



The Carriage Stone

June 2018

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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Summer Reading



Summer's here, and it's time for my favorite column of the year—my suggestions for summer reads. Here goes, in no specific order.

***To Say Nothing of the Dog*, by Connie Willis.**

A delightful time travel novel that pays homage (through its title, and a couple of scenes) to Jerome K. Jerome's *Three Men in a Boat*. A romp through time in Oxford, England, to search for an artifact called the Bishop's Bird Stump, so Coventry Cathedral can be rebuilt exactly as it was before it was destroyed by Nazi bombers in 1940. Lots of fun.

***Grateful*, by Diana Butler Bass.**

Butler Bass, a theologian and Church historian makes a compelling case for developing the practice/ethic of gratitude, even when you may think there is nothing to be grateful for. A must-read for our current times.

Anything in the *Companions for The Journey: Praying with....series*, by various authors.

I am currently praying my way through Hildegard von Bingen. Each chapter contains a writing by a Christian Saint (mostly Roman Catholic), some practices to engage with that reading, a scripture, and a closing prayer. I've loved these books for 25 years.

***Waking Up White and Finding Myself in the Story of Race*, by Debbie Irving.**

This is a must-read for all white people who are serious about loving their Neighbors/People of Color. A great place to begin to examine white folks' privilege. As Irving told interviewer Robin Young, "I see what I am spared day in and day out and I am focused on how easy it is for me to just wake up and go about in a world that was constructed for me."

***The Essex Serpent*, by Sarah Perry.**

Just read this last week, and it has really stuck with me. A novel about religion and science, love and death, and oh, yeah, a whacking great sea-serpent.

Read any good books lately? Tell me about them!



LOCAL MISSIONS

NHPC Fellowship: Off-site Volunteering for HiTor Animal Shelter

From Nancy Jacobs

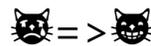
Sylvia says the "super senior sheet slitting seminar" was successful. On Saturday May 12, animal-loving women, armed with sharp sewing sheers, sat or stood and slit sheets. Why? Though many kind people from the community donate sheets to HiTor Animal Shelter, those sheets can be used more efficiently if they are cut to more closely fit the kitty cages they outfit. Daily, HiTor staff outfit cages with clean newspaper, covered with clean sheets (and then litter pans and food and water). It's easier for the staff to use flat sheets, which are simpler to fold into the kitty's cages. The time the staff save by using cut flat sheets, can be spent in assisting the cats in other ways, like playing with them, brushing and petting them, and showing the cats to perspective adopters.

Each day, when the sheets are changed, the used sheets are taken (by volunteers, since HiTor has no laundry facility) for laundering, folding and returning for reuse. These smaller sheet sizes are also more efficient to transport and launder. Efficient use of space for laundering means that volunteers can spend less time and resources laundering, and more time doing other things.

The people attending the 2-hour Fellowship session on Saturday May 12, included Syenni L., Lona A., Sylvia M., Carmen B., Betty S., and Nancy J. We recognized that other people might like to fellowship for this purpose, but might not be available on a Saturday. The people that attended this time happened to be mostly seniors, but senior status is not mandatory for

participation. We are interested in having the next session at a different day and time, in order to accommodate the schedules of others. Interested parties should speak with Nancy J. Nancy J. will collect that information to share with Carmen B and the Fellowship Committee, for planning purposes.

In addition to simple sheet slitting, future sessions could include the cutting of "kitty kushies", the soft beds that the cats need in order to feel loved and komforted. Kitty Kushie creating consists of cutting down soft textured comforters (offer donated to HiTor, and therefore readily available) to a size that can be accommodated into a part of a cat cage. Kushies can be either filled with cushioning and sewn, or simply made of a soft-to-the-touch fabric which is folded in thirds, to a size of about 9"x 17" (the size of a cuddled cat). Nancy J. has seen many HiTor kitties kneading and purring when first introduced to a kushie.



Remember, express your interest to Nancy J.



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.

Farewell from Kryste

As the 24th of June draws closer and my time as your music director comes to an end, the thought of concluding what has been a very special era for me becomes more and more surreal. How to say a proper goodbye to my beloved choir and friends at NHPC?

New Hempstead Presbyterian Church has been so much more for me than just a job these twelve and a half years. It has served as a foundation for lasting friendships, a window to renewing my faith in the sincerity and integrity of the Christian Church, and an open door welcoming and celebrating spirit-filled music.

I doubt my Thursday evenings will ever again be as dynamic and laughter-filled as they have been at NHPC choir rehearsals. Your devoted singers are a powerful force, working together with great joy, outrageous humor and commitment to making beautiful music. We developed our unique ensemble 'rhythm' over the years, springing from that which transcends instruction, each singer rising to perform their best on Sunday mornings no matter the weather or the individual or collective mood.

I'm grateful for all I've learned from each of you, your warmth, your accepting and forgiving natures and your unflagging enthusiasm for church life, to mention a few wonderful gifts you share so freely. Thank you for encouraging my composing efforts and for welcoming my students and musical friends over the years. Everyone who visits NHPC feels the love.

The truth is, our loving church family gathered in this beautiful, historical building offers an oasis in our troubled country and a steadying anchor as toxic winds blowing in from



Washington the past year and a half threaten to wrench us from our spiritual tethers. Rick and I take with us the comfort of knowing that such a gracious congregation continues to worship and work together to light up a corner of Rockland County, hearts overflowing with love for all humankind (and dogs and cats, birds and ferrets, trees and flowers, etc.).

The choir has become Rick's favorite new creative outlet and I don't think it's registered yet how much he's going to miss singing and having an audience on Thursday nights for his jokes.

I'll miss you all terribly.

When you least expect it, we'll be back to check on everyone!!!

With so much love and gratitude,

Kryste Andrews

Our Talented Congregation

Jane Craig Sebok,
Talented Congregant



For the month of June, we have one listing. Remember to let me know when you have performances coming up, either at jane Sebok20@gmail.com, or during coffee hour.

Here is the listing for June:

June 4, 4:00 PM – Sue Rentz –

Rockland Camerata.

Grace Episcopal Church, Nyack, NY.

Pieces from Handel, Vaughan Williams, Stanford, Britten, and Telemann.

Spring Cleanup

From Mark Zacheis

Many hands make light work and the Building and Grounds committee would like to thank all of the hands that turned out for Spring Clean Up Day on May 5. We had a big group and we were able to accomplish big things.

The lawns got fertilized, the planters by the church and Murchison Hall doors got fresh flowers, the trash around the property got picked up, the gardens behind the church and on the south side of Murchison Hall got cleaned out, the bushes and trees in front of Murchison Hall got trimmed, the cutting garden on the north end of Murchison Hall got cleaned out and mulched, the left-over Easter bulbs got planted, all ten air conditioners in the three buildings were installed, the church and Murchison Hall windows got washed, the Colonial Room entrance got cleaned up and its woodwork washed, the Colonial Room bookcase got straightened out, and both refrigerators were cleaned out.

Special thanks to the dozen or more members of the AA group for their turn out and enthusiasm. Their feeling of pride of the property is everything we can ask for.

And thanks to our folks who turned out to help as well – Lona Asher, Sumi Amat, Carmen Bermudez, Patty Core, Percy Crockett, Pam Fink, Nancy Jacobs, May Li, Robin Lucas, Syenni Lucas, Karen Martin, Doris Simone, Walter Smith, Howard Whitehouse, and Mark Zacheis.

OUR HISTORIC CHURCH.

Found an Old Friend

From Bob Greenhalgh

[Back in 2002, the church was working on the Manse kitchen and made an interesting discovery. Here is Bob Greenhalgh's historical take on it. –Ed]

It was nice “meeting” good John McLeod again—in the kitchen of the Manse!

The Men's Breakfast Club had uncovered John's name while ripping out the old sink and stove counter. He'd written his signature big across the back of the counter, with a black pencil.

We guessed he'd probably built everything in the kitchen. We couldn't tell when that was, but it must have been some time ago. We put down our tools for a moment of reflection, remembering he'd done many, many things for the church, over many years.

The Men's Breakfast Club is getting the Manse ready for the new Minister (whoever that is).

A note about John McLeod—John and Peggy, class of 1930. His parents, farmers, came to our church from Scotland about 1860, to farm on Buena Vista Road. John and Peggy did everything for the church. They've retired to Prince Edward Island, Canada.

