



The Carriage Stone

December 2019

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



Advent Waiting

Advent is here again—that time when we wait for Jesus to be born. We wait to celebrate the incarnation of God in Jesus Christ.

Too often, we consider waiting to be synonymous with twiddling our thumbs. Waiting is just a waste of time, right? No. Waiting does not mean passivity. Waiting is a necessary part of life, even for the impatient. (Maybe especially for the impatient).

Advent is what Henri Nouwen calls “active waiting.”

But there is none of this passivity in Scripture. Those who are waiting are waiting very actively. They know that what they are waiting for is growing from the ground on which they are standing. Right here is a secret for us about waiting. If we wait in the conviction that a seed has been planted, and something has already begun, it changes the way we wait. Active waiting implies being fully present to the moment with the conviction that something is happening where we are and that we want to be present to it. A waiting person is someone who is present to the moment, believing that this moment is the moment.*

- How can you wait actively—expectantly—this Advent?
- How can you prepare your heart to receive the baby King yet again?

Advent Peace to you,

* From Henri Nouwen, *Finding My Way Home*, quoted in *You are the Beloved*, compiled and edited by Gabrielle Earnshaw.



Advent is Coming

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.

According to our tradition, we will write prayer cards for the Advent season on **the second Sunday of Advent**.

A lessons and carols service is an opportunity for a particularly musical service. It alternates readings and music related to the Advent and Christmas season. Our lessons and carols service is planned for the **third Sunday of Advent**, December 15.

Buildings and Grounds

The last project of the Capital Campaign is complete, the paving of the parking lots. Many, many thanks to Lochie, May, Howard, Percy, Pam, Nancy, Barbara and Mark, and to the four gentlemen of AA – John, John, Donald, and Chris, all of whom turned out to help lay down ten yards of top soil against the sides of the pavement. Their work will go a long way towards preventing the edges of the new pavement from crumbling and toward extending the life of the parking lot and driveways.

You may recall that we have plans to build a memorial patio on the great lawn across the driveway from the front walk, complete with a memorial bench and engraved bricks. The work was supposed to be done this fall. Unfortunately, we could not fit in the parking lot paving and the patio before the cold weather set in. The bench and the bricks have been purchased and delivered, and the plan is to build

the new patio, but it will have to wait until the spring.

This does offer an opportunity to those who missed the deadline to purchase a brick. If we can get orders for at least ten bricks then we will place another order. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board in the Colonial Room. If there is interest from ten people then we will put out order forms. The cost would remain the same at \$50 per brick.

If you are interested, you can also speak to Mark.

Our Talented Congregation

Jane Craig Sebok
Talented Congregant



For the month of December, we have two 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 December:

December 7, 2 PM – Jane Sebok

Rockland County Concert Band,

Central Presbyterian Church,

89 Hudson Ave.,

Haverstraw, NY.

“Holiday Concert.”

Refreshments will be served.

December 22, 3 PM – Jane Sebok

Rockland County Concert Band,

Pearl River Library,

80 Franklin Ave.,

Pearl River, NY.

“Holiday Concert.”



Thanksgiving Baskets

We want to thank everyone who participated in the Thanksgiving Baskets food drive. This year we were able to provide forty-two baskets of Thanksgiving meals versus thirty-five this year. We want to thank the folks at the Coffee House that meets in Murchison Hall for their kind donation, and we want to thank the Healing House Ministries of Spring Valley for their generous contribution as well. Yet another example of how our ministry is attracting those outside our doors.



“Adopt” a Habitat Family for the Holidays!

From the Deacons and Laura Metallo-Bidon

Habitat of Rockland helps local families achieve their dream of home ownership. And this year, you can help two Habitat families as they celebrate a Merry Christmas in their very own homes!

This holiday season, New Hempstead Presbyterian Church will be “adopting” two families who have recently moved into homes built or renovated by Habitat for Humanity of Rockland. Each family has two young children and will benefit greatly this holiday with the help of extra gifts under the tree. We will also be purchasing gifts for the parents, to ensure they have a little surprise under the tree, too!

Throughout December, you’ll be learning more about these two families and how you can help make their Christmas wishes come true. Stay tuned for details!



Coffee Hour: Many Hands Make Light Work!

From the Deacons

"Coffee Hour" is a much beloved tradition at New Hempstead Presbyterian Church. The time spent chatting and catching up with friends after worship, and the chance to make new friends as we welcome newcomers and make them feel at home, is a very important part of our Sunday mornings.

Traditionally, the Deacons of NHPC have been responsible for Coffee Hours—preparing food, setting up, serving and cleaning. Starting in the New Year, the Deacons will be asking volunteers to partner with us in this effort.

Coming soon, there will be a sign-up sheet in the Colonial Room, where you can sign up to partner with the Deacon assigned to each specific Sunday. Then you’ll share responsibility for shopping, serving and cleaning up after Coffee Hour on your selected date. Remember that all expenses are reimbursable (save your receipts!), and you’ll never have to work alone—there will always be someone on hand to help you.

If you enjoy Coffee Hour, please volunteer to help and ensure that Coffee Hour remains a vital part of our Sunday worship experience!