



The Carriage Stone

June 2017

New Hempstead Presbyterian Church, New City, N.Y. *The English Church*



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

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The Annual “Reads For Summer” Column



It's time for my favorite newsletter column—recommendations for you to read this summer. Some fiction, some non-fiction, poetry and even a little (deceptively) light theology comprise my list for the summer of 2017.

First up, *Hillbilly Elegy*, by J.D. Vance. This memoir is written by a graduate of Harvard Law School who grew up in the Rust Belt of Kentucky and Ohio. It truly puts a human face on those who have been forgotten---the workers who have been left behind after the coal has been mined out and made redundant by other energy sources; and other businesses that followed after the miners and other industries closed up shop. Vance deals with addiction and domestic abuse in a way that provokes sympathy, not judgement. If you only read one non-fiction book this year, let it be this one. [Valley Cottage Library has a reading group for people 21-40 using this book coming up in June]

Now, for some poetry. *Outside the Fold, Outside the Frame*, by Anita Skeen, is a gem of a collection by a poet who has no truck with mere flowery language. Skeen is intent on showing the reader the so-called Ordinary in a new and refreshing way. She makes even the onset of the common cold an event to consider, even celebrate.

For those who like their Christian Theology with a side of humor, *Hallelujah, Anyway: Rediscovering Mercy* by Anne Lamott. Lamott's latest collection of essays comes not a moment too soon. With the world around us going steadily to the dogs (who could probably do a better job of running it than we humans), it's refreshing to read, "Hallelujah that in spite of it all, there is love, there is singing, nature, laughing, mercy." Lamott reminds us that Jesus Lives!

This next I recommend advisedly: *Between the World and Me*, by TaNahisi Coates. This memoir/extended essay is in the form of a letter written by an African American to his young son. This is a must-read for White folks to get a sense of what Black folks and people of color deal with: Every. Single. Day. Coates' conclusions are painful and sobering for this White Woman: White Supremacy, for Coates, will never go away. Black folk will always struggle against it. For Christians, especially of European descent, this is a call to live more fully into the Beloved Community to which God calls us.

As John Cleese would say, now for something completely different. The British Library is in the process of reprinting many murder mysteries from the "Golden Age" of mystery writing, the period between the World Wars. *Murder at the Manor: Country House Mysteries*, is a collection of short stories that are easy to read, and great for the bedside table. Most of the authors were unfamiliar to me, so it was a great introduction to lesser-known mystery writers. Enough said.

Happy Reading!

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

Special Pentecost Offering 2017

Supporting the Youth of our Community

One of the ways that New Hempstead Presbyterian Church celebrates Pentecost is through our Special Pentecost Offering, which traditionally is dedicated to the development of our youth and at-risk children. This year, we are asking church members and friends to select a local organization to be the recipient of our gifts. The organization receiving the most votes will be the recipient of our Pentecost Offering gifts. Email your response to Laura Metallo, Mission Chair at lkmb@optonline.net.

Thank you for your participation, and remember to **PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY** to our Pentecost Offering on Pentecost Sunday, June 4

Center for Safety & Change (formerly Rockland Family Shelter)

The needs of the children of domestic violence victims can be as important as those of the victims themselves. Center for Safety & Change offers children's services at their office locations as well as at their emergency residential shelter. These services range from organizing childcare to providing safety planning and counseling, and working with schools to understand the special needs of students who are experiencing violence in the home.



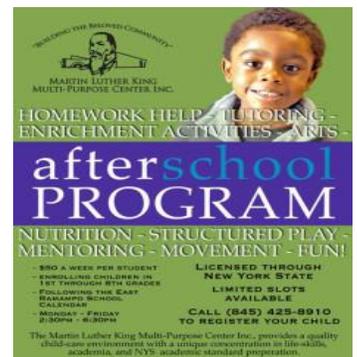
Nyack Center

Nyack Center is a haven for community children from 7 am to 8:30 pm every school day. 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...Nyack Center meets this need by providing breakfast and a safe place for children before school starts, and snacks, homework help and supervision for afterschool activities.



Martin Luther King Jr. Multipurpose Center

In the spirit of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, the Multipurpose Center in Spring Valley provides necessary programs that 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.



Email your vote to Laura Metallo, Mission Chair at lkmb@optonline.net

Spring Tag Sale

From Barbara Zacheis

Our Annual Spring Tag Sale will be held on June 3, from 9 AM til 2 PM! Now's the time to do your spring cleaning so you can feel free to drop off unwanted items for the tag sale on Saturday mornings or Sundays after church throughout the month of May.

Also, a print-your-own poster went out with the e-mail version of this newsletter so you can help with the advertising!

We'll also need lots of volunteers to help run this successfully, so see Barbara Zacheis or sign up to help on the sign-up sheet in the Colonial Room. Remember to wear your church t-shirt for this event!

We'll also need help starting at noon the day before getting things organized, so please put these two dates on your calendars. Thanks in advance for participating!

Reflections from Helping Hands:

Who are "the homeless"?

As the 12th Safe Haven season comes to a close, our partners at Helping Hands have been reflecting about the guests they've welcomed over the years. We all know the stereotypes, but hundreds of Safe Haven volunteers have been amazed to discover that our homeless guests are often just regular folks, like themselves. Among Safe Haven's guests have been:

- a children's social worker
- a public school teacher
- a master plumber
- a pro golfer
- a retired police officer
- a small business owner
- skilled workers of many trades
- nurses and home health aides

- students and people with college degrees
- former work colleagues
- the grown-up sons and daughters of "solid" middle class residents of Rockland County (including a local politician and the former executive director of a social service agency!)



The sole consistent difference between "us" and "them" is that we have a place to live. If we lose it, we can look in the mirror and see "the homeless."

From November 1 through April 30, Safe Haven provided 5,260 meals and overnight stays. Now that the Safe Haven is closed, our "guests" come to the Outreach Center, where they can get a nutritious breakfast, clean clothing, a shower and help from our case manager. We have also begun a small "Rapid Rehousing" program that will house up to eight homeless people, using HUD funds, matched by our own.

All of this costs money, very little of it provided by government. Please give if you can, so that no man or woman in Rockland has to look in the mirror, only to see a homeless person with no place to go for help.

Donations can be made through the Helping Hands website:

www.helpinghandsofrockland.org

or they can be mailed to:

Helping Hands, P.O. Box 240, Nyack, NY 10960

Thank you for lending a Helping Hand to your homeless neighbors.