

November 2008



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

The Carriage Stone



Thanksgiving Food Baskets



"The Carriage Stone" is the Newsletter of

The New Hempstead Presbyterian Church

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Pastor

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Next Deadline:

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or e-mail to
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God in New Mexico, Or Why I'm Glad My Parents Read the Bible to Me

As you know by now, Howard and I really enjoyed our twenty-fifth anniversary trip out to New Mexico. The mixing of Spanish, Mexican and Indigenous peoples cultures made for a mosaic I won't soon forget.

As many of you also know, I attribute my love of scripture to the fact that my mother and father read the Bible to me from a very young age. Whenever I travel, I am often reminded of stories from Scripture, or Bible verses. Our vacation in New Mexico put me in mind of many of the treasures of our Scripture. I offer a few to you now, like a necklace of turquoise beads.

- The desert is, well—desert. When we crossed the Rio Grande, it looked rather like a trickle, not the Mighty Hudson I'm used to. But I was put in mind of God's promise to Israel in Isaiah 35: 6b. "For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert."
- The Sangre de Christo ("Blood of Christ") mountains near Santa Fe are spectacular. I could spend an entire day watching them as the light changes, turning them different colors. Yet as entrancing as they are, they cannot preserve us. Psalm 121:1 reminds us: "Even if I lift up my eyes to the hills, from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth."
- Even in mid-September, the sun is still very strong. If Saint Paul had known about skin cancer, I'm sure he would



FROM THE PASTOR

have included sunscreen in his metaphor of the whole armor of God, Ephesians 6: 13-17.

- We walked so much that my feet were sore. (You can probably guess what scripture popped into my head!) Nahum 1: 15: "Look! On the mountains the feet of one who brings good tidings, who proclaims peace."
- We certainly had peace proclaimed to us in the form of the hospitality of the people we met. Especially in Taos Pueblo, where the Indians welcomed us into their own homes and shared their stories with us. Scripture is filled with stories of hospitality and the importance of sharing it. While we were not the angels, I felt often that we were hosted by them, thus, (by some inverting!) Hebrews 13: 2—"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers for by doing that some have entertained angels without even knowing it."

I encourage you to think throughout your day—what stories of God and God's people are you reminded of?

Autumn Blessings,



Thanksgiving Food Collection

During the month of November, the Deacons will assemble Thanksgiving Baskets for those in need. With your generous contributions last year, over Ninety (90) families were provided with a feast from baskets made by this congregation. This year we are collecting stuffing, yams and cranberry sauce. A table will be provided in the Colonial Room for donated items. This is just one of the many ways WE as a church can reach out to the community and show God's love.

On Sunday, November 23, we will put together the baskets after service in Murchison Hall. Your help on that day will be greatly appreciated. A lunch will be provided for those who stay to help.

Cash is welcome to buy turkeys.

If you wish to donate a turkey or have any questions, please call Carmen Bermudez.

Sunday School Food Drive

From Mark Zacheis

Thank you to one and all who have contributed to the Sunday School/Youth Group food drive. By the time you read this, we will have already made our first delivery of your contributions to a Rockland County food pantry.

Remember that the food drive is on going and we hope that you will remember to bring one item each week when you come to church. We will be suspending the drive while the Deacons run their Thanksgiving Baskets program but will start it up again the last Sunday in November.

Some people have asked what they should bring. Below find a convenient list that you can post on your refrigerator:

- Canned Vegetables
- Canned Fruits
- Peanut Butter
- Jelly
- Boxed Pasta
- Pasta Sauce
- Boxed Jell-O mix
- Breakfast Cereal
- Boxed cake mix
- Canned tuna fish
- Granola bars
- Canned baked beans
- Powdered drink mix
- Coffee
- Tea
- Canned Yams
- Mayonnaise



Advent is Just around the Corner

From Barbara Zacheis

Advent Season begins November 30. We plan to prepare the sanctuary on that first Sunday in Advent with the annual Hanging of the Greens, after Worship Service on November 30. Please plan to stay a little while after church to help beautify the church for Advent. We will need some evergreen cuttings, so that would be a good time to do some pruning on your evergreen tree at home and bring them in that Sunday. Volunteers for providing soups and sandwiches can contact Barbara Zacheis or the deacons to help fortify the folks who stay by providing a light lunch. The results are always spectacular!

Blue Christmas

Many folks feel gloomy or depressed during this season of the year.

Here at New Hempstead Presbyterian Church, we seek to honor the less than festive feelings that many are prone to at this time by holding a Blue Christmas service of worship.

This is a service designed to give folks space to come into God's house and acknowledge the pain and loneliness that this season can bring. I want to urge all of you to attend this service, especially if you're a bit gloomy, but also in solidarity with those who are grieving, in pain, or depressed as the days darken earlier. It's a

service of worship in which we thank God because God does not expect us to "get happy" before we come into God's presence, but instead longs for us to come just as we are.



From the Deacons

The Board of Deacons would like to thank all who participated in the fall fundraiser for the further preservation of the Colonial Room. The miniature replica of our Church will certainly be a lasting tribute to NHPC as well as a memorable gift. Thank you, also, to Wendy Keryk who so lovingly oversaw this project.

Thanksgiving is just around the corner and the Deacons are busy collecting food for the Thanksgiving baskets. This year, some of our food items will be limited in an effort to economize; however, we still anticipate a more than generous gift to those in need within our community. If you would like to make a monetary donation for a turkey, it would be appreciated. Checks are to be made to the Church, with a memo indicating the Thanksgiving baskets or Thanksgiving turkeys. Monetary gifts can be given to any Deacon or to Mark Zacheis. Carmen Bermudez will keep the congregation informed on what items to donate in the coming weeks. Thank you to Carmen, in advance, for all of the hard work that goes into this project.

As the holidays approach, we realize that many individuals as well as families are under a great deal of emotional stress brought on by the ever-changing social and economic pains of society. If you, or someone you know, needs a call, a visit or just an ear to listen, please let the Board of Deacons know. It is our Mission to this church to comfort those in need.



New Members

The *Carriage Stone* extends a hearty welcome to our newest members: Kimberly

Domingo and Joanne Smith who joined the church on Sunday, October 19. We look forward to continuing to worship and serve God with you.

Colonial Room Rededication

From Mark Zacheis

Our church celebrates 275 years of spreading God's word this year, and we will be kicking off this important anniversary on November 9 with a rededication of the Colonial Room. The Colonial Room was originally built and dedicated in 1932. Over the past year, a number of people have worked on the transformation of the room. Led by the vision of Wendy Keryk and supported by the fund raising efforts of the Deacons, the room has gone from a faded space to a place of beauty that reflects the spirit of its name.

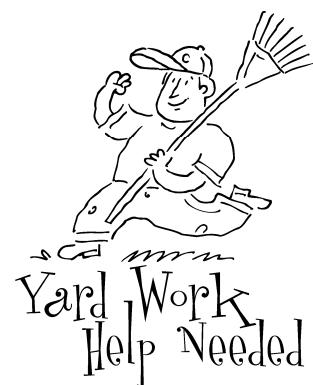
We will be rededicating the Colonial Room in honor of Bob Greenhalgh. Bob is a long-time member and has served as church historian, both officially and unofficially for decades. Bob has left his mark on our church in numerous ways. For example, Bob's artwork adorns the cover of the bulletin each week and is visible throughout *The Carriage Stone*. And Bob designed and built the wishing well on the great lawn by the barn.

Join us after the church service on November 9 for the rededication.

Fall Clean Up

From Mark Zacheis

Mark your calendar for Saturday, November 22 from 9 AM to noon for our annual fall clean-up day. There will indoor and outdoor work to be done so bring a rake or leaf blower or cleaning rags and we'll find a task for you. Coffee and yummies will be served.



Capital Campaign and Hard-working Church Members

From Mark Zacheis

As we do every summer, this past one we had the painter come and paint one side of the church building. We also asked him for an estimate to paint the barn; it came to \$3,000. We decided that was a bit much, so the Men's Group offered to do the painting itself. Over three weeks time we power washed, primed and painted. The result is a beautiful building that made the wishing well look old and dirty. Therefore, we painted that and the sign on the front lawn as well.

Many thanks to Joe Bermudez, Jared Crockett, Percy Crockett, Frank Ehlermann, Pam Fink, Ed Garcia, Bob Greenhalgh, Barbara Zacheis and Mark Zacheis.

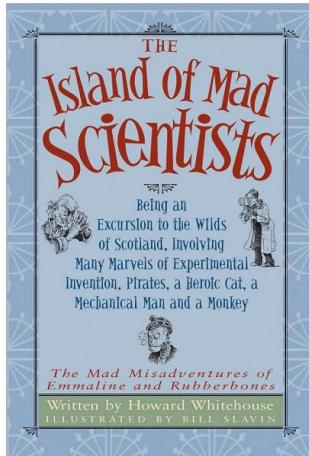
"Whatsoever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might." Ecclesiastes 9:10

Book Signing

Howard Whitehouse's latest book,

The Island of Mad Scientists, Being an Excursion to the Wilds of Scotland, Involving Many Marvels of Experimental Invention, Pirates, a Heroic Cat, a Mechanical Man and a Monkey – The Mad Misadventures of Emmaline and Rubberbones,

hit store shelves on October 1. We've scheduled Howard to do another of his marvelous book signings for November 22 at 1:30 PM in the Colonial Room. There Howard will recite the



complete title ten times fast, without taking a breath. He will also regale us with tales of these latest adventures of Emmaline and Rubberbones, and be available to sign copies of the book. Mark your calendar to join in the wit and wisdom of Howard Whitehouse –

he does his own stunts. Refreshments will be served.

A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the Colonial Room if you would like to order either the hard cover or paperback. Orders can be placed as late as November 9.

[Editor's Note: While obtaining the above cover photo from Barnes & Noble, I noted that our Howard is now the first result when searching for "Howard Whitehouse" and the seventh when searching for "Whitehouse"...big gains from when I last looked.

Also according to Barnes & Noble, those who purchase Barbara Hurley's book also purchase *The Cat in the Hat* (Seuss), *The Odyssey* (Homer), *Paradise Lost* (Milton) and the new verse translation of Beowulf. This puts her book among some of the greatest works of literature.]



As you know, **Bill and Anne Young** have relocated to North Carolina. Their new address is:

155 Cambridge Way
Henderson NC 27536

Helen Crawford writes:

...I don't remember if I told you I have moved, but my address is now:

1877 Lakeside Dr
Madison OH 44057-2171

Thank you! I think of you all fondly and still miss you.

Art Show and Auction

From Mark Zacheis

You know that we have two published authors among our members, and you know that we have a group of talented musicians too, but did you know that there are a number of painters among our numbers? And if you did know that, have you ever had the opportunity to see their work? You are going to get the chance.

Mark your calendar for Saturday evening, December 6 and plan to attend the New Hempstead Presbyterian Church In-House Art Show and Auction. Our favorite artists will be displaying some of their works for us to view, and some will be available for purchase. Imagine owning an original Greenhalgh or Garcia.

Details about this event were still in the planning process at press time and will be announced in church.



Awe of GOD (My Church)

Heavenly Father, my Abbu!
I love you more than words can ever say.
This little church was meant for me!
It houses our sorrows, joys and most of all our souls!!!

So dear God, Jehovah God Shena,
Bless us, bless our pastor and most importantly,
Bless our little abode.

We all come together in the form of the true boy of Christ.
We are all transformed into the light of the living God!

I love you, dear Lord for my family...this church!
Whether there in person or in prayer, or in spirit.

When I think of my family of God,
It lights my fire and I again and again feel so blessed!!! It's like
Another rebirth for me!

We are the stones!
We also got a bit piece of the rock!!

Our light shines brightly!!
My God give each and everyone
Peace, joy and of course unconditional love!!

I'm an enigma so you see!!
But you wonderful people, you never
Lost faith or hope in me!!

Love,
Joni F.
P.S. I have a higher ceiling!

My Will

My will is not my own
I start writing and my pen just flows!
My will has run rampant!
I need a retreat to go camping!

This time, I won't ask where
My blow/dryer gets plugged in!
I'll just meditate and pray and
Know that my God, my Savior
Is definitely within!

Christianity

God Bless the U.S.A.
The land of home of the brave!
We are all searching and growing as Christians.

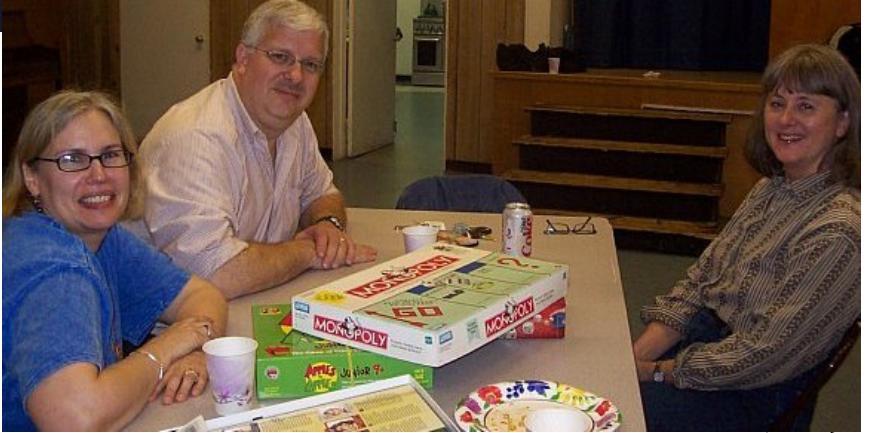
Help us to never stop growing!!
We are the players of God's infinite wisdom.

We come in this world small and ignorant and blessed!
We are all children of God!
Please help us to never lose that child like innocence!

There is nothing to fear except fear itself!!
God loves us just the way we are.
Whether near or far!

He is our Heavenly Father!
We have nothing to fear.
Stop thinking and just be and
This is where you soar like an eagle
And sting like a bee!

Love,
Joni Fiore



On September 27, there was a family games night in Murchison Hall. Thanks to Nora for these photos.

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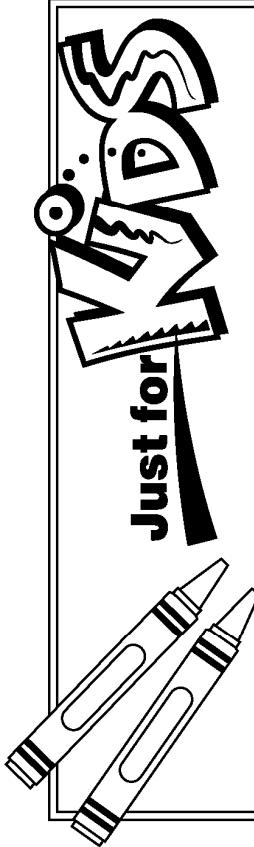


Newsletter of the English Church



New Hempstead Presbyterian Church
484 New Hempstead Road
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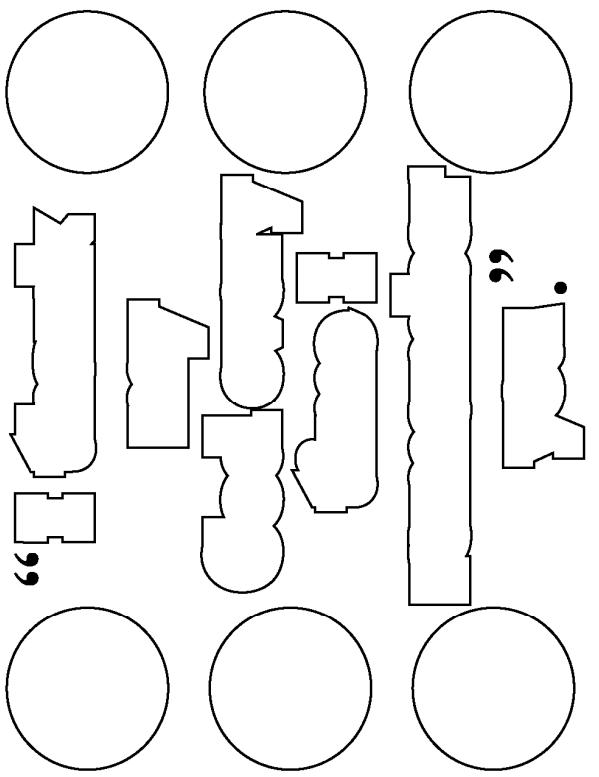


Thanksgiving and Prayer

When Paul sent a letter to the church at Philippi, he told his friends how he felt about them. Finish this puzzle to read what Paul wrote in Philippians 1:3.

Match words in the list below to the correct word shape. Then write the letters inside each shape. In the circles, draw the faces of people you're thankful for in your life.

WORD LIST: remember time you I God
I my thank every



Answer: "I thank my God every time I remember you."