



The Carriage Stone

December 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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Hope Doesn't Disappoint Us

“Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.”

Romans 5:1-5, New Revised Standard Version

As I write, there is snow on the ground. My dad reminds me every night, “Boy, it sure gets dark early up here.” We are plodding along toward the shortest day of the year. Darkness is truly long upon our land.

But we are also moving into Advent, a time of looking forward, a time of hope. We have hope because through the One whose birth we await, we “have obtained access to this grace in which we stand.” This is no small thing in a country where hate crimes are on the rise; vile racist and sexist rhetoric fill our airwaves and computer screens; and “christianity” (intentional small c) is used to justify such behavior.

The good news is that we have been made right with God through Jesus. Nothing, not even suffering and hard times are wasted in God’s economy. Our sure and certain hope is not in the outcome of any given situation—it is in the love of God and the resurrection of Jesus Christ, that same One whose birth we will soon celebrate. This is the hope that doesn’t disappoint us. This hope gives us courage to work for justice, and prepare the way of the Lord.

Advent Blessings, everyone one

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lori" with a stylized flourish underneath.



**Gloves, Hats
and Hygiene
Kits
to Benefit the
Men and
Women of
Helping Hands**

On December 28–30, New Hempstead Presbyterian Church will again be hosting Safe Haven—providing a hot meal and overnight shelter to homeless men and women of Rockland County.

To make their holiday season a little bit brighter (and warmer), we’re collecting “**Winter Care Kits**” to give to our guests.

You can donate all or some of the following items for our guests. Drop off your donations in the bin in the Colonial Room by **Sunday, December 25**. Items needed include:

- **NEW winter gloves**
- **NEW winter hats/caps**
- Toothbrushes
- Tooth Paste
- Disposable Razors
- Shaving Cream
- Socks
- Deodorant
- Wash Cloths
- Shampoo
- Hand Soap
- Tissues
- Combs OR Brushes
- Lip Balm
- Hand Lotion

Thank you for providing some “Winter Care” to our homeless neighbors!

**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



The photos on the front page last month were very popular, so I have more for this month. Even more are available on the web site (nhpchurch.org under the fellowship menu). But, I can only share photos if someone takes them and passes them on to me!



Supporting Past, Present and Future Church Leaders

The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. Today, it continues to support past, present and future church leaders in the following ways:

- 50% of your gift assists current and retired church workers in need, through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions;
- 50% of your gift helps develop future church leaders by creating opportunities for students to attend Presbyterian-related racial/ethnic schools and colleges.

“Without their help, I’d be out on the street. I have hundreds of friends now. Everybody here cares.”

—Reverend Thom Beech,
Bradenton, Florida, Westminster Manor

Rev. Beech and his wife received help from the Christmas Joy Offering to move into a retirement community. Though Beech’s wife lost her battle with Alzheimer’s a year after they moved, he was not alone because of the network of loving support he found at Westminster Manor.

“I’m so very grateful for being able to go to this school. Presbyterians who contribute should know that, no matter how big or small the donation, they are doing something good.”

—Patricia Hsu Payan, Helotes, Texas,
Forest Hills Presbyterian Church

Ms. Payan received a scholarship allowing her to attend the Presbyterian Pan American School in Kingsville, Texas, which is supported by the Christmas Joy Offering. It was there she was given the opportunity to build her Christian faith, and a strong foundation for her future.

This season, follow in the tradition of meaningful gift-giving by supporting the Christmas Joy Offering. Please give generously.



Thanksgiving Baskets

Thanksgiving has come and gone, but for 50 needy Rockland families the holiday was a little better. Through donations from our congregation and the St. George Church, we were able to assemble 50 Thanksgiving baskets complete with turkeys. On November 20, six of us shopped at ShopRite for the basket items. Seeing the mountain of food that we were buying and hearing the reason why, one kind shopper even gave us a \$20 donation. Once we got back to the church, we made an assembly line to pack the bags with food. Since the turkeys had to be kept cold, Percy donated the use of his van to store the turkeys - a freezer on wheels since the night temperature was fairly cold.

On Monday morning, Carmen came to the church with a bag of bagels and her list of basket recipients. The baskets were ready to go and by 11 AM, they had all been picked up. Thanks to everyone who contributed donations, shopped, assembled the baskets, and distributed them. You made a difference to our neighbors in need.