

The Carriage Stone

September 2006

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

Newsletter of the English Church



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"The Carriage Stone" is the Newsletter of

The New Hempstead Presbyterian Church

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Thou Anointest my Head with Oil

There are many rites of the Church that fell by the wayside after the Reformation. One of these is the rite of anointing. Our Presbyterian Church, USA, has been working to reclaim this rite over the years, especially when enacted alongside the Sacrament of Baptism, and in services of prayer and healing.

Anointing also had practical applications, particularly with regard to sheep: it is said that shepherds anointed their sheep with oil around their heads and mouths to keep certain types of flies from laying their eggs in the living tissue. The Psalmist speaks of this act in Psalm 23, "You anoint my head with oil." Not a particularly holy-sounding act, but necessary for the health of the flock. (Isn't it interesting that we think that, if it's an act described in the Bible, it must have an otherworldly meaning? Sometimes it's very earthy, indeed!)

Anointing, or marking with oil, is an action with roots in the Hebrew Scriptures. Kings are anointed to indicate their "set-apartness" from the rest of the people, and to show their relationship to God. In the early Church, the newly baptized were anointed with oil to symbolize their identity as God's chosen, God's royal priesthood. Our *Book of Order* states that at Baptism, "other actions that are rooted deeply in the history of baptism such as... anointing with oil... may also be included." (W-3.3607). While the central acts of placing water on the candidates head in the enamel of the Trinity are not to be overshadowed, I include this practice when we celebrate the sacrament of Baptism, to remind us all of our baptismal calling as members of the household of the

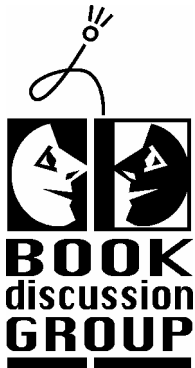


Ruler of the Universe. Baptism in our Reformed Tradition is received only once. Anointing can be received as many times as one feels the need, and it is a visible, physical reminder of our incorporation into the Body of Christ in our baptism.

The New Testament speaks of anointing as an enacted form of prayer for healing: (James 5:14) "Are any of you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord." This is not to be seen as a magical act, or a guarantee of physical healing, though God may chose to bless us with miracles. Rather, it is a way to remind us of *who* we are and *Whose* we are: God's own beloved children, precious in God's sight. Anointing with oil is a call to the one anointed to remember his or her baptism, to take comfort and joy in the certain knowledge that nothing and no one can ever take us out of God's loving hands.

I have been privileged to share this rite of anointing with some of you who are sick, or in need of a physical reminder of God's providential care for them. Should you wish this rite, please contact me, or an elder of the Church and we will arrange for a visit.

Blessings,



Coming this Fall!! Book Discussion Group

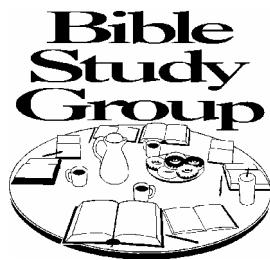
From Pastor Lori

Has the radical message of Jesus Christ been misplaced, lost, or even willfully distorted over the last two millennia? Do the Gospels have any relevance for living in 21st century North America? Many folk today believe that we live in a "post-Christian" society, that is, the Church has become nothing more than a relic. How are we Christians to respond to this claim? Join Pastor Lori for a discussion of Brian D. McLaren's *The Secret Message of Jesus* (Nashville: W Publishing Group, 2006). The time is still to be determined, probably early October in the Colonial Room. The book is available at Barnes and Noble.

Monday Evening Bible Study

From Pastor Lori

Monday Night Bible Study begins again Monday Sept 11, at 8 PM in the Colonial Room. We will be discussing the first Chapter of the Epistle to the Ephesians. Join us for lively, holy conversation.



From the Treasurer

From Mark Zacheis, Treasurer

As of the end of July, the church has received \$65,922 in pledge donations versus a budget of \$69,259. We are about 5% behind budget. This being the summer, one would expect some slippage; however, we did experience some falling behind back in June as well.

Pledge statements for the first six months of the year were mailed out in mid-July, and I have September 2006 Carriage Stone

heard from some with questions. Please review the statement you got in the mail, and if it is inaccurate then let me know. I did notice that some are behind, and if you are included in that category, I encourage you to try to catch up as quickly as you can. The church does have bills to pay even in the summer, and in July we paid out 40% more than we took in.

Finally, the church is going to change banks and open a new checking account, which will provide superior service without fees. If you have a check written on the church's account but have not yet cashed it, I encourage you to do so. The old account will remain open only through the end of September.



Choir Rehearsal Resumes

From Kryste Andrews, Director of Music

We have an exciting choir year coming up as we welcome several new members to our choir (you'll recognize the faces) and look forward to a special musical tribute/dedication of the Mason Hamlin grand piano.

Our first choir rehearsal of the season is scheduled for Wednesday, August 30 at 8 PM.

This is an early start in preparation for the musical tribute on October 8, which will feature not only the choir, but also a guest concert pianist, Marilyn Davidson, from Bergenfield, NJ.

More about the concert later. Please mark your calendars for Sunday afternoon, Oct. 8. It will be open to the public, so tell all your friends!

If anyone in the congregation wants to join us in lifting our voices in praise of God, please come and see what it's all about on a Wednesday evening or call me anytime for questions about singing in the choir. All are welcome.



Welcome Back Luncheon

From Joe Bermudez

Please join us for an afternoon of food, fun and fellowship. On September 10, we will ask you to share your favorite dish with us. Meet us immediately after Sunday service on the church lawn. It will be a great time to welcome back many of our members who have been on vacation. Please see Joe Bermudez or any of the fellowship members to let us know what dish you will be bringing.



A Day at the New York Botanical Gardens

From Joe Bermudez

Please join the Fellowship Committee in our trip to see the Exhibition of Dale Chihuly's monumental glass sculptures on Sunday, September 17. Nature's own masterpieces and this remarkable artist's work come together in more than 30 installations in the Conservatory and other landscapes. We will be departing from church at 1 PM by car pool. The cost is \$19.00 per person, which includes entrance fee and transportation. If you have questions about the trip, please see Joe Bermudez.

Boscov's

From Joe
Bermudez



Join us on Tuesday, October 17, as we again participate in Boscov's Friends Helping Friends event. This activity is beneficial to our community and congregation. Last year we raised hundreds of dollars. Boscov's supplies us with as many \$5 tickets as we need, free of charge – you sell the tickets to family, co-workers, friends and neighbors. Everyone who purchases a ticket will receive a 25% discount shopping pass for purchases made only on Friends Helping Friends day in Boscov's stores – October 17. Our congregation will keep the \$5 from every ticket sold. Those who purchase the tickets will easily recoup the \$5 purchase price through savings realized on Friends Helping Friends day. Tickets will be available soon.

Vacation Bible School

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!

VBS is over for this year, but we hope that the excitement will build and we can do it again next summer.

VBS 2006

58 people participated total
18 children under 6th grade
9 youth (includes helpers and participants)
32 adults (includes 2 pastors, helpers and participants)

We collected 59 cans/jars/boxes/bags of non-perishables for People-to-People.

Our biggest day for adult participation was Monday with 27, and for kids was Thursday, with 17.

Thanks again. And God bless you all for your hard work and dedication.



Mission Opportunity in Gulfport, Mississippi

From Huguenot Memorial Church in Pelham NY

Huguenot Memorial Church has organized a mission trip to Gulfport, Mississippi to help in the **rebuilding effort after Hurricane Katrina**. We have space for more volunteers to join our group on October 7–14. Please consider if you might want to join us.

Volunteers are responsible for the cost of their transportation, plus food (estimated at \$100), and an additional \$100 fee per person for building supplies. Group housing will be provided in air-conditioned tents on the grounds of Westminster Presbyterian Church, though motels are available nearby if one so chooses. Westminster is one of seven churches in Mississippi used by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) as a base for the rebuilding effort. It is also the home church of Martha-Lee Bohn McGahan, who spoke at the May Presbytery meeting in Katonah. Martha-Lee is the PDA Coordinator at Westminster, and this mission group will be working under her direction.

Katrina hit almost a year ago, and the need for volunteers remains strong. There are still plenty of roofs to be replaced, sheetrock to be installed and walls to be painted. There is also great need for skilled labor— electricians and plumbers. There is a job for everyone who is interested in going.

If interested, please email Susan Reddy at susanreddy@optonline.net or call Linda

Scopaz at (914) 738–6417 as soon as possible. You can also contact Dennis Hanlon in the Huguenot Memorial Church office at (914) 738–3488 for the required registration forms.

Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

Susan Reddy and Linda Scopaz
Trip Coordinators

Local Service Opportunities

The Chore Service of the Volunteer Action Center needs volunteers to provide useful services to elderly residents of Rockland County. If you are available during the day and can **handle a hammer, work a saw or turn a screwdriver**, you can help! Volunteer your skill and talent to help the elderly and/or handicapped people in the county. Enjoy the company of other handy-persons as you work together to help residents remain safe and secure in their homes. To volunteer, call Ray Hull at 364–2114

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program of Rockland County is seeking individuals to participate in their **Clowns-R-Us troupe**. Interested individuals should be age 55 and over, and willing to participate in a 10 session training program. Once trained, clowns may be asked to entertain residents of health care facilities, school-age children, and others in need of “Humor Therapy”. If interested, please call the RSVP office at 356–6818 for more information.

Volunteers from the Retired Senior Volunteer Program knit and crochet items for hospital patients and needy children and adults on an ongoing basis. The program depends on **donations of full skeins of yarn** or monetary donations to buy yarn in order to continue this important effort. Anyone who would like to donate yarn to RSVP should call the office at 356–6818 for further information.

Peacemaking Offering Reminder

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.

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 world. 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.

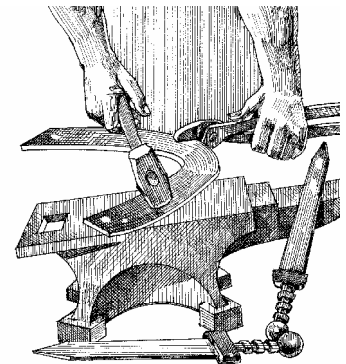
During the month of September you will be hearing from members of the NHPC family speak to you on the various ways the funds from the Peacemaking Offering is used locally and globally during minutes for mission. We ask that you consider giving to **Peace** this October 1, World Communion Sunday.



Peacemaking Offering



in 1980, to celebrate our common life in the global bonds of Christ’s peace-giving body and, as part of the



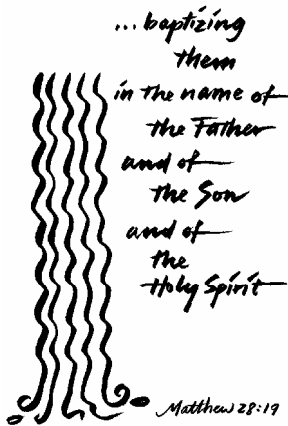
THEY WILL BEAT THEIR SWORDS INTO PLOWSHARES AND THEIR SPEARS INTO PRUNING HOOKS
ISAIAH 2:4



Recent Baptisms

On July 9, the sacrament of baptism was shared at New Hempstead Presbyterian Church.

Emily Ryan Wilson, daughter of Susan and Sean Wilson was sponsored by her maternal aunts and uncle: Cheryl Breu, Diane Tardiff and Don Dinelli.



Julia Isabelle Sara Greenwald and *Riley Zoe Alexandra Greenwald*, daughters of Vanessa and Jonathan Greenwald were baptized. Julia was given the name "Sarah" in honor of Jon's grandmother; her sponsors were Carmen and Joe Bermudez. Riley was given the name

"Alexandra" in honor of Jon's grandfather, Alexander; her sponsor was Shalyi Vereen.

Happy Anniversary, Lori!

This month marks Lori Knight-Whitehouse's first anniversary as Pastor of New Hempstead Presbyterian Church. Thank you, Pastor Lori, for your thought-provoking preaching, your leadership and your enthusiasm.

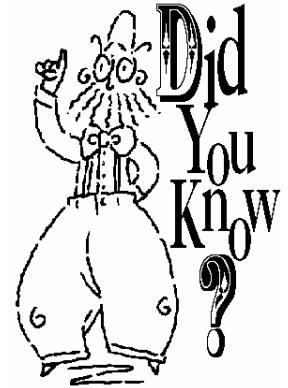


Did You Know...

From Mark Zacheis

that the legal incorporated name of our church is, "The First Presbyterian Congregation of Hampstead"? On June 3, 1822, papers were filed with the Rockland County Clerk by Abraham Hogenkamp, ESQ and were signed by John Coe

and John Ed Smith, Church Trustees, establishing the church as a religious corporation, chartered by the State of New York. Abraham Gurnee, County Commissioner accepted the application and David Pye, County Clerk, certified it. We know all this because we needed a copy of the document, and the County Clerk's office was able to provide it for us.



Singing Lessons in Haverstraw

From Kryste Andrews, Director of Music

A new resident of Rockland County is opening her voice studio to both adults and children interested in singing technique and Broadway repertoire.

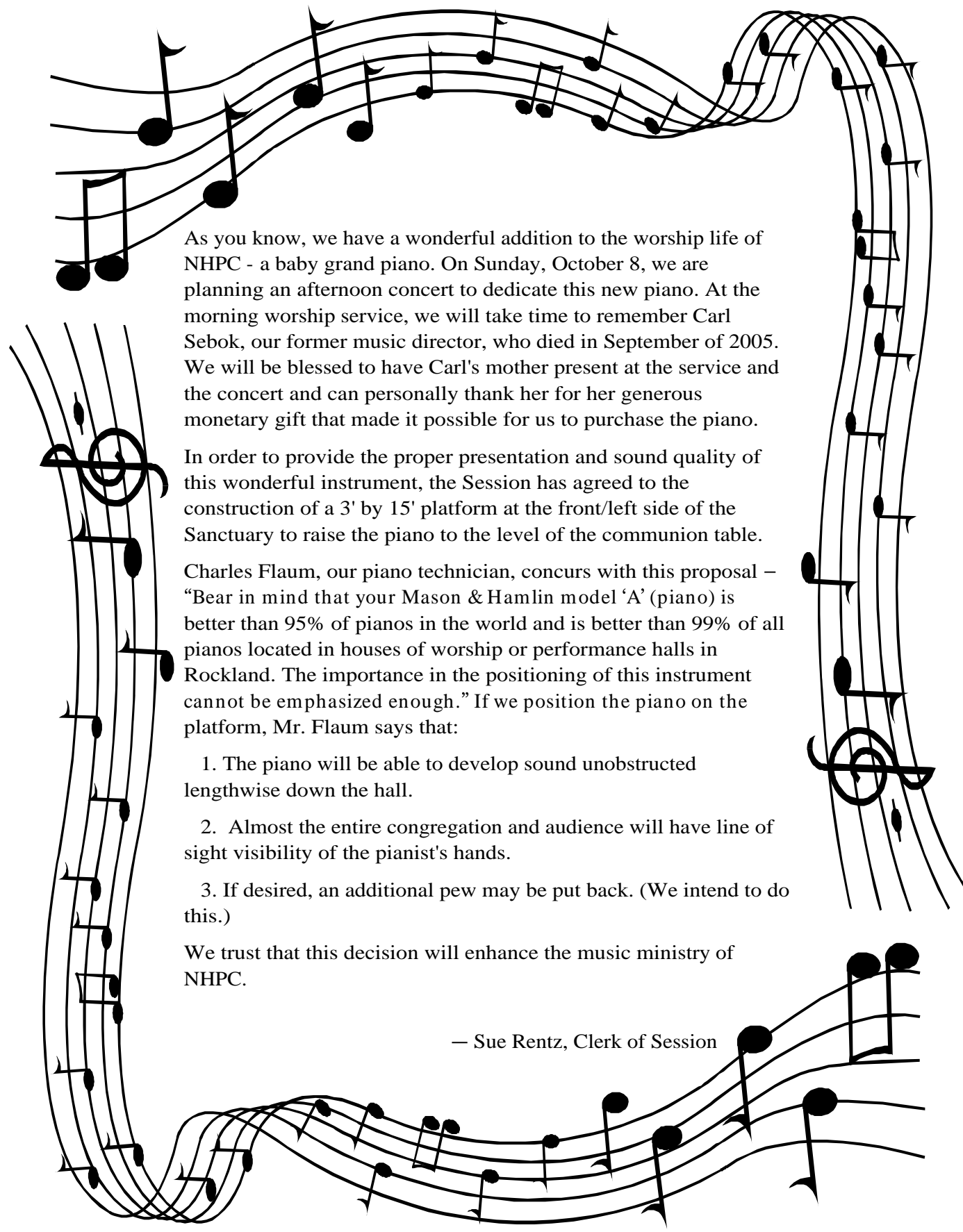
Kryste Andrews, Director of Music at the New Hempstead Presbyterian Church, teaches singing technique in New York City at *Circle in the Square Theater School* and has operated *Kryste Andrews Talent Voice Studio* for over 20 years.

Her students have appeared on Broadway in *Les Miserables*, *the Lion King*, *Big* and in *Tommy*, *the Who* on tour as well as regularly garnering awards (Paper Mill Playhouse and Helen Hayes Theater) for leading roles in local productions

- Perhaps you love to sing and would like to improve your voice
- Maybe your child has singing or acting ability and would like to train for one of the children's roles in *Les Miserables* or *the Lion King* or as a young *Tarzan*.

Private and group lessons are available. No previous music experience necessary.

Call and set up your free trial lesson today.



As you know, we have a wonderful addition to the worship life of NHPC - a baby grand piano. On Sunday, October 8, we are planning an afternoon concert to dedicate this new piano. At the morning worship service, we will take time to remember Carl Sebok, our former music director, who died in September of 2005. We will be blessed to have Carl's mother present at the service and the concert and can personally thank her for her generous monetary gift that made it possible for us to purchase the piano.

In order to provide the proper presentation and sound quality of this wonderful instrument, the Session has agreed to the construction of a 3' by 15' platform at the front/left side of the Sanctuary to raise the piano to the level of the communion table.

Charles Flaum, our piano technician, concurs with this proposal – “Bear in mind that your Mason & Hamlin model ‘A’ (piano) is better than 95% of pianos in the world and is better than 99% of all pianos located in houses of worship or performance halls in Rockland. The importance in the positioning of this instrument cannot be emphasized enough.” If we position the piano on the platform, Mr. Flaum says that:

1. The piano will be able to develop sound unobstructed lengthwise down the hall.
2. Almost the entire congregation and audience will have line of sight visibility of the pianist's hands.
3. If desired, an additional pew may be put back. (We intend to do this.)

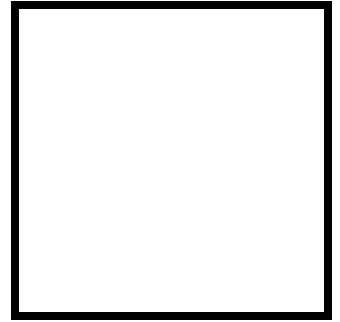
We trust that this decision will enhance the music ministry of NHPC.

— Sue Rentz, Clerk of Session

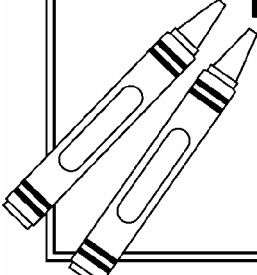


Newsletter of the English Church

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



DATED MATERIAL
SEPTEMBER 2006




Just for KIDS


back to school

It is back to school time! You will continue to learn, grow and change. The Bible tells us that we are like clay and that God is forming us everyday.

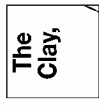
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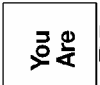
Isaiah 64:8
E5




The Potter.
C5




The Clay,
C1



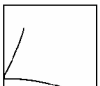
You Are
B5




The Potter.
D4



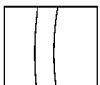
The Potter.
D2



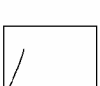
The Potter.
C2



The Potter.
D5




The Potter.
A3




The Potter.
C2


	1	2	3	4	5
A					
B					
C					
D					
E					




The Potter.
C4




The Potter.
E1




The Potter.
A4




The Potter.
B1




The Potter.
D1




The Potter.
A2



The Potter.
B1



The Potter.
B1



The Potter.
B4