



The Carriage Stone

March 2020

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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Pastor Lori is journeying in the Holy Land and asked me to “hang a *Gone fishing on the Sea of Galilee* sign on my space.” I figured I would rerun this column from 2007 as it makes a good companion to last month’s article about devotional reading. — Bob

Lenten Journey

It’s hard for me to believe that it’s Lent once again. I always enjoy this time of year—it demands that I slow down and “be still, and know that God is” (Psalm 46:10). Lent, while traditionally a penitential season for the Church, isn’t only a time to “give something up”—it’s also a time to add to our lives. Spending extra time in prayer, beginning a daily discipline of Bible Study, ending the day with a contemporary devotional reading (My favorites are by Madeleine L’Engel and Frederick Beuchner), all are wonderful ways to take time to reflect on ourselves as we are, and to ask God to become more the persons God knows we can be.

I am a big admirer of Saint Benedict, the sixth century saint who founded the Benedictine Order of brothers and sisters. Benedict understood, as have so many others before and since, that life is a journey, a pilgrimage. It is not easy to prepare ourselves for the everyday journey of life. But we are far better equipped for all life can throw at us if we engage in daily Bible reading and prayer. If this is not yet a part of your day, I encourage you to begin. Start with the Psalms—they are Israel’s hymnbook. Since they are prayers, pray them! Let them become your own prayer to God. If your mood doesn’t match the Psalm you read, pray it on behalf of someone else!

If it’s been a while since you read the New Testament, read a Gospel. Mark is the shortest! Luke is my personal favorite. Let the story touch your story. It’s not easy to carve out that extra time in day for holy reading, but it is enriching and rewarding

As St. Benedict said, “Do not be daunted immediately by fear and run away from the road that leads to salvation.... But as we progress in this way of life and faith, we shall run on the path of God’s commandments, our hearts overflowing with the inexpressible light of love.”

A Blessed Lent to you all,



Partner with a Deacon for Coffee Hour

From the Deacons

Thank you to everyone who has been helping the Deacons with Coffee Hour!

Please volunteer to make sure that Coffee Hour remains a vital part of our Sunday worship experience! Sign-up sheet is located in the Colonial Room.

Pick a date to help the Deacon assigned to Coffee Hour on that date. You'll share responsibility for shopping, serving and cleaning up 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. Many hands make light work!



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.

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.



Millennial Corner

Nora Asamoah

We can make our plans, but the Lord determines our steps.
— Proverbs 16:9 (NIV)

If this verse doesn't ring true to you, then I don't know what will. How many times have we made plans for ourselves, families, relationships etc. Six-month plans? One-year plan? Five years plan? Ten years plans? I always make plans for the future and I get upset when they do not go exactly how I want it. Then I get upset with God for not making my plans into a reality. As I get older and grow in the word, I realize that the saying "God's time is the best", is indeed true. Are you going through a phase where you simply do not understand why, or it seems nothing is working the way it should be? Just remember that whether we like it or not God oversees our lives. The sooner we recognize that, the simpler it gets. It is never easy but as children all we can do is pray to our Father and trust in Him. During this lent season, let us reflect on this verse.

Our Talented Congregation

For the month of March, we have one listing. Remember to let me know when you have performances coming up, either at janesebok20@gmail.com, or during coffee hour.



Here is the listing for March:

March 29, 4 PM — Lois Anderson and Sue Rentz

The Rockland Camerata,
Broadway in the Burbs
Rockland Conservatory,
Simons Hall, Pearl River



Warm up the Winter

From Laura Metallo-Bidon

The Deacons just finished counting...and we have collected nearly 130 hats, gloves and socks to distribute to needy individuals in Rockland County! They will be given to homeless and marginally housed individuals in Spring Valley, in partnership with the Salvation Army Food Truck that serves a warm breakfast each Saturday morning throughout the village. Thank you again to everyone who contributed to this effort.

Watch for more details in the next issue of the Carriage Stone!

Thank You from the Boucicaut Family

The Boucicaut Family is one of the families, housed through Habitat for Humanity, who our congregation “adopted” for Christmas. Your gifts went a long way in helping the family enjoy their first Christmas in their new home! They visited NHPC on January 19 to worship with us and to express their gratitude. They very much appreciate your generosity!

Follow the link below if you want to learn more about the Boucicaut Family and how Habitat for Humanity of Rockland helped them achieve their dream of home ownership.

<https://www.facebook.com/HabitatRocks/videos/180875056588365/>

*“To New Hempstead Presbyterian Church,
Thank you so much for your generous gifts.
Our family had a wonderful Christmas,
because of you. May the Lord continue to
bless you all.
From,
Ingrid, Jean, Ishmael and Isabella Boucicaut”*

