



The Carriage Stone

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

Summer 2014



“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 Philhower

Next Deadline:

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Submissions: in my mailbox
or e-mail to

carriagestone@nhpchurch.org



Good Reads for Summer

It's been a few years since I wrote a column with some suggested summer reads for all y'all (That's the Southern plural for y'all). Here are a few that I think you might enjoy—some theological, some not so much. Happy reading!

Colin Cotterill, *Granddad, There's a Head on the Beach*

Fictional Thai journalist Jimm Jury has been dragged from her job in Chiang Mai to a rural village in southern Thailand to help her family run a broken-down beach “resort.” In this entry in the series, she discovers a head on the beach and sets out to find its late owner. While shot through with humor, this book is also about the serious business of human trafficking. Great, memorable characters.

Sherman Alexie, *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*.

This Young Adult novel is a must-read for anyone interested in the experience of modern American Indians on reservations. The narrator, who is Indian, attends school with White kids and must learn to straddle two worlds, without losing his heritage. A poignant read.

Sara Miles, *City of God*.

Sara is an unlikely Christian who stumbled into an Episcopal church in San Francisco a couple of decades ago, received communion, and felt Jesus enter her heart and life. This book is about her experience of taking ashes out into the streets of her city on Ash Wednesday and offering them to any and all who wanted them. She discovers that “Church” may be less about what happens on Sunday morning and more about what happens when we take the Love of God into the streets—no questions asked, no requirements imposed.

Pat Conroy, *Beach Music*.

I rediscovered this (long) novel from 1995 last summer. Epic in its scope, it tells the story of a man who spends his life seeking and sometimes finding redemption from an abusive childhood and disastrous relationships. Big portions are set in the South Carolina Low Country, so it was a nostalgic read for me.

J. Phillip Newell, *Listening for the Heartbeat of God*.

A short book about the Celtic tradition of Christianity, which relies heavily on the Gospel of John for its spiritual understanding. John was the disciple who leaned on Jesus' breast at the last supper and therefore "heard the heartbeat of God."

Sabbatical Update

Due to family responsibilities (aging and ill parents for both Howard and me), I have decided to postpone my plans to take Sabbatic Leave. Thanks to the committee who were working with me, and you're not off the hook! I hope to revisit plans next year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lori" with a stylized flourish underneath.



Our Talented Congregation

Jane Craig Sebok

For the month of August, we have one listing. Remember to let me know when you have performances coming up, either at jane Sebok20@gmail.com, or during coffee hour.

August 14, 7:30 PM – Jane Sebok,
Rockland County Concert Band

Pearl River Public Library
80 Franklin Avenue
Pearl River, NY

Free Admission



Shama Omer wrote a one-act play "Tax Evasion" which was performed by Shades Repertory at the Haverstraw Youth Theatre (Historic Central Presbyterian Church) Haverstraw on July 10-11

[Thanks to Kristin for sending this update. If anyone has more milestones, please send to CarriageStone@nhpchurch.org and I'll get them into the next issue.]



Square Dance and Chili Cook-off

Get out your dancing shoes and dust off those chili recipes, the square dance and chili cook-off are coming to Germonds. Both events will take place under the tent on Saturday, September 6 with the square dancing beginning at 3 PM and the chili cook-off following at 4 PM.

Does your chili recipe need a little refining? Now is the time to perfect it as the chili recipes will be judged and winners awarded in the following categories: Hottest, People's Choice, Best in Show and Most Unique. We ask for your assistance by giving your chili a name and by bringing your chili in a crock-pot or slow cooker so it can stay warm while everyone enjoys the square dancing.

Please look for the sign-up sheet at coffee hour and sign up so we know you'll be attending.

Joining Germonds for the festivities will be Nauraushaun Presbyterian Church, New Hempstead Presbyterian Church and the United Church of Spring Valley. Any questions can be directed to Barbara Jenkins or Barbara Powers.

