



The Carriage Stone

November 2006

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

Newsletter of the English Church



*O taste and see that
the Lord is Good; happy are
those who take refuge in him.*

Psalm 34:8



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"The Carriage Stone" is the Newsletter of

The New Hempstead Presbyterian Church

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Finding What Christ Expects of Us

In this season of stewardship, we expect to hear the pastor and finance committee ask us to consider what we can give to God in the form of giving our money. I'm sure that Ed, Mark, and the Stewardship and Finance Committee are doing just that. This year, we are also asking that you prayerfully consider other forms of service to the mission of our church.

Yesterday, Howard and I worshiped at Trinity-St. Paul's United Church, our spiritual home while we lived in Toronto. The charge to the congregation went, in part, "Find what it is that Christ expects of you, and then give yourselves totally to the will of Christ, without bargaining and without reservation." All too often, we think of stewardship as having to do with our money only, and, of course, the church needs our money to keep the doors open, the heating on, and the staff paid. And there is something right about writing your check to the church the same way you pay other bills.

But God wants more than that from us. "I desire steadfast love, and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings." (Hosea 6:6) God wants us to know God! God wants a relationship with us, like a parent wants a child's love, or a lover misses the beloved when s/he is not around. God desires this relationship for its own sake. But as we come to know more of God in Jesus Christ, through daily prayer, scripture reading, worship, and fellowship with others, we will see more and more of who WE are—we will see ourselves more and more as God sees us—beloved children.

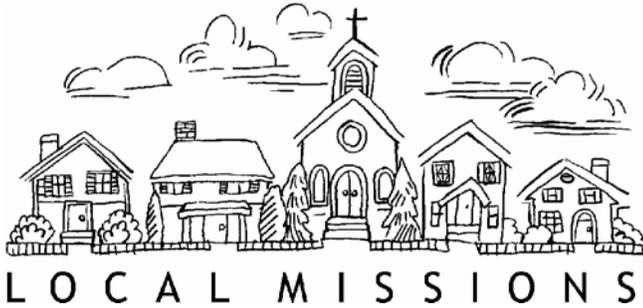


We are God's own beloved, gifted by God with many things—compassion for one another and for the larger community; a great sense of humor; a love of fellowship (particularly when it's combined with food!); a desire to rear our children in the Christian faith; a longing to make a difference in our community. These are blessings we can put to greater use, if we will be more prayerfully intentional about it. Let's spend time this stewardship season asking what Christ expects of us, as individuals, as families and as a congregation.

In the interest of honesty, though, I must warn you. If you seek God with all your heart, you will find God. If you ask the God of our Lord Jesus what God would have you do, God will tell you! You will find yourself drawn by God's irresistible grace into wanting more of God, and wanting to give back to God. You will find that you want to be more involved in the life and mission of Christ's Church here at New Hempstead Presbyterian. I'm convinced he's just waiting to show us where to go next in his name, and for the sake of the world God loves so dearly. Please remember that as you fill your Pledge Cards, promising not only to give of your financial gifts, but also your gifts of time and talents. We are Jesus' hands and feet in this world. Let's pray for direction to be faithful ones!

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lori".



On November 19, the Deacons will lead the congregation in assembling Thanksgiving food baskets for those in need. Last year, over ninety families were fed through the generosity of the New Hempstead Presbyterian Church.

Your help in assembling the baskets on Sunday, November 19 would be greatly appreciated. A light lunch will be served for those who stay to help.



In the coming weeks, please bring in the collectables for the baskets. Here is the list of food items we wish to include in every basket:

Canned Vegetables such as corn, string beans, carrots, peas and any other favorites

Canned Yams or Sweet Potatoes

Stuffing Mix

Canned Cranbury Sauce

Canned Gravy or Gravy Mix

Cake Mix

Cornbread Muffin Mix

Also, please consider donating money to help purchase turkeys, produce and fruit.

For more information, contact Carmen Bermudez or Marc Bidon.

Hanging of the Greens

Would you believe that Christmas is just around the corner? We will decorate the sanctuary for Christmas on November 26. The fellowship committee will help in getting hot soups and finger foods for those who assist in decorating or just join us in singing. We will have a great time at the Hanging of the Greens (no reference to Bob & Cathy Greenhalgh).



Boscov's Update

The church enjoyed a good response for Boscov's "Friends Helping Friends" ticket sales. A total of \$250 was collected in advance. We were available to sell more tickets at Boscov's on Tuesday, October 17. Hope you were one of the lucky ones that got 25% off on purchases.

Beethoven's Birthday Bash

On Sunday, December 17, the Rockland Symphony Orchestra will celebrate Beethoven's 236th Birthday with a presentation of Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 3. Marilyn Copeland is the soloist; Dr. Marvin von Deck is conducting.

Rockland Symphony Orchestra concerts take place in the Cultural Arts Theatre at RCC in Suffern. For more information on this event, contact Barbara Hurley or visit

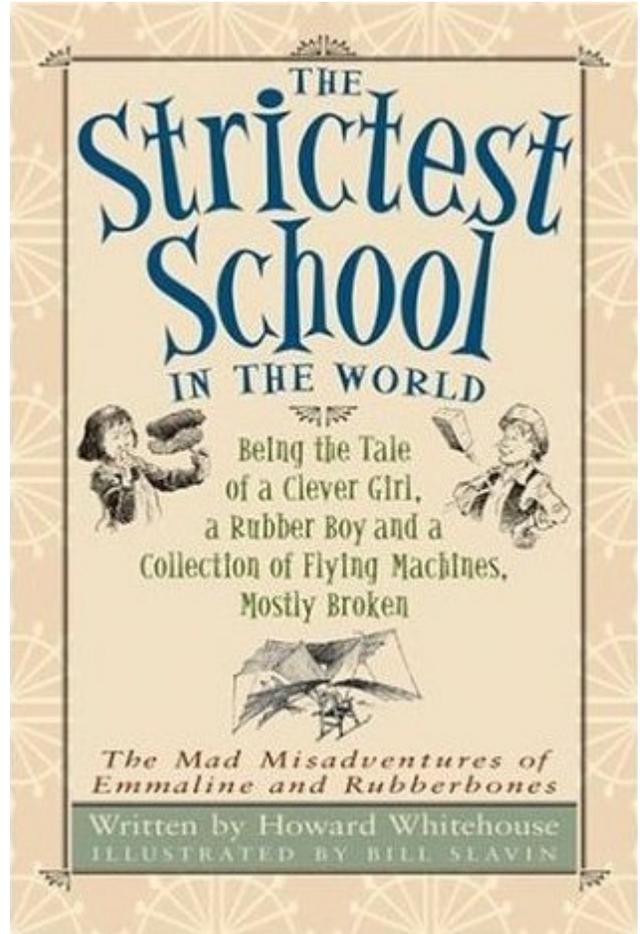
www.rocklandsymphony.org on the web.



Fun with Howard — December 2

As many of you know, our own Howard Whitehouse has recently become a published author. He has been aggressively promoting his new children's book, *The Strictest School in the World: Being the Tale of a Clever Girl, a Rubber Boy and a Collection of Flying Machines, Mostly Broken (The Mad Misadventures of Emmaline and Rubberbones)* in Canada but to date has done little in the United States. That is about to change. New Hempstead Presbyterian Church will be hosting a book signing with Howard on Saturday afternoon, December 2. That day Howard will be in the Colonial Room, regaling us with the story behind the writing of his book and reading from it. Copies of his book will be available for sale that day and Howard will be happy to autograph it for you. Refreshments will be served.

If you have a niece or nephew, child or grandchild that you are looking for that special Christmas gift for, be sure to pick up an extra copy (you'll want one for yourself, of course). Save the date and come join us for an afternoon of fun with Howard.



Living Waters for the World at Stony Point Center

In May of next year, there is an opportunity to learn what you can do to help the millions without adequate access to clean water. Half of the water available worldwide for drinking and cooking is contaminated. This alarming reality means 3 million people die each year of water-related illness—most of them children.

Come learn what you can do to help those condemned to drinking contaminated water.

This event is a Sampler Weekend, featuring an abbreviated version of Living Waters for the World Clean Water U intensive four-day course. The program begins with dinner on Friday, May 11 and concludes with dinner on Saturday, May 12.

Cost is \$85 before April 16, 2007 and \$105 thereafter. Single occupancy is an additional charge of \$20. Discounts are available for groups. Call for details.

For more information on this event contact:

Andy James, Event Coordinator
718-746-7858

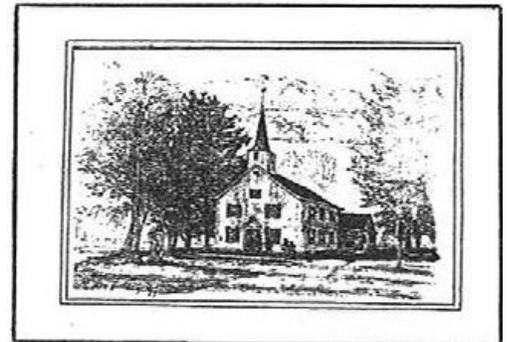
or Rev. Charles Ryu, Program Director
1-800-253-4285 x 111
cryu@stonypointcenter.org



Christmas Cards



Blank Note Cards



Message:

PEACE TO YOU AND THOSE YOU LOVE,
AND BLESSINGS FROM THE LORD ABOVE
AT CHRISTMAS TIME & ALWAYS.

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST HEAVEN
AND ON EARTH PEACE, GOOD WILL AMONG
PEOPLE. Luke 2:14

A great gift any time of the year

Name: _____ Phone: _____

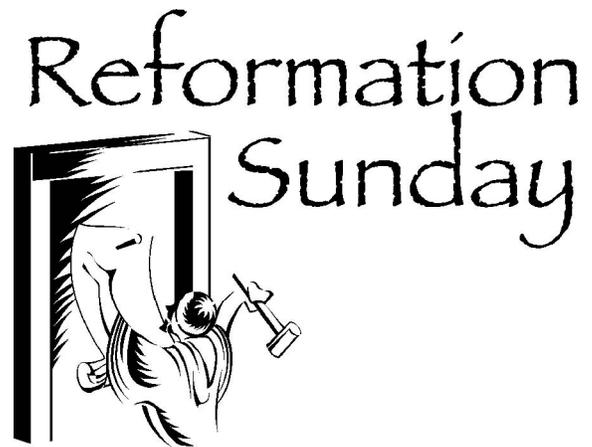
Set of 20 Christmas cards and Envelopes \$15 _____ x \$15 \$ _____

Set of 10 Blank note cards and Envelopes \$10 _____ x \$10 \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Please make checks payable to the New Hempstead Presbyterian Church and note that the payment is for cards. Place your orders as early as possible to ensure plenty of time for sending.

You can mail your order to the church office: 484 New Hempstead Road, New City, NY 10956



Always Being Reformed

A Reformation Day message to the PC(USA)
from the stated clerk
by the Rev. Clifton Kirkpatrick
General Assembly stated clerk
and president, World Alliance of Reformed Churches

Reformation Sunday is a time each year for Presbyterians to reclaim our heritage in the Protestant Reformation and to draw upon its strengths for our contemporary witness.

It is typically the last Sunday in October (this year, October 29), the Sunday closest to October 31 (1517), when Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses on the church door in Wittenberg, Germany. That dramatic event marked the beginning of a movement of reformation in the churches and set forth a spirit of reform that is at the heart of the gospel and the experience of the New Testament church.

Reformed churches affirm the great motto of the Protestant Reformation: *Ecclesia reformata, semper reformanda*—The church reformed, always reforming (“according to the Word of God and the call of the Spirit,” as our Book of Order states in G-2.0200.) While Reformation Sunday is indeed a time to look back to such great truths and insights as articulated by the reformers almost 500 years ago, it is much more importantly a time to look forward as we face the challenges of our life and witness today.

The spirit of the Reformation calls each new age to work for the renewal to which God is calling churches.

On this Reformation Sunday, the World Alliance of Reformed Churches is calling us in particular to remember and celebrate the remarkable way the Reformed movement has literally circled the globe. There are now some 75 million Reformed Christians, two thirds of which are now in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Reformed Christians from all over the world will be joining us to re-appropriate the great themes of the Reformation that are at the core of faithful Christian living:

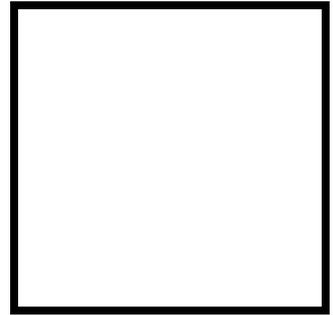
- faith alone, grace alone, Scripture alone;
- the priesthood of all believers;
- the sovereignty of God over the whole creation; and
- the church as a covenant community.

These callings are at the core of what it means for Presbyterian churches to live out the Reformation in our day. May this year’s observance be a real time of renewal and reformation for you, for your church, and for the global movement we share through the World Alliance of Reformed Churches.



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 484 New Hempstead Road
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**DATED MATERIAL
 NOVEMBER 2006**

Say "Thank You!"

Have you ever sent a thank-you card to someone for a gift you received? You can send thank-you cards for things besides presents. There are many people around you who do very thoughtful things for you every day. Celebrate this Thanksgiving by sending homemade thank-you cards to the people you are thankful for.

What you need:

- A list of people to thank (as many as you want)
- Paper (colored construction paper or white copy paper)
- Crayons, markers, paint, stickers, etc.
- Envelopes (optional, unless mailing)
- Stamps (if mailing)



What to do:

1. Next to each name on your list, write something that person has said or done that was helpful or kind.
2. Fold each sheet of paper in half like a card. (If you're using an envelope, make sure it fits inside.)
3. Decorate the card's front with drawings, stickers, etc.
4. Write a short note on the inside, thanking the person for the thing he or she did or said.
5. Deliver the cards in person or by mail.

Some people you may want to thank:

- Family members
- Sunday school teachers
- School teachers
- Friends
- Neighbors
- People at church



MAKE A TABLE LANTERN

Make this candleholder to decorate your family's Thanksgiving dinner table.

What you need:

- Tiny leaves
- Glue
- Small glass jar with a wide mouth (salsa jars work great)
- Colored tissue paper (use fall colors if you can)
- Paintbrush
- Small votive candle

How to make it:

1. Collect tiny autumn leaves.
2. Glue the leaves to the outside of the jar.
3. Tear tissue paper into small pieces.
4. Use the paintbrush to cover the outside of the jar (including the leaves) with glue. Work on small parts of the jar at a time.
5. Lightly press the tissue paper pieces onto the glue until the entire outside of the jar is covered.
6. When the jar is completely dry, place the candle inside.
7. Ask an adult to light the candle during Thanksgiving dinner.

