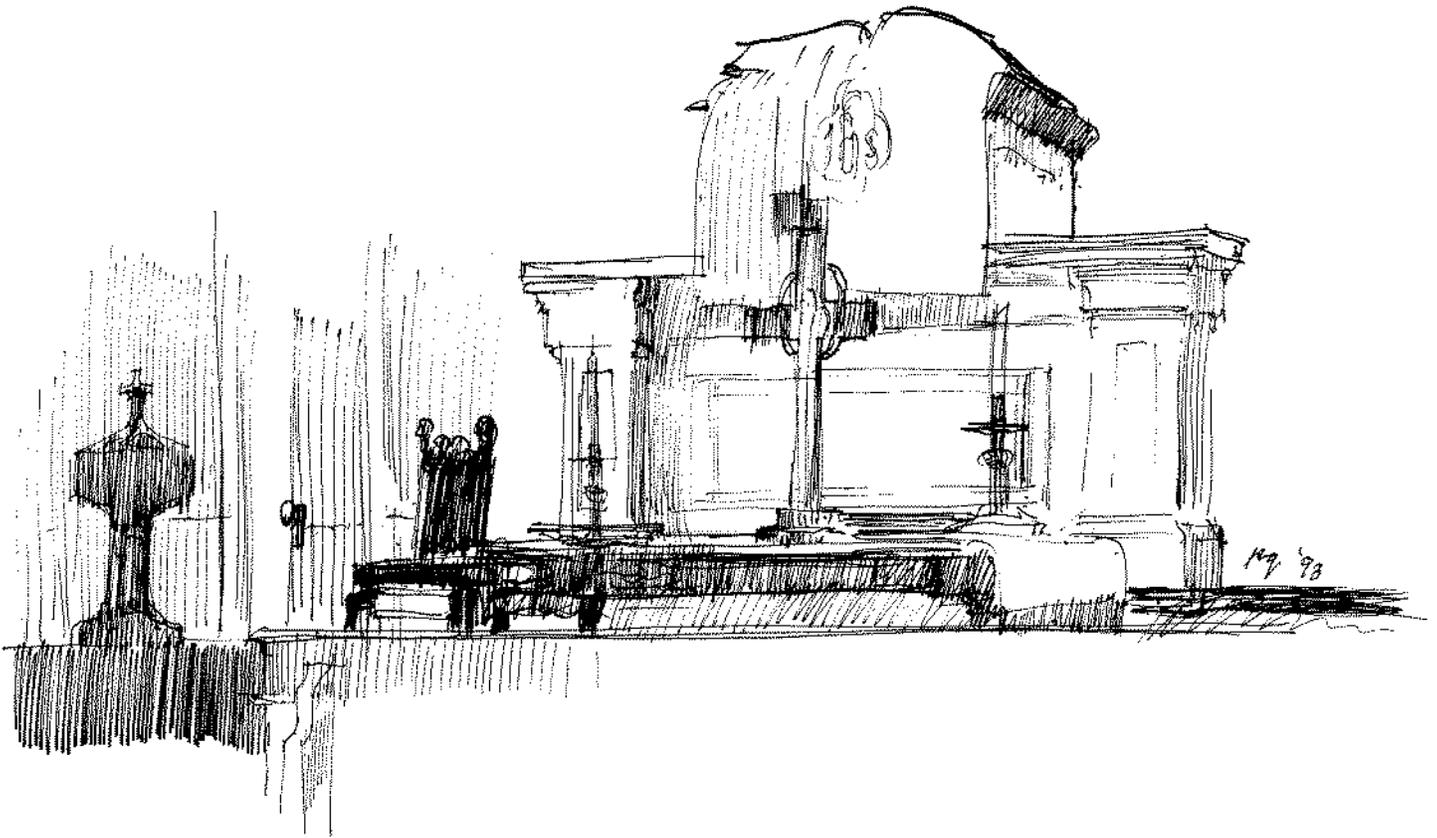




The Carriage Stone

June 2015

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



"The Carriage Stone" is the Newsletter of

The New Hempstead Presbyterian Church

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Summer Reading List

Ah, it's finally warm! After a long winter, I am looking forward to a slower pace, sunshine, and a chance to catch up on some reading. This is perhaps my favorite column to write every year. It's the one where I get to share with you all some of the books I have really enjoyed in the last year, in hopes that you might pick up one for your vacation reading. So, in no particular order, here is a list I offer for your reading pleasure.

PENGUINS AND GOLDEN CALVES, by Madeleine L'Engle. L'Engle is perhaps best known for her children's books, including the Newberry winner, **A WRINKLE IN TIME**. In this book she explores how a trip to the Antarctic helped her to see ordinary creatures and objects from everyday life as icons—windows that reveal God's glory to those who will but look. L'Engle's scientific curiosity is matched by her beautiful prose.

THE YEAR OF BIBLICAL WOMANHOOD by Rachel Held Evans. Evangelical Christian Evans spent 10 months trying to follow 10 Biblical rules that have governed women's behavior in both synagogues and some churches (up to and including sleeping in a tent outside during her period) My favorite take away is the lesson that Proverbs 31 (the "good woman, who can find?" text) is meant to be sung every Sabbath by orthodox Jewish men to their wives. It's not a set of rules to make one a good woman—it's something in women that is there already, waiting to be called forth and praised!

THE HOUSE ON THE LAGOON by Rosaria Ferré. I read this before we went to Puerto Rico—it's the history of the Island interwoven with the history of a family. Asks good questions about the relationship between reality and perception.

THE RED TENT by Anita Diamant. I can't believe it took me almost 20 years to get around to reading this. A fantastic book, a retelling of the story of Dinah from the book of Genesis. A wonderfully imaginative novel.

RIVER OF DARKNESS by Rennie Airth. A murder mystery set in 1920s England, this novel traces the path of evil in one man's life, leading to a series of murders. While "justice prevails" at the end, this novel asks a lot of questions about the nature of evil and the consequences that of actions as they reverberate through the generations.

I would love to hear some of your favorite titles—I'm always looking for a good book! Happy reading,



Safe Haven Season Comes to an End....

From Laura Bidon, Mission Committee Chair

“Spring has finally conquered winter, and we can all look back with satisfaction at another extraordinary season of braving the snow, ice and cold to shelter and feed our homeless neighbors. It’s been a magnificent effort—thanks to the hundreds of kind-hearted volunteers who have so generously donated their time and labor to this deed.”

Raoul Cansino
President, Helping Hands

Helping Hands has successfully completed their longest Safe Haven season ever— from November 3 through April 30— thanks to the efforts of New Hempstead Presbyterian Church and other communities of faith across Rockland County,

NHPC hosted our final Safe Havens of this season on April 15, 16 and 17. Special thanks to everyone who shopped, cooked, served, cleaned, chaperoned, donated toiletries or remembered us in their prayers.

The crisis of homelessness continues to grow in Rockland County, and although the Safe Haven season is over, Helping Hands is active throughout the year. Stay in touch with all their latest news at: helpinghandsofrockland.org.

Thank You for Your Generosity!

From Laura Bidon, Mission Committee Chair

Our “Feed the Hungry...Feed the Soul” Special Lenten Offering was a great success! Thanks to your generosity, we raised \$1200 to benefit the Presbyterian Hunger



Program and People to People, Rockland County’s largest food pantry. This special “no frills” offering was taken up in lieu of “One Great Hour of Sharing” this year, and was specially designed to address the growing crisis of hunger



locally, nationally, and globally. Once again, NHPC responds generously to the call to help our neighbors in need.

Thank you!

Our Talented Congregation

Jane Craig Sebok

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



Here is the listing for June:

June 7, 4 PM – Sue Rentz
Rockland Camerata,
“The Composer Feminine.”
Clarkstown Reformed Church,
107 Strawtown Road West Nyack, NY.

June 28, 3 PM – Jane Sebok
Cultural Arts Center,
Rockland Community College,
145 College Road, Suffern, NY.

Joint Youth Group Fund Raiser

The Joint Youth Group of the Germonds and New Hempstead Presbyterian churches' association with Helping Hands goes back at least five years. Back then, we first assisted Stony Point Presbyterian Church in helping to prepare the dinner meal on those nights when they were hosting Helping Hand's guests and we've helped with dinner prep every year since.

In March 2015, a call came from Raoul Cansino, the head of Helping Hands. It seemed that one of the busses that they use to transport their clients from the pick-up location to the overnight host location had finally broken down for the last time. Buying a new bus was expensive and he was looking for some help. Raoul's concept was that organizations of young people around the county try a lock-in, first to experience what it was like to sleep on the floor of a gym with a large group of people like Helping Hand's guests do, and second to raise funds to buy a new bus. If he could get 100 young people to raise \$100 each, that \$10,000 would be a good start toward a bus.

Six groups around the county, including our Joint Youth Group responded to his call.

Members of the Youth Groups at both churches gave minutes for Mission and they staffed the Helping Hands table in the Mission Room at the Rockland Worships service in Haverstraw on April 19.



Ten young people plus two adults participated in our lock-in, the first of the six to do so, on April 25. Mr. Cansino met with our group at the beginning of the evening



and led a half hour discussion on what it means to be homeless in Rockland County. Using his formula, our goal was to raise \$1,200. We are very pleased to report that we were able to send Helping Hands a total of \$2,422 – double our goal. We'd like to thank everyone at both churches for their contributions.

And what of the other five groups and the new bus? As of this writing, the other groups are still holding their lock-ins and collecting their funds. A local bus company donated two very used busses to Helping Hands (200,000 miles plus on each); one broke down two weeks after receipt. Helping Hands would really like to purchase a gently used bus, one with less than 100,000 miles on it that does not require constant maintenance, and figures the cost of that to be \$15,000. If the other five groups perform as well as ours did, Helping Hands should be close. Stay tuned.

Thank you again for your generous support of the Joint Youth Group program. We are very proud of our young people and their high level of social consciousness.



As usual, I'll be publishing one "summer" issue in place of the July and August issues. I've set a deadline for July 12 for this combined issue to avoid the busy graduation season.

“Bless this house.... and keep it safe” Capital Campaign 2015

Important Dates:

Saturday, June 13 *Congregational Dinner*

Sunday, June 14 *Pledge Sunday*

Worshiping, Serving and Growing in Community

For over 280 years, our historic Sanctuary and beautiful grounds have been faithfully serving God and God’s people in this corner of Rockland County. Our Sanctuary provides a warm, spiritual home where generations have worshiped, prayed, shared, laughed and wept. Our Manse provides a loving home for our Pastor and her family. Murchison Hall is a well-loved, much-used multipurpose building that welcomes many community groups who otherwise would have no home to carry out their missions. The faithful fulfillment of our mission requires us to preserve, restore and maintain our buildings and grounds, so that we may continue worshiping, serving and growing in this community and the wider world.



The Need....

With such a historic property comes the responsibility of stewardship and mission. The following capital projects are proposed to enhance our ability to continue worshiping, serving and growing:

- Replace the Sanctuary roof
- Replace the heating system for the Sanctuary and Colonial Room
- Establish an endowment for maintenance
- Remodel the office/kitchen area
- Replace ceiling tiles and insulate Murchison Hall
- Replace carpeting in the Sanctuary
- Mission Fund apportionment
- Repair parking lot and driveways

The Challenge...

What does New Hempstead Presbyterian Church mean to you and your family? The Session of NHPC lovingly challenges you to consider that question as you make your pledge to the Capital Campaign, so that we may continue to faithfully live our mission to be the continuing presence of Christ in the world.



I am finally catching up on the backlog of photographs for the web site. There is now a “Mission” gallery with a few mission-related photographs and a new fellowship gallery with some newer photographs. More are coming as I go through the pictures on my camera and those sent by generous photographers in the church.

If you have pictures from recent (or not so recent) church events, let me know so we can share them as well.



**Stronger Together
A Network of Rockland County Faith
Communities**

Walking Together with Immigrants

Join for the first gathering to connect with one
another!

All Denominations and Faith Traditions Welcome!
Refreshments Provided.

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Germonds Presbyterian Church
39 Germonds Road, New City, NY 10956



Come if you are...

- A person who wants to learn more about immigration systems in the U.S.
- A Congregational Educator.
- A Grandparent or Parent with love to share.
- A complex problem solver.
- A dynamite fund raiser.
- A driver or a cook willing to help families in crisis.
- A translator— Habla Español? Ou pale kreyòl ayisyen? Вы говорите по-русски?
- A recent immigrant with life experiences to share.
- A not-so-recent immigrant with a willingness to listen and learn.

On June 2, Community Leaders from the *Rockland Immigration Coalition* and local congregations will facilitate a conversation about the preliminary vision for this network.

The “Stronger Together” Network will:

Creatively work together to respond to needs identified by partner organizations or local faith communities;

Raise the consciousness about the difficult realities faced by immigrants in the U.S. especially in faith communities where those experiences are not often heard;

Advocate for local and federal laws that uphold justice for immigrants.

Questions regarding the event? Contact Sarah Henkel at sarah@hudrivpres.org