



The Carriage Stone

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

January/February 2016



**CREATE IN ME
A CLEAN HEART,
O GOD, AND PUT
A NEW AND RIGHT
SPIRIT WITHIN ME.**

Psalm 51.10



“The Carriage Stone” is the Newsletter of
The New Hempstead Presbyterian Church

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A Happy, Busy New Year!

The Holiday rush is over and a new calendar year is underway. It is shaping up to be a busy season. January 18, Dr. King's birthday, we will have a table at the MLK Center's celebrations at Ramapo High School. I have been asked to give the invocation, and honor which I am pleased to accept. There is a sign-up sheet in the Colonial Room if you can participate or contribute in any way: set up, staffing the table, making cookies or finger foods, clean up, and making origami paper cranes are some ways to get involved. Of course, your presence at the event is also a wonderful witness to our neighbors that God is still at work building Beloved Community.

We are hosting Helping Hands January 27–29. Please see Pam Fink if you can help out.

This year, we will be having confirmation classes with Germonds Presbyterian Church. Pastor Krauss, Germonds' interim pastor and I will be co-leading. If you are an active member of our congregation, and have a child at least 12 years of age, please see me.

On Monday, February 1, 7:30 PM we will be starting a conversation about race and White privilege. If you are interested in such a conversation, please join me in the Colonial room. We will set a time to meet monthly, and discuss some possible readings.

And, of course, now that you've gotten the Christmas tree taken down, it's time to remember that Lent is right over the horizon! Ash Wednesday service will be held Wednesday, February 10, at 8 PM. The Imposition of the Ashes will be observed and Eucharist will be celebrated.

Please mark your calendars for these important events in the life and ministry of our church.

Blessings,

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



Helping Hands, Safe Haven

From Pam Fink

The Helping Hands Safe Haven season is now well under way. Despite the unusually warm (and gratefully accepted) weather this winter, about 25-30 guests have been participating in the program each night. NHPC will take its turn hosting Safe Haven on January 27-29. We're very fortunate to have volunteers from the Boy Scouts and Germonds Presbyterian Church lined up to help cook and serve the meals, but there's still plenty of need for volunteers from our congregation to cook, serve and chaperone overnight. If you wish to volunteer, please sign up in the Colonial Room or see Pam Fink as soon as you can. If you can't make it this time, don't worry because we'll have another opportunity at the end of March when we host Safe Haven again (Mar 30-Apr 1).

In addition to providing food and shelter to Rockland's homeless, we are also preparing hygiene kits, which contain the following personal-sized articles:

- Toothbrushes
- Tooth Paste
- Disposable Razors
- Shaving Cream
- Socks
- Deodorant
- Wash Clothes
- Shampoo
- Hand Soap



- Tissues
- Combs OR Brushes
- Lip Balm
- Hand Lotion

If you could supply some (or all) of the articles on the list by January 24, the hygiene kits will be assembled by our Boy Scout volunteers in time for our guests. There is a large tub in the Colonial Room to drop off the supplies.

And finally, primarily to the men of the congregation, if you have used flannel shirts, sweatshirts, blue jeans or pants (but not abused like Howard's painting pants) that you no longer wish to/can wear, please drop them off in the Colonial Room and we'll bring them to our Safe Haven nights. Our guests make good use of these items.

If you have any questions, please speak with Pam Fink.

Spring is Coming!!!

From Nancy Jacobs

Seeking helpers who:

- 1) Are patient, gentle, and nurturing
- 2) Are eager for Springtime
- 3) Love nature
- 4) Have verdant opposable digits (green thumbs) or even "latent" talent!

I am ordering a number of plants and seeds for the church cutting garden, and need volunteers to assist in the winter indoor planting of some of the seeds. They are all "annuals," so I expect a long blooming period. They will not survive the following winter. If we have had fun, we can do it again next year!

To express your interest, please see me during coffee hour.

“Warm Hands...Warm Hearts” Update

Submitted by Yvonne Bermudez-Pomavilla &
Laura Metallo-Bidon

Thanks to the generosity of our congregation, we were able to collect 60 pairs of warm winter gloves, hats and scarves in our recent “Warm Hands...Warm Hearts” glove drive. On Saturday, January 9, Yvonne and I were privileged to distribute these items to needy individuals in Spring Valley. We accompanied the Salvation Army Canteen Food Truck volunteers as they made their rounds through the village; as they distributed hot meals, we distributed the gloves, hats and scarves that you donated.

We made approximately seven stops throughout Spring Valley, including the train station and other areas where day laborers stood in the cold hoping to find work for the day. We also went under “the bridge” on Route 59, where we found ten men sitting, huddled around a small fire. They greeted us warmly, and thanked us for the gloves we gave them.

The experience was both heartwarming and heartbreaking. Without exception, the gloves were received with great gratitude and appreciation, but to see the depth of need in our community left us wishing that we could do more to help, especially as several months of winter remain ahead for these vulnerable individuals. Please keep them in your prayers.



Thanks again for your generosity in donating gloves, hats and scarves. Thanks also to the volunteers of the Salvation Army Canteen Food Truck, who lovingly welcomed us and who give their time every Saturday morning to make sure their neighbors receive a hot meal.



Kryste Andrews, NHPC Music Director

NHPC choir is back to our regular schedule this week with our rehearsals on Thursdays from 8 until 10. As always, we look forward to singing and laughing and celebrating birthdays and life in general during these hours.

Our goal is to sing from the heart while we present choral pieces that represent the season and the scripture/sermon topic, etc. We have our favorite songs and we enjoy bringing new music to the congregation, music that we hope will inspire deeper spiritual connection.

The music library has been reorganized by some church elves known as Barbara Zacheis, Mark Zacheis and Pam Fink. The new filing cabinets are all located in one area now and drawers are easier to open and close. Thank you, NHPC elves!! Your devotion is much appreciated.

We were happy to have Katherine Witte and Tommy Smith back with us this holiday season, if ever so briefly. Cathy and Bob Greenhalgh are taking a sabbatical from the choir and we miss them. Stay warm and safe during these winter days, dear ones.

Per Capita for the New Year 2016

From Mark Zacheis, Treasurer

The Per Capita Apportionment is the share of the ecclesiastical and administrative costs to running the Presbyterian Church (USA) at each governing level. This includes the Presbytery, Synod, and Presbytery. The amount of each is calculated by taking the total budget for each and dividing by the number of members in each. The money collected is used at each level for overhead, operations, administrative, and mission expenses.



Per Capita

The Per Capita amount for 2016 is \$31.50 per active formally received member. This amount supports all three levels of church government. The total cost to The New Hempstead Presbyterian

Church is approximately \$3,000 this year. It is our policy to pay the full amount every year. We do ask that each active member consider giving the \$31.50 toward this payment as a way of reminding each of us that we are a connected church, connected to all other Presbyterian churches in this country through our governance. Those that worship at Germonds and Stony Point and Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church in Manhattan and the Calvary Presbyterian Church in San Francisco and all others in between are our brothers and sisters in faith.

Please consider using the blue per capita envelope in the front of your box of envelopes.

Our Talented Congregation

Jane Craig Sebok

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

Here is the listing for January:



January 23, 4 PM – Sue Rentz –
Rockland Camerata,
Mozart and Vivaldi
Germonds Presbyterian Church,
New City, NY.

January 31, 3 PM – Barbara Zacheis
Adelphi Orchestra
Pascack Valley Chamber Choir
Seton Hall University Choir

Mozart: Concerto for Piano no 24 in C minor
Dvorak: Te Deum, Op. 103/B 17
Gjeilo: Sunrise Mass
Sibelius: Finlandia, Op. 26

Pascack Valley Regional High School



Our website nhpchurch.org is a good source of information about what is going on at New Hempstead. Our Calendar shows important dates, and is easily accessible from your smartphone.

Under the fellowship banner is a growing set of pictures, including 71 so far from 2015. Let Bob Philhower know if you have some to contribute.