



the newsletter

Stone Ridge, NY Rev. Caroline Berninger, Pastor



From the Pastor
at the time of Charge/Church Conference
October 2017

It has been almost exactly one year since our 2016 Charge Conference; and what a year it has been. One year ago, a prodigiously weird and contentious electoral season was lurching to its end, though it feels to me as if the weirdness and contentiousness have, if anything, increased as the months have gone by. We are all gingerly navigating a year in which the previously unknown phrases “alternative facts,” “fake news,” and “twitter rant” are staples of everyday news.

As I’ve been studying the lectionary passages for the last Sunday in October, I have been reminded that no matter what is happening in the wider world, the church’s purpose and character should remain the same. From Paul’s first letter to the Thessalonians: *Our appeal isn’t based on false information, the wrong motives, or deception. 4 Rather, we have been examined and approved by God to be trusted with the good news, and that’s exactly how we speak. We aren’t trying to please people, but we are trying to please God, who continues to examine our hearts....We were glad to share not only God’s good news with you but also our very lives because we cared for you so much. [1 Thess 2:3-4m 8 CEB]*

Essentially, that’s what RVUMC and I have been trying to do, in the context of a very different culture and community from this congregation’s establishment in 1967. Some things continue: interfaith involvement including the community Thanksgiving and Baccalaureate services. Others change: the Revs. Alison Quin (Christ the King Episcopal), Aaron Schulte (Community Church of High Falls & Rochester Reformed) and I were so exhausted by recent years’ VBS-es that none of us could honestly commit to the effort—so we let it go this year. During the week when VBS would usually be, Jill Obrig led a wonderful art/nature camp at RVUMC. Children from 6 to 13 participated and created wonderful art inspired by God’s creation.

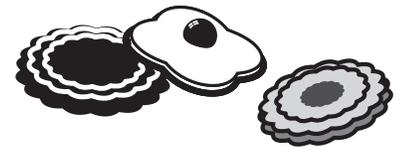
Our Lenten Study this year was of Adam Hamilton’s *Making Sense of the Bible*, a book I found to be sensible, and some found deeply challenging, in its approach to encouraging us to engage with the ancient texts that we profess to revere. Members of the community at large and other churches are always welcome to join our studies; some do, though not nearly as many as join our choir for the Easter and Christmas cantatas that Wendy Lowe has so ably selected and directed to bring the story of Jesus to both musicians and audience. Our most visible presence in the wider community right now is in our effort to assemble UMCOR “cleaning buckets” for hurricane relief. The “Bucket List” is widely available throughout the community as well as on our Web site, www.rvumc.org and www.umcor.org. We had a table at the town-wide fundraiser last Saturday and received donations starting then and continuing as word spreads.

Though we’ve been busy this year, we have a lot left to do:

the ramp replacement has been aggravatingly delayed, as has the belltower painting/repair, by contractors whose attentions are consumed by bigger jobs. The south side sanctuary roof IS done, and this may make possible future solar panels, which we have started to investigate. Parsonage issues abound. We must begin a campaign to raise sufficient funds for current and imminent capital needs for our not-so-brand-new-anymore buildings! We will move the church office from the basement to the currently unused classroom at the end of the Jones Room, I hope by Thanksgiving. The website cries out for more knowledgeable attention than I have given it, and will likely get it in the near future, thanks to a new member who found us through...the website! And, at last—as of last month—we are able to receive online and mobile donations handled through VANCO with which the denomination has an arrangement for UM Churches (no setup fee, no monthly fees for a year). While everyone can still give the ways they’re used to by cash or check, we are least beginning to move into the 21st century, which I’m told is already well underway.

May the Holy Spirit move among us all,
 today and in times to come...Grace and Peace,

Caroline



TIME TO TRY A NEW ONE.....

...cookie recipe that is. RVUMC has baked its way to a “name” in cookies. Our coming up sales are Sat. Nov 18 from 9:30 to 3 and Fri. Dec 15 from 2-5 and Sat., Dec.16 from 9:30to 2. The sale before Christmas is usually LARGE and the Thanksgiving one is also popular so it is time to get busy. The large freezer in the Jones Room is available for storage if you want to get an early start. Please be sure that the cookies are marked for the sale so that there will be no snacking by unauthorized personnel. Any variety of cookies is fine—we usually get a wonderful variety.

Sympathy

to the beloved ones of Elizabeth "Betty" Roarke
July 23, 1943 - September 30, 2017

We have a new roof on the south side of the sanctuary building. J and A Roofing did the job reasonably and neatly. It will prevent damage to the organ and piano if the old roof had leaked. We are now waiting for the contractor to start our new and necessary ramp leading to the community room door. Our Hudson-Catskill district has given us a grant for a portion of the cost but we must come up with the rest. Contributions are always welcome—make them for the Ramp Fund. We have discovered a serious problem concerning the parsonage. There is substantial mold in the building, especially the basement. It will take time and we will be taking steps to try to remedy the situation.

The professionally cost estimate to treat this is way beyond our resources. At the moment we have dehumidifiers running in the main part of the house and in the cellar:

many thanks to Tom Atkins for contributing the large cellar one and for the loan of two for the main floor by Pastor Caroline and the Jones. After things get somewhat dried out, we will need many hands to help with the clean-up. We hope to get some assistance from the haz-mat group in our New York Conference. Since the church is not using the back small classroom, it has been decided to make it into a church office. Except for some new carpet and window treatments, little needs to be done. Arnold Jones will lay the carpet so the cost will be minimal.

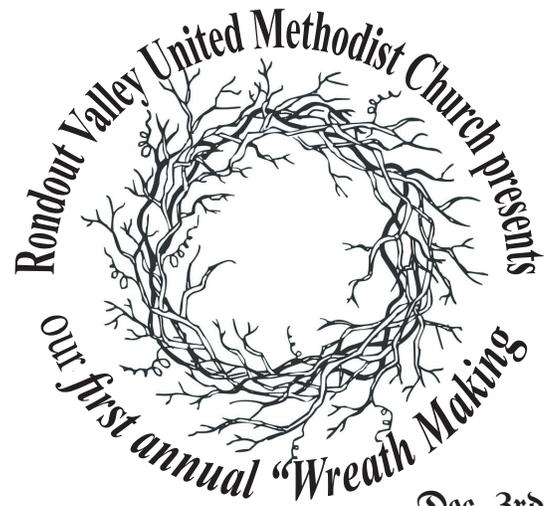
Call for Ideas:

At our latest PPR meeting it was suggested and agreed upon that we need to explore ways of attracting younger folks and couples (especially those with kids). We would like to reach out to all of you for suggestions for events, alternative services or other “happenings” that might appeal to more youthful parishioners. If you have any ideas please write them down and put them in the collection plate or email me at bartok@braxtonh.com.

Help us Grow

MUSIC TO OUR EARS

On Monday, Dec. 4 the Catskill Glee Club will again grace our sanctuary with its Christmas program. There will be a great variety of Christmas music, all of which sounds wonderful in our acoustically superior space. Plan to come and bring anyone you know who enjoys this type of music—and maybe some who think they don't. They may be pleasantly surprised!



Dec. 3rd
from 1 to 2:30 pm.

Rondout Valley United Methodist Church presents our *first annual “Wreath Making”* – fun, for families of all ages, on Sunday, Dec. 3rd from 1-2:30pm.

For this festive season, come, bring the kids, and enjoy a new Family Tradition making a beautiful wreath for your home! This wreath is made of natural vines, so you can re-use it for years to come!

Sip some apple cider, eat some donuts or fruits and create your own personal wreath. Families are welcome as this is a family affair not to miss! Donation is whatever you want, however the suggested donation is \$15.00 per family at the door. Space is limited to 20 families so sign up early, Contact Jill at 750-5515.

Christmas Cantata

“Lead Me Back to Bethlehem”



We invite the community to join us and hear the beloved story retold in words and music in a way that will draw you in to experience the events and moods of this familiar story in new and different ways.

Pepper Choplin summarizes his message for this cantata in this quote from one of the selections entitled, Lead Me Back to Bethlehem.

*I've been there many times before,
But this time how I yearn
To feel the joy, the peace and love.
O help me to return.*

The choir which includes many community members will be accompanied by a small instrumental group and pianist, Daniel Young.

Please mark your calendars for December 16 2:00 pm and join us. Refreshments will follow the presentation.

We thank Tom Konrad who has done much work for the Town of Marbletown on the use of solar energy. He came to talk to the RV Administrative Board about the possibility of placing solar panels on our new south roof. No decision has been made but the idea is certainly worthy of consideration.



Those of us who occasionally get to the church during the mornings, miss seeing and hearing the preschool children, especially the ones who announced our presence! The Jones Room is available now for the use of groups so if you know of a non-profit group who needs space, have them contact us.

Jill Obrig used the Jones Room for a successful "art camp" in late August. The roster was filled with kids 6-12 years in age who apparently enjoyed combining art and the outdoors, a good use for our space.

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 26** and Arnold Jones will drive them to Binghamton.

Upcoming Calendar Events

- November 4 - Sauerbraten Dinner 5:30 PM
- November 5 - Newsletter articles due
- November 12 - Newsletter distributed
- November 12 - Second Sunday Supper 5:30
- November 19 - Ad Council meets after Church
- November 18 - Cookie Sale Saturday 10-2
- November 19 - Thanksgiving Service (time TBD)
- November 23 - Thanksgiving Day

- December 3 - First Sunday of Advent
- December 10 - Second Sunday of Advent
- December 10 - Second Sunday Supper 5:30
- December 15 - Cookie Sale 2-5
- December 16 - Cookie Sale 10-2
- December 16 - Christmas Cantata Community Performance 2:00 PM at the Church
- December 17 - Third Sunday of Advent
- December 17 - Ad Council meets after Church
- December 24 - Fourth Sunday of Advent
- December 24 - Christmas Eve Candle Light Service, 7:00 PM (Sunday)
- December 25 - Christmas Day (Monday)

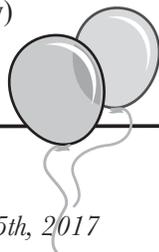
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|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| iPod Shuffle | Baby/Toddler Educational Toys |
| MP3 players (without Voice Recording) | Online Music Download Gift Cards |
| Drawing Supplies | Movies on DVD |
| Coloring Books and Crayons | Movie Gift Cards |
| Arts & Craft Supplies | Baby Dolls & Barbie Dolls |
| Action Figures | Xbos 360 Games |
| Legos | Remote Control Cars & Trucks |
| Fleece Throw Blankets. | Character Pillows |
| Collectable Cards | Board Games |
| Books | Sports Equipment |
| Gift Cards (\$20 Increments) | Team Sports Apparel |
| Nike & Under Armour Apparel | |

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'.



Welcome!!!



*Alexander Grant Pickard
born to Jonathon and Stacey on August 25th, 2017
(In Webster, NY)*

*Evelyn Beverly Stein
born to Ben and Amanda Schmidt Stein;
she joins big brother William Peyton (2 years old now!)
(in Alabama)*

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



≡ 150 ≡

That is our Thanksgiving Challenge
150 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 4, 2017

**Rondout Valley
United Methodist Church**

Green Salad
Breads/Butter

5 Schoonmaker Ln., Stone Ridge, NY

Sauerbraten
(Marinated Beef)

Kartoffelkloesse
(Potato Dumplings)

Rotkohl
(Red Cabbage)

Apfelmus
(Apple Sauce)

Sortiert Kuchen
(Assorted Cakes/Pastries)

Vanille Eis
(Vanilla Ice Cream)

Lebkuchen Kekes
(Gingerbread Cookies)

&
Light Beverages

\$22.00 *(\$20 Sr. & children 12 yrs. & under)*

Reserve your sit down or take out meal by Sat., Oct. 28

by calling: 845 687-7071 or 845 687-9061

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

by e-mail: djmhj@hvc.rr.com or myantlane@gmail.com

or 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

Continuous Servings 5:30pm – 7:30pm

