



The Carriage Stone

November 2017

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



Thanksgiving Baskets



“The Carriage Stone” is the Newsletter of
The New Hempstead Presbyterian Church

484 New Hempstead Road, New City, NY 10956

The Reverend Doctor Lori Knight-Whitehouse, Pastor

Office: (845) 354-2372

E-mail: office@nhpchurch.org

Web: nhpchurch.org

Look for us on Facebook!

Administrative Assistant: Kristen Rabeler

Newsletter Editor:

Robert Philhower

Next Deadline:

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Submissions: in my mailbox
or e-mail to

carriagestone@nhpchurch.org



Extending the Table

Soon, folks in our congregation who are homebound will be having the Communion Table “extended” to them by some of our elders who have taking training and certified by our Session and Presbytery to do so. The following is an explanation of this extension from the Presbyterian Mission agency.

The 211th General Assembly (1999) confirmed the addition to the Book of Order of a section providing for the Extended Serving of the Church’s Communion to members isolated from congregational worship. The new section reads:

The serving of the elements may be extended, by two or more ordained officers of the church, to those isolated from the community’s worship, provided

(1) The elements are served following worship on the same calendar day, or as soon as practically feasible, as a direct extension of the serving of the gathered congregation, to church members who have responded to the church’s invitation to receive the Sacrament;

(2) Care is taken in the serving to ensure that the unity of Word and Sacrament is maintained, by the reading of Scripture and the offering of prayers; and

(3) Those serving have been instructed by the Session or authorizing governing body in the theological and pastoral foundations of this ministry and in the liturgical resources for it. (W-3.3616e)

The intent of this provision is twofold. It strengthens the pastoral care of the church to its elderly, disabled, and homebound members by making it more feasible for them to participate regularly and frequently in the Lord’s Supper. This provision also makes our celebration of the Lord’s Supper a strong sign of the unity of the church by regularly including in the church’s communion those who are unable to gather with the worshiping congregation.

Our Session has authorized three elders to extend the table on communion Sundays. If you are homebound for any length of time, and unable to receive Communion during worship, please let me know, and I will arrange to have the Table of our Lord brought to you!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lori" followed by a flourish.



LOCAL MISSIONS

From the Mission Committee

The frost is on the pumpkin and that means Thanksgiving is only a few weeks away, on November 23. 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

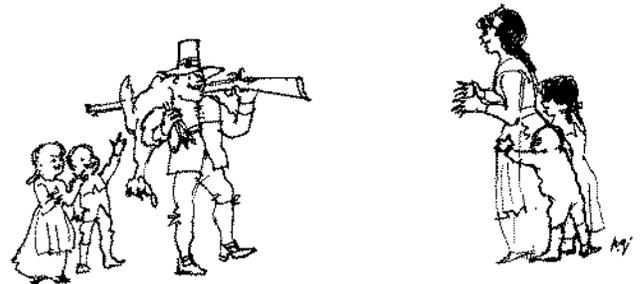
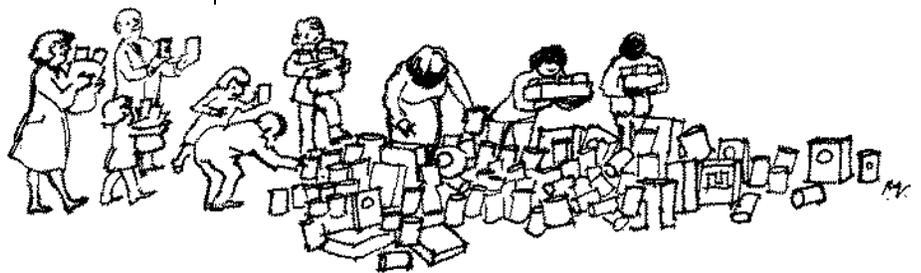
For the past couple of years, we've been able to make 40-45 Thanksgiving baskets. If you wish to sponsor a basket, please sign up on the sheet in the Colonial Room before November 19.

There are two ways to sponsor a basket:

- 1) Take the Thanksgiving basket shopping list and head for the grocery store. When you have 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 19. Please plan to keep the loaf of bread and turkey at home until November 19.
- 2) If you would rather have us shop for you, please give your \$40 donation to Mark Zacheis or Pam Fink by November 19.

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 19, we will need some help shopping and assembling the baskets. If you have time after coffee hour, we would really appreciate some extra hands. Let's do our part to make Thanksgiving a little happier for some of our Rockland neighbors. Thank you!!



Ramapough

From Shama Omer

There is a responsibility upon all of us who occupy Lenape territory to stand up in the face of injustices by authorities that would rather see the indigenous people of our region silenced, trampled, and forgotten than exercising vital elements of their culture and defending the environment. Silence and lack of action by those of us who are non-tribal perpetuates the oppression faced by the Ramapough Lenape Indian Nation. The tribe has been standing in solidarity with Standing Rock as they fight the Pilgrim pipeline, which is set to run through their land that holds historical, cultural, and religious significance. A prayer camp was set up in October 2016, where ceremonies, celebrations, teachings, and other events have been held to educate, pray, and provide a sense of community, but some residents of the polo club in which the prayer camp is situated have been fighting against this use of the land, which is deeded to the tribe. The polo club, more accurately described as a housing association of large, mansion-style homes in a private community, has written complaints about noise, unsightly “structures”, and zoning violations to the town. The township of Mahwah has therefore launched a lawsuit against the tribe, claiming that permits (additional to a 2012 permit) are required for the “structures” on the land and for public assembly. This is based on a loose interpretation of laws that are applied at the town officials’ discretion. We know that the fines are an attempt to force the tribe to sell their



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land, that the denial of public assembly is an attempt at cultural genocide by disallowing religious ceremonies. Zoning laws in the area have been rewritten throughout history as a way of taking land from native peoples, and it is happening still. But it doesn’t end there: the town has been attempting to criminalize members of the tribe to make them lose credibility and support. In the town of Mahwah, it is criminal to be native, principally to be Ramapough. From a Mohawk elder to the Chief of the Ramapough Nation, trumped up charges and false accusations are being made.

We can talk about the fact that the pipeline is a threat to our water supply, a strain on our already suffering environment, but Ramapough people are also being shot at and facing prison time. There is a genocide on this land, dare I say my land, because whatever piece of Earth I am brave enough to call my own will be muddy with the blood of a native people, or a stolen people, or a people seeking refuge. It is easy to distance oneself from the great brutalities of places far enough away from us that we can justify not stepping in to end them, but our noses are so deep in outdated textbooks and our neighbors’ backyards that we hardly think to sniff around our own. We must be careful to use the present tense and not to leave out our own country and our own communities in discussing oppression to lessen the burden of guilt.

As we humans walk the Earth, defining ourselves so separately from each other and from nature, we move further away from the original state of humanity. To walk with our bare feet on the ground, caressing the dirt where our Ramapough brothers and sisters caressed it, is there not some responsibility to uphold the legacy of the people who nurtured this land centuries before we existed? We have a responsibility to stand up for those who made sure there would be grass and soil for us to walk on. What an honor it is to live on this land, we must acknowledge that privilege and those who are paying dearly for us to have it.



An Important Message from Helping Hands

From Raoul Cansino

The Safe Haven season is nearly upon us, and I have news to share with you about significant changes in our program that will take place this fall.

Before the end of November, Helping Hands will start operating an “Emergency Overnight Warming Center” at the Yeager Health Center in Pomona. Once we begin this new program (which we will call “the Safe Haven of Rockland”), we will no longer be bringing our homeless guests to your house of worship. Instead, they will be transported to Pomona, where they will be received, as usual, by volunteers and Helping Hands staff. Our guests will eat, sleep and receive services in this permanent Safe Haven. Volunteers will serve the meals and participate in the evening and daytime programs, and we will have trained staff to serve as overnight chaperones. As the Safe Haven of Rockland develops, we envision many varied and exciting opportunities for volunteer involvement. **We want all our volunteers to know that we still need you—you are the heart of Helping Hands!**

I wish I could tell you the exact starting date for the new Safe Haven program, but the contract was just approved by the Legislature and signed by the County Executive. Now, we have a lot to do - including buying new buses (with the state grant that we were awarded two years ago), hiring and training as many as twelve new employees, subcontracting with the Mental

Health Association and a security company, and, most importantly, reaching out to the faith community for help and to our guests with information about the new program. Until everything is in place, we have to start the Safe Haven season as usual in our participating houses of worship.

Does the new program mean that we volunteers are no longer needed—that Helping Hands no longer needs our support?

By no means! While it is wonderful that county government is (finally) willing to share the burden of caring for its most vulnerable residents, Helping Hands would not exist without the devotion to our mission of the faith community and countless volunteers. While the Safe Haven will soon (hopefully) have a permanent home, at the core of Helping Hands is the idea of neighbors helping neighbors. We are taking another step toward our goal of ending homelessness in Rockland.

Thank you for staying with us on this journey!

Peace,

Raoul Cansino
President and Founder
Helping Hands

OUR HISTORIC CHURCH.

Our Old Church

By Bob Greenhalgh

Church records say that our original church meeting house was a frame building with board siding and roofed with shingles split and shaved by hand. It stood north of our present building 25 feet, with its gable ends facing north and south.

When it was torn down in 1827 to make way for the building we're in now, its remains were sold. Only six windows were offered for sale. The original structure was only a little more than half the size of our present church—begun in 1827 and finished in 1827.



Presbyterian Disaster Assistance South Sudan

Pda.pcusa.org

Situation Overview

Our brothers and sisters in the new nation of South Sudan struggle to recover from years of violence before becoming a new country, as well as from conflict. The nearly 4 million who are displaced are in need of humanitarian aid as well as security in their homeland.

Our response

Through our partner, the Presbyterian Relief and Development Agency, your gifts to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance are providing emergency relief for families affected by the recent violence. The assistance is improving health conditions, increasing the availability of clean drinking water, providing food and non-food necessities, and helping to secure livelihoods.

In partnership, we are also supporting peace-building initiatives in the country, helping to strengthen and support families and communities as they return home and seek peace.