



The Carriage Stone

April 2019

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



Holy Week



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

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Sunday, April 28

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Sweetwater Cultural Center Coming to Rockland County

When a PC, USA church decides it is time to close its doors (always a very sad time) the Presbytery sets up what is known as an Administrative Commission. This commission is charged with closing the church with a final worship service, offering pastoral care to members until they find new Church homes, and finding a way to dispose of the Church property.

In September 2017, at the request of their Session, an Administrative Commission (AC) was formed to dissolve the congregation of the Stony Point Presbyterian Church. The closing Worship service was held in January 2018.

I have been privileged to serve on this AC. Because of the historic relationship that the Stony Point congregation has had with Haverstraw Central Presbyterian Church, the overwhelming majority of its members have since joined Haverstraw.

On Tuesday, March 26, Hudson River Presbytery voted to gift the property of the former Stony Point Church to the Ramapough Lenape Nation to be used as a Cultural Center. This is an important step for our denomination, which voted at last summer's General Assembly to repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery.

(The Discovery doctrine is a concept of public international law expounded by the United States Supreme Court in a series of decisions, most notably *Johnson v. M'Intosh* in 1823. Chief Justice John Marshall explained and applied the way that colonial powers laid claim to lands belonging to foreign sovereign nations during the Age of Discovery. Under it, title to lands lay with the government whose subjects travelled to and occupied a territory whose inhabitants were not subjects of a European Christian monarch. The doctrine has been primarily used to support decisions invalidating or ignoring aboriginal possession of land in favor of colonial or post-colonial governments.—Wikipedia).

I know that several of our members have been active in participating with the Ramapough at their camp in Mahwah, NJ. Indeed, Karen Martin, Hamadi Martin and his kids Marcus and Maddie have Ramapough blood. Kristen Rabeler has been faithful to bring their struggles before us, and we even sponsored a fund-raiser for the nation, a viewing of *Mann vs. Ford*. Many members of the Brook Presbyterian Church in Hillburn are members of the Ramapough nation. That brings it home!

As we become more and more aware of the racism and violence that attended the colonial settlement of what is now the United States of America, and what abuses still exist, it is vital that Christians speak and act on behalf of those who are abused—whatever and wherever they are.

This center will be used for education, ceremonies and a gathering place for the Ramapough and other Native peoples. Its Board of Directors will include representative from Hudson River Presbytery. Gifting them with land that White Europeans took as their own is a powerful statement. We often hear about committing a sin. I believe that what the Presbytery did was, in the words of Rev. Bebb Stone, “Committing a righteousness,” as Zacchaeus in Luke 19.

There is still much work to be done. Let us be in prayer for the success of this venture, and a long-term relationship with our sisters and brothers whom were here on this land long before the Europeans were.

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

Nature Center Tour

On Sunday, April 28 (the Sunday after Easter), Nancy Jacobs will be inviting you (the congregation and friends) for a brief tour of Greenbrook Nature Center, part of the Palisades Nature Association, of which she is a member. It is Visitor's Day there, and guides will be introducing people to the beauty of the sanctuary. Carpooling will be directly from NHPC, after the worship service. Talk to Nancy Jacobs for details.



LOCAL MISSIONS

Volunteer at the Warming Center April 15-17

From Pam Fink

The county-sponsored Warming Center in Pomona, also known as "The Inn," will wind up this season on April 30. NHPC has one more rotation of service at "The Inn" from April 15–17, and we need volunteers to help serve the evening meal and clean up after dinner. Another important component of this outreach activity is interacting with the guests; most are happy to engage in conversation, or just to have someone listen to them. And they really are appreciative of our time and effort. Jesus taught us that "whatever you did for the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me" (Matthew 25: 40), which is a good reminder during this holy season.

Each evening volunteers can meet at the church parking lot at 5:4PM to carpool to Building D at the Yeager Center in Pomona. We have to be at the facility by 6 PM and will work until about 8:45 PM. If you have one (or more!) evening to volunteer, please sign up on the form in the Colonial Room. If you have any questions, please see Pam Fink.



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Report from Hudson River University at Stony Point Center

From Laura Bidon

Several members of New Hempstead Presbyterian Church attended *Hudson River University* on Saturday, March 16 (Laura Bidon, Jane Sebok, Kristen Rabeler, and Barbara Zacheis). Hosted by the Stony Point Center, it was a lively and informative day of education and resource sharing for members and friends of Hudson River Presbytery congregations.

The day had something for everyone! Workshop topics included:

- Storytelling & Youth Spiritual Formation
- Video Recording & Live-Streaming Worship
- Introduction to Anti-Racism Training
- The Scottish Revolution (for all you history buffs!)
- Social Media & Your Church
- Indigenous Rights & Colonial Wrongs
- Perspectives from Peru on God's Missional Call
- Stewardship 101
- Confirmation Conversation

We learned a lot about live-streaming worship services and how to use social media to enhance communication and outreach efforts. Look for some of these ideas to be implemented at NHPC soon!

Consider attending *Hudson River University* next year—it is free and open to all members and friends of any congregation in the Hudson River Presbytery.



Kitten Season

From Nancy Jacobs

Advent and Christmas have passed. Lent is here. "Kitten Season" is approaching rapidly. Winter weather and temperature determine the activity of feral cats. And so, it determines the time of year when feral cats have their first litters of kittens.

HiTor Animal Shelter is preparing for the yearly inundation of kittens, brought there by people in Rockland County. People find and bring litters of kittens, with or without their mothers,



because they find them in their yards, under their porches, inside vehicle engines. They recognize that they don't know what to do to care for the kittens.

Kittens have special needs, depending on their age and

orphan status. They cannot be accommodated appropriately at a shelter, and must have more individualized care than is available at a shelter. Recently, HiTor Animal Care Center (Shelter) began kitten season by offering a foster care workshop to people in Rockland County. Because of the need for additional volunteers to support the foster care program, there will be a more extensive invitation to the public, for attendance at a SECOND workshop. Like the first, it will be an introduction to kitten foster care, and the types of care that can be provided by volunteers in the area.

Attending the workshop does not require a commitment to foster, but educates the public on the various types of fostering that can be done, and the resources available to foster families from HiTor ACC. A foster care



coordinator oversees the training, reviews applications for perspective foster care providers, approves and acknowledges fostering homes, organizes the placement of kittens to be fostered, and helps the foster families - providing advice, assistance, materials and resources, based on the needs of the families and the cats.

The date of the next class is yet to be determined. I will post a flier at NHPC, and - given adequate notice - information will be included in the Sunday church worship service bulletin.

Contact Nancy Jacobs for more information.

"If you have room in your home for a kitten in need—for just two weeks or more—please consider taking this step. Young kittens can live safely in a small, enclosed area, even a bathroom, if you have other pets, and your shelter or rescue group will provide you with all the information you need to care for your temporary pet.

<https://www.asPCA.org/blog/help-turn-kitten-season-foster-season>

Here are four different kitten fosterers:

NJ is retired and healthy. She has three cats in her home, which she adopted from the shelter. A family of newborn orphan kittens was brought to the shelter a month before



"kitten season", and no information was provided about their reportedly deceased mother. Nancy only has a small lavatory she can use for fostering. She received advice and supplies from the shelter, with a brief demonstration on how to feed a newborn kitten. She is in touch regularly with the shelter manager and foster care coordinator, and goes to the shelter for supplies. She expects that another foster family will take the kittens into their home when they are old enough to need more than the little 13"x20" nest" she can offer to newborns. Though the feeding schedule is exhausting, she knows that she can do it for a few weeks, WITH SUPPORT FROM OTHERS.

AC is currently unemployed. She loves cats but she has a family member who is allergic to cats, and so she volunteers with the cats at the shelter. She has some experience with kittens. She also has some experience with human newborns. She is supporting the foster care program by offering respite to fosterers, while they sleep, go to appointments, or take care of their own needs, out of the house. She will go to the fosterer's home, receive instruction, and



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provide it to the kittens on an as-needed basis. She knows her services availability will change when she begins working again, but she also knows that every bit of help she offers will assist families to help kittens.

NG is a busy woman. But she loves cats, and advocates for their care in any way she can. She has a large basement with many rooms, and has organized their use for the purpose of supplying space for mothers with kittens. She also has rooms of older kittens, in which the kittens interact and play with each other. Her ability to take in orphan baby kittens depends on the amount of assistance she has from community members nearby, because of the extra time and individual attention each kitten needs. She recognizes that a fostered kitten is more valuable than a feral kitten, because of their socialization with other kittens and with people. People visit NG in order to adopt socialized kittens through the local shelter.

KK works full time, and cannot foster newborn orphan kittens (because of their feeding schedule, every 2-3 hours, every day). But she can provide relief fostering during parts of weekends, and she can assist in the organization of the fostering process, using her computer and clerical skills.

Mozart Moments

From Sue Rentz

A Benefit Concert for the Rockland Camerata
Featuring Excerpts from Mozart Operas with
String Quartet and Piano

Sunday, April 14, 2019 — 4:00 PM

Grace Episcopal Church
130 First Ave. Nyack

Tickets: \$25

For reservations or information, call:

Charlene Hicks, President (845) 641-9432