



The Carriage Stone

April 2014

New Hempstead Presbyterian Church, New City, NY. *The English Church*



Holy Week



"The Carriage Stone" is the Newsletter of

The New Hempstead Presbyterian Church

484 New Hempstead Road, New City, NY 10956

The Reverend Doctor Lori Knight-Whitehouse, Pastor

Office: (845) 354-2372

E-mail: office@nhpchurch.org

Web: nhpchurch.org

Look for us on Facebook!

Administrative Assistant: Kristen Rabeler

Newsletter Editor:

Robert Phillhower

Next Deadline:

Sunday, April 20

Submissions: in my mailbox
or e-mail to

carriagestone@nhpchurch.org



Right Around the Corner

By the time this is published, we will be about halfway through Lent. Easter is right around the corner. But, just as spring seems to be slow to fully arrive (we may get more snow this week—ugh!) so, too we have to get through Lent and Holy week—the suffering, crucifixion and death of Jesus.

These times of suffering can come to us any time of year. So, too, can the fear and anxiety that come with it. This can feel unbearable sometimes. I am so grateful to Elder Carmen Bermudez, who reminded us at Session last week of one of her favorite Bible verses. It is Isaiah 41:10, where God, speaking through the prophet Isaiah, reminds the people:

Do not fear, for I am with you,
do not be afraid, for I am your God;
I will strengthen you, I will help you,
I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.

Walking through the pain, sorrow and messiness of life would be unbearable without this promise from our God. We do not go through our hardships alone. God goes with us, to strengthen us and hold us up with God's "victorious right hand." And, because we are bound together as a community by our baptism, we walk with each other both in good times and in hard, messy, sorrowful times. We do not walk through difficult, painful and messy times alone. God goes with us, to uphold us with God's mighty, loving power.

My grandfather had a favorite expression for these tough, Lenten times. "The storm won't last forever, and the ship won't sink." No matter what befalls us, we are assured of God's power and presence in our lives and our life together. Psalm 121:4 "*He, watching over Israel, slumbers not nor sleeps,*" (Psalm 121:4) The presence of God in Christ is our sustenance and strength. Death does not have the last word. Easter will come!



Helping Hands/Safe Haven Update

From Laura Metallo-Bidon

Thanks to everyone who shopped, cooked, served dinner and breakfast, chaperoned, donated toiletries, lent moral support and helped make our Safe Havens a success this year! I am grateful for your help, and more importantly, several of our Safe Haven guests took the time to compliment us on our great meals and hospitality. The number of nightly guests has *doubled* since we started last March; it's clear that we are truly meeting a need in our community.

Thanks to one and all!

Helping Hands Interfaith Coalition of Rockland County

Building for the Future

Our immediate objectives are to:

- create permanent supportive housing
- extend our outreach to the entire county
- develop our Outreach Center services
- expand our Safe Haven program
- end homelessness in Rockland, one person at a time

Facilities E-mail

From Barbara Zacheis

Barbara Zacheis, chair of Buildings and Grounds, would like to invite you to contact her at

facilities@nhpchurch.org

if you see an issue that needs attention at the church buildings or property.

Our Talented Congregation

Jane Craig Sebok



For the month of May, we have five listings. Remember to let me know when you have performances coming up, either at janesebok20@gmail.com, or during coffee hour.

Here are the listings for May:

May 4, 4:00 PM – **Barbara Zacheis**,
Adelphi Chamber Orchestra, River Dell
Regional High School, Oradell, NJ.
“Nature and Mystery: A Spring
Celebration.”

May 17, 6:30 PM – **Jane Craig Sebok**,
Rockland County Concert Band, St.
Mary’s Episcopal Church, Tuxedo Park,
NY. Fund-Raising Benefit for the
Community Food Pantry.

May 17, 8:00 PM – **Barbara Zacheis**,
Hudson Valley Symphonic Wind
Ensemble, Kusel Auditorium, Sleepy
Hollow High School, Sleepy Hollow, NY.

May 22, 7:30 PM - **Karl Witte**,
**Katherine Witte and Naomi
Philhower** – Nyack High School, Nyack
NY. Spring Concert.

May 29, 7:30 PM - **Karl Witte**,
**Katherine Witte and Naomi
Philhower** – Nyack High School, Nyack
NY. Spring Concert. March 16, 3:00 PM

FAITH ENDURES

“Hope does not disappoint us,
because God’s love has been poured into our hearts.”
(Romans 5:5)



Your Gifts to “One Great Hour of Sharing” in action....

Please give generously, now through Easter Sunday.

Dear Friend,

It’s been **eight years** since **Hurricane Katrina** tore through the city of New Orleans. Sadly, it’s taken this long for the Lower ninth Ward to see signs of improvement in the community. But because of **generous people like you** who support One Great Hour of Sharing the Presbyterian Mission Agency is able to help.

“The city of New Orleans has never been equitable or fair to us in the Lower 9th Ward,” says Vanessa Gueringer, the Vice President of A Community Voice (ACV). “Many in the city wrote us off, whereas we viewed it as our home and this is our land and we deserve to come back like any other community.” Your donation can help the people in the Lower 9th Ward, and others like them who are trying to rebuild their lives.

ACV is a non-profit that fights for social and economic justice for low-to-moderate-income families. After Hurricane Katrina, **ACV helped people gain access to their homes and fight for basic services like garbage**

pickup, but there is still so much more that needs done to help develop this community. Hurricane Katrina destroyed their homes, took away their jobs and set families back.

Thanks to a grant from Self-Development of People, who is supported by One Great Hour of Sharing, ACV was able to open a computer center for community residents. So far, **more than 500 people have used it to apply for jobs, housing, and food assistance**, and even more have used it for training and education.

The new computer center was made possible because of people like you who give to One Great Hour of Sharing. Your gift helps assist in the empowerment of the poor and oppressed.

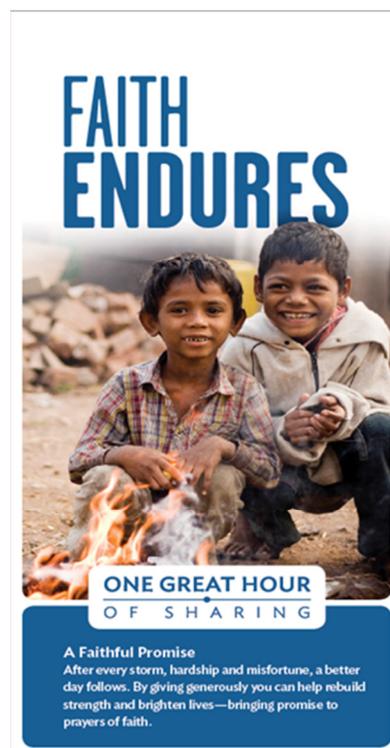
Give to One Great Hour of Sharing to help community growth and progress by supporting programs like Self-Development of People.



Faithfully yours,

Cynthia White

Coordinator, Self-Development of People
Presbyterian Mission Agency





Helping Hands Annual End-of-Season Volunteer Appreciation “Pot Luck” Dinner

Sunday, April 13, 6 PM
(Palm Sunday)
United Church of Spring Valley

Each year, Helping Hands holds an end-of-season potluck dinner to acknowledge all Safe Haven volunteers—cooks, shoppers, drivers, servers, overnights—everyone who helps make Safe Haven possible at communities of faith across Rockland County.

Contact Laura Bidon if you are interested in attending on behalf of New Hempstead Presbyterian Church.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Situation Report Washington State Mudslide

Stephanie Fritts, Chair of the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) Advisory Committee, is Director of the Pacific County Emergency Management Agency. Following is information she has shared on the situation in Washington.

March 2014 has been an exceptionally rain-filled month in Washington State. As of this writing (March 26, 2014) annual rainfall has exceeded normal by close to five inches. The morning of Saturday, March 22 was an atypical sunny morning, but one of the largest disaster events related to rainfall occurred that morning in Oso,

Washington. An extremely large and unexpected landslide befell Snohomish County at approximately 10:45 AM. Authorities were first alerted by a 911 call reporting severe flooding. As it ended up this was not flooding, but a mud/landslide that had wiped out the town of Oso and portions of the town of Darrington. The landslide was not truly land, but mud, as the slide also traversed and blocked the Stillaguamish River. Responders reported sinking while attempting rescues, even with ladders, sheets of plywood and makeshift supports, attempting to dig through mud estimated to be up to 20' deep. The mud was often described as "quick sand" and is dangerous if not impossible to traverse.

The rescue effort has continued since Saturday morning (and is ongoing as of this writing), with 24 identified fatalities and up to 176 individuals listed as missing. This event is larger in terms of personal impact than the 1980 Mt. St. Helen's eruption. 57 people died in the eruption of Mt. St. Helen's. Those persons were a disparate group of researchers, photographers, and more, without personal community connections. The impact of the slide on Snohomish County is distinctly different in that the numbers of fatalities is expected to be much larger and the impact is close and personal. This is a community that knows each other well, and neighbors cannot walk down the street without seeing a person in grief.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) has been in touch with the Presbytery of North Puget Sound to offer One Great Hour of Sharing funds and other assistance. At their request, PDA has sent two members of the PDA National Response Team (NRT) to help in the response. In many situations, NRT members meet with local Presbyterian pastors, tour impacted areas when appropriate and discuss opportunities for collaboration with the broader faith community.



**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE