



The Pulpit Rock

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

February 2017

February 2017

3rd 8:00 am - Breakfast

5th Fifth Sunday/Epiphany

Communion Sunday

10:30 am - Worship/CE

11:30 am - Fellowship & Soup Sunday

12th Sixth Sunday/Epiphany

10:30 am - Worship/CE

11:30 am - Fellowship

14th 7:00 pm - Trustee's Mtg.

19th Seventh Sunday/Epiphany

10:30 am - Worship/CE

11:30 am - Fellowship & Soup Sunday

26th Last Sunday/Epiphany

10:30 am - Worship/CE

11:30 am - Fellowship & Phat Pancake Festival

March 2017

3rd 8:00 am - Breakfast

5th First Sunday in Lent

Communion Sunday

10:30 am - Worship/CE

11:30 am - Fellowship & Soup Sunday

February's worship will include all kinds of sacred music.

- * Feb. 5: traditional UCC music and Holy Communion
- * Feb. 12: Children's Gospel Music in an Intergenerational Service
- * Feb. 19: Musical collaboration between our guest choir and NVC choir
- * Feb. 26: Our very own Bell Choir will prepare us for Lent.

After worship on February 26, please plan to celebrate the ending of Epiphany at our Phat Pancake Festival. The morning's festivities will include finding your favorite topping at a table, signing up for various volunteer opportunities, and a raffle sponsored by your favorite church groups.

~ Music ~

When I first saw the title of this newsletter, I thought it was referring to Rock and Roll music. I was picturing a pulpit that every once in a while, got Rockin' and Rollin'. I like the image!

Music brings people together.

Last year, I experienced Joan Baez in concert. Having grown up singing her songs with my guitar, I was excited to spend an evening with a goddess. Not surprisingly, her voice was spot-on. And her message was as powerful as ever. "I have always been and am still singing for peace and justice." The venue was packed with people of all ages. Teenagers were singing songs that I sang when I was a teenager. The evening was sacred.

MUSIC is a tool for organizing people into communities. Sacred music insists that there is always hope. Sacred music promotes love. It is a blaze of light in the midst of darkness. Sacred music, whether folk, classical, jazz, gospel, spiritual, ethnic, chanting, or heart-driven, is a force for justice that models sustainable joy for all people. It can calm our restlessness and stir our placidness. Most importantly, sacred music binds us together.

In the movie "The Color Purple" there is a scene where Shug is singing with

her Jazz Band in a field while her father, the local minister, is leading worship in his church down the road. Inside the church, a parishioner leans forward to whisper to a busy child, "Listen, God is trying to tell you something." Outside the church, Shug is singing "So let me tell you something."

Suddenly, as if she hears God's voice speaking through the breeze, she sings "Speak Lord, speak to me" and inside the church the choir echo's, "Speak Lord, Speak to me."

The band of troubadors in the field pick up their pace and march directly into the church, while both groups are singing the words "Speak to me Lord." Same words sung in different styles and different rhythms. Same sacred message!

"I love you Lord, Speak to me" sounds their combined voices as the inside/ outside become One.

As we begin our journey together, looking at who we are and who we want to be, music may be one of the tools we use to discover ourselves inside/outside.

This month, come and worship our God in Music, Word, and Spirit!! And bring your friends.

Rev. Laura Biddle

Worship Themes for February

February 5th

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Communion Sunday

"What's your flavor?"

Psalm 112:1-9; Matt 5:13-20

February 12th

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

"Possibilities Unfolding"

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

February 19th

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

"Enemies? Neighbors? Respect Both?"

Psalm 119:33-40; Matt 5:38-48

February 26th

"Compassion for the Worriers"

Isaiah 49:8-16a; Matt 6:24-34

Potluck and Silent Movie Night at the Nahant Village Church

Bring your favorite dish to share at the upcoming potluck supper to be held on Saturday, January 27 at 5:30 p.m.

At 7:00 p.m. we will be showing the silent movie "Speedy" by Harold Lloyd with live accompaniment by Rob Humphreville on the piano.

This is a NOT TO MISS event!

Admission for the silent movie is \$20. Contact Marrit Hastings at 781-581-5691 for tickets or more information regarding this event.

Boston Saengerfest Men's Choir Concert at NVC

Sunday, April 30th at 4 pm

Featuring Nahant's own favorite
soprano soloist, Ute Gfrerer.

The Boston Saengerfest Men's Chorus celebrates its 25th anniversary with a concert to benefit the Nahant Village Church in a program of audience favorites from the last 25 years. The concert will feature Nahant's own favorite international soprano soloist, Ute Gfrerer.

This will be Saengerfest's first appearance on the North Shore. The Chorus has recently returned from a concert tour to Wales and London's Royal Albert Hall.

Cal Hastings and Herb Motley are members of the Boston Saengerfest Men's Chorus; they have been busy at work making plans and preparations for the benefit concert.

To ensure a successful benefit concert, it is important to solicit ads from as many businesses, restaurants, shops and individuals. Recently, solicitations were sent out to over 50 establishments. And this is where you can help. Provide Cal with a list of establishments that you have frequented or done business with that may consider placing an ad. He has a comprehensive list so can check to see if they are on the master list and if they are whether someone else has already made the initial contact. If they are not, we would appreciate if you approached the establishment either personally or by mail. Cal can provide you with a sample letter and order forms (that specify prices as well as the format for ad submissions), as well as posters for the concert.

Another way you can help is to promote the concert to family and friends and to sell tickets. They are \$25 pp and can be purchased through the nahantvillagechurch.org website through Eventbrite. Cal Hastings also has tickets or they can be obtained at the door.

Nahant Community Breakfast

Friday, Feb. 3rd at 8 a.m.

The February breakfast will feature a presentation on Raw Art Works in Lynn.

Over 25 years ago RAW started to place paint brushes into the hands of kids. RAW's team of art therapists began by traveling throughout the state creating art with incarcerated youth. In 1994, they opened RAW Space in Lynn to help more youth and to prevent more incarceration by creating a safe, supportive environment within their community. Since then, RAW has used the power of the arts to inspire thousands of young artists to tell their stories, envision new possibilities, and transform their lives.

The presentation will be given by RAW's founder, Nahant's Mary Flannery.

The breakfast is free. Please plan to come for a hearty breakfast, an exciting presentation and wonderful camaraderie. All are welcome. Spread the word and bring a family member or friend.

Arrangements for transportation of elders to and from the breakfast may be made by calling the Tiffany Room a few days in advance of the breakfast at 781-581-5691.

Future Breakfast Presentations

We have been working hard on a lineup of interesting speakers and presentations for the rest of the year.

Here is what has been booked thus far:

- March 3rd – Rev. Laura Biddle (NVC's Interim Minister) *A Minister's Wanderings from Broadway to Seminary to Prison and Beyond*
- April 7th – Town Administrator Jeff Chelgren on the *State of the Nahant Budget*
- May 5th – Beckie Richardson on *Cynicism Threatens Our Democracy Today*

A Gift

The Church recently received a check for \$100 from the Nahant Woman's Club to support the Communion Offering Fund that was established to assist needy families in Nahant. It was sent in appreciation to the Church for permitting the Nahant Woman's Club to utilize its facilities for many of their regular meetings and in keeping with the Club's charter.

A special offering is taken during the first Sunday worship service of the month for this Fund. It has helped numerous individuals and families over the years.

Offering Envelopes and E Giving

Anyone who makes donations to our Church may wish to request a set of offering envelopes from Treasurer, Marrit Hastings. Alternatively, if you write a check or put cash in an envelope that identifies your name, she will track your donations and provide you with a contribution statement at the end of the year. Since the Church is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, these contributions may be tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.

The Church also offers an e-giving program which allows you to make donations on a scheduled automatic basis. If you are writing checks and preparing envelopes every week, you will especially appreciate electronic giving. It is convenient for you and provides much-needed donation consistency for our Church. Contact Marrit Hastings to request an e-giving authorization form—the first step in becoming enrolled. E-Giving is a SIMPLE, GENEROUS CHOICE!

Donations also may be made through the Church's website: www.nahantvillagechurch.org.

And as always, thank you for your financial support!

Request for Annual Reports

from Board and Committee Chairs

Once again it is time to look back on 2016 and for Chair people of Boards and Committees to write reports for the Annual Report.

The booklet that these reports are published in is an important record of the spiritual, financial and various other life events of the church.

These reports are reviewed by the congregation to be voted on as well as the Report of the Nominating Committee which will be starting to meet soon.

The Annual Meeting is usually the first Sunday in May. The deadline for reports is February 28.

If you have any questions please contact, Moderator, Christine Alexander at chris2954@gmail.com or 781-864-5367.

Please e-mail your reports to our secretary, Staci Paro at secretary@nahantvillagechurch.org and to Rev. Laura at ministernvc@gmail.com.

A good time was had by all at the Jan. 22nd Gospel Service held in honor of Martin Luther King Jr.



Looking ahead...NVC Tides Fundraiser ~ Thursday March 23rd

If you have items to offer for the Raffle, please contact Christine Alexander, Moderator, who is running this event. Gift certificates from your favorite merchant, gift baskets, art, jewelry and more make great raffle items.

Also, please save the date of Thursday March 23, 6pm and 9pm. See Chris at church or call her at 781-864-5367.

Thanks for your help in making this a success for our church!



Phat™ PANCAKE Festival

NAHANT VILLAGE CHURCH 27 Cliff St. 781-581-1202

Sunday, February 26
during Fellowship Hour

**Be there for your opportunity to
earn raffle tickets for the
Grand Prize!**

**Explore ministry with
food, reading and rides!**

ashes will be available
in the chapel

