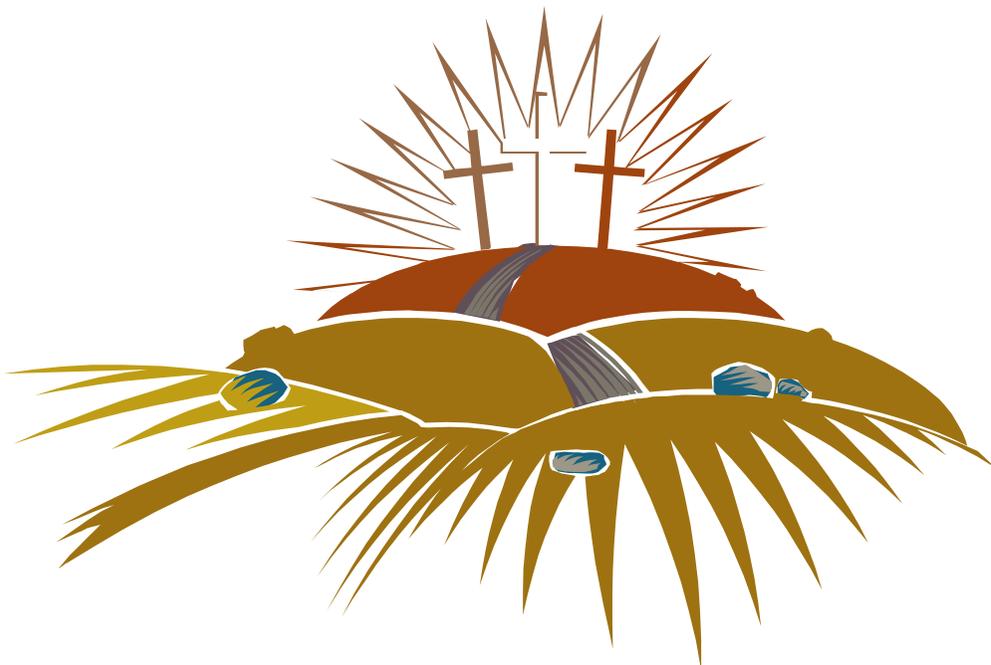


The Carriage Stone

March 2007

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

Newsletter of the English Church



LENT



"The Carriage Stone" is the Newsletter of

The New Hempstead Presbyterian Church

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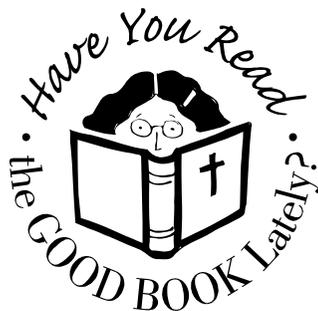
FROM THE PASTOR

Lenten Journey

It's hard for me to believe that it's Lent once again. I always enjoy this time of year—it demands that I slow down and “be still, and know that God is” (Psalm 46:10). Lent, while traditionally a penitential season for the Church, isn't only a time to “give something up”—it's also a time to add to our lives. Spending extra time in prayer, beginning a daily discipline of Bible Study, ending the day with a contemporary devotional reading (My favorites are by Madeleine L'Engel and Frederick Beuchner), all are wonderful ways to take time to reflect on ourselves as we are, and to ask God to become more the persons God knows we can be.

I am a big admirer of Saint Benedict, the sixth century saint who founded the Benedictine Order of brothers and sisters. Benedict understood, as have so many others before and since, that life is a journey, a pilgrimage. It is not easy to prepare ourselves for the everyday journey of life. But we are far better equipped for all life can throw at us if we engage in daily Bible

reading and prayer. If this is not yet a part of your day, I encourage you to begin. Start with the Psalms—they are Israel's hymnbook. Since they are



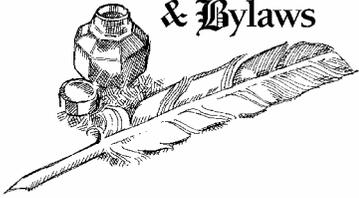
prayers, pray them! Let them become your own prayer to God. If your mood doesn't match the Psalm you read, pray it on behalf of someone else!

If it's been a while since you read the New Testament, read a Gospel. Mark is the shortest! Luke is my personal favorite. Let the story touch your story. It's not easy to carve out that extra time in day for holy reading, but it is enriching and rewarding

As St. Benedict said, “Do not be daunted immediately by fear and run away from the road that leads to salvation.... But as we progress in this way of life and faith, we shall run on the path of God's commandments, our hearts overflowing with the inexpressible light of love.”

A Blessed Lent to you all,

Church Constitution & Bylaws



Notice of Bylaws Amendment

The By-laws of the
New Hempstead
Presbyterian

Church were amended at the Annual Meeting
held February 11 to reflect the following change:

AUDITING COMMITTEE

An auditing Committee of ~~three (3)~~
2 (two) or more persons not serving on
the Session or the Board of Deacons,
nominated by the Nominating
Committee of the Congregation with the
privilege being given to members of the
Congregation to make nominations from
the floor, shall be elected at the annual
meeting of the Congregation.

This Committee, either itself doing the
work or engaging an independent firm
to do it, shall before the end of the fiscal
year audit all the books, all accounts,
trusts and funds of the Congregation,
and of all organizations of the Church.
~~Within ten (10) days previous to the
next annual meeting of the
Congregation, this Committee shall
examine all said accounts and report
thereon at such meeting. By March 31,
this Committee shall examine all said
accounts and report thereon.~~

Any vacancies that might occur in the
Auditing Committee during the year
may be filled by the Session appointing
active members of the Church not
serving on the Session or the Board of
Deacons.

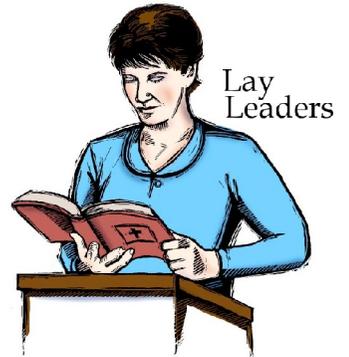
The bylaws were last amended November 9,
2003. Copies of the by-laws are available by
request to the church office.

Lay Leaders and Ushers

From Barbara Zacheis,
Chair of Worship, Music and the Arts

If you're wondering why you haven't received
your annual list of ushers/greeters and lay
leaders, it's not that you are off the list! No, it's
because the list is being developed a bit slowly
this year! As the new chairperson of Worship,
Music and the Arts, I am responsible to arrange
for lay leaders and ushers, which I've been
working on on a weekly or bi-weekly basis so far.
So, please know I **WILL** be contacting you, and if
you weren't on the list in the past but would like
to be added, just let me
know during coffee hour
or feel free to contact me
and I'll be sure to include
you.

Thanks for your patience!



New Church Directory

From Shirley Martignetti

The church
directory has
been updated.
Copies are
available in the
Colonial Room
or, you may
request an email
version by sending a note to Shirley at
office@nhpchurch.org



Inquirer's Class

An Inquirer's class (for folks new to our congregation and folks who want to learn more about Presbyterians and our congregation in particular) will begin in March 11, and run through April 1. During these four weeks, we will



meet in the sanctuary to talk about Presbyterian history and Polity (that's legalese for church government!), our Presbyterian understanding of Worship and Sacraments, the

meaning of Church membership and opportunities for worship, education, and service here at New Hempstead Presbyterian.

Those who wish to celebrate their commitment to the life and mission of this congregation will join on Easter Sunday, April 8, at the 11 AM worship service.

Mark your calendars!

What: Inquirer's Class

When: Sundays, March 11, 18, 25, April 1, 12:30 PM

Where: In the sanctuary

Who: Lead by Dr. Knight-Whitehouse.

Lecture by Desmond Tutu

From Barbara Zacheis

The Prodigal God - You are invited to hear a lecture presented by Archbishop Desmond Tutu in the "God at 2000" series entitled, "The Prodigal God," on March 4 at 1 PM after the fellowship hour in the Colonial Room, followed by a brief discussion. Come hear a dynamic (and often humorously witty!) presentation on the Love of our God in this day and age, and throughout the ages.

Calling All Women!

From Vanessa Greenwald



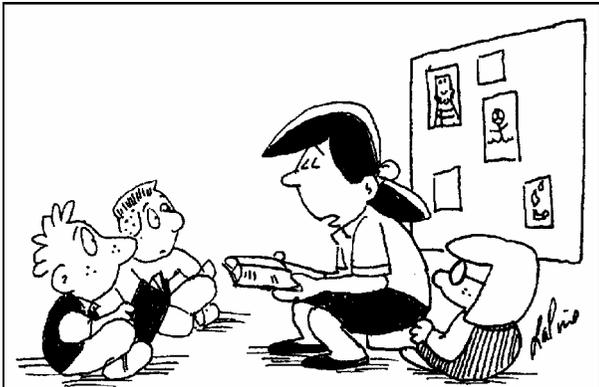
Do you find yourself longing to belong to a group that can support you spiritually? A group where you feel safe enough to share and grow personally? I am looking to form a women's spirituality group where we can support one another, and continue learning about what it means to be a strong spiritual woman. I believe that as woman we can offer one another the guidance, support and nurture that we need in order to do the work that will allow us deepen and strengthen our knowledge and understanding of the role women play as spiritual beings. If you are interested, please call Vanessa Greenwald. This will be an exciting group!

Palm Sunday Luncheon

To begin Holy Week, the Fellowship Committee will again prepare for the Annual Palm Sunday Lunch. This year Palm Sunday falls on April 1. There will be a luncheon immediately after service at Murchison Hall. We welcome all members and friends of the congregation to bring a covered dish. Please invite your family and friends. The Fellowship Committee will provide coffee, refreshments and a special cake. Please sign our lunch poster and let us know what you are bringing and how many people are coming.

This event will be followed by a full breakfast on April 8. The Easter Morning Sunrise Service will start at 8 AM at Murchison Hall followed immediately by the breakfast.





"No, Henry. 'The Feeding of the Five Thousand' is not another one of the pastor's fish stories."

Sunday School News

From Vanessa Greenwald

The Sunday school children have been doing some amazing work this year! During The Christmas season, they put on an awesome program with the help of the youth group. This was all possible due to the help of Mary Ann Witte, Mark Zacheis, Howard Whitehouse, Bruce Rentz, Kryste Andrews, Carmen and Joe Bermudez, and Nora. Thank you all for your support and hard work! Currently the children are working with Kryste on several pieces of music, and they worked on bookmarkers for the soldiers in Iraq. In Sunday school, we are looking to understand the awesomeness of God's unconditional love for us, and how we can learn more about it through prayer and memorizing verses from the Bible. They are doing so well with the Bible verses! We are also looking at the possibility of putting on another play in the spring. Keep an eye out for us!

Reception Honoring Rev. Hughart

You are invited to join in honoring The Reverend Tom Hughart for his years of service to Hudson River Presbytery and Holmes Presbyterian Camp and Conference Center. The Reverend Susan Andrews, Hudson River Presbytery Executive and former Moderator of PC(USA), will be speaking. The reception is March 8 from 6 to 8 PM at the home of David and Mary Boies in Armonk, NY. Directions are available from the church office.

Business attire and a donation to the Homes Presbyterian Camp and Conference Center are requested.

If you are interested, RSVP by March 1 sending the form to:

Holmes Presbyterian Camp & Conference Center
60 Denton Lake Road
Holmes, NY 12531

Name: _____

Address: _____

Yes, I plan to attend on March 8
Number of people attending: _____

Patron – \$50 per person
Saint – \$100 per person
Angel – \$150 per person

Check enclosed for: _____

I cannot attend, but have enclosed a contribution.

Amount: _____



One Great Hour of Sharing 2007

Janine Kallé, Chair
Mission and Outreach

Let's take a moment to look at the theme of this year's One Great Hour of

Sharing. When we read the story of the Good Samaritan, if we remember the lawyer at all, we probably remember him as a kind of straight man, the person who sets Jesus up with the question, "Who is my neighbor?" If we think about him further, he may represent the kind of overblown smugness we enjoy watching Jesus puncture, the person who thinks he's doing everything God asks and doesn't care who knows it. Certainly the text supports that idea, saying he was "testing Jesus" with his first question and "wishing to justify himself" with his second.

But let's give the man some credit. He may well have been one of the seventy Jesus had sent out in his name and who returned excited by the power he had given them to subdue evil. In that case, he had already begun to lay it on the line a lot more than most of us. Perhaps he assumed that this meant he now had an inside track to heaven and wanted to cut to the chase: "Jesus, now that we've seen what we can do in your name, how do we access eternal life?" It is here that the story begins to have meaning for us, because Jesus tells him, "The road to life goes through your neighbor. First, love God. Next, love your neighbor. If you do this, you will live."

Our salvation, in other words, is not a private peace we can negotiate with God. It requires our being involved with one another. And in this story, he makes clear that "one another" does not just mean the people who shop at the same stores we do. It means whoever is in need. Now for many of us, One Great Hour of Sharing is one



DOLLARS DO

For struggling farmers:
 \$30 Pushcart/wheelbarrow
 \$15 Set of garden tools
 (hoe, shovel, and rake)

One great hour of sharing



MAKE A DIFFERENCE

From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace — John 1:16 NRSV

of the ways in which we do reach beyond our own experience to the needs of others, needs we may never have seen firsthand. Surely, it is one of the ways we share the love of God with others. However, what do we get out of this transaction? Do we get our passport stamped so we can go straight to heaven?

It seems to me that when Jesus said, "Do this and you will live," he meant something more. I think he meant that our separation from our neighbor, especially the neighbor we don't really want to approach, is one of the things that separates us from true life. It is in recognizing our own face in that of our neighbor that we can see the face of God. It is in recognizing our common need and our common humanity with all of those we may be tempted to think of them as that we can open ourselves up to God. So today, as we give our gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing, let us thank God for the opportunities to encounter those neighbors through the mission of this offering, and ask God to open us more and more to recognize the unacknowledged neighbors in our lives.

DOLLARS DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

For hungry villagers and rural families in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America striving to feed themselves:

\$200 Fishing nets	\$10 Two rabbits
\$50 500 baby fish	\$490 Cow
\$45 Wire chicken coop	\$125 Goat

**One
great hour
of sharing**

About the OGHS Offering –

For more than fifty years, Presbyterians have joined with Christians throughout the nation in supporting One Great Hour of Sharing, responding to Christ's love for all people by joyfully sharing that love with people in need. The refugee and the stranger have found food and safe shelter; those stunned by the aftermath of disasters have found relief and help rebuilding; and communities seeking to take control of their future have found partners in development. Presbyterians' gifts support the work of The Presbyterian Committee for the Self-Development of People, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and the Presbyterian Hunger Program. The hundreds of millions of dollars Presbyterians have given over the last half century have enabled a powerful witness to the love of the One who came that all might have life more abundantly.

OGHS Facts –

Allocation of gifts to the PC(USA)'s One Great Hour of Sharing offering. After deducting administrative costs (up to 5%) and the costs of creating and distributing promotional materials (roughly 5%), the remaining undesignated gifts are divided among three programs as follows:

- 36% **Presbyterian Hunger Program** for ministries working to alleviate hunger and eliminate its causes, responding with compassion and justice to poor and hungry people in local communities, in the nation, and throughout the world, as well as ministries addressing homelessness and affordable housing.
- 32% **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance** for disaster response and ministries with refugees.

32% Self-Development of People

for partnerships with groups of people who are oppressed by poverty or social systems, who want to take charge of their own lives, have organized to do something about their own condition, and have decided what they need to do to produce long-term benefits for themselves.



From the Editor

Did I Miss Your Article?

Over the past few months, I have been experiencing problems receiving E-mail. Service from both the newsletter account and our personal accounts has been intermittent with one out of every three or four messages dropped. These difficulties caused me to miss several newsletter submissions. When I was expecting a specific item, such as the Pastor's letter or a promised report, it was easy for me to contact the person and ask that it be re-sent.

However, it is quite possible that I have missed other items as well. If you sent me something and it never appeared, please understand that I probably did not receive it. Every timely, church-related item I receive before my final printing makes it into the newsletter. Every original work of poetry, prose, drawing or photograph is used.

**Remember:
Clocks Move
Ahead
March 11**



Cell Phone vs. The Bible

I wonder what would happen if we treated our Bible like we treat our cell phone.

- What if we carried it around in our purses or pockets?
- What if we flipped through it several times a day?
- What if we turned back to go get it if we forgot it?
- What if we used it to receive messages from the text?
- What if we treated it as if we couldn't live without it?
- What if we gave it to kids as gifts?
- What if we used it when we traveled?
- What if we used it in case of emergency?

This is something to make you go...hmm...
"Where is my Bible?"

Oh, and one more thing. Unlike our cell phone, we don't have to worry about our Bible being disconnected because Jesus already paid the bill.

Did that make you think, "Where are my priorities?"

There are no dropped calls!

— Thanks to Joanna Meckley for this message.



The LORD'S Prayer

I found this back in 2001 and it seems appropriate next to the message Joanna found. It's a version of the Lord's Prayer written in the form of a text message, taken from (The) *London Times*.

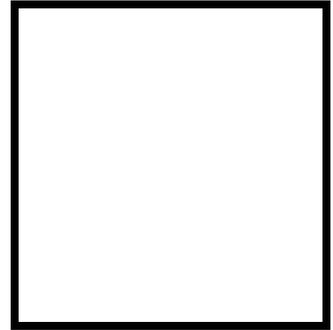
Of course, there is nothing new under the sun. Cable telegrams, in use from 1851 to 2006, used similar abbreviations and slang to reduce the toll charges.

Text message	Explanation
dad@hvn,	Dad at heaven,
urspshl.	you're special.
we want wot u want	We want what you want
&urth2b like hvn.	and Earth to be like heaven.
giv us food	Give us food
&4giv r sins	and forgive our sins
lyk we 4giv uvaz.	like we forgive others.
don't test us!	don't test us!
save us!	save us!
bcos we kno ur boss	because we know you're boss
ur tuf	you're tough
&ur cool 4 eva!	and you're cool forever!
ok?	Amen

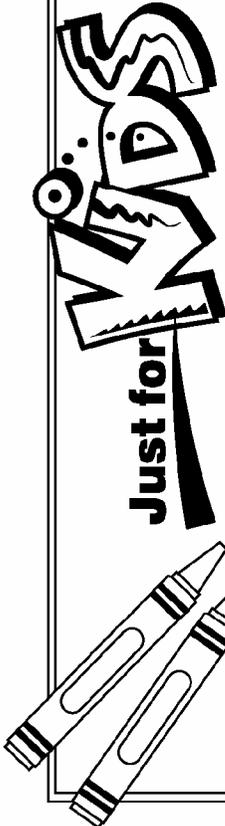


Newsletter of the English Church

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



DATED MATERIAL
MARCH 2007



Just for KIDS



Remember to Pray

There are many verses in the Bible that talk to us about prayer. Solve the puzzle below to see the lesson Paul teaches about prayer in Philimon 1:4. Think about your own life and your prayers.

Use the alphabet code to fill in the blanks, and then read Paul's message.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
 Z Y X W V U T S R Q P O N M L K J I H G F E D C B A

“ R _ Z _ O _ D _ Z _ B _ H _ G _ S _ Z _ M _ P _ N _ B

T _ L _ W _ Z _ H _ R _ I _ V _ N _ V _ N _ Y _ V _ I

B _ L _ F _ R _ M _ N _ B _ K _ I _ Z _ B _ V _ I _ H

... ..”

... Philimon 1:4, NIV

Answer:
 I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers