

The Good News

nauraushaun
church

51 Sickletown Road, Pearl River, NY 10965 845-735-4565



March
2010

From the Pastor

Last week was full of news: severe weather and loss of power for some in our area, highs and lows of the Olympics, a presidential health care summit, a tragic earthquake in Chile. At Nauraushaun, after bible study, discussion, and prayer with the session, I invited them to adopt a provisional mission statement for our foreseeable future: “Love God, Love Neighbor, Follow Jesus.”

Simple, right? It’s a mission even our youngest children can understand, that we can share in a conversation with someone who might never think to set foot in a church building. And yet, for anyone who has spent some time trying to follow through on this, you know it’s not always easy, that it takes a lifetime of faith – what we call discipleship.

The first four words, based on the great commandment, remind us of

the importance of growing in our relationships with God and our neighbor, and that it is in loving God and neighbor that we find life, as individuals and as a church. The last two, “follow Jesus,” remind us that we love Jesus’s way, that we have a master teacher who shows us the steps.

I am excited about these six words, because they describe both who we are and who we are becoming.

They are what we strive to live out every time we worship on a Sunday, care for someone who is sick, or serve those in need. And yet we are at a point in our church’s life when I sense both longings and a need to grow in nurturing our relationships with God and with our neighbors – whether neighbors who live and work close to the church building, or unknown neighbors who live two doors away.

Loving God and loving neighbor is also radically counter-cultural, yet abundantly life-giving. As much as the word “love” gets used (I myself have been known to “love” a great hamburger), how many ever get to experience the unconditional love that these words describe? On one level it is crazy – why would you give your heart, mind, soul, and strength to someone (like God) you will never fully see, whose existence you’ll never prove? Why would you love someone simply because they happen to be a neighbor? Yet Jesus says do these things, and we will live. It’s the way God’s love gets shared the “Jesus way”, one person at a time.

At the end of worship yesterday, one of you shared a story. You were out shoveling snow last week,

(Continued on page 4)

March Worship

Laura Cunningham is preaching during the month of March.

March 7: *Ushers:* **Jim and Judy Waters**; *Liturgist:* **Paul Phinney**; *Communion Servers:* **Diane Coiro, Judy Bunyar, Thelma and Don Albright**

March 14: *Ushers:* **Jim and Judy Waters**; *Liturgist:* **Dotty Goren**

March 21: *Ushers:* **Jim and Judy Waters**; *Liturgist:* **Jim Waters**

March 28: *Palm Sunday:* *Ushers:* **Jim and Judy Waters**; *Liturgist:* **Carol Dornbush**



From the Editor

My grandmother used to say, “If you can’t say something good about a person, don’t say anything.” I’d like to modify that truism to add, “If you can say something nice about a person, DO say it.”

Thoughtless words can hurt—and be remembered for years. When I was seven months pregnant with my second child, I had an operation to remove a cyst in an unfortunate spot. The day after the operation the nurse announced that I needed to have warm a sitz-bath

every few hours to help things heal. She arrived with a small tub, and was quite annoyed when I said there was no way that, with my big tummy, I could possibly fit in the thing. But she took a look and said, “Oh, my, you DO have a big bottom!” That was 50 years ago, and I can still picture her making that pronouncement—to the delight, I am sure, of my roommates.

On the other hand, sometimes a chance remark can make you feel wonderful. Recently I was comparing yogurts at ShopRite, and I

noticed a woman staring at me. Realizing that she was making me uncomfortable, she said, “I’m sorry for staring, but you have such beautiful skin!” She absolutely made my day.

Perhaps even more important than biting your tongue to avoid making a nasty comment is taking the time to just say something nice to a friend or a stranger. It just may make the world a nicer place for someone.

Peace,

Barbara DeVries

One Great Hour of Sharing

The yearly One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be collected on Easter Sunday. Especially in this time when both Haiti and Chile have been devastated by earthquakes, it is urgent to join with churches of many faiths to collect offerings to be used in world disaster relief. Please be prayerfully generous.

Pump, community hygiene training:  **One great hour of sharing**

\$1,000

It's Remarkable What Your Gift Will Do.

New Members Group

A New Members group is planned in April. Anyone considering exploring the possibility of joining the church please contact Pastor Laura Cunningham.

Ash Wednesday Pancake Supper

As you know, snow forced the cancellation of the Annual Shove Tuesday Pancake Supper. However, all the non-perishables had already been purchased, so our chefs are planning to have a pancake supper when the weather becomes more reliable. We'll let you know when a date is set.

The Greening of Nauraushaun

Lyanda Lynn Haupt, author of *Crow Planet: Essential Wisdom from the Urban Wilderness*, writes eloquently and persuasively about the interconnectedness of life. About the natural world that is right here in Nanuet and Pearl River, not just in Harriman, the Adirondacks, or the coast of Maine. She writes



“We eat food that comes from the soil, the sun, the sky, and...(return it) back into the sewer. We are incapable of isolation. Every time we sip wine, feed the cat, order pizza, watch Survivor, every time we do anything, anything at all, we are brushing, however surreptitiously, however beneath our awareness—however, even against our will—a wilder, natural world. Such awareness is simultaneously daunting and beautiful. It means that everything we do matters, and matters wondrously. More than we thought, more than we can even know. Yes, of course we must do all of the things we now know by rote: we must replace our incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescents, and recycle, and compost, and ride our bikes, and buy organic, local, biointensive, fair-trade. All of it. And if we can manage these things with a joyful heart, then all the better. But this is not about checklists, is it? About the reduction of our planetary relationships to a mean tally of resources used, saved, and available? It is about a habit of being, a way of knowing, a way of dwelling. It is about attentive recognition of our constant, inevitable continuity with life on earth, and the gorgeous knowledge this entails. There is a crow’s nest in the neighbor’s yard, and there are feathers at our feet. We walk around like poems—our lives infused with meaning beyond themselves.”

Pearl River Public Library has this wonderful book.

Nauraushaun Kids Unplugged

The first monthly event for children, co-sponsored by our congregation and the Nauraushaun Nursery School on Saturday, February 27, was a rousing success! In spite of heavy snow the three days prior, 60 children enjoyed an energetic musical hour jumping, singing, and dancing with Mr. Kurt. The kids, along with parents and grandparents, enjoyed cookies, cupcakes, and juice after the program (with coffee for the grownups). Proceeds of \$130 from the show were donated to the Jawonio Early Childhood Education Services.



The March Unplugged event will be held on **Saturday, March 20, at 10:30 AM** in our sanctuary, and will feature Sarah Lantigua, with a program of children’s music. Cost is \$8 per family, and proceeds will go to charity.

The Unplugged Events provide an opportunity for children to enjoy participating in non-electronic activities that stimulate both mind and body. Pass the word to all your friends and neighbors with young children in our area.

Helping Hands

Our last sheltering nights of this sheltering season will be **Sunday, April 4 and Monday, April 5**. Yes, Easter night and the Monday following. Nauraushaun should be very proud of our loyal, energetic volunteers who have so graciously and generously given of their time, talents, and food to shelter and care for our appreciative guests for nine nights in December, January, March, and April.

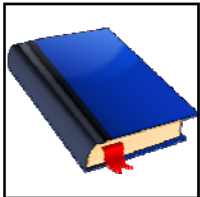


At present, Helping Hands' needs are for the following items (please, NO canned or other food right now):

- New underwear and socks (always!)
- Toiletries, especially travel size
- Gently used warm outdoor clothing/coats
- Gloves, warm headgear
- Gently used boots and sneakers

Even if you never met her, I know a sympathy card would be appreciated by: **Mary Hussain**, 6112 Webb Ave., Crossville, TN 38555. Mary and her partner, John, encamped in the woods behind KFC on Rt. 59 in Nanuet for many years, and finally had an opportunity to have a home and better life in Tennessee a couple of years ago—one of Helping Hands' success stories. John was killed in a traffic accident on February 25.

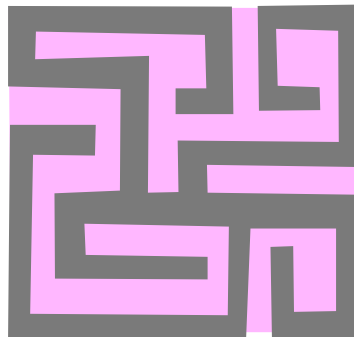
Book Discussion Group



The Nauraushaun Book Group meets for lunch at Mia Cucina in Blauvelt the first Wednesday of each month. The book being discussed in March is *An Altar in the*

World, by Barbara Brown Taylor. The April book will be selected at that meeting. Contact the church office for more information.

Good Friday Labyrinth



A Meditation Labyrinth will be available the afternoon of **April 2, Good Friday, between 1 and 5:30 PM**, in the church parlor. If you have never walked the labyrinth in preparation for Easter, you will find this quiet meditation a deeply spiritual experience.

From the Pastor (Continued from page 1)

mind your own business, when a neighbor you had seen before, but never met, came up and offered to help. In your words, I heard you giving thanks for the way snow can make friends out of strangers, and can move you one step closer to loving your neighbor.

As we continue through this season of Lent, we may have more snow (although I hope not). My hope is that we won't wait for snow, but that we will look at ourselves and ask how we might fall more deeply in love with God, sharing that love with those around us, and that we will support each other on our common journeys. May all of us grow in how we love God, love neighbor, and follow Jesus, to the cross and beyond.

Blessings, *Laura*

Women's Association

Please note a date change: The Spring "Hi" Tea in will be held on Saturday, May 8, from 2-4 PM.

Circle Meetings are held in the church parlor during the second week of each month, and all women are invited to visit any of the circles. Circles in March will meet:

Morning Circle: Tuesday, March 9, at 9:30 AM

Midday Circle: Thursday, March 11, at 11:30 AM

Evening Circle: Thursday, March 11, at 7:30 PM

Concerts in March

The Hudson Valley Piano Club will present Bryan Wagorn on Sunday, March 21, at 2 PM in the Naurausaun sanctuary. Admission: \$5.

Nyack College will present three concerts in Pardington Hall in March. On **Saturday, March 6, at 2:30 PM** Dr. Tammy Lum will perform Schumann and Chopin No. 1 in E minor Concertos, accompanied by Craig Williams, organist of the West Point Cadet Chapel.

On **Monday, March 29 at 7 PM**, Dr. Tammy Lum, piano, Dr. Chungsun Kim, cello, and Prof. Sungrai Sohn, violin, will present piano trios by Schumann and Chopin. Admission to these concerts is free.

On **Wednesday, March 31, at 8 PM, Joel Jameson** will direct the Nyack College Chorale in John Rutter's "Magnificat." Donations accepted.

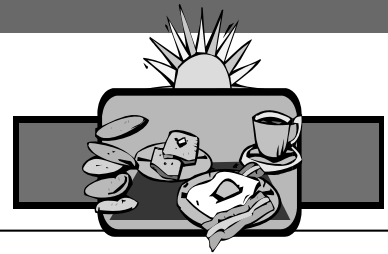
Volunteers Needed!

South Rockland Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers has been helping seniors in Clarkstown and Orangetown since 1995 with transportation to medical appointments and errands, food shopping, friendly visits, and telephone reassurance.

There are many seniors in our community whose children and network of friends have moved a distance away and who are in need of help so they can continue to live in their homes. Please call (845) 267-2154 if you can help by volunteering 1-2 hours a week, or month. **A senior's independence depends on you!**

Quote of the Month

"We have just enough religion to make us hate one another, but not enough to make us love one another." - Jonathan Swift



Second Sunday Breakfast

Breakfast will be served on Sunday, March 14, from 8-9 AM. The men of the church will be once again serving a delicious selection of breakfast treats. Come and enjoy a tasty meal, good conversation, and fellowship before worship. Donation is \$3.

Thursday Prayer Group

The Prayer Group meets each Thursday morning, at 7 AM at the church. Everyone is invited to join the group; bring your concerns for the support of communal prayer.



Come; be filled with the power of praying together.

We are a fragrance-free church.

Due to health concerns of some of our members, please refrain from wearing fragrances such as cologne, aftershave, or scented lotion to worship.

Thanks for your consideration.

Church Mouse

◆ Please remember to bring fruit (particularly bananas and individual snap top fruit cups) each Sunday for the **Spring Valley Interfaith Breakfast Program**. Remember, we are the only church providing the fruit for bag lunches.



◆ **Carol Boyatsis** has a laser printer that she will be happy to give to anyone who can use it. It's an excellent printer, in good condition. The cartridge has some ink in it, but will need replacing shortly. Call Carol at (845) 623-3023.

◆ **Available for rent:** spacious 2-bedroom garden apartment and a 1-bedroom + bonus room apartment in a charming Victorian

house. If you know someone looking for an apartment, contact Cliff Stiebeck at (914) 263-3364. No Fees.

◆ Like trains? **The Society of Model Engineers**, located



at 341 Hoboken Rd, Carlstadt, NJ, is having its spring Model Train Show for three weekends: March 12, 13, 14, March 19, 20, 21, and March 26, 27, 28. Fridays from 7 - 10 PM, Saturday and Sunday, 1 - 6 PM. There are both "HO" and "O" Scale layouts, and a World War II Memorabilia Exhibit. Call **Evan DeVries** (845) 735-4261 for information and directions.

Concerns of the Church

- ◆ Our prayers are with **Marge Hoermann's sister, Alice**, who is hospitalized, and with Marge and her family.
- ◆ Continuing prayers of love and concern are with **Helene Schaefer** as she recovers from heart surgery, and with Karl and Juli as they support her.
- ◆ Prayers of support and concern are with **Suzanne Burgio and her husband, John**, as he deals with illness.
- ◆ Ongoing prayers for with **Janet Greene** in Pine Valley Nursing Home.

March Birthdays

- 03/01 **Donna Andrews**
- 03/01 **Chloe Chanin**
- 03/01 **Janet Greene**
- 03/01 **Steve Rockefeller**
- 03/07 **Evan Axt-Ohannesyan**
- 03/05 **Michie Palaia**
- 03/08 **Jim Waters**
- 03/11 **Martha Miller**



- 03/12 **Pat Conklin**
- 03/14 **Adele Schnell**
- 03/14 **Juliana Chauncey**
- 03/16 **Judy Schiller**
- 03/19 **Frank Palaia**
- 03/21 **Kathleen Fahmi**
- 03/22 **John Charles Cirilli**
- 03/23 **Ruth Wainwright**

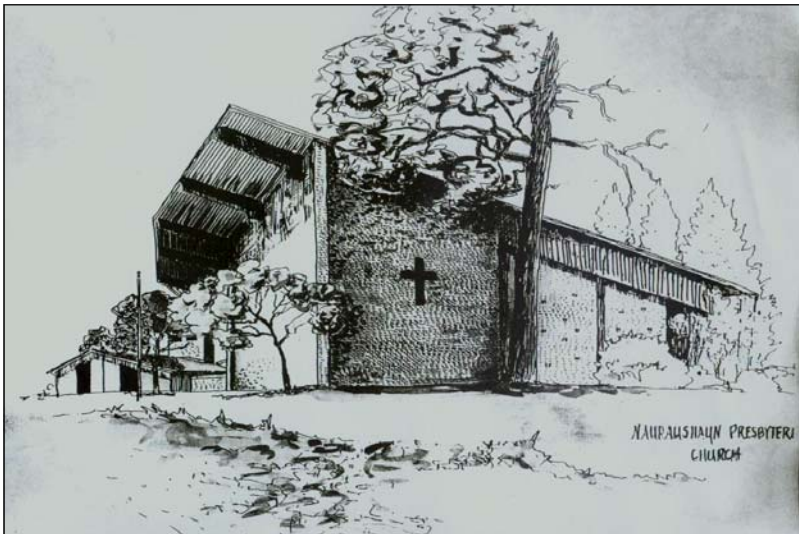


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***A More Light
Congregation where we
joyfully welcome ALL
people who worship God
through Jesus Christ***

***Visit us on the
web at
www.NPCpearl.org***

The NPC newsletter is published monthly. If you would like to provide a story or information to be included in the newsletter, please provide your submissions by the 15th of each month to Barbara DeVries by email at bdved1@aol.com or leave it in the Newsletter Box in the Church Office, or email the church office at npcpearl@verizon.net.

