



The Carriage Stone

February 2017

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

Therefore love the stranger, for you were
strangers in the land of Egypt.

Deuteronomy 10:19



"The Carriage Stone" is the Newsletter of

The New Hempstead Presbyterian Church

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Church Officers – Part One: Deacons



This is the first of a two-part column on church officers. First up: the office of deacons. Deacons have been around since Biblical times. Acts 6 records the following:

Now during those days, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of food. ²And the twelve called together the whole community of the disciples and said, “It is not right that we should neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables. ³Therefore, friends, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task, ⁴while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word.”

I find the hierarchy of labor somewhat disturbing from a 21st century perspective: waiting on tables is an honorable occupation! Of course, now we ordain women, as well.

Our Presbyterian Church, USA, Book of Order defines the office of deacon this way:

The ministry of deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, for anyone in distress. Persons of spiritual character, honest repute, exemplary lives, brotherly and sisterly love, sincere compassion, and sound judgment should be chosen for this ministry.

Here at New Hempstead, our Board of Deacons is most visible at coffee hour and Communion. They also work hard “behind the scenes” keeping in touch with their “flocks.” Every Deacon is assigned a small group of congregants called flocks. Each deacon is responsible for contacting that person or family by phone, e-mail, or card, to let them know that they have a deacon they can contact if they need.

Our deacons also run the “*Change in the Jar*” program, in which we empty our pockets of spare change, which is then given to a charity chosen by the congregation. The deacons also send card to shut-ins and those who are sick.

It is necessary to be a member of the congregation, formally received by the Session and welcomed by the congregation, in order to be a deacon. It is NOT necessary to be a member to help out with Coffee Hour! Deacons will always be happy to let you bring something to fill the table.

If the Nominating Committee contacts you to serve as a deacon, please give that invitation prayerful consideration. It takes us all to be the church.

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



Safe Haven Update

Thank you to all our volunteers who shopped, cooked, served and provided overnight chaperone for our recent Safe Haven nights at NHPC. Thanks to your efforts, over 25 homeless men and women had hot meals and safe, overnight shelter on the cold nights of December 28–30. Special thanks to our friends from Germonds Presbyterian Church, who provided meals and served our guests on Thursday night!

It has already been a tough season for our homeless neighbors. Already, several have been hospitalized with bouts of pneumonia--just one of the health hazards of life on the streets. Warm hats, gloves, socks and hygiene kits donated by members of our congregation will go a long way toward keeping our guests warm and healthy over the winter months.

NHPC is proud to partner with Helping Hands Interfaith Coalition of Rockland County, to provide warm meals and overnight shelter to men and women in need. Helping Hands also offers other support services to assist in ending the cycle of homelessness--case management, housing and job search assistance. Learn more about Helping Hands at <http://www.helpinghandsofrockland.org>.

The next Safe Haven at NHPC is scheduled for February 14–16. Volunteers will be needed. Speak to Pam Fink or Laura Metallo-Bidon for more information.



Rockland County Community Immigration Forum

Monday, February 6

Naurashaun Presbyterian Church is hosting a Community Immigration Forum on February 6. The Forum is an opportunity for the Rockland County Community to gather in support of their neighbors who may be facing discrimination, detention and even deportation in the coming years and months. The goal of the conference is to bring together people of conscience, members of the faith community, service organizations and agencies, so that they can share information on what is happening and begin to formulate strategies for working together in the months and years ahead. Though focused on Rockland County stakeholders, the workshop content and other resources will be beneficial to all participants regardless of their location. For more information, please email Bebb Stone (bebbwstone@gmail.com) or Lori Hylton (felixhyl@gmail.com)

When:
Monday, February 6,
8:30AM - 12:30PM

Where:
Naurashaun
Presbyterian Church
51 Sickletown, Road,
Pearl River 10956





What Can I Do?

By Barbara Zacheis

Our church is, as you know, small, and although we have many people involved in projects such as the tag sales, fellowship activities, Safe Haven and Thanksgiving and People to People food collections, etc., you'd be surprised to find out that there are many other things that need to be done on an ongoing basis! Just like in your home, things need attention, so someone must give that attention, and we really can't pay someone to take care of all the things that keep our church and buildings running smoothly and well maintained. So what, you may ask, can I do to help? Here is a partial list of things that need to be done by **SOMEONE** on a regular basis! Maybe you can choose one thing to do to help, and you may find it was so easy that you would consider doing another thing also...

- Water the pianos
- Change light bulbs
- Repair worn/broken parts of doors in MH
- Buy supplies (light bulbs, repair parts, etc.)

- Polish the brass candle holders, cross and collection plates
- Wind the clock in the Colonial Room
- Stock the pews with prayer cards, etc.
- Clean door frames and doors
- Trim the plants and shrubs
- Weed the gardens
- Water the tree(s) in times of drought
- Clean out the fridge in the kitchens of MH and Colonial Room
- Change the candles
- Take home the recycling
- Put up and take down the Christmas tree in Murchison Hall
- Clean up the area around the dumpster
- Paint touch-up
- Uncover the air conditioners in MH (spring)/Cover the A/C's in MH (fall)
- Install and remove air conditioners in all buildings: MH/Church/Manse
- Make sure there is sufficient rock-salt in both buildings
- Contributing to the church website (event postings, calendar, photos)

Every Saturday we are at the church from 9–12 doing various things like many of these and more. Seems like there's always something that needs to be done! Maybe you would like to do something to help, but don't know where to start. Ask Mark Z., Barbara or Pam. You don't have to commit to every week or even more than a half-hour. Do one thing, once. Some of these will take only a few minutes. We'll be happy to show you where stuff is and share some of the chores with you! Many hands make light work. Time and talents are also part of stewardship. How do you share?

Per Capita For 2017

From the Finance Committee

The Westminster Confession of Faith says, "All believers are, therefore, under obligation to sustain the ordinances of the Christian religion where they are already established, and to contribute by their prayers, gifts, and personal efforts to the extension of the Kingdom of Christ throughout the whole earth" (The Book of Confessions, 6.058).

Per Capita is a fundamental way in which all of the nearly 11,000 congregations of the Presbyterian Church (USA) are connected to and participate in the work of the wider church.

...taken from the Office of the General Assembly website

The New Hempstead Presbyterian Church is a member of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and as such participates in and supports the work of the national church. Part of that work is a per member contribution of \$34.10 in 2017. We will be writing a check of approximately \$3,200 for that support. Our Session asks that you consider contributing that much for each church member in your household. You can use the blue envelope at the front of your box of envelopes or mark your check "per capita".

Work of the Capital Campaign

From Mark Zacheis

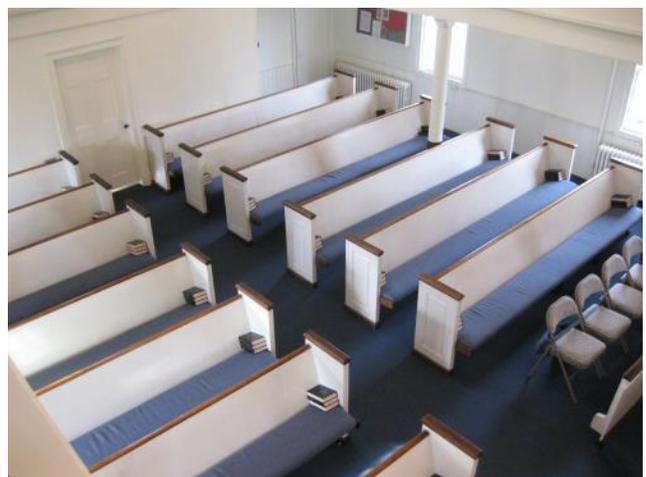
One of the first projects of the Capital Campaign was the replacement of the carpeting in the sanctuary. The room has had red carpet since the refurbishing done in 1974 after the fire. For this remodel, it was decided that a change was in order and the navy blue color was selected. While it is very different from what was there before, it looks great and adds a certain dignity to the space. We want to thank Roca Carpet in Nanuet for the excellent job they did on the installation and the reasonable price charged.

You may recall that the narthex also had red carpet installed. Given the foot traffic and the wear and tear on that space, it was decided to go



with tile there instead. Installation required some major subfloor work as well. The results are a very attractive addition that should hold up for a very long time. Many thanks to Walter Smith and his team for the subfloor repair and installation of the tile.

I don't know if it occurred to anyone when the blue carpet was selected that it might not be a good match with the red pew cushions. Combined with the white walls it was all very patriotic but it just did not look very good. Plus, those pew cushions dated to 1974 and many were experiencing dry rot. Having the pews professionally recovered was going to be a very expensive proposition, so it was decided that we would do the job ourselves. Now we know why it is so costly to hire people to recover furniture. Nevertheless, we persevered and the new cushions look great. Our profound thanks to Barbara, Pam, May, Syenni, Sumi, and Mark for their hard work. And to Pam for the new blue mat at both doors to complete the look.





**Thank You from
"El Grupo de Madres"**

Your gifts to last fall's Peacemaking Offering were dedicated to groups or organizations working locally for peace and social justice. Here is a note we've received from "El Grupo de Madres," a support group for immigrant mothers, run by Volunteer Counseling Services (VCS), which was one of the recipients of our Peacemaking proceeds:

"Thanks so much for the very generous and most appreciated gift to the VCS Mothers' Group (*El Grupo de Madres*) by New Hempstead Presbyterian Church. Your gift will not only be especially helpful at this time of year, but will also be put "into action" to assist our group and families in the coming months. Please relay our sincerest thanks to all at New Hempstead Presbyterian for this tremendous gesture of caring, kindness, support and friendship. Muchas gracias!"

—from Eileen Burge, facilitator of
El Grupo de Madres

Secret Santa?

I received a gift card to Starbucks for Christmas, but there was no signature with the accompanying card. If you gave me this,

THANK YOU!!

Pastor Lori

Here are Donna, Howard and Betty hard at work at the Thanksgiving baskets. This year we put together fifty baskets, five more than 2015. Many thanks to all who participated.



You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you,



and you shall love him as yourself

- Leviticus 19:34