice blocks: Members of the religious establishment plotted secretly to kill the Lord of life. The poet T.S. Eliot wrote: "Through the dark cold and empty desolation the wave cry, the wind cry..."

Arctic Jerusalem wept, too, because it could not recognize its Savior.

In this issue of the Spire, you can read devotionals written by church members about that chilling week which began with Palm Sunday adulation and ended with abandonment, and ignominy on Golgotha, Skull Hill. I pray that the reflections of your Christian sisters and brothers will help you experience the cold which raged

against our Lord. He was betrayed. He was scorned, and taunted. He was punched, and flayed. He was stripped naked and nailed to a cross.

And yet. For the Christian there is always an 'and yet' to the tragedies of life. And yet Spring triumphed over Winter; the warmth of resurrected life over a frigid tomb. Jesus is risen. He is risen indeed. And he shares his resurrection with his children. For us literal death is not an end but a new beginning, a fresh start. Eternity with Christ awaits. The apostle Paul wrote that our lives are like kernels in the here-and-now. In heaven, we'll blossom like Spring flowers (1 Corinthians 15:37). We'll become everything we were meant to be. Christians will also understand, for the first time, the mysteries of life which have plagued us. The apostle wrote: "For now we see dimly in a mirror, but then face to face. Now I know in part, then I shall

know in full as I have been fully known." (1st Corinthians 13:12). The profound 'whys' of life will yield to God's heavenly wisdom.

I could say more biblically about our ultimate future, but I'll save it for the Spire next Easter. Let me close by noting that Christ's resurrection aids us on our journey here. In many ways we've experienced crucifixion on a figurative plane. It occurs whenever we lose a job, or experience rejection. We are crucified when someone we love divorces us, or dies. Loneliness, despair, and chronic illness are examples which mark the cruciform nature of earthly living. And yet resurrection occurs when all seems lost or broken. Easter joy overthrows the cross. Again, and again. Believe it. Live it.

I look forward to our celebration.

In Christ's service,

Dr. Bob Gram

*Devotionals for Holy Week by church members . . .*



In this passage John paints a picture depicting a quiet man on a gentle animal heading into Jerusalem. He is swarmed by a surging sea of admirers, praising him, adoring him, celebrating him. He did not seek their adoration but accepted what was thrust upon him.

As we put together the entire Passion story, as related by the Gospel writers, we know that Jesus was aware of the significance of this trip to Jerusalem. He knew that this Passover celebration would

**PALM SUNDAY**

be the culmination of his earthly mission. In spite of this knowledge, and with some hesitation in the Garden of Gethsemane, he relinquished his fears and resistance by praying "thy will be done" (Matthew 26:42). He let God the Father lead and he obeyed.

Have you ever been challenged to step outside of your comfort zone? I was. A few years ago I was elected to the position of vice president of our Classis. I felt honored to be selected to this office . . . Nice title without a lot of responsibility! Not long into this term, the president resigned and I, unexpectedly, was expected to assume the role of president. My reaction, at first, was a pleading prayer: "O God, is there any other way?" Then, I strongly felt

God's leading and I obeyed. Much like the disciples, I felt chosen and out of my comfort zone. Not only did I need to preside over meetings (I could do that) but I needed the ability to pray publicly to an audience of ministers and elders! The position required me to read liturgies and guide in decisions that would directly affect the careers of these ministers and their churches.

Of course, I was not riding triumphantly to my death, but I do have first hand knowledge that by praying, trusting God and submitting to His will I could do this. I knew He would be with me in this new "opportunity." After two and a half years as Classis president, I survived and so

~Frank Pinckney, Elder  
Greater Consistory

**The Triumphal Entry**

John 12:12-19

<sup>12</sup>The next day the great crowd that had come for the Feast heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. <sup>13</sup>They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting,

"Hosanna!"

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

"Blessed is the King of Israel!" <sup>14</sup>Jesus found a young donkey and sat upon it, as it is written,

<sup>15</sup>"Do not be afraid, O Daughter of Zion;

see, your king is coming, seated on a donkey's colt."

<sup>16</sup>At first his disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about him and that they had done these things to him.

<sup>17</sup>Now the crowd that was with him when he called Lazarus from the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to spread the word.

<sup>18</sup>Many people, because they had heard that he had given this miraculous sign, went out to meet him. <sup>19</sup>So the Pharisees said to one another, "See, this is getting us nowhere. Look how the whole world has gone after him!"

**PRAYER CHAIN**

We, as members of the Prayer Chain, feel privileged to serve as prayer warriors in Christ's vineyard. We continue to meet every first Sunday of the month and would love to WELCOME NEW MEMBERS! We thank

those who entrust to us their family, friends and loved ones to be prayed for. Confidentiality is required of all members. Please contact any of the following members to have someone put on the list, to update any information, or to join.

Debbie Zuill 247-9157

Shirley Ruth 338-9066  
Pat Baker 331-2556

Helen Sgroi, Audrey Frost, Joyce Pinckney, Dahlia Soshensky, Esther Stickley, Linda Bogнар, Faye McLane-Jansen, Annie Goetchius, Bunny Heins and Dr. Gram. Thank you and God Bless!



## THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE

the disciples he is distressed by their again not being there for him. Upon returning for a third and final time he rebukes them and tell them they are too late to be of support in his greatest hour of need.

Herb was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Though he fought valiantly to survive, he soon came to the realization that his mortality was not a question of when but how could he die with dignity for his family and friends. Loves ones had always been Herb's joy. Throughout his gregarious life Herb had been a caring and giving individual. He was beloved in the community for his willingness to assist those in need and he was a long time chair of the United Way Board. As the cancer destroyed his body Herb learned a very difficult lesson about human caring as he and his family felt abandoned by the close friends and the community that Herb has served so well.

However, Herb told his wife on his death bed that he had learned the value of true friendship from those who we would not have ever expected to be so faithfully supportive on his journey along death's path.

Mark's Gospel first shows us that those we believe will be there in our greatest hour of need cannot automatically be counted on to walk the journey with us. Your personal reflection upon the unknown will bring out the superficiality of many of those in your life; as individuals unable to deal with their own mortality turn aside and ignore your plight. Secondly, the gospel teaches us, through the failure of Simon, James and John, what it is that we must become to be meaningfully involved for those we love and care for as they walk their personal journey toward the unknown.

~Anonymus, Member

### Mark 14:32-42

<sup>32</sup>They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." <sup>33</sup>He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled. <sup>34</sup>"My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death," he said to them. "Stay here and keep watch."

<sup>35</sup>Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him. <sup>36</sup>"Abba, Father," he said, "everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."

<sup>37</sup>Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Simon," he said to Peter, "are you asleep? Could you not keep watch for one hour? <sup>38</sup>Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak."

<sup>39</sup>Once more he went away and prayed the same thing. <sup>40</sup>When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. They did not know what to say to him.

<sup>41</sup>Returning the third time, he said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. <sup>42</sup>Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!"

### SERMONS AVAILABLE ON CD

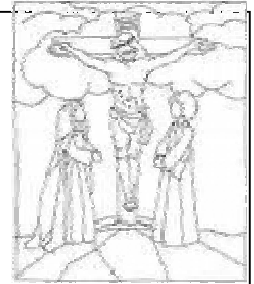
If you were away, touched by something you heard, or would like to share with someone, please help yourself to one of the complimentary discs found on the table in the vestibule. Copies of previous sermons continue to be available. Call the office to request one.

**John 19:23-27**

<sup>23</sup>When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom.

<sup>24</sup>"Let's not tear it," they said to one another. "Let's decide by lot who will get it." This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled which said, "They divided my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing." So this is what the soldiers did.

<sup>25</sup>Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. <sup>26</sup>When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Dear woman, here is your son," <sup>27</sup>and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.



THE CRUCIFIXION

This passage exemplifies the love Jesus had for his mother, Mary. It was custom for the soldiers that executed the criminal to divide the garments among themselves. They did so with all his belongings, but Jesus' tunic was seamless (priceless to us) and probably handmade by Mary. Rather than destroying the garment,

by cutting it up, they cast lots – or gambled for it. Yes, they rolled dice, while our savior was dying. I have often thought about Mary witnessing all of this, and standing in front of the cross watching the beatings in the final minutes of her son's torture, as he was naked, bleeding from the spike thorns, and nailed to the cross. How her heart was devastated by everything she was seeing. Jesus knew

the pain his mother was enduring, and in one of his last earthly breaths, he told one of the disciples to take Mary as his own mother and care for her. Jesus put her first, before his own pain. His love for Mary, as is his love for each of us, is beyond explanation.

~Lisa Longto, Elder  
Greater Consistory

**Luke 23:33-38**

<sup>33</sup>When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. <sup>34</sup>Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

<sup>35</sup>The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One."

<sup>36</sup>The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar <sup>37</sup>and said, "If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself."

<sup>38</sup>There was a written notice above him, which read: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.



Jesus' plea from the cross teaches us two important lessons about God's infinite love for us and His forgiveness of our sins. First, we are taught that when we seek His forgiveness, our sins are forgiven through Christ because of God's divine will. This is the freedom that Jesus secured for us through his crucifixion. Second, we witness once again Jesus' teaching and leading us by example. When he uttered the words as He hung on the cross.

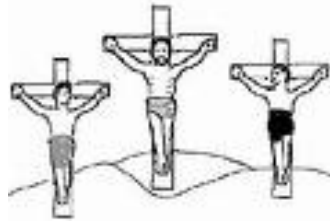
"Father, forgive them; for they know not what they are doing," Jesus modeled extraordinary compassion for those who were crucifying him. Certainly, if Jesus was able to forgive the hateful, vicious hands that nailed Him to the cross, we too should be able to forgive others who have offended or wronged us. Perhaps there are people in our lives who have hurt us so deeply that we continue to harbor hateful, bitter feelings toward them. Maybe we were even in the right. I believe that through Jesus' teaching on the cross, we

are called to act as He did and forgive them. At times, this may seem nearly impossible to us but if we are to truly live in peace and cultivate peaceful, meaningful, relationships, we must pray for Jesus' strength to help us. He is waiting to empower us if we will only call upon Him for assistance! During this season of Lent, let us not only remember that Jesus died on the cross to forgive us our sins but also that He calls upon us to forgive others, just as He forgave those hands which crucified Him.

~Amy Ryan  
Member

## THE CRUCIFIXION

**M**y father once told me that it is never too late to do something good or to do the right thing. These words have stayed with me over the years. They could be interpreted to mean different things. For example can we wait until the last minute before we do the right thing? To me it was a reminder that we are supposed to do good, not evil and should show that in our daily living. Jesus death on the cross covers all of our sins and, as the repentant thief discovered, it is never too late to believe in



Christ. The thief recognized that Jesus is God and, would die on the cross although blameless.

He also knew that he deserved his punishment and was unworthy of mercy. Yet he understood that Christ was indeed God and asked to be remembered in the kingdom of heaven. Christ not only

grants his request but gives him the instant assurance of the life everlasting beginning that very moment of his belief.

By the grace of God we are saved. His love for us is boundless and far beyond our human understanding. My heart aches for those still searching for forgiveness and the assurance that comes with accepting Christ as Lord. The promise is there; it is never too late.

~Glenn Decker, Elder  
Greater Consistory

### Luke 23:39-43

<sup>39</sup> Then one of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying, "If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us."

<sup>40</sup> But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, "Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation?" <sup>41</sup> And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong." <sup>42</sup> Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom."

<sup>43</sup> And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise." (New King James Version)

### John 19:28-30

<sup>28</sup> Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." <sup>29</sup> A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips. <sup>30</sup> When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

**T**his passage from the Gospel of John sets the stage for Good Friday. Jesus says he is thirsty and vinegar is given to quench that thirst. Would you like that to be your last drink on earth? Why is it called "Good Friday", when it appears there is nothing good to say about that day of crucifixion so long ago. Yet there is good which comes from the tragedy which occurs on that Good Friday.

The key part of this passage is found in the words of Jesus, when he says: "It is finished." What does he mean? What is the reference? The word, "It" means the work that his Father gave Jesus to accomplish on earth--the salvation of the world. Usually we think that Easter completes the divine plan. Yet we remember that Jesus told his disciples at the last supper, that he would not

## IT IS FINISHED

drink of the vine again, until he drinks it new in the kingdom of God. In other words the divine drama of salvation will only be realized when Jesus comes again. We also forget that Jesus kept telling us all along why he came – to fulfill his Father's will throughout his earthly ministry. In his dying breath he completed that wonderful, and challenging task.

So, when you ask the question: "What is good about Good Friday?", consider both sides of the question. What's not so good...AND what is good.

- ✦ It is not good to see someone suffer and die;
  - ✦ It is not good to someone betrayed;
  - ✦ It is not good to see someone abandoned and forsaken; but then...
  - ✦ It is good that someone died for our sins;
  - ✦ It is good that someone gave us forgiveness of our sins;
  - ✦ It is good that someone opened the gates to heaven for us; and
  - ✦ It is good that someone made peace with God for us.
- ~Doug Constant, Elder

**THE DEATH OF JESUS**

**Mark 15:33-37**

<sup>33</sup>At the sixth hour darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour. <sup>34</sup>And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabach-thani?"—which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

<sup>35</sup>When some of those standing near heard this, they said, "Listen, he's calling Elijah."

<sup>36</sup>One man ran, filled a sponge with wine vinegar, put it on a stick, and offered it to Jesus to drink. "Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to take him down," he said.

<sup>37</sup>With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last.

There is a moment in the movie Priest where the young clergyman, suffering a crisis of faith, confronts an image of Christ, accusing him of what amounts to an unfair advantage. Because, the priest laments, He knew for sure, and none of the rest of us can ever live in that certainty. That argument strikes me as profound truth, yet I am faced with a crucified Lord who cries out in His anguish "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?" There is no majesty in this, no certainty, only fear and isolation. I think this phrase, more than any other, professes Christ's humanity. At his most desperate moment Jesus, the son of man, feels that God has turned away from Him. Certainly

the rest of us can be forgiven our little crises of faith.

The truth is that I go from day to day second-guessing what is right and what is true – my own internal 'What Would Jesus Do?' campaign. Sometimes it's big things, but more often it's the little interactions and decisions that make up a life. I also live in a pluralistic society, and I have friends, colleagues and students of all faiths, and of no faith. Trying to understand their beliefs, and answer questions about my own, requires me to examine my faith on a regular basis. Some days it seems my relationship with God amounts to one long argument. But I remember all the characters in the Bible that argue with God -- Moses, Jonah, most of the prophets -- and

I decide I'm in pretty good company. I believe that God is loving enough to allow me my doubts, embrace me in my fear, and let me exhaust my arguments. He knows, as do I, that while my arguments are almost always intellectual, my faith resides in my heart. Shortly after Christ cried out in abandonment, He commended His spirit into His Father's hands (Luke 23:46), and I am certain that He was received there with love. At the end of the day my faith is greater than my doubt, and like the father in Mark 9:24 I pray "Lord, I believe, help my unbelief."



~Cindy Sumerano, Elder

**HOLY WEEK**

- April 5 Palm Sunday Morning Worship Services  
10:00am Mark 11:21-11, "Living Under a Cloud"  
Distribution of Palms, Sacrament of Communion  
Easter egg hunt for children during coffee hour
- April 8 Maundy Thursday Evening Worship Service  
7:30pm John 13:1-20; 31-35, "Serving Lessons"  
Celebration of the Lord's Supper
- April 9 Good Friday  
12:00 - Joint worship services at Fair Street Church  
2:00pm Sponsored by the Kingston Area Council of Churches  
Seven Last Words of Christ  
John 19:30, "It Is Finished," Dr. Robert L. Gram

**CELEBRATE THE RISEN CHRIST**

- April 12 Easter Dawn Services  
6:30am in the sanctuary  
led by the Youth Group
- 7:30am Easter Breakfast Buffet  
in Schadewald Hall  
sponsored by the Youth Group  
\$5.00 adults/\$2.00 children
- 9:00am Easter Morning Worship services
- 11:00am John 20:1-18, "Seeing Clearly"

*Alleluia! He is Risen!*

**Property and Maintenance**

**It was a ROCKING party (A sheet rocking party)**

Dr. Bob emphatically announced that we had a sheet rocking party on Sunday, March 22. What a time we had!! Six men, five sheets of sheetrock, three ladders, and one thousand measurements filled the bathroom. It was standing room only at this party. In the end, after 50 years of waiting, the men's bathroom actually has a ceiling installed!

Note to the ladies: We put the ceiling in the boy's room first so that we could

practice before putting up the PERFECT ceiling for you in the woman's room. Hopefully by the time you read this (or soon after ) the ceiling will be installed for you as well.

More invites for future parties will be forthcoming. Many thanks to Dick Shook, Bob Pfeiffer, Russ Lewis, Hal Hauck, and Dennis Crosswell for coming in to do the work.

**Are you prepared? Our Scouts are!**

The boy scouts are ready to work! A few boy scouts that go to the church have signed up to do work projects. Two projects in the works are painting of the new bathroom ceilings

(Brian Rafferty) and spring yard clean up work for the parsonage and church grounds (Alex Sirni). We are working with other scouts who would like to do six hour projects as well.

**The grass is always..... GROWING! Lawn mowing**

We are in the process of getting price quotes from some lawn mowing companies for mowing services for the church and parsonage grounds. If anyone knows companies that we should consider please let me know.

Enjoy the nice weather!  
Joe

**5,822....**

5,822... what does the number represent? It's the number of soda cans and bottle returns that the Youth Group has turned in so far. We would like that number to go higher and that can't be done without your help. How can you help? Bring your bottle and can returns to church and leave them in the collection box in Schadewald Hall. We will return them for you. A simple way for you to help our Relay for Life team & the American Cancer Society. Thanks for your support.

$5,822 \times 5\text{¢} = \$291.10$

God is sitting in Heaven when a scientist says to Him, "Lord, we don't need you anymore. Science has finally figured out a way to create life out of nothing. In other words, we can now do what you did in the 'beginning'."

"Oh, is that so? Tell me..." replies God.

"Well", says the scientist, "we can take dirt and form it into the likeness of you and breathe life into it, thus creating man."

"Well, that's interesting. Show Me. "

So the scientist bends down to the earth and mold the soil.



"Oh no, no, no..." interrupts God.

(I love this...)

"Get your own dirt."

**AN APPLE A DAY . . .** Keeps the doctor away. Well, that didn't work for me. What did work was the Prayer Chain. Now that my health has improved, I wish to thank the congregation of the Hurley Reformed Church for the many prayers and good wishes that helped me recover.

Thanks to all of you,  
Ronald Burns

**COFFEE HOUR**

Everyone is encouraged to stay after worship for a time of fellowship and refreshments at coffee hour. Some times we have a special event with a cake. Other times it is nice if people can bring something in to share. There is a sign up calendar in the church hall or you can contact Bonnie Dumas to sign up. Remember it does not need to be fancy, or even home made. A few people can even share a date so that everyone only needs to bring one item such as a coffee cake or box of donuts.



**YOUTH GROUP**

We held our annual Brooks BBQ dinner on March 3rd. We had a slow start with our pre-orders but we didn't end that way. In 3 hours we served 824 dinners. WOW!! Thank you so much to everyone that came out and supported this fund raiser. Because of your help we are able to attend our retreat weekend in April at Camp Warwick in Warwick, NY. Mark your calendars -- we'll be doing this next year and we are shooting to serve 1,000 dinners!!

On March 29 we sponsored coffee hour after church to kick off our Relay for Life team fundraising. The Relay will be held at Deitz Stadium in Kingston on May 30th from 10am till 1am.

Team Spirit items are available for sale: frisbees, buckets, bookmarks and more. We would like more team members and walkers and donations. You can make a donation at

our website at [http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR?pg=team&fr\\_id=14032&team\\_id=353797](http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR?pg=team&fr_id=14032&team_id=353797).

Simply click "Donate" and enter your donation. You will be helping so many people suffering with this disease. Or, you can send a check made out to the American Cancer Society to: Sandy Emrich, 297 Marcott Rd, Kingston, NY 12401 and I will add it to our team donations. Thank you for all of your help in helping us reach our team goal of \$4,500.

On May 23rd we will be going to Adams in Kingston to plant flowers at their location. Over the years Adams has helped us out in so many ways and we wanted to thank them for all that they have done for us. We are opening this up to anyone that would like to help plant flowers. Please sign up to do this and bring your shovel,

knee pads and help us thank them for all of their support.

Our April collection will be laundry detergent and dryer sheets for the Ronald McDonald house in Albany, NY. The families really appreciate your donations. Please put them in our collection bin.

Upcoming:

- 4/11/09 9am cooking, setup & rehearsal for Easter Dawn
- 4/12/09 Easter Dawn
- 4/24-26/09 Camp Warwick
- 5/23/09 Adam's in Kingston
- 5/30-6/1/09 Relay for Life
- 6/6/09 Car Wash at Stage One Auto on Rt. 9W. This is a Relay for Life fund raiser.

Penny Social in the fall

*~Sandy Emrich, Lisa Longto and Katie Emrich, Co-Chairs*



**Happy Birthday!**

Travis Horvers	2, 98	Mildred Mattison	4
Jack Stelter	3, 96	Harriet Drake	5
Trevor Davenport	4, 92	Kathy Hauck	5
Molly Salzmann	12, 94	Fred Kurtz	6
Zachary Burns	15, 99	Jeff Rafferty	7
Kyle Constant	17, 97	Jean Dussol	8
Sabrina Browning	17, 01	Shirley Burns	9
Lauren Shaffrick	20, 01	Esther Sticklely	11
Zachary Mecabe	22, 96	Beverly Roosa	12
Margaux Seche	25, 98	Barbara Baker	12
Emily Waligurski	26, 95	Courtney Johnson	14
Kendra Rubino	26, 02	Christine Beesmer	14
Miranda Davenport	27, 98	Helen Lehtonen	16
Bradley Merrill	28, 91	Ann Every	17
Wayne Waligurski	1	Joan Sutton	19
		Todd Jordan	19
		Shirley Tucker	19
		Jane Merrill	20

Janet Davis	21	Lori Baker	3
Esther Keator	22	Gil Hoppenstedt	4
Jeff Fredenberg	23	Faye McLane Jansen	4
Henry Dussol	24	Kathy Burns	4
Jo Lupton	24	Ross Johnson	5
Julie Jordan	27		
Chuck Gravina	27		
Melissa Lasher	28		
Elizabeth Askue	29		
Rick Soshensky	30		
Cole Jordan	May 1, '96		
Ashby Johnson	2, '96		
Mikayla Mellin	2, '96		
Victoria LaFiandra	5, '99		
Jonathan Helsley	5, 05		
Liz Wilson	7, 91		
Terry Conlin	2		
Neil Zuill	2		

**Happy Anniversary!**

Barbara & Chris Zell	7
Allan & Bonnie Dumas	13
Nita & Bill Rockwell	19
Carla & Craig Paton	22
Dan & Midge Stott	23
Gregg & Linda Moon	26
Mary Lou & Mike	
Christiana	28
Gary & Lisa Longto	30
Jim & Sheila Craven	May 5



**CONGRATULATIONS . . .**

To Alissa Sumerano, daughter of Cindy and Dino Sumerano and student at Kingston High School, who was invited to perform in Providence, Rhode Island as part of the All-Eastern Mixed Chorus. The All Eastern Conference is a biennial event held under the auspices of the National Association for Music Education. Honors ensembles are comprised of the top student vocalists and musicians from each state in the Eastern Division which ranges from Main to Maryland.

**AND KUDOS** to Liz Wilson (Hodel), daughter of Rebecca Masters and granddaughter of Don and Mary Kent, and Alissa Sumerano (Tzeitel), for their stellar performances in the Kingston High School Musical, *“Fiddler on the Roof.”*

**AND** to Sarah Longto, daughter of Gary and Lisa Longto, center for the Kingston High School Girls Basketball Team who made it to the State Final Four!

***BRAVO GIRLS!***

A four-year-old child, whose next door neighbor was an elderly gentleman, who had recently lost his wife.. Upon seeing the man cry, the little boy went into the old gentleman's yard, climbed onto his lap, and just sat there. When his mother asked him what he had said to the neighbor, the little boy just said, 'Nothing, I just helped him cry.'

**AN INVITATION**  
 You are cordially invited to a celebration of Ministry in music, stories and Communion celebrating the 25th anniversary of the ordination of The Rev. Kenneth L. Walsh Palm Sunday, April 5, 2009 at 4 o'clock in the afternoon Old Dutch Church 272 Wall Street Kingston New York A reception will follow

*“Make no mistake; If he rose at all, it was as His body; if the cells dissolution did not reverse, the molecules reknit, the amino acids rekindle, the Church will fall.”*  
 ~John Updike

**WOMEN'S GUILD**

**T**hank you for your orders for the Easter flowers that will adorn our altar during this holiday season. The church always has a great spring smell when we enter and that would not happen without your help.  
 Our church will be hosting the June Classis meeting and dinner on June 16. Natalie Woodard, Shirley Ruth and Shirley Burns will be chairing this event. If you are able to land a hand with setup, making some-

thing or cleaning up just let one of these ladies know and they will be more than happy to let you know how you can help.  
 The Guild has purchased a bookcase that is located in the Dutch Room. The books in the case are for everyone's use. These books are novels and/or spiritual books. Read a book & bring it back for someone else to enjoy. Or, if you have a book that you have read & don't want



back, then add it to the collection. There will be no charges for late fees. It's an easy way to help everyone out with a good book.  
 Check it out.  
 A few weeks ago, we received a request from a minister, via email, to send soap and detergent over to Iraq for the soldiers. We sent over a large box of these items. We hope these items will help soldiers have one less thing to worry about.  
 On May 17 there will be a

pot luck luncheon held after church. This will be a "getting to know you" get-together, for old and new church family. Watch the bulletin for sign up information in the coming weeks.  
Upcoming activities:  
 4/5/09Easter egg hunt for the kids to be held after church  
 4/19/09 Meeting—last one until September  
 5/17/09 Pot Luck Lunch  
 Hope to see you at a meeting or an event real soon.  
 ~Sandy Emrich, President

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Pastor

WE'RE ON THE WEB:

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Pastor

THE SPIRE

APRIL 2009