



The Carriage Stone

May 2016

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



PENTECOST



"The Carriage Stone" is the Newsletter of
The New Hempstead Presbyterian Church

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The Times, They Are A'Changin'



It seems like for the 26 years of my ordained ministry, I have been hearing the lament of the death of the Church. First of all, I do not believe the church will die. Jesus himself promised us that the gates of Hell will not prevail against it.

But I also believe that the Church is undergoing some radical and frightening changes. Gone are the days when it was assumed that you would go to church every Sunday, just as a matter of course. I do not think this is a bad thing. I see it as an opportunity.

For several years, we have been taking baby steps to “move back into our neighborhood.” We have opened our fellowship hall to our homeless neighbors a few times a year, as part of our ministry with Helping Hands/Safe Shelter.

The Session and I are currently exploring ways to partner with Haverstraw Central Presbyterian, Stony Point Presbyterian, and (possibly) Spring Valley United Church to share in ministries in a radically changing Rockland County.

Change is scary. Sometimes “clutch my pearls, lock the doors, hunker down and hope it goes away” scary. But if we do not follow Jesus Christ where he is leading us, if we do not change our thinking from an “attraction” model of evangelism (come in and see what we are doing) to a “missional” model (go out and actually DO things in the world in the name of Jesus) our days as a viable congregation are, quite frankly, numbered.

Does this sound alarmist? Yes. Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! says the prophet Joel. It is time we turned from our old ways of being church, and began to pray for God’s leading us into the neighborhood, and the world. It’s time to move across boundaries.

On Sunday, June 5, we will host the Haverstraw, Stony Point and (maybe) Spring Valley United for worship at 11:00. We should have a packed house! This is one step, and not too frightening a step, towards partnering (NOT merging—that’s not even in the conversations!) with our Reformed sisters and brothers for shared ministry in the “Route 45 Corridor”) of Rockland County.

These are scary times for the Church. They are also exciting times. I feel a lot of energy among our congregation, and the others in this conversation. We are promised that the gates of Hell will not prevail against Christ’s Church. I ask that you join with me in intentional prayer that God will enable us to discern the future God sees for us.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lori". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Special Pentecost Offering 2016—Supporting the Youth of our Community

Traditionally, your gifts to the Pentecost Offering help the PC (USA) encourage, develop, and support its young people, while also addressing the needs of at-risk children. This year, NHPC is designating a **Special Pentecost Offering**, to support the youth of our community.

100% of your gifts will go to a local organization, working right here in Rockland County to support and nurture our children.

Children are the future of any community, and the needs of children right here in Rockland County are great. Please help us select a local organization to receive this Special Offering. **The organization receiving the most votes will receive 100% of the proceeds of this offering.**

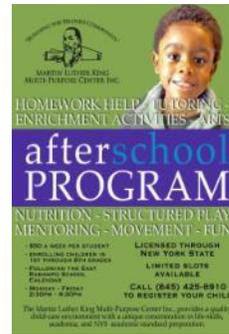
Pick-up a ballot at church, or email your vote to the Mission Committee at lkmb@optonline.net, by May 15. Select one of the following organizations serving the youth of our community:



Nyack Center:

Imagine how a working parent feels when they cannot afford a safe supervised place for their children before and after school.

Imagine the difficulties their children might face...Thanks to the generosity of our community, 44 children have breakfast and a safe place before school starts and 87 children have snack, homework help and supervision after school. Nyack Center is a haven for community children from 7 AM to 8:30 PM every school day. You make Nyack Center the lowest cost before and after school care in Rockland County and the region.



Martin Luther King Jr. Multipurpose Center:

In the spirit of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, the Multi-Purpose Center in Spring Valley provides necessary programs to our community, to help children and families lead valuable, productive, healthy and happy lives. With a dedicated staff of caring professionals, and funded by the generous donations of our community and public grants, the Center has served Rockland since 1978. Programs include an After School Program, a Summer Program, a Youth Employment Program and Community Health Programs.



People to People Food Pantry:

There are more than 35,000 Rockland residents who are food insecure and **one in five children who live in poverty.** The People to

People Food Pantry is Rockland's largest food pantry, distributing hundreds of food packages every month to households from every town, village and hamlet in Rockland County. The People to People Food Pantry is the only pantry in Rockland County that is open five days a week – Monday through Wednesday from 9:30 AM to 4 PM – with extended hours on Thursday until 6:30 PM and on Friday from 9:30 AM to 4 PM

Vote for ONE organization. Pick up a ballot at church, or email your vote to the Mission Committee at

lkmb@optonline.net

no later than Sunday, May 15.

Our Talented Congregation

Jane Craig Sebok



For the month of May, we have six 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 May:

May 8, 2 PM – Barbara Zacheis – Adelphi Orchestra,
Richard Wagner's Masterpieces Tristan und Isolde: Prelude and Liebestod and Die Walkure - Act 1.

River Dell Regional High School Auditorium,
Oradell, NJ.
Free admission.

May 15, 1:30 PM – Sue Rentz – Rockland Camerata,
Selections from the Brahms Liebeslieder Waltzes and other Brahms pieces,

Valley Cottage Library, Valley Cottage, NY.
Free or donation.

May 15, 3 PM – Jane Sebok – Rockland County Concert Band.
"Spring Concert."

Cultural Arts Center,
Rockland Community College,
145 College Rd., Suffern, NY.
Tickets available through Jane or at the door.

May 15, 4 PM – Barbara Zacheis – Hudson Valley Wind Ensemble.
Kusel Auditorium, Sleepy Hollow High School,
Sleepy Hollow, NY.

May 15, 7:30 PM – Barbara Zacheis – Adelphi Orchestra.
Richard Wagner's Masterpieces Tristan und Isolde: Prelude and Liebestod and Die Walkure - Act 1.

The DiMenna Center for Classical Music,
450 West 37th Street, New York, NY 10018.
\$25 - \$35.

May 21, 4 PM – Sue Rentz – Rockland Camerata,
"Rockland's Finest."

Rockland Conservatory, Pearl River, NY.
Benefit concert with champagne and dessert,
\$50. See Sue for more information and reservations.

Art Show and Auction

From the Fundraising Committee

Many members of our congregation are very talented in a variety of ways. We'd like to showcase some of their talent at the Art Show and Auction, which will be held on Saturday, May 21 from 2:30–5:00 PM in Murchison Hall. The artwork will be on display from 2:30–4:30 PM, and the auction of selected pieces will follow afterwards. Light refreshments will be served during the event.

In the past, our art show has displayed paintings, photographs, painted furniture and wall hangings, and sculpture. If you have any type of artwork that you would like to contribute for the show or to donate for the auction, please contact Pam Fink, Mark Zacheis or Kristen Rabeler as soon as you can, but no later than May 14. We'll be happy to find a new home for your art!



Upcoming Events at Germonds

Our friends at Germonds Presbyterian Church have sent along news of these upcoming events, which may be of interest to NHPC members. Contact NHPC Mission Chair Laura Metallo-Bidon if you'd like more information:

On Thursday, May 5, at 6:30 PM at Germonds the "Rockland Stronger Together" Immigration Group will be viewing a 30-minute documentary, "Locked in a Box," which describes the experiences of undocumented people who have been put into immigration detention centers as well as the impact on their families. Both Lori Hylton from Hudson River Presbytery and Velta Upeslasis (from Germonds) attended a three-day workshop on immigration several weeks ago at Stony Point, and both traveled to Washington for another immigration event. They will also be talking about what they have learned.

Germonds is attempting its' second year with their Mission Garden! They'll begin planting this year's garden on Saturday, May 7 at 9:30 AM. Anyone interested is welcome to participate, or to help in the garden during the coming season. Alternatively, they are encouraging anyone who is also planting their home vegetable garden to "Plant a Row At Home" for those who are hungry in Rockland. The plan is to harvest the garden on Sundays and to have folks bring in vegetables from their garden that they have dedicated to this effort, and all vegetables will be delivered to a local food pantry on Mondays.

Spring Tag Sale

The annual spring Tag Sale will be held on Saturday, June 11 this year. While you're doing your spring cleaning, it's a good opportunity to de-clutter your home, and the Tag Sale is the perfect place to send those things that you don't use or need anymore. We'll accept housewares, furniture, home décor, books, DVD's, clothing, tools, toys, etc. You can drop off your donations at the church anytime – we have lots of storage space in the barn.



Fellowship Breakfast

This morning was the fellowship breakfast. Eight of your church friends gathered at the City Line Diner in New City at 8:30 AM for good food and gentle conversation. I'd say strawberries and bacon dominated the food...not necessarily on the same plates. And the conversation was wide-ranging.

If you would like to join us next time, the breakfasts are on the last Saturday of each month. The next one will be on Saturday, May 28.