



The Carriage Stone

February 2021

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



Lent



“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

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Submissions: in my mailbox
or e-mail to

carriagestone@nhpchurch.org



Lent

By the time this reaches you, Lent will be only a couple of weeks away. That's so hard for me to believe.

Lent is not only about repentance, Lent is about remembering our brokenness. I am reminded of a novel I read, called *The Sixth Lamentation*, by William Brodrick. In it, one character says to another,

None of us get here without being broke to pieces, old son. None of us knows why—do let's just near with one another.

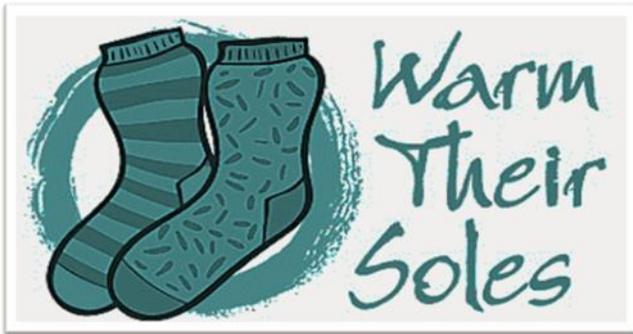
Brokenness is a part of being human, but too often we deny it: in ourselves, in others, and in our world.

Lent can also be a season of great natural beauty: the trees go from leafless and bare to buds and shoots of green. It's a time of letting go of things that are no longer necessary in our lives, and on our Christian journey in order to make room for the new things God has in store for us.

This Lent, I will be preaching around themes of brokenness and beauty. There will be visuals! And while I'm not getting my hope up just yet, who knows? Maybe the weather will allow us to worship outdoors on Easter Sunday.

As I write, the Worship, Music, and the Arts Committee hasn't met yet to plan Lent, Holy Week, and Easter. I will make sure to send out a schedule as soon as we have things arranged.

May you keep a holy Lent.



From the Deacons....

Thank You for “Warming the Soles” of Rockland County!

From Laura Bidon

On the day after Christmas--a bitterly cold Saturday morning--225 pairs of warm winter socks donated by our congregation were delivered to the Salvation Army Canteen Food Program, for immediate distribution to day laborers, homeless individuals, and families in need throughout Spring Valley.

We far surpassed our goal of collecting 150 pairs of socks—demonstrating yet again that NHPC is “the little church with the BIG heart!”

Jim Waters (pictured below), the longtime coordinator of the Canteen Food Program, and his dedicated team of volunteers prepare and deliver breakfast each Saturday morning to men, women and children in need throughout Spring Valley. No matter the weather, even during a pandemic, Jim’s team travels the streets of Spring Valley bringing food and other essential items directly to the folks that need it most.

Why socks? Imagine being outdoors all day, often exposed to cold, wet weather...Imagine not having easy access to laundry, shower or bathroom facilities...Imagine how much more difficult this is during a pandemic. Now think about having a clean pair of warm socks at the end of a long day. Such a simple gesture can mean so much!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this effort, and for helping to “Warm the Soles” of Rockland County!



Jim Waters, volunteer coordinator of the Salvation Army Canteen Food Program in Spring Valley. The socks donated by New Hempstead Presbyterian Church were distributed by Jim and his volunteer team to folks in need throughout Spring Valley.

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. This year our church’s fee is \$38.83 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.

Millennial Corner

From Nora Asamoah

“I sought the Lord, and He answered me; he delivered me from my fears”- Psalms 34:4

Testimony time! 2020 was an unimaginable year. Many lost a lot: loved ones, jobs, housing, etc. For me it was mostly fear. Fear of what our world was coming to, fear of getting covid-19, fear of ending up in a hospital alone, fear of someone close to me dying from it, fear of being a hashtag, fear of not really listening to God, and many more. Nonetheless, time and time again, God reminded me that I should “cast all my anxiety on Him because He cares for me (1 Peter 5:7)”. I found myself waking up every morning with a song of praise. My prayers went from asking/petitions to thanksgiving. Anyone you heard me pray publicly will testify to this. I have a lot to be thankful for.

I wish each and every one of you a Happy New Year! My prayer is may God guide us and give us exactly what He wants us to have. I learned the hard way that God’s time was always right and not my time or plans (this is another post in itself). Below is a song from Jon Reddick of Church of the city called “[God Turn It Around](#)”. I have sung this song many times, yet every time it fills me with gratitude for God. He reminds me that I am His daughter and loves me for who I am. Hope it brings you the peace you are looking for.

God has been extremely good to me and my family and for that I continue to praise him.

God Turn It Around by Jon Reddick

I'm praying God come
And turn this thing around
God, turn it around (3x)
I'm calling on the name
That changes everything, yes
God, turn it around (3x)
All of my hope
Is in the name
The name of Jesus

Breakthrough will come
Come in the name
The name of Jesus
I'm praying God come
And turn this thing around, oh yes
God, turn it around (3x)
He is up to something (2x)
God is doing something right now
He is healing someone
He is saving someone
He is saving someone

TeleHealth for Seniors Program

From Nancy Jacobs

I am beginning a new volunteer job with the local [Office for the Aging](#). Here are some excerpts from their newsletter that describe what is going on, and one way in which the Office for the Aging is trying to assist seniors in the area.

Rockland County Office for the Aging provides Tele-Health assistance to seniors and their caregivers, with smart devices and instruction, to connect physicians via the TeleHealth for Seniors Program. A representative from the Rockland County Office for the Aging can bring a smart device to the home and connect the senior to their appointment, free of charge.

As the coronavirus pandemic sweeps across the U.S., millions of people around the country are living under directives to stay home to avoid risking exposure to the virus or infecting others if they are ill. To address the ongoing need for medical treatment during this time of physical distancing, there has been a rapid expansion in the availability of many healthcare services for TeleHealth, which allows physician and other healthcare providers to furnish

services to their patients at remote locations, including in their homes.

Contact the Rockland County Office for the Aging at (845) 364-2120 for further information.

It's this program that I'm looking into, in order to consider becoming one of the "representatives" who would bring a smart device to the home of a senior, for the purpose of connecting them to their doctor via TeleHealth. I've been furnished a "tablet", so that I can become accustomed to using it prior to my formal training time in January.

The Rockland County Office for the Aging is still accepting inquiries from seniors (or their caregivers) who think that this might be a viable option for them (the seniors).

The Church Furnace

From Mark Zacheis

In the middle of December the church furnace finally gave up for good – we all got the e-mail about it dying and that the rest of the church services in December would be done virtually from the Colonial Room.

In the meantime, our Buildings and Grounds team jumped into action and was able to procure a brand new steam boiler furnace for us. That was a concern because not so many buildings heat by steam any more. Going with a different technology (like hot water) would mean replacing the pipes and radiators as well as the furnace, at a significantly higher cost to us. The new steam boiler is now installed and is



functioning very nicely. It is not as big as the old one, is technologically more advanced, and hopefully is more economical.

Despite only having to replace the furnace, the cost of the new equipment, installation, and removal of the old equipment came to \$11,000. Unfortunately, the capital fund was used up a year ago when we installed a new roof on the church and paved the parking lot.

We would like to do a short-term fundraiser to cover the cost of the furnace. This is not another capital campaign. I'm not going to call or visit you; there will be no pledge cards or special envelopes. I'm just asking you to consider making a contribution toward the cost of the furnace. You can pay it over time if you like. You can make a single payment up front if that works for you. Just mark your contribution "furnace" or "capital fund".

We think the old furnace dates to when the Colonial Room was built in the early 1930's. Thank goodness for the commitment made by our members back then during the Depression, to pay it forward for something that would outlast them. The new furnace will outlast us; let's make the same commitment to the future, to pay it forward, as they did.

