

# the newsletter

Stone Ridge, NY Rev. Caroline Berninger, Pastor

## From the Pastor

A recent article (from the Huffington Post, online) that I have shared with a number of Rondovians is titled “**How Tiny Congregations Survive And Thrive Despite The Odds**”. It refers to a 2015 study by the Hartford Institute for Religion Research authored by David Roozen, who describes what “thriving” looks like: “It comes down to being all you can be in a religious setting,” he said. “These congregations feel they are energetically living out their understanding of their call.” Hope thrives where change is welcome, Roozen said. “Thriving congregations are nearly 10 times more likely to have changed themselves than are struggling congregations.” The power of change is seconded by Nancy Ammerman, a professor at Boston University: “People haven’t lost the urge to congregate together spiritually. But how they do it is being expressed differently and the churches that do well are reshaping constantly,” she said.

With the abrupt closing of the RMCC preschool which has shared RVUMC’s space for more than a quarter-century, we at RVUMC have both the opportunity AND the necessity of rethinking, reworking and renewing how we are in ministry in Stone Ridge and beyond in 2016. The community and the culture are notably different from when our church on the hill was built in the early 1970s. How RVUMC changes so that we can best share the timeless Good News of God’s grace and forgiveness in Jesus is up to all of us. It’s an exciting place to be, but also deeply challenging because we confront the question “Who ARE you?”

Please join me in prayerful and thoughtful consideration of who we are and what we might become by the grace of God. Among the 21<sup>st</sup> century aspects of being a church—even a small church!—is an “online presence”. We need—SOON!—to update our website ([rvumc.org](http://rvumc.org)) to one of Clover Sites’ new designs; I would appreciate any input on what you like and dislike, find appealing or find confusing, on the current site. Ultimately, we will succeed in answering Who We Are as long as we remember Whose We Are.

Love and Grace to you all in the name of our Living Lord, Jesus.

Caroline

## Sympathy

to the loved ones of Helen Bogart.

August 23, 1917 - September 6, 2016 (Age 99!)

## Cookie Cavalcade! Time to think COOKIES again.

This year our Thanks-giving sale will be just

one day, Saturday, Nov. 19 from 9:30 am to 3 p.m. Remember that we will need lots of home baked contributions so start ahead and put in the freezer. Our cookies seem to be greatly appreciated and sell well. It is a relatively easy fundraiser and tasting by workers is allowed—as long as it is not excessive. It is always amazing how many different varieties appear without any planning. Our Christmas sale comes shortly after the Thanksgiving one—this is two days and we usually sell LOTS so our ovens will be busy.



## Adult study for the Fall: the Book of Genesis!

There are two (identical) sessions each week: Wednesday evening from 6:45 to 8:30 and Thursday morning from 9 to 10:45, both at RVUMC.

We are combining with friends old and new from Christ the King and their Rector, the Rev. Alison Quin, in "listening in" to an excellent DVD series of "A Living Conversation" led by Bill Moyers nearly 20 years ago. From Moyers' website: In these lively small-group conversations, dozens of accomplished people from all walks of life and many faith traditions bring their unique perspectives to 10 well-known biblical stories. They share personal insights, challenge ideas, and ultimately learn from each other. At the center of each discussion lies the Genesis story itself- by turns elusive, uplifting, shocking, tragic and poignant, but always endlessly fascinating. Agreed!



In Memory of Helen Bogart

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race,  
I have kept the faith."

2 Timothy 4:7

## Trustee Report

The work on the kitchen is progressing. The new countertop has been installed and is almost too nice to work on - we shall have to get accustomed to using it. Also two maple cutting boards are available so that we will not scratch its surface. The upper cupboards have been completely rebuilt and the shelves in the lower ones repaired where necessary. Slide out inserts have been installed in some to decrease the wear and tear on the knees.

The tile backsplash looks nice with the countertop and cost only a fraction of what we had planned because our contractor was able to find tiles for us at a very reasonable cost. The Dutch door leading into the Jones room will be replaced with a regular door shortly.

The trustees are attempting to choose a kitchen paint color by as democratic a process as possible and painting should start in two weeks or so! soon we will be installing a new floor covering in order for the first phase of the renovation to be completed. The funds for this renovation came from a bequest made to the church by Margaret Carro. Peg was always available to help with projects which involved using the kitchen so this seems an appropriate way to remember her. (Some tasty items made with her recipes still find their way to the RV Church.) Thanks go to the RV Trustees for the time and effort which has been spent on this project.

## A BEAUTIFUL "FENCING-IN"

We give thanks to Dan Rose for having the beautiful new fence installed around the bell tower as a gift to the church. Inside the fence a memorial garden is being developed with help from the Taylors. As present there are stones in memory of Phyllis Rose and Helen Bogart

## Cookies & Create

Discover the artist within you and help raise money for our church.

Sunday Nov. 13 1:00 ~ 4:30

at the Rondout Methodist Church

Come and create a colorful painting while munching delicious cookies!

No Artistic experience required



\$35 includes materials, instruction and goodies.

With professional step - by - step instructions you will go home with a beautiful painting!

Reserve your space by November 11 at the Rondout Methodist Church.

\$10 upon registration.

Call Jill @ 687-4110 by November 11 to reserve.



Makes a Wonderful Personal Gift !!!

## Upcoming Calendar Events

November 5 - Sauerbraten Dinner 5:30 PM

November 13 - Cookies & Create Painting Workshop  
2 - 4:30 pm

November 13 - Second Sunday Supper 5:30

November 15 - Ad Council meeting 6:30 PM

November 19 - Cookie Sale Saturday 10-2

November 20 - Thanksgiving Service TBD

November 27 - First Sunday of Advent

December 4 - Second Sunday of Advent

December 16 - Cookie Sale 2-5

December 17 - Cookie Sale 10-2

December 11 - Third Sunday of Advent

December 11 - Second Sunday Supper 5:30

December 20 - Ad Council meeting 6:30 PM

December 17 - Christmas Cantata Community  
Performance 2:00 PM at the Church

December 18 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

December 25 - Christmas Day (Sunday)



We are collecting gifts for the Children's Home in Binghamton NY again. Please check the list of gift suggestions on this page or on the fliers available at the church and select one (or more). Bring them **unwrapped** to Church **before November 27** and Arnold Jones will drive them to Binghamton.

### Ipod Shuffle

MP3 Players (Without Voice Recording)

Online Music Download Gift Cards

Movies on DVD

Movie Gift Cards

Bath & Body Products

Makeup Kits

Hair & Nail Products & Accessories

Men's Cologne

Fun Socks

Bionicles / Legos

Fleece Throw Blankets

Character Pillows

Board Games

Sports Equipment

Team Sports Apparel

Nike & Under Armour Apparel

### Baby / Toddler Educational Toys

Diapers/Wipes

Drawing Supplies

Coloring Books & Crayons

Arts & Craft Supplies

Scrapbook & Scrapbook Supplies

Baby Dolls & Barbie Dolls

Current Movie Theme Merchandise

Action Figures

Xbox 360 Games

Remote Control Cars & Trucks

Portable Radios

Collectable Cards

Books

Gift Cards (\$20 Increments)

Batteries

Our children range in age from newborn to 21 with the majority being 10 to 17. Items containing parental guidance warnings are discouraged. No used items or food products

Checks are also welcome but please don't put them in the boxes. Give them to Arnold payable to Children's Home and designate the funds for 'Gifts'.

## Extending a helping hand—

*with sturdy gloves on!*

The images this summer and fall of devastating flooding in West Virginia and Louisiana, and the destruction in this country and Haiti from Hurricane Matthew, really “hit home” with New Yorkers who remember the damage that Irene and Sandy brought to our region. In wondering what can we do to help, there are some concrete ways through the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR).

*UMCOR “is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization dedicated to alleviating human suffering around the globe. UMCOR’s work includes programs and projects in disaster response, health, sustainable agriculture, food security, relief supplies, and more.... our goal is to assist the most vulnerable persons affected by crisis or chronic need without regard to their race, religion, gender, or sexual orientation. We believe all people have God-given worth and dignity. UMCOR’s work reaches people in more than 80 countries, including the United States. We provide humanitarian relief when war, conflict, or natural disaster disrupt life to such an extent that communities are unable to recover on their own.” UMCOR has a four-star rating from Charity Navigator.]*

The Rondout Valley United Methodist Church (RVUMC) is collecting materials and donations through the month of October for Cleaning Buckets and Health Kits to be used in settings where natural disasters or conflict have displaced people from their homes. Health kits are distributed internationally; the buckets are used in the US. The church on Schoonmaker Lane in Stone Ridge (corner with Rt. 209) will be open to receive items and donations from 11-1 on Sundays Oct. 23 and 30; from 9 to 11 a.m. on Mondays the 24th and 31st; 9 to 11 on Wednesday the 26th and 2 to 4 on Friday afternoon Oct. 28th. Additionally, there will be people there during choir practice from 10 to noon on Saturday the 29th. If you wish to donate but need to arrange another time, please call the church at 687-9090. Each completed cleaning bucket is valued at \$65 and each Health Kit at \$12.

### *The contents of each Cleaning Bucket are as follows:*

- **5-gallon bucket with resealable lid**
  - Buckets from fast-food restaurants or bakeries can be used if washed and cleaned;
  - Do not use buckets that have stored chemicals such as paint or pool cleaner;
  - Advertisements on the outside are acceptable
- **Liquid laundry detergent:** One 50-oz. or two 25-oz. bottle(s) only.
- **Liquid household cleaner:** *No spray cleaners*
  - 12 - 16 oz. liquid cleaner that can be mixed with water;
- **Dish soap:** 16 - 28 oz. bottle any brand.
- **1 can air freshener:** Aerosol or pump.
- **1 insect repellent:** 6 - 14 oz. aerosol or spray pump with protective cover.
- **1 scrub brush:** Plastic or wooden handle.
- **18 cleaning wipes** (Handi Wipes or reusable wipes);  
*No terry cleaning towels*
- **7 sponges** *No cellulose sponges due to mold issues*

- **5 scouring pads**  
No stainless steel, Brillo pads, or SOS pads (nothing with soap built in).
- **50 clothespins**
- **Clothesline,** Cotton or plastic; One 100-ft. or two 50-ft. lines.
- **24-roll heavy-duty trash bags,** 33 to 45-gallon size;
- **5 dust masks**
- **2 pairs kitchen dishwashing gloves** durable enough for multiple uses.
- **1 pair work gloves,** Cotton with leather palm or all leather.

*For the contents of Health Kits, please check out the list at the church.*

*As a community, we CAN do a lot to help!*

## *Please keep these folks in our prayers*

Maggie Colan  
Richard Eppley  
Gloria Atkins



## *Heaven's Child*

A Cantata for Christmas

Rehearsals start Saturday Oct. 29. 10 am at RVUMC

## *News Flash from the Town of Marbletown:*

There WILL be a streetlight put on one of the poles near the intersection of Schoonmaker and 209.

This has been a LONG time coming; many thanks to those who have attended town meetings and submitted letters and emails over the years (yes, years).

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



**100**

*That is our Thanksgiving Challenge*

*100 cans of Evaporated Milk by November 6th.  
for the Food Pantry's Thanksgiving bags.*

**It is a tall order but we can do it!**



*Traditional Home Cooked*

# Sauerbraten Dinner

**Saturday, November 5**

**5:30pm – 7:30pm**

**continuous servings**

*at*

**Rondout Valley United Methodist Church**  
**25 Schoonmaker Ln., Stone Ridge, NY**

*Complete three course meal*  
**only \$22.00 prepaid**

**(\$20 Senior and children 5yrs plus)**

*Purchase Reservations by Wed., Oct. 26*  
*by calling: 845 687-7071 or 845 687-9061*

*(If no answer leave message including name,*  
*and contact information)*

*or reserve by email - [gjmhlj@hvc.rr.com](mailto:gjmhlj@hvc.rr.com) or*  
*[myantilane@gmail.com](mailto:myantilane@gmail.com)*

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

***Reserve early***

***seating is limited!***

*No tickets will be 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**