

The Carriage Stone

September 2008

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



*"For where two or three
come together in my name,
there am I with them."*

Matthew 18:20, NIV

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"The Carriage Stone" is the Newsletter of

The New Hempstead Presbyterian Church

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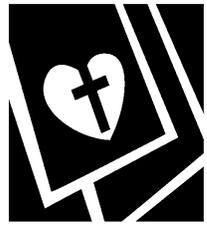
Robert Philhower

Next Deadline:

Sunday, September 14

Submissions: in my mailbox
or e-mail to

carriagestone@nhpchurch.org



FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Diary—Keeping a Journal as a Spiritual Practice

“Dear Diary”: Many women my age remember sharing their girlhood secrets, hopes, dreams and frustrations with that little book that probably had a little tiny lock with a little tiny key. You kept the book in your underwear drawer and the key someplace secret and safe so your little brother or sister couldn’t read your innermost thoughts. Only your Diary knew the angst of those awkward adolescent years.

Today, journal-keeping is encouraged as a spiritual practice, for both men and women. It is helpful to have a place to write down your joys, your anger, your fears, observations about life, and spiritual insights (yes, God does send those our way if we keep our eyes, minds, and hearts open!) I have kept a journal off and on since I was given my first diary in my Christmas stocking the Christmas I was 8.

Unfortunately, I no longer have my early journals. But reading through the ones I have kept through my adult life reminds me of just how far God has brought me—how I have always been cared for and provided for, even when I didn’t know it.

A journal, then, can be a good place to write our prayers—our conversations with God. It can be a place to reflect on scripture passages, to record intentions for making changes in our lives, and to give ourselves some praise and affirmation when we see these changes bearing fruit. And its one place where no one will ever correct your grammar, or tell you you can’t write. It’s your space, to share only with folks whom you choose to invite into your interior world.

Give it a try—grab a spiral-bound student’s book or a fancy leather-bound affair with JOURNAL embossed in gold letters (or anything in between) and start writing. It’s a way to pray on paper.

Late Summer Blessings,



Peacemaking Offering

The 2008 Peacemaking Offering

Break the Bread of New Creation

The Presbyterian Peacemaking Program was created in 1980 by action of the General Assembly of the former United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America which adopted *Peacemaking: the Believers' Calling*.

The work of the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program is guided by three affirmations outlined in *Peacemaking: the Believers' Calling*:

- The church is faithful to Jesus Christ when it is engaged in peacemaking.
- The church is obedient to Jesus Christ when it nurtures and equips God's people as peacemakers.
- The church bears witness to Christ when it nurtures the moral life of the nation for the sake of peace in the world.

The Presbyterian Peacemaking Offering supports the efforts of Presbyterians through their churches, presbyteries, synods and the General Assembly to break the bread of new creation and offer Christ's peace to a suffering world.

Most churches receive the offering on World Communion Sunday, the day we celebrate our unity as Christ's church, made up of people from every nation around the world. As we receive the bread and the cup, we also receive the peace that Christ offers, a peace we are to pass to the world.

Here are some of the many ways Presbyterians have used — and will use — Peacemaking Offering funds to work for peace.

Congregations

- help finance housing for refugee families living in the community
- support PC(USA) AIDS work in Africa
- support a free community medical clinic for those unable to pay for medical services
- purchase computer equipment for a Presbyterian school in Ghana
- provide scholarships to local high school seniors who have been involved in peacemaking activities in school
- contribute to local shelters that house and provide services for women and children facing violence in the home
- support local mediation services and programs that teach conflict resolution

Synods and Presbyteries

- support a local HIV/AIDS day-care center that provides meals, showers, phones, and recreation
- supply Spanish-language books to partner groups in Nicaragua
- provide training in conflict management to churches
- provide energy grants to small churches for insulation, replacing windows, and other energy-efficient practices

At the General Assembly Level, the Peacemaking Program

- plan and facilitate travel/study seminars to South Africa and Malawi to look at ministries responding to the HIV/AIDS pandemic and to Ethiopia to learn about interfaith work

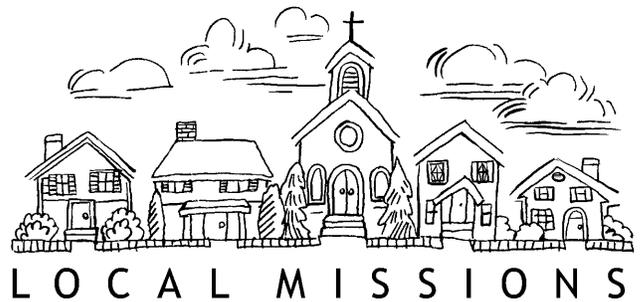
- create the resource *To Strengthen Christ's Body: Tools for Talking about Tough Issues* to equip congregations to address disagreement and conflict
- organize and implement the International Peacemakers Program, which brings persons of faith from other nations to the United States to share stories about their ministry and expertise in addressing poverty
- launch a blog to join its publications, Web page and electronic mailing lists that support peacemaking ministries across the church
- support synod and presbytery peacemaking leaders as they nurture the work of peace in their churches and communities
- participate in the efforts to build inclusive communities within the PC(USA)

In 2007, more than \$2.7 million was received through the Peacemaking Offering. Promotional expenses amounted to \$265,022, which includes a contribution to shared mission support of \$65,804 and \$199,218 for producing resources and promoting the Offering. The Offering supports a variety of peacemaking efforts: congregations retain 25 percent, synods and presbyteries use 25 percent and 50 percent is allocated to General Assembly ministries.

Sunday, October 5, New Hempstead Presbyterian Church will receive and dedicate the Peacemaking Offering. We ask that you pray about this and join the congregation in giving generously toward Peace on this day.

Yours in Christ,

Janine M. Kallé,
Chair, Mission & Outreach



Enter your Car in the Race Against Cancer

There is a desperate need for drivers to transport cancer patients to and from hospitals and doctor's offices for treatments. If you can spare a few weekday hours, they can work within your schedule. Call the American Cancer Society, Rockland County Unit at (845) 368-1252 for more information.

Food Drive Coming

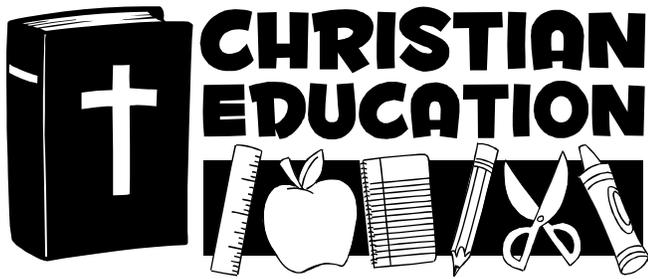
We will be conducting a food drive this fall. More information will be coming; the kickoff is Sunday, September 21.



From the Deacons

The Deacons of New Hempstead Presbyterian Church would like to thank all of our members and friends who so generously donated baby items to our Christian outreach mission this summer. The mothers will be in awe of these beautiful clothes so lovingly given by this congregation.

The Nyack Resource Center will distribute these items to needy expectant mothers during the month of August.



Sunday school at New Hempstead Presbyterian Church will begin again, September 7! We will meet in the sanctuary at 11 AM (during worship) and leave right after sharing some time with Pastor Lori. We have a new, fun and cool curriculum so if you have friend that you would like to bring, we can't wait to meet them.

See you very soon!

Vanessa Greenwald, Christian Ed

Monday Evening Study Group to Resume

The Monday night discussion group will start up again September 22 at 8 PM in the Colonial Room. We will catch up with each other, and watch a short DVD from Rob Bell's NOOMA series and have a conversation around it. We will also choose what book of the Bible we want to study for the fall, so come prepared to tell us why you think your favorite book should be picked! Come for fellowship, holy conversation and a snack or two! All are welcome.

[*Never heard of NOOMA? You can read about the series and see clips at: <http://nooma.com> like I did. —Editor*]

On September 7, we return to our regular schedule—Worship will begin at 11 AM in the Sanctuary.



Membership Class

Save the dates!

What: New Members Class

Who: All who are interested in joining New Hempstead Presbyterian Church

When: Sundays, Sept 7, 14, 21, 28 after Coffee Hour

Where: In the Sanctuary

Why: This class, led by Elder Ed Garcia and Pastor Lori, is for all who are interested in formally joining New Hempstead Presbyterian Church.

New Members will be received and welcomed on World Communion Sunday, October 5.

All are welcome, even if you are already a member and would like a refresher course in what it means to be a Presbyterian!

Children's Time

From Barbara Zacheis
Chair, Worship, Music and the Arts

Perhaps you might like to share some small insight, story, lesson or activity with our youngsters? During our worship service would be the perfect avenue for that! We would love to have members of the congregation volunteer to get involved in the service by leading the Children's Time. You could do it once, or plan to help several times during the year. Think about it and then speak to Pastor Lori or myself and we'll schedule an opportunity for you to share.



Worship, Music and the Arts

Worship, Music and the Arts next meeting is October 29 at 8 PM in the Colonial Room. All are welcome.

Save the Date....For Your Pets!

The annual Blessing of the Animals will be held Saturday, October 4 at 4 PM in the Sanctuary (so far, our animals have been very well behaved in



the House of God!) Bring your pets (small in cages, larger on leashes, no giraffes, please; they are too tall to fit through the door.)

This is a great service to invite your friends to!

Prison Ministry Team Visits

On Sunday, September 28, we will host a team from Hudson River Presbytery's Prison Ministry. They will lead worship, preach and share their stories of this exciting ministry with us.

"For I was in prison and you visited me"
(Matthew 25: 36)



Choir resumes
Thursday, Sept. 4 at
8 PM. All are
welcome to join the
choir.



Summer Budget Update

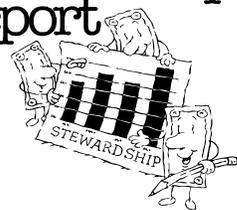
From The Finance Committee

The budget adopted by the Session and presented at the annual meeting last spring called for revenues of \$159,400; expenses of \$171,213; and a net deficit of \$11,813 for the calendar year 2008. There was a lively discussion about this at the annual meeting, and we thought it a good idea to bring everyone up to date on where we are halfway through the year.

Total revenues stand at \$87,108 through the end of July, against a budget of \$90,292.

Revenues have fallen short by about \$3,000 and the shortage is all in the area of pledge giving. Total expenses are at \$98,735 versus a budget of \$99,783, so we have not spent as much as expected. Our net loss to date is \$11,627 against a budgeted loss of \$9,491.

Stewardship Report



This is not a good position to be in, especially given that our reserves are just not that large. We will get through this year but we are not in a financial position to continue down this path next year.

There are several things that can be done now and in the fall that can help mitigate the problem.

- Pledge statements were sent out at the beginning of August. Please check yours and if you were behind in your pledge, please try to catch yourself up.
- If you are not pledging, please consider doing so. By pledging, you are committing yourself to our church. No one will question your individual ability to meet that commitment (beyond the quarterly pledge statement).
- Session is considering a fall fundraising activity to help mitigate the loss.
- Session is re-evaluating those groups who use Murchison Hall.
- Come budget time in the late fall, painful expense cutting of next year's budget will be required.

We thank you for your continued interest and concern in this area of our church's mission, and we stand ready to answer any questions that you may have.



The next Women's Breakfast will be Saturday, September 6 at 8:30 AM at the City Line Diner in New City. All are welcome.

Welcome Back Luncheon

Please join us for an afternoon of food, fun and fellowship on Sunday, September 7. We'll meet on the church lawn immediately after Worship. It will be great time to welcome back many of our members who have been on vacation and share experiences.

Please consider sharing your favorite dish with us. Coffee, refreshments and dessert will be provided. You don't have to bring a dish. Just come, have fun and bring a friend. A sign up poster is in the Colonial Room.

Remember this Sunday starts our 11 AM morning service.

Hudson River Presbytery Installs New Leaders

On July 22, our own Ed Garcia was installed as the Vice-Moderator of the Presbytery of the Hudson River. He co-moderated presbytery meetings with Rev. Chip Low, Moderator, and will be installed to the office of Moderator in May of 2009.

Congratulations, Ed!

Pastor to Participate in Missional Leadership Training Event

On Sept 4-5, Pastor Lori will be participating in the *Missional Leadership Training for Clergy* event, sponsored by Hudson River Presbytery, and held at the Holmes Retreat Center. This event will be led by Alan Roxburg, leader in the Allelon movement. This 36-hour event and later small group study processes for 12-18 month action learning will focus on connecting churches and local cultures.

Please keep Pastor Lori and the Session in your prayers as we seek to be a faithful witness to the love of God in Jesus Christ in and for our local community.

Allelon is a movement of missional leaders that "envisions, inspires, engages, resources, trains and educates leaders for the church and its mission in our culture." Allelon is from the Greek, for "one another," reflecting the commitment that Christian faith is not an individual endeavor, but that everything in the church is done reciprocally, for the sake of the world.

Alan Roxburgh, a coordinating team leader, is ordained as a Canadian Baptist, and has over twenty-seven years of experience pastoring in a variety of contexts and in denominational leadership. As seminary faculty, his responsibilities include leadership development and domestic missiology. Roxburgh has also consulted at the PC(USA) General Assembly level. *Missional Leader: Equipping Your Church to Reach a Changing World*, co-authored by Alan, provides background and resource for this project.



We extend our sincere sympathy to Liring Nangoi on the death of her cousin, Brandon Berman and share with all of you this letter written by Rabbi David E. Fass. (Journal News, July 22, 2008)

The writer is the spiritual leader of Temple Beth Sholom in New City. Brandon Berman was killed July 12 in a car accident on the New York State Thruway in Ramapo.

Honor Brandon; Be a Courteous Driver

After having the painful task of officiating at the funeral of Brandon Berman, age 19, an idea occurred to me I want to share with you. Since Brandon was killed in a car accident, I think it is especially appropriate.

Among the more dangerous parts of driving are things like getting out of a parking lot, gas station, side street, merging onto a fast-moving road like the New York State Thruway, making a left turn when there is traffic on the other side of the road coming towards you, etc. There are many others I'm sure I've missed.

How about if you look for every opportunity to let such people in, to help them? As you do this, say, "*This is for Brandon.*"

If you drive this way, not only will you help keep Brandon's memory alive, you will make driving safer for all of us, including yourself.

If you like this idea, do it. If you like it a lot, tell others. If you like it a real lot, make copies of this and pass them around.

Zecher tzaddik I'vracha. May Brandon's memory bring blessing to everyone who knew him.

Adom New Address

Dora and Edward Adom are announcing their new address:

50 Rydal Circle
Magnolia DE 19962



**Remember
Our
Members**
in the **Military**

Seth Concklin, son of members Richard and Ellen Concklin, is serving with the US Marines in Afghanistan. Letters and packages to him should be addressed:

LCpl Seth Concklin
C Company WPNS-PLT
Unit 73 140
FPO AE 09510-3140

