

# The Pulpit Rock

The Nahant Village Church ~ 27 Cliff Street, Nahant, MA 01908  
where everybody belongs

## December 2017

2nd Christmas Fair 9 am-2 pm

**3rd 1st Sunday of Advent**

*Communion Sunday*

10:30 am - Worship

11:30 am - Fellowship

**10th 2nd Sunday of Advent**

10:30 am - Worship

11:30 am - Fellowship

12th Trustees' Meeting 7:00 p.m.

**17th 3rd Sunday of Advent**

9:00 am - Special Children Time

10:30 am - Worship

11:30 am - Fellowship

**24th 4th Sunday of Advent**

10:30 am - Worship

11:30 am - Fellowship

**24th Christmas Eve Service**

6:30 pm - Special Music

7:00 pm - Candlelight Service

## Merry Christmas



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## January 2018

5th Community Breakfast

**7th 1st Sunday after Epiphany**

*Communion Sunday*

10:30 am - Worship

11:30 am - Fellowship/Soup Sunday

9th Trustees' Meeting 7:00 p.m.

**14th 2nd Sunday after Epiphany**

10:30 am - Worship

11:30 am - Fellowship

Serve at My Brother's Table

20th Silent Movie Night/Potluck

5:30 pm - Potluck Supper

7:00 pm - The Gold Rush



### Co-Moderators

The holidays are upon us. Christmas is just around the corner.

They say it is the time for giving. That feels about right.

Giving can be an interesting concept. Think about the gifts that we receive daily. Gifts that really matter, respect, compassion, fairness and truth.

Our next holiday seems to sum it all up, give thanks.

Thanks for the people in our lives. Thanks for the bounty that God has given us.

Thanks for each other. We can thank our waitress who refills our coffee cup at the diner.

We can hold the door for the person behind us at the market.

We can acknowledge the person bagging our groceries; no one wants to be invisible.

In this world of give and take we can also learn the latter. We can take the time to make time, for friends and family. Or an elderly neighbor or shut-in down the street.

We can take advantage of the opportunity to keep our mouths shut when our coworker or in-law talks nonstop about how the Red Sox should have done this or that.

We can seek a quiet moment in that crowded shopping mall, to sit in a corner with a cup of coffee, just to be quiet. To take in all the crazy rushing around, and to let go of it. To silence the volume, just for a few minutes.

Have a safe and Merry Christmas.

Respectfully yours,

*Rich Stevens and Maria Welsh*

### Upcoming Events

#### **Bible Studies**

Thursdays at 11am

#### **Christmas Fair**

Saturday, December 2nd

9:00 am - 2:00 pm

#### **Worship at Jesmond**

December 14 at 9:30 am

**Come sing Christmas carols with the Compassionate Care Group**

### Worship Themes for December

#### **December 3rd**

**Hope Sunday/Communion Sunday**

*Luke 21:25-36*

#### **December 10th**

**Peace Sunday**

*Luke 1: 5-25, 57-663*

#### **December 17th**

**Joy Sunday**

*Psalm 126; Luke 1:26-38*  
Children in Pageant Costume

#### **December 24**

**Love Sunday**

*Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26; Luke 1:46-56*

#### **December 24**

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**





## A Year of Wonder and Hope

Dear Nahant Village Church Members and Friends,  
Christmas Eve, one year ago, was my first taste of You! With Reverend Patricia Long's fabulous leadership, I enjoyed meeting you through candlelights, Christmas Carols, and a story to blow our socks off: A child born in Bethlehem who would change the world forever.

Yes, our first evening together was full of light and life. I believe that we have continued to give birth to the many possibilities for Nahant Village Church during these last 12 months. I'd like to review the highlights that stand out for me.

The Transition Team consisting of Chris Alexander, Marrit Hastings, Maria Welsh, Bill Crawford, Jen McCarthy, and Nancy Cantelmo has been this year's *behind the scenes* star-studded-collaborative. While supporting me as your minister, they have also been creating a profile that reflects the truth about who we are and who are our neighbors. Moving forward, the 2018 discovery will be about *who do we want to become*. I love this team! Thank you.

The NVC staff has been steadfast in their work to create space for God's love to shine. Herman Weiss is a brilliant musician and creator of magic as he accompanies our hymns and leads the choir. He offers wisdom, from his Jewish traditions, while celebrating the many Christian rituals enhanced by his experiences. Staci Paro, our former Administrator, welcomed me as her co-pilot immediately. She adapted to a new energy and a renewed excitement at the church. When she shifted gears and accepted a full time position with benefits somewhere else, we grieved and supported her at once. Thank you Staci!! Months later, we found a new administrator in a Nahant resident Susan Gilbert, whose kindness, skills, and vision will help us continue to grow and move into the future. Our Sunday School is blessed with the compassion and love of Sue Edwards. Children know they belong when they are wrapped in the warm smile of Sue and her co-leader Rachael McCarthy. AND Andy Puleo. At first, I never saw Andy without Cal Hastings, chair of Buildings and Grounds. I playfully named them Frick and Frack, suggesting we commemorate a room to their partnership. Andy is dedicated and loves being at NVC when he is not babysitting for his grandchildren. Diane Gaucher, in partnership with Marrit Hastings, leads the Village Ringers with grace and passion. I feel blessed by her magic wand that she waves before the

Bell Choir - a sign that we are in good hands with chimes and bells.

Two new ministries have emerged during this first year of our time together. Parents Children Spirit (PCS) is a monthly gathering for young families. With the support of guitar music, puppets, prayers, and storytelling, local families have joined our congregation for spiritual growth and connection. And a newly formed "Compassionate Care Group" is offering worship services at the Jesmond as well as support for the new "Memory Cafe" for dementia patients and caregivers.

I have baptized three children here in Nahant, one in the ocean, and I am planning to marry two couples in the upcoming year. We continue to see a growing number of people visit the church on Sunday mornings, some of whom return often.

As a grief counselor, I have been able to work with several families following a loss. We have seen a higher instance of suicide and drug overdoses in our area. NVC is well prepared to be a healing home for people who are grieving. Our outreach to the community has included creating safe haven for the funerals of beloved church and community members. I am honored to accompany you and your neighbors during times of despair and sorrow. Finding glimmers of hope in the midst of sadness is a clear purpose of Christianity!

Speaking to the Friday morning breakfast group, the women's club, and the summer camp children with music and puppets has enabled me to meet extended community and families in Nahant. Sharing our sanctuary with singers and musicians such as Ute Gfrerer, the Men's Saengerfest Choir, the NVC Choir, the Village Ringers, my son Lee, and children's voices has been my joy!

Our ministry together this year is a sign that Nahant Village Church is able to walk vibrantly into the future with grace and hope. I am grateful to everyone who has joined me for worship by reading scripture, testifying to their faith, praising God in prayer, and simply showing up with a curious and open heart.

Advent is a time in our Christian calendar to honor the darkness in our world. So many humans around the globe are struggling in the shadows of hardship. The Advent wreath is our weekly reminder to be bearers of Christ's hope, bringing light into the darkness. Please join me every Sunday in December to prepare the way for the birth of God's light in this world. Christmas will be our opportunity to welcome the peace of God into our midst and begin once again to follow a child's playful vision of God in this world!

With gratitude and love, **Reverend Laura**

## Christmas Fair Saturday, December 2

Please join us for a traditional social and pre-Christmas celebration at the NVC.

Thanks to all.

### **\*\* Community Breakfast\*\***

Due to the Christmas Fair.

**there will be no breakfast in December**

The next breakfast will be held on **Friday, January 5th**

### **Help Wanted for Santa Parade**

We need a few volunteers to be hosts for the **Santa Parade on Saturday, Dec. 23rd** which will stage once again at our Church. Volunteers need to be at the Church from 4:00 p.m. to about 6 p.m. to serve hot cocoa and coffee. Everything will be set up, preprepared and available, all you need to do is be there to greet parade participants and offer them some warm holiday cheer. Contact Andy or Roz Puleo or Cal or Marrit Hastings if you can extend a helping hand. Thank you in advance.



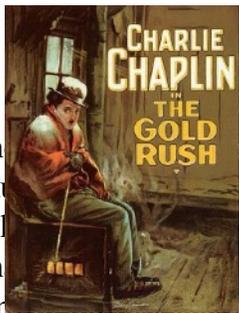
### **Christmas Eve Service**

**December 24 7:00 pm**

**Special music begins at 6:30 pm**

Invite your family and friends for the Village Ringers, instrumental music, and to join in with Christmas carols and candle lighting.

### **Advance Tickets To Silent Movie available at the Fair**



The Silent Movie Night, preceded by potluck supper, is planned

on **Friday, January 20th**. The

movie is "The Gold

and starring

the movie was

is acclaimed

to be

one of the best and most influential films ever produced.

In 1998, the American Film Institute chose "The Gold Rush" as one of the 100 greatest films ever made.

Live piano accompaniment will be provided by Rob Humphreville. This is a **NOT TO MISS EVENT!** Tickets are \$17.50, if bought before the end of the year; \$20 starting January 1. Get your tickets early since seating is limited. **The potluck supper starts at 5:30 p.m.; the movie will be shown in the Chapel at 7 p.m.**



### **Let's Share Some Christmas Cheer**

by participating in our traditional **White Christmas** which brings some holiday cheer to needy individuals and families with children. Donations of gift cards to food or clothing stores (not to exceed \$50 each) will be greatly appreciated. Please make sure that your name appears on your donation, so that we can properly credit this on your year-end giving statement. If you prefer, donations also can be made by check, with White Christmas written in the memo line.

Also, let us take this opportunity to thank our staff for all they have done in the past year: Rev. Laura, Herman, Andy, Sue Edwards, and Susan Gilbert (our new AA). If you wish to donate, please write in "Staff Gifts" in the memo line of your check.

Donations for White Christmas and/or Staff Gifts must be received no later than Sunday, December 17.

### **New Century Hymnal**

We are very pleased to announce that on Sunday, October 15, the congregation unanimously approved the purchase of new hymnals. The vote was 23-0 in favor. Although these new hymnals will not replace our current hymnals, they will be a special addition to our current music as they contain all-inclusive language. This hymnal is in addition to our Red Hymnal.

This is an opportunity to dedicate a new hymnal to someone you love, in honor of, or in memory of. The cost of the new hymnal is \$25.00. Yellow forms to place your order for the new hymnal can be found in the Narthex and Companionway and can be left with a check (Memo Line New Hymnal) in the Treasurer's mailbox (on the Administrative Assistant's door) or given directly to Susan Gilbert, our new Admin Assistant. A sample book plate is shown on the back of the form.



## ORDER YOUR CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA NOW



The altar and sanctuary will be decorated with poinsettias for the Christmas Eve Service on Sunday, December 24th.

The cost per poinsettia is \$12.

Please make your check out to the Nahant Village Church.

Please complete the form below and send it with your check ***no later than Monday, December 18th*** to:

Nahant Village Church,  
PO Box 77, Nahant, MA 01908  
Attn: Lissa Stempek

The form and check may also be placed in the offering plate.

We are requesting that you TAKE YOUR POINSETTIA AFTER THE SERVICE ON CHRISTMAS EVE.

(Any poinsettias that are left will be given to someone who is ill, homebound and unable to get out to church.)

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### POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

I wish to purchase \_\_\_\_\_ poinsettia(s) for Christmas.

I would like my name printed in the bulletin as follows:

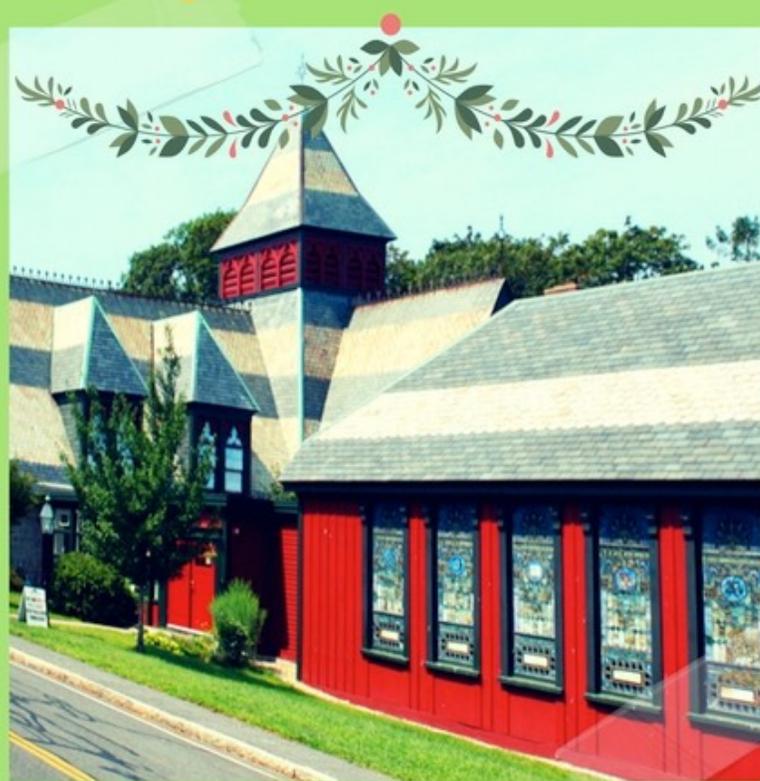
In memory (or in celebration) of:

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Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

THE NAHANT VILLAGE CHURCH HOSTS THE ANNUAL

# CHRISTMAS BY THE SEA HOLIDAY FAIR



- Nahant Lobster Rolls
- Homemade Crafts
- Holiday Gifts
- Homemade Bake Table & More!



**SATURDAY  
DECEMBER 2  
9 AM - 2 PM**

## FOR THE KIDS:

**A VISIT FROM MRS.  
CLAUS AT 11AM AND  
OTHER FUN ACTIVITIES  
TO FOLLOW!**

## RAFFLES & SILENT AUCTION

**The Nahant Village Church  
27 Cliff Street  
Nahant, MA 01908**



**Nahant 2018  
Calendars  
Now On Sale!**