



The Carriage Stone

November 2019

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



Stewardship Drive



Thanksgiving Food Baskets



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

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Gratitude



It's that time of year when gratitude takes center stage. We are only weeks away from Thanksgiving (And Christmas isn't far behind!). It's time to be grateful, to count our blessings.

But there is so much more to gratitude than that. Brother David Steindl-Rast, the Benedictine monk who is known as "the Apostle of Gratitude" reminds us that gratitude is a choice, and a way of life. He says, "The most important aspect of the practice of grateful living is *trust in life*. Every human being every day has to make a practical choice between trusting life and not trusting life. Again and again in life, one is tempted to distrust and fear. Fear and distrust—this is the same."

In other words, as Christians, we trust that God will provide for us—not just the basics, but the abundant life that Jesus promised. God has provided us with what we need, and more. We have a wonderful congregation who reach out in love to our neighbors.

Brother David has suggested, as a practice of gratitude, that we prayerfully find one thing each day *that we have never been grateful for before*. For me, today, that was the taste of a freshly made cup of mixed root juice (No—really—it was great!) I savored that and thanked God.

We are also in the season of the year when we are asked to put a price on our gratitude to God for our Church. November 10 is Stewardship Sunday. I ask you to prayerfully consider what you can contribute to the mission and upkeep of our congregation and its facilities. And I also ask you to fill out a pledge card so that the Finance committee has some idea of how to budget for next year.

What should you give? A tithe—10% of your household income—is the traditional Biblical measuring stick. If you are unable to give 10%, give what you are able, *and then give just a bit more than you are comfortable with*, as a statement of gratitude and thanksgiving to God for how God has cared for you through the years. It is also a way of saying to God, "I trust you to help me fulfill this financial promise. Should your circumstances change and you cannot make your pledge, I promise you that your name will not be stricken from the Lamb's Book of Life. God understands, and so does the church. Just let Mark Zacheis know.

A friend once told me that her father (a Presbyterian minister) used to say, "God doesn't use the tithe to raise a church budget. God uses the tithe to raise His children.

It is my prayer that you will choose to trust God, and life, and be grateful.

I tithe. If you are not there yet, I pray that you will work toward that, for you and your relationship with God, not just for the Church's finances.

Gratitude isn't just for the thanksgiving season. May we cultivate an "attitude of gratitude."

Thanksgiving Baskets

Thanksgiving Day is fast approaching, and you know what that means; it means that it is time for the Thanksgiving baskets food drive. In a tradition dating back decades our church family shares the bounty that is theirs with others not quite so fortunate. We intend to put together baskets of food, each of which is sufficient to feed a family a Thanksgiving dinner with all of the trimmings. Our goal this year is to provide forty baskets for local families that otherwise might go without on Thanksgiving Day.

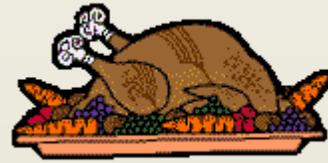
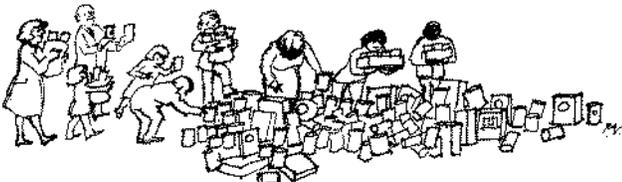
Attached in here is the shopping list of what goes into a Thanksgiving basket. We ask that you take the list with you so you will have it during your next visit to the grocery store, pick up everything on the list, put it in one bag, and bring it with you the next time that you come to church. The final collection day is Sunday, November 24, and you can bring your baskets in sooner if you like; but no later than the church service that day. Also, bring your frozen turkeys that day as well, but please not before.

If you would like to contribute but cannot do your own shopping, you may donate the cost of a Thanksgiving basket and we will go shopping for you. We suggest that number is \$40 for each basket. Mark your check or envelope Thanksgiving Baskets and place it in the collection plate.

If you are unable to provide a full basket then contribute what you can from the list. All contributions are welcome. And if you know of a family that is in need of a Thanksgiving basket, please contact Mark so that we can get these folks on our list.

There is a signup sheet on the Colonial Room bulletin board. Kindly sign up so that we can get a sense of the number of baskets.

Thank you.



Recipe for a Happy Thanksgiving Meal:

- 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

Be sure to bring your “baskets” to church on Sunday, November 18 so that we can distribute them before Thanksgiving.

THANK YOU!!!!!!



Musical notes from NHPC

From Lois Anderson, Music Director

Sunday, November 17 will be a Taizé service. What is Taizé? Here are some notes about the music written by Stephen Barany:

Taizé music comes from the Taizé Community, a French ecumenical religious community founded in 1940. It is a prayerful form of music known for its simple, yet rich and meditative character. Taizé music often takes the structure of an ostinato (a simple melody that repeats over and over) and is meant to serve as a kind of musical centering prayer. Because Taizé music itself is intentionally simple, it provides a great way to move our prayer from the head to the heart.

News of the Capital Campaign

The final project of the 2015-2017 Capital Campaign is the paving of the parking lot. This project was not actually part of the campaign at the time but putting away extra funds for future capital needs was and it turns out that paving the parking lot was a future capital need. In doing this project we did use up the balance of the capital reserve but clearly the crumbling asphalt and the big potholes meant that something had to be done. It was money well spent.

We'd like to thank Empire Enterprises for the really great job that they did on the paving. It looks terrific. We'd also like to thank all of those who turned out to help build the berm on the lawns next to the paving. We hope that these will help mediate some of the flooding on the lawns and the crumbling of the pavement and will help extend the life of the parking lot.

Visitor Parking

Your Session has spent the last year working on ways to move our church forward, and part of that is finding ways to make our church more attractive to visitors. The focus of this article is visitor parking. There may be a visitor all set to come to church this Sunday but when they arrive, most likely shortly before 11 AM, and they have trouble finding a place to park, what do they do? They may drive on and never make it in the front door.

To remedy this and to say to the visitor that they are valued here and that we want them to come, we have designated a visitor parking place. That spot is the second from the right in the upper parking lot, next to the handicapped spots. Visitors can drive in the driveway, see the sign, and pull right in to the spot.

They can as long as one of us is not parked there. The Session is asking that we reserve that spot for visitors and not to park there. Please observe the visitor sign and find another place to park on Sunday mornings.

Advent is Coming

What? Am I rushing the season by talking about Advent before November has even gotten started? Well, this year, Advent starts on December 1, so we need to be prepared.

On the first Sunday of Advent, we celebrate the start of the season by decorating our Worship space. All hands are needed—from hands that

put up the tree to hands that fold prayer cards. If you can, please bring cut greens and clippers.

There will be a light lunch at coffee hour and I am sure the Deacons would welcome your contribution if you let them know in advance.





Peacemaking Offering

Each year over the first weekend of October, we collect the Peacemaking Offering and dedicate it to a local organization. This year the offering was designated to Habitat for Humanity of Rockland and we collected a total of \$1,200. Thank you to all that contributed.

Another Successful Tag Sale!!

Submitted by Barbara Zacheis,
Chair, Fundraising

On October 5 we had a very successful tag sale.

We started work on Friday, October 4, when helpers emptied the barn and priced the donations. This year, with perfect weather on tap, we decided to leave much of the merchandise out and ready for the morning set-up. That turned out to be very helpful! Set-up in the morning began at 7 AM, and for the first time we were ready before our 9 AM start time. Over the two days, we had 27 helpers, an excellent turn out for a weekend when many were away. Clean-up took a bit longer than usual, but in the end the entire barn had been emptied, so we discovered many things that were added to the sale! The sale brought in just under \$1900. Thank you to all who helped, especially the people who joined us for the first time this year! And thank you to all who donated to the tag sale, making it a great success, community event and fellowship time.



The Snowman was way in the back of the barn, probably for decades!



An Invitation

From Habitat for Humanity of Rockland

Dear Congregants,

Habitat for Humanity of Rockland is holding our annual Pot Luck Supper in Murchison Hall on Saturday, November 16 starting at 4 PM. We take this chance to gather the families we serve, our volunteers and our supporters. Everyone who comes brings something to the supper (salad, vegetables, chicken, pasta, beef, cups, napkins, drinks, dessert, etc.)

I would like to extend an invitation to the members of the congregation to join us and meet the members and families of our group you have supported over the years. Please let us know what you plan to bring so we can mark it off our list.

Thank you,

Keith R. Albert
Executive Director
Habitat for Humanity of Rockland

Stop Acting Like the House Isn't on Fire

Mike Ferguson, Presbyterian News Service

We might be a Reformed Church, but we're not reforming.

The Rev. Kate Murphy, pastor of The Grove Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, North Carolina, reminded worshipers celebrating the Reformation on Wednesday in the Chapel at the Presbyterian Center in Louisville that God's kingdom, which many refer to as God's *kin-dom*, is multiethnic, as described in Scripture including Acts 2.

[I looked it up for you...Acts 2 opens with the Pentecost story. A gathering in Jerusalem of God-fearing Jews from every nation, who hear the word of God to them each in their own language as the Holy Spirit touched the disciples.]



“A segregated white church is an idolatrous lie,” she said. “We act like the house isn't on fire. We act as if the multiethnic church is one option. It's not a way to be the church — it is the church.”

Murphy was part of a panel working in Louisville since Monday to discern what it will take for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to become an intercultural denomination. The denomination's membership is about 90 % white and about 10 % people of color.

Last year, the 223rd General Assembly declared the coming decade beginning in 2020 as the Decade of Intercultural Transformation.

For her text, Murphy used Luke's account of the woman anointing Jesus' feet with ointment in the home of Simon the Pharisee, who she said “invited Jesus because he might be the Messiah, or he might not be. He was given the chance to be heard and prove himself.”

She called the setting “a space for holy chaos” into which “a notorious sinner came uninvited.” The woman “came in and made a spectacle of herself” by “weeping, worshiping and wasting.” The sight of her and the sounds she made were offensive, and when she smashed her alabaster jar and poured out the perfume on Jesus' feet, “even the smell of her offends,” Murphy said.

The woman, Jesus tells the host, Simon the Pharisee, as Murphy put it, “had to break into your house. She provided everything that you in your dignity have denied.” Jesus “declares to her everything that he and she already knew to be true: your sins are forgiven. She is sent out empty, full of forgiveness and peace.”

We are like that Pharisee, Murphy said. We “see the church as our home, and we think we are brave and generous for inviting Jesus into our space.” With so many churches that are even more segregated than the community in which they operate, “we don't have a crisis — we have a catastrophe.”