



# The Carriage Stone

February 2020

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



## EPIPHANY



“The Carriage Stone” is the Newsletter of

**The New Hempstead Presbyterian Church**

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**Next Deadline:**

Sunday, February 16

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## **Everything We Do Must Point to Christ**

The Session and Deacons began the new year with an officer training event led by my friend and colleague, the Rev. Dr. Richard “Deke” Spierling. For most, it was a great refresher course on who we are and what we are to do as Church leaders.

As I looked around the Colonial Room at the folks attending (13, plus Deke and myself—a pretty good turnout!) I was struck by how blessed we are to have the leadership that we do. The men and women you have elected to lead this congregation are dedicated lovers of Christ, his Church, each other, and our congregation. Together, we try to keep the focus of our corporate life firmly fixed on Jesus. Everything we do as a congregation must point to Jesus Christ.

We exist as a congregation to shine the Light of Christ’s love on one another, on our community, and on the larger world. Our worship is addressed to God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. Our care for one another is another opportunity to show God’s love in Christ when those in our midst need it most. We reach out to our community because Christ loves all, and died for all. We speak out politically because we see things wrong in our community and nation, we see injustice and hatred, and we believe God calls us to work for justice and righteousness. We work for the care of the earth, not because we are a bunch of hippies, but because we believe God entrusted the earth to humanity and humanity is responsible for its care.

Knowing our overarching reason for being—to point to God’s Messiah, Jesus Christ—is very freeing. We can get on with that task now, not waiting for some mythical future with 500 members, 100 of which are kids; or a day when we don’t have to keep an eye on our finances; or a time when it is comfortable to speak out on the issues of our day. We can do all these things now because God has called us to do them, and God will continue to provide all we need to be faithful to that call.

The author Elizabeth Gilbert often closes her communications with the word “onward.” So will I.

Onward. In Faith.

## Online Giving

By Jane Craig Sebok

Did you know that there is a way to give to the church other than the offering plate in Sunday morning? For over a year now we have had the capability of accepting online donations using a resource powered by the Presbyterian Foundation. There are three ways to access this resource.

- 1) Go the church's website at [nhpchurch.org](http://nhpchurch.org). Scroll down and you will see a big "Give Now" button. Click on it. You'll be given a choice of (NHPC) Operating Fund or Proyecto Faro. Use the Operating Fund to donate to the church. Fill in the amount you wish to give, the frequency, and donation date and press "Continue". The next page will ask for your personal information, including bank account, credit or debit card. You will be given an option to save your account by entering a password. Then press the "Process" button and you're done.
- 2) Download the Give Plus app to your cell phone. When you open it, you will be asked to enter your church's name. On the next page, you will enter the frequency and amount (again under Operating Fund). You can then scan your credit or debit card. If you're having trouble, you will be given the chance to enter it manually. Next, you can complete your donation and, if you wish, set up an account. If you do set up an account, it will log all your donations, making it easy to keep track.
- 3) Scan the QR code below. It will take you to the same site as #2.

Please note, there is no charge for using this service. They will ask if you want to add 2% to offset costs but that is entirely optional. Also,



it's a great way to set up periodic payments, so you don't have to remember to write a check.

A final way to give online is to contact your bank and set up automatic payments through them. See Mark Zacheis for details.

I hope this was helpful. Happy online giving!

## Read Michelle Obama's *Becoming with Us*

The next Race and White Privilege book for discussion will be [\*Becoming\*](#), by Michelle Obama. We will meet at 7:30 in the Colonial Room on Wednesday, March 11. Read the former FLOTUS's biography and come join us for discussion and courageous conversation.



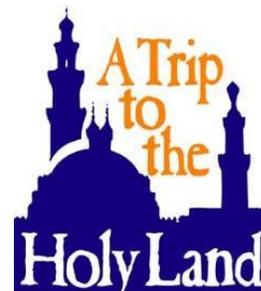
## Pastor's Continuing Education

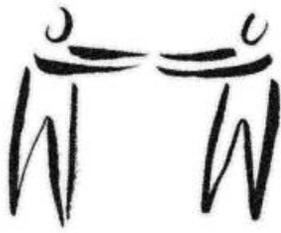
From Pastor Lori Knight-Whitehouse

I will be away on Continuing Education February 9-20. Ordinarily, that's not worth a notice in the newsletter, but this year I will be going on Pilgrimage with 37 other (mostly, but not entirely Presbyterian) folks "Through the Beautiful Gate" in the Holy Land.

I had a chance to go to this beautiful, complex, troubled part of the world in 1990, and chose not to go. (I was just out of Seminary, had no job, and I was broke!) This feels like a second chance from God, and I am very excited. We will spend time in Jerusalem, at the Jordan River and the Dead Sea and many other holy sites.

I ask you to keep us in your prayers, that we may see Jesus in a different way during this time away.





From the Deacons

**For January, from  
Syenni Lucas**

This year 2020 is my second term as a Deacon. I chose to be a Deacon because I enjoy the tasks of coffee hour, the time it takes to prepare, set up and clean up after. I love to serve and gather in fellowship around the table after worship and especially around the table of communion, as it is the body of Christ. Most importantly, I remember that the service of what I am doing does not compare with what our Lord, Jesus Christ is doing for us. He suffered on the cross to show his love to us sinners. So I too, serve our church, many outside of it and everywhere I go, no matter who they are! This is why being a Deacon means so much to me.

**For December, from  
Christina Bermudez**

Being a child of God...is an adventure! Like so many of you reading this, it's a journey that comes with a calling. A beating...deep inside calling you to serve. A feeling telling you to do more, be more, achieve more...be more like Him, our Lord Jesus Christ! As a 1st time Deacon I question here, what if Jesus had said, I won't serve, I won't be a part of my Father's kingdom, or why care for anyone in need or otherwise, what would our lives be like now? For me, being a Deacon means I get to serve, be that active part of my church and God's Kingdom, and practice caring on levels I never imagined. I challenge each of us to listen to the calling and serve as Jesus did, enjoying the path to serving God's children and choosing to be a Deacon. It is only right that we serve, is it not?



**Ash  
Wednesday,  
February 26**

The church will observe Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the season of Lent, on Wednesday, February 26 at 7:30 PM in the Sanctuary with the imposition of ashes. All are welcome.

**Per Capita**

From Mark Zacheis, Treasurer

The Presbyterian Church (USA) is connectional, with our church bonded to other Presbyterian churches by similar faith and government. In numbers, there is strength, and in supporting the work of Hudson River Presbytery, the Synod of the Northeast, and the General Assembly these larger groupings of churches can do greater good than each church by itself. These three also provide services that New Hempstead Presbyterian Church could not provide on its own. For example, medical and pension benefits for full time church employees, legal services, and funding for special projects. The Per Capita is the fee that each church pays on behalf of each member to support these structures and to be part of that connection.



*Per Capita*

This year our church's fee is \$38.80 per member (the same as last year), for a total of just under \$3,000. Our church will be writing a check for this. Our hope is that each of our members will willingly contribute his/her portion of \$38.80. Use the first envelope in your box of envelopes or write Per Capita on your check.



## Warm up the Winter

*New Hempstead Presbyterian Church  
Is collecting  
Hats, Gloves, and Socks for the Homeless*

Remember our neighbors in need throughout the winter months. A little bit of warmth can go a long way for someone in need.

Donated items will be distributed to individuals in Rockland County, in partnership with the Salvation Army Food Truck in Spring Valley and other local programs.

The Salvation Army Food Truck serves hot breakfast to folks in need, every Saturday morning, throughout the village of Spring Valley. Over 200 people are served by the Food Truck every week. Most people served are day laborers and/or individuals who are homeless or marginally housed right here in Rockland County.

Please bring purchased items to Church in January & February; a Collection Bin is located in the Colonial Room.

## MLK Jr. Unity Celebration

New Hempstead Presbyterian Church will once again be sponsoring a table at the MLK Jr. Unity Celebration on Monday, January 20.

Visit us! It's a great day of community celebration.

Doors open at 3 PM.

Location: Ramapo High School 400 Viola Road Spring Valley, NY.



*Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Beyond Just a Dream*

## UNITY CELEBRATION

*Honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.*

SPONSORED BY - EAST RAMAPO CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
& MARTIN LUTHER KING MULTI-PURPOSE CENTER

MONDAY, JANUARY 20, 2020 DOORS OPEN - 3:00PM  
FREE ADMISSION & REFRESHMENTS RAMAPO HIGH SCHOOL  
400 VIOLA ROAD, SPRING VALLEY, NY

CHIKU AWALI  
DANCERS

GOSPEL SINGER  
BEVERLY COX

SPRING VALLEY  
INSPIRATIONAL  
DANCERS

LITTLE MIRACLES  
(EAST RAMAPO  
ELEMENTARY  
SHOW CHOIR)

RAMAPO DANCERS

## SHOWCASE INCLUDES

### EMCEE

DR. ZENYA RICHARDSON  
FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DIRECTOR,  
HEAD START OF ROCKLAND CO.

### KEYNOTE SPEAKER

DR. ANAEL ALSTON  
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER, OFFICE OF ACCESS,  
EQUITY, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

EAST RAMAPO  
MARCHING BAND, COLOR GUARD  
& WINTER PERCUSSION

EAST RAMAPO MIDDLE  
SCHOOL SHOW CHOIR

AFROVYBI  
DANCERS

MARTIN LUTHER  
KING CENTER  
PERFORMERS

SPIRIT OF  
THE MOUNTAIN  
SINGERS

CHRIST CENTERED  
MINISTRY'S  
HOUSE OF PRAISE

FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL NATALIE AT  
NATMLK6@GMAIL.COM OR CALL (845) 425-8910





Donna Cain (L), Deputy Director of Habitat for Humanity of Rockland, with the Diaz family on 12/23/19 at their home in Haverstraw, receiving gifts from New Hempstead Presbyterian Church.



Ingrid Boucicaud (R) with Isabella and Ishmael in front of their Christmas tree, receiving gifts from New Hempstead Presbyterian Church on 12/23/19, at their home in Haverstraw.

### **“Adopt a Habitat Family” Project a Huge Success!**

From the Laura Metallo-Bidon

Thanks to the generosity of our congregation, our “Adopt a Habitat Family” holiday mission project was a huge success! We surpassed our fundraising goal, and were able to provide generous gifts of clothing, toys and gift cards to the Diaz family (left) and the Boucicaud family (right).

On Monday, December 23, I had the honor of visiting with the Diaz and Boucicaud families to hand-deliver our gifts. Both families live in Haverstraw, in homes built or renovated by Habitat for Humanity of Rockland. For the Boucicaud family, this was their first Christmas in their new home, and sure to be memorable for the entire family. Four-year-old twins Isabella and Ishmael were obviously happy and excited, proudly showing off their home and their very own bedrooms!

Home ownership can change the lives of children and families, and your gifts to Habitat for Humanity of Rockland, now and throughout the year, help make it possible for families like these. Thank you for your generosity!



### **Partner with a Deacon for Coffee Hour**

Do you enjoy the excellent food and fellowship at our Coffee Hour after worship each Sunday? If so, the Deacons are looking for volunteers just like you to partner with us for Coffee Hours in 2020.

Pick a date and sign up now to help the Deacon assigned to Coffee Hour on that date. 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 ensure that Coffee Hour remains a vital part of our Sunday worship experience! Sign-up sheet is located in the Colonial Room.



## Daily Devotionals

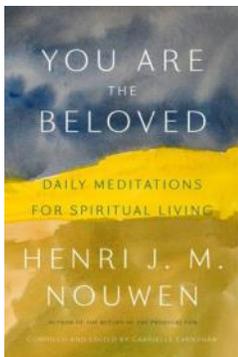
From Nancy Jacobs

About 18 months ago, my neighbor told me that he and his wife use a daily devotional book. He was very excited about it, and made sure that we didn't part until I knew the author's name and the name of the book: Sarah Young, *Jesus Calling*.... Because of his enthusiastic report on his experience, I sought the book in the library. I was able to use it for several months before my loan expired and I decided to buy the eBook version.

As I started using this daily devotional to guide my quiet time with God, I began thinking of my fellow congregants, and wondering if any others would benefit from using the same book. I also began wondering about what other people used, and what they like about their selection of daily devotional book. The following is a summary of the responses I've received from short interviews with various of our congregants, and with our pastor (of course). If others in the congregation are excited by their daily devotional books, I'd be happy to hear from them, and to provide a summary of their experiences in a future Carriage Stone.

### Pastor Lori Knight-Whitehouse

*You are the Beloved* by Henri Nouwen Edited by Gabrielle Earnshaw



Lori finds time daily, to spend focusing on God; "It's the last thing I do before I turn out the light at night."

She likes [this book](#) because she feels that the author "manages to strike a balance

between personal devotion and how that connects to the community of faith....We tend to think of Christianity as 'private' as opposed to 'personal'...Christianity should lead the community (the body of Christ) out in to the world". "Christianity's immediate affect is to draw us closer to God. Its cumulative effect is to draw our faith community into the world. "

Lori recently (1/12/2020) read from this book to the congregation, during a sermon about baptism.

### Elder Jocelyne Daniel

*Our Daily Bread* ... A monthly booklet, free.



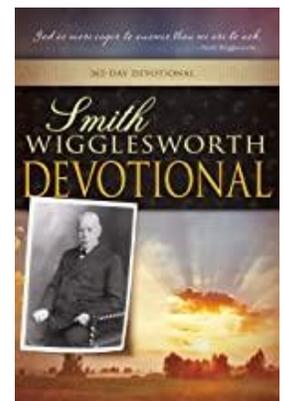
Jocelyne likes it because "It's small and convenient; I keep it I my purse...When I worked and I took a break from work (like at lunch) I used it. Now it is the first thing I do in the morning. It helps to keep me focus.... On one page there is the scripture reading. On the opposite page, it relates the reading to daily living and encourages further thought, to make the reading personal...It Includes an insight, a historical point of view, or a reaffirmation." It's available at [Ourdailybread.org](http://Ourdailybread.org).

### Elder Karen Martin

*Devotional* by Smith Wigglesworth

(You can see a sample of the pages of this book [on Google here](#))

"This man LOVES the Lord..." Karen says the author gives you the lesson to read - several verses - then expounds on just a couple of the verses. "It's always a story... It really speaks to me".



In addition, Karen uses a second daily devotional, "Our Daily Bread". (Available in eBook or paperback)"It's very pithy... it gives a verse, then a short (explanation) of the verse, and a thought for the day..."

How does Karen find time to use these? "In the morning, before I start looking at emails. Starting the day with it, helps me to be centered. Reading in the beginning of the day provides me the opportunity to use the lesson of the day, or to share the lesson with others when the Lord gives the opportunity."

### **Music Director, Lois Anderson**

"The Daily Word" by Unity ([www.unity.org](http://www.unity.org))

"I came across this when I played (piano) for the Unity Church. It consists of a single word for meditation, a scripture reference, and a little blurb...I like it because it makes me feel positive, gives me a positive outlook."

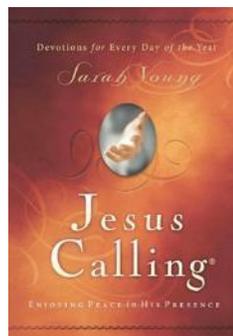
This is available via subscription at [www.dailyword.com](http://www.dailyword.com), or as a free app on your iPhone.

### **Author of this article, Nancy Jacobs**

*Jesus Calling...* by Sarah Young

My most constant adversary in my life is anxiety: anxiety about my future, anxiety about my decisions and my relationships and my interactions, about my thoughts and my beliefs, anxiety about the future of our nation and our world.

Using the one-page daily selections from *Jesus Calling* helps me meet the challenges during a day, by directing my focus to my dependence on God, and on His love and on His desire to guide my steps. The subtitle of this book, "Enjoying Peace in His



Presence" is - indeed - the synopsis of the theme for every single day. At first, I thought that I would feel bored with a book that had the same theme every single day. But instead, the provision of the daily reminders and different perspectives reinforces my trust in God's guiding hand. The beginning of the reading for January 13 may be my all-time favorite. "Try to view each day as an adventure, carefully planned out by your Guide. Instead of staring into the day that is ahead of you, attempting to program it according to your will, be attentive to Me and to all I have prepared for you..." ([Learn more online.](#))

When do I focus on God's presence? After I feed my four companion cats, I sit down with my coffee and cereal, and open this daily devotional book, in the quiet of my dining room. I read the first sentences, and eat breakfast. I close my eyes, and reach out for Jesus' hand, breathing in God's peace, and exhaling the darkness that has built up inside me. I read the day's passage, and write down my thoughts. I try to renew my connection with God throughout the day, when I am traveling from place to place.

Do you have a book that helps you in your focused "God time" each day? Share it with me, and I will share it with others here in the Carriage Stone.

The church website has pictures of church activities and church people...but only when you share your photos. Please send to Bob Philhower for inclusion on the website.



# Children's Sunday School Schedule

## January 2020 – May 2020

### Book: "Growing in God's Love"

Date	Topic	Page number
<b>Listening for God</b>		
January 5	What is God's Name?	170
January 12	What is God Like?	172
January 19	How Close is God?	174
January 26	Where does God live?	176
<b>Listening for God</b>		
February 2	Please remember! Never forget	178
<b>Listening to Jesus</b>		
February 9	The True Vine	330
February 16	The light of the World	332
February 23	The bread of life	334
March 1	Salt and light for our world	336
March 8	The Lord's Prayer	338
March 15	Jesus blesses the children	340
March 22	Don't worry	342
March 29	Remember to love	344
<b>Endings and Beginnings</b>		
April 5	Jesus visits Jerusalem	270
April 12	Women at the Tomb	276
April 19	Thomas wants to see	278
April 26	Memory and Surprise	280
May 3	Mary finds her friend	282
May 10	Jesus gives Peter a job	284
<b>Listening to Jesus</b>		
May 17	How big is God's love?	346
<b>Parables</b>		
May 24	The Sower	210
<b>Healing and Miracles</b>		
May 31	Friends who help	250

\*\*\*The book is kept in my mailbox.