

# The Carriage Stone

June 2007

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

Newsletter of the English Church

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Church Picnic	June 10
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"The Carriage Stone" is the Newsletter of

**The New Hempstead Presbyterian Church**

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**Next Deadline:** Sunday, June 17

**Submissions:** in my mailbox or to  
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## The Meaning of Church Membership

I was so excited when the Session received Jan Morton, Jane Craig Sebok and Lisa Dewey into membership on May 20. It's always wonderful to welcome new folks into the life and ministry of New Hempstead Presbyterian Church. It's also a good time for folk who've been a part of the Church to remember what it means, exactly, to be a member. The PC, USA, Book of Order states,

A faithful member accepts Christ's call to be involved responsibly in the ministry of his Church. Such involvement includes

- a. proclaiming the good news,
- b. taking part in the common life and worship of a particular church,
- c. praying and studying Scripture and the faith of the Christian Church,
- d. supporting the work of the church through the giving of money, time, and talents,
- e. participating in the governing responsibilities of the church,
- f. demonstrating a new quality of life within and through the church,
- g. responding to God's activity in the world through service to others,
- h. living responsibly in the personal, family, vocational, political, cultural, and social relationships of life,



- i. working in the world for peace, justice, freedom, and human fulfillment.

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Note that wonderful phrase, "such involvement includes" — we probably won't do letter *a* through letter *i* every single day, and there are undoubtedly many more ways to be "involved responsibly in the ministry of Christ's church." But we are reminded that the privilege of membership in the Body of Christ, the Church, carries with it a responsibility beyond Worship attendance. As the saying goes, "Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car."

We are blessed with a wonderful, vital congregation who, I sense, long to be more active in the community in the name of Jesus Christ. I hope you will join with me and the Session as we seek to expand our outreach in Rockland and in the world.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lori".



## Worship Moves to 10 AM

June 10 is the last 11 AM Worship service until after Labor Day. The summer worship hour of 10 AM will begin on June 17.

## Study Group Taking a Break

The Monday evening study group completed its study of Brian McLaren's *The Secret Message of Jesus* on May 21. We will be taking a break for the summer and then resuming in the fall. We enjoyed many nights of Holy conversation and energetic discussion.

Please consider joining us in the fall. All are welcome and you do not need to be a Biblical scholar to participate.

# Great BIBLE REEF



**Take the plunge!**  
**Join us at Great Bible Reef VBS!**

**Fun for the Whole Family!**

**Place:** New Hempstead Presbyterian Church

**Dates:** Monday, July 9 through Thursday, July 12

**Time:** 5:30 PM to 7:45 PM

*(A hot delicious dinner and yummy snack will be served)*

Get ready for four days of super fun games, crafts, songs, skits and stories!

For more information or to register call the church at 354-2372 or see Vanessa Greenwald.

**Don't delay! Register today! See you at the Great Bible Reef!**



## Church Picnic

The Annual Church picnic will be held following worship on Sunday, June 10. The Fellowship committee will provide Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Chicken and beverages. A sign up sheet is posted in the Colonial Room where you can volunteer to bring your special dish to share, if you would like.

Everyone is invited to join in. There will be fun for the whole family.

## Opera Concert after the Picnic

The Rockland Opera will perform in the New Hempstead Presbyterian Church Sanctuary on Sunday afternoon, June 10. As part of this season's theme, *Love and all that...Opera*, Rockland Opera will offer an "L word" presentation at 4:30 PM.

Soprano, Jennifer Greene, back from the prestigious Natchez Festival of Music, and Tenor, Dillon McCartney join Rockland Opera's President, Dr. Irwin C. Elkins. They will present a musical assessment of *Love* and how it touches a romantic cord in opera composers such as Handel, Verdi, Bellini, Rossini, Donizetti and Puccini to mention just a few.

For more information, call the Rockland Opera office: 574-4591.



## Boat Trip with Stony Point



The annual boat trip on the Hudson with Stony Point Presbyterian Church will be on Sunday, June 3 from 1-4 PM.

You, your family and friends are invited on board *The Commander* for a private Hudson River cruise from Haverstraw to West Point Military Academy and back. Come with us and share fellowship with our Brothers and Sisters from Stony Point.

The cost is \$20 per ticket. Tickets have probably sold out by now, but for more information, call Stony Point at 786-2237.

## Greek Festival

The members of the Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church have invited us to attend their Greek festival. The festival occurs June 7-10 and includes food, pastries, live music, games, rides, handicrafts and other celebrations of Greek culture.

The hours are:

Thursday, June 7	5:30 to 10 PM
Friday, June 8	noon to midnight
Saturday, June 9	11 AM to midnight
Sunday, June 10	noon to 8 PM

The festival is on the church grounds at one Mary crest Road in West Nyack and is reached off exit 7 of the Palisades.



## Theresa's New Address

Theresa Tedesco has moved. Her new address is available from the Church office.

## Thank You Note from VCS and RFS

In April, NHPC donated quilts and toiletries to women in need in the Haverstraw and Spring Valley areas through the Volunteer Counseling Service and the Rockland Family Shelter. We received a thank you letter from these organizations, which detailed how the gifts were used and described some of the programs offered. Here is an excerpt from this letter.

### To All our Friends at New Hempstead Presbyterian Church,

Thank you so much for your enormous gesture of caring, concern and generosity. The amazingly beautiful quilts that you recently sent to women in the Haverstraw community are sincerely appreciated. We are most grateful! Once again, we were surprised and thrilled as your van pulled up in the driveway. We could hardly believe what it held inside! The magnificent quilts, blanketed in huge, bright flowery bags, each tied with a pretty ribbon and bearing a warm, encouraging message on pink and lavender paper, were truly a breath of spring...and a perfect Mother's Day gift! As were the accompanying personal care items of shampoo, lotion, bath gel, etc. Thanks to each of you, we were able to share your remarkable presents with many, many women in four different support and parenting groups in Haverstraw and Spring Valley. Just as you did last year, you not only provided a lovely gift for

each person, but you also let each woman know that she was being remembered and uniquely valued. This is not always something that the women experience in their lives. Consequently, you brought brilliant smiles, lots of laughter, touched hearts and a joyful difference!

On behalf of the *VCS Mothers' Groups* and the *Rockland Family Shelter Women's Support Group*, we want to express our thanks. Each Wednesday morning the Rockland Family Shelter conducts a support group for women who are confronting the daily and difficult situation of domestic violence. Tillie Rodriguez facilitates the group. Each Wednesday afternoon VCS conducts a parenting group called *The Mother's Group/El Grupo de Madres*. Fortunately, RFS also participates in this important program. Tillie Rodriguez, who is also a member of Central Presbyterian Church, co-facilitates the weekly meeting with Eileen Burge of VCS. Both of these groups extend outreach and assistance to the women in the Haverstraw area, many of whom are immigrants new to the United States. Both groups are conducted in Spanish. They occur weekly—52 weeks a year—are open to all women, free of charge and are confidential. The afternoon parenting class offers free childcare.

Once again, we thank you so much for your continued interest, kindness and

gift of the very special quilts. Their beauty delighted our eyes, and their softness brings calm and comfort. Your beautiful friendship has definitely lifted our spirits! May we send a most Happy Mother's Day to everyone at New Hempstead Presbyterian Church! ¡Feliz Día de las Madres! ¡Muchas gracias! Enjoy the day!!



## Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Responds to April Nor'easter Flooding

From the Synod of the Northeast website

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) has responded to a request for assistance by Hudson River Presbytery following April flooding that affected churches in South Westchester - Port Chester, New Rochelle, Rye, and Larchmont. New York.

In addition, PDA has responded to flooding in Palisades Presbytery, where several churches were affected, and in New Brunswick Presbytery where the Bound Brook Presbyterian Church has served as a community shelter for about 200 people following more than 9" of rain made rivers overflow and put so much water into drainage systems that they couldn't take any more.



### PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE.

Bruce McGraw and Dan Grimes will assist with the long-range recovery in New Jersey, as will Isabel Santana from Puerto Rico. The proper paperwork to forward \$10,000 in support of the Presbytery of Palisades in response to the flooding of the Passaic, Hackensack and Ramapo Rivers, and to Hudson River Presbytery with the damage to churches named above has been completed. Initial grants to presbyteries will be on hand by the second week in May. These follow a grant that had previously been arranged for New Brunswick Presbytery.

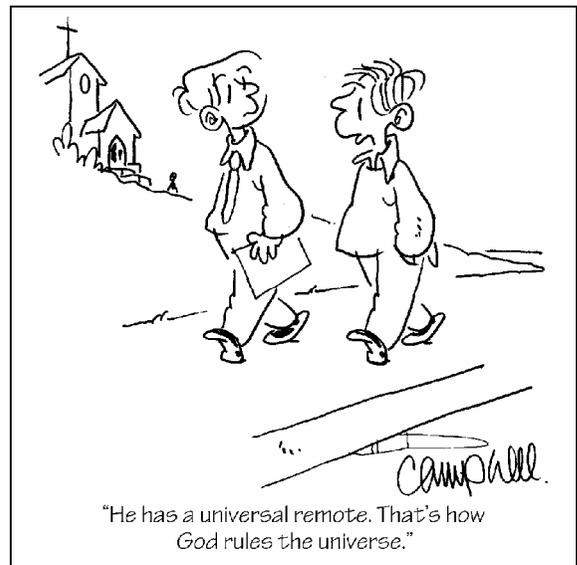
***Please remember that the response from the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is made possible through the donations to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering.***

Several churches in Palisades Presbytery were affected by the flooding. Most had "clean" water, the result of the storm sewer system being

unable to keep up with the amount of ground water caused by the torrential rains. However, some communities were also ravaged by river flooding, and all of the devastation that comes with surging, dirty water. Parts of the city of Paterson especially were hard hit in Palisades Presbytery. The synod has been in touch with PDA about responding to these needs as well.

Please keep our neighbors in your prayers.

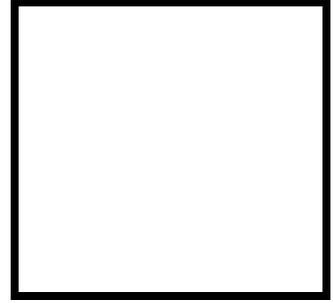
### Couch Potato Humor





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



## DATED MATERIAL JUNE 2007

### A Verse Frame

Make this special gift for your dad, uncle, grandfather or father-figure. It is nice to be reminded of our heavenly Father's love for us.

*What you need:*

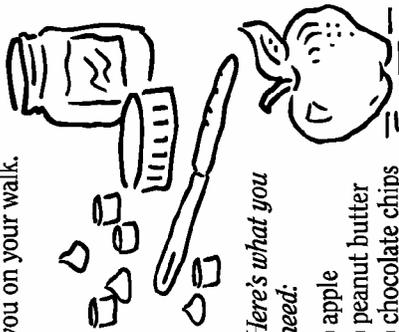
- Piece of craft foam (8½" x 11", any color)
- Ruler
- Scissors
- Piece of paper (8½" x 11", any color)
- Pencil, crayons or marker
- Foam shapes, stickers (optional)
- Glue
- Hole punch
- Ribbon or yarn

*What you do:*

1. Use your ruler to measure a rectangle inside the piece of craft foam. Draw the rectangle, and then cut it out. Your foam should now look like a frame.
2. Place the piece of paper under the foam frame, and trace the shape of the frame's window onto the paper.
3. Choose a verse to write inside the rectangle on your paper. (Your frame can go horizontally or vertically.) Suggested verses include 1 Corinthians 8:6, Philippians 4:20 and 1 John 3:1.
4. Turn the frame over (face down), and put glue around the edge. Lay the verse face down on the back of the frame, and let it dry.
5. Decorate the outside of the frame with foam shapes, stickers or drawings.
6. Use your hole punch to punch two holes at the top of the frame. Tie a piece of ribbon or yarn through the holes to hang the frame.

### M A K E A "Walking Snack"

Summer is a great time to take long walks with friends to look at the beauty of God's world. Make an easy "Walking Snack" to take with you on your walk.



*Here's what you need:*

- apple
- peanut butter
- chocolate chips
- mini-marshmallows
- knife

*Here's how to make it:*

1. Ask a grownup to help you with this recipe.
2. Hollow out the apple from the top. Remove most of the core, but leave the bottom of the apple uncut.
3. Put some peanut butter into the apple. Fill the hole about halfway.
4. Add some chocolate chips, but leave room for marshmallows.
5. Finish filling the apple with marshmallows.
6. Make another one for a friend.
7. Take the apple snacks along with you when you take a walk with your friend.