



The Carriage Stone

May 2018

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



“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

Pastor to Be Commissioner to General Assembly



I am honored this year to be the Moderator-Elect of Hudson River Presbytery. As such, I am a commissioner to the 223rd General Assembly of the PC, USA in St. Louis, MO. So, what is the General Assembly? I am so glad you asked! The Book of Order defines it this way:

G-3.0501 Composition and Responsibilities

The General Assembly is the council of the whole church and it is representative of the unity of the synods, presbyteries, sessions, and congregations of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). It shall consist of equal numbers of ruling elders and ministers of the Word and Sacrament elected by the presbyteries and reflective of the diversity within their bounds (F-1.0403 and G-3.0103), to serve as commissioners.

GA meets every other year to conduct the business of our denomination at the national level. Each Commissioner is assigned to a committee; my assignment is Peacemaking, Immigration and International Issues. The assignment is computer generated, but I like to think the Holy Spirit also has a role! I will have a lot of reading to do to prepare for GA.

Commissioners do not vote according to their constituency: we vote our consciences. Elders in our denomination do this as well: we pray about the issues before the body, we study, we converse and debate among ourselves, then we vote as we believe the Holy Spirit leads us. And the majority is always to respect the minority.

I will be gone from June 16–23, with a very late flight home on the 23rd (no church for me on Sunday!) Harriet Sandmeier will be preaching the 17th and 23rd of June. I know you will make her and her husband Max welcome.

I am excited to represent Hudson River Presbytery, and I ask for your prayers for this body of our Church (and, of course, for me.) I look forward to sharing with you my experiences at the General Assembly when I come home.



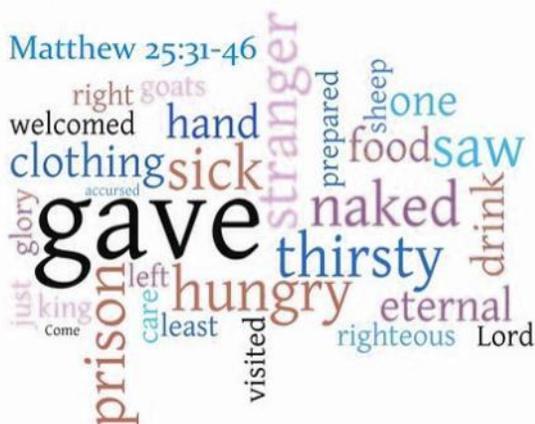
LOCAL MISSIONS

Safe Haven Update

From Pam Fink

As we enter into spring, the Safe Haven Program is winding down for the 2017–2018 season. The Program, which is operated by the Helping Hands Interfaith Coalition for the Homeless in Rockland County, has for the first time been housed in county buildings at the Robert Yeager Center in Pomona. Every night, roughly fifty homeless guests, men and women, were provided with a warm meal, comfortable surroundings, and a cot with clean sheets and blankets for sleeping. In addition, when the daytime temperatures were below freezing, Safe Haven also operated a warming center for the homeless guests, which is a new function for the program.

Rockland County provided the funding for use of the space, for food and supplies and for a limited number of personnel to run the program. To supplement the meal, different houses of worship also donated fruit, juices, bottled water, granola bars, ice cream, cake or cookies. But it was the volunteers from these houses of worship who played a key role in serving the evening



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meal and in preparing bag lunches for the Safe Haven guests. The volunteers also spent some time chatting with the guests, many of whom just needed someone to listen to their story.

As the coordinator for NHPC's Safe Haven contingent, I want to thank those who gave their time to help with Safe Haven during our three rotations this season: Sumi Amat, Christina Bermudez, Bruce Brown, Patty Coar, Lori Knight-Whitehouse, May Lie, Syenni Lucas, Karen Martin, Karen Quach, Sue Rentz, Liring Sullivan, Mary Ann Witte, Barbara Zacheis and Mark Zacheis. I also want to acknowledge the volunteers from Germonds who served in our place on Thursday evenings.

In Matthew 25:40, it states: "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." My hope is that NHPC will continue this important mission and outreach activity by volunteering our time and resources in support of the Safe Haven program in the future.



Spring Tag Sale!

Looking for a good way to recycle your no-longer-wanted-or-needed household goods, clothes, bric-a-brac and jewelry? Or maybe you need to replenish your supply of these things? The Spring Tag Sale at NHPC is just the thing for you! June 16 from 9 AM to 2 PM is the time so make sure to put it on your calendar. You will not want to miss this fun event. If you want to help organize (and preview...) please plan to help the day before any time between noon and 7 PM. Please speak to Barbara Zacheis to volunteer to help on one or both days.

Our Talented Congregation

Jane Craig Sebok,
Talented Congregant



For the months of May and June, 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 May and June:

May 5, 7:30 PM – **Barbara Zacheis** –

St. Thomas Orchestra,
White Plains High School,
550 North Street, White Plains, NY.
Storms and Serenity. \$20 for adults.

May 6, 7:30 PM – **Barbara Zacheis** –

Hudson Valley Symphonic Wind Ensemble,
Kusel Auditorium, Sleepy Hollow High School,
Sleepy Hollow, NY.

Call 914-332-6223 or go to

Msprague@tufsd.org for more information.

Concert to benefit Sleepy Hollow Performing Arts Boosters.

May 20, 4:00 PM – **Jane Craig Sebok**

Rockland County Concert Band.
Green Meadow Waldorf School,
307 Hungry Hollow Road, Chestnut Ridge, NY.
Spring Concert.

June 4, 4:00 PM – **Sue Rentz** –

Rockland Camerata.
Grace Episcopal Church, Nyack, NY.
*Pieces from Handel, Vaughan Williams,
Stanford, Britten, and Telemann.*



Congratulations to Rachel Garcia, who is to be inducted into the National Honor Society. Rachel is the daughter of Todd and Amy Garcia and the granddaughter of Ed and Val Garcia. Congratulations, Rachel!

OUR HISTORIC CHURCH.

From Bob Greenhalgh



John D. Coe kept a tavern on the northwest corner of the crossroads, opposite the church, in 1776. His house became a convenient stopping place for the military dispatch riders and officers who constantly passed this way.

John D. Coe was a nephew of the younger Samuel Coe from whom the church acquired its land. Samuel had been a ruling Elder in the Newton, Long Island, Presbyterian Church and in 1734 moved here with most of his ten children. He settled on a tract of 400 acres and he built the house which later became the Tavern kept by John D.

In Memory of Walter Hemsley

On April 15, we dedicated the new kitchen in honor and memory of Walter Hemsley during that morning's Coffee Hour. Below are the comments prepared by Mark Zacheis at the dedication of the kitchen and the presentation of the plaque:

Walter was a real renaissance man. When he found something that he liked, he really had a passion for it. And Walter had lots of passions.

He loved Doo Wop and the Rat Pack music, and he had the records to prove it. He loved baseball, skiing and boating. He was an avid golfer and was a pretty good one. He sang in the church choir. He was a cat guy. He took piano lessons from Sue.

Walter and Lona came to our church later in life. He joined our church and served as an elder, in charge of Office and Personnel. He did not take this obligation lightly and he always wanted to do the best job he could on the annual reviews of the staff.

Walter was a butcher by trade and spent his life working in the food industry. He came to us after he retired but food was always in his blood. Walter loved to cook.

Lona was a deacon and responsible for her periodic coffee hour. Walter encouraged Lona to take it to the next level, mostly by piling on to her variety of goodies with more of his own. Kathy Greenhalgh continues to talk about Walter's ham and biscuit sandwiches and his deviled eggs.

I was invited to Walter and Lona's for a BBQ on a hot July day and seeing him presiding over a fiery grill. I remember it being loaded with grilled veggies and him being out in the hot sun keeping a close watch. And I remember inviting Walter and Lona to my house and Walter bringing veggies for the grill. He was the grilled veggie man.

On Easter Sunday he was the egg man. Ed Garcia had his crew and each of us had an

assignment. Walter's assignment was scrambled eggs. A good six or seven dozen of them in total, to be cooked in a frying pan in a matter of about a half hour. Walter was always cheerfully up to the task.

Walter passed nearly four years ago, and we miss him. He left a legacy that we see in the coffee hour each Sunday. So today we chose to dedicate the new kitchen in Walter's honor. Walter had a passion for many things but above all, he loved life and he shared that passion with all he met. The plaque reads

Given in Memory of

Walter Hemsley

For his Love of Worship at

New Hempstead Presbyterian Church

April 15, 2018

We dedicate this kitchen today in love of Walter Hemsley.