



The Carriage Stone

November 2016

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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Sunday, November 20

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Committees. You Don't Have to be a Member of the Church to serve!!!!



This is a re-write of a column published a few years back. I've heard that some folks don't understand that you can serve on any committee (except the Nominating Committee for Church officers) without being a "signed up" member of the Church. I do, however, want to add that we ALWAYS welcome those who want to formally join our Church. Just talk to me!!!!

When I was in Seminary, my mentor Dr. Catherine González had a mug with the logo "Dear God, Please, not another committee!" emblazoned across it. I think committees are a good thing. They are how our church organizes our day-to-day life. They keep things running.

When I told the Session that my daddy would be moving in with us, the immediate response was "well, we need to turn the have bath downstairs in the manse into a full bath." This was thanks to the Building and Grounds committee, chaired by Walter Smith. They also painted the dining room. The "BAG" keeps our church physical plant running and looking lovely. If you are interested in helping out, call Walter.

I have the joy of talking with the Children during worship every Sunday. Then, they go into the Colonial room to color or hear a story because the Christian Nurture and Spiritual Growth committee (Chaired by Pauline Mattis) makes sure there is an adult to go and help them. This committee always needs someone to supervise the kids, so I urge you to sign up. Our kids are a joy, and it is a privilege to teach them they are loved—by God, and by us!

The Fund-Raising committee (Chaired by Pam Fink) works hard through the year on a variety of projects (tag sale, art auction, etc.) to help raise funds for the Church and its various mission projects.

You are reading this because Bob Philhower, newsletter editor and Barbara Zacheis, clerk of Session and chair of the Communication and Media committee keeps the Carriage Stone published 11 times a year. Please remember to get anything you want disseminated to the congregation, community meetings, joys and concerns, even (especially!) recipes folks ask for to Bob by the third Sunday of every month.

We have ushers and lay leaders, and flowers to grace the pulpit area because the Worship, music and the Arts Committee (chaired by Sue Rentz) keeps asking for worship leaders (and who can say no to Sue?) We also host concerts from various musical groups under the guidance of this committee.

Plans for our partnership with Helping Hands are already underway because the Mission Committee (chaired by Laura Bidon) is hard at work putting together a schedule of days for us to offer hospitality to guests with no homes. They also plan the special offerings throughout the year, and other mission projects.

In the autumn, the Stewardship Committee (chaired by Jane Craig Sebok) will engage us in the process of putting our treasure where our hearts are—in the ministry and mission of New Hempstead Presbyterian Church. Mark Zacheis, Church treasurer faithfully keeps the session and congregation apprised of our financial health.

The staff of the Church continues to make improvements to our performance because the Personnel Committee (chaired by Karen Martin) asks for you fill out annual review forms.

We continue to have the best Coffee Hours in Rockland County because our Deacons (co-chaired by Mary Ann Witte and Howard Whitehouse) take hospitality seriously. They would welcome anyone who would like to help with Coffee Hour, Deacon or not!

Want to sing? See Kryste Andrews, choir director—no audition necessary!

If any of this work sounds like it's a place where you are being called, please contact the chairs of the committees. There is definitely a place for you in the daily life of our church, and we function best as the Body of Christ when EVERYONE is involved, not just on Sunday mornings!

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lori". The signature is written in dark ink on a white background.



LOCAL MISSIONS

From the Mission Committee

The frost is on the pumpkin and that means Thanksgiving is only a few weeks away, on November 24. As we're making plans to feast with friends and family, let's take time to remember those who worry about putting food on the table every day.

New Hempstead has a great and long-standing tradition of providing food for a Thanksgiving meal to needy families in Rockland County. For about \$40, you can sponsor a food basket and provide everything needed for a complete turkey dinner with all the trimmings. The list of items is as follows:

- Turkey
- Stuffing mix
- Boxed potatoes
- Gravy
- Canned vegetables (2-4 cans)
- Canned sweet potatoes/yams
- Corn bread mix
- Cake/brownie mix
- Cake frosting
- Applesauce
- Canned cranberry sauce
- Soup (2 cans)
- Loaf of bread

For the past couple of years, we've been able to make 40-45 Thanksgiving baskets. If you wish to sponsor a basket, please sign up on the sheet in the Colonial Room before November 20.

There are two ways to sponsor a basket:

- 1) Take the Thanksgiving basket shopping list and head for the grocery store. When you've purchased all of the items on the list, please put them in 1-2 grocery bags and bring them to church on or before Sunday November 20. Please plan to keep the loaf of bread and turkey at home until November 20.
- 2) If you'd rather have us shop for you, please give your \$40 donation to Mark Zacheis or Pam Fink by November 20.

Also, we'll gladly accept any monetary donations or food items from the list that will help us to provide more Thanksgiving dinners for Rockland's needy. If a group of folks want to go together to make a dinner, that would be great, too. Just let us know how many of you want to participate - please use the sign-up sheet so that can plan meals for as many families as possible.

On November 20, we'll need some help shopping and assembling the baskets. If you have time after coffee hour, we'd really appreciate some extra hands. And if we have a few volunteers to help with the food distribution on Monday November 21, it would be fantastic. Please let Carmen Bermudez know if you can help out either day. Let's do our part to make Thanksgiving a little happier for some of our Rockland neighbors. Thank you!!

Peekskill Auction

The Peekskill Presbyterian Church will be hosting an auction to raise money to supplement their outreach ministry to the community and to help repair their historic church steeple. The auction will be held on November 12. Their address is 705 South Street, Peekskill, NY and their phone number is 914-737-3322, if you would like more information.





It's a New Day for "Rockland Interfaith Breakfast Program"

Since 1985, the Rockland Interfaith Breakfast Program has been providing food, dignity and kindness to anyone, of any faith, background or circumstance, who is hungry and in need of a meal. Based in the United Church of Spring Valley, the program has a long connection to New Hempstead Presbyterian Church—our own beloved Paul Emch was a devoted volunteer and supporter of the Breakfast Program.

We recently received exciting news from the Breakfast Program. Their long time director, Carolyn Giles, has recently retired, and the United Church of Spring Valley is in transition as well. Throughout these changes, the Breakfast Program continues to thrive with dedicated volunteers, and will continue to do so as management for the program is transitioned to Helping Hands Interfaith Coalition for the Homeless of Rockland County.

This transition makes sense in light of Helping Hands' strong, collaborative partnership with the Breakfast Program, and will be beneficial to both programs. The Helping Hands Outreach Office is co-located in the United Church of Spring Valley, and serves many of the same individuals as the Breakfast Program. Many volunteers of the Breakfast Program are also volunteers of Helping Hands. This transition will allow the Breakfast Program to benefit from the fundraising, grant writing, and dedicated volunteer base of Helping Hands.

As the Breakfast Program continues to serve our needy neighbors, under the management of Helping Hands, community support is more important than ever! Volunteers are always

needed, and financial support is always welcome. If you'd like to be a part of this gratifying program, contact Chris Hughes (845-548-8421) or Ya'el Williams (845-356-0100).

For financial donations or other correspondence, please make note of the Breakfast Program's new mailing address:

Rockland Interfaith Breakfast Program
c/o Helping Hands
P.O. Box 240
Nyack, NY 10960

Prison Partnership

The Hudson River Presbytery Prison Partnership Program is sponsoring a Forum to encourage all to reach out to the prison population with compassion and support. For many, the question is not why but how. Come learn what programs are already in place (you need not reinvent the wheel) and be inspired to create your own!

Both Corrections Officers and Returning Citizens will share perspective. Big Picture topics addressed will be Criminal Justice, Restorative Justice, Reentry Issues, Education, Rehabilitation, and Healing Communities. Nuts and Bolts topics will be discussed by congregants in our Presbytery currently running programs on Prison Correspondence, "Bars of Soap", Prison Visiting Programs, The New Jim Crow Book Group, and more.

Join us on November 12 at Rye Presbyterian Church from 9 AM–12 noon. There is no charge. Please RSVP to hans@hudrivpres.org or just come!



Helping Hands Gala

Helping Hands Celebrates its twelfth Anniversary with a Gala Dinner and Silent Auction Wednesday evening, November 16 at Nyack Seaport



Honoring Rev. Rob Williams, Carolyn Giles and Lynn Boulter on their retirement from United Church of Spring Valley

See Laura Metallo-Bidon or Pam Fink if you want to join us at the New Hempstead Presbyterian Church table!



Fall Tag Sale

Pam Fink, Fundraising Chair

The Fall Tag Sale was held on October 15, a beautiful, crisp autumn day. We cleared the barn of a lot of donated goods, and shoppers were happy with their “treasures.” And we all enjoyed the hot dog or hamburger lunch prepared by chefs Joe, Ed and Percy. The sale was a success, with a tally upwards of \$1500 raised.

As head of the Fundraising Committee, I have to thank all of the people who participated in the tag sale, from donors and bakers, to those sorting on Friday, to those folks out on Saturday displaying, selling and buying. Over half of the congregation participated in this event. And if

you talk with anybody who was there, you’ll hear that despite the work, it was a great time to interact with people from the church and also the community. In fact, at the end of the day, we donated suitable clothing and housewares that will be sent to Haiti to help in their relief effort. Good job, everyone!

Our Talented Congregation

Jane Craig Sebok,
Talented Congregant



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

Here are the listings for December:

December 3, 2 PM – Jane Sebok –
Rockland County Concert Band,
Holiday Concert

Central Presbyterian Church, 89 Hudson St.,
Haverstraw, NY

December 10, 6 PM – Jane Sebok –
Rockland County Concert Band,
Holiday Concert

St. Mary’s Episcopal Church in Tuxedo,
10 Church Hill, Tuxedo Park, NY.

December 11, 4 PM – Barbara Zacheis –
Hudson Valley Symphonic Wind Ensemble,
Mary Duke Ballroom, Tarrytown House Estate,
Tarrytown, NY

December 18, 3 PM – Jane Sebok –
Rockland County Concert Band,
Holiday Concert

Pearl River Public Library, 80 Franklin Ave.,
Pearl River, NY