

# The Carriage Stone

July 2006

New Hempstead Presbyterian Church, New City, N.Y.

Newsletter of the English Church

Welcome, Summer!



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"The Carriage Stone" is the Newsletter of

**The New Hempstead Presbyterian Church**

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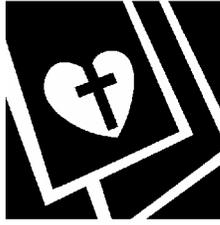
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# FROM THE PASTOR

## A Well-Read Summer

Of all the things I'm paid to do as your pastor, the one I feel I've neglected this year is reading! I've been so busy settling in and getting to know you all that I haven't had time to do the amount of scholarly reading that I want to. That's about to change.

As summer comes, and the pace of life slows somewhat, I'm looking forward to tackling that aspect of ministry. Let me share a few of the books on my summer reading list, with a brief note about content shamelessly stolen from the jacket flaps of each book.

First, there is Brian McLaren's The Secret Message of Jesus. This is a study of the "core message of Jesus." This book is the first selection for what I hope will become a monthly book discussion group. Watch the *Carriage Stone* for further info!

Next on my summer reading list is Will Willimon's Sinning Like a Christian. It's a look at the medieval "seven deadly sins" with

an eye to how they still plague us in the twenty-first century.

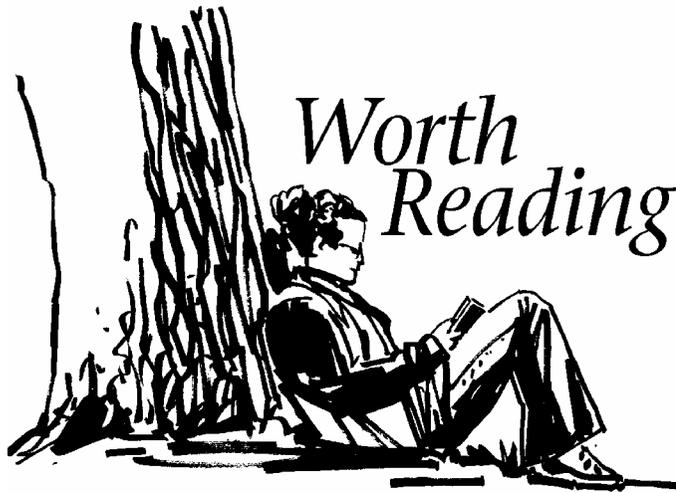
Having Men for Dinner: Biblical Women's Deadly Banquets was a title I simply could not pass up when I came across it in the Cokesbury catalogue. It's a study of various 'sheroes' of the Bible (Jael, Judith, Esther, among others) "who are notorious for using the power of food and drink."

I also plan to read some new fiction with a spiritual thrust. Anne Rice (she of Interview with the Vampire fame) has recently returned to her Roman Catholic Christian roots, and has written Christ the Lord as a by-product of that experience. This is another potential book discussion group topic. The Lighthouse, P.D. James' newest mystery featuring poet-policeman Adam Dalgleish is one I'm looking forward to. James, herself a Christian, has a knack for probing the secrets of the human heart without ever sounding like she's preaching at the reader.

Of course, Bible reading and study is always a joy for me.

I'd love to hear of favorite books you have read. Happy reading!

Blessings,





## LOCAL MISSIONS

### Confirmation Class completes “Fast for Food”

By Mark Zacheis

As part of their preparation for church membership, the confirmation class worked on a mission project they called “Fast for Food”. Eight young people stopped eating after dinner on Friday, May 19, and continued fasting until midnight, May 20. The mission part of the project was to raise our congregation’s awareness of people going hungry right here in Rockland County and the Lower Hudson Valley. They presented several Minutes for Mission during the church services in early May. They talked about regular people who have to choose between eating and the other things they need to buy to survive. And they asked for donations of non-perishable food and money. In all they collected two dozen bags of food and \$745.

On the second evening of their fast, after going 24 hours without eating, they traveled to the grocery store and purchased more food with the money they collected. It all was brought back to the church, where it filled up the entryway to the Colonial Room.

At midnight, they broke their fast with a spaghetti dinner, prepared by Pam Charbonneau and the Rev. Lori Knight-Whitehouse. Home made cookies and popcorn followed.

All of the food collected, a very full vanload, plus a check for additional unspent funds, were taken to the food pantry based at the Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church in Stony Point for distribution.



Our congregation should be very proud of what our young people accomplished.



## Peacemaking Offering

From Janine Kallé

October 1, Christians around the world will do as Christians have done since the 1930s—celebrate World Communion Sunday. Gathered around the table in cities and towns, in countries near and far, we will affirm our oneness in Christ, with each other, and with the church in every time and place. Although this unity is integral to each celebration of every Lord's Supper, many churches place special emphasis on it on World Communion Sunday. Often prayers will be offered in languages other than English, special breads will be used at Communion and hymns representing various ethnic traditions will be selected.

When the Peacemaking Offering was established in 1980, it was set in the context of World Communion Sunday. The General Assembly requested "each congregation, on the occasion of World Communion Sunday each fall beginning in 1980, to celebrate our common life in the global bonds of Christ's peace-giving body and, as part of the celebration, to receive a special offering to support initiatives on peacemaking



and peacemaking education throughout the church."

"As we break bread together, our eyes are opened and we recognize [Christ's] living presence

among us—Christ crucified by that tragic inequities on the earth—calling us together. We are Christ's people, compelled by the Spirit and guided by our creeds to listen to a gospel that is addressed to the whole word. We are gathered around the Lord's Table with people from North and South and East and West. A new integrity is required of us: integrity in worship, integrity in secular life, integrity in relationship with Christ and Christians everywhere."



The General Assembly specified that congregations would keep 25 percent of the offering for their own peacemaking efforts; 25 percent would be used by synods and presbyteries and 50 percent would come to the General Assembly.

The evidence is that Presbyterians have embraced the idea of the Peacemaking Offering as an opportunity to practice the love and compassion celebrated around the table. When a congregation uses Peacemaking Offering funds to support a health clinic in Vietnam, when it cares for emigrants who have been tortured, when it provides shelter to sufferers of family abuse, when it destroys land mines, when it shows school children that violence is not the way, it takes seriously the words often prayed in the Great Thanksgiving, "As this bread is Christ's body for us, send us out to be the body of Christ in the world."

The theme, "Swords into Plowshares: Living the Ways of Peace," is taken from the great vision of peace found in Isaiah 2:2-4, when the peoples of the world stream to the mountain of the Lord and learn from God how to live in peace. What they learn from God leads them to action: they change swords and spears, instruments of war that are no longer needed, into plowshares and pruning hooks, implements used in the peaceful work of producing food for people.

During the month of September you will be hearing from members of the NHPC family speak to you on the various ways the funds from the Peacemaking Offering is used locally and globally during minutes for mission. We ask that you consider giving to **Peace** this October 1, World Communion Sunday.



A Short Film by Thomas Collardeau & John Frobeld Hong

## Movie Premiere Night Turns out a Veritable Who's Who of New Hempsteaders

By Mark Zacheis, Hollywood gossip columnist

Saturday night, June 10 saw Murchison Hall turned into the Kodak Theater in Hollywood for the Rockland County premiere of the film short, "The Parting," complete with the (red) carpet, floodlights, balloons, sparkling juice served in champagne glasses by formally attired wait staff, and the requisite spread of fabulous food.

Among those seen in the crowd were the Jacobs/Parent clan, including Nancy's parents and Mark's mother; the Martignettis including Stephanie back from her successful national road tour, the Greenhalgh family including Debbie fresh out of surgery, and the entire Deevy family. The evening (and the article in the Rockland Journal News) also attracted some fresh faces in the crowd not seen before. The place was packed.



Also present was the renowned photographer, Pam Charbonneau, whose photo essay on the making of the film had the pre-movie crowd buzzing.

Special guests for the evening were Thomas Collardeau, the producer and director, and Dan Almekinder, the lead actor in the film. Thomas gave a brief introduction to the film and thanked the congregation for their graciousness in allowing Fade-In-Films to use our church in the making of it. After the showing, Thomas and Dan took questions from the audience. The film will be show at film festivals, including one upcoming on Long Island.

Many thanks to the supporting cast who put the evening together and then cleaned up afterwards – Joe Bermudez, Pam Charbonneau, Bernice Rice Gerstein, Nancy Jacobs, Janine Kallé, Lochie Musso, Bruce Rentz and Barbara Zacheis. It was very much a team effort.

For those of you who missed the premiere, a DVD copy of the film is in the church library, available for check out.

## From the Treasurer

From Mark Zacheis, Treasurer



### **YOUR PLEDGE**

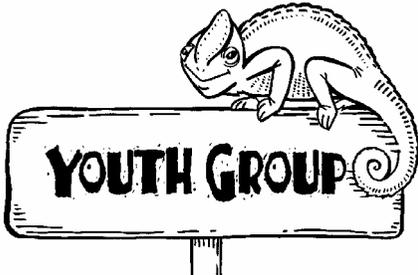
This Summer

I hope that everyone has a good summer enjoying the warm weather and good times. To those of you that may be out of town and away from church for part or all of the summer, please remember to keep your pledge up to date. The church does not get a

vacation; its doors are always open and its obligations need to be met. Thank you.

## Youth Group

The Youth Group will suspend its regular weekly meetings during the months of July and August, and will start back up again on September 10. We do expect to do a special event this summer, and once determined we will be in touch with the young people directly. For more information, please call Mark Zacheis or the church office.



## Small Church Sunday

July 9 is Small Church Sunday, a day on which we give thanks for the smaller congregations that make up the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)! Considering that we are a denomination of smaller membership churches (each with an average worship attendance of 100 or fewer people), the vitality of their ministry and mission is essential to the health of the PC(USA).

Please write the titles and numbers of your favorite hymns and put them into the offering plate. We'll sing some "Old Favorites" this summer. We can even sing from the blue booklets with hymns that aren't in the current hymnal.



## Intergenerational VBS

Germonds Presbyterian Church will host the intergenerational Vacation Bible School. It runs July 10–13 from 5:30 to 7:30 PM. For additional information or to sign up, see the application form in the narthex or contact the church office.

## OUR HISTORIC CHURCH.

In 1775, Robert Burns was our Minister. On July 17 of that year, he was one of 391 signers of a Resolution declaring, "Allegiance to the Cause of Liberty." Many other members of the English Church signed this Resolution.

Before that, the "Orange Town Resolutions" were adopted at the '76 House" in Tappan on July 4, 1774. These "Contained the germ of the great principles adopted the following year."

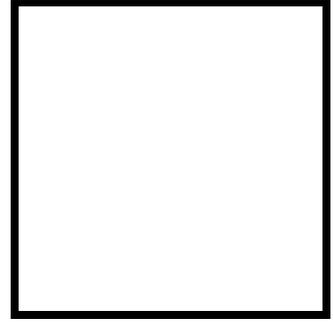
By Bob Greenhalgh, from Cole's History of Rockland County, 1884.



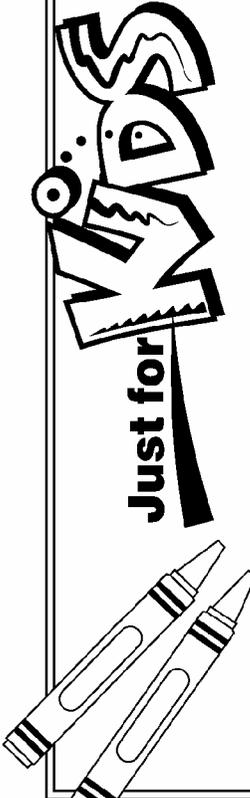


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New Hempstead Presbyterian Church  
484 New Hempstead Road  
New City NY 10956



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**GROWING IN GOD'S WORD**

God wants you to be "planted" in His Word and to grow up serving him all your life.

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Unscramble each underlined word, and write it in the blanks below.  
Use the definitions as clues.

**Psalms 1:3 NIV tells us what we should be like:**

"He is like a (1) tree (2) planted by (3) streams of (4) water,  
which (5) leads its fruit in (6) seasons and whose (7) fruit does not  
(8) wither. Whatever he does (9) succeeds."

1. \_\_\_\_\_ (a wood plant with one main stem or trunk  
which has many branches)
2. \_\_\_\_\_ (rooted into the ground)
3. \_\_\_\_\_ (small rivers)
4. \_\_\_\_\_ (a colorless and transparent liquid)
5. \_\_\_\_\_ (produces, gives)
6. \_\_\_\_\_ (a time of the year)
7. \_\_\_\_\_ (flat, thin part of a plant growing from  
the stem— usually green)
8. \_\_\_\_\_ (to dry up or wilt)
9. \_\_\_\_\_ (succeeds)

Answers: tree, planted, streams, water, yields, season, leaf, wither, prospers