



the newsletter

Stone Ridge, NY Rev. Caroline Berninger, Pastor



From the Pastor

Got Talent?

One of Jesus' parables, often called the "parable of the talents", is in Matthew 25 (and also Luke 19). Rather than being a particular skill or ability, a "talent" in the first century was a LOT of money—maybe as much as *fifteen years' wages* for a laborer. Jesus recounts how a wealthy man entrusted different quantities of talents, "to each according to his ability," to various servants before going on a long journey. Upon his return, he was immensely pleased by the returns yielded by the five-and-two-talent stewards (both had doubled the investment). The one-talent steward, though, had simply hidden away the wealthy man's money, not wanting to risk ANYTHING happening to the principal. For his fearfulness, he is consigned to outer darkness; the servants who used the talents entrusted to them to gain more were praised with the powerful words "Well done, good and faithful servant". [RSV translation]

Nearly two thousand years after our Lord told that story, it *still* has the power to make people squirm. Who, after all, doesn't want to hear the words "well done, good and faithful servant"...and have those words MEAN something? (When everyone gets a trophy just for showing up, eventually our confidence that words of praise are sincere erodes.) But who doesn't harbor the worry that maybe "this means YOU" when the one-talent servant is described...the one who was so afraid of failure that he did not even try.

A huge part of a life of faith is living with faith. (You may quote me on this.) At its best, a *community of faith* such as the church becomes a place in which individuals are both supported in their weaknesses and challenged to develop their strengths, all while keeping our hearts warm with love of God and neighbor. I hope you will read this newsletter with a heart and mind open to the many ways in which RVUMC is active in the larger community. Perhaps you might risk doing something new, maybe discovering hidden "talents" suitable for twenty-first century use! Which leads to Pastor Caroline's Handy Advice to RVUMC: "When considering whether to do something for the church, suitable responses include 'YES!' and 'I could try that!'"

Who knows...those responses probably won't get you a trophy around here, but they could lead to your being judged a "good and faithful servant".

Grace, peace, and strength to all,

*Pastor
Caroline*



ATTENTION KIDS OF ALL AGES ... BELL RINGERS WANTED !

Ringing the bells before church on Sunday is an important part of our worship service. It not only signals the congregation that the service is about to begin but it joyously proclaims to the community who we are and what we are about. It is also a fun way to involve our kids in the service. **But that's not all . . .** they can get their photo in the newsletter like Hayden! So, kids, come to church about ten minutes before the ten o'clock service, and **join the Bell Ringer's Club!**

Catskill Glee Club Christmas program

On Mon., Nov. 30 the Catskill Glee Club will present a Christmas program at 7:30 p.m. The men will sing a variety of Christmas music -- the very familiar and the less well known as well as an entertaining version of "Jingle Bells". Sponsors to be named in the program are being sought for a \$20 contribution. See Arnold Jones if you wish to participate.



In October 16th we celebrated the life of Phyllis Rose. She is with our Lord now and the sorrow is for us who will miss her for a long long time.

Sympathy

*to the family of Phyllis Lee Rose
September 16, 1931 - October 4th, 2015
Another service was held on October 10, in Pittsfield, IL*

A big thank you: to David Levy,

who offered a gift of love to the community with a concert of Native American Style Flutes, Chanting and Poetry on Tuesday, October 6th.

It was a healing and inspiring Celebration of Life.

RV TRUSTEES REPORT

Considerable work has been accomplished in the parsonage in preparation for our new Sexton's arrival. Some electrical work was needed to make some of the fixtures operational and safe. There were several places where wiring was incorrect so we made the necessary repairs. A new line in the basement was needed to safely operate the sump pump if needed. Repair of some of the ceilings damaged in a past storm was paid for with insurance money. The porch railing was strengthened, 2 rooms were painted, and a donation was received to pay for all new carpeting in the halls, family room and dining room. Smoke detectors & CO2 detectors are yet to be purchased.

At the church, we are in the process of coating the ramp with an anti skid paint, A new light fixture has been installed at the rear door. A great deal of painting has been done including; the red doors & white window & door trim.

There is still some work yet to be accomplished and we are listing those items in the Sunday bulletin asking for volunteers to step forward. Thanks go to all those volunteers who have already contributed to the successful completion of all that has been done to date.

As the weather gets colder the need for food assistance becomes greater. Many folks will be paying more to heat their homes leaving less in their budget to feed their families. If you forget to bring food or hygiene items, the food pantry gladly accepts checks.

**Please Don't Forget.
The need is ever present
and We can make a difference!**



PIE CRUST WANTED

RV Food pantry has asked us to collect **150** boxes of pie crust mix before Thanksgiving. Please bring as many as you can to the church. **We can do this!**

Christmas Cantata

The annual Christmas cantata will be held on December 19, 2015 at 2:00 at the Rondout Valley United Methodist Church.

The selection will be *Night of the Father's Love* by Pepper Choplin. Rehearsals will begin on 11/7/15 at 10:00 at the church.



Gifts for the Children's Home

We will be collecting gifts for the Children's Home in Binghamton NY again. Please check the list of gift suggestions below. Please bring the gifts (unwrapped) to the church before November 29.

Ipod Shuffle	New Release & Disney DVD's
Bath & Body Products	Baby/Todler Educational Toys
Movie Gift Certificates	Disney <i>Frozen</i> Merchandise
Food Certificates	Xbox 360 Games (Game Stop)
Drawing supplies	Winter Hats & Water Proof Gloves
Curling Irons/Flat Irons	Remote Control Cars & Trucks
Hair/Nail Gift Cards	Scrapbook & Scrapbook Supplies
Accessories & products (non Aerosol)	Pokemon & Yugio Cards
Coloring Books	Axe Cologne
Bionicles/Legos	Batteries
Arts & Crafts Supplies	Fun Socks
Star Wars / Minions	Makeup Kits
Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	Action Toys
MP3 players (without voice recording feature)	Transformers
Gift Cards (\$20 increments)	Diapers/Wipes
Certificates for online	Dolls/Barbie
Music Downloads	Portable Radios
	Fuzzy Posters

Also

Board Games:

Connect Four, Memory, Clue, Monopoly, Skip-Bo, Apples to Apples Jr., Cranium Jr., Chutes & Ladders, Scrabble Jr., Candy Land.

Books:

Glee, Sports, Goosebumps, Diary Of A Wimpy Kid

Sports Equipment:

Nike Youth Vapor Threat Footballs, Nike Outdoor Game Basketballs, Baseball Batting Gloves, Football Gloves, Baseball Gloves – Size 12.5

Clothing:

Team & Brand Name Sports Apparel (Giants, Jets, Yankees, Knicks, Heat, Lakers, Syracuse, North Carolina, Duke) & Hooded Sweatshirts (Mostly Adult Large, Extra Large & 2 Extra Large) & Team & Brand Name Hats/Caps, Nike & Under Armour Apparel, Exercise Shorts, Elite Basketball Socks.

REMEMBER . . .

COOKIE TIME IS COMING!

Have you seen some new and yummy looking cookie recipes? Now is the time to try them and bake some good old favorites as well. Cookie sales will be Nov. 20 and 21 (Thanksgiving) and the Christmas one on Dec. 11 and 12. So—clean up your oven and prepare. We will need cookies from all of our renowned bakers and also folks to sell them.



3 Traditional Home Cooked &
Sauerbraten Dinner

Saturday, November 7

One Serving 5:30pm

Rondout Valley United Methodist Church
Corner of Schoonmaker Ln. & Rt. 209

Complete three course meal! \$20 prepaid
(Seniors - \$18)

Purchase reservations by Wednesday, Oct. 28th by calling: 845 687-7071 or
(If no answer leave message including name and contact info.) 845 687-9061

You may also reserve your meal by e-mailing to: ajmhj@hvc.rr.com or
myantilane@gmail.com

or mail info and check payable to RVUMC: PO Box 295, Stone Ridge, NY 12484

Reserve early - Seating is limited! *No tickets sold at the door.*

Green Salad
Breads/Butter

Sauerbraten
Kartoffelkloesse
(potato dumplings)
Red Cabbage
Apple Sauce

Black Forest Cake
Apfelkuchen
Vanilla Ice Cream
&
Light Beverages

STONE RIDGE
RONDOUT VALLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Box 295
Stone Ridge, N. Y. 12484

The Native American Flute Program presented at the RVUMC on Oct. 5 by David Levy was very much



enjoyed by a group of about 30. David became known to us through the Rose-Lowe family. When Phyllis Rose was hospitalized David played his flutes in the hospital corridors and patient rooms. Phyllis found it so beautiful that she asked him to play at an RV church service which he did. After her death, he presented his complete program which was a treat for all who attended.

Thanks to Stephen Shirak who played the guitar and led the congregational singing at the RV Sunday service on Oct. 10.

THANK YOU to the Taylors for their landscaping vision and hard work that have beautified the belltower circle. Thanks to Bob and Nancy, there is now a brick walkway from the driveway to the tower, at the base of which Nancy has done some serious digging, weeding, planting and mulching.

You don't want to be worship leader but would like to contribute in some way to the Sunday service? Shirley Gilliland would welcome more volunteers to prepare and serve the after church coffee hour. See her for details.

Martha and Jackie's preschool program is operating at full speed at RV. Several 3 and 4 year olds were observed sitting on the couch with open books "reading" to each other. It was certainly not the printed word but probably very imaginative!

Church conference (commonly called "Charge Conference")

Will be Sunday, November 1st at 11:30 after worship with our *NEW* District Superintendent, Tim Riss who will be preaching. Trustees and church officers are elected at this time

Help needed for Sauerbraten Dinner

Help is needed for Sauerbraten Dinner on Saturday, November 7, 2015 one serving @ 5:30pm

Sunday, Nov. 1st after worship service - Set up tables and chairs in Sanctuary

Friday, Nov. 6th 10am - kitchen help, making kartoffelkloesse, setting tables, arranging food, beverage and desert stations

Saturday Nov. 7th - making salads, preparing beverages, dining room supervisor, servers (kitchen & dining room), ticket taker, dish washer & clean up

Sign up sheet in back of sanctuary or Call: Elaine @ 845 687-9061 or Nancy @ 845 687-0629

Upcoming Calendar Events *through Christmas*

November 1 - All Saints Day; new District Superintendent, Tim Riss, will worship with RVUMC

November 3 - Election Day Bake Sale

November 7 - Sauerbraten Dinner 5:30 PM

November 8 - Trustee meeting after Church

November 8 - Second Sunday Supper 5:30

November 8 - Newsletter articles due

November 15 - Newsletter distributed

November 17 - Ad Council meeting 6:30 PM

November 20 - Cookie Sale 2-5

November 21 - Cookie Sale 9:30-2

November 22 - Thanksgiving Service

November 29 - First Sunday of Advent

December 6 - Second Sunday of Advent

December 11 - Cookie Sale 2-5

December 12 - Cookie Sale 9:30-2

December 13 - Third Sunday of Advent

December 13 - Second Sunday Supper 5:30

December 15 - Ad Council meeting 6:30 PM

December 19 - Christmas Cantata Community

Performance 2:00 PM at the Church

December 20 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24 - Christmas Eve Candle Light Service, 7:00 PM (Thursday)

December 25 - Christmas Day (Friday)

Christmas shopping online?

Please remember that RVUMC is registered with two services that provide a donation to the church when you make purchases from various retailers.

They are:

www.goodshop.com

www.umcmarket.org

Both Goodshop (part of goodsearch) and UMCMarket work with many retailers: big box stores, department stores, but also specialty retailers and hotels and travel. Just make sure you go to whatever "store" you are purchasing online from by going through Goodshop or UMCMarket and that Rondout Valley United Methodist Church is entered as your "cause" **BEFORE** you start to fill your "cart"

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service returns to RVUMC this year!
SUNDAY NOV. 22 AT 3 PM AT RONDOUT VALLEY UMC