

The Carriage Stone

February 2008

New Hempstead Presbyterian Church, New City, NY.
The English Church



The Ash
Wednesday
Service will be
February 6 at
8 PM

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"The Carriage Stone" is the Newsletter of
The New Hempstead Presbyterian Church

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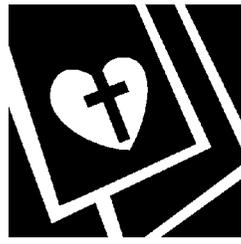
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FROM THE PASTOR

Already Lent

“The Christmas feast is already a fading memory,
And already the mind begins to be vaguely aware
Of an unpleasant whiff of apprehension at the thought
Of Lent and Good Friday, which cannot, after all, now
Be very far off.”

So wrote W. H. Auden in his work, “For the Time Being.” The words ring especially true this year, with Ash Wednesday about as early as it can be— February 3. Goodness, but I’m not even recovered from Christmas!

But such is life. If we wait until we’re “ready” for something, we’d probably miss a lot that life has to offer—a lot that God has to offer. I’ve said it before, but I really do believe that Lent need not be a time of long faces and merely giving up chocolate or wine.

Lent is a time to study how Jesus lived his life—how he was never separated from God. All of his life and ministry revolved around his desire to do God’s will. It is with good reason that Christians understand Psalm 40:7-8 to refer to Jesus: “Then I said, ‘Here I am; in the scroll of the book it is written of me. I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart.’” The more deeply we imitate Jesus’ life of prayer, study, and obedience to God, the more faithfully we as individuals and as a congregation will carry out God’s will.

Where is God calling to us? Are there hungry people to feed, maybe even to invite to dinner? Are there those with no housing or substandard housing who need shelter? Are there lonely people to befriend? Are there sick or imprisoned folk to visit, to pray with and for?

Where will Jesus lead us this Lent? Ready or not...



The Ash Wednesday Worship service will be held at 8 PM on Wednesday, February 6 in the Sanctuary. As Lori pointed out, Lent comes early this year, so be sure to mark your calendar.

Notes from the Chair of Worship, Music and the Arts

From Barbara Zacheis

- There is a calendar on the bulletin board in the Colonial Room for sponsoring **flowers** for the Sanctuary during services. Please feel free to sign up for a given Sunday by putting your name in the Sunday box, and your intention to the right of it. Remember to send in your check for \$30 to cover the cost, or you can put it in the offering basket – mark your check memo “flowers.” Please remember to take your flowers at the end of the service!
- We need more volunteers who may be contacted on occasion to arrange the flowers for the sanctuary. Please contact Barbara Zacheis if interested.
- If you are interested in serving as a **lay leader** or **usher** and have not been contacted, please let Barbara Zacheis know, and you will quickly be scheduled!
- The Worship Committee will meet on January 30, at 8 PM. All are welcome to attend!



Wanted: Video Camera

From the Deacons

The video camera in the sanctuary balcony has served us well but is old and has broken down. It does not pay to have it fixed – it would be less expensive to buy a new one. In re-evaluating our needs, however, we have determined that its principal function is to provide a video feed to the Colonial Room during the Worship service. That being its only use, we have determined that the church does not need a fancy, complex machine.



It occurs to us that there might be members of the congregation who have an older video camera that functions properly but which has been put on the shelf when a newer model was purchased. Such a machine might fill our needs perfectly well.

If you are someone who has such a camera and who might be willing to donate it, please speak to Marc Bidon or another Deacon.



The annual meeting of the congregation and corporation of New Hempstead Presbyterian Church will be held on February 10, 2008 immediately following the worship service.

Shirley A. Martignetti
Office Manager,
New Hempstead Presbyterian Church

Per Capita: What is it and Why Should Our Church Pay It?

From Mark Zacheis, Treasurer

Our church is a member congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and thus has a relationship with every other Presbyterian Church in the denomination, as well as the governing bodies: Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly. The name Presbyterian is from the Greek *Presbyter*, which refers to an Elder or Overseer in the church.

Each church is a member of a Presbytery and sends two representatives — one minister and one Elder — to Presbytery meetings. These representatives have a voice and vote in the business of the Presbytery. Presbyteries are groups of churches; Synods are groups of Presbyteries, and the General Assembly is the national group of Synods.

Our Per Capita funds are split into three parts and used by the Hudson River Presbytery, the Synod of the Northeast and General Assembly to pay their operational costs and the costs of their ongoing programs. Presbytery has

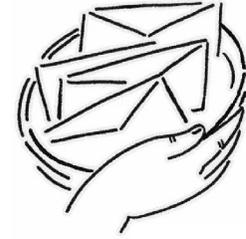


expenses similar to our own church — salaries, rent, utilities, office expenses and missions.

Some of the work that our Presbytery does includes nurturing members preparing for ordination as ministers, guiding churches as they go through the mission study

and pastor search process, provide advice on financial matters and hear and decide disciplinary or remedial cases. The Presbytery sponsors Christian Education workshops and retreats, organizes Youth Ministry conferences and opportunities, advocates for rural and migrant farm workers and offers camps, retreats and conference facilities at Holmes and Stony Point.

Our church will be paying Per Capita this year in the amount of \$25 per active church member, a total of about \$3,000. Please consider



Per Capita

including an additional gift of \$25 for each active member of our family in the collection. Use the blue envelope in your box or mark your check “Per Capita.”

Church Officers Ordained and Installed

During Worship on Sunday, January 13, new church officers was ordained and installed. Installed as Elders were: Jocelyne Daniel, Catherine Greenhalgh, Vanessa Greenwald, Susan Rentz, Walter Smith and Barbara Zacheis. Installed as Deacons were: Percy Crockett, Wendy Keryk, Teresa Lucas, Liring Nangoi, Suzanne Panaro, Kristen Rabeler and Roida Siregar.



Joe Bermudez, Roque (Ed) Garcia and Janine Kallé will continue to serve as Elders. Continuing their service as

Deacons are Carmen Bermudez, Marc Bidon, Donna Butson and Teri Lowinger.

In addition, special thanks to Pamela Fink, who is rotating off the Session after serving for six years, most recently as Chair of Buildings and Grounds.



Becky Miller Toto (Sylvia Miller's daughter) who was married in our church in 2002, is being inducted into the Rockland Community College Sports Hall of Fame later this month. Her parents are very proud of her.

On Sunday, December 9, **Erika and Tony Domboroczky** were welcomed into membership with New Hempstead Presbyterian Church. That Sunday we also celebrated the Sacrament of Baptism for their daughter, **Sydney Belle Domboroczky**.



It's a Soul Issue

By the Rev. Joan S. Gray
Moderator, 217th General Assembly (2006)

We Americans seem to be drowning in our stuff.

I read an article recently in the Wall Street Journal that helped me see the situation more clearly. Entitled "The Struggle to Contain Ourselves" (January 4, 2008), the article talked about a University of California study published in 2006.

The study showed that there is "a storage crisis" in this country, in spite of the fact that Americans enjoy "the largest amount of private housing space per person in the history of urban civilization."

What came to my mind as I read this article was a story Jesus told about a man who also had more stuff than he knew what to do with. The man in Jesus' parable came to the conclusion that his problem was a storage problem.

"WRONG," said God to that rich fool. The parable makes it clear that too much stuff is really a soul problem or a soul opportunity.

It should bother us that people in the world, some very close to us, are going without necessities while we continue to spend our money to buy and store unnecessary things.

Anyway, this "storage crisis" has started bothering me.

Since the first of the year is a good time to take a long look at ourselves and make adjustments, I have decided to grab hold of a small piece of freedom from stuff by not buying any clothing in 2008.

I've gone back through my records and added up the money I spent on clothes and shoes in 2007, and I will give that money this year to some Presbyterian mission project that helps and empowers poor people. Putting my bulging closet on a diet will not inflict great hardship on me. It's a very small thing, yes, but it's a start.

The bottom line is that God can lead us to see ourselves in new ways and to respond with actions that make the gospel visible in the world. I invite you to consider your own "barns" and see where you can push back against the stuff you really don't need. Use the money freed up to further God's agenda in the world.

It's not really a storage issue. It's a soul issue.

Situation Report from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance: Kenya Post-election Violence

January 3, 2008

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is supporting our partner, the Presbyterian Church of East Africa (PCEA), as they respond to the violence that has erupted country wide between various communities following the announcement of the results for the Kenya General Election on Sunday, December 30, 2007. The violence — attributed to political parties disputing the Presidential results — has resulted in looting, destruction of property, injuries, the loss of lives and the displacement of thousands of people.

Much of the violence has been in Eldoret, an area where PDA has supported the PCEA in the response to ethnic violence this past summer.

An ongoing drought in Kenya has triggered a food emergency and set in motion a series of crises from malnutrition to loss of livestock. For the inhabitants in the border areas of Kenya, Somalia and Ethiopia, the rains that have come have been inadequate. With hundreds of thousands of their animals dead, they all face an uncertain future.

PC(USA) Statement on Violence in Kenya

Dear Friends in Christ:

As I have seen the images of violence and destruction in Kenya the last few days, my heart has gone out to you and my prayers have gone up to God for our friends and partners in Kenya. It is with great sadness that I write this letter on behalf of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), hearing the stories of those lives that are affected by the unrest and violence that is February 2008 Carriage Stone



taking place in Kenya due to conflicts over the recent elections. We are praying for all those who have been and continue to be threatened by the situation.



**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER
ASSISTANCE**

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

At this time, we also wish to encourage you to work with your partner churches to bring healing and reconciliation in the midst of the chaos. When we visited on Mt. Elgon two months ago, I saw what a powerful role the churches in Kenya could play in a situation of violence and destruction, and I pray that you, along with other churches, will be able to take the lead in reconciliation during this troubled time. We stand with you in solidarity to bring about a peaceful end to the conflict. It is our prayer that you will remain hopeful and vigilant, trusting that peace will come as a result of the grace of God and of faithful and fervent prayers.

May the grace and peace that only Christ can bring guard your hearts and minds.

Grace and peace,

Clifton Kirkpatrick

Stated Clerk of the General Assembly

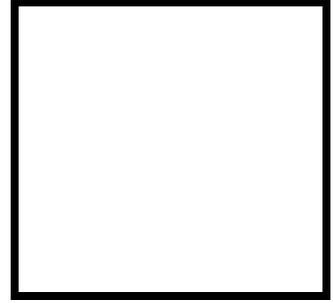


The New Hempstead Presbyterian Church supports this mission work in Kenya through our support of the One Great Hour of Sharing offering.



Newsletter of the English Church

New Hempstead Presbyterian Church
 484 New Hempstead Road
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DATED MATERIAL FEBRUARY 2008

Give a heart



One way to show love is to do something nice for someone else. Luke 10:27 tells us to love our neighbors, but who are our neighbors? Everyone is!

Make these fun heart treats to share with some of your neighbors.

What you need:

- Saucepan
- 2 tablespoons of butter
- 2 or 3 bags of miniature marshmallows
- 4 cups of crisp-rice cereal (regular or chocolate)
- 9 x 13 pan
- Heart-shaped cookie cutter
- Bag of chocolate chips (milk or white chocolate)
- Bowl
- Zipper sandwich baggie
- Scissors

What you do (with adult help):

1. Melt butter in saucepan and add marshmallows.
2. Stir until mixture becomes difficult to stir anymore. Mix in cereal and stir.
3. Butter the 9 x 13 pan and spread the mixture evenly in it. Allow to cool.
4. When cool, use cookie cutter to cut out heart-shaped treats.
5. Melt chocolate chips in a bowl in the microwave.
6. Spoon melted chocolate into a baggie. Cut off a corner and drizzle chocolate over the treats.
7. Enjoy giving a heart to your neighbor!

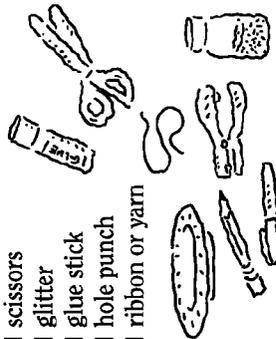
Fancy Flakes

Make a snowflake as unique and as special as you are in God's eyes.



What you need:

- paper (plain white or glittery wrapping paper)
- round plate or saucer (about the size you want your snowflake)
- pencil, crayon or marker
- scissors
- glitter
- glue stick
- hole punch
- ribbon or yarn



What you need to do:

1. Draw a circle on a piece of paper by tracing around the plate or saucer.
2. Cut out the circle.
3. Fold the paper in half three times. (If the paper is thick, fold it just twice.)
4. Use your scissors to carefully cut out shapes from the folded paper.
5. Unfold your paper.
6. On one side, write some things that are special about you.
7. Decorate the other side using the glue stick and glitter.
8. When the glitter is dry, punch a hole in the snowflake.
9. Put ribbon or yarn through the hole, and tie it to make a hanger.

